

# Kindertransport & Child Refugees in Wales: Part 1 - Driving Forces

## Transcript

MARY HOCHBERG - MH  
INTERVIEWER - I

I – Did you hear Hitler on the radio?

MH – Oh yes, oh yes and I even saw some of the parades on Unter den Linden and so on.

I – Did you...What did that, what did you think when you saw these people in your streets?

MH – Well by that time we were all aware of it, by that time we were more or less excluded from the rest of the population. I remember trying to get to the swimming pool but there was a sign saying 'Juden Verboten' [Jews Forbidden], not just not welcome but Verboten, we all know what that means and sometimes they coupled it with Juden, Zigeuner, which is Gypsies and sometimes even dogs. So, you found these on swimming pools as I said but even on, on cinemas, theatres and in parks.

I – *Kristallnacht* - what do you remember?

MH – Well, I saw broken shop windows and daubings on walls and so on, and people I suppose. I had no idea what had gone on because there was no synagogue near [where] we were, near our house and there were no fires. I don't really remember what happened at school, but I do know that my father and an elder cousin went into hiding; and in fact, he didn't come out of hiding until January '39, when he left the country.

Various friends were saying that they were trying to get out and some made arrangements. I remember we went to see some friends, and nobody opened the door and when we asked the porter there, he said "Oh yes, they left last night".

I – So when *Kristallnacht* happened in '38 you would have been 13?

MH – Yes

I – As a teenager what were your feelings about what was going on?

MH – Well by this time we knew a lot; I mean publicity was all around us and hate propaganda - you could hear it on the radio. There were speeches, um, the kind of speeches that Hitler made, or Goebbels for example, that the Jews are warmongers who want to take over the world.

I don't know how my mother eventually got me onto the Kindertransport, I suppose she must have made arrangements or she must have made enquiries because a cousin left before me but it was a difficult thing to do. And eventually I got onto the last transport and was in fact given the return journey's money in case we couldn't get across the border in Holland.