

## MARCH 13, 1938: ANSCHLUSS & FLIGHT FROM AUSTRIA

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**CONTEXT:** The image depicts the Vienna Boys' Choir in the Vienna public square with a banner that reads "We sing for Adolf Hitler!" with the young people shown saluting Hitler on his first official visit after the [Anschluss](#). Peter Feigl, who had just turned nine, remembered being so curious about the pageantry and excitement that he snuck out of their Vienna apartment and into the massive crowd that was shouting "*Ein Volk, ein Reich, ein Führer*" [One People, one Empire, one Leader]. Caught up in the spirit, when he returned home, he said, "I saw our *Führer*," to his mother, Agnes, who then promptly and decisively admonished him. In the following days, Agnes was forced to walk the Vienna streets with an insulting sign around her neck proclaiming she had purchased items in a Jewish-owned store. Frightened and humiliated, Agnes and Ernst quickly realized that they were no longer safe in Austria. Ernst decided to move to Belgium where he had business connections. Shortly after, each carrying one suitcase only, they left by train for Brussels. Peter remembered that they had to leave everything else in Vienna and that the border crossing was very traumatic because German border control inspectors searched everything and everyone to make sure they weren't smuggling money and jewelry out of the country.

Image courtesy of the National Archives and context courtesy of Peter Feigl plus his USC Shoah Foundation's oral history testimony recorded April 18, 1997.