

Activity 4: Jewish Life in Pre-War Europe: Identity, Diversity & Commonality

Inge Hack - biography and photographs

BIOGRAPHY

Inge Hack was born on 28 April 1926 in Nuremberg (Nürnberg in German), Germany. Her parents, Fritz and Rosa Wertheimer, maintained their Jewish identity but rarely observed Jewish customs or holidays.

Persecution of Jews became worse as the years passed. During the *Kristallnacht* pogrom of 9-10 November 1938, Nazis stormed into Inge's family home, stole their money, and smashed their furniture and valuables with hammers. The next month, in December 1938, Inge boarded the Kindertransport to the United Kingdom, where she lived with a foster family in Cardiff. She married her husband, Lawrence Hack, in 1950.

She was interviewed by USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education on 5 November 1997 in Maidstone, United Kingdom.

KINDERTRANSPORT

Kindertransport (or Children's Transport) was the informal name of a series of rescue efforts between 1938 and 1940, which brought Jewish children from Nazi-controlled territory to safety. Jewish parents sent their children on organised transports to live in children's homes, with foster families, or with distant relatives in Great Britain, the Netherlands, or France. The Kindertransport efforts brought about 10,000 children to safety in Great Britain.

IMAGES

All images are from Inge Hack's interview from the archive of the [USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education](http://sfi.usc.edu/), 1997. For more information: <http://sfi.usc.edu/>.



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Photograph of Inge's mother, Rosa Wertheimer (viewer's far left in the picture) and other adults and children at Inge's baby naming ceremony in 1926.

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Photograph of Inge as a baby being held by her father, Fritz Wertheimer in 1927.



Photograph of a birthday party held in a resort outside Nuremberg. Inge's mother, Rosa Wertheimer, is on the (viewer's) left in the picture and Inge is sitting next to her. The other lady in the picture is Inge's aunt, Irma Ullman. The photograph was taken in the 1930s.

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Photograph of Inge as a child holding a teddy bear, 1931.



Photograph of Inge's school class (1930s). Inge is in the back row, two places to the (viewer's) right of the girl in the centre of the backrow. Inge has long plaits in this picture. The girl in the centre of the backrow (with a white shirt and a white hairband) is the friend that Inge refers to in her video testimony. One day, Inge was forbidden to play with this girl.

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Photograph of Inge's school class, 1932. Inge is in the front row, sitting to the (viewer's) left of the girl in the checked dress in the centre of the front row.



Photograph of Inge with Edith Gordon (who looked after Inge when she moved to Wales), taken in Cardiff, 1939.