

DON'T STAND BY

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2016

Sir Nicholas Winton



Nicholas was born in London in 1909.

When he was 29 Nicholas' friend told him about the bad things the Nazis were doing. Nicholas went to see for himself.

When he saw the bad things the Nazis were doing he could not stand by. He knew he had to help.

On *Kristallnacht* the Nazis killed and arrested people for being Jewish. The British government heard about *Kristallnacht* and said that children from Germany and Austria would be allowed to escape to Britain.

Nicholas asked the British government to let children from Czechoslovakia escape too. The British government said yes but only if the children had two things:

- 1) The children had to have £50 from their families.
- 2) The children had to have a family in Britain to live with.

Nicholas knew that it would be very difficult for the children to find these two things, so he decided to find them for the children.

Nicholas worked with other people to help the children escape from the Nazis on trains. Nicholas helped 669 children to escape. One of those children was Vera Schaufeld. He saved their lives.

Nicholas said 'I just helped a little, I was in the right place at the right time.' Nicholas did not think that anyone would just stand by when bad things are happening.

Nicholas died in July 2015 he was 106 years old. For his whole life Nicholas stood up to bad things by doing good things.

Vera's story is one of our other life stories for HMD 2016.

Glossary:

Government – The 'government' are a group of people whose job it is to make decisions about what a country should do.

Jewish – Jews are a group of people who share an ethnicity called Judaism. Judaism is also a religion, which most Jews follow. If you are a Jew people will call you 'Jewish'.

Kristallnacht – '*Kristallnacht*' is German for crystal night. We use the word '*Kristallnacht*' to talk about the night of 9 November 1938 when the Nazis smashed the shops of Jewish people. The Nazis also killed and arrested lots of Jews on this night. The broken glass from the shops looked a bit like crystal so people called the night when these terrible things happened: crystal night: '*Kristallnacht*'. This night is also called the night of broken glass.

Nazis – The 'Nazis' were a group of people in Germany who believed that they were better than everyone else. The 'Nazis' were racist, they wanted to kill people who were Jewish for being 'different' to them.

Stand by – 'Stand by' is a phrase people use to talk about letting things happen. Often people use it to talk about allowing bad things to happen. A person who stands by does nothing and says nothing to stop bad things from happening. Someone who tries to stop bad things from happening, or who speaks out against them happening, is someone who does not stand by (even if the things they do do not stop the bad things from happening).