

AGJ 43

J. HENRY MARTON
(Mordkowicz)

PRE-WAR

Born March 30, 1918 in ChentoChowa, Poland. Parents were Benjamin and Fayga Mordkowicz (nee Greenberg). He had two sisters, one older and one younger. When he was 7 older sister emigrated to U.S. with her American citizen husband. His mother died when he was thirteen and his younger sister died of natural causes when he was fifteen. The population of his town was 52,000 twenty-per cent of which were Jewish. Lived in center city and began to help father in hardware business.. Were well situated.

WAR: OCCUPATION BY NAZIS

War broke out in 1939 when he was 21. First Ghetto in Poland created in their town. If young and strong, Nazis put you to work. In 1940 joined factory which would protect him. Joined glass factory and given special certificate. Made products for Jermans and Germans supplied owner with Jewish workers. Glass factory had furniture factory had 1000 workers. After ghetto was liquedated there were the only Jews remaining. Family moved to ghetto. In 1943 heard rumors about liquidation but didn't realize Germans were mass killers. Liquidated ghetto within 7 days. Worked very hard in factory and received good food. Lived in small ghetto fo for factory workers and worked there until 1944. Father was killed in Treblinka death camp. Had one cousin with him.

WAR: DEPORTATION

At end of 1944 (October) packed young and strong workers into cattle cars and sent them to Germany. Stopped at small border town where there were 3 large factories called Hasag which manufactured munitions. Put whole transport (1650 people) on one train. Asked for volunteer carpenters. He, cousin and brother-in-law stepped forward. Rest of transport untimate-ly killed with only about 200 surviving. Was like living and working in concentration camp. Slept on shelves, five per shelf. Given soup, water and one piece of bread for the whole day.

LIBERATION:

January, 1945. Noone took them out to work and saw trucks of people and furniture heading to Germany. Russians pushing germans out thru Poland. Jews resisted going with GERMans who left them. Left on their own. Went to Warsaw. UJA helped him get to W. Germany in 1946. Was 21 years old. Waited three years and learned watch repairing. Met wife, went to N.Y. to be with sister Had two daughters, one a lawyer. Very happy