

**Metropolitan Police  
Special Branch,  
Scotland House,**

6<sup>th</sup> day of January 1921.

With reference to the application for a certificate of Naturalisation by Gabriel SMIDEK, known for the last 17 years as SMITH, Pole, joint Proprietor of SMITH & SONS, Cigarette Box Manufacturers, 19, Rupert Street, Leman Street, London, E., private address, 126 Cazenove Road, Clapton Common; duly registered with Police at Commercial Street Aliens Registry, serial No. Q. 5682, identity book No. 239310.

I beg to report that the declarations of residence have been enquired into and found correct.

The residence Referee, Edwin Robert WARDER, 18c, Block, Peabody Buildings, Roscoe Street, Golden Lane, London, E.C. is a respectable, responsible person, house-holder and natural-born British subject. He speaks of Memorialist as a respectable man and vouches for his loyalty to the British Empire.

Mr. WARDER declared that he first met Memorialist about 11 years ago in connection with his business, and is at the present time foreman at SMITH & Sons' branch at 19, Rupert Street, Leman Street, E. He speaks very highly of him and stated that he has always found him honest in business transactions, and readily testifies to the genuineness of his character. He verifies periods of residence; and also acknowledges his signature as genuine.

Sureties, Percy James MACHIN, 5, Hare Court, Aldersgate Street, London, E.C., Merchant; Isidore JACOBS, 62, Lynmouth Road, Stamford Hill, N., Schoolmaster; and Ernest Alarie PRICE-JONES, 53, Ridge Road, Stroud Green, N., Bank Manager, are all respectable and responsible persons, house-holders and natural-born British subjects. They declared that they had known Memorialist for 10, 7, and 9 years respectively, and regard him as an upright and conscientious man, and vouch for his loyalty to the British Empire. They acknowledged their signatures as correct.

Memorialist, who stated that he came to this country from Poland 17 years ago, declared that he was born in Warsaw, Poland, in March 1888, his parents being David and Sarah SMIDEK, nee WALDBERG, both Russian Poles, but is unable to produce any documentary proof in support of this statement. He added that his father is deceased, but his mother is alive and residing at 88, Osbaldeston Road, Clapton Common, N.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> March 1913 he he [sic] stated that he married Deborah ELBERG, British [deleted. Marginal note reads "Pole See later report"], at the Spital Square Synagogue, Spitalfields. Marriage certificate produced.

There are four children of the marriage, all born in London and registered as follows:-

- (1) Tilly SMITH, born May 20<sup>th</sup> 1914.

- (2) David SMITH, born 15<sup>th</sup> August 1916.
- (3) Sylvia SMITH, born 15<sup>th</sup> May 1918, and
- (4) Mary SMITH, born 26<sup>th</sup> December 1919.

Birth certificates produced.

With reference to his Military Service, there is no record of absenteeism. He produced papers showing where he was graded C.3. dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 1917. Also similar papers showing him to be graded '2' on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1917. He further produced an Exemption Certificate issued on 4:5:18 by the Local Tribunal for London, 171, Temple Chambers, Temple Avenue, E.C. No. 7228, endorsed, 'Exempt on the grounds of being engaged on work of National importance'. He also added that he was eventually called up for Military Service a few days before the Armistice, but this event prevented him from joining. These papers he cannot produce, as he declared that he returned same, and was released from his military obligations accordingly. A search of the records at the Ministry of Pensions, 8, Fenning Street, Boro, verifies this statement.

Memorialist also produced papers showing that his firm, SMITH & SONS were contractors with the Ministry of Munitions. Hence the work of National importance.

Respecting his financial position, he stated that along with his brother he is joint-proprietor of the firm of SMITH & SONS, Chief Office, 19, Rupert Street, Leman Street, E. This business they acquired from their father, and he added they were in a fairly prosperous position, and at the present time they had four other branches as follows, 34, St. John Street, Hoxton, N, 390, Mile End Road, Mile End, E., 407, Hackney Road, Hackney, and 86, Old Bethnal Green Road, E. They employ over 300 persons.

However, a search of records show [sic] that in 1914 SMITH & SONS, (Memorialist's firm) had a Bill of Sale for £250. This Applicant admitted to be correct, but stated that it had been paid off with interest. Enquiries at the City Finance Trading Company, 1, Aldgate Avenue, Aldgate, E., prove that it was paid off on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1915.

Respecting documentary proof of his Polish Nationality. He produced Passport No. 1571, issued London, 18:8:20 which he declared verifies his origin. With this passport he has made one journey to Germany – leaving Dover 28:8:20, and proceeding via Ostend, Cologne to Berlin, and returning via the same route on 10:9:20. Passport endorsed accordingly. This visit was solely a business one. He has also made one visit to Dublin for which he received Police permission – leaving London 29:3:19 and returning on 16:4:19. This was also a business trip, and he added that he only visited his brother-in-law, viz, Isy [sic] ELBERG, Furrier & Manufacturer, 74, Lower Camden Street, Dublin.

Respecting his correct name, he stated that it was definitely established as SMITH by Home Office order No. 364771/6 of 17:12:19, and all the business branches are in this name, and his children are registered in this name.

Enquiries show that Memorialist has resided within the United Kingdom for one year immediately before the application, and previously for a period of 4 years within the eight years now last past. He stated his intention of residing permanently herein, and seeks to obtain the rights and capacities of a natural-born British subject.

Memorialist, speak [sic], reads and writes the English language very well.

He acknowledged his signature as genuine and the age given in memorial appears to be correct.

- (1) Having married and settled in this country and has four children born in England.
- (2) All interests and sentiment are entirely British. These are the reasons given for naturalisation.

The records of the Metropolitan Police have been searched, but nothing incriminating has been found.

(Alfred Waldram)  
Sergeant.

(illegible)  
Superintendent.

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**Metropolitan Police  
Special Branch,  
Scotland House,**

6<sup>th</sup> day of January 1921.

With reference to the application for a certificate of Naturalisation by Colman SMIDEK, known for the past 17 years as SMITH, Pole, joint Proprietor of the firm of SMITH & SONS, Cigarette Box Manufacturers, 19, Rupert Street, Leman Street, London, E., private address, 148, Obaldeston Road, Clapton, N, duly registered with Police at Commercial Street Aliens Registry, serial No. Q. 5681, identity book No. 239281.

I beg to report that the declarations of residence have been enquired into and found correct.

The Resident Referee, Edwin Robert WARDER, 18c, Block, Peabody Buildings, Roscoe Street, Golden Lane, London, E.C. is a respectable and responsible person, house-holder and natural-born British subject. Referee is the same as in the case of his brother Gabriel in attached report, and his testimony of both brothers is the same respecting their acquaintance and their loyalty to the British Empire.

Sureties, Percy James MACHIN, 5, Hare Court, Aldersgate Street, London, E.C., Merchant; Isidore JACOBS, 62, Lynmouth Road, Stamford Hill, N.,

Schoolmaster; and Ernest Alarie PRICE-JONES, 53, Ridge Road, Stroud Green, N., Bank Manager, are all respectable, responsible persons, house-holders and natural-born British subjects. These sureties are identical with those of applicant's brother Gabriel, and their testimony is exactly the same in each case.

Referee, and Sureties are in a position to verify periods of residence.

Memorialist, who stated that he came to this country from Poland, Russia, 17 years ago, declared that he was born in Warsaw on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 1890, his parents being David and Sarah SMIDEK, née WALDBERG, both Russians Poles [sic], but is unable to produce any documentary proof in support of this statement. His father he added is deceased, but his mother is residing at 88, Osbaldeston Road, Clapton Common, N.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> July 1913 he stated that he married Beatrice LITTMAN, Russian Pole [deleted. Marginal note reads "Born in Poland but Br under 10(5) father natd 1909"], at the Great Synagogue, Dukes Place, Aldgate, E. Marriage certificate produced. There are four children of the marriage, all born in London and registered as follows:-

- (1) Esther SMITH, born 13<sup>th</sup> August 1914.
- (2) Freda SMITH, born 30<sup>th</sup> November 1915.
- (3) David SMITH, born 18<sup>th</sup> April 1917, and
- (4) Cissie SMITH, born 15 April 1920.

Birth certificates produced.

With reference to his Military Service, there is no record of absenteeism. He produced papers showing that he was permanently and totally unfit for service, dated 12<sup>th</sup> October 1917.

He also produced documentary proof where his firm contracted at different period [sic] during the war with the War Office. The first contract dating back to 15<sup>th</sup> June 1916.

Enquiries show that Memorialist has resided within the United Kingdom for one year immediately before the application, and previously for a period of four years within the eight now last past. He stated his intention of residing permanently herein, and seeks to obtain the rights and capacities of a natural-born British subject.

Respecting his financial position. This is the same as his brother, and is fully described, together with the Bill of Sale in attached report.

Respecting a Certificate of Polish Nationality, he produced a Polish Passport, No. 47, issued London 2:9:19. With this passport he proceeded on 27:2:19 via Folkestone, Paris, Vienna to Poland, and returned 18:3:19. Went to Belgium via Dover 2:9:19 and returned 7:9:19. Thence again to Belgium via Dover 1:6:20, and returned 6:6:20. All these trips he added were solely for business. This passport he claims verifies his Polish nationality.

Respecting his correct name, he quoted Home Office No. 364771/6 of 17:12:19.

Memorialist was fined 10/- at Bournemouth in August 1915, 'For entering a prohibited area without his passport'. His identity book is endorsed to this effect.

He gives the following reasons for seeking naturalisation:-

- (1) Has four children born in this country.
- (2) All financial and material interests are entirely British.
- (3) The remainder of his family – including three sisters are in this country.

Apart from the conviction at Bournemouth, nothing detrimental to this man's character has been found in Metropolitan Police Records.

Applicant, speaks, reads and writes the English language very well. He acknowledged his signature as genuine, and the age given in Memorial appears to be correct.

(Alfred Waldram)  
Sergeant.

(illegible)  
Superintendent.

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**Metropolitan Police  
Special Branch,  
Scotland House,**

14<sup>th</sup> day of February 1921.

With reference to the applications for certificates of naturalisation by Gabriel SMIDEK, known for the last 17 years as SMITH, Pole; and Colmnan SMIDEK, known for the same period as SMITH, Pole, Brothers, and joint Proprietors of the firm SMITH & SONS, Cigarette-Box Manufacturers, business address, 19, Rupert Street, Leman Street, London, E., private addresses, 126 Cazenove Road, Clapton Common, N., and 148, Obaldeston Road, Clapton, N. respectively – duly registered with Police at Commercial Road Aliens Registry, Nos. Q. 5682 & Q. 5681.

I beg to report that enquiries have been made into the nationality of the Applicants' wives, and I respectfully herewith submit the results.

Gabriel SMIDEK's wife, Deborah ELBERG, is a Pole, and was born 6<sup>th</sup> March 1892 at Lukov, Poland. She was Polish at the time of her marriage, and is duly registered as a Pole – identity book No. 239311 issued on 1:10:17.

Colman SMIDEK's wife, Beatrice LITTMAN, is of Polish origin, and was born August 1893 at Lodz, Poland. She was brought to this country in 1896 and became a British Subject, when her father Abraham Isaac LITTMAN, Pole, deceased, became a naturalised British Subject in 1909, – Naturalisation Certificate No- 17828, dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 1909. She was therefore British at the time of her marriage to Colman SMIDEK, Pole, but is now duly registered as a Pole, – identity book No. 239308, issued 1:10:17.

Records of Metropolitan Police have been searched, but nothing incriminating respecting these persons has been found.

(Alfred Waldram)  
Sergeant.

(illegible)  
Superintendent.