



7 DPA SERIES: THE NAZI HOLOCAUST - SERIES II — On November 7, 1938, Ernst vom Rath, the third secretary of the German embassy in Paris was shot by a 17-year-old Jew, Herschel Grynszpan. The Nazi reaction to the murder became known as Kristallnacht (Night of the Broken Glass). Reinhard Heydrich, chief of the SD (Sicherheitsdienst; Security Service) ordered the SS, the SD, and the police force to burn all synagogues in Germany and Austria, and destroy Jewish stores. Within hours, Heydrich reported that more than 175 synagogues were burned or demolished, and 7,500 Jewish-owned stores were looted or destroyed. Windows in Jewish shops in every German city were broken and the streets covered with broken glass. About 20,000 Jews were arrested. Hermann Goering decided the Jews would have to pay for the damage they provoked. They were fined one billion marks. Hitler was perplexed by the global cry of outrage against the Nazi brutality. But he dismissed it as additional proof of the international Jewish conspiracy. The above photo aids show the Great Synagogue in Oranienburger Strasse (Berlin) in flames on the "Night of the Broken Glass" (November 9-10, 1938).

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