

LESSON: Overview of the Holocaust (4-Day)

PACKET 1

Instructions: Examine the sources in this packet and answer the following questions.

- Which aspect of the Holocaust do these sources best represent?
 - Antisemitic Propaganda
 - Exclusion and Legal Discrimination
 - Physical Separation and Ghettos
 - Theft and Confiscation of Property
 - Deportation
 - Concentration Camps and Forced Labor
 - Mass Killing
- What do these primary sources reveal about the ways that ordinary people were active participants or passive witnesses to persecution and even murder during the Holocaust?

Testimony from Leo Schneiderman

Leo Schneiderman

Transcript

“And there we were in that train, over a hundred people. The only facility in the train was two buckets for over a hundred men, women, and children. And the train was standing on one place. It was unbearable hot. Lack of air. So some people had an idea that the minute we start moving it's going to get cooler. But at one moment we heard that the gate opened up in the boxcar, so we thought maybe they changed their mind. They're going to leave us out. But instead they brought a few dozen Jews discovered in a hiding place, they were all badly beaten up because they were hiding. I remember one young man, all his front teeth was kicked out. And one boy's face was so badly swollen, it was just a nose that we could see--no eyes. And they added to our car. And soon we started to move. It didn't cool off. And at one moment we heard a young teenage girl crying. She had to go to the buckets in front of everybody. Her mother, her sister tried to shield her with a coat. A man was begging the people around to give a little more room his pregnant wife. Me being among the youngsters, I was asked to climb up those packages, and look out to see where are we going. I start reading signs. One recognized those names. He said that we are moving south towards Krakow. I also

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saw some Polish peasants lining the road. They were probably used to those scenes, those trains. Some made signs to us, pointing to the sky. And some went with the fingers across the throat, the throat. I didn't tell the people what I saw.”

US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Interview with Leo Schneiderman, May 24, 1990, RG-50.030.0205

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Photograph



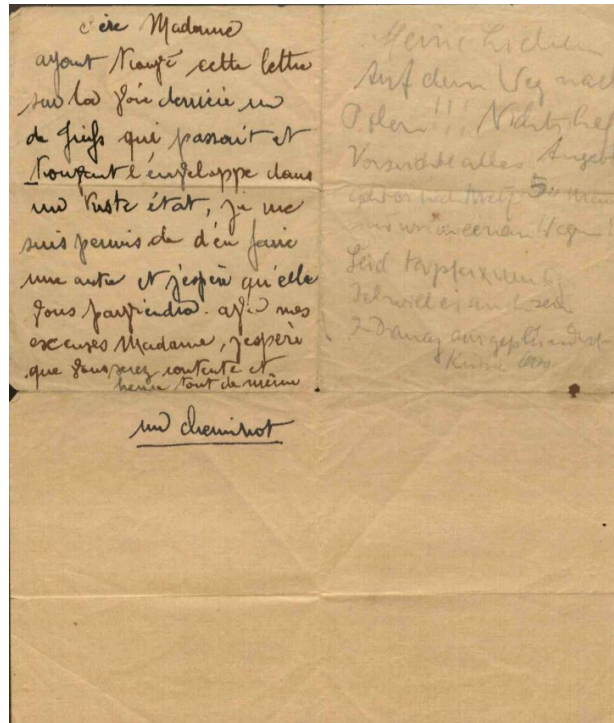
US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park

Police in Würzburg, Germany, force Jewish deportees, carrying a few personal belongings in bundles and suitcases, to walk through the city to the railroad station to be taken to the Lublin district of Poland. Historians believe that from there the surviving deportees were sent to the Sobibor killing center in July 1942, where they were murdered. [This photograph](#) was taken in April 1942.

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Primary Source



US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Simmonds family collection, 2010.490

A railway worker found a note written by Dr. Otto Simmonds while Otto was on a train from France to Auschwitz in Nazi-occupied Poland, where he was killed. The railway worker sent [the note](#) to Otto's wife Marta.

Madame,

Having found this letter on the train track after one with Jews had passed by, and finding the envelope in bad condition, I took the liberty of making a new one and hope it will reach you. Forgive me, Madame; I hope that you will be pleased and happy nonetheless.

A railway worker

My Dears

On the way to Poland!!!
Nothing helps, tried everything
Supposedly going to Metz.
We are 50 men in one wagon!!
Be brave and courageous,
I will be too.
Robbed in Drancy.

Kisses, Otto