Joseph Frank

Joseph Frank was born in Bavaria, Germany in March, 1937.

His father was in the cattle business.

Life changed dramatically in November 9, 1938 when there were coordinated attacks against Jews throughout Nazi Germany. That event is known in history as Kristallnacht, the Night of the Broken Glass.

The name comes from the glass shattered when Jewish homes and businesses were destroyed.

After Kristallnacht things changed irreparably for Jews in Germany: Joe’s father was among the thousands of Jewish men arrested. He was sent to the concentration camp Dachau for 3 months.
Many of the men arrested were released on the condition that they leave Germany quickly. Joe’s mother was able to get an affidavit from her brother in London so the family went to England in March 1939.

They were granted only temporary refuge in England, in part because the British worried about German spies. During their time in England the family was separated and Joe was placed in an orphanage at the age of 2.

His mother had another brother, this one in the US. He got them a visa and Joe’s family left Liverpool in March 1940 to come to the States. This was during World War II, which started September 1st, 1939.