

## Norbert Hilsberg

Norbert Hilsberg was born on September 3, 1914 in Vienna, Austria. In 1938, Hilsberg graduated college and served in the Austrian military for three months. He was out of town "on maneuvers" when the Germans began their invasion of Austria. Hilsberg's commanding officer allowed him to return to Vienna to see his parents. The streets were already filled with Nazis when Hilsberg arrived. His mother contacted her family in the United States and started procedures for Hilsberg's immigration.

Hilsberg's parents could not immigrate to the United States they were under Russian and Polish quotas. Instead, they arranged to go to Yugoslavia and travel from there to Italy and then France. In France, the Hilsberg's were able to get on a cruise ship and travel to Cuba. They stayed in Cuba until April of 1941 when they attained visas and were allowed to enter the United States.

Norbert Hilsberg received his visa in June of 1938 and traveled to the United States by way of France. When he arrived he stayed with his uncle from Philadelphia. Hilsberg was in Philadelphia when he learned about the invasion of Poland the "start" of the war. At that time he was working in the advertising department of the Litz department store in Philadelphia. In February of 1941, Hilsberg volunteered for the army. He was sent to an engineering camp where he worked making maps. His outfit was attached to the general headquarters in D.C. After Pearl Harbor was bombed, Hilsberg's outfit remained at Fort Bell making war and invasion maps. In 1942, however, Hilsberg's outfit was sent overseas to be attached to the general headquarters in Europe. Hilsberg, who had not yet received his citizenship, was forced to remain behind. He was assigned to a new mapmaking outfit station in the United States. It was during this time that Hilsberg met his wife at a Dance in Fort Belvoir.

In April of 1943, Hilsberg received his citizenship, and in November of 1943 his outfit was sent to North America, where the unit remained for a year, working on plans for the invasion of southern France and Austria. Before the outfit was finished, they were called back to the United States – to Hawaii. In Hawaii, they started work on invasion maps for "the islands and Japan". Hilsberg was discharged from the army in November of 1945. He was offered, and accepted, a job from the war department, doing the same kind of work he had done during his service. Hilsberg settled in Washington D.C. with his wife and had two children.