

**UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM**

**WILLIAM LEVINE FAMILY INSTITUTE
FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION**

Holocaust Narrative through Historical Photos



Image from an illuminated manuscript, drawn around 1353, showing Jews being burned. During the Black Plague epidemic in Europe, Jews were wrongfully accused of poisoning water wells and spreading disease.

Pierart dou Tielt, Royal Library of Belgium



Millions of soldiers died and whole areas of Europe were destroyed during World War I (1914-1918.)
In this 1916 photo, French soldiers explore newly-captured German trenches after the Battle of the Somme.

Reuters / Collection Odette Carrez

THE
TREATY OF PEACE
BETWEEN
THE ALLIED AND ASSOCIATED POWERS
AND
GERMANY,

The Protocol annexed thereto, the Agreement respecting
the military occupation of the territories of the Rhine,

AND THE
TREATY
BETWEEN
FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN

RESPECTING
Assistance to France in the event of unprovoked
aggression by Germany.

Signed at Versailles, June 28th, 1919.

(With Maps and Signatures in facsimile.)



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The Treaty of Versailles, signed in June 1919 at the Palace of Versailles near Paris, laid out the peace terms put in place by the victorious Allied Powers against the defeated Germany. Many Germans believed the peace terms were unfair.

Public Domain



After World War I, Germany became a democracy and its government became known as the “Weimar Republic.” In this 1919 photograph, German women are lining up to vote for the first time.

ullstein bild / Contributor / Getty Images



Three German Jewish sisters - Eva, Hilde, and Dodi Anker - go sledding in Berlin, Germany, in January 1929, four years before the Nazi Party takes power.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of George Fogelson



After the previous building was burned, German chancellor Adolf Hitler greets President Paul von Hindenburg during opening ceremonies for the new Reichstag (Parliament) in Potsdam, Germany
March 21, 1933

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of B. I. Sanders



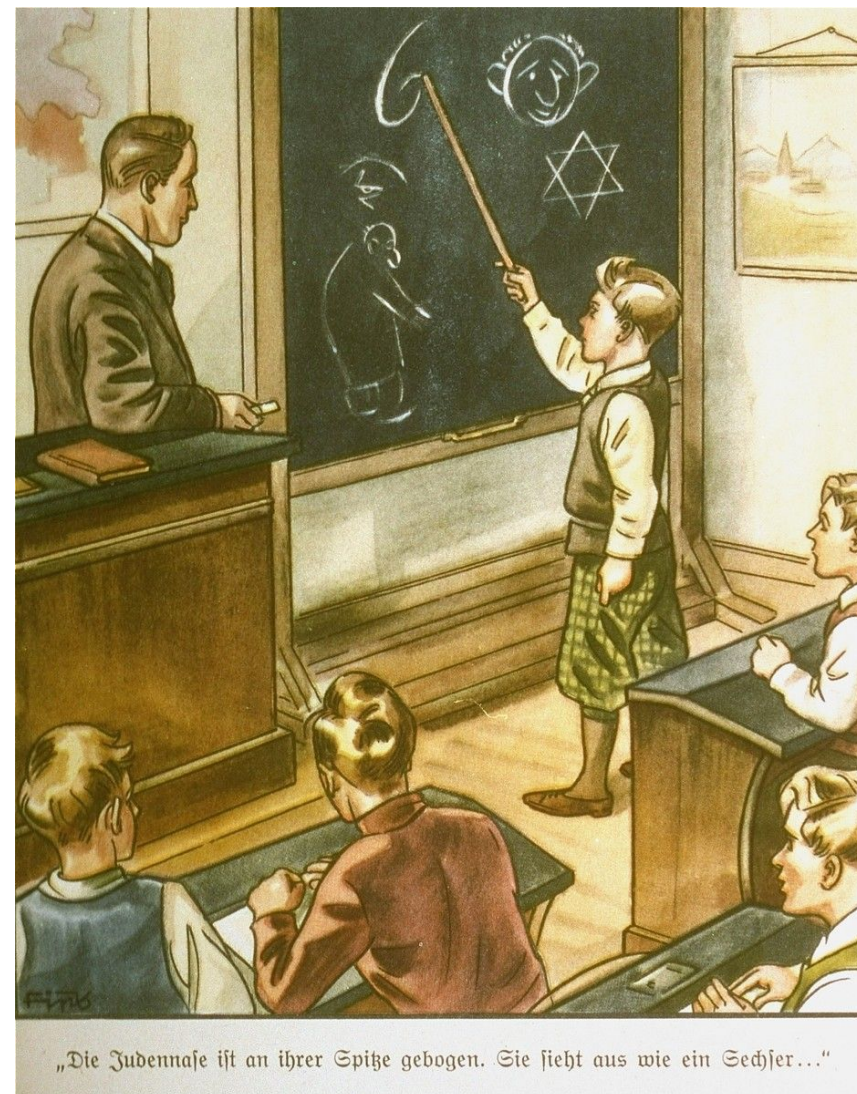
Members of German police (*left*) and Nazi paramilitary (*right*) patrol Berlin together on March 5, 1933, the day of the Reichstag (German Parliament) elections.

Bundesarchiv, Bild 102-14381 / Georg Pahl / CC-BY-SA 3.0, CC BY-SA 3.0 de



On April 1, 1933, the Nazi Party organized a boycott of Jewish-owned businesses throughout Germany. Here, members of the SA (Nazi paramilitary) hold boycott signs and block the entrance to a store.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park



Antisemitism was at the core of the Nazi Party's policies in Germany. This 1930s propaganda poster (*left*), which reads “Behind the Enemy Powers: The Jew,” and this drawing from a 1938 antisemitic children's book (*right*), demonstrate how the Nazi government encouraged antisemitic beliefs.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum



A motorcyclist in Germany in 1935 looks up at a sign that reads “Jews are unwelcome here.” Many towns and businesses created their own discriminatory signs against Jews and placed them in public areas.

Few Germans protested discrimination against Jews. Within three years of the Nazi Party taking power in Germany, Jews were stripped of their German citizenship.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Margaret Chelnick



In Nazi Germany, lawmakers and scientists used the now-disproven theories of eugenics (or “racial hygiene”) to advance Nazi racial goals. They believed they could predict whether you would become a criminal, or if you were going to be a “burden on society” based on your “race.”

The Nazis classified Jews as an inferior race, and outlawed “interracial” relationships. This 1938 textbook attempted to show students how to visually distinguish between German youth and Jewish youth. By the time this textbook was published, the Nazi government did not consider Jews to be German.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of the Library of Congress



In March 1938, Nazi Germany took over Austria. Most Austrians welcomed the Nazis, but Austrian Jews were immediately subjected to German antisemitic laws. Here, Austrian Nazis and local residents humiliate Jews by forcing them to scrub the sidewalks.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park



The old synagogue in Aachen, Germany, built in 1862, was destroyed in the *Kristallnacht* pogrom on November 9-10, 1938.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Stadtarchiv Aachen



Historians estimate that approximately 250,000 people with physical and mental disabilities were murdered as part of the Nazi “euthanasia” program. Gas chambers were constructed at six sites, including Hartheim Castle near Linz, in German-annexed Austria (shown here), to speed the killing.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Andras Tsagatakis



Jewish refugees from Austria, members of the Reis, Rubinstein, and Kessler families, pose on the deck of the *SS Virgilio* in July 1939. After traveling by ship from Italy to Chile, they traveled over land to reach their new homes in La Paz, Bolivia.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Leo Spitzer



In this photo, taken shortly after the German invasion of Poland in September 1939, German advance guards and scouts watch the destruction of buildings in a small Polish town.

AP Photo



Uniformed Gestapo agents monitor a group of Jews who are being deported from their homes in Lörrach, Germany, on October 22, 1940. Non-Jewish neighbors watch from their windows.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Photographer: Gustav Kuehner



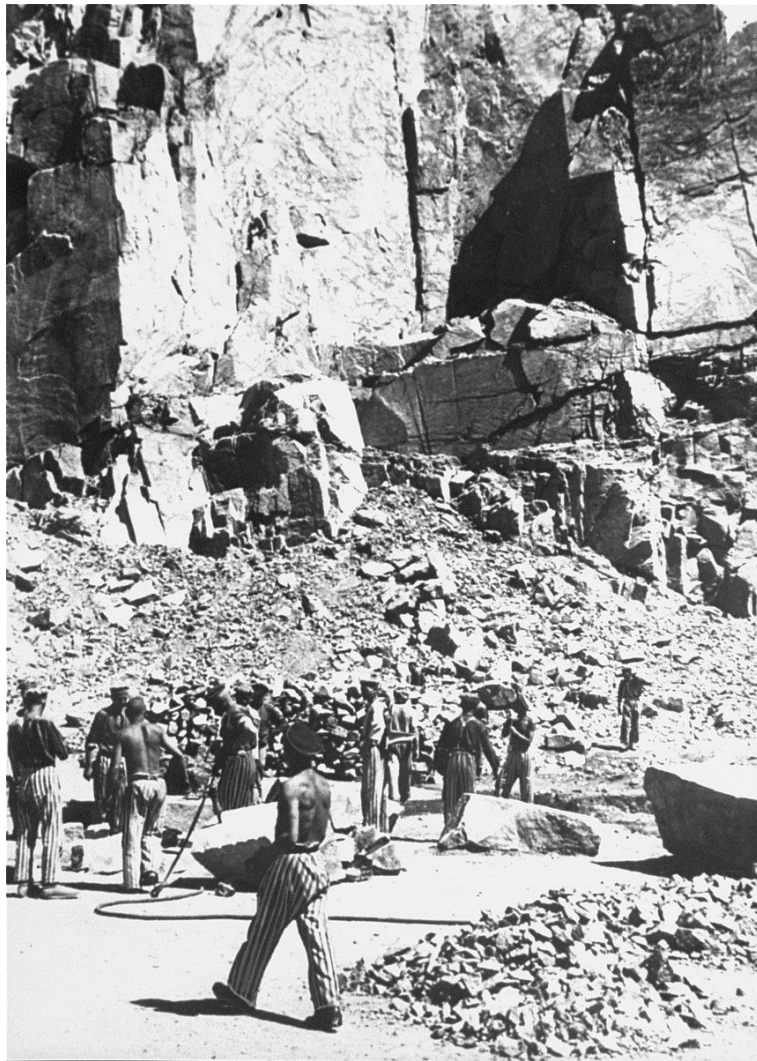
In many cities and regions, Jewish communities were forced into ghettos. They had to move from their homes and lost their freedom of movement. Many had to labor for the Germans. Hunger and disease were common. In this photo, taken in summer 1941, Jews in the Warsaw ghetto in German-occupied Poland attempt to earn money at an open air market.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Rafael Scharf



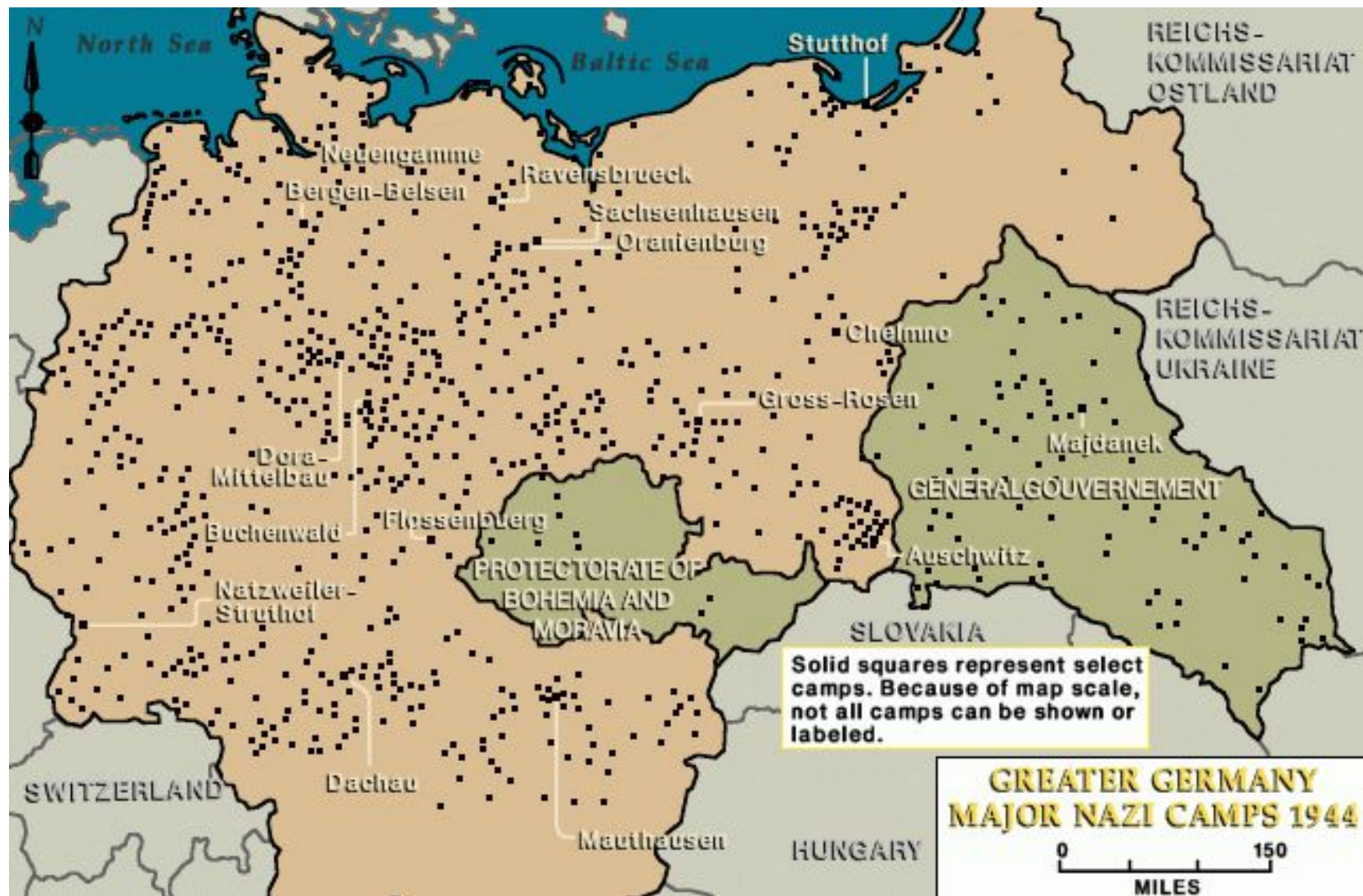
In this photo, taken in 1941-1942, children in the Kovno ghetto in Lithuania write in their notebooks. In many ghettos, Jewish communities set up schools for children, but often German authorities forced these schools to close, sending the children to work in factories instead. In Kovno, schools officially closed in August 1942, but some children continued their education in secret.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Eliezer Zilberis



Nazi Germany used concentration camp and ghetto labor to assist with the German war effort. Prisoners did backbreaking physical labor, like in the quarry at the Mauthausen concentration camp in German-annexed Austria (as seen in this 1941 photo, *left*). Even children were forced to labor in factories, as seen in this 1941-1943 photo from the Łódź ghetto in German-occupied Poland (*right*).

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Archiv der KZ-Gedenkstätte Mauthausen; United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Sidney Harsztark



The Nazi concentration camp system expanded rapidly after the beginning of World War II in September 1939. By 1944, hundreds of large and small camps were established in or near factories and other areas where prisoners were forced to labor on behalf of the Germans.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum



In eastern Europe, mobile killing squads followed behind the German army, rounding up and murdering Jews and other perceived “enemies.” In this photo, taken in Vinnitsa, Ukraine, between 1941-1943, German soldiers of the Waffen-SS and the Reich Labor Service look on as a member of an Einsatzgruppe (mobile killing unit) prepares to shoot a Ukrainian Jew kneeling on the edge of a mass grave filled with corpses.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Sharon Paquette



Jews from the Łódź ghetto in German-occupied Poland board trains to the Chelmno killing center.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum



In this photo, taken in May 1944, an elderly Hungarian Jewish woman walks towards the gas chambers with three young children and a baby in her arms. They have just gone through the selection process on the ramp at the Birkenau killing center, part of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp complex in German-occupied Poland.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Yad Vashem (Public Domain)



A group of Roma prisoners, awaiting instructions from their German captors, sit near the fence of the Belzec concentration camp in German-occupied Poland in 1940.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Archiwum Dokumentacji Mechanicznej

were rushed in under cover of darkness and unloaded on the northern tip of Guadalcanal.

Naval officers explained that the Nipponese must move warships to within 100 miles of the island by dusk in order to make the dash to the island and out again before daylight. This would place them within easy reconnaissance and bombing range of American planes.

Sixteen Missing From United Nations Vessel

● An East Coast Port, INS — Sixteen men are missing from the crew of a United Nations vessel torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic late in September, survivors reaching this port revealed today.

Thirty-eight survivors managed to cling to debris after the ship went down so fast it was impossible to free the life boats. Later the men made their way to three life rafts and a partially destroyed life boat found floating in the water.

The survivors lashed the rafts and boat together and after two days and nights were picked up by a Norwegian vessel and taken to a South American port.

Nazis Plan to Kill All Jews

● Washington, INS—Reporting that more than 2,000,000 Jews in Hitler Europe already have been slain by the Nazis, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, chairman of the World Jewish Congress, left the prediction today that the German dictator plans to exterminate all of Europe's 4,000,000 Jews in the few remaining weeks of 1942.

Dr. Wise, who said State department sources had confirmed reports of the Hitler plan for Jewish annihilation, announced he would disclose full, documented details of the program in New York this afternoon.

Following a conference at the State department, Dr. Wise revealed these startling facts:

Hitler's physicians are using air bubbles injected into arteries and poison gas to kill off unwanted European Jews.

The Nazis have set a price of 50 Reichsmarks for each Jewish corpse.

French and Main Forces Allied headquarters said that German air assaults now are being devoted mainly to strafing attacks on the advancing Allied columns.

One American parachute unit, defending an airfield which they captured, ran into an enemy armored column, smashed it up and drove the remnants off after taking 11 prisoners.

Main Steel

● Ernie Barton proudly tipping his hat to all and sundry and passing out the cigars with a lavish hand as he accepts congrats on the arrival of a baby boy at his house recently.

Mrs. Lola George defying the elements in their effort to break down a recently coiffed hair-do of curls by traversing the Stem sans hat . . . And when last seen the curls were holding up swell.

Francis Becker practically in a Seventh Heaven since he bagged the first deer of his hunting experience which dates back longer than he likes to think about . . . A persistent sort of a guy.

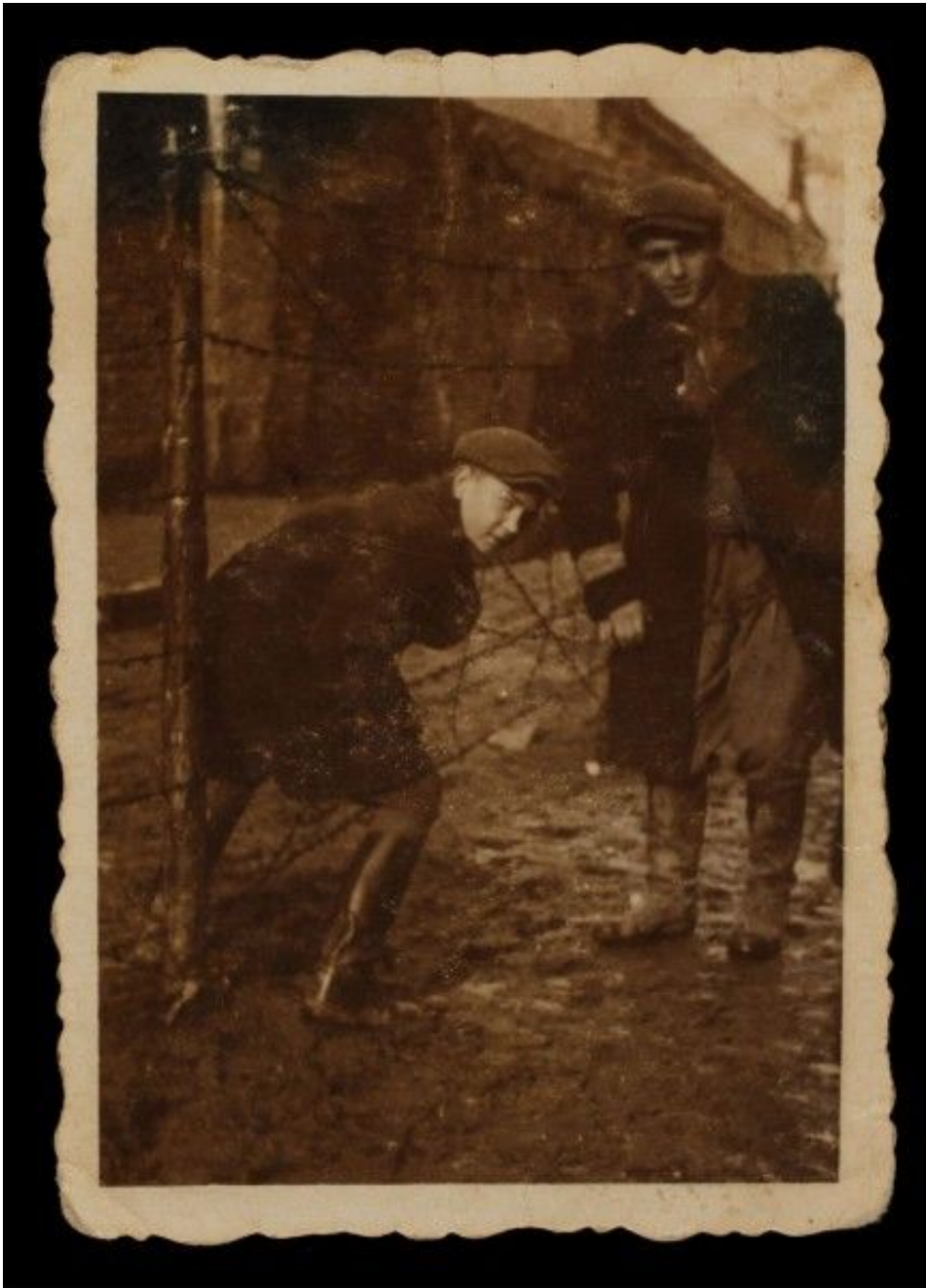
In November 1942, American newspapers reported that Nazi Germany planned to murder all European Jews.

Endicott Daily Bulletin, Endicott, NY



Members of Jewish armed resistance groups (partisans), including members of the Bielski group and escapees from the Mir ghetto, guard an airstrip in the Naliboki Forest in Belorussia (modern-day Belarus) on July 20, 1944.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Moshe Kaganovich



Jan Kostanski, a Polish teenager, is seen in this 1942 photograph entering the Warsaw Ghetto through a barbed-wire fence. He and his family ran a smuggling operation, helping to get food to Jews imprisoned in the ghetto.

When the Germans began deportations, Jan helped several members of the Wierzbicki family (a Jewish family who had been his pre-war neighbors) to escape the ghetto. Jan's family hid the Wierzbickis in their home.

US Holocaust Memorial Museum, gift of Jan Kostanski



With the help of local fishermen and resistance groups, more than 7,000 Danish Jews escaped Denmark by boat and arrived in Sweden in October 1943.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Frihedsmuseet, Copenhagen



In spring 1945, the Nazi-SS sent hundreds of thousands of concentration camp prisoners on forced marches, often for hundreds of miles with little food or rest, to prevent them from being liberated by the Allied armies. Maria Seidenberger, a non-Jewish woman in Hebertshausen, Germany, secretly took this photograph of prisoners marching to the Dachau concentration camp on April 26, 1945.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Maria Seidenberger



Newly liberated prisoners cook food on the grounds of the Dachau concentration camp in Germany.
This photograph was taken by an American soldier in May 1945.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Francis Robert Arzt



On May 5, 1945, an American soldier shows a photographer a crate of hundreds of wedding rings that had been confiscated from prisoners at the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany.

US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park



After the war, the top surviving German leaders were put on trial for Nazi Germany's crimes, including the crimes of the Holocaust. The first major trial, the International Military Tribunal, was held in Nuremberg, Germany from 1945-1946. Here, the German defendants and their lawyers listen to the trial with military police in white helmets standing behind the defendants.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park



After World War II ended, Jews returning to their hometowns to locate family and reclaim property often encountered antisemitic violence. This photo, taken in July 1946, shows Holocaust survivors murdered by local residents in Kielce, Poland, being buried in a mass grave.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Leah Lahav



After the Holocaust, many Jewish displaced persons sought to immigrate to a Jewish homeland. This photograph, taken in June 1948, shows a group of Jewish men aboard the *Altalena*, on their way to the newly-formed state of Israel.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Eva Silbiger



The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration ran displaced persons camps to care for people who had been displaced by the war until they could return home or emigrate, including Jewish Holocaust survivors. Teenagers in the Feldafing displaced persons camp in Germany pose for the camera in 1951.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Seth Weinroth