



### **Edith's Story, Chapter 3**

And after Kristallnacht in the November, the 18<sup>th</sup> of November it was arranged that all the Jewish children had to leave school so that I couldn't understand, and we were left, the two of us at home, we used to play together. And then it came to St Nicholas' Day, the 6<sup>th</sup> of December I think it was or whenever, all the children used to get an orange and that was the first year they didn't come to us. And as children it was hard but you get over that. And then my mother tried her best to get us out of Germany. And got in touch with the refugee committee in England and they managed to find two families in Leeds which was very, very good because the two lived next to each other, in fact they were in a grocer's shop in Leeds when it was, the lady from the refugee committee asked "Anybody take two little sisters?" and Mrs Craskin who I went with said "I'll take one" and her neighbour says "Well we'll have the other girl" because she, my adopted sister is just a year and a half older than me and I was company for her. In fact I was very very lucky to find a family. And then I can tell you about the train journey which was something to remember. My mother and father took us to Frankfurt to meet all the others and then my aunt and uncle from, another aunt and uncle from Frankfurt were still in Germany but they had visas to go to America and we all met at the station and they put us in charge of 2 16-year-old girls who weren't very nice really but they did look after us, we'd never seen the sea, we'd never seen a boat so it was a bit, the whole journey was, from Frankfurt onwards we got to the border and the Nazis came on, the SS came on, had we got anything, and my sister and I were sat like this. I can remember the, she was shaking. I was just, I don't know what I was. And then we got into Holland and the train stopped at the first station, all people came with food for us, since then they'd had quite a few trains going through and they met the trains with a bit of food and then we went on to Rotterdam I think we left and the overnight journey to Harwich. Which unfortunately I'm not a very good traveller and they've got, at the side they've got, you know your sick and we put our socks there, we didn't know and the other girl that was called Edith that was looking after us said "Oh you'd better not leave those there, that's not for your socks" and out of all the girls on the boat I was the only one sick. It was the most – they couldn't understand it because it was such a soft easy crossing that night but I managed to be sick. And I was a bit shaky when we got in but everybody started being taken away which was, people came and we were sort of left only a few of us and then two

ladies came and says “We’re taking you, come on we’re taking you to Leeds”. And they put us, they came with us on the train and Mrs Craskin and Mrs Bloomberg met us at Leeds station and took us to their house. The first week or so my sister stayed with me, she wouldn’t go, but she was only – our birthdays were the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, we came on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of May and it was her birthday the 20<sup>th</sup> of May so it was an emotional week. And then we were, you can say the novelty of Grange View. Because quite a few people came in to see us, we were the first evacuees from Germany they’d seen and we were just two little girls.