

## LOTTIE LIEBERMANN

Born 3/7/07 Opeln, Germany in Upper Silesia. Father, Alfred Ogler owned a leather goods/saddlery store. Mother Hedwig (Apt). Parents married by Rabbi Leo Baeck. Had 3 brothers, twins Heinz and Walter and Helmut. Family Liberal, not Orthodox and did not keep Kosher. "Assimilated." Synagogue on holidays and she was confirmed. German spoken at home, and she spoke some French and English at home. Family had been in the area since 1648 and owned store for 100+ years. In WWI, mother worked for the Red Cross. Family managed during inflationary postwar period. Very limited antisemitism. She met husband in Breslau in 1924. He became an ENT MD. Married 1928 and son Franz (now Frank) born 1929. By 1930, many children sent to Palestine by Hadassah (Women's International Zionist Organization) to work on farms, though she was not a Zionist. By 1933, people looking to leave Germany, although many felt it would "blow over." Lillian and brother went to Palestine in 1937 to see about emigrating, but too many ENT's already in Tel Aviv. Father in law had a cousin in NY and obtained a visa for her husband, Hans who left in 6/38. She felt "in danger" after he left. When her son broke his arm, he was refused care by a Catholic surgeon who would not treat Jewish children. She was able to take some furniture to US as she went from Bremen on 10/12/38. She arrived in NYC and shortly went on to Cleveland and then to Dayton in 1/39. After Kristallnacht, brothers put in concentration camp briefly. They had tried to get to Shanghai but when war started, boat they were on had to return to Hamburg and were never heard from again. Parents sent to Thereisenstadt and were killed ~10/44 according to Rabbi Baeck. Postwar, she knew Jews who returned to Germany got restitution money and she got a little based on parents' property and bank accounts. She was active in Hadassah and Youth Aliyah. She is upset over the way US kept Jews out and re: fate of the Jews from the *St. Louis*. She says it was harder to assimilate in Dayton as opposed to NYC. Son is married and lives in NYC with 3 children. Daughter-in-law came from Vienna 2 weeks before Lillian arrived. Says many Dayton Jews married non-Jews because they want to live in a non-Jewish world ("sad situation")