

ABRAHAM BOMBA

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE



ECHOES & REFLECTIONS

TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST. INSPIRING THE CLASSROOM.



Abraham was born on June 9, 1913, to Bernard and Touba Bomba in Beuthen, Germany. The Bombas had five children and lived mostly in Czestochowa, Poland, where they led an observant Jewish life.

Abraham attended a heder (Hebrew: one-room school) and public school. Abraham's father, who worked in manufacturing, died in 1930. While growing up in Poland before the war, Abraham had a number of non-Jewish friends, yet he also experienced antisemitism. Living on the Polish border, Abraham's family was among the first to witness the German invasion of Poland in 1939.

In 1941, his family was forced into the Czestochowa ghetto, where Abraham worked as a barber. There, he and his first wife, Reizl, wed and had a son, Berl. In September 1942, Abraham and his family were deported to the Treblinka extermination camp, after which he would never again see his wife or son.

Abraham was one of the few selected for forced labor in Treblinka. There he was forced to sort the clothing from arriving transports and shear women's hair prior to their murder in the gas chambers. He became involved in resistance activities and eventually escaped from Treblinka with his cousin and a friend in January 1943. He returned to the Czestochowa ghetto and married his second wife, Regina. Shortly after, Abraham took part in the ghetto uprising.

Upon liquidation of the Czestochowa ghetto in June of 1943, Abraham and Regina were deported to one of the Tschenstochau concentration camps. They managed to escape the night prior to liberation by the Russian army in January 1945.

After the war, Abraham and Regina briefly returned to Czestochowa. They then moved to Beuthen and later to Falkenstein, Germany. In 1951, following a short stay in the Fohrenwald displaced persons' camp, the couple immigrated to the United States. They had one daughter, Bonnie.

Abraham testified in two Treblinka war crimes trials held in Germany. Since retiring, he has spoken in many schools about his experiences. At the time of his interview in 1996, he and his wife had three grandchildren.