

AGJAS

JILL BERG PAULY

Family:

Jill was born May 1, 1933 in Cologne, Germany. Her maiden name was Berg and her Mother's maiden name was Meyer. Father was a cattle dealer. Family goes back to 1629 in that area. She had one older sibling and they attended Jewish schools.

Crystalnacht:

After this occurred the family went into hiding for six months. Their home was located in suburb of Cologne. After November 10, 1938 the house shutters were always closed. The Synagogue was set on fire and her Grandfather, who was president of the shul) was called. She was age 5 and this was her first remembrance of active anti-semitism. By word of mouth they learned it was an all over pogrom. Non-Jews drove family to safer places. Family kept quiet, no socializing. Didn't go to public places. She was locked up together with her family in large house. Her two playmates disappeared during this six month period. Good Germans brought them Kosher food.

Leaving Germany:

The women decided to leave the country. An uncle, cousin and her Father were imprisoned in Holland but pardoned by Queen due to family connections. Stayed in Holland for one year. Mother was working on papers and eventually was offered choice of Uruguay or Kenya. Cousin of Mother's had a wife who had a brother in England who was being sent to Kenya to practice law. He came up with seventeen passports in one day. Second generation left in one day. Great-uncles and aunts wouldn't leave. They felt in no danger. Grandparents went - even the sick one. Three uncles were shocked and family kept kashrut - all in secret - never ate trefe. Everyone arrived in Kenya at same time. Those behind were gassed. Found packet of letters in Mother's house written between 1939-42 from Father's Aunt and Uncle saying how bad it was. He died in Theresienstadt of Cancer and she committed suicide. Mother's family also escaped. They had gone to Holland before Crystalnacht and then to Kenya.

Kenya:

Life in Kenya was not easy. The trip from Cologne to the boat was also very frightening. Noone realized how treacherous Germans were. In terror by train until it crossed German border into Switzerland and Italy. In Genoa they went on a Nazi ship called Umbarra. They were 2nd class passengers and wanted no attention.

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After this experience didn't talk or socialize with anyone other than family. Kept everything to themselves and this was the secret of their survival.

Kurt Pauly:

Jill's husband whose background she also speaks of. He was born twenty minutes from Cologne. Their families didn't know each other. His mother left in 1936 with his father. His mother was a second cousin to Anne Frank's grandmother. Kurt and Jill's first date was to see "Diary of Anne Frank."