

## **Chana Kalman**

**RG-50.106\*0118**

Chana Kalman (née Hanka Feiner) was born in 1912 in Opoczno, Poland. Her parents, Jacob and Rivka Feiner, were religious, lived comfortably and had eight children. When Chana was 12, the family moved to Lodz and Chana joined a Zionist organization, where she met her future husband, Natan Kalman. They married in 1937 and had a son the following year. In 1939, Chana's family moved to the Lodz ghetto. Chana lived with her son, sister and nephew in a small room with bad conditions. Her husband had been sent away, but she did not know where. Chana worked at a corset factory and in a kitchen. In 1943 the Germans came collecting all the children in the ghetto, but Chana and her sister hid with their sons for eight days until the Germans left.

In 1944, Chana, her sister and their two sons were sent on one of the last transports out of the Lodz ghetto. The last time she saw her son and nephew is when they all stepped off the train in Auschwitz. After some time in Auschwitz, Chana went to Waldeslust, Germany, where she did hard labor. Five months later, she was marched to Bergen-Belsen, where she witnessed the worst horrors of starvation, disease and beatings. On April 15 1945, Chana and her sister were liberated. Her sister died two months later in a hospital.

After Chana's three-month recovery, she traveled back and forth between Poland and Bergen-Belsen looking for relatives. She reunited with her husband months later in Poland. Chana and Natan moved to Germany, where their second son, Max, was born. In 1948 they came to the United States and settled in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and had a daughter, Malka. The couple later moved to Arizona and lived there for 17 years. After Malka married, Chana and Natan moved to Israel for 20 years. They moved back to the United States for Natan's medical treatment.