

DOCUMENT: MATTHEW HALTON REPORTS

Matthew Halton traveled to and wrote about Nazi Germany for the *Toronto Daily Star* immediately after the Nazis came to power:



Matthew Halton, 1930s. - Collection of David Halton

“I saw a parade of hundreds of children, between the ages of seven and sixteen, carrying the swastika and shouting at intervals, ‘The Jews must be destroyed.’ ”

“My guess is...that Hitler has come to stay until he is displaced by assassination, civil war or a disastrous foreign war.”

— March 30, 1933

“The least that a Jew in Germany can suffer today for the crime of being a Jew is the loss of the ordinary rights of citizenship. What else is in store for them, apart from what the history of this year has already recorded, will soon be known.”

— October 27, 1933

He also wrote about the 1936 Winter Olympics:

“They were so true to the Olympic ideal that before the games started they took down all those anti-Jewish signs which once you could see from the train when travelling from Munich south.”

— February 29, 1936

“The most notorious Jewbaiter of Germany is the unspeakable Julius Streicher...His newspaper, *Der Stürmer*, is full of obscene attacks on the Jews...For the period of the winter games this paper was toned down in South Germany, and in Garmisch-Partenkirchen I couldn’t buy it at all. But here in the Saar you can see *Der Stürmer* on every street corner, pick it up in every cafe and beer-room.”

— March 6, 1936

While covering Berlin Summer Games, Halton slipped away from the Olympic events to meet and interview individuals who had been in concentration camps. One of those Halton interviewed was a Jewish piano player:

Jewish piano player - “There is nothing of the essential me that they could hurt with all their rods.”

Halton - “Why do you speak so carelessly? Aren’t you afraid you’ll go back to a concentration camp?”

Jewish piano player - “I know I’ll go back, I know that a year from now I’ll be dead. That’s why I speak my mind.”