

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

Brief histories: *Kristallnacht* & Anti-Jewish Measures

KRISTALLNACHT

Kristallnacht is widely referred to as the 'Night of Broken Glass' and was an anti-Jewish pogrom that occurred on 9-10 November 1938. The name calls attention to the violent, state-sponsored terror, which took place throughout Germany, annexed Austria, and in areas of the Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia.

During the violence, synagogues were burned and the homes and businesses of Jewish people were looted. It is estimated that 7,500 businesses had their windows shattered by the Sturm Abteilung (a Nazi paramilitary organisation) and Hitler Youth. Jewish cemeteries were also desecrated.

The mobs roamed cities and towns and attacked Jews in the streets. 91 people were murdered.

In the weeks that followed, almost 30,000 Jewish men were rounded up and sent to the Dachau concentration camp.

Source

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Bibliographies: Kristallnacht
<<https://www.ushmm.org/Collections/bibliography/kristallnacht>> [accessed 10 September 2021]

ANTI-JEWISH MEASURES

When the Nazis came to power in 1933, Jews were slowly stripped of their rights.

Professionals were not allowed to serve in government, not allowed to hold public positions or permitted to hold professional jobs, such as doctors or lawyers, in the private sector. Jews were stripped of their citizenship, rendering them stateless. They were barred from universities and from serving in the army. Jewish doctors were not permitted to have non-Jewish patients. All assets had to be declared to the German state, including their businesses.

Jewish children were not allowed to attend German schools and more laws were put into place to segregate Jews from German society. Jews were not permitted to attend German theatres, concerts or cinemas. They were not even permitted to hold a driver's license. Eventually, Jews were forced to wear the yellow Star of David, sewn onto clothing, to identify them as different from the German 'Aryan' population.

Source

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Holocaust Encyclopaedia: Anti-Jewish Legislation in Pre-war Germany <<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/anti-jewish-legislation-in-prewar-germany?parent%3Den%252F11474>> [accessed 10 September 2021]