The World Under the Cover: The Global Holocaust History of Else Hahn's Family

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October 24, 2025



Cover of letter sent from Kurt Hahn to Else Hahn.
Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation Holocaust Collection.

In March 1939, Kurt Hahn sent a letter from the Buchenwald concentration camp to his mother, Else Hahn. Unfortunately, only the cover for the letter exists today. Although the contents of Kurt's letter have been lost to history, information from various historical documents and an oral testimony help to provide a partial portrait of Else Hahn's family. Given the vast geographic scope of the movements of the various family members, the lens for the portrait needs to be wide. *Worldwide*.

The history of Else Hahn's family underscores a point that historian Doris L. Bergen makes in her *War & Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust*; namely, that the Holocaust was a global event. She writes,

> Jewish refugees fled central Europe for Turkey, Palestine, India, Uganda, Cuba, and Shanghai; Soviet soldiers from Mongolia and Kazakhstan ended the war in Berlin and Vienna. The Holocaust, in other words, was a global event. Perpetrators, victims, witnesses, beneficiaries, collaborators, and rescuers came from all over Europe and elsewhere in the world.[1]

The history that lies under the cover sent from Kurt Hahn to Else Hahn spans the globe. Starting from Vienna, Austria; the various members of the family went to Byelorussia, Czechoslovakia, England, France, Germany, Morocco, Poland, Romania, the United States of America, and Yugoslavia. Some of the destinations were places of detention; some were places of escape; and some were places of death.

[1] Doris L. Bergen, *War & Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust*, Third Edition (Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016), 2.

Else's Family:



The Spiegler Family: Sitting (left to right: Heinrich Spiegler, Caecilie/Cäzilie "Zillie" (née Plaschkes) Spiegler); standing (left to right: Gustav Spiegler, Else Spiegler, Oskar Spiegler).
Source: Hedy Oppenheimer Interview, Tape 3:
https://www.holocausttestimony.org.uk/interviews-view/hedy-oppenheimer-interview-usc-shoah-foundation-2

Else Hahn was born Else Spiegler on September 23, 1889, in Ottakring, Austria.[2] In 1892 Ottakring became the 16th District of Vienna.[3] Else's parents were Heinrich Spiegler (April 17, 1854 - October 4, 1911)[4] and Caecilie/Cäzilie "Zillie" (née Plaschkes) Spiegler (1858 – February 1934).[5] Else had two older brothers, Gustav (born March 6, 1884) and Oskar (born June 11, 1886).[6]
Else married Leopold Hahn (born in Vienna on July 12, 1887).[7] Given that Leopold was listed as being "War Disabled 35 – 45 %," he most likely was wounded in the First World War.[8] Leopold had a variety of

[2] https://www.geni.com/people/Elsa-Spiegler/6000000085814579869 (Accessed January 8, 2025).
[3] Stadt Wien official website: https://www.wien.gv.at/ottakring/ (Accessed February 6, 2025).
[4] https://www.geni.com/people/Heinrich-Spiegler/6000000034122205392 (Accessed January 8, 2025).
[5] https://www.geni.com/people/Caecilie-Spiegler/6000000034122156496 (Accessed January 8, 2025).
[6] Gustav Spiegler: https://www.geni.com/people/Gustav-Spiegler/6000000041207249972 (Accessed January 8, 2025); Oskar Spiegler: https://www.geni.com/people/Oskar-Spiegler/6000000034122721893 (Accessed January 8, 2025.
[7] The National Library of Israel: https://www.nli.org.il/he/archives/NNL_CAHJP990047873060205171/NLI#$FL74450764 (Accessed January 5, 2025). Document 1 of 4. Applicant: Hahn, Leopold; born 12.7.1887 in Vienna (Austria); married, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, symbol A-W-2590.86.56 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.
[8] "Kriegsinvalider 35 – 45 %" appears in The National Library of Israel: https://www.nli.org.il/he/archives/NNL_CAHJP990047873060205171/NLI#$FL74450764 (Accessed January 5, 2025). Document 4 of 4. Applicant: Hahn, Leopold; born 12.7.1887 in Vienna (Austria); married, Application

jobs, including traveling pig feed salesman, poster draftsman, and calligrapher.[9] Else and Leopold had two sons, Kurt (born March 27, 1914, in Vienna) and Erich (born August 31, 1921, in Vienna). During the early 1930s (most likely in 1933), Else and Leopold got divorced.[10] Leopold eventually married Hildegard Becker (born on August 30, 1902, in Berlin). Hildegard worked as a correspondent for Karl Bondy & Co. in Vienna.[11] Bondy was a Jewish newspaper publisher in Vienna whose newspapers were critical of the Nazis.[12]

Else and Leopold's oldest son, Kurt, was a low-voltage radio mechanic and a theater and film technician. He had conducted his training at the *Technologisches Gewerbemuseum* (Technological Museum of Crafts) in Vienna. At age fifteen, he started as an apprentice at Radiowerk Horny on February 12, 1930. He served as an apprentice for the company until February 12, 1932. From that point on, he worked as a radio technician, tester, and radio repairman for the company. In the mid-1930s, Radiowerk Horny was acquired by Radio Phillips but continued to exist.[13]

submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, symbol A-W-2590.86.56 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

[9] The National Library of Israel: https://www.nli.org.il/he/archives/NNL_CAHJP990047873060205171/NLI#$FL74450764 (Accessed January 5, 2025). Document 4 of 4. Applicant: Hahn, Leopold; born 12.7.1887 in Vienna (Austria); married, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, symbol A-W-2590.86.56 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

[10] It is mentioned in a document that Else and Leopold were divorced "for seven years." Although the document is only dated "May 20," the date May 20, 1940 can be determined by certain contents in the letter: 1) The date November 1939 is mentioned for something that has occurred and 2) It is mentioned that Oskar Spiegler and his family had left for the United States five months previously. (Oskar Spiegler and his family left for the United States in late 1939.) Seven years prior to May 20, 1940, would mean Else and Leopold divorced in 1933. The document in question is The National Library of Israel: https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990047873040205171/NLI#$FL74461335 (Accessed January 19, 2025). Document 3 of 33. Applicant: Hahn, Kurt; born 27.3.1914 in Vienna (Austria); single, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.86.54 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

[11] The National Library of Israel: https://www.nli.org.il/he/archives/NNL_CAHJP990047873060205171/NLI#$FL74450764 (Accessed January 5, 2025). Applicant: Hahn, Leopold; born 12.7.1887 in Vienna (Austria); married, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, symbol A-W-2590.86.56 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

[12] According to Bondy's *New York Times* obituary, Bondy "was born in Czechoslovakia, was educated at the University of Vienna. He established a trade journal in the Austrian capital and later published several similar magazines. When the Nazis began their propaganda attacks on Austria, Mr. Bondy was publishing two daily newspapers in Vienna, The Telegraph and The Echo." According to the obituary, immediately after the Germans occupied Austria, Bondy fled Austria to Czechoslovakia to France and then eventually made it to the United States of America in August 1940. "Charles Bondy, 62, Foe of Nazism, Dies," *New York Times*, December 14, 1945: https://www.nytimes.com/1945/12/14/archives/charles-bondy-62-foe-of-nazism-dies-former-newspaper-publisher-in.html (Accessed January 6, 2025).

[13] "Horny Chronik – Die Jahre 1930 bis 1939" at TECBIL: Die Geschichte von Philips Österreich: https://tecbil.com/die-hornyphone-geschichte/horny-chronik-die-jahre-1930-bis-1939/ (Accessed January 21, 2025).



A Hornyphon Radio in the Dorfmuseum Mönchhof.
Source: https://oesterreichwiki.org/wiki/Datei:Dorfmuseum_M%C3%B6nchhof_1227.JPG
(Accessed January 17, 2025).

Else lived with her two sons, Kurt and Erich, at Karlvarienberggasse 9/17 in Vienna's 17th District. Else's brother, Gustav, was married to Pauline Gross (born March 9, 1887).[14] Gustav and Pauline had a son named Ernst Spiegler (born in Vienna on June 10, 1908).[15] Gustav was a director at the Phoenix Life Insurance Company in Vienna.

Else also worked for the Phoenix Life Insurance Company as a debt collector. In 1936, the company was at the center of a major bankruptcy scandal that became a political and cultural flashpoint in the country. The scandal was immediately exploited by the fascist Vice Chancellor, Prince Ernst Rudiger von Starhemberg in his power struggle with Chancellor Kurt von Schuschnigg. *Time Magazine* reported the following as the scandal broke:

> Prince von Starhemberg started matters off last month by waiting until Chancellor Schuschnigg was in Italy to crack wide open the scandal of the failure of Jewish-controlled Vienna Phoenix Life Insurance Co. His plain purpose in smearing this $150.000,000 [sic] bankruptcy through the Press was to whip up anti-Semitism in Vienna [and] cause a Cabinet crisis that would allow his Heimwehr [Home Guard – a right-wing paramilitary force in Austria] to take over the Government.[16]

The company folded, and hatred toward Jews mounted in a city already known as a hotbed of antisemitism. Vienna is, after all, where Adolf Hitler claimed to have learned his antisemitism. Not only did Else lose her job, but her brother, Gustav, died of kidney disease that was reported to have been aggravated by the scandal. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported the following about Gustav's death:

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[14] Pauline (née Gross) Spiegler: https://www.geni.com/people/Pauline-Spiegler/6000000041207343879 (Accessed February 10, 2025).
[15] Ernst Spiegler: https://www.geni.com/people/Ernst-Spiegler/6000000041207330988 (Accessed February 10, 2025).
[16] *Time Magazine*, "AUSTRIA: Scandalous Phönix-Wien," May 11, 1936. https://time.com/archive/6755283/austria-scandalous-phonix-wien/ (Accessed January 19, 2025).

> Vienna, April 14. (JTA) – Another death indirectly traceable to the financial difficulties of the Phoenix Insurance Co. occurred Sunday when Gustav Spiegler, a director, succumbed to kidney trouble aggravated by worry over the company's crisis. Mr. Spiegler, who was fifty-one years old, was president of the Austrian Maccabi Association, Jewish sports organization.[17]

It was further reported by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "Growing anti-Semitic feeling throughout the country, particularly in the provinces, in some cases openly backed by clerical and government officials, is occasioning grave fears among the Jewish population."[18]

After losing her job at Phoenix, Else received financial support from both of her brothers. [Note: The document upon which this statement is based uses the plural *Brüder* (brothers). If the document is correct, then perhaps Else was let go from Phoenix before Gustav's death and received financial support from him prior to his death or an arrangement had been made to support her after his death.][19] Kurt also helped support his mother with his earnings.[20]

Else and Gustav's brother, Oskar Spiegler, was married to Martha (née Liebel) Spiegler (born September 20, 1888).[21] Oskar and Martha had three children: Hedwig "Hedy" (born in Vienna on March 13, 1914) and the twins: Walter and Erika (both born in Vienna on August 11, 1920).[22] Oskar had fought in the First World War and was a dental technician who ran a dental lab in Vienna.[23]

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[17] Jewish Telegraphic Agency Latest Cable Dispatches, Vol. 1, No. 206, April 15, 1936, pp. 4-5. http://pdfs.jta.org/1936/1936-04-15_206.pdf (Accessed January 19, 2025).

[18] Jewish Telegraphic Agency Latest Cable Dispatches, Vol. 1, No. 206, April 15, 1936, pp. 4-5. http://pdfs.jta.org/1936/1936-04-15_206.pdf (Accessed January 19, 2025).

[19] The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990047873040205171/NLI#$FL74461335 (Accessed January 19, 2025). Document 13 of 33. Applicant: Hahn, Kurt; born 27.3.1914 in Vienna (Austria); single, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.86.54 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community. It is noted in the document that Else received support from "brothers" (plural) ["*Brüder*"] after losing her employment.

[20] The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990047873040205171/NLI#$FL74461335 (Accessed January 19, 2025). Document 13 of 33. Applicant: Hahn, Kurt; born 27.3.1914 in Vienna (Austria); single, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.86.54 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

[21] Martha (née Liebel) Spiegler: https://www.geni.com/people/Martha-Spiegler/6000000034122279468 (Accessed February 10, 2025).

[22] The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990048933280205171/NLI#$FL83330805 (Accessed January 16, 2025). Document 2 of 8. Applicant: Spiegler, Oskar; born 11.6.1886 in Vienna (Austria); married, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.206.35 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

[23] Oskar listed his occupation as "*befugter Zahntechniker*" ("certified dental technician") on his questionnaire to the Jewish Community of Vienna. The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990048933280205171/NLI#$FL83330805 (Accessed January 16, 2025). Document 1 of 8. Applicant: Spiegler, Oskar; born 11.6.1886 in Vienna (Austria); married, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.206.35 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community. During her interview, Hedy Oppenheimer referred to her father as having been a dentist and

Given that Hedy provided oral testimony about her life, a more detailed narrative account is possible for Oskar Spiegler's family than for those of Gustav and Else, respectively.[24] Oskar's family lived comfortably in Vienna – Hedy recalled that the family had a maid and a governess, for example. Hedy also recalled that her family tried to keep a low profile in the city due to rampant antisemitism.[25]

There were often many people in the home; Oskar and Martha had many friends and frequently entertained guests. There were musical evenings with Oskar playing the cello and Martha playing the piano at their residence at Wattgasse 84 in Vienna's 17th District.[26] Hedy learned to play the piano as well. In addition to music, the home also was a showcase of art, given that Oskar was a collector of paintings. Hedy was also a collector. She had a library consisting of over 400 books, some of which were quite old.[27]

Oskar was a freemason and associated with people who were politically leftward leaning. This led to his being arrested on two occasions. The first arrest was due to his friendship with a Socialist who ran a newspaper. Oskar was arrested on that occasion due to suspicion that he was connected politically to his friend. Oskar was soon released. The second arrest resulted from a favor Oskar did for a friend. According to Hedy, the friend called and said that a friend had arrived from Berlin and needed a place to store his suitcase. Oskar agreed to hold the suitcase. It turned out the man who owned the suitcase was a Communist. Oskar was arrested and had to stay in jail for a few days. Hedy remembered visiting her father in jail after the second arrest. According to Hedy, during the visit, Oskar cried and said, "What do they want from me? I always have been a decent person. I wanted to do a favor and that's what happened."[28]

Regarding her family's Jewish identity, Hedy said, "We knew we were Jewish, and we always fasted […] but […] we didn't go to synagogue." She remembered Vienna being very antisemitic before the Germans annexed Austria and noted that her family always made sure to be quiet and not draw attention to themselves. She claimed that this behavior was so ingrained that she could not remember

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mentions his having patients. She also stated that he ran a dental lab. Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview; January 22, 1997; interviewed by Sara Aftergood; USC Shoah Foundation Collection; Available via Holocaust Testimony UK: https://www.holocausttestimony.org.uk/interviews-view/hedy-oppenheimer-interview-usc-shoah-foundation-2 (Accessed January 9, 2025). Henceforth, this interview will be referred to as "Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview" in footnotes. Given that Hedy Oppenheimer passed away on January 11, 2008, the past tense is used when referring to her reflections in the interview.

[24] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

[25] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

[26] The information about the guests and music comes from Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview. The address comes from The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990048933280205171/NLI#$FL83330805 (Accessed January 16, 2025). Document 3 of 8. Applicant: Spiegler, Oskar; born 11.6.1886 in Vienna (Austria); married, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.206.35 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

[27] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

[28] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

ever having laughed while out in public. Hedy described her parents as being paranoid about the antisemitism in the city.[29]

Hedy attended Montessori Kindergarten and then public school. After primary school, she attended *Gymnasium*,[30] where she learned Latin and Greek. Hedy was active in sports. She played tennis and was a particularly good swimmer. After Hedy completed *Gymnasium*, she commenced medical studies at the University of Vienna. Among her professors was Sigmund Freud.[31] As the spring of 1938 approached, Hedy's sister, Erika, was attending a French school, and Oskar was training Hedy's brother, Walter, to be dental technician.[32]

The *Anschluss* – March 1938:

On March 12, 1938, the Germans marched into Austria. The next day, on the March 13, the Germans annexed Austria officially with the issuance of the *Gesetz über die Wiedervereinigung Österreichs mit dem Deutschen Reich* [Law for the Reunification of Austria with the German Reich] in Linz.[33] It was Hedy's 24th birthday, and she only had one semester remaining of medical school. Her studies were immediately suspended, and life for all members of the Hahn and Spiegler families was thrown into turmoil.[34]

As Germany annexed Austria, the consequences for Vienna's Jews were devastating and immediate. Throughout the city, Jews were sacked from their jobs, had their assets and properties confiscated, and were threatened and humiliated.

Kurt Hahn was fired from Radiowerk Horny. On a questionnaire Kurt later filled out in hopes of fleeing Austria, he noted that he had worked at the Radiowerk Horny until March 1938 and described his financial status as "After the turnabout, unemployed" ["*Nach dem Umschwung arbeitslos*"]. With "*Umschwung*" ("turnabout") Kurt undoubtedly referred to the *Anschluss*. A website devoted to the history of Radiowerk Horny notes that after the *Anschluss*, "intolerables" ["*Untragbare*"] were

[29] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.
[30] *Gymnasium* can be translated as high school or grammar school. Given the tiered system of German and Austrian education, a *Gymnasium* is not the exact equivalent of an American high school. The *Gymnasium* education specifically prepares students for university education. Students tend to attend *Gymanasium* for one more year than Americans typically do in high school. In her interview, Heddy compares the *Gymnasium* to an American junior college.
[31] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.
[32] The sentence merges information from Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview and The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990048933280205171/NLI#$FL83330805 (Accessed January 16, 2025). Document 2 of 8. Applicant: Spiegler, Oskar; born 11.6.1886 in Vienna (Austria); married, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.206.35 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.
[33] The text of the law is available at the following website: http://documentarchiv.de/ns/1938/anschluss_oesterreich_deutsches-reich.html (Accessed October 24, 2025).
[34] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

immediately dismissed, swastika posters and pictures of Adolf Hitler were hung on walls, and employees participated in a torchlight procession singing Nazi songs.[35]

After the *Anschluss*, Kurt's father (Else's ex-husband), Leopold Hahn, was let go from his job as a pig feed salesman "due to racial [reasons]." Leopold remained unemployed until he fled the country in November 1938.[36]

Hedy later recalled how Jews were no longer allowed to do *anything* after the *Anschluss*. Given that the streets were littered with slogans from the elections that had been conducted immediately before the *Anschluss*, Jews were forced to go out and scrub the streets. This happened to Hedy's father, Oskar. While he scrubbed the streets on his hands and knees, acid was poured down on his hands.[37]

Hedy and Erika were forced to clean a villa that had been confiscated from Jews and converted into an SS barracks. During the morning, Hedy had to make the same bed "about twenty times," for, each time she did so, an SS man stripped back the sheets and ordered her to do it again. At lunchtime, about twenty Jews were "chased down" at gunpoint into the cellar, where they were forced to stand holding up a piece of paper against a wall with their noses for about an hour. In the afternoon, an SS man interrupted Hedy as she was cleaning, put a gun to her head, and asked if she had committed *Rassenschande* ("Racial defilement" – intimate relations between a Jew and an "Aryan"). He then brought Erika into the room, and told Erika to "Say goodbye to her [Hedy], because she will be shot." After about half and hour of repeatedly asking Hedy whether she had committed *Rassenschande* with his loaded gun pointed at her forehead, the SS man left, laughing. Later in the evening, Hedy and Erika were sent home.[38]

The family's money and possessions were confiscated. They lost their apartment and had to move to a two-room apartment at Untere Augartenstrasse 21/18.[39] As Hedy reflected on this period, she said, "I really don't know how we lived at that time." Oskar scrounged up money by seeing some Jewish patients and by selling items such as the gold intended for gold teeth. Additionally, the family started to sell items from their art collection. Hedy stated, "I think my parents sold a few pictures but for minimal prices." Oskar had two technicians working in his dental lab (in addition to his son, Walter, who he was training for the profession). One of the technicians was a Christian and the other was Jewish. After the

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[35] "Horny Chronik – Die Jahre 1930 bis 1939" at TECBIL: Die Geschichte von Philips Österreich: https://tecbil.com/die-hornyphone-geschichte/horny-chronik-die-jahre-1930-bis-1939/ (Accessed January 21, 2025).

[36] The quotation is from an answer Leopold Hahn provided on his Application for Assistance, dated September 19, 1950, Page 2. Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/80645296 (Accessed February 6, 2025).

[37] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

[38] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

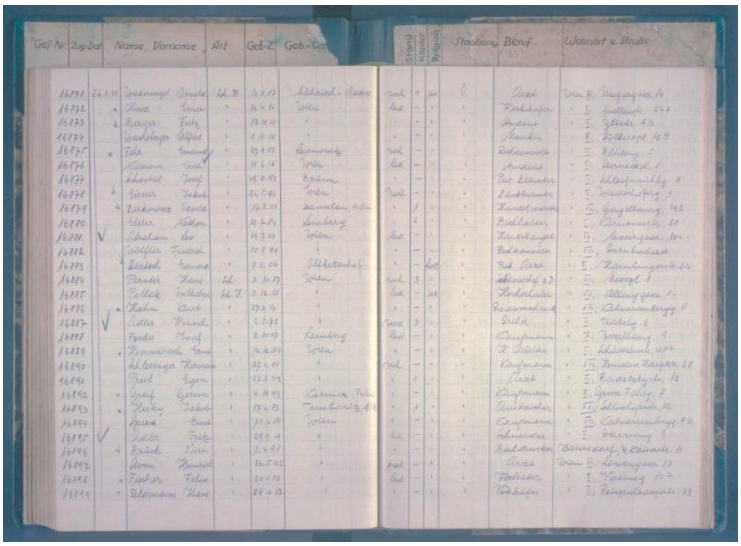
[39] The address information comes from The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990048933280205171/NLI#$FL83330805 (Accessed January 16, 2025). Document 3 of 8. Applicant: Spiegler, Oskar; born 11.6.1886 in Vienna (Austria); married, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.206.35 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

Anschluss, the Christian technician no longer showed up. Soon thereafter, Oskar no longer had the money to pay the Jewish technician.[40]

The family members started going from consulate to consulate in hopes of finding a country that would accept them. But, as Hedy remembered, "Nobody took us in, because we didn't have any money."[41] Martha's mother, Sofie Liebel, contacted a nephew in Chicago, hoping he could send an affidavit for Hedy to leave for the United States of America. The nephew agreed to do so.[42]

Kurt Hahn in Dachau and Buchenwald:

On June 20, 1938, Kurt Hahn was arrested by the Gestapo in Vienna and sent to Dachau concentration camp on June 24, 1938.[43] In Dachau he was issued prisoner number 16886.[44]



Left: Kurt Hahn's name appears in the Dachau concentration camp "Entry register, prisoner numbers 012405 – 017846." He was issued prisoner number 16886.

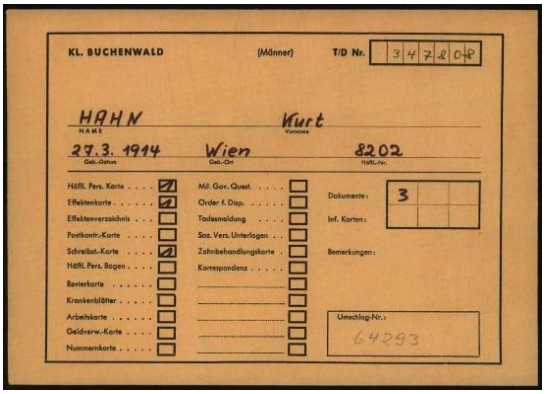
Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/130429297 (Accessed December 22, 2024).

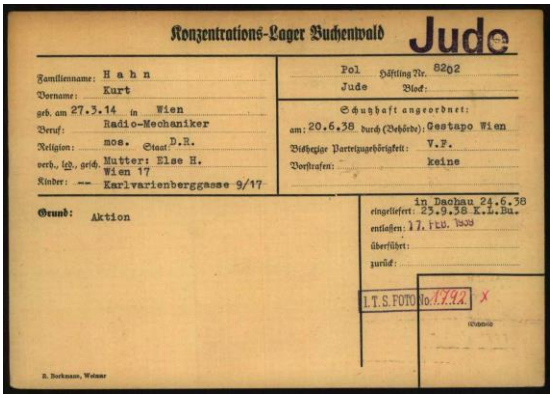
Perhaps fearing the same fate as his brother, the sixteen-year-old Erich fled to France on August 6, 1938.[45]

The next month—on September 23, 1938—Kurt was transferred from Dachau to Buchenwald concentration camp. In Buchenwald he was issued prisoner number 8202.

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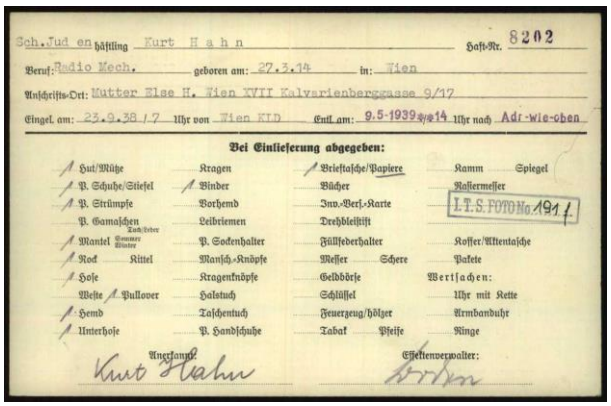
[40] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.
[41] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.
[42] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.
[43] Buchenwald concentration camp index card for Kurt Hahn. Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/6053225 (Accessed December 22, 2024).
[44] "Entry register, prisoner numbers 012405 – 017846," Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/130429297 (Accessed December 22, 2024).
[45] The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990047873040205171/NLI#$FL74461335 (Accessed January 19, 2025). Document 3 of 33. Applicant: Hahn, Kurt; born 27.3.1914 in Vienna (Austria); single, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.86.54 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

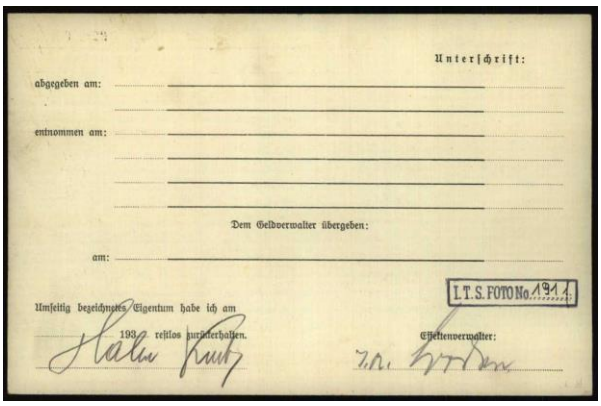




Top Left: Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/search/person/5277954?s=Kurt%20Hahn&t=751030&p=1 (Accessed December 22, 2024). "Change of strength reports 17.09.1938 - 23.09.1938."

Top Right: Buchenwald concentration camp index card for Kurt Hahn. Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/6053225 (Accessed December 22, 2024).
Note: "V.F." is noted as Kurt Hahn's political party affiliation.
This is an abbreviation for *Vaterländische Front* (Fatherland Front).





Above Left: Front of Buchenwald concentration camp index card with personal items inventory for Kurt Hahn. Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/6053226 (Accessed December 22, 2024).

Above Right: Reverse of Buchenwald concentration camp index card with personal items inventory for Kurt Hahn. The card is signed by Kurt Hahn. Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/6053226 (Accessed December 22, 2024).

While incarcerated in Buchenwald concentration camp, Kurt sent a letter to his mother at her new address as of November 1938. (More details on her move are provided immediately below.) The cover for the letter has a stamp cancelation dated March 8, 1939. On the cover, Kurt wrote that he was in Block 20B of the camp.



Cover of letter sent from Kurt Hahn to Else Hahn.
Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation Holocaust Collection.

***Kristallnacht* - November 1938:**

On the night of November 10/11, 1938, the Nazis carried out the *Kristallnacht* pogrom throughout Germany and Austria. Oskar, and his son, Walter, were arrested by the Gestapo. Martha, Hedy, and Erika had to flee their apartment and hide at the apartment of Martha's mother, Sofie Liebel. They were only able to bring a few items. When they returned after a few days, almost everything in the house was either gone or destroyed. All that remained were the books.[46]

In November 1938, with her sons, Kurt in Buchenwald and Erich in France, Else Hahn moved from the three-room apartment at Karlvarienberggasse 9/17 in Vienna's 17th District to a room at Untere Augartenstrasse 21/18 in Vienna's 2nd District.[47] This was also where Oskar Spiegler and his family moved after the *Anschluss*, so it appears that Else moved in with her brother's family at some point

[46] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.
[47] The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990047873040205171/NLI#$FL74461335 (Accessed January 19, 2025). Document 3 of 33. Applicant: Hahn, Kurt; born 27.3.1914 in Vienna (Austria); single, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.86.54 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

during November 1938.[48] Perhaps Else came to live in the apartment after Martha, Hedy, and Erika returned after *Kristallnacht*.

Sofie Liebel wrote again to her nephew in Chicago, this time requesting affidavits for Oskar and Walter instead of Hedy so that Oskar and Walter would be released. Walter and Oskar were physically abused during their detainment. According to Hedy, her father and brother were supposed to go to Dachau, but an SS man came and said that Walter (who Hedy said looked young for his age) was too young to go. Thus, after about four weeks, Oskar and Walter were released. According to Hedy, her father and brother looked like skeletons when they got back. Everyone was thrilled to see them, given they had thought they would never see them again.[49]

Given the persecution of the Jews was mounting exponentially at the time, many Jews throughout Germany and Austria started to look for escape routes. The members of the Hahn and Spiegler families did so as well.

Their escape routes spanned the globe.

Escape Routes:

France (Erich Hahn):

Erich Hahn fled from Vienna to France in August 1938. Over a year later—on September 1, 1939—the Germans invaded Poland thus igniting the Second World War. The outbreak of war immediately put Jews who had fled Germany and Austria to France at risk. Although they had been targeted by the Nazis, the Jewish refugees were technically enemy combatants of France. Consequently, Jewish Germans and Jewish Austrians were sent along with non-Jewish Germans and non-Jewish Austrians to internment camps.[50] At some point prior to December 17, 1939, Erich Hahn was sent to an internment camp in France.[51]

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[48] Regarding Oskar Spiegler: The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990048933280205171/NLI#$FL83330805 (Accessed January 16, 2025). Document 3 of 8. Applicant: Spiegler, Oskar; born 11.6.1886 in Vienna (Austria); married, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.206.35 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

[49] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

[50] On the internment of Jews from Germany and Austria in France after the outbreak of the Second World War, see "L'internement : La France des camps (1938-1946)" Chemins de Mémoire website of the Ministère des Armées: https://www.cheminsdememoire.gouv.fr/en/linternement-la-france-des-camps-1938-1946 (Accessed January 21, 2025).

[51] The date December 17, 1939 is used here because it is the date stamped on a document on which it is noted that Erich was in an internment camp in France ("*Sohn ist in einem Interniertenlager in Frankreich.*") The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990047873040205171/NLI#$FL74461335 (Accessed January 19, 2025). Document 13 of 33. Applicant: Hahn, Kurt; born 27.3.1914 in Vienna (Austria); single, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.86.54 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

After the French surrendered to the Germans on June 22, 1940, France was divided. The northern and western part of the country became subject to direct German occupation. The Southern part of the country was then administered by a government located in Vichy. The Vichy government controlled the French colonies in Northern Africa.[52] Many refugees and displaced persons in internment camps in Vichy France started to be sent to camps in Northern Africa. Groups of foreign workers were used as forced labor in the construction of the Mediterranean-Niger railroad.[53]

Erich Hahn was sent to the Bou Arfa Camp (sometimes spelled Bouarfa Camp) in Morocco.[54] According to anthropologist Aomar Boum, "The Bou Arfa camp and its subcamps were the largest Vichy camps designed primarily for internment purposes in French Africa."[55] The Allies landed in French Northern Africa on November 8, 1942, in Operation Torch. According to Boum and historian Christina Bejan, this did not translate into an immediate closing of the camps. The camps were shut down in 1943, and atrocities that transpired in the camps started to be published shortly thereafter and trials were conducted with verdicts against perpetrators being handed down in early 1944.[56]

It is not clear how long Erich Hahn was in the camp.

Palestine (Ernst Spiegler):

In November 1939, Gustav and Pauline's son, Ernst, left Vienna for Palestine as part of the so-called "Kladovo Transport."

The "Kladovo Transport" consisted of over 1,000 Jews (primarily from Vienna) who set off for Palestine "illegally" in November 1939. The plan was for the Jews to flee via the Danube River and the Black Sea. Unfortunately, the refugees were beset by one delay after the other and were then stranded in the Serbian harbor of Kladovo. After spending months in Kladovo, the refugees moved to Šabac in Yugoslavia (presently Serbia). Due to further delays in travel, the Jewish refugees were still in Šabac when the Germans invaded Yugoslavia in April 1941. In July 1941, the Germans put the Jews into a makeshift concentration camp. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Yad Vashem websites note that Ernst Spiegler was murdered in Šabac on October 12, 1941.[57] On the 12th and 13th of October 1941, soldiers of the German Wehrmacht murdered the male Jews in retaliation for the killing

[52] "Land and Internment Camps in North Africa," *Holocaust Encyclopedia*, USHMM website: https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/labor-and-internment-camps-in-north-africa (Accessed February 4, 2025).
[53] Christina Bejan and Aomar Boum, "Vichy Africa," in Joseph White and Geoffrey P. Megargee, eds. *The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933-1945, Volume III: Camps and Ghettos under European Regimes Aligned with Nazi Germany* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2018), 241.
[54] Yad Vashem website: https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/names/6660123 (Accessed December 24, 2024).
[55] Aomar Boum, "Bou Arfa," in Joseph White and Geoffrey P. Megargee, eds. *The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933-1945, Volume III: Camps and Ghettos under European Regimes Aligned with Nazi Germany* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2018), 254.
[56] Christina Bejan and Aomar Boum, "Vichy Africa," 242.
[57] USHMM: https://www.ushmm.org/online/hsv/person_view.php?PersonId=5232760 (Accessed January 9, 2025); Yad Vashem: https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/names/4969973 (Accessed January 9, 2025).

of German soldiers in an uprising in Serbia. The men Jews were executed in the village of Zasavica. This means that the more precise location of the murder of Ernst Spiegler was Zasavica. The women and children were later murdered in gas vans at the Topovske Šupe camp in Belgrade.[58]

England (Hedy Spiegler and Walter Spiegler):



Left: Hedy Spiegler in 1939 right before she left Vienna for England with a domestic servant visa. This photograph was used for her passport. Source: Hedy Oppenheimer Interview, Tape 4: https://www.holocausttestimony.org.uk/interviews-view/hedy-oppenheimer-interview-usc-shoah-foundation-2

Hedy recalled that as Jews searched for escape routes, they started to acquire vocational skills that they thought may help them in their new environs. For example, Hedy started to learn how to make hats and earned certificates as a dietitian and an infant care provider. Additionally, she and others entered a farm labor program ran by a man who claimed that he could arrange for them to work on farms in Australia. This turned out to be a scam though, and the man left with everyone's money.[59]

Hedy had originally intended to flee to the United States of America, but England ultimately became her escape route. Her childhood friend, Fritz, was able to secure a household permit for her to go there. According to Hedy, "That saved my life."[60]

Hedy was one of approximately 20,000 individuals (primarily Jewish women) who escaped the Holocaust by receiving domestic permits in the United Kingdom.[61] For interview summaries of ten women who, like Hedy, were granted domestic permits, see https://www.ajrrefugeevoices.org.uk/intervieweeexperiences/domestic-service.[62]

[58] Aside from the USHMM and Yad Vashem information about Ernst Spiegler, this paragraph summarizes information provided on two websites: 1) the "Memorial to the Victims of the Kladovo Transport" page of the Memorial Museums website of the Stiftung Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas: https://www.memorialmuseums.org/memorialmuseum/Memorial-to-the-Victims-of-the-Kladovo-Transport (Accessed February 12, 2025) and 2) the "Šabac" page of the Mapping the Holocaust - Places of Remembrance website: https://holocaust.rs/en/sabac/ (Accessed February 12, 2025). The Mapping the Holocaust – Places of Remembrance website was created by the Centre for Public History with the support of the US Embassy in Serbia.

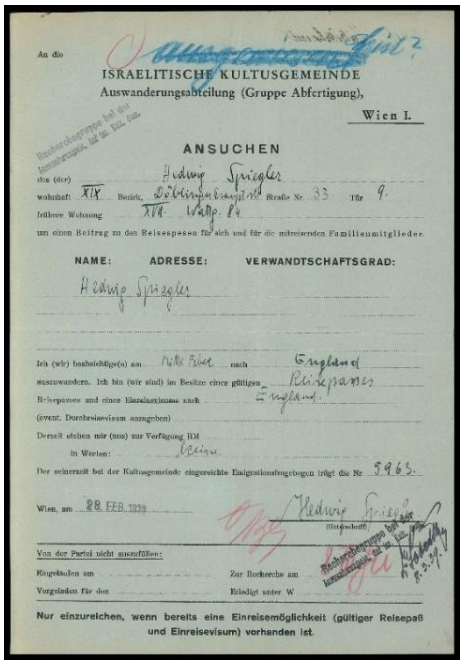
[59] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

[60] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

[61] For more information on the domestic service permits, see Mario Cacciottolo, "Nazi persecution saw Jews flee abroad as servants," BBC News, March 8, 2012. Online: https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-16942741 (Accessed February 17, 2025 and Jana Buresova, "Refugees in Domestic Service in Britain," AJR Refugee Voice team, updated October 8, 2020, online: https://www.ajrrefugeevoices.org.uk/post/refugees-in-domestic-service-in-britain (Accessed February 17, 2025).

[62] Accessed February 17, 2025.

Prior to leaving for England, Hedy took some private English lessons. Although she had studied Latin, Greek, and French in school, she had not been taught English. She realized that she now needed to learn English quickly.[63] She packed up her remaining books and sent them to England. Of the over 400 books she had collected in Vienna—many of which were old and rare—only about 60 eventually arrived in England.[64]



An die

ISRAELITISCHE KULTUSGEMEINDE
Auswanderungsabteilung (Gruppe Abfertigung),
Wien I.

ANSUCHEN

des (der) Hedwig Spiegler
wohnhaft XIX Bezirk, Straße Nr. 33 Tür 9.
frühere Wohnung XVIII Währ. 84
um einen Beitrag zu den Reisespesen für sich und für die mitreisenden Familienmitglieder

NAME: ADRESSE: VERWANDTSCHAFTSGRAD:

Hedwig Spiegler

Ich (wir) beabsichtige(n) am Mitte Februar nach England auszuwandern. Ich bin (wir sind) im Besitze eines gültigen Reisepasses
Reisepasses und eines Einreisevisums nach England.
(event. Durchreisevisum anzugeben)
Derzeit stehen mir (uns) zur Verfügung RM
in Worten: Keine.
Der seinerzeit bei der Kultusgemeinde eingereichte Emigrationsfragebogen trägt die Nr. 5965.

Wien, am 28. FEB. 1939 Hedwig Spiegler
Unterschrift

Von der Partei nicht auszufüllen:
Eingestuft am Zur Recherche am
Vorgelegt für den Erledigt unter W

Nur einzureichen, wenn bereits eine Einreisemöglichkeit (gültiger Reisepaß und Einreisevisum) vorhanden ist.

Right: Form signed by Hedwig (Hedy) Spiegler stating her intention to go to England in mid-February.[65] The document was later stamped on February 28, 1939. The document is signed by an official on March 8, 1939. In her interview testimony, Hedy said that she left Vienna on March 13, 1939.

Hedy left Austria on March 13, 1939, exactly one year after the Germans marched into Austria. It was her 25th birthday. Regarding her feelings when she left her family: "I didn't know if I would see them again or not. I was devastated." She traveled by train through Germany. The train stopped as it approached the Belgian border. Hedy was singled out and taken off the train. She recounted that "They gave me a gynecological examination. A very, very rough one." The examination was not conducted by a doctor. She believed that perhaps they thought she was hiding something. She continued,

> That moment, I didn't know [if] the train [would] leave. I had only a little suitcase. That's all. And, it was a *terrible* moment. I'll never forget. Of course, they didn't find anything. And, the train was just leaving, and I just got on the train, and [then] I was in Belgium at that time. But, that moment, you know, I was *free*, but I felt *guilty*, very, very *guilty*, leaving all my relatives behind and being free, under the circumstances.[66]

Ahead of time, Hedy had sent a telegram to her friend, Fritz, asking for him to pick her up upon her arrival in London. Unfortunately, the telegram had not arrived, so there was no one there to pick her up. She had only five dollars with her. (The train conductor had taken her extra money and parents' address and said he would send the money to her parents. The money never arrived. Reflecting on how she had been taken advantage of by the conductor, Hedy remarked, "He made a lot of money this way.") So, she sat alone with her little suitcase and five dollars. A man approached her and led her to a

[63] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.
[64] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.
[65] The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990048933280205171/NLI#$FL83330805 (Accessed January 16, 2025). Document 5 of 8. Applicant: Spiegler, Oskar; born 11.6.1886 in Vienna (Austria); married, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.206.35 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.
[66] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

hostel. She stayed one night in the hostel. That night was one she would never forget: "It was horrible. Because there were so many refugees there who left their families, and their children were crying. We were all hopeless. We were free."[67]

Hedy went to work in a 39-room mansion in Staffordshire, England. She was supposed to clean the house and take care of a little girl. Although Hedy did not identify the family in the interview and referred to the man of the house simply as "her gentleman," she worked for the Argles family, which consisted of Angus Argles and Alice Argles and their seven children.[68] The family helped bring refugees to England. Hedy explained that they created a committee, which sold baked goods to raise the money to help the refugees. Hedy had never baked or cooked in her life, but she quickly learned how to do so.[69] According to an account written by the Argles' daughter, Margaret; Angus and Alice Argles "were very active in the international Christian movement Toc H [Talbot House] and its work to improve the lives of children. In 1938, Toc H opened a hostel in Manchester called Kersher House."[70]

Walter Spiegler also fled to England. According to Hedy, Walter went to the Kitchener Camp.[71] The Kitchener Camp was set up near Sandwich, England in February 1939. Approximately 4,000 adult male Jewish refugees were sent there prior to the outbreak of the war.[72] For interview summaries of three men who, like Walter Spiegler, were in the Kitchener Camp, see https://www.ajrrefugeevoices.org.uk/intervieweeexperiences/kitchener-camp.[73]

Prior to the outbreak of the Second World War, the opportunity presented itself for Walter to go to the United States of America from England. He seized the opportunity.[74] In the United States of America, Walter joined the Army and fought in the war.[75] Incidentally, the men who were still in the Kitchener Camp when war broke out either joined the war effort, were sent to internment camps, or were deported to Australia or Canada. As Harriet Sherwood notes in *The Guardian*,

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[67] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.
[68] Leonard Kaufmann, "Truly life changing," *AJR Journal: The Association of Jewish Refugees*, Vol. 17, No. 11, November 2017, 13. Online: https://ajr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2017_November.pdf (Accessed February 16, 2025).
[69] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.
[70] Quoted in Kaufmann, "Truly life changing," 13. Toc H stands for Talbot House. The movement originated during the First World War and is still active. For more information on the movement, see Mark K. Smith, "Revd. Philip (Tubby) Clayton and Toc H," infed.org website:https://infed.org/mobi/revd-philip-tubby-clayton-and-toc-h/ (Accessed February 18, 2025).
[71] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.
[72] Walter Spiegler's name does not appear on the Kitchener Camp 1939 Register: https://kitchenercamp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Kitchener-Camp-1939-Register.pdf (Accessed February 16, 2025) or the Kitchener Camp list of refugees at the Kitchener Camp website: the https://kitchenercamp.co.uk/list-of-names/ (Accessed February 16, 2025). As noted on the Kitchener Camp website, though, these are incomplete lists.
[73] Accessed February 17, 2025.
[74] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.
[75] Walter is noted as having been a "World War II Army veteran" in his obituary: https://lasvegassun.com/news/2003/mar/20/obituaries-for-march-20-2003/ (Accessed January 19, 2025).

> After the start of the war, 887 Kitchener men enlisted in the Pioneer Corps.[76] But after the Dunkirk evacuation in May 1940, public opinion turned against German-speaking refugees, who some suspected of being spies or saboteurs. Those not serving in the war effort were interned or deported to Australia and Canada. The Kitchener Camp was closed.[77]

Hedy enlisted Angus Argles' help in trying to get the rest of her family to England. Argles sent affidavits for this purpose. Nevertheless, when the Second World War broke out, the escape route to England closed. For the next four months, Hedy did not know what would happen to her parents and sister.[78] Given her medical training, Hedy was sent to look after an elderly relative of Angus Argles who was dying. After the man died, Hedy returned to the mansion. Upon her arrival she found a telegram from her parents and sister waiting for her. The telegram stated that Oskar, Martha, and Erika were in Italy *en route* to the United States.[79]

After a year working at the mansion—which proved overwhelming for her—Hedy left to work in Manchester with people with whom she was familiar. The next few months were awful. She noted that she had been treated far better by "the strangers" (i.e., the Argles family) than these people whom she already knew.[80]

Then Hedy met Paul Oppenheimer in a hostel. They became engaged very soon thereafter and were married in civil ceremony on April 8, 1941. They had a Jewish wedding ceremony on July 10, 1941. Hedy took employment as a machinist making coats for the army. Paul initially served as a dockworker but then took a job making artificial whipping cream.[81]

Paul had been arrested during *Kristallnacht* and sent to Dachau. His mother was able to effect his release with a permit for him to go to Shanghai. Nevertheless, Shanghai did not become Paul's escape route; his rabbi secured a farmworker permit in England for him, and he decided to go to England rather than Shanghai. The rest of his family was not as fortunate; Hedy notes that Paul lost his whole family in the Holocaust.[82]

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[76] According to the National Army Museum, the Pioneer Corps (so-named from November 1940), consisted of Jewish and Anti-Nazi refugee recruits and conducted light engineering tasks such as building anti-aircraft emplacements and airfields, carrying stretchers, repairing roads, moving supplies, etc. See the National Army Museum's online article "Royal Pioneer Corps" at https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/royal-pioneer-corps (Accessed October 23, 2025).

[77] Harriet Sherwood, "The forgotten haven: Kent camp that saved 4,000 German Jews," *The Guardian*, August 24, 2019, online: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/aug/24/kitchener-camp-sandwich-kent-german-jews-haven (Accessed February 16, 2025).

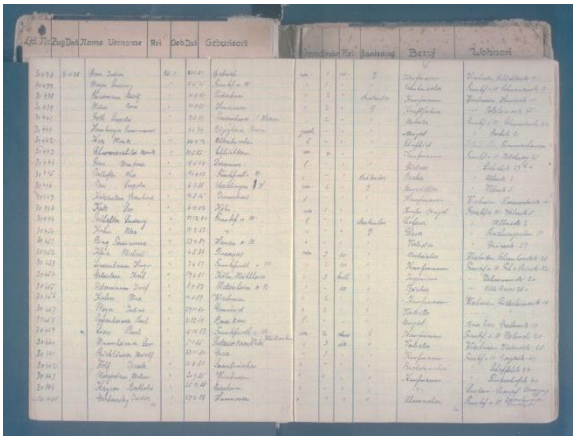
[78] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

[79] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

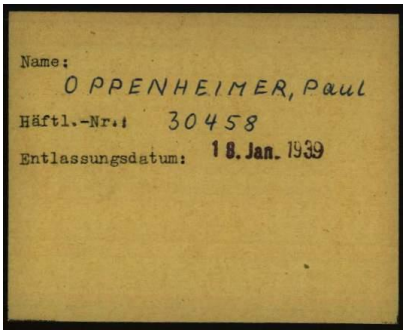
[80] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

[81] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

[82] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.



Paul Oppenheimer listed in the Dachau concentration camp entry register.
He entered Dachau on November 16, 1938, and was issued prisoner number 30458.
Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/130429759
(Accessed January 20, 2025).



Dachau index card for Paul Oppenheimer that lists his release date as January 18, 1939.
Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/10719324 (Accessed January 20, 2025).

Hedy and Paul had two daughters in Manchester during the war.[83] Hedy was not aware of what was happening to the members of her extended family during the Holocaust. The last contact she had was a letter sent from her maternal grandmother, Sofie Liebel, at some point before Hedy got married. Hedy's grandmother had sheltered Hedy, Martha, Walter, and Erika in the immediate aftermath of *Kristallnacht* and had played a key role in securing affidavits from her nephew in the United States of America for members of the Spiegler family.[84] In 1974, Hedy submitted a written page of testimony to Yad Vashem regarding the fate of her grandmother. Sofie Liebel was transported to Theresienstadt on August 22, 1942, and murdered there on September 14, 1942.[85]

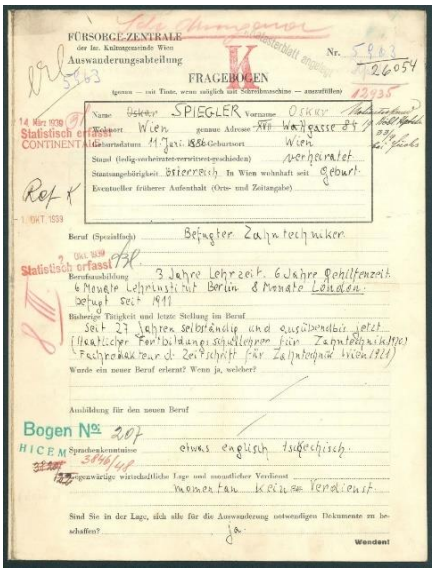
[83] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.
[84] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.
[85] The Yad Vashem entry for Sofie Liebel which includes the Hedy's page of testimony: https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/names/1635446 (Accessed February 17, 2025).

The United States of America (Oskar Spiegler, Martha Spiegler, and Erika Spiegler):



Oskar and Martha Spiegler ca. 1939.[86] Source: Hedy Oppenheimer Interview, Tape 3: https://www.holocausttestimony.org.uk/interviews-view/hedy-oppenheimer-interview-usc-shoah-foundation-2

On May 12, 1938, in the aftermath of the *Anschluss*, Oskar Spiegler submitted a questionnaire to the Jewish Community of Vienna in hopes of getting Martha, Hedy, Erika, Walter, and himself to "South America, or [an] English colony, [or] the USA." He noted his willingness to take any work. As detailed above, much happened to the Spiegler family between the time Oskar submitted the questionnaire and when the members of the family fled Austria.



FÜRSORGE-ZENTRALE
der Isr. Kultusgemeinde Wien
Auswanderungsabteilung

FRAGEBOGEN

Name SPIEGLER Vorname OSKAR
Wohnort Wien genaue Adresse XVII Wehlgasse 29
Geburtsdatum 11 Juni 1886 Geburtsort Wien
Stand (ledig-verheiratet-verwitwet-geschieden) verheiratet
Staatsangehörigkeit Österreich In Wien wohnhaft seit geburt
Eventueller früherer Aufenthalt (Orts- und Zeitangabe)

Beruf (Spezialfach) Befugter Zahntechniker

Berufsausbildung 3 Jahre Lehrzeit. 6 Jahre Gehilfenzeit
6 Monate Lehrpraxis Berlin 8 Monate London.
Befugt seit 1911

Bisherige Tätigkeit und letzte Stellung im Beruf
Seit 27 Jahren selbständig und ausübend bis jetzt
(Theoretischer Fortbildungsschullehrer für Zahntechniker)
Fachredakteur d. Zeitschrift für Zahnheilkunde Wien (1921)

Wurde ein neuer Beruf erlernt? Wenn ja, welcher?

Ausbildung für den neuen Beruf

Bogen № 207

Sprachenkenntnisse etwas englisch tschechisch.

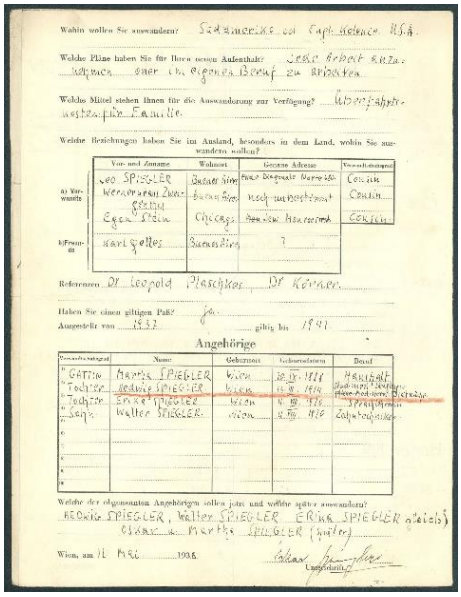
Gegenwärtige wirtschaftliche Lage und monatlicher Verdienst
Vermögen keines Verdienst

Sind Sie in der Lage, sich alle für die Auswanderung notwendigen Dokumente zu beschaffen? Ja.

Wenden!

Page one of questionnaire Oskar Spiegler submitted to the Jewish Community of Vienna on May 12, 1938.[87]

[86] Hedy Oppenheimer provided the date of 1939 while discussing the photographs during her interview.
[87] The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990048933280205171/NLI#$FL83330805 (Accessed January 16, 2025). Document 1 of 8. Applicant: Spiegler, Oskar; born 11.6.1886 in Vienna (Austria); married, Application



Wohin wollen Sie auswandern? Südamerika od. Capt. Colonie USA

Welche Pläne haben Sie für Ihren neuen Aufenthalt? Jede Arbeit ergreifen, um einen eigenen Beruf zu erlernen

Welche Mittel stehen Ihnen für die Auswanderung zur Verfügung? Überfahrtsgastschaftsfamilie

Weitere Beziehungen haben Sie im Ausland, besonders in dem Land, wohin Sie auswandern wollen?

	Vor- und Zuname	Wohnort	Genaue Adresse	Verwandtschaft
a) Verwandte	Leo SPIEGLER	Buenos Aires	Casilla Correo 1251	Cousin
	Wenn verheiratet Name der Gattin			
	Egon Stein	Chicago	Address Unknown	Cousin
b) Freunde	Karl Gottes	Buenos Aires	?	

Referenzen Dr. Leopold Plaschkes, Dr. Körner

Haben Sie einen giltigen Paß? Ja.

Ausgestellt von 1937 gültig bis 1941

Angehörige

Verwandtschaftsgrad	Name	Geburtsort	Geburtsdatum	Beruf
" Gattin	Martha SPIEGLER	Wien	30.9.1888	Hausfrau
" Tochter	Hedwig SPIEGLER	Wien	15.8.1919	Student, Lehrerin, Hilfsarbeiterin, Dienstmädchen
" Tochter	Erika SPIEGLER	Wien	4.12.1916	Sprachlehrerin
" Sohn	Walter SPIEGLER	Wien	4.10.1912	Lehrbefähigung
"				
"				
"				
"				

Welche der obgenannten Angehörigen sollen jetzt und welche später auswandern?

HEDWIG SPIEGLER, Walter SPIEGLER ERIKA SPIEGLER gleichzeitig

Oskar u. Martha SPIEGLER (später)

Wien, am 12 MAI 1938

Oskar Spiegler
Unterschrift

Page two of questionnaire Oskar Spiegler submitted to the Jewish Community of Vienna on May 12, 1938.[88]

Eventually, Hedy and Walter seized their respective opportunities to flee to England. Walter then went from England to the United States of America. Hedy's attempt to get Oskar, Martha, and Erika to England with affidavits supplied by Angus Argles was then thwarted by the outbreak of war.

Oskar, Martha, and Erika then shifted their focus onto the United States of America. Egon Stein, the cousin in Chicago listed on Oskar Spiegler's May 12, 1938 questionnaire, was most likely the nephew of Sofie Liebel whom Hedy mentioned but did not name in her interview. The May 12, 1938 questionnaire was stamped on October 1, 1939 and October 2, 1939. These stamps were for the processing of Oskar, Martha, and Erika to leave for the United States of America. Another document signed by Oskar and stamped on October 1, 1939 notes the intention for Oskar, Martha, and Erika to leave for the United States of America on October 9, 1939 from Genoa, Italy.[89] Another document notes that the family was set to leave Genoa, Italy for New York on the SS *Conte di Savoia* on October 12, 1939.[90] It was thus in

submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.206.35 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

[88] The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP9900W48933280205171/NLI#$FL83330805 (Accessed January 16, 2025). Document 2 of 8. Applicant: Spiegler, Oskar; born 11.6.1886 in Vienna (Austria); married, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.206.35 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

[89] The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990048933280205171/NLI#$FL83330805 (Accessed January 16, 2025). Document 4 of 8. Applicant: Spiegler, Oskar; born 11.6.1886 in Vienna (Austria); married, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.206.35 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

[90] The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990048933280205171/NLI#$FL83330805 (Accessed January 16, 2025). Document 8 of 8. Applicant: Spiegler, Oskar; born 11.6.1886 in Vienna (Austria); married, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.206.35 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

early October 1939, while waiting in Italy, that the family sent the telegram that awaited Hedy when she returned to the Staffordshire mansion after having tended to the elderly relative of Angus Argles.

The *New York Times* reported that the SS *Conte di Savoia* left Genoa on October 12, 1939, and arrived in New York on October 21, 1939.[91] After arriving in the United States of America, Oskar, Martha, and Erika traveled to Chicago, where Egon Stein lived.[92]

In the United States of America, Erika worked as a salesgirl, Martha baked cakes, and Oskar sold the cakes. However, as Hedy noted, "In the end, the cakes cost more to make than what he made." Thus, Oskar started to sell neckties.[93]

Shanghai (Leopold Hahn, Hildegard Hahn, and Kurt Hahn):

On November 23, 1938, Leopold Hahn and Hildegard Hahn left Genoa for Shanghai on the SS *Conte Biancamano*. In Shanghai, Leopold worked as a writing instructor and Hildegard served as a correspondent for Sapt LTD.[94]

Kurt Hahn was released from Buchenwald concentration camp on May 9, 1939. Three days after his release, he submitted a questionnaire to the Emigration Office of the Jewish Community of Vienna with the intention of fleeing to either "The U.S.A. or Canada or Australia or Palestine."[95] He put down as his references Friedrich Horny (the founder of Radiowerk Horny) and Walter Reichsfeld (the head of Radio Phillips). As noted above, Radio Phillips had acquired Radiowerk Horny in the mid-1930s. Kurt listed his mother Else Hahn and brother, Erich Hahn, as family members and noted the desire that they emigrate together if possible. (In the margins of the application it was noted that Erich had gone to France.) Else sold her furniture to raise the funds to get Kurt to Shanghai.[96] Kurt left Vienna for Shanghai on May 21, 1939.[97]

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[91] "ITALIAN LINER HERE; HALTED BY FRENCH; ARRIVED YESTERDAY ON ITALIAN SHIP," *New York Times*, October 22, 1939, p. 37. According to the Myheritage website, Oskar Spiegler arrived in New York on October 21, 1939. Given Martha and Erika traveled with Oskar, this was their arrival date as well. https://www.myheritage.com/research/record-20706-546038/oskar-spiegler-in-united-states-alien-immigration-case-files (Accessed January 17, 2025).

[92] It is mentioned in a document pertaining to Else Hahn's attempt to flee Vienna that Oskar went to Chicago.

[93] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

[94] Application for Assistance dated September 19, 1950, Page 2. Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/80645296 (Accessed February 6, 2025).

[95] The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990047873040205171/NLI#$FL74461335 (Accessed January 19, 2025). Document 2 of 33. Applicant: Hahn, Kurt; born 27.3.1914 in Vienna (Austria); single, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.86.54 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

[96] "Schliesslich verkaufte sie ihre Möbel und mit dem Erlös ermöglichte sie ihrem Sohn die Ausreise nach Shanghai." Document "Erhobungsblatt" with stamp "17. Dez. 1939" at bottom. https://www.nli.org.il/he/archives/NNL_CAHJP990047873040205171/NLI#$FL74461328 (Accessed December 24, 2024).

[97] The National Library of Israel. https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990047873040205171/NLI#$FL74461335 (Accessed January 19,

Unfortunately, not much is known about the activities of Kurt Hahn in Shanghai. The plight of the Jewish refugees worsened after the Japanese forcibly took over the city on December 8, 1941. On February 18, 1943, the Japanese issued a proclamation that all stateless persons who had arrived after January 1, 1937, had to live in a "Designated Area" within the Hongkew district of the city. Hongkew was a run-down section of the city, and conditions within the Designated Area worsened as the war progressed. The Japanese instituted the *Pao Chia* system, whereby Jewish men were compelled to act as guards of the Designated Area.

On March 29, 1944, two days after his 30th birthday, Kurt was riding a bicycle in the city. He was struck by a Japanese military truck. There are varying accounts of a man being struck by a Japanese military truck while riding his bicycle. It is not clear if the various accounts are based on the same incident or two different ones. The similarities of the accounts point to there being one incident. The fact that a different name is used in some of the accounts (i.e., Fred Schrantz) points to there being two incidents. The accounts have been compiled here. Perhaps future research will provide more clarity on the matter.

The various accounts of the bicycle incident or incidents are assembled below. Note: Aside from the account of Leopold Hahn, which has been translated from the original German, no changes have been made to the various texts, hence the variations with respect to the italicization and capitalization of *Pao Chia*, for example.

Account of Leopold Hahn (Kurt Hahn's father): I had two sons, one of whom was in the concentration camps Dachau and Buchenwald and was able to go to Shanghai in 1939. Unfortunately, in 1944, he was the victim of an "accident" during the Japanese occupation.[98]

Account of Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer (Kurt Hahn's first cousin): Kurt went to [...] China. But the Japanese killed him somehow. I really don't know. I only heard the story afterwards. He was hit by a Japanese truck, and his bicycle was broken, and he wanted to have another bicycle, and they said, "Come along." And he was never seen again after that.[99]

Account of Joseph P. Weber (Shanghai refugee): In the Altersheim, the Jewish home, where my sister is right next to Herb, is a woman Susi Jost. She is about the same age as my sister, I would say, 79. she lost a husband in Shanghai to the Japanese military. He was riding a bicycle and collided with a Japanese military truck. He complained to the Japanese soldiers, they grabbed him and put him on the truck, and they put him in the Bridge House. The Bridge House was a building near the Garden Bridge, and it was said that anybody who was put there would never come out alive. The cells were infested with typhoid,

2025). Document 4 of 33. Applicant: Hahn, Kurt; born 27.3.1914 in Vienna (Austria); single, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.86.54 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.

[98] Original in German, translation by Kevin Ostoyich. Application for Assistance (Jewish Joint) dated September 12, 1950. Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/80645296 (Accessed January 5, 2025).

[99] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

and…anyway, they killed him, cause he argued. And they were driving on the wrong side of the street! And this poor Susi Jost lost her husband that way. Not the only refugee that died, but…you didn't argue with Japanese soldiers! You know, that was stupid. But the man thought that he was in the right, and they were driving on the wrong side, so he argued, and it cost him his life.[100]

Account of Fritz Gelb (Shanghai refugee): I only know of one case where the man was riding a bicycle and a Japanese military truck went by and hit him, and broke his bicycle and he made somehow a gesture and that was the last you ever heard of the man.[101]

Account of Ernest Culman (Shanghai refugee): The Jewish people had their own little police force, the Japanese made them be the guards at the entrance and exits of the ghetto, called *Pao Chia*. One guy, he was somebody in the *Pao Chia*, lieutenant, captain, or whatever equivalent, he was riding with his bike one day when a Japanese army truck hit him, accidentally. He didn't get hurt, but his bike got ruined. He wanted these two soldiers to replace the bike for him. Of course they wouldn't. "Take me to your superior," and people standing around yelled at him, "Stop it, be glad you didn't get hurt. Forget it." He says, "No, I'm so and so of the *Pao Chia*." Eventually they told him, get on the truck with them. He was never seen again. A week or so later his body was fished out of the Yangtze River. These are foolish things that people did.[102]

Account of Steve Hochstadt (historian): Any accounting of Jewish deaths during the Holocaust must attempt to distinguish deaths by government action from deaths as part of normal life, which can include sickness, accidents, even crimes. It is notable that only a handful of refugees died because of their treatment by the Japanese authorities in Shanghai, who shared a military alliance with Nazi Germany, but not the Nazis' desire to kill Jews. Fred Schranz, a Jewish man who served in the Pao Chia, a force of Jewish guards organized by the Japanese to patrol the borders of the Designated Area, got into a dispute with some Japanese soldiers who had damaged his bicycle, and was later found dead. He may have been the only refugee murdered by the Japanese.[103]

[Note: Hochstadt's source was James R. Ross, *Escape to Shanghai: A Jewish Community in China*, 208. See immediately below.]

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[100] Transcript of oral testimony of Joseph Paul Weber (1922 – 2008); October 6, 2002; Pacifica, CA; Burgenländische Forschungsgesellschaft Research Society Burgenland; http://www.forschungsgesellschaft.at/archiv/transkript/weber_3-4.pdf (Accessed January 9, 2025); video available at http://www.forschungsgesellschaft.at/interviews/oberwart.html (Accessed January 9, 2025).

[101] Fritz Gelb; Old China Hands Oral History Project Transcript Interview with Fritz & Steffi Gelb; September 7, 1996; Old China Hands Reunion MGM Grand Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada; Interviewer: Darrel Ishaw; Transcribed by: Vicki Schumacher, Graduate Student; Assistant Edited by: Tiffney Sanford, Undergraduate Student Assistant; University Library, California State University, Northridge; https://digital-collections.csun.edu/digital/collection/OCHOH/id/153 (Accessed January 10, 2025).

[102] Ernest Culman, quoted in Steve Hochstadt, *Exodus to Shanghai: Stories of Escape from the Third Reich* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), 133.

[103] Steve Hochstadt, "How Many Shanghai Jews Were There?" In Steve Hochstadt, ed., *A Century of Jewish Life in Shanghai* (New York: Touro University Press, 2019), 22. Hochstadt's source is James R. Ross, *Escape to Shanghai: A Jewish Community in China* (New York: Free Press, 1994), 208.

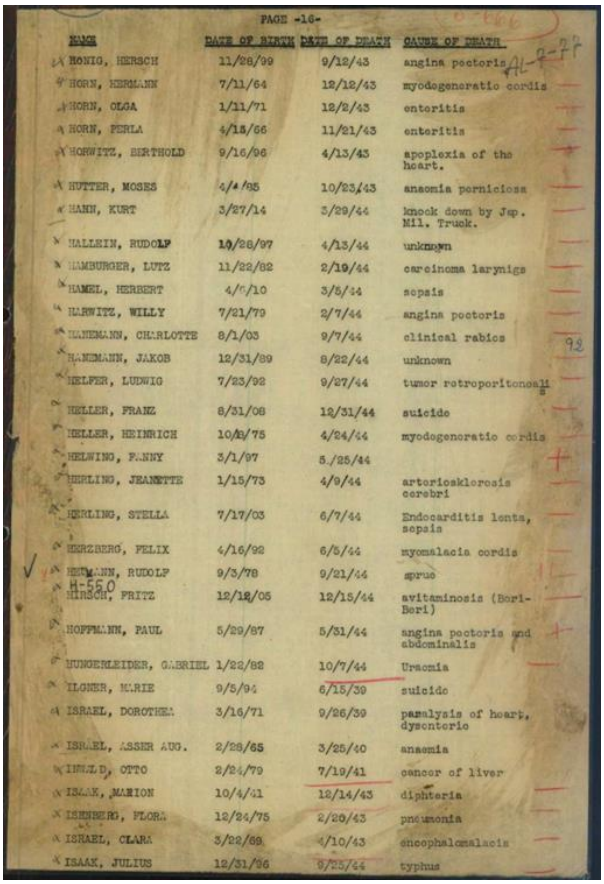
Account of James R. Ross (historian): One of the most enthusiastic pao chia officers was an Austrian refugee named Fred Schrantz, who was in charge of one sector of the ghetto. In the summer of 1943, while Schrantz was patrolling Chusan Road on bicycle, a passing Japanese army truck struck his bicycle and knocked him to the ground. As a crowd gathered, Schrantz yelled furiously at the truck driver, pointing at the stripes on his arm that showed his rank in the pao chia. He demanded payment for his ruined bicycle. The driver agreed to take care of it and took Schrantz with him. He was never heard from again.

Schrantz's family learned later that the operators of the truck were Korean staff for the Japanese army who had taken the truck without permission. They had murdered Schrantz and thrown his body in the river to cover up their mistake. The Japanese forced the Koreans to confess and later compensated Schrantz's widow by delivering a huge load of coal—a precious commodity at the time—to her. [Ross' source was an interview with the former refugee, Kurt Frey, in Sydney, Australia, July 1991.]

Neither the name "Fred Schrantz" nor any variation thereof appears on the H.I.A.S. Shanghai "List of Persons Who Died in Shanghai Between January 1, 1939 and March 31, 1945."[104] The Wall of Names of the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum does not have anyone with the surname "Schrantz". There are four individuals with the surname "Schranz" including a Susi Schranz. [Note: There is mention of Susi Jost losing her husband in Joseph P. Weber's account above.] There is only one male with the surname Schranz listed, a Siegfried Schranz. There is an "F. Schranz" listed but as a female.[105]

On the list of refugees who died in Shanghai that was compiled by the H.I.A.S. in Shanghai/China, Kurt Hahn is noted as having been killed on March 29, 1944. The cause of Kurt Hahn's death is recorded as "knock down by Jap. Mil. Truck."

[104] The list is available via the Arolsen Archives. The first page of the list appears at the following link: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/78827366 (Accessed January 10, 2025).
[105] Search engine for the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum Wall of Names: https://www.shhkjrm.com/zl/mdq.htm (Accessed January 10, 2025).



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NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE OF DEATH
HONIG, HERSCH	11/28/99	9/12/43	angina pectoris
HORN, HERMANN	7/11/64	12/12/43	myodegeneratio cordis
HORN, OLGA	1/11/71	12/2/43	enteritis
HORN, PERLA	4/18/66	11/21/43	enteritis
HORWITZ, BERTHOLD	9/16/96	4/13/43	apoplexia of the heart.
HUTTER, MOSES	4/[illegible]/85	10/23/43	anaemia perniciosa
HAHN, KURT	3/27/14	3/29/44	knock down by Jap. Mil. Truck.
HALLEIN, RUDOLF	10/28/97	4/13/44	unknown
HAMBURGER, LUTZ	11/22/82	2/19/44	carcinoma larynigs
HAMEL, HERBERT	4/[illegible]/10	3/5/44	sepsis
HARWITZ, WILLY	7/21/79	2/7/44	angina pectoris
HAHNEMANN, CHARLOTTE	8/1/03	9/7/44	clinical rabies
HAHNEMANN, JAKOB	12/31/89	8/22/44	unknown
HELFER, LUDWIG	7/23/92	9/27/44	tumor retroporitoneall
HELLER, FRANZ	8/31/08	12/31/44	suicide
HELLER, HEINRICH	10/[illegible]/75	4/24/44	myodegeneratio cordis
HELWING, FANNY	3/1/97	5./25/44	
HERLING, JEANETTE	1/15/73	4/9/44	arteriosklerosis cerebri
HERLING, STELLA	7/17/03	6/7/44	Endocarditis lenta, sepsis
HERZBERG, FELIX	4/16/92	6/5/44	myomalacia cordis
HERMANN, RUDOLF	9/3/78	9/21/44	sprue
HIRSCH, FRITZ	12/18/05	12/15/44	avitaminosis (Beri-Beri)
HOFFMANN, PAUL	5/29/87	5/31/44	angina pectoris and abdominalis
HUNGERLEIDER, GABRIEL	1/22/82	10/7/44	Uraemia
ILGNER, MARIE	9/5/94	6/15/30	suicide
ISRAEL, DOROTHEA	3/16/71	9/26/39	paralysis of heart, dysentorie
ISRAEL, ASSER AUG.	2/28/65	3/25/40	anaemia
ISRAEL, OTTO	2/24/79	7/19/41	cancer of liver
ISAAK, MARION	10/4/41	12/14/43	diphteria
ISENBERG, FLORA	12/24/75	2/20/43	pneumonia
ISRAEL, CLARA	3/22/69	4/10/43	encephalomalacia
ISAAK, JULIUS	12/31/96	9/25/44	typhus

Kurt Hahn's name appears on H.I.A.S. in Shanghai/China list "Lists concerning Jewish nationals who died and were buried in Shanghai during 1939-1948. Name, first name, date of birth, date and cause of death are given." He is listed as having died on March 29, 1944, with the cause of death being given as "knock down by Jap. Mil. Truck."
Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/78827381
(Accessed December 22, 2024).

Kurt Hahn's name is on the Wall of Names of the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum, in Shanghai: https://www.shhkjrm.com/en/Exhibitions/The_Wall_of_Names.htm.[106]

No Escape (Else Hahn and Pauline Spiegler):

As the various members of the Hahn and Spiegler families traced their respective routes over the globe, Else Hahn and her sister-in-law, Pauline Spiegler, remained in Vienna.

Else tried to follow Kurt to Shanghai. Although she started the necessary paperwork, it appears she did not have the requisite funds. As noted above, Else had been supported financially by her brothers and Kurt. In the documents pertaining to her attempt to go to Shanghai, it is noted that the relatives of her

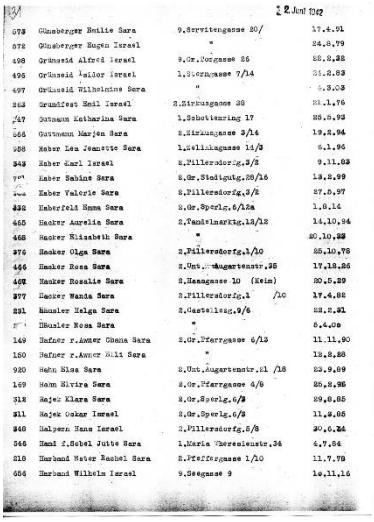
[106] Accessed January 5, 2025.

ex-husband (Leopold) in Berlin were not able to help and that her brother, Oskar, was unable to assist her from Chicago.[107]

Else's attempt to flee to Shanghai lasted until at least the spring of 1940. It was getting increasingly difficult to get there, however. In August 1939, the Japanese and the British authorities in Shanghai respectively started to curb the influx of refugees by introducing various restrictions.

Else and Pauline were still in Vienna when the Nazis prohibited any further Jewish emigration from the Greater German Reich in October 1941.[108] The escape routes were thus closed, and Else and Pauline were trapped.

On June 2, 1942, Else was rounded up with other Austrian Jews and sent on Transport 24 from Vienna to Minsk in Byelorussia.



673	Glimberger Emilie Sara	9.Servitengasse 20/		17.4.91
672	Glimberger Eugen Israel	"		24.8.79
498	Grünseid Alfred Israel	9.Gr.Jorgasse 26		28.8.88
496	Grünseid Hailor Israel	1,3.Grngasse 7/14		21.2.83
497	Grünseid Wilhelmine Sara	"		4.3.03
263	Grundfest Emil Israel	8.Hirschgasse 38		31.1.76
/47	Gutmann Katharina Sara	1,Schottenring 17		28.8.93
266	Gutmann Marjan Sara	8.Hirschgasse 3/14		19.2.94
938	Haber Lea Jeanette Sara	1,Wipplingergasse 14/3		6.1.96
343	Haber Karl Israel	8.Pillersdorfg.3/5		9.11.03
7??	Haber Sabine Sara	8.Gr.Stadtgutg.28/16		19.8.99
[illegible]	Haberfeld Valerie Sara	8.Pillersdorfg.3/5		27.5.97
332	Haberfeld Emma Sara	2.Gr.Sperlg.6/12a		1.8.14
465	Hacker Aurelia Sara	2,Fanktmarktg.13/12		14.10.94
468	Hacker Elisabeth Sara	"		20.10.89
276	Hacker Olga Sara	2,Pillersdorfg.1/10		25.10.78
466	Hacker Rosa Sara	2.Unt.Augartenstr.25		17.12.86
467	Hacker Rosalie Sara	2.Hanngasse 10 (Keim)		20.5.89
277	Hacker Wanda Sara	2.Pillersdorfg.1 /10		17.4.82
231	Häusler Helga Sara	2.Castellezg.9/6		28.2.21
[illegible]	Häusler Rosa Sara	"		6.4.09
149	Hafner r.Auwer Chana Sara	2.Gr.Pfarrgasse 6/12		11.11.90
150	Hafner r.Auwer Sili Sara	"		18.8.88
920	Hahn Elsa Sara	8.Unt.Augartenstr.21 /18		23.9.89
169	Haim Silvia Sara	2.Gr.Pfarrgasse 4/8		25.8.96
318	Hajek Klara Sara	2.Gr.Sperlg.6/8		29.8.85
311	Hajek Oskar Israel	2.Gr.Sperlg.6/8		11.2.85
340	Halpern Hana Israel	2,Pillersdorfg.5/8		20.6.24
346	Hand r.Sobel Jutte Sara	1,Maria Theresienstr.34		4.7.84
216	Harband Mutter Rachel Sara	2.Pfarrergasse 1/10		11.7.79
684	Harband Wilhelm Israel	9.Seegasse 9		10.11.16

Else Hahn's name appears on the list for
"Transport 24: Deportation from Vienna to Minsk and Blagovshchina (near Maly Trostenets), 1942/06/02."
Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/130501599
(Accessed December 24, 2024).

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[107] Regarding the relatives of Leopold Hahn (Else Hahn's ex-husband): The National Library of Israel, Erhobungsblatt for Else Hahn, Document 3 of 33 in Applicant: Hahn, Kurt; born 27.3.1914 in Vienna (Austria); single, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.86.54 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.
https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990047873040205171/NLI#$FL74461354 (Accessed January 8, 2025). Regarding her brother not being able to help, her having no other siblings, and her parents being already deceased: The National Library of Israel, Erhobungsblatt for Hahn Else Sara with December 17, 1939 stamp, Document 13 of 33 in Applicant: Hahn, Kurt; born 27.3.1914 in Vienna (Austria); single, Application submitted in Vienna (Austria), 12.5.1938, סימול A-W-2590.86.54 Vienna - Jewish Community, Vienna - Jewish Community.
https://www.nli.org.il/en/archives/NNL_CAHJP990047873040205171/NLI#$FL74461354 (Accessed January 8, 2025).

[108] "German Jewish Refugees, 1933 – 1939," *Holocaust Encyclopedia*, USHMM website: https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/german-jewish-refugees-1933-1939 (Accessed January 21, 2025).

Immediately upon arrival of the freight train in Minsk on June 9, 1942, Else and the other deportees were taken to Blagovshchina forest outside the Maly Trostenets camp where members of the Waffen SS and *Schutzpolizei* [Security Police] were waiting for them. Else was then either shot or gassed in a van.[109]



"Memorial to the more than 10,000 Austrian Jewish victims of Maly Trostenets concentration camp, inaugurated in 2019."
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maly_Trostenets#/media/File:Maly_Trostiniec_Austrian_memorial.jpg
(Accessed December 24, 2024).

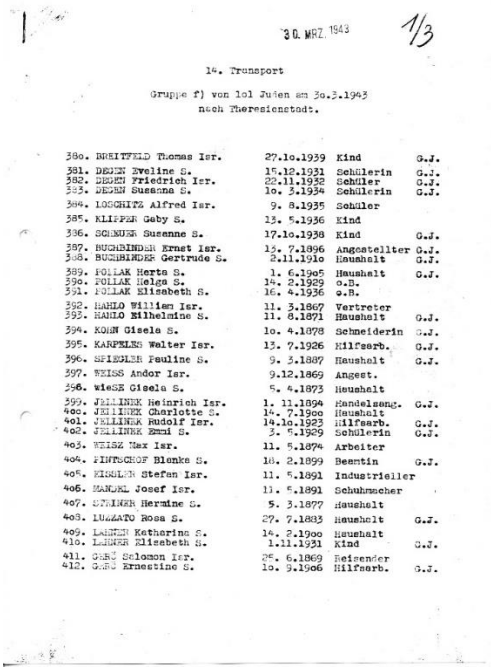
After Else was deported and murdered in June 1942, Pauline Spiegler was the last of the family still in Vienna. Her wartime address is listed by Yad Vashem as Untere Augartenstraße 33/9 in Vienna's 2nd District.[110] It is possible that Pauline was forced to move to this address after the *Anschluss*. Untere Augartenstraße was the same street where Oskar Spiegler's family had to move after the *Anschluss* and where Else Hahn moved in November 1938.

The number of Jews in Austria had declined drastically by this point. According to the *Holocaust Encyclopedia* of the USHMM, "By October 1942 only about 8,000 Jews remained on Austrian soil. German officials deported approximately 1,900 of these Jews in 1943 and 1944."[111] This constituted a dramatic decline from just a few years before, even when compared to Vienna alone. According to the *Holocaust Encyclopedia*, "In 1938, some 170,000 Jews lived in the city, as well as approximately 80,000 persons of mixed Jewish-Christian background. Including converts from Judaism, the Viennese Jewish population may have been as high as 200,000, more than 10 percent of the city's inhabitants."[112]

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[109] Yad Vashem information on Transport No. 24, labeled Da205: https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/deportations/7052074 (Accessed December 24, 2024).
[110] Yad Vashem: https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/names/4795390 (Accessed January 17, 2025).
[111] "Vienna," *Holocaust Encyclopedia*, USHMM website: https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/vienna (Accessed January 22, 2025).
[112] "Vienna," *Holocaust Encyclopedia*, USHMM website: https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/vienna (Accessed January 22, 2025).

On March 30, 1943, Pauline Spiegler was transported from Vienna to Theresienstadt. According to the Yad Vashem website, "Transport No. 46f left Vienna's (Northern Railway Station) on March 30, 1943, and arrived in Theresienstadt on April 1. It consisted of 101 Jews."[113]



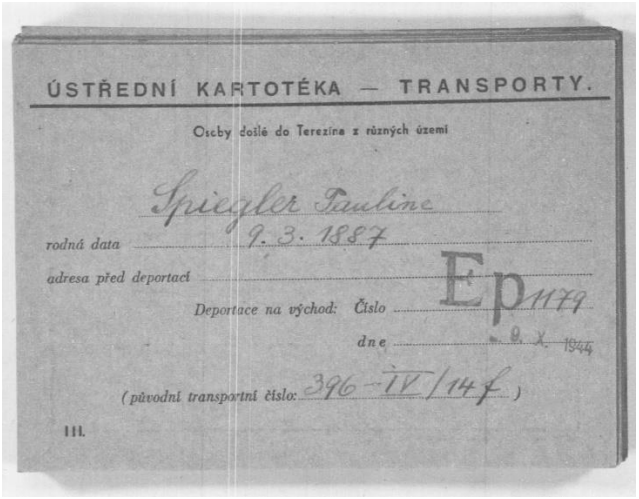
30. MRZ. 1943 1/3

14. Transport

Gruppe f) von 1ol Juden am 3o.3.1943
nach Theresienstadt.

38o.	BREITFELD Thomas Isr.	27.1o.1939	Kind	G.J.
381.	DEDEN Eveline S.	15.12.1931	Schülerin	G.J.
382.	DEDEN Friedrich Isr.	22.11.1932	Schüler	G.J.
383.	DEDEN Susanna S.	1o. 3.1934	Schülerin	G.J.
384.	LOSCHITZ Alfred Isr.	9. 8.1935	Schüler	
385.	KLIPPER Geby S.	13. 5.1936	Kind	
386.	SCHNUER Susanne S.	17.1o.1938	Kind	G.J.
387.	BUCHBINDER Ernst Isr.	13. 7.1896	Angestellter	G.J.
388.	BUCHBINDER Gertrude S.	2.11.191o	Haushalt	G.J.
389.	POLLAK Herta S.	1. 6.19o5	Haushalt	G.J.
39o.	POLLAK Helga S.	14. 2.1929	o.B.	
391.	POLLAK Elisabeth S.	16. 4.1936	o.B.	
392.	HAHLO Willien Isr.	11. 3.1867	Vertreter	
393.	HAHLO Wilhelmine S.	11. 8.1871	Haushalt	G.J.
394.	KOHN Gisela S.	1o. 4.1878	Schneiderin	G.J.
395.	KARPELES Walter Isr.	13. 7.1926	Hilfsarb.	G.J.
396.	SPIEGLER Pauline S.	9. 3.1887	Haushalt	G.J.
397.	WEISS Andor Isr.	9.12.1869	Angest.	
398.	WIESE Gisela S.	5. 4.1873	Haushalt	
399.	JELLINEK Heinrich Isr.	1. 11.1894	Handelsang.	G.J.
4oo.	JELLINEK Charlotte S.	14. 7.19oo	Haushalt	
4o1.	JELLINEK Rudolf Isr.	14.1o.1923	Hilfsarb.	G.J.
4o2.	JELLINEK Emmi S.	3. 5.1929	Schülerin	G.J.
4o3.	WEISZ Max Isr.	11. 5.1874	Arbeiter	
4o4.	PINTSCHOF Blenke S.	16. 2.1899	Beamtin	G.J.
4o5.	KISSLER Stefan Isr.	11. 5.1891	Industrieller	
4o6.	MANDEL Josef Isr.	11. 5.1891	Schuhmacher	
4o7.	STEINER Hermine S.	5. 3.1877	Haushalt	
4o8.	LUZZATO Rosa S.	27. 7.1883	Haushalt	G.J.
4o9.	LAHNER Katharina S.	14. 2.19oo	Haushalt	
41o.	LAHNER Elisabeth S.	1.11.1931	Kind	G.J.
411.	GOMS Salomon Isr.	25. 6.1869	Reisender	
412.	GOMS Ernestine S.	1o. 9.19o6	Hilfsarb.	G.J.

Pauline Spiegler's name appears on "Transports 46f: Deportation from Vienna to Theresienstadt, 1943/03/30," Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/130502298 (Accessed January 17, 2025).



ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

Osoby došlé do Terezína z různých území

Spiegler Pauline

rodná data 9. 3. 1887

adresa před deportací

Deportace na východ: Číslo Ep 1179

dne 9. X. 1944

(původní transportní číslo: 396-IV/14f)

III.

Theresienstadt ghetto card file for Pauline Spiegler.
It is noted that she was sent to Auschwitz on Transport Ep on October 9, 1944.
Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/5083935 (Accessed January 17, 2025).

The Yad Vashem website provides the following information about Transport Ep:

[113] Yad Vashem: https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/deportations/6994447 (Accessed January 17, 2025).

This transport, designated "Ep" was the sixth to leave Theresienstadt for Auschwitz in this final wave of 11 such transports. It departed from Theresienstadt on October 9, 1944, on the day of the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah, and a day after the planned date of departure. It arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau on October 12. On board were 1,600 men, women and children. On the day of the transport, an empty train arrived at Theresienstadt via the adjoining tracks built by Jewish prisoners in the summer of 1943. The inmates were loaded into the overcrowded railway cars. Historian Alfred Gottwaldt suggests that these latter transports from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz were conducted using two trains of 25-30 freight cars each, which traveled back and forth between the camps. Trains from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz usually went north to Dresden, and then east to Breslau (Wroclaw) and Kattowitz (Katowice).

Beginning in May 1944, transports of Jews would arrive directly at Birkenau (Auschwitz II). Upon their arrival, the inmates were ordered to leave their luggage behind and underwent selection by one of the camp physicians. Those deemed fit for labour – historian Danuta Czech estimates these were 181 women and an unknown number of men – were taken to the Birkenau transit camp, and were shortly thereafter transported to other labour camps; the rest were marched off to the gas chambers where they were murdered.

Out of the 1,600 people on this transport, only 42 are known to have survived the war.[114]

According to Yad Vashem, Pauline Spiegler was murdered.[115]

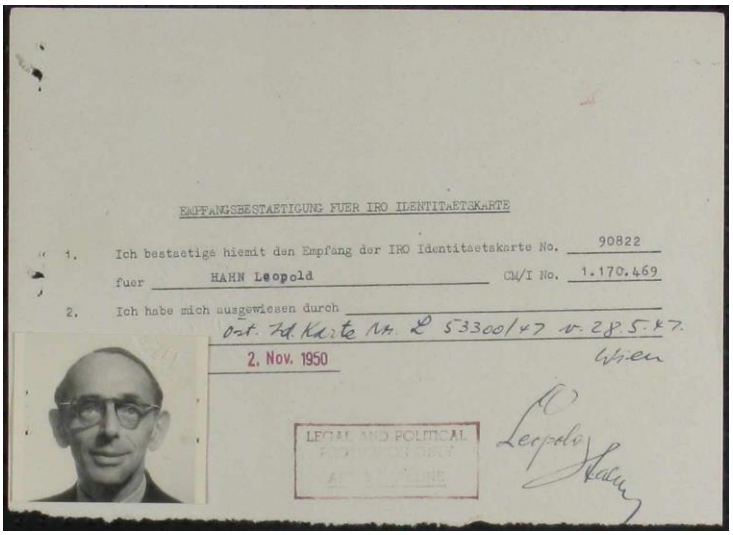
The Hahns Who Survived:

After the conclusion of the war, American soldiers arrived in Shanghai. The jobs offered by the U.S. military became some of the most coveted among the refugees living in the city. Leopold Hahn secured one of those jobs. Starting in October 1945, he worked for the U.S. Army sales store.[116]

In January 1947, Leopold and Hildegard journeyed from Shanghai back to Europe on the SS *Felix Roussel*.[117] They arrived in Austria on May 21, 1947.[118] In Vienna, Leopold could not secure employment. Given that Hildegard found work as a secretary at the Jewish Joint, the couple lived off Hildegard's earnings.[119]

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[114] Yad Vashem: https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/deportations/5092066 (Accessed January 17, 2025).
[115] Yad Vashem: https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/names/4795390 (Accessed January 17, 2025).
[116] Application for Assistance dated September 19, 1950, Page 2. Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/80645296 (Accessed February 6, 2025).
[117] Cable from Glen E. Edgerton, Director of UNRAA, China Office dated April 17, 1947. USHMM: https://www.ushmm.org/online/hsv/wexner/cache/1736155458-3438724-S-1132-0000-0184_0055.jpg (Accessed January 5, 2025).
[118] Application for Assistance (Jewish Joint) dated September 12, 1950. Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/80645296 (Accessed January 5, 2025).
[119] Application for Assistance (Jewish Joint) dated September 12, 1950. Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/80645296 (Accessed January 5, 2025).

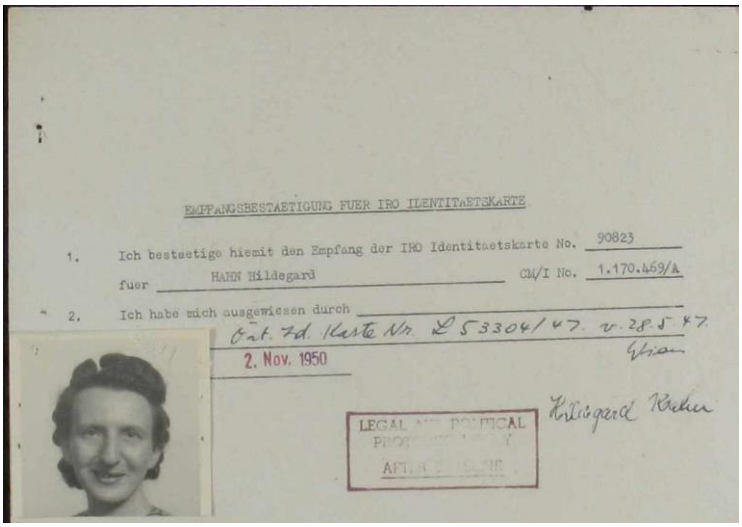


EMPFANGSBESTAETIGUNG FUER IRO IDENTITAETSKARTE

1. Ich bestaetige hiemit den Empfang der IRO Identitaetskarte No. 90822
fuer HAHN Leopold CM/I No. 1.170.469
2. Ich habe mich ausgewiesen durch Oest. Fd. Karte Nr. L 53300/47 v. 28.5.47.
Wien
2. Nov. 1950

LEGAL AND POLITICAL

Photograph of Leopold Hahn on his application for an IRO identification card (application dated November 2, 1950).
Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/80645298 (Accessed January 5, 2025).



EMPFANGSBESTAETIGUNG FUER IRO IDENTITAETSKARTE

1. Ich bestaetige hiemit den Empfang der IRO Identitaetskarte No. 90823
fuer HAHN Hildegard CM/I No. 1.170.469/A
2. Ich habe mich ausgewiesen durch Oest. Fd. Karte Nr. L 53304/47. v. 28.5.47.
Wien
2. Nov. 1950

LEGAL AND POLITICAL

Photograph of Hildegard (née Becker) Hahn on her application for an IRO identification card (application dated November 2, 1950).
Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/80645301 (Accessed January 5, 2025).

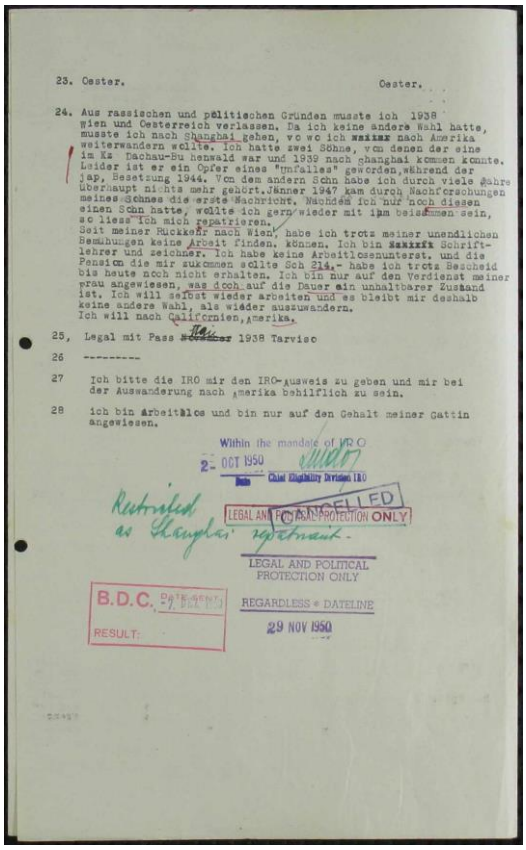
Leopold provided the following summary on his Application for Assistance:

German original:
Aus rassischen und politischen Gründen musste ich 1938 Wien und Oestterreich verlassen. Da ich keine andere Wahl hatte, musste ich nach Shanghai gehen, wo ich nach Amerika weiterwandern wollte. Ich hatte zwei Söhne, von denen der eine im Kz Dachau-Buchenwald war und 1939 nach Shanghai kommen konnte. Leider ist er ein Opfer eines "Unfalles" geworden, während der jap. Besetzung 1944. Von dem andern Sohn habe ich durch viele Jahre uberhaupt nichts mehr gehört. Jänner 1947 kam durch Nachforschungen meines Sohnes die erste Nachricht. Nachdem ich nur noch diesen einen Sohn hatte, wollte ich gern wieder mit ihm beisammen sein, so liess ich mich repatrieren.

Seit meiner Rückkehr nach Wien, habe ich trotz meiner unendlichen Bemühungen keine Arbeit finden können. Ich bin Schriftlehrer und zeichner. Ich habe keine Arbeitslosenunterst. und die Pension die mir zukommen sollte Sch 214.- habe ich trotz Bescheid bis heute noch nicht erhalten. Ich bin nur auf den Verdienst meiner Frau angewissen, was doch auf die Dauer ein unhaltbarer Zustand ist. Ich will selbst wieder arbeiten und es bleibt mir deshalb keine andere Wahl, als wieder auszuwandern.
Ich will nach Californien, Amerika.[120]

English Translation:

I had to leave Vienna and Austria in 1938 due to racial and political reasons. Given that I had no other choice, I had to go to Shanghai, from which I wanted to journey on to America. I had two sons, one of whom was in the concentration camps Dachau and Buchenwald and was able to go to Shanghai in 1939. Unfortunately, in 1944, he was the victim of an "accident" during the Japanese occupation. I did not hear anything at all from the other son for many years. In January 1947, through research on my son, I received the first news. Given that I only had this son left, I wanted to be reunited with him, so I decided to repatriate.


23. Oester. Oester.

24. Aus rassischen und politischen Gründen musste ich 1938 Wien und Oesterreich verlassen. Da ich keine andere Wahl hatte, musste ich nach Shanghai gehen, wo we ich weiter nach Amerika weiterwandern wollte. Ich hatte zwei Söhne, von denen der eine im Kz Dachau-Bu henwald war und 1939 nach Shanghai kommen konnte. Leider ist er ein Opfer eines "Unfalles" geworden, während der jap. Besetzung 1944. Von dem andern Sohn habe ich durch viele Jahre überhaupt nichts mehr gehört. Jänner 1947 kam durch Nachforschungen meines Sohnes die erste Nachricht. Nachdem ich nur noch diesen einen Sohn hatte, wollte ich gern wieder mit ihm beisammen sein, sc liess Ich mich repatrieren.
Seit meiner Rückkehr nach Wien, habe ich trotz meiner unendlichen Bemühungen keine Arbeit finden können. Ich bin Schriftlehrer und zeichner. Ich habe keine Arbeitlosenunterst. und die Pension die mir zukommen sollte Sch 214.- habe ich trotz Bescheid bis heute noch nicht erhalten. Ich bin nur auf den Verdienst meiner Frau angewiesen, was doch auf die Dauer ein unhaltbarer Zustand ist. Ich will selbst wieder arbeiten und es bleibt mir deshalb keine andere Wahl, als wieder auszuwandern.
Ich will nach Californien, Amerika.

25, Legal mit Pass 1938 Tarvisc

26 ---------

27 Ich bitte die IRO mir den IRO-Ausweis zu geben und mir bei der Auswanderung nach Amerika behilflich zu sein.

28 Ich bin arbeitslos und bin nur auf den Gehalt meiner Gattin angewiesen.

Within the mandate of IRO
2- OCT 1950
Chief Eligibility Division IRO
Restricted as Shanghai repatriant.
CANCELLED
LEGAL AND POLITICAL PROTECTION ONLY
LEGAL AND POLITICAL PROTECTION ONLY
B.D.C. DATE SENT
RESULT:
REGARDLESS of DATELINE
29 NOV 1950

Since my return to Vienna, I have found no work despite my endless efforts. I am a script instructor and draughtsman. I have no unemployment assistance and have yet to receive the pension of 214 Schillings that was to be due to me despite notification. I am dependent upon the earnings of my wife, which, however, is an untenable situation in the long run. I want to work again and there remains for me no other option than to emigrate.

I want to go to California in America.[121]

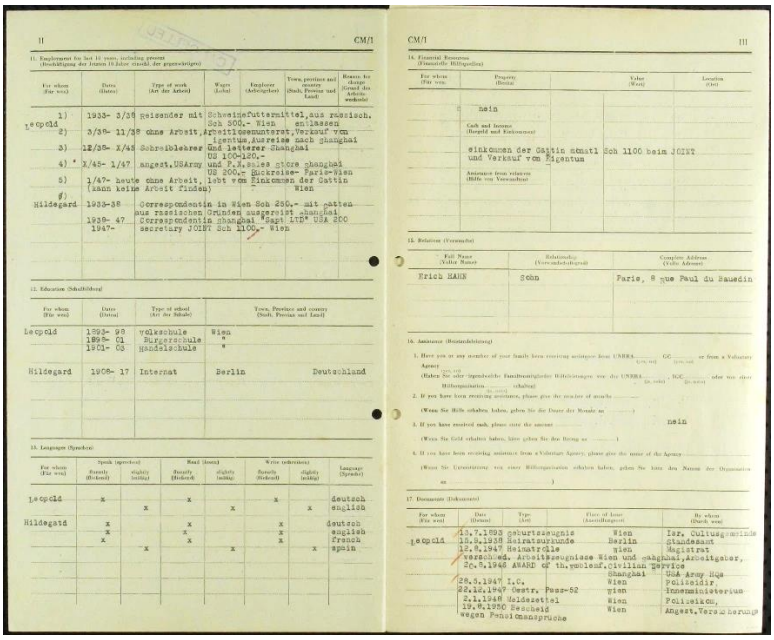
Leopold and Hildegard Hahn's Application for Assistance document with "Cancelled" stamp and "Restricted as Shanghai repatriant [sic]."
Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/80645296
(Accessed: February 6, 2025).

[120] Application for Assistance (Jewish Joint) dated September 12, 1950. Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/80645296 (Accessed January 5, 2025).
[121] Translation by Kevin Ostoyich. Application for Assistance (Jewish Joint) dated September 12, 1950. Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/80645296 (Accessed January 5, 2025).

It does not appear that Leopold and Hildegard's plan to go to California came to fruition. Their application was ultimately stamped "Canceled". The handwritten message next to the stamp provides the reason: "Restricted as Shanghai repatriant [sic]." The United States of America had strict quotas for the Shanghai refugees.

Further research regarding Leopold and Hildegard lives after 1950 has not yielded any results. Perhaps they stayed in Austria and could only dream of California.

Leopold and Hildegard Hahn's application for assistance to emigrate to America provides important information regarding Erich Hahn. Leopold had not heard anything from his son for years and searched for him after the war. On the application, Leopold wrote that he eventually heard from Erich and listed his son as alive and residing in Paris.



For whom (Für wen)	Name	Relationship (Verwandtschaft)	Complete Address (Volle Adresse)
	Erich HAHN	Sohn	Paris, 8 rue Paul du Bauedin

Erich Hahn's residence listed as "Paris, 8 Rue Paul de Bauedin" under Section 15. "Relatives (Verwandte)" on page 3 of Leopold and Hildegard's Application for Assistance document. Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/document/80645296 (Accessed February 6, 2025).

It is possible that Erich Hahn's fate remained a mystery to the other members of the family. In her 1997 interview, Hedy Oppenheimer stated that Erich had died in a camp during the war.[122] Perhaps there was never any communication between Leopold Hahn and the family of his ex-brother-in-law, Oskar Spiegler, after the war.

Research regarding Erich Hahn's whereabouts after his incarceration in the Bou Arfa camp in Morocco during the war and in Paris after the war have not yielded anything beyond the information Leopold Hahn provided on his Application for Assistance.

[122] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.

A Plane to the "Promised Land":

In 1947, when the opportunity arose to immigrate to the United States of America, Hedy and Paul Oppenheimer sold everything and purchased plane tickets. They and their two daughters flew on British Airlines from London to Shannon, Ireland. The plane was then delayed in Shannon due to mechanical issues. Finally, they took off over the Atlantic Ocean. Hedy noticed that among their fellow passengers was a famous movie star and a priest. Halfway through the trip, there was a lot of turbulence, and the pursuer came out with a life jacket on and said that they may have to go down mid-ocean.
The priest began to pray.

Hedy recounted what then transpired:

> For two hours, we didn't know. We flew on three engines. We didn't know if we will make it or not. Finally, we were free to come into the Promised Land. And then we didn't know if we would make it or not. But we did make it. We landed in Newfoundland, and they repaired the plane. And so, we flew to New York. […] And we stayed in New York for three, four weeks. It was a paradise, you know![123]

Eventually, Hedy, Paul, and their daughters joined Oskar, Martha, Walter, and Erika in Los Angeles. Hedy and Paul's third daughter was born there.[124]

The journey from Austria had been arduous, but the members of Oskar Spiegler's family had managed to get to the "Promised Land": Oskar Spiegler passed away in Los Angeles on May 18, 1974;[125] Martha Spiegler passed away in Palm Springs on March 31, 1979;[126] Walter changed his name to Walter Spiegler Justin, worked as a dental technician, and passed away in Las Vegas on March 15, 2003;[127] Hedy Oppenheimer passed away on January 11, 2008 and is buried in Mount Sinai Memorial Park in Hollywood Hills along with her husband, Paul Oppenheimer, who passed away on December 30, 1987; and Erika/Erica (née Spiegler) Haines passed away in Palm Springs in 2015.[128]



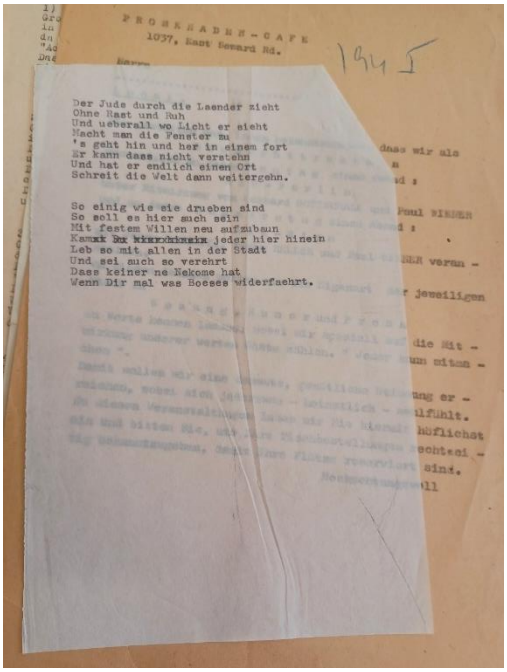
Hedy Oppenheimer's gravestone in the "Promised Land":
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/107102227/hedy-oppenheimer (Accessed January 10, 2025).

[123] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.
[124] Hedwig (Hedy) Oppenheimer Interview.
[125] https://www.geni.com/people/Oskar-Spiegler/6000000034122721893 (Accessed February 12, 2025).
[126] https://www.geni.com/people/Martha-Spiegler/6000000034122279468 (Accessed February 12, 2025).
[127] https://lasvegassun.com/news/2003/mar/20/obituaries-for-march-20-2003/ (Accessed January 19, 2025).
[128] https://www.ancestry.com/genealogy/records/erica-m-haines-24-25252z1 (Accessed February 12, 2025).

Incidentally, the movie actress who had been on the plane with Hedy, Paul, and their two daughters, was Eleanor Parker. In 1965, Parker played Baroness Elsa von Schraeder in the famous film about an Austrian family who, in the aftermath of the *Anschluss*, fled the Nazis, *The Sound of Music*.

The World Under the Cover:

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum possesses a large collection of original songs and poems that were written by Jewish refugees in Shanghai. One typewritten page in the collection bears no title, no music, and no author's name. The words seem to speak directly to Kurt Hahn, Elise Hahn, and the members of their immediate and extended family.


PROMENADEN-CAFE
1037, East Seward Rd.

1945

Der Jude durch die Laender zieht
Ohne Rast und Ruh
Und ueberall wo Licht er sieht
Macht man die Fenster zu
's geht hin und her in einem fort
Er kann dass nicht verstehn
Und hat er endlich einen Ort
Schreit die Welt dann weitergehn.

So einig wie sie drueben sind
So soll es hier auch sein
Mit festem Willen neu aufzubaun
Kamen sie hierherein jeder hier hinein
Leb so mit allen in der Stadt
Und sei auch so verehrt
Dass keiner ne Bekome hat
Wenn Dir mal was Boeses widerfaehrt.

Throughout the lands the Jew takes flight
Without rest or repose
And everywhere he sees light
One by one the windows close
Continuously back and forth goes the pace
This he cannot understand
And when he finally finds a place
Keep going the world strenuously demand

As united as they are over there
So too here it should be
With a resolute will to rebuild
Everyone made their entry
Live in the city amongst every neighbor
Such that esteem for you be so high
That none against you vengeance would harbor
Were misfortune to befall you by and by.[129]

Middle Left: Untitled poem/lyrics in 2010.240.1, Harpuder family papers. (Series 2, Box 3, Folder 7). United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, D.C. Photograph: Kevin Ostoyich.

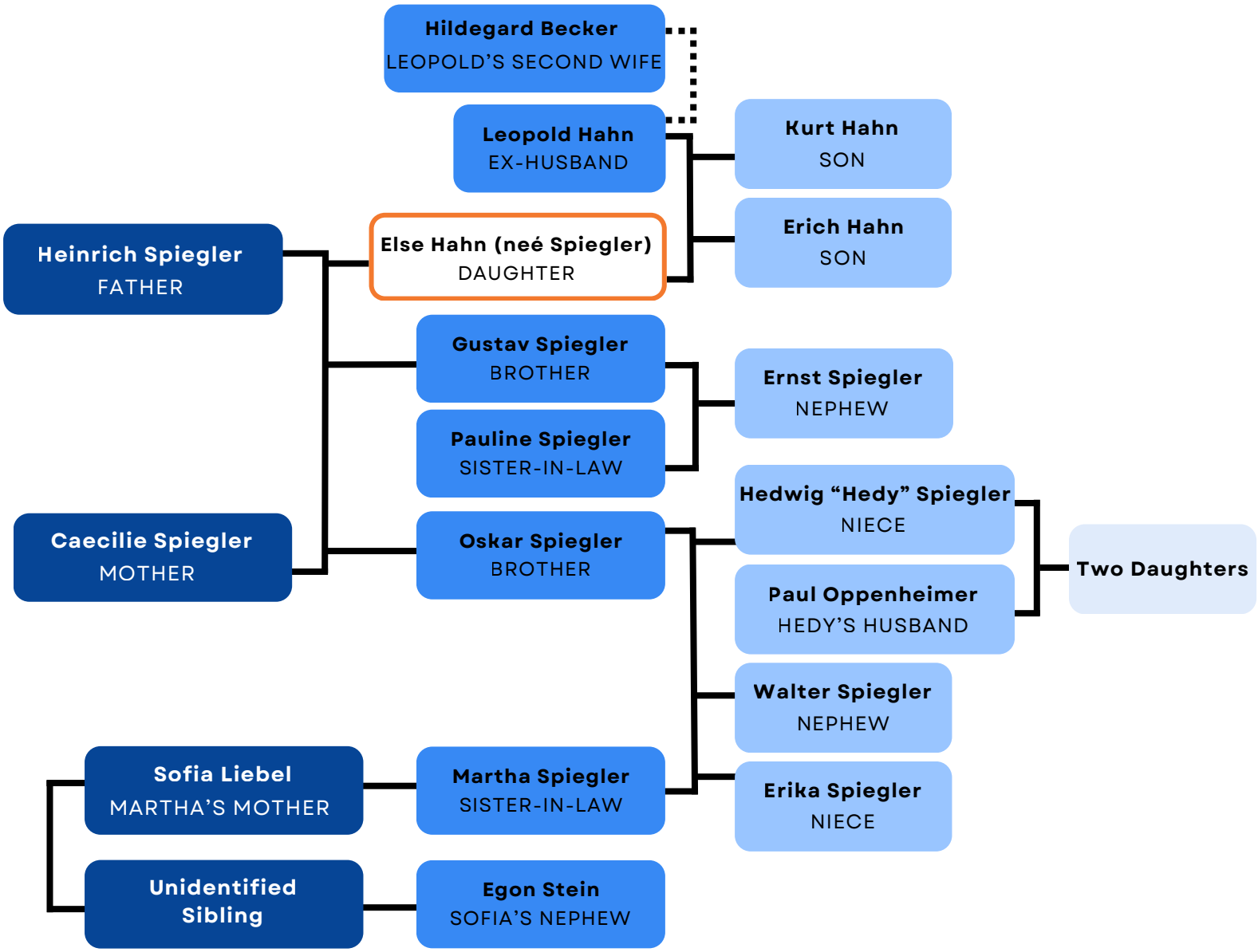
When Else Hahn collected debts for the Phoenix Life Insurance Company, she most likely did not foresee that she would have to sell her furniture to send her son thousands of kilometers to the East. When Kurt Hahn repaired radios for Radiowerk Horny, he most likely did not imagine that he would be riding a bicycle in Shanghai two days after his 30th birthday. When Hedy Oppenheimer attended Sigmund Freud's lectures at the University of Vienna, she most likely did not dream that she would be subjected to a makeshift gynecological examination at the Germany-Belgium border on her 25th birthday. Like the other Jews of Vienna, none of the members of the Hahn and Spiegler families could have anticipated the routes their lives would trace after the *Anschluss*.

[129] Untitled poem/lyrics in 2010.240.1, Harpuder family papers. (Series 2, Box 3, Folder 7). United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, D.C. Translation by Kevin Ostoyich.

One year after the *Anschluss*, Kurt Hahn wrote a letter to his mother from Buchenwald. Although the letter is lost, the cover remains. The search under that cover has revealed the great lengths individuals took to escape the Nazis and has underscored how global the Holocaust was. As darkness swept over the globe, the members of the Hahn and Spiegler families actively searched for light. They set upon the various escape routes that were open to them. Some of those routes led to safety and survival, others did not.

Then the windows closed.

Else Hahn's Family Tree: The World Under the Cover



Indicates second marriage without having children together

Indicates individual at focal point of family tree

rev05122026

About the Author



Kevin Ostoyich is a professor of history at Valparaiso University. Kevin and his students at Valparaiso began partnering with the Florence and Laurence Spungen Foundation in 2013. The Foundation provided artifacts (mostly documents & postal history) to the students from Holocaust survivors who were in the Shanghai ghetto, "Shanghailanders," for archival studies and the curation of temporary exhibitions at the university. In 2021, he collaborated with the Foundation to author the preface and two additional chapters in the Foundation's book, *Forging Secrets: Faces and Facts Inside the Nazi Operation Bernhard Scheme,* published in 2022. In July 2023, he joined the Foundation staff as a researcher, writer, and interviewer, focusing on artifacts from the Spungen Foundation collection. He has interviewed and written stories about Shanghailanders on the Foundation's behalf.

At Valparaiso, he served as chair of the Department of History from 2015 to 2019, was the recipient of the Dixon W. and Herta E. Benz Fund for Faculty Support (an endowed position) from 2020 – 2022, and was bestowed the Excellence in Teaching Award for 2017-2018. He holds his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and his A.M. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. He was recently a fellow at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg (global dis:connect) at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München and is currently a fellow at the Centrum für angewandte Politikforschung / Center for Applied Policy Research (CAP) at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München.

He is a board member of the Sino-Judaic Institute and the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum and a non-resident fellow of the American-German Institute of Johns Hopkins University. Kevin has served as a fellow and guest professor at multiple institutions and universities; has written many articles and book chapters; has co-edited *The History of the Shanghai Jews: New Pathways of Research* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022) and authored *The German Society of Pennsylvania: A Guide to Its Book and Manuscript Collections* (German Historical Institute, 2006); interviews Holocaust survivors; gives lectures about the Holocaust worldwide; and creates historical theatrical plays about Shanghai Jewish refugees with students.

The Spungen Foundation can devote many pages honoring Kevin's work, so let's just say he keeps very, very busy teaching, writing, conducting interviews, and working on documentaries.

About the Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation

The Spungen Foundation was established in 2006 by Florence Spungen and reflects the individual and collective philanthropy of the founders, their children, and their grandchildren. The Foundation focuses its grantmaking typically in Santa Barbara, CA and Lake County, IL. One of the Foundation's strategic areas concentrates on the Holocaust and genocide education. The Spungen Family Foundation has one of the largest collections of Holocaust artifacts in private hands, mainly consisting of postal history, such as letters, post cards, stamps, along with money, children's artwork, and more. The collection has been used for Holocaust education all around the world.

The mission of the Foundation is to improve the quality of life of individuals and families facing health challenges, and to address issues that particularly affect the Jewish community.

Visit us at: www.spungenfoundation.org

