

The Holocaust

Lesson 1



Bob Kirk

Card 2.

30th January 1933, Hitler is appointed Chancellor.

May 1933, books written by Jewish authors and other blacklisted authors are burned.

By the end of 1933, the Hitler Youth have 2 million members.

1935

- Jewish Germans are stripped of their citizenship.
- Marriage and sexual relations between Germans and Jews becomes illegal.
- All civil and political rights of Jews are removed.

1937

- Jews prohibited from giving testimony in law courts.

April 1933, Jewish businesses and professional services are boycotted.

1933, Jewish people made up 1.7% of the European population.

Ann Kirk

Card 3.

1936

- Jewish vets are sacked.
- Jewish teachers are banned from public schools.

Ann Kirk

Card 1.

1933

- Jewish civil servants, lawyers and teachers are sacked.
- Jewish journalists are banned.
- Jewish people are publicly punished if they break the laws.

1934

- Jewish shops are marked with a yellow star.
- Jews have to sit on separate seats on public transport.

Vera Schaufeld

Card 4.

1937

- Jews prohibited from giving testimony in law courts.

Ann Kirk
Card 6.

1938

- All Jewish men have the name Israel added to their name.
- All Jewish women have the name Sarah added to their name.
- All Jewish passports have to bear an identifying letter J.
- Jewish children cannot attend state schools or university.
- Jewish businesses are closed.
- Jews ordered to hand in all their valuables.

9th November 1938,
Kristallnacht. Jewish homes, businesses and synagogues attacked in state sponsored violence. At least 90 are murdered.

March 1938, the Anschluss. Nazi Germany takes control of Austria.

Between 1933 and 1939 approximately 300,000 Jewish people left Germany.

1939, Kindertransport trains rescue Jewish children from Germany and Czechoslovakia.

Bob Kirk
Card 5.

Manfred Goldberg
Card 7.

Vera Schaufeld
Card 8.

Card 1: Ann Kirk

Well, I remember mum and dad talking to each other about it and to their friends. That for Jews, Germany was beginning to become a country not very safe to live in. I always wondered, 'Safe? What does that really mean?'

Timeline

Card 2: Bob Kirk

We were quite a good group of friends. Probably about 3 or 4, who were quite good friends of mine. But whether it was the influence of the rest of the class or the direct instructions from their family or teachers, I don't know. But this happened almost overnight, that literally they turned their backs on me. I knew what was happening of course, by then, but it was hurtful. Certainly, one of them, was one of the leading lads in any bullying that occurred. He became a leader in his troop in the Hitler Youth.

Card 3: Ann Kirk

Once the anti-Jewish laws were published ... they were known everywhere in the post boxes, in the street, on the radio, all very well-known what Hitler thought about the Jews. When that became obvious, it gave one a very uneasy feeling.... You never, never made public that you were Jewish. It was a bit scary for a child under 10, it was scary.

Timeline

Card 4: Vera Schaufeld

One day my parents were out of the house and my grandmother, and I were alone when suddenly there was a loud knocking on the door. My grandmother opened the door and I remember standing behind her and two German soldiers were outside, and they had guns, and I was terrified. They didn't say anything, they just marched into our house and took away our radio.

Timeline

Card 5: Bob Kirk

Why didn't they leave? Well, my father resisted that idea and he'd fought in the first world war, been wounded 3 times, and had a medal to show for that. You've got the Iron Cross, another medal, he could trace his family back to 1698. He saw himself as a good German who happened to be Jewish, why would he leave his homeland?

Timeline

Card 6: Ann Kirk

In the morning, I dressed in warm clothes or rather, I was dressed in warm clothes, each with rucksacks on our backs, and off we went. And we walked and walked, went on the underground, went on buses, always on the move. And when I asked my father why we were always on the move because it wasn't normal, my father said, because many Jewish men were being arrested, taken, and he hoped that being constantly on the move, not just walking, but on buses, ... the underground. Keeping very close together, hoping the Nazis wouldn't come for him.

Card 7: Manfred Goldberg

We lived in an apartment in a block of six apartments. There was only one other Jewish family in the building, the rest were non-Jewish Germans. And one of these neighbours was a non-Jewish German policeman. ... And my father told me ...that prior to Kristallnacht, this policeman had met my father on the stairs, and had whispered to him that he could not go into any detail, but it would be in my father's interest to disappear for a while. And my father took the hint and disappeared.

Timeline

Card 8: Vera Schaufeld

... German soldiers were standing there and all the parents had to stand behind barriers while the children got on the train and then we crowded to the window and we waved goodbye to our parents. I remember they waved white handkerchiefs and we looked out of the window and that was the last time I and nearly all the children on the train ever saw our parents again.

Timeline