Henry was born in Leipzig, Germany in 1924, where he lived with his mother, father, and older sister. On Kristallnacht, his father was arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned at Buchenwald concentration camp for four weeks. Henry's father was later released because he'd been a German soldier in WWI and considered a war hero. However, Nazis seized his father's business and gave it to his prior employee, who was a Nazi.

For some time, Henry's family remained in Leipzig as forced laborers, making furs for the German troops in Russia. In January 1943, they were deported to Theresienstadt, a hybrid camp-ghetto. Nazis told Henry this was an honor from Hitler, bestowed because of his father's WWI service.

In Theresienstadt, Henry was forced to collect clothing from the deceased. When the Red Cross visited in 1944, Nazis order Henry to prepare the camp-ghetto for inspection. From there, his family was transported to Auschwitz, a concentration and extermination camp, and separated. As Henry later found out, his father, mother, and sister were executed in Auschwitz's gas chambers.

From there, Henry was transported to Friedland, a sub-camp of Gross-Rosen, where he worked in a factory making propellers until Russians troops liberated him in 1945. He returned to Theresienstadt and then to Leipzig looking for his family. During his search, he learned that they'd been killed in Auschwitz.

Eager to build a new life, Henry and his wife were smuggled into US-occupied Germany and later, in 1949, immigrated to the USA. Henry pursued a career in the New York City fashion industry, starting as a messenger and working his way up the command chain.