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Summary

Franz S. Steinitz, M.D. b. 6/22/1910 in Beuthen, Oberschlesien, Germany (now Bytom, Poland) to conservative Jewish parents, sister 8 yrs older, father/uncle owned large dept store Kaufhaus-Fritz-Steinitz inherited from their father; mother assists store by entertaining its wealthy customers; Franz receives medical diploma/Munich, studies in Bonn & Hanover, resident Jewish Hospital/Breslau; since father had been a wounded vet, Germany League of Nations assist Franz's medical studies; sister marries wealthy WW1 vet, for three children's safety, they're put on children transport to England, would be adopted & raised in a different faith; sister & husband killed (Franz post-war meets again sister's children); Franz discusses Conf of Germany coming to Prussia; Franz's hardship when his mother dies suddenly at age 47; father remarries & lives to 67; sister & husband (decorated German WW1 hero) had been stripped of their wealth & acc to Franz "gassed at Auschwitz"; Franz recounts anti-Semitism endured in school year where he was kicked in the back & while practicing in Breslau 1937, receives notice from Germany that his medical diploma & license "no longer valid"; immigration to Chicago 1937, repeats internship, transferred into research, after 5 yrs, becomes American citizen; serves in the Army, trained in Medical Field Service school; serves N Africa then to Italy as commanding officer-933 Field Battalion; during surgery, has ability to stop boat with pedal when needing to cut open a patient; boat enters southern coast of France; military action in Mannheim and in Heidelberg; German-speaking Franz plays crucial role negotiating surrender of Mannheim, which involves their waterworks; Franz awarded Bronze Star, citation of valor, & several military ribbons; post-war, City of Mannheim invites Franz to lunch, gifts him three historical books; Franz later reunites with non-Jewish German schoolmates; marriage, daughter born, divorce, remarriage where he adopts her two sons; Franz defends his friend, a professor who was head of German Physicians Chamber and was denied head of its world organization by Amer Jewish Congress, accused of Nazi past, their claim that _____ had sent the "not normal" (acc to Franz) to death, _____ forced to resign, later cleared; Franz had lost his sister, aunts, uncles, grandmother to the Nazis but carried no hate, only "grateful to be a free man in US," says Franz; Franz shares photographs: his birthplace, as an Army soldier, while attending German medical school, with Dr. Friedman at Mannheim's waterworks, in his first US practice, with Chicago Edgewater Hospital's Maurice Mazel while Franz was Chief of Staff; Franz in operating room; Franz ends interview showing his medals, including merit medal awarded (1973) by German government for Franz's diplomacy that contributed to ending WW2.