



ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM
& EDUCATION CENTER

Audio Guide Activities Answer Key

Survivor Stories:

What is happening in the world at the time the Survivors wanted to leave Germany?

- All four: When the Nazis came to power in Germany in 1933, they began to pass laws that systematically stripped Jews of their citizenship and civil rights and restricted nearly all aspects of Jewish political, economic, civic, and cultural life.

What were the motivations and pressures that made the families want to leave?

- Ralph Rehbock: As the Nazi government imposed increasingly strict restrictions on Jewish people in the mid-1930s, Ralph's mother, Ruth, began making arrangements for the family to leave Germany. Following the November Pogroms, better known as Kristallnacht, in November 1938, 30,000 Jewish men and teenage boys were arrested and put in concentration camps. Ralph's father, Hans, went into hiding to avoid arrest.
- Lucille Wolf: The rights of Jewish Germans were systematically stripped by the Nazi government in the 1930s. By late 1938, the situation had deteriorated so much that Lucille's parents decided to send her, alone, on a Kindertransport to England.
- Walter Hesse: Under Nazi laws that took away Jewish Germans' basic rights, Walter was forced to sell his stake in his company to his non-Jewish business partner. This made it impossible for him to earn a living in Germany.
- Judy Kolb: Following the November Pogroms, better known as Kristallnacht, Judy's grandfather was one of 30,000 Jewish men and boys to be arrested and put in concentration camps. Judy's grandmother felt the family was no longer safe in Germany and made arrangements for the family to leave the country.

What hard decisions did they have to make?

- Ralph, Walter, Judy: The families had to leave behind their familiar way of life and nearly all of their possessions to start over in a new country where they did not speak the language.
- Lucille: Lucille and her parents had to decide to send Lucille, still a teenager, alone to a foreign country to live with strangers. They did not know when—or if—the family would be reunited.

What was the end result of their decision?

- Ralph's mother's efforts were successful, and the family was able to escape Germany and build a new life in Chicago.

- Lucille: Lucille's sister, who was already living in the US, was able to bring Lucille from England to the US. Their parents also survived, and the family was able to reunite and settle in Chicago.
- Walter: Walter and his wife Giesela were able to get out of Germany and make a new home in Chicago.
- Judy: Judy was born in Shanghai soon after her family arrived there. The family remained in Shanghai until 1948, when they were able to immigrate to San Francisco.