

RG-50.322.0029

Summary

Sig Sanders, Born 1/3/08 in Soul(?), Germany. Father ran a dry goods store 1889-1923. He moved to Nuremberg at age 20. Went through public school through high school (realschule) which was mostly non-Jewish. Family spoke only German, no Yiddish. Belonged to a small synagogue but went irregularly. One brother killed in WW I. Another brother was beaten by Hitler supporters. In Nuremberg ~1922. On the day in 1933 that Hitler came to power, Sanders was working in Karlsruhe and heard it on the radio. Later that day, he was in Pforzheim and saw people parading with torches in support of Hitler. At that time, he was doing accounting work and living in Stuttgart. Many of his non-Jewish friends became Nazis. On 4/1/33 a boycott of Jewish stores was ordered and members of the SA stood in front of stores to enforce it. Jews thought the problems would "blow over." Sanders married wife, Ilse in 1934 and started planning to leave Germany. They learned Spanish to try to go to Argentina and he already knew English from high school. He specialized in accounting for newspapers and printing houses, but most were taken over by Nazis who declared that they owned 51% of the businesses. His last newspaper accounting job was in Schramberg where he had to do the work away from the business as he was not allowed to be around Aryan women under 45. A later job in Boblingen was cancelled because he refused to give the Hitler salute. In Nuremberg, he was run out of a coffee house when the waiter put a note in the coffee pot saying "God damned Jew get out," to the amusement of the other patrons. He knew that Julius Streicher rode through Nuremberg and when he saw a Jew he would get out and whip him. During this time, Sanders could not work in Germany but did some jobs in Switzerland. Finally, he got affidavits of support from an aunt in NYC and received passports to leave with wife and son Peter ~4/1/38. They arrived in NYC on 4/15/38, on the eve of Passover. His mother and sister stayed in Germany (fate never mentioned) but one brother came to the US in 6/38 and another brother, his wife and his brother in law came in 11/38. Sanders did odd jobs for a few months including at S. Klein department store where Jewish saleswomen made fun of him because he was a refugee and did not understand Yiddish. His wife sold hosiery with aunt. Finally, HIAS helped family relocate to Springfield OH in 11/38. The family was supported by the local "Good Will Club" while he worked several small jobs. Eventually he returned to accounting work. He later was elected secretary of the B'nai Brith lodge in 1940. He is now president and chairman of the board of the community hospital. He is more religious and goes to temple on Friday night.