

1938年3月, 纳粹德国并吞了奥地利。当时在奥的18余万犹太人一下子坠入了灾难的深渊。要逃出厄运, 只有离开这个国家。可是到哪儿去弄出国签证呢? 当时的犹太难民要想在维也纳申请到一张签证非常困难。这时, 何凤山对法西斯的种族歧视非常反威, 对犹太民族的遭遇十分同情。他采用发放签证的办法, 对犹太人尽力帮助, 使数千犹太人逃出了法西斯的魔掌, 逃到了上海或辗转到达了其他地方。

而今已是耄耋老人的 Eric Goldstaub, 当时是一个 17 岁的青年, 为签证奔走了 50 家领事馆, 却每次都空手而归。正当他绝望之时,竟从中国领事馆得到了 20 份签证。他的经历在犹太人中传开后, 中国领事馆前更是排起了长龙。

莫里斯·格罗斯菲尔德在"水晶之夜"反犹暴动当天被抓进了达豪集中营。后来还是在他的妻子施特拉向纳粹当局出示了中国签证后,莫里斯才获得释放。随后他们一家三口辗转逃到了上海。

还有很多犹太人也是凭着何凤山博士发放的签证而逃脱了希特勒的魔掌。

几十年过去了, 那些被搭救的犹太人及其后代并没有忘记何凤山。后来, 一些人克服困难把有关证据送到了以色列大屠杀纪念馆。经过核实评审, 以色列政府于2001年1月举行隆重仪式, 追认何凤山为"国际义人", 并将授予非犹太人的最高荣誉奖"义人奖"接给了他。

In March 1938, Germany annexed Austria (the Anschluss). As a result, about 180,000 Jews in Austria were faced with imminent Nazi persecution, and the only way to survive was to leave the country. It was very difficult for a Jew to get a visa from any of the consulates in Vienna. Dr. Ho Feng Shan rejected this anti-Semitism and decided to issue numerous visas to the Jews seeking to escape Austria after the Anschluss. With his help, thousands of Jewish refugees managed to flee Austria for safe haven in Shanghai.

Eric Goldstaub, who is now over 90, was a teenager as WWII approached. He hurried from one foreign consulate to another trying to apply for entry visas for his family, but all of them turned him down. His desperate rush around the district of consulates ended when he came to the Chinese Consulate. There Dr. Ho Feng Shan, the Consul General, issued 20 visas for Goldstaub's parents and relatives. Word spread of his success, and lines of desperate refugees formed at the Chinese Consulate seeking the life-saving visas.

Morris Grossfeld, another survivor, was put into the Dachau concentration camp on the day of Kristallnacht. He was freed only after his wife Stella showed the Chinese visas to the Gestapo. With these visas, Morris together with his wife and son finally fled to Shanghai.

There are many more stories of the holocaust survivors who escaped the Nazi persecution by fleeing to Shanghai with the visas issued by Dr. Ho Feng Shan.

Although decades have passed, the former Jewish refugees and their descendants have not forgotten Dr. Ho. They contributed their documents and memoirs to Yad Vashem. In 2001, the State of Israel held a grand ceremony which honored Dr. Ho Feng Shan as the Righteous Among the Nations, which is the highest honor given to non-Jews who assisted Jews during the Holocaust.