

Interview 11

RG-50.219.0011

Martin (family name not mentioned)

Language: Spanish

Martin was born in November 22, 1932, in Kirchheim, in the federal state of Hesse, a small town 120 km from Frankfurt. He had a sister six years older than him. His father was Orthodox.

His parents owned a business in their town, three blocks from the town's synagogue. In Kristallnacht, their business and their home were destroyed, and his father was arrested and taken to Buchenwald, where he was held for a month. When his father was released, he sent Martin to an orphanage in Frankfurt. Martin was in the orphanage for three months.

His mother's family – name: Nussbaum—emigrated to the US in 1936/1937. His mother had four brothers. She wanted to join them in the US, but Martin's father delayed the trip because he did not want to leave Martin's grandmother alone in Germany. When they finally decided to leave, her grandmother was left in an old people's home in Frankfurt. His grandmother was later taken to Terezin camp, 80 km from Prague, where she died.

His father could not get visas to the US, but managed to get visas to Argentina. Martin, his father, mother, and sister traveled to Berlin to take a train to Lisbon. In Berlin, they stayed a few days with one of his father's sisters. At the time, his father was 45 years old and his mother 42. They left Berlin by train on December 1940. They went to Belgium, Paris, Spain, and finally Lisbon, in a trip that lasted four days. The trip was paid by their family in the US.

They were in a pension in Lisbon for around five or six weeks, waiting for the ship. The ship that they took to Argentina made stops in Canarias (Spain), Pernambuco and Santos de San Pablo (Brazil), and Montevideo (Uruguay). Martin's family arrived in Argentina in February 11, 1941.

In Argentina, Martin went to Pestalozzi School. He later worked in a factory, in the textile industry.

All the members of his mother's family survived. On his father side, however, only his father and one of Martin's cousin survived. His cousin went to Palestine in 1936. She was 14 years old at the time. She had two younger sisters who did not survive. In Palestine, she was in a home for children. In 1940, she went to Egypt with the British troops. At the time of the interview, she was 93 years old and living 20 km from Haifa.

Martin married a woman from Austria, and they had a daughter who, at the time of the interview, was a psychologist living in Spain. Martin frequently visits Spain, strongly supports Israel, and has the German nationality.