

DONALD HENRY BENDER

Donald Bender was born in 1914 in Wuppertal (Germany); In those times it was part of Prussia, it also grows there. His parents were born in different parts of Germany. He had a younger sister. His father worked as a typographer and his mother did not work outside the home. Donald went to the Hebrew school, and he had a bar mitzvah, but he did not want to do it, it was against his will. Donald and his family only spoke German. Donald spent most of his young life with his grandparents. He left school when he was 14, the usual time there. Donald said that at that time there was no antisemitism. But in 1930 it was the beginning of antisemitism, because it began to increase.

When he was nineteen, he moved to Paris and stayed there until 1937, spent 4 years in France, works as a plumber these years and learned French very well, around 70% of the language. In that year, he was 22 years old and moved alone to the United States, without his family because he gave him the papers, but not for the whole family, because his aunt lived here in the United States, in Dayton. and stayed with them until he started working, after renting a room on Cambridge Avenue. In the United States he works as an optician, but before that, he was a member of the military government, he was a member of the Air Force. He was there since the United States entered the war, until 1949 as a counterintelligence officer. When he returned to the United States, he met his wife and they married in August 1950, and then they lived in Columbus for a while together.

His wife became pregnant and his daughter was born when Donald had to return abroad. When he returned to the service he left in the army, they had a son thirteen years younger than his daughter. His wife began working as a teacher in a public school. His son and daughter went to college and he taught a little religion.

He visited twice the place where he was born, Wuppertal with his wife and also Paris, he had not forgotten how the Frenchman spoke. Unfortunately, Donald Henry Bender passed away on September 7, 2014 in Columbus, OH.