

A troupe of SA soldiers violently storms many Jewish homes. The men are brought out of their homes and ,herded' to the city prison. The witness Dottenheimer claims that his iron gates were blown up in order to gain access to the house. Dr. Liebl's maid unlocked the front door. The first floor of the house was stormed by ca. 30 persons.

Dottenheimer opened the apartment door on command. Before him stood the accused (Kurt Bär) and arrested him.

The men only had to spend one night in the prison, they were released the next morning. Yet this situation was quite demeaning to the Jews. The destructive behaviour of many of Gunzenhausen's citizens was shocking. Because of this many Jewish families decided to leave town that year.

The Dottenheimers had faith in their name and status in this town, so they decided to stay. Even when young **Julius** Strauß is shot to death in the summer of 1934, they still stay.

They do however, make sure that son Fred is able to emigrate to America.

Fred leaves Germany

It is unknown who paid for his trip in the USA, but his trip across the great blue ocean begins in 1937.



Fred Dottenheimer on the ship headed towards in 1937

In his passport, we are able to retrace his footsteps. His daughter Faye wrote us:

"With regards to his travels, his passport is stamped in Augsburg on May 21, 1937, Hamburg on May 25, 1937 and Southampton,

England on May 28, 1937. He arrived in the United States sometime in 1937 and settled in St. Louis, Missouri.....



My father arrived in America in 1937 and moved straight to St. Louis. He lived with a family named Saenger and was given financial help by them. During his stay with the family, he worked at their coat store. Here he helped make and sell women's coats. He even had his own coat store for a time. My mother, Frieda

Holtzmann, was born and raised in St. Louis. The two met each other on a blind date."

We are unsure of who took over the payment for Fred's emigration to America. Yet he appears to have found work and a place to stay straight away. This was easier in 1937 than two years later.

The rest of the family still stays in Gunzenhausen. They experience the Reichskristallnacht on the night of November 9th and 10th of 1939.

A witness reported that the beds had been torn apart and set on fire at the Dottenheimers'. A fire fighter reported that all the dishes in the house has been smashed as well as many other personal objects. The rooms looked completely deserted.

The synagogue was also damaged. It was not burned down, the way many other synagogues in Germany were, but the towers were destroyed and the synagogue was burglarised. This is how the breastplate disappeared. Only now does the family decide to leave Gunzenhausen. Grandfather Heinrich finds refuge in an Israeli nursing home in Munich. The rest of the family wasn't quick enough. They were probably still figuring out who goes where. They stay in town until early December 1939. So Sigmund and Kurt are deported to the concentration camp at Dachau. Almost all the men that had stayed in town had already been transported to the concentration camp there.