

Storyboard for Kindertransport: The Unknown Children of the Holocaust

Introduction – Based on suggestions, I'll open with grandmother & family background.

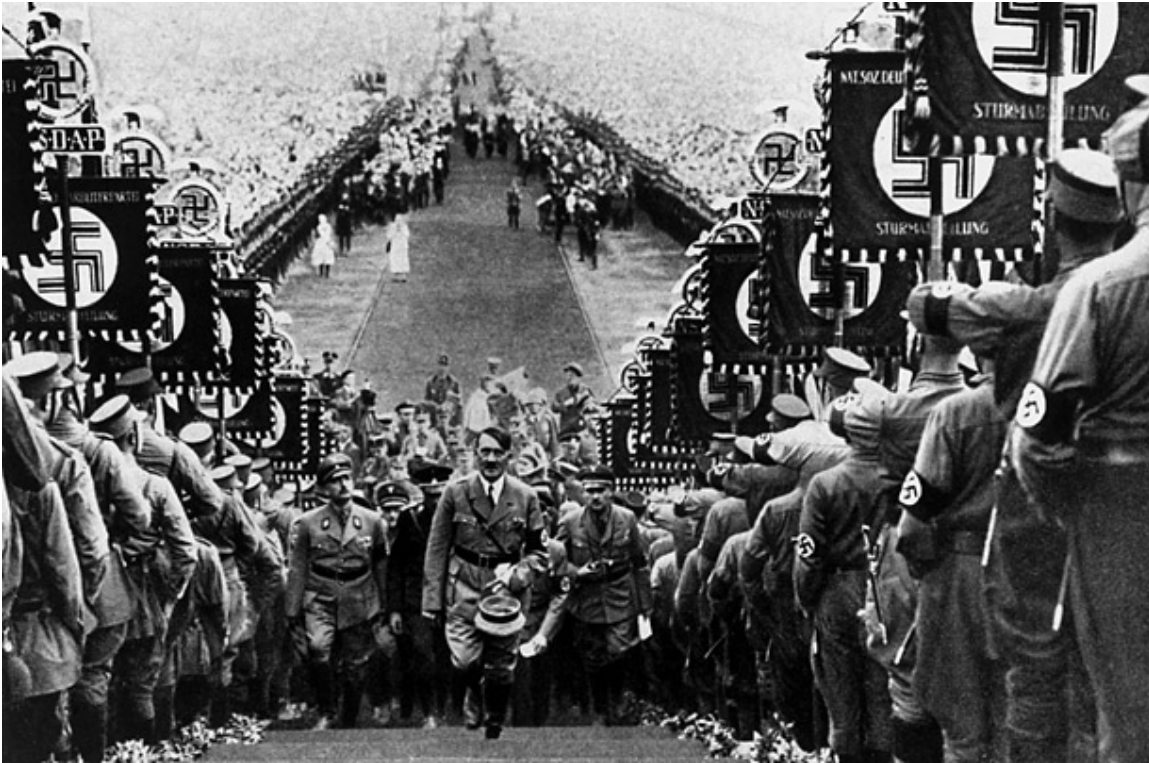
On February 21st, 1924, my grandmother and her twin sister, Klara and Amalie Aron, were born in Vienna, Austria to Nathan and Emily Aron. The Arons owned a farm outside of Vienna that had been in the family for generations. The family business revolved around working various aspects of the farm and providing the locals with the fruits of the land—a profession that earned them respect amongst the community. The Arons were a loving, tight-knit family and the twins and their siblings spent their younger years going to school and helping the family work on the farm. However, with Hitler's rise to power, the idyllic life that the twins had come to know would be forever altered. You see, Klara and her family were Jewish. Once Hitler and the Third Reich seized control of Austria, the idyllic life that Klara and her family had come to know would be forever altered.



Transition to Hitler's rise to power and how, initially, my grandmother was not affected by the Third Reich.

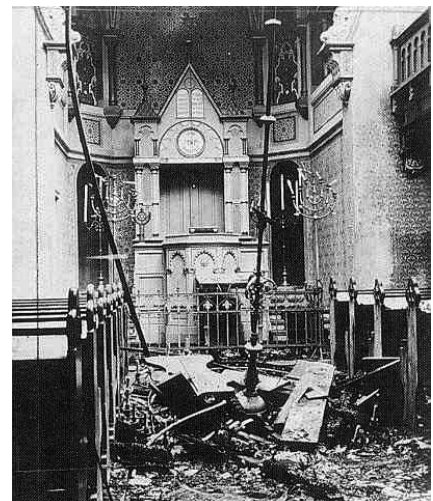
When my grandmother was nine, Germany's rising leader, Adolf Hitler, established the Third Reich. Hitler's totalitarian and anti-Semitic policies were focused on creating a superior Aryan race. In particular, Hitler espoused that the world should be cleansed of Jewish people due to their inferiority. While unsettling, Hitler's rise to power did not have any immediate effects on my grandmother or her family. All that changed, however, during Kristallnacht.





Transition –Discuss how Kristallnacht was a major turning point for the Third Reich and my grandmother.

While Hitler's power had been mostly contained to Germany, the events that took place during November 9th-10th, 1938 led to a new level of persecution. During these evenings, a series of coordinated attacks against Jews took place throughout Germany and Austria. Referred to as Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass, these attacks littered the streets with broken glass from the windows of Jewish owned businesses and synagogues.





Following Kristallnacht, my grandmother and her family no longer felt safe in their own home. Many of the Aron's friends who had property closer to the city center had stores vandalized. My grandmother's synagogue was

burned to the ground. Perhaps most disturbing, however, was that a number of family friends were murdered when trying to defend their property. As a direct result of Kristallnacht, approximately 100 people were murdered and over 30,000 were sent to concentration camps. My grandmother, family, and friends were being persecuted for the sole fact that they were Jewish.

Transition – How Kristallnacht affected the family and Austria.

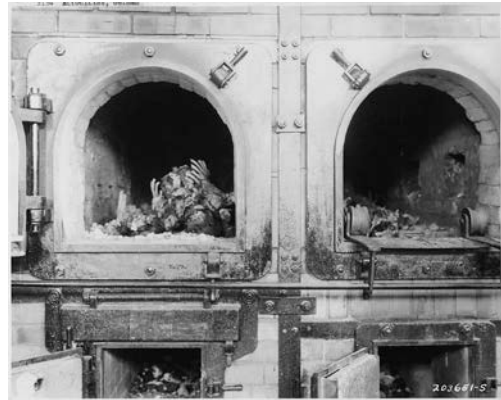
However, outrage was quickly replaced by fear as Hitler quickly took control of Austria and began instituting a number of anti-Jewish laws. Soon after Kristallnacht, my grandmother was forced to wear a yellow Star of David, barred from attending school, and given a number of curfews. The Aron family farm quickly became unprofitable as Hitler banned the family from selling goods to the community. My grandmother's family had not option but to comply. If you were found to be in violation of the laws, you would either be shot or sent to a concentration camp. Initially, my grandmother's family was able to avoid attention for two reasons: they lived on the outskirts of town and they did not look obviously Jewish. Accordingly, the family was able to avoid excessive persecution by maintaining low profiles.



However, conditions soon worsened throughout Austria and my grandmother's family was placed on a list to be sent to a concentration camp.

Transition – Discuss the establishment of the Kindertransport

My grandmother and her family were not the only ones outraged by Hitler's invasion of Austria. In the wake of Kristallnacht, Jewish and Quaker leaders requested aid from Neville Chamberlain, the Prime Minister of England. Part of the request focused on granting temporary admission to unaccompanied Jewish children aged between zero and 17. Each family was able to send one child to safety via what would become known as the Kindertransport rescue movement. After



much negotiating, it was decided that as many children as possible would be sent from Nazi Germany, Austria, Poland, and Czechoslovakia to the relative safety of Great Britain.







Transition – Discuss the decision to send one child out of Austria. How does one choose which child to save?

Once the Kindertransport movement was implemented, a local leader approached my great-grandmother to see which child she wanted to send out of Austria. She was told that only one child could be selected, which posed an impossible question: which of her four children would she save? After much discussion amongst members of the family, it was decided that either my grandmother or her twin sister would be given the spot on the Kindertransport. However, my great-grandmother was not satisfied to only send one child. After much begging, pleading, and bribing, my great-grandmother was able to secure two spots on the Kindertransport: one for Klara and one for Amalie.

Transition – Discuss the Kindertransport journey.

At the young age of 14, my grandmother and her twin sister left Austria on the Kindertransport. It was the last time my grandmother and her sister would see her mother, father, brother, or sister. The Kindertransport took the girls from Vienna to Holland via train, where they were then transported via ship to England. Once they arrived in England, my grandmother and her sister spent the remainder of the war residing in a flat on Elgin Crescent, in the middle of London. Like all the other children on the Kindertransport, the girls knew nobody and their worldly possessions consisted of a few items of clothing and photos. Once the war concluded, my grandmother and her sister were granted passage to America, where both women married and had families.



Transition – Why was this such an incredible thing?

The Kindertransport most certainly saved my grandmother from a life of medical experimentation and death. During the Nazi regime, Hitler became fascinated with twins and their genetic makeup. At Auschwitz, one of the most notorious concentration camps, Hitler assigned Dr. Josef Mengele as a head physician. Instead of becoming a victim of Hitler's twisted experiments, my grandmother remained safely in England until the end of the war.



Conclusion – Wrap up the Kindertransport, twin experimentation, and how fortunate my grandmother was to escape such persecution.

While the Kindertransport was instrumental in saving thousands of lives, the transports were cut short with the outbreak of World War II in 1939. My grandmother and her sister were two of fewer than 10,000 children who were saved by the Kindertransport. Sadly, the remainder of her family did not meet with such an end. Upon conclusion of World War II, my grandmother was informed that her entire family had been murdered in a concentration camp; the concentration camp that the girls would have been sent to if not for the Kindertransport. Had the Kindertransport been unsuccessful in either conception or implementation, my grandmother and her sister would likely have been victims of Mengele's experiments. Not only would she have been unable to lead a happy life, but I would not be alive to carry on my grandmother's legacy.

Conclusion Ending—For the images accompanying the last paragraph, I wanted to include a montage of as many Kindertransport 'children' as possible. I think that by including so many children, and putting faces to a number, the emotional aspect of the story will be more compelling. Thus far, I have found the following images to begin the conclusion and, eventually, fade out.

