

About Book Burning

"They (Nazis) went to public libraries, they went to school libraries, they went to private homes, and the authors and the titles of certain books were just pulled off the shelf. They were loaded on trucks and they were taken downtown to the famous street of Unter den Linden, which is one of the main thoroughfares in Berlin, in front of Humboldt University, which is a longstanding of learning, and they piled the books sky high and they waited."

"And at night, again, the torch parades; that's standard operating procedure for



Holocaust Survivor
Kurt Marburg



1942 Wansee Conference
70th Anniversary Observance
Video of Presentation
by Kurt Marburg

Nazis." "...lends, let's say, the impact, makes the impact stronger. They marched from the side streets onto that square, played music. They waited until it was really dark, until the torches on, then they threw gasoline onto that mountainous pileup of books. And then they took their torches and threw them onto the books. That was the end of literature, of free literature, in Germany.

"My father read the book that was written by Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, which was also—Erich Maria Remarque was I think he had some French relatives in his family. But anyway,

Kristallnacht commemorations point to the need to show the world that we must stop hate in its tracks before it leads to the ultimate: a final solution. Yet, in remembrance, there is hope.

— Kurt Marburg
Read on the 72nd Anniversary
of Kristallnacht

he wrote the book, and it tells about a German group of students, university students, who volunteer in World War I. And he describes the agony of the trench warfare, and none of them come back. Of course, that was anti-military: that book had to be—my father hid the book, because it told his story, what he went through on the Somme in 1917. But that book was also banned."

Kurt Siegbert Marburg, Interviewed by Tori Lockler
November 4, 2010
Born August 17, 1924 in Berlin, Germany
Immigrated to the United States,
Arrived in Hoboken, NJ, Nov. 4, 1938
Five days prior to Kristallnacht, 11/9/1938



Photo: 1938 Interior of Berlin
synagogue after Kristallnacht