

## Martin Kahane

Martin Kahane and his entire family were deported to Auschwitz- Birkenau.

*"I remember when the tanks came into our town - seeing the soldiers in the streets carrying rifles. There was a curfew and the first person I ever saw killed died because he was out after the curfew. He was running and the Germans shot him."*

Martin Kahane was born in Ciechanow, Poland in 1923. He lived with his parents, five brothers and one sister. Ciechanow was a small city in which there were few non-Jewish Poles. Martin's father was a salesman traveling by horse and cart. His mother took care of the large family and Martin attended school.

In 1939 the Germans invaded Poland and instituted many restrictions for the Jewish population. The family remained in Ciechanow and was forced to work for the Germans. In 1942 they all were loaded on a train and were transported to Auschwitz- Birkenau. Upon arrival, his mother, father and brother David were separated from the rest of the family and Martin never saw them again. His sister was sent with the younger women and later died in the camp.

Martin remained with his brothers Sidney and Sam. The number 73718 was tattooed on his arm. Sam's number was 73719 and Sidney's number was 73720. Once Martin contracted typhus and was sent to the camp hospital where the notorious Dr.Mengele examined him. In Auschwitz, Sidney was assigned to work with recently arrived transports, Sam worked on sewer lines, and Martin made windows and doors for new homes for German officers.

When the end of war was near, Martin was sent to Germany to a camp in the village of Buchberg. He was reunited with his brothers Sam and Sidney and they were liberated there by the Americans forces. Another brother Avram had been deported to Auschwitz separately with his wife and child where they all died.

After the war, Martin went to Israel on his own. He joined the army there and was decorated for his service in the war for independence. In 1950 he rejoined his brothers in Germany, and they immigrated together to the United States, eventually settling in California. Martin worked as a machinist and also operated a laundromat. Married and divorced, Martin was the father of two sons and two daughters. Martin did not raise them to be Jewish, explaining that he lost his faith in God from the war.