

Baby Picture

*"Until we received this photo in 1946 we did not know he existed.
He is Hans Phillip Weinberg, the only son of Ruth and Walter Weinberg."*

– Judith Adler, Seattle resident

Hans was 10 months old when this photo was taken in 1943.
For Judith Adler, this single picture is the only evidence that she once had a cousin, Hans.
The baby was murdered during the Holocaust.

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Walter Weinberg.

government refused entry to the passengers. The Captain of the ship, Gustav Schroeder, sailed to Florida, but the U.S. State Department and the White House would not allow the passengers to enter the U.S. Finally, after thirty-one days at sea, four countries agreed to admit the passengers: Holland, Belgium, France and England.

Walter landed in Belgium and was reunited with his wife, Ruth. Both were interned in Westerbork, a camp established by the Dutch government for illegal Jewish refugees. From Westerbork, the Nazis deported Ruth and Walter to Theresienstadt, a ghetto and concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. In the ghetto, Ruth and Walter found Walter's Uncle Semmel and his aunt, Ida.

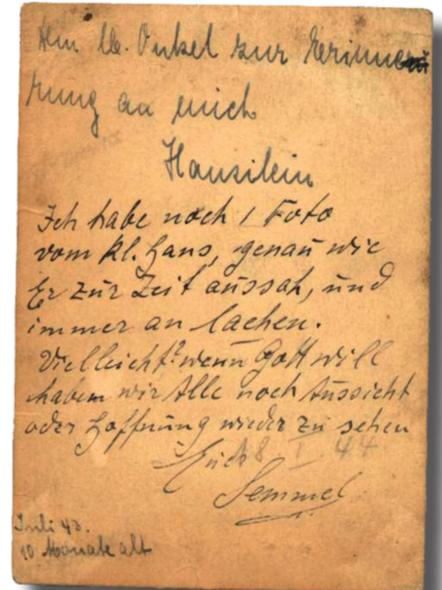
Hans Phillip was born to Ruth and Walter in either Westerbork or Theresienstadt. When Walter learned he was to be "resettled" to the East, Ruth had the option of remaining in Theresienstadt with the baby or following her husband. She decided to take the baby and go with her husband. "Resettlement"

In May 1939, six months after *Kristallnacht*, or "The Night of Broken Glass,"* Walter Weinberg boarded the *St. Louis* in Germany with a visa bound for Cuba. The ship carried over 900 passengers, almost all of them Jews fleeing the Third Reich. When the ship arrived in Cuba, the Cuban

turned out to be a euphemism, or code phrase, for deportation to concentration camps. The Nazis deported Ruth, Walter, and Hans to *Auschwitz*, where they were murdered.

Ruth gave this picture to Uncle Semmel before she left Theresienstadt. After Germany's defeat in 1945, Uncle Semmel sent the photo to his brother, David Weinberg, in Chicago.

The photo was eventually passed on to David's granddaughter, Judith Adler, a Seattle resident.



The reverse side of Hans Phillip's photo.



Ruth Weinberg.

The inscription on the back of the photo is in Ruth's handwriting: "To my Uncle to remember me by." The name beneath the photo is "Hansilein." Uncle Semmel writes, "I still have one picture of little Hans exactly as he looked at that time, and always laughing. Perhaps, God willing, we will all have the chance or the hope of seeing one another again."

The Memorial Book at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum describes the fate of Walter and Ruth Weinberg with one word, "*verschollen*" – disappeared. There is no mention of the baby. This photo is the only evidence that Hans Phillip Weinberg lived.

***Kristallnacht** - November 9 & 10, 1938. Organized destruction of Jewish homes, shops, and synagogues throughout Germany and Austria. The violence included arrests of individual Jews, instigated primarily by Nazi party officials and the SA (Nazi Storm Troopers).