

JDA member Ruth Fallman tells her sobering Holocaust story on BBC2's 'See Hear' TV programme



JDA member Ruth Fallman told 'See Hear' TV viewers all about her escape from Nazi Germany in

1943 when she was four years old. She was appearing in a special programme broadcast on 23 January 2014, commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day. It looked at the effects of the Nazi Holocaust on the Deaf community.

Ruth said that she was one of nine deaf pupils from the Israelite School for Deaf Children in Berlin who escaped to the UK in 1943 on the famous Kindertransport rescue mission. They also took with them one hearing girl, who was the headmaster's daughter.

The headmaster, Dr Felix Reich, who was preparing to send his little band of children out of Berlin, told them it was "a secret, you must not tell anyone."

Ruth remembered: "After our two-day journey to England, we were taken to the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children. I was unaware of what was happening to Jews in Germany and grew up without any family in England. When I was 18, I was re-united with my parents in Shanghai, but my grandmother and brother had been caught by the Nazis in Berlin and perished in the Holocaust."

Ruth's fellow pupils at the Israelite School for Deaf Children in Berlin were not as fortunate as her school friends who travelled with her to the UK, as the plaque below testifies.

Ruth and her husband Harold re-visited the site of her former school in 1985. Here they are shown looking at the plaque which reads:



'In this house in 1942 were 146 deaf and dumb Jewish residents who were taken by force by Fascist thugs and murdered. In memory of the dead and for the living, a warning.'