



Otto Frank's Plea to Escape

Letter from Otto Frank to a Friend in New York

Otto Frank, Anne Frank's father, wrote to his friend, Nathan Straus Jr. (nicknamed "Charley"), the son of the founder of Macy's department stores. The two men had become good friends 30 years earlier, while Frank was in college in Heidelberg.

The letter can be viewed at [USHMM-Americans & the Holocaust](#)

April 30, 1941

COPY

Mr. Nathan Straus

New York, N.Y.

Dear Charley,

[Portion of letter redacted] I am forced to look out for emigration and as far as I can see U.S.A. is the only country we could go to. Perhaps you remember that we have two girls. It is for the sake of the children mainly that we have to care for. Our own fate is of less importance. Two brothers of Edith emigrated last year and they work as ordinary workmen around Boston. Both of them earn money, but not enough to have us come. They would be able to give an affidavit for their mother, living with us here, and they seaved [sic] enough as far as I can [sic] make out, to pay the passage for my mother-in-law. [Portion redacted.]

In 1938 I filed an application in Rotterdam to emigrate to U.S.A. but all the papers have been destroyed there. [Portion redacted.] The dates of application are of no importance any longer, as everyone who has an effective affidavit from a member of his family and who can pay his passage may leave. One says that no special difficulties shall be made from the part of the German Authorities. But in the case that an affidavit from family members is not available or not sufficient the consul asks a bank deposit. How much he would ask in my case I dont [sic] know. I am not allowed to go to Rotterdam and without an introduction the consul would not even accept me. As far as I hear from other people it might be about \$5000.— for us four. You are the only person I know that I can ssk [sic]: Would it be possible for you to give a deposit in my favor?

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