

Ruth Filler
Born 1929, Hildesheim, Germany

My grandparents owned a thriving department store in Hildesheim.

In the early 1930s, Nazi propaganda increased.

Jewish businesses were boycotted.

My grandparents' store went bankrupt.

My father had won an Iron Cross for his bravery in World War I...

...fighting for the Germans.

He was a proud nationalistic German. He saw himself more as a German than a Jew.

He found it so traumatic that his beloved Germany would turn against him.

There were occasions when we were chased on the streets.

One night, after attending a movie, we were harassed by hooligans.

We narrowly escaped into our apartment.

From outside the hooligans shouted "We'll get you next time...don't think you'll escape."

It was clear to my mother that it would be unsafe to remain in Germany.

My aunt had emigrated to New Zealand in 1936.

With great difficulty she managed to arrange a permit for us to travel to New Zealand.

We left Germany in 1938.

My family was not wealthy so it was easier to leave.

Not so, for my father's sister. She was wealthy and didn't want to go.

In the end she committed suicide.

Her husband was murdered at Auschwitz.