



■ Dr Edgar Feuchtwanger in Munich in 2002 outside the apartment building where Adolf Hitler once lived

Historian shares memories of having Hitler for a neighbour

Edgar Feuchtwanger grew up opposite the dictator's flat

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One of German-Jewish historian Dr Edgar Feuchtwanger's earliest memories is of his mother saying they were short of milk. The milkman had left extra bottles for Hitler - who lived across the road from the family.

From 100 yards away a young Dr Feuchtwanger witnessed the rise of one of the world's most notorious dictators. Hitler moved to their quiet road in Munich in 1929.

In September, Dr Feuchtwanger, now 88, will be speaking at the London Jewish Cultural Centre (LJCC) at Ivy House, North End Road, Golders Green, as part of a seminar on German and Austrian Jewish refugees.

He was eight years old when he first saw his family's new neighbour.

"I was being taken for a walk along the pavement in front of his house and just then he came out," said Dr



■ Dr Feuchtwanger today...

Feuchtwanger. "He had a belted mackintosh and a trilby hat, like people used to wear in those days. He looked at me because I was there.

"There were a few people around who shouted 'Heil Hitler' and he lifted his hat like an ordinary person and then got into the car.

"But then, of course, it all changed."

Officers of the SS, the Nazi Party's elite guard, took over a section of Hitler's home.

Black Mercedes drove up the road and the young Dr Feuchtwanger could not walk on the pavement outside Hitler's house.



■ ...and in 1925, aged 11

"You had to stay on the opposite side of the road," he explained. "You would see the chauffeurs come out and start the engines and then bodyguards would come out.

Jackboots

"You could hear their jackboots clattering up the pavement, and then finally he would come out, taking a seat by the driver."

One Saturday in March 1938, a number of large grey six-wheeled vehicles appeared at the end of the road.

"I was 14, so of course I was interested," Dr Feuchtwanger said. "The next day

the vehicles, which Hitler was using to invade Austria, were gone.

"I didn't see Hitler leave his house, but I did see him return the following Wednesday. He struck his familiar pose, standing in the car, holding onto the windscreen with one hand, while raising the other in a Nazi salute.

"The crowds on the street were rather thin and quickly dispersed as the car stopped outside his house and he went inside."

Dr Feuchtwanger was sent to England soon after war broke out in 1939. But his father had already been sent to a concentration camp, and then let out, as a warning to other Jews of what was to come once war began.

Dr Feuchtwanger went on to attend Cambridge University and became a renowned British historian.

■ His talk, *German And Austrian Jewish Refugees: Their Impact And Legacy*, is at the LJCC on September 12 and 13.