

## Fomenko, Witold

(1905--1961), Pole from the town of Lutsk, designated as Righteous among the Nations by Yad Vashem, who rescued Jews during the Holocaust. During his childhood, Fomenko had much positive contact with Jews and even spoke Yiddish. As a music teacher and barber, many of his students and customers were Jews.

The Germans occupied Lutsk in 1941 and set up a ghetto. Fomenko immediately began bringing food, firewood, and medicines to the Jews in the ghetto. He paid for these supplies out of his own pocket, and whenever he visited the ghetto he tried to cheer up the Jews by singing to them and telling them jokes.

Right before the liquidation of the Lutsk Ghetto, Fomenko began helping Jews leave the ghetto with forged identity papers he obtained for them. Fomenko himself was arrested after one of the Jews he had helped was captured and tortured into revealing his name. However, the city's military commander, one of Fomenko's customers, released him. After the ghetto's liquidation Fomenko continued helping Jews interned in a labor camp in Lutsk. That camp was destroyed in December 1942; at that point, Fomenko began hiding Jews in Christian homes around the city.

After the war, Fomenko married one of the Jewish women he had rescued, and together they moved to Israel.