

--who confirmed that they had the deposit. And they left. But this is what happens when nobody has civil rights.

And shortly thereafter, your father left, leaving you and your mom behind to--

Mainly to say, a visa is good for 120 days. So the prudent thing to do is to save resources. My mother closed up the household, sold whatever we didn't want to take along. At that time, you could still take belongings out of the country, providing you paid 100% tax.

So meaning the value of whatever it was, 100% tax.

100% tax, but we had something-- we had some furniture to live with. My mother bought the latest sewing machine in case she had to sew clothes and whatever family possessions we could. And we left. Rather, we booked a trip about 105 days after the-- now, it's shortly before the expiration of the visa, which was October 12, 1938, about one-- less than a month before Crystal Night.

Frank, before we turn to your departure-- so you have this very tight window of 120 days to both conserve resources, accumulate any others you can get, and yet, the clock is ticking. Do you know if for your mother that was a pretty frightening time to be left there, to try to make it all work, and yet has to get out within that 120-day window?

She literally collapsed when we got to the ship. In other words--

Stress.

--I don't think she left the-- whether it was seasickness or anything else, it was exhaustion when-- once we left on the ship. And we had a very rough going just before.

Before we turn to that, a couple of other things I want to ask you about during that period you stayed in Germany. During that time, you broke your arm. Tell us that experience.

This tells me something about how we react unconsciously. We weren't allowed to use parks, but there was a house which had a big backyard, which was a place where we could play. And I rode my bicycle to it. And in tripping and playing tag, I broke my arm. You would probably have called 911. I took my bicycle and rode home on the main street by holding on because the instinct is it's safer to fend for oneself.

And then when it became obvious that it was swelling, my mother called the orthopedist, whom my father knew. They had gone to-- what do you call it-- professional dinners together and so forth. And he got the answer, I'm sorry. I don't treat Jewish children. It's not good for my practice.

So my mother frantically got on the phone and found somebody in my father's hometown, which was about half an hour away who said, look, go to the Catholic orphanage. I'll give you the address. Go with the back door. I'll meet you there in an hour. So at that point, he took a taxi. And he set my arm and put it in a cast. And that's the extent to which it changed-- things changed.

And these had been colleagues of your father's in the profession.

Yeah.

So you your mother manages to put it together to get you to get out of Germany. You make your way to catch that ship just a few days before the expiration of the visa. And then you have a very terrifying moment there.

I don't know how well-versed you are in history, but do you know the Munich Pact, which was between Hitler, Chamberlain, and Daladier? Chamberlain was the Prime Minister of England. Daladier was the Prime Minister of France, had a meeting with Hitler in Munich, in which they basically gave Hitler the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia

without their consent.

And preparing for that conference, Hitler called back all ships at sea and threatened war if he didn't get what he was after so that the ship which we were booked on was called back and was running late. Censorship was complete. We had no idea that any of this was going on. But when we got to the port, there was no ship.

The ship took six days to cross the Atlantic. And it was common practice that it goes for six days, it takes one day to turn around, and then it goes back. In this case, they made up one day a week. And the ship did arrive the next day.

But censorship was so complete, when my father was sending us telegrams, take an earlier ship-- which we couldn't get anyway-- we had no idea of what was going on. Now, there was complete censorship. The press was controlled. Radio-- listening to a foreign radio was prohibited, again, could be punished with concentration camp. And that's just the way it was. So fortunately, the ship did arrive the next day. And we arrived pretty much as scheduled.

What do you remember about your trip and arriving in the United States?

By the way, we arrived, I think, on 56th Street, a regular pier, not Ellis Island. Ellis Island was only for people who went by steerage. And that was really abandoned in the '30s. We were met by my father. I got a quick bus tour on the Fifth Avenue bus for sightseeing. And we took the next train to Cleveland, where he had rented a small apartment.

For \$5 a month?

No, that was \$25. And it had a Murphy bed.

OK.

In other words, had one bedroom with a Murphy bed in the living room. That was mine.

And why was your father in Cleveland, Ohio?

In Ohio, was passing one half of all people who took the state boards. And in New York, there was a similar situation to Tel Aviv, where fee-splitting was 90/10 to the GP, who would refer the surgeon. And he didn't want any part of that. And Ohio was-- he had a fraternity brother in Ohio who was an obstetrician. And he took his chances on that.

So now, you're living in Cleveland. Your mother was able to bring some of your goods with you, some of your property.

We didn't have any of that. It wasn't unloaded.

It wasn't unloaded.

What I want to get to is the bicycle.

Yes.

Yes.

OK. My father's friend had an ear, nose, throat man sharing his office. So he made a very self-interest decision, which turned out to be very good advice, of saying, why don't you go to Dayton, which doesn't have a Jewish ear, nose, throat specialist? And I think you'll be better off there. He took the advice. And we had a small apartment, again, in-- pretty close to downtown Dayton, where we sent our lift, which had our furniture and belongings, and that-- among other things was my bicycle.

They had friends-- that was beforehand-- who had a bicycle and motorcycle shop. They said, we'll pack the bicycle for you in one of those boxes that it doesn't take much room. And that should be helpful. We'll deliver it to you. And as my

mother was doing all the packing, there had to be a customs agent there and that had to be sealed.

He took everything. They put everything in. It was ready to go. And we didn't think anything of it. We also packed some luggage, which was also sealed. This was for the stuff that we would take on the boat.

When we got to the ship, everything was broken open unsealed because they didn't trust the customs agents so that there was a general-- I'm mentioning the atmosphere of fear, which pervades a totalitarian country. When shortly after we arrived, we get a letter from our friends who had just arrived in Israel.

And these are the folks that packed your bicycle.

Yeah. This was, by the way, after Crystal Night, and said, when we packed your bicycle, I had some very valuable gold coins, which are prohibit-- which we weren't allowed to own. We packed them in the frame of your bicycle. Be careful when you unpack. We have a black cloth over it. Please, save them for us. My father was furious because lives are at stake.

And my-- I think there were five of them. They were very rare. They were for a Kaiser who only lived 90 days. So hardly any were minted. As, I think, my kids-- rather, my wife got one and each of my kids got one. And after the war, when they asked for them-- asked them to sell the coins and to ship them a refrigerator, my father shipped the refrigerator. And we didn't have any correspondence with them after that.

Frank, in the-- as our time is growing short, you've mentioned Kristallnacht. And of course, that night, November 9-10, 1938, when over 300 synagogues were burned in Austria and Germany, you were in Ohio at that time. But you got a call from family members. Tell us about that.

My parents-- I think there was a special, if I recall-- I don't know if it was Wednesday or Tuesday. They had movies for \$0.10. And they ask a neighbor to look in on me, maybe once an hour, just to see that everything is all right. That was the first time they went out. It was on November 9, if I recall correctly.

And all of a sudden, around 9 o'clock, the phone rang, a long distance person-to-person call for my mother from my grandparents. They were expected back at about 10 o'clock. And that was probably the longest hour I knew because they kept on calling. Are they back yet? That was when my grandparents called that my mother's brothers were arrested. That was Crystal Night, the Night of Broken Glass, and burned businesses and synagogues. And that's when everything became critical.

Frank, you were, of course, now in the United States. Tell us about some of your family members, other family members' efforts to get out of Germany and Europe at that point.

Mr. Marcus, my father took time out to go to New York by Greyhound bus, and went to him, and said, look, I need it for my wife's family. And he said, I can't take any more responsibility than that. This was a man, I later-- I found out, had a 1938 income of \$38,000. We talk about executive compensation. That was at a time in the deep Depression.

But that was too close to what his father had done. And he didn't want to be confronted. So he tried everything possible. But at that point-- he wasn't earning a living yet. He hadn't opened his practice so that basically, they were helpless to do anything for the family.

And by that time, there are two countries which basically helped with immigration. One was the Dominican Republic. The second one was Shanghai, controlled by Japan. In fact, my mother's brothers were on a boat to Shanghai, which had just left Genoa in June of 1940 the day Hitler invaded France, the breakthrough on the way to Paris. And Italy declared war. And the boat was called back. We never heard from them again.

That was-- and there were other family members who also tried to get out as well.

Yeah.

Yeah.

I mean, my-- in those days, corruption was rampant. Some of you may know about the famous St. Louis, where the Cuban consul sold visas. And when they got to Havana, they weren't valid. And the St. Louis was anchored off Florida for, I think, 10 days and was forced to go back to Holland. And I think 90% of the people perished.

Frank, I think your parents were able to get a visa for your grandfather. And he attempted to leave. Tell us what happened to him.

He was supposed to go to Spain and was on the-- got sick on the train. And rather than to be treated, they diverted him to Theresienstadt, where he died shortly after arrival.

And that was a concentration camp, Theresienstadt.

Yeah. Theresienstadt was a so-called benign concentration camp, where the Germans pulled the wool over the Red Cross, who dressed everything up when the people came to visit. But it was essentially a way station to Auschwitz.

And so your grandfather perished there?

Yes.

Frank, before we wrap up, I'd like you to tell us about your father's-- he completes his board. He gets his boards done. He can open a practice. You're in Dayton. Two things I'd like you to tell us about what happened with his attempt to try to join the Medical Society and then once he was able to establish a practice, his efforts to help people resettle after the war, for which he was really widely recognized. Will you share that with us?

OK. In those days, medical-- membership in the Medical Society was considered a form of legitimacy, that you had the right credentials. And he applied for it shortly after arrival. And there was an emergency meeting held by the Medical Society on a Friday night, which some of the Jewish doctors would not attend because it was on Sabbath, during which they passed a statute requiring citizenship for membership, which required five years of residency to become eligible.

One of the doctors apparently called the Dayton Herald-- there were two papers in Dayton at that time. And the next morning, my father got a call from a reporter of the Herald and said, I'd like to see you for a few minutes. Do you have time? He said, of course. Said, I'd-- and please, I want to see your credentials. And he came over-- this was on a Saturday morning. And after talking for a few minutes, I don't know how long, he said, thank you very much and thought that was the end of it.

The next morning, there was an editorial in the Dayton Herald-- freedom of opportunity in the United States, in which, on the editorial page, saying that they had examined the credentials, that that meeting was held on a Friday night, which was prejudicial, and that we're better than that. The following Monday, he had 11 new patients. So I'm a great believer. I mean, not that he had anything to do with it, but if you get a lemon, make lemonade.

And Frank-- and then he would stay in practice there for many years.

Yes

But during the end of the war--

He was never able to get his family out. But he was pretty well established. He, by the way, was rejected as being too old to serve in the military. He volunteered. But also, Dayton was a critical city for war production. It was a huge General Motors-- it had two airfields. It was a General Motors town, Chrysler, Airtemp, National Cash Register, which made machine guns, just as examples. And basically, I grew up-- I was a teenager during World War II.

And at the end, he wanted to do something. There were a huge amount of displaced persons from World War II. And he gave something-- I think 107 affidavits to guarantee people for resettlement and was very active in the international HIAS organization, which specialized in resettlement after World War II. And in fact, I think it was-- he was a recipient of the 75th anniversary award together with Harry Truman.

So Frank, he really was powerless to save many of his own family, but he ended up saving and being able to resettle over 100 people. Frank, we have time for a couple of questions from our audience before we end the program. So if you have a question to ask Frank, please do so. And if you do, make it as brief as you can. I'll repeat the question so everybody hears it, including Frank. Then he'll answer it. But I also want to say, at the end of the program, Frank, you can stay behind to answer questions--

Sure, yeah.

--afterwards for a little while? So if anybody wants to ask a question, we can do that afterwards. So do we have anybody who has a question? If not, I always have many. Yes, ma'am, right here in the front.

How do you think about what you as a child it was for you to go to a new country as far as language barriers or having to accept any new logistics?

Question is when you came to this country, how difficult was it for you in light of language barriers and just being in a new country as a child?

I've always been adaptable. We were set back a year in school. I still remember a wonderful teacher I had in grade 3B, Ms. Manuel, who really made the transition pretty easy. And after three months, we moved to Dayton, where I got halfway back-- in other words, the next-- toward the next school year. And I caught up in the sixth grade.

Did you know any English when you came to the United States?

I had some tutoring during the last six month. I knew enough. I don't have a good ear for language. That's the reason I retain my accent. But my grammar is good.

Do we have another question? Yes, sir, back there. Oh, I think he's asking if you were-- if I'm correct-- as a child, did you-- were you there during like bombings and things like that? But that really wasn't the case.

No. Actually, the museum considers me a survivor. I consider myself a witness because, as I said, we left less than a month before Crystal Night, which I consider the real start of the Holocaust. But what I try to convey to you is even as a eight or nine-year-old, you feel your atmosphere. And between 1936 and 1938, those were--