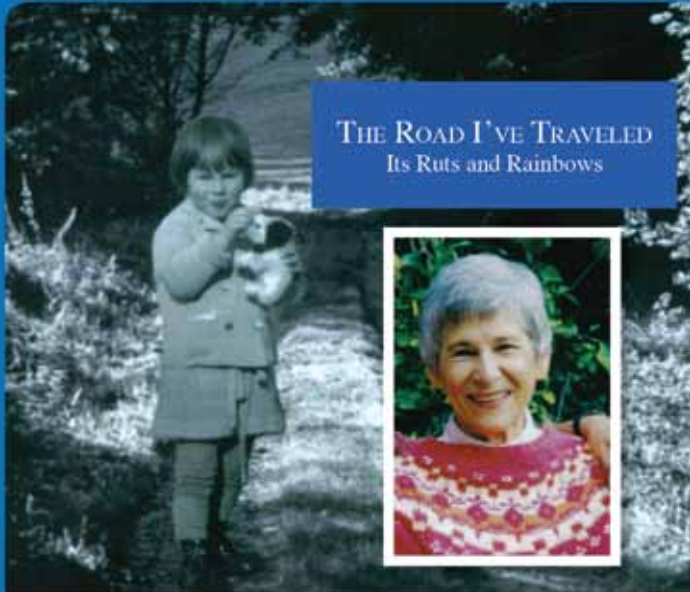


THE ROAD I'VE TRAVELED  
Its Ruts and Rainbows



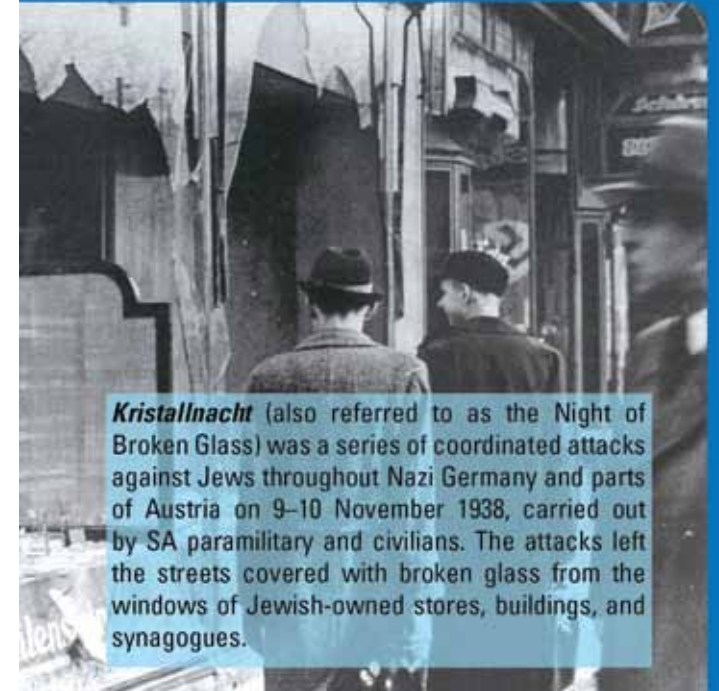
Erica Kanter  
Holocaust Survivor



My father,  
Dr. Paul L. Hecht

In 1935, German Jews were stripped of their citizenship. On October 1, 1938, my father lost his medical license, and Jewish physicians were forbidden to practice medicine, except for treating Jewish patients. After *Kristallnacht*, my father was arrested and sent to Dachau.

At that time, release from a concentration camp was still possible if the prisoner had already applied for a visa to emigrate from Germany and if he had served in the German army during World War I. My father qualified on both accounts. My father spent a month in Dachau before being released.



*Kristallnacht* (also referred to as the Night of Broken Glass) was a series of coordinated attacks against Jews throughout Nazi Germany and parts of Austria on 9–10 November 1938, carried out by SA paramilitary and civilians. The attacks left the streets covered with broken glass from the windows of Jewish-owned stores, buildings, and synagogues.

**The Kindertransport**

While my father was still in Dachau, my mother tried desperately to find ways to get Lisa, Ted and me out of Germany as quickly as possible. The Kindertransport ("Children's Transport"), as it was called, aimed to rescue 10,000 children and send them to foster homes in England, where they would be safe.

With the help of this organization, my mother succeeded in contacting three English families who volunteered to take us. My family, the Cornishes, lived in Marple, a small town outside Manchester.



One of my favorite pictures of my mother and me.



Uncle and Auntie Cornish in their garden in Marple, outside Manchester, England, 1939.



A rare visit with my sister, Lisa, and my brother, Ted in Harrow, outside London, 1939

In the spring of 1940, my father was informed that we had received permission from the American consulate in London to leave for the United States where we would all be reunited.



The Britannic, on which we sailed to the United States in 1940, was later a troop ship during World War II.

Holocaust Memorial Stories  
Erica Kanter

