

## Kurt Rosenberg's Typewriter and Letters -- Flight and Rescue

With these artifacts, students should think about the power of the written word and how it is valuable to help us understand the emotions one had during this turbulent time.

### Key Holocaust lessons for this artifact:

- **Leica Camera Company saved Jewish employees** and their families by sending them out of Germany.
- Letters illustrate the **initial disbelief and increasing desperation** felt by Jews in Germany

### Suggestions for generating discussions with students:

- I. Show the typewriter and letters to your students
  - a. What do they think of the typewriter? How does it and communication in general differ from a today's technology?
  - b. Mention how this typewriter and the letters give us insight into a family's struggle to survive
- II. This was an escape supported by the Leitz company (which is still around), maker of Leica cameras and lenses. They sent Kurt and other Jewish employees out of Germany in 1938.
  - a. How does this affect your feelings toward this company?
  - b. This was a company that took action to save its Jews in the face of strong anti-Semitic government policies and public sentiment. Later you'll hear about companies that did the opposite.
- III. Read the sample letter to the students
  - a. At the time Kurt wrote this letter, what do you think he and his parents knew? What didn't they know?
  - b. How would parents feel getting this letter? What is going through their minds when it is suggested that they should leave Germany?
  - c. What was Kurt's frame of mind when he wrote this letter?
- IV. Tell the story of this family: who got out, who perished etc. (Mother died in 1939, Twins left Germany shortly afterward on Kindertransport, Brother twin (Gert) committed suicide shortly after arriving in America, Sister twin (Ursula) settled in Seattle, Father died in Lodz ghetto in 1942)
- V. Why do you think that Kurt enlisted in the United States Army in April, 1943?