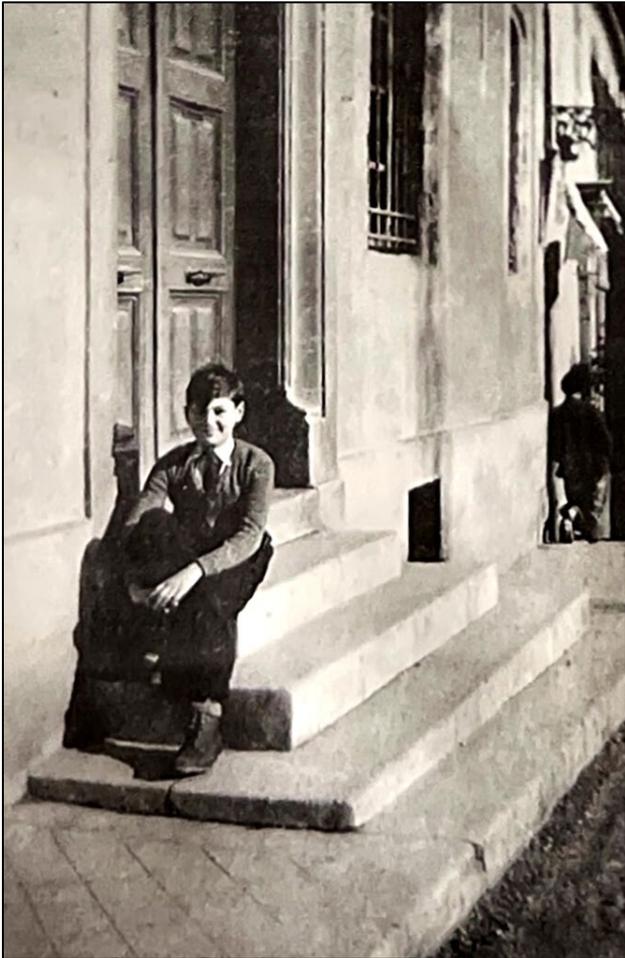


**MARCH 21, 1941: FEIGL FAMILY REUNITED IN AUCH**

*P. 31 ENFANTS DÉPORTÉS, ENFANTS SAUVÉS: LES PETITS RÉFUGIÉS JUIFS DU GERS*



*Auch, 60 rue de Metz.*

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**CONTEXT:** Starting January 29, 1941, the Gers *Prefecture* sent a list of foreign refugees to the garrison major in Auch containing the names of 20 families (36 people) almost all of whom were Germans and included the Feigl. By the time Ernst was released from the Gurs camp, a new commission had been created: General Commission for Jewish Affairs which was to deal with all matters pertaining to those defined as Jewish by the Vichy government. By June 1941, French communities, including Auch were being “Aryanized,” which excluded Jews from jobs.

Thus, when Ernst arrived in Auch after his release on March 21, 1941, he was not allowed to seek employment. He made some money by cleaning car spark plugs and making toys from pieces of wood and cardboard. Because he had once been a representative of Champion sparkplugs, he had the necessary skills and knowledge, so he arranged with a local garage owner to maintain a small space. The owner neither asked nor did Ernst tell him that he was Jewish.

The image on the left shows Pierre (Peter) on the doorstep of their apartment building at 60 *rue de Metz* in 1941, which they shared with other refugees. They lived in a single room with no running water. The image on the right is of the building itself, date of photo unknown.

Image and context from *ENFANTS DÉPORTÉS, ENFANTS SAUVÉS: LES PETITS RÉFUGIÉS JUIFS DU GERS [DEPORTED CHILDREN, SAVED CHILDREN: THE YOUNG JEWISH REFUGEES IN GERS]* are excerpted with permission of author, Gisèle Polya-Somogyi. English translation and some context by Peter Feigl.