

KURT MARBURG  
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Kurt Marburg was born in 1923 in Berlin, Germany, the only child whose father was in real estate and building management. He went to public school until 1935 or 36 when the Germans forbid Jewish students to attend regular school. Then he went to a school set up by the Jews that had a strong pro Zionist identification. Kurt doesn't remember antisemitism until after 1933. At first, he noticed it in social situations, but then gradually it became more violent and the Jews isolation became more intensified. His parents had to wear a "J" on their coats. He also recalls a scary incident with a SS person in Fulda, where he spent summers with his grandparents. He remembers seeing Jesse Owens at the Olympics in 1935 when he was humiliated by Hitler turning his back and leaving the stadium.

Kurt discusses his family history and stated that a they had a feeling of false security. Soon the need to leave Germany became serious and 2 uncles already in the US were approached for affidavits for the family to emigrate. He describes a very lengthy process to get all the paperwork accomplished. The whole process took 12-18 months. They were allowed at that time to take their furniture out of Germany but had a large federal tax levied on their income. They took a train to the Dutch border and then came to the US in November, 1938. The family was able to maintain contact with relatives back in Europe until 1942.

After finishing high school in New York, Kurt was drafted into the army and served in Europe. He saw action at the Battle of the Bulge. When the war ended he was in Frankfurt and served as part of an escort ferrying Eisenhower from his work to his home. He remained there for a year. He remembers the Germans as being meek at this time; he also remembers some of the displaced persons attacking German citizens. He said the DP wanted more freedom than they were getting at the time. Kurt worked 2 years with the Civil Censorship Division following up on Germans who had incomplete records. Then he spent another 2 years in Munich as a civilian employee of the US government.

Kurt met his wife in 1947 in Munich but didn't marry until he finished school. His wife arrived in the US under the immigrant quota. Kurt spent his career in human resources from 1953 to 1978. He says he is embittered because the free world should have opened their borders to save those in danger.