

**Why didn't the Jews Just Leave? The story of the Tuttmann Family
Document A**

Background Information: Zalk Salo Tuttmann, his wife, Gisela, and daughter, Hertha, lived in Vienna, Austria when the Nazis rose to power. Trying to escape from Austria, they wrote letters to Dr. Josef Warkany, a Viennese physician who had settled in Cincinnati in 1932. There are three letters in the Holocaust & Humanity Center's Permanent Collection from the Tuttmann's to Dr. Warkany.

Salo Tuttmann
Master Tailor
Vienna
II. Untere Augartenstr. 25

Vienna, 24. July 1938

Dear Doctor!

It is not easy for me to bother you with this request, but the time has come when one does not leave any stone unturned and must reach out to those even with whom one has had almost no contact. Perhaps it is possible for you or one of your acquaintances to provide me, my wife, and my 9-year-old child with an affidavit, which would make it possible for me to earn my bread in another country. Believe me, dear Doctor, when I say that I am capable, such as I was in Vienna, to start from a little and build myself up. Therefore, I do not require any financial assistance from you, dear Doctor, but I do require an affidavit, because I can work, but unfortunately do not have any relatives in another country, who could acquire this for me.

Please, dear Doctor, write to me whether this is possible. You can imagine that this decision is not easy to make, but there is nothing left for us, and we must. You can be assured of my eternal gratitude. You are doing a great humanitarian service.

Yours truly,

Salo Tuttmann
Master Tailor
Vienna – II – Unt. Augartenst 25

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Document B

Abs. Salo Tuttmann
Vienna II.
Untere Augartenstr. 25

Vienna; August 25, 1938

Dear Doctor!

I was immensely delighted by your last letter. Not only am I clutching for straws like someone who is drowning, but I am also grateful for your great show of human compassion during such times. Words are not enough to express to you, my thanks. Only God could adequately repay you, whether or not you can provide me entry, at least the will and my hope is there.

Dear doctor, I do not have to tell you how unhappy things are for me and my family. Perhaps you still remember what I briefly told you last time you were here, that while I am, thank God, financially well-off, I want to get out now with my family and leave everything behind, because it simply must be so.

I am sending you a picture of my little daughter along with this letter and I implore you again from my heart to do everything possible, perhaps through your patients or acquaintances. I am of course still of working age and with my expertise, I will also be able to make a living for myself in America.

Again, my most sincere thanks.

Yours

Salo Tuttmann
Wien II. Unt. Augartenstr. 25

Dates:

Salo (Zalek Tuttmann) born in Czernowitz Rumania on December 10, 1894, German citizen for 18 years

Frau Gisela: February 14, 1898 born and registered in Vienna

Kind: Hertha: July 29, 1928 born in Vienna



Photograph Mr. Tuttmann included of his 10-year-old daughter, Hertha, in his August 1938 letter to Dr. Warkany.

Why didn't the Jews Just Leave? The story of the Tuttmann Family
Document C (Modified)

Background Information: Neville Chamberlain was the British Prime Minister from 1937-1940. He is best known for his policy of **appeasement**, after signing the Munich Agreement with Germany in 1938. To avoid war with Nazi Germany, Chamberlain agreed to cede the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia to Germany in exchange for peace. After the Munich Agreement, Chamberlain claimed to have achieved "peace in our time." ***In this letter, Dr. Warkany writes to Chamberlain in 1938 and questions for whom the policy of appeasement has really achieved "peace."***

Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain
10 Downing Street
London, England

October 4, 1938

Dear Sir:

I have followed with great interest your speeches, radio-address and actions undertaken for the sake of the appeasement of Europe and I want to congratulate you on your success. However, to me, a physician of Austrian extraction living...in the U.S.A., the appeasement of Europe manifests itself in a peculiar way. Since March 1938 I have received daily letters from my former colleagues, students, student-nurses etc., who beg me to help them in finding permissions to enter the United States; they are willing to leave everything in Austria and wish to begin a new life, since the conditions in Europe have become intolerable for them.

The people I am referring to have never meddled in politics; the majority of them have been working in the medical professions and they can certainly be considered peaceful people. And yet the peace of Europe recently preserved does not appear to bring peace to them. Recently I have received similar letters from Czechoslovakia, and I am enclosing a copy of a letter received today as a sample, which will illustrate to you the effects of the European appeasement on innocent people.

Up to the present time I have tried my best to help these victims of the Nazi policies in Central Europe. The results have not been satisfactory and with the recent enlargement of the area, to which these policies are applied, the task had become too big for me. Hundred thousands have been affected so far, but millions will be involved soon.

...We all are certainly glad that by your action war was averted. But we do not why we should enjoy peace at the expense of the most peaceful people in Central Europe, i.e., those who cannot accept the Nazi policies. If I could be of any help to you in the magnificent undertaking of rehabilitating the victims of the European appeasement, be assured I shall be only too happy to be at your service.

Sincerely yours,

**From the Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center Archives*

**Why didn't the Jews Just Leave? The story of the Tuttmann Family
Document D (Modified)**

Salo Tuttmann
Vienna II
Unt. Augartentst.

Vienna; 12.12.38

Dear Doctor!

It is only after unsuccessfully contacting different associations, which cannot issue affidavits, that I must contact you again.

This evening I spoke to you in spirit, as if I spoke to you and the tears rolled down my cheeks. If my family had as many good years as tears were rolling from my eyes, then things would be good for us, but I, as a man of 49 years who served 4 years in the war, know this would not have happened before. I believe that my family and I are lost but your last letter, dear doctor, left me a glimmer of hope, besides I did not know who else to turn to. I was admittedly born in Romania, but it says a lot if one had an affidavit here, maybe the quota is still open, or my wife can leave as a housemaid, and I can wait for the affidavit. Life as we know it has ceased to exist and the fear and panic is tremendous. Our hearts fear being anywhere where there is a piece of dry bread, because remaining here is completely impossible. Please, dear Doctor, try everything you can. Perhaps in the meantime you have made a new acquaintance who is willing to take up the cause to help a hard-working family, who is in the greatest distress. As you know I do not need any financial support or a ship ticket or anything like that. All I need is the opportunity to immigrate to the U.S. I coincidentally showed the pediatrician Dr. Singer your letter, which he also read, and said to me that you, Doctor, have such influence and interact with so many, especially as a pediatrician that you are sure to come across someone who could make this happen. Your dear letter continues to uplift me. I am now the only man in the family, 2 brothers in law of my wife are somewhere else. I could not write as much as you had, for I do not have the patience.

Incidentally I was in your childhood home this week and you would be surprised how nicely everything is arranged there. Thank God that your mother and your brother are already there. I await your prompt reply with much anticipation and remain with the best of greetings,

Salo Tuttmann

**From the Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center Archives*