



On display at the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center.  
Photo by SimmonsFrank.

# Typewriter

**"I truly believe that it won't be a separation for a long time  
and that we will see each other very soon."**

These encouraging lines were written by the 22-year old Kurt Rosenberg to his parents in August 1938. He was unaware that he would never see his family united.

The typewriter and a collection of letters were brought to the Washington State Holocaust Education Center by Kurt's sister, Seattle resident Ursula Brown.

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*Kurt with his Leica camera.*

The 21 year-old photographer Kurt Rosenberg immigrated to the United States in early 1938 with the help of his employer, the Leitz Company. Leitz was best known for their Leica cameras. As tensions mounted for Jews in Germany, the Leitz Company sent its Jewish employees abroad to work and to escape Nazi persecution.

Besides his Leica camera, Kurt brought with him his German typewriter. Almost every day he typed letters to his family in Germany and to his aunt Grete, who fled Germany and moved to Israel (then called Palestine) a few years earlier.

The letters began as conversational – Kurt described his work and his new life in America. His letters kept his dispersed family connected and carbon copies of each letter were sent to his relatives between the United States, Germany, and Palestine.

As life for Jewish people in Nazi Germany became more difficult, Kurt's letters to his family became more urgent as he pressured his parents to send his youngest siblings, twins Ursula and Gert, to the United States.

**New York, August 28th, 1938**

**My dear parents!**

**...You are writing so depressed - I can understand that it is not easy for you**

**to let Ursula and Gert go too! I would be so lucky if both of them were here at last... I truly believe that it won't be a separation for a long time and that we will see each other very soon. ...**

**Greetings from your**

In his letters, Kurt gives concrete instructions on visa procedures in order to help secure the emigration of his siblings. After numerous attempts, the twins managed to find a way onto a *Kindertransport*\* in 1939, and one year later immigrated to the United States.

Kurt's story ends in tragedy. His mother died in 1939, before having the opportunity to see her youngest children safely leave Germany. Just a few months after the twins arrived in the U.S., Gert, at the age of 18, committed suicide. Kurt's last letters to Germany show his unsuccessful attempt to save his 65 year-old father, who died in the Lodz ghetto in 1942.

Kurt enlisted in the United States Army in April 1943, and a year later, only months before receiving his American certificate of naturalization, was killed in action. All of Kurt's relatives who stayed in Germany were killed during the Holocaust. Kurt's youngest sister, Ursula is the only surviving member of the family.



*The Rosenberg Family- From left to right, Kurt, mother Rosel, father Georg, brother Herman, and the twins Gert and Ursula in front.*

**\*Kindertransport** – Children's Transport. Great Britain agreed to allow 10,000 Jewish children from Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia to immigrate to England. Private citizens or organizations had to guarantee to pay for each child's care, education, and eventual emigration from Britain. Parents or guardians could not accompany the children (USHMM).