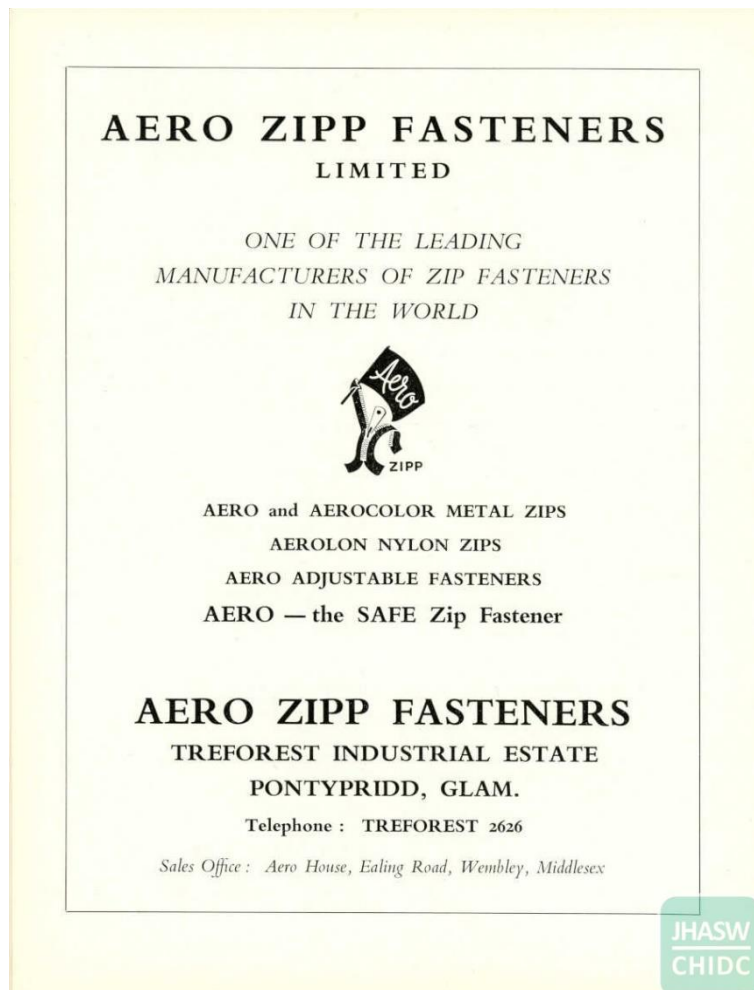


Worksheet: Aero Zipp Fasteners at Treforest Trading Estate

Treforest Trading Estate, near Pontypridd, was set up as part of the Special Areas Act of 1934. The Act was created to help parts of Britain with high unemployment, and it offered support to businesses to set up in these areas. When the Nazis began seizing Jewish businesses in Germany in the years after 1933, many Jewish refugees fled here to establish their businesses with help from this scheme.

By May 1940, 55 businesses started by Jewish refugees were running at Treforest. They provided jobs for around 1,800 local people. One of these factories was Aero Zipp Fasteners set up by refugee industrialist Joachim Koppel, a Jewish businessman who spent many years of his life in Berlin until he had to flee. Aero Zipp produced metal zip fasteners. They had their factory at Treforest and their offices in London. During World War 2, like several other Jewish businesses, they contributed to the war effort by making zips for military equipment.



Advertisement for Aero Zipp Fasteners, 1969.

Image: Jewish History Association of South Wales/Cymdeithas Hanes Iddewig De Cymru (JHASW/CHIDC)
<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/1777191> [Second image of the item].

Questions:

What impact did Jewish businesses like Aero Zipp Fasteners have in Wales?

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What impact did they have in Britain more widely?

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