

50 (11/2021)



# MEMORIA

MEMORY • HISTORY • EDUCATION



TU, W KWARTALE ULIC:  
SULZFELDER STR.  
(WOJSKA POLSKIEGO),  
KONDRADSTR.  
(GŁOWACKIEGO),  
KRIMINALSTR.  
(STAROSIKAWSKA)  
I BLECHGASSE  
(OBRONCÓW WESTERPLATTE),  
OD 5 XI 1941 R. DO 12 I 1942 R.  
ISTNIAŁ OBOZ DLA CYGANÓW  
(ZIGEUNERLAGER),  
OKUPACYJNE WŁADZE  
NIEMIECKIE ZAMKNEŁY W NIM  
5000 ROMÓW Z POGRANICZA  
AUSTRO-WĘGERSKIEGO  
(BURGENLANDU).  
WSKUTEK CHOROŃ I EGZEKUCJI  
ZMARŁO PONAD 600 WIĘZNIÓW.  
POZOSTAŁYCH MIESZKAŃCÓW  
OD 5 DO 12 I 1942 R.  
NIEMCY ZAGAZOWALI  
W OBOZIE ZAGŁADY  
KULMHOF AM NER  
(W CHELMNIE NAD NEREM)

AT THIS SITE, GERMAN  
AUTHORITIES ESTABLISHED  
A CAMP FOR GYPSIES  
(ZIGEUNERLAGER)  
IN THE AREA BORDERED BY  
SULZFELDER STR.  
(WOJSKA POLSKIEGO),  
KONDRADSTR.  
(GŁOWACKIEGO),  
KRIMINALSTR.  
(STAROSIKAWSKA)  
I BLECHGASSE  
(OBRONCÓW WESTERPLATTE)  
STREETS.  
OF THE 5000 ROMA MEN,  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
DEPORTED FROM AUSTRIA AND  
INCARCERATED HERE BETWEEN  
NOVEMBER 5, 1941 AND JANUARY  
12, 1942, OVER 600 DIED FROM  
DISEASES OR WERE MURDERED  
IN THE CAMP. THE REMAINING  
WERE GASED IN THE DEATH  
CAMP AT KULMHOF AM NER  
DURING THE WEEK  
OF JANUARY 5 TO 12, 1942.

MASKARAL ANDE BUT DROMA:  
SULZFELDER STR.  
(WOJSKA POLSKIEGO),  
KONDRADSTR.  
(GŁOWACKIEGO),  
KRIMINALSTR.  
(STAROSIKAWSKA)  
I BLECHGASSE  
(OBRONCÓW WESTERPLATTE)  
KATAR O 5 XI 1941 BERS ŻI KO  
O 12 I 1942 BERS SAS KOTE  
ROMANO LAGERI  
(ZIGEUNER LAGER).  
MANUŠA NIAMCOSKRE  
PHANDADE ANDE 5000 ROMEN  
KATAR O UNGRO TAJ ANDAJ  
AUSTRIA. KATAR O NASVALIMO  
O MUDARIMO MULE  
O PRAL 600 MANUŠA.  
SO A SILE KARING MANUŠA  
ANDE DIES MAŠKAR  
O 5 ŻI KO 12 I 1942 BERS  
O NIAMCO MUDARDAS  
ANDE GAZO KADO SAS ANDE  
LAGERI KULMHOF AM NER.

Urząd Miasta Łodzi

## NEW PERMANENT EXHIBITION GYPSY CAMP IN THE ŁÓDŹ GHETTO (1941-1942)

COOPERATION  
BETWEEN THE  
AUSCHWITZ MUSEUM  
AND THE  
INTERNATIONAL  
MEMORIAL FROM  
RUSSIA  
IN THE FIELD OF  
EDUCATION

LEFT BEHIND – A  
PROJECT  
OPENING UP LITTLE  
KNOWN HOLOCAUST  
HISTORIES  
AS WELL AS NEW  
TOOLS

ON THE TRAIL  
OF JEWISH CHILDREN  
IN BERLIN WITH A  
SMARTPHONE

AUSCHWITZ AS A  
MEMORY TO BE  
LEARNED FROM DURING  
THE GENEVA SUMMIT  
BETWEEN THE  
PRESIDENTS OF THE  
UNITED STATES AND  
RUSSIA

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

**COOPERATION BETWEEN  
THE AUSCHWITZ MUSEUM AND THE  
INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL FROM RUSSIA  
IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION**

**LEFT BEHIND – A PROJECT  
OPENING UP LITTLE KNOWN HOLOCAUST  
HISTORIES AS WELL AS NEW TOOLS**

**ON THE TRAIL  
OF JEWISH CHILDREN  
IN BERLIN WITH A SMARTPHONE**

**NEW PERMANENT EXHIBITION  
GYPSY CAMP IN THE ŁÓDŹ GHETTO  
(1941-1942)**

**AUSCHWITZ AS A MEMORY TO BE LEARNED  
FROM DURING THE GENEVA SUMMIT  
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTS  
OF THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA**

We invite all of you to work closely with us. We would be grateful to receive information about events, projects, publications, exhibitions, conferences or research that we should share with our readers. We also accept proposals for articles.

Paweł Sawicki, Editor-in-Chief

Our e-mail: [memoria@auschwitz.org](mailto:memoria@auschwitz.org)

Please do share information about this magazine with others, particularly via social media.

All editions: [memoria.auschwitz.org](http://memoria.auschwitz.org)

# COOPERATION BETWEEN THE AUSCHWITZ MUSEUM AND THE INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

The Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum and the International Memorial from Russia will cooperate in the fields of education and the culture of remembrance, as well as in the development of research on the history associated mainly with the fate of Soviet prisoners of war in Auschwitz. A special agreement was signed by the Museum director Dr. Piotr Cywiński and Memorial director Elena Zhemkova.

Memorial is a Russian association established in 1989, dedicated to historical research and the promotion of knowledge about the victims of Soviet repression, including the Stalinist period, as well as the protection of human rights in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

'For over 30 years, the community of Memorial has demonstrated the quality of its archival and historical work. That is why we have decided to strengthen our cooperation. I hope that in this environment, or through it, we will find someone in the near future who will be an appropriate ambassador of the Memorial in Russia acting within the framework of our diplomacy of remembrance,' said Auschwitz Museum Director Dr. Piotr M. A. Cywiński.

'I place great hope in cooperation with Memorial, for the reason that Red Army soldiers constituted the fourth-largest group of victims in the German Auschwitz camp,' added director Cywiński.

'The International Memorial and Auschwitz Museum are institutions engaged in preserving the memory of state violence against the human. We remember the tragic past so that it will never happen again. We are very glad that our work joint. It is very important for us that our efforts will be united,' said Elena Zhemkova.

According to the agreement, the Museum and International Memorial will cooperate, among other things, in organizing educational projects, conferences and meetings on the methodology and culture of remembrance, as well as on the fate of Soviet POWs in Auschwitz, exchanging scientific and academic materials and exhibitions, and the residency of volunteers designated by International Memorial at the Auschwitz Museum.

Germans' treatment of Soviet POWs constituted a violation of any international law conventions: they were forced to long marches to transit camps, or transported on train for many days without food or beverages. In POW camps, they were kept for a long time without any shelter, in catastrophic sanitary conditions, receiving inadequate amounts of food which resulted in chronic hunger. Such treatment resulted in critical physical condition of the majority of the prisoners, diseases, and consequently high mortality in the camps. By early December 1941, around 1.4 million of Soviet POW lost their lives.

The Germans deported at least 15,000 Soviet POWs to Auschwitz. Prisoners of war were a unique group of victims in the camp, experiencing mass shootings as well as mass torture. They were the first to have numbers tattooed on their bodies in place of their names, and they were also victims of the first





attempts at mass killing with the poison gas Zyklon B. Our online lesson tells about their fate.

Altogether 11,964 prisoners of war were registered in KL Auschwitz, and there was moreover an estimate of 3,000 soldiers of the Red Army who were brought to the camp and killed without being entered into the registers. Thus, altogether, around 15,000 of captive Red Army soldiers were sent to the camp.

Accounting for the few hundred who were removed from the camp and the several dozen who escaped, the estimated number of Soviet prisoners of war who died or were killed in Auschwitz exceeded 14,000.

On-line lesson about  
"Fate of Soviet prisoners in Auschwitz"

# LEFT BEHIND – A PROJECT OPENING UP LITTLE KNOWN HOLOCAUST HISTORIES AS WELL AS NEW TOOLS

---

Almost half of the Jewish population of Belgium was murdered during the Holocaust. Complete families were wiped out, creating blind spots in the information available to reconstruct their stories in particular, but also certain aspects of the Belgian case in general. Personal documents of survivors and non-survivors thus become even more important to fill these gaps in our knowledge.

One such precious item is the clandestine diary of Mozes Sand. Between June 13 and September 12, 1942 over 2.250 Jewish men were deported from Belgium to Northern France as forced labourers for Organisation Todt (OT). Mozes was one of them. In his diary he describes many details that can hardly be found in other sources: the journey of the men, their living and working conditions at the campsites, the ways in which they could communicate with their loved ones who stayed behind in Belgium...

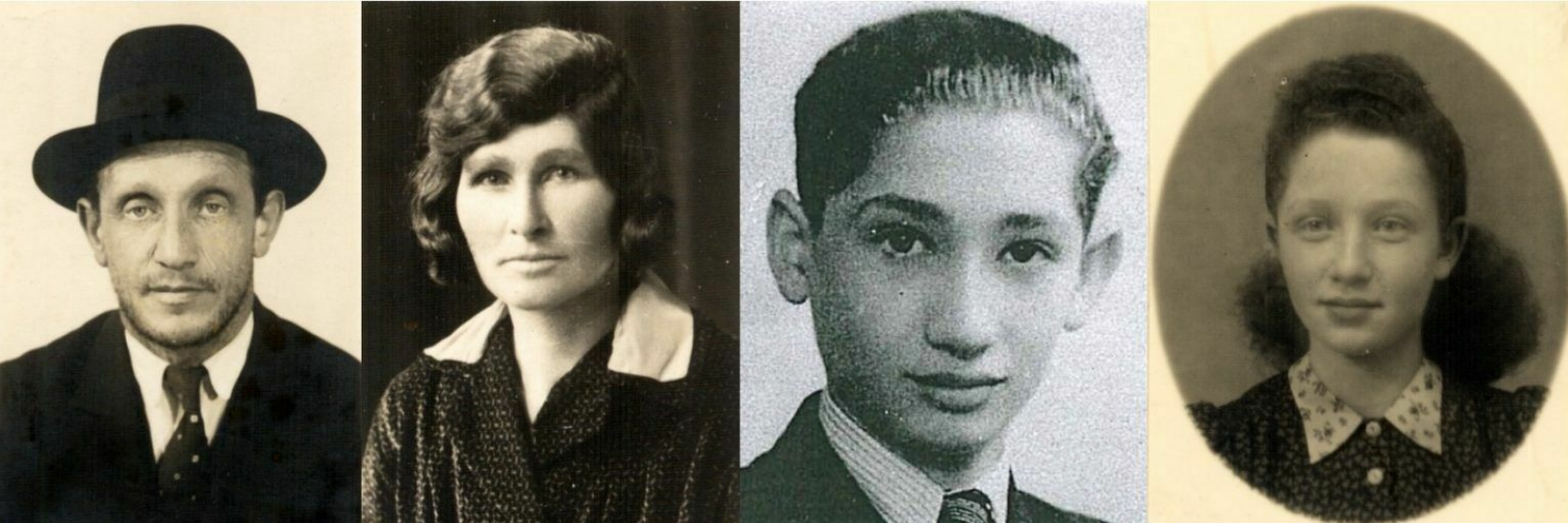
The importance of such personal documents for research on the OT forced labour became apparent when, on January 15, 2019, Veerle Vanden Daelen received a message from Gaby Morris. Gaby wrote that her father along with a brother escaped Belgium in May 1940 to join the Czech army in exile and that they were evacuated to Britain. Both survived the war. Gaby's father returned to Antwerp as a member of the liberating troops to discover that his parents and two younger siblings had been deported from the SS-Sammellager Mecheln (Dossin barracks) to Auschwitz-Birkenau, and were murdered. However, Kazerne Dossin then informed Gaby that in fact her grandfather, Meshulem, had been deported from Antwerp, Belgium, to the Organisation Todt labour camp Les Mazures in Northern France from where he was sent directly to Auschwitz. So it was her grandmother, uncle and aunt who had in fact been deported from Mechelen. This new

information on OT labour led to many questions: What had been the consequences for the family left behind in Antwerp? What must the family's situation have been like after Meshulem was taken away? Did they hear from him, directly or indirectly? Was there any support for these families in general?

So many unanswered questions with – in the case of Gaby Morris – nobody to testify about what happened. Could archival evidence then perhaps shed light on the situation of the OT families? Meetings with Gaby on International Holocaust Remembrance Day in 2019 and discussing with her the lack of knowledge on OT labour evolved into the Left Behind project. Kazerne Dossin and the Morris family joined forces to delve into this little known aspect of the racial persecution in Belgium, which had an especially large impact on Antwerp's Jewish population: How did the OT campaign affect survival changes and how did the families deal with the absence of their men, fathers, brothers and sons? The goal of the project was to create an easily online accessible and understandable research product, which provides general information on the OT labour to a broad public. Kazerne Dossin was thus challenged to implement new research methods and presentation tools such as maps, which would turn out to be important research tools themselves in the course of the project.

JEWISH MEN FROM ANTWERP IN FORCED  
LABOUR FOR ORGANISATION TODT IN





Meshulem Adler alias Fried, his wife Blima Kepesova, and their youngest children Mesel and Pepi: deported grandparents, uncle and aunt of project initiator Ms. Gaby Morris. (source: File 1586017 and 7408326 of the Belgian Aliens Police – digitised by Kazerne Dossin; Morris family archive)

## JEWISH MEN FROM ANTWERP IN FORCED LABOUR FOR ORGANISATION TODT IN NORTHERN FRANCE

For the Left Behind project, it is important to understand firstly who was “left behind” and in which context. From June 13 until September 12, 1942, over 2.250 Jewish men from Belgium were summoned for forced labour in Northern France by OT. Six trains left from Antwerp, and one each from Brussels, Liège and Charleroi. The men were sent to the Les Mazures work camp in the French Ardennes or to similar camps at the French coast such as Dannes, Camiers, St-Omer or Calais. There they worked on constructions that would become part of the Atlantic Wall, such as roads, bunkers and electrical provisions. The large majority of these 2.250 men were from Antwerp. When they were taken away, they left behind their spouses, children, parents and further family and friends. During their detainment in France the men communicated with their loved ones and, in theory<sup>1</sup>, a very small wage was paid to their next of kin who had stayed behind in Belgium. Both elements could have prompted the families of these OT workers to remain at their legal address where the risk of being arrested was greater. In October 1942, most of the OT workers were directly deported from the labour camps in Northern France to Auschwitz-Birkenau, although dozens had escaped from the work camps already or would escape from the deportation trains. The Jews with Belgian nationality or those married to non-Jewish women were kept at the camps in Northern France in October 1942. They were deported

later on from Drancy. Only a few dozen of the 2.250 men survived the war.

The obligatory labour of their men meant a huge transition for their families: from being part of the pre-war society to existing on the margins of it. However, the fate of these relatives remained unresearched. Existing historical publications focussed foremost on the OT-camps in northern France and the Jewish men taken there.<sup>2</sup> No monograph or project was dedicated to the full picture of Jewish families in Antwerp with men sent to OT-camps in northern France. This project seeks to make those connections. It wishes to open up the already existing research to new audiences (by publishing in English, for example) and to broaden the scope of the research. In order to broaden and deepen the knowledge on the topic, we worked on a macro and a micro level. This included as a first focus the creation of a database to determine the deportation and survival percentages of the OT-men and their families. Parallel to this work, micro-histories were analysed on about 20 families, in order to seek for clues and pieces of information to reconstruct what happened to them. As a third element to the project, we wished to use maps for the public presentation of this history and the project. Soon it became apparent that the maps themselves were a third research element, a tool of analysis on their own. GIS or other geolocation tools could be used to add a time-element to such mappings to analyse and visualise the history. This blog contribution will further elaborate on each of these three focus points of the research project.

## THE CREATION OF A DATABASE AND DATASETS

When starting the project it seemed an easy task to establish a list of all Jewish men from Antwerp taken away to Northern France as slave labourers for Organisation Todt. After all, in 1978 the Belgian Ministry of Public Health had published the List of Jews living in Belgium on 10 May 1940, who were detained at the labour camps in the North of France. Conveniently, the list – containing data on the 2.252 recorded OT men from Belgium – had been put into an Access database by the Belgian Archives Service for War Victims. To kick off the data collection, we compared the list of 2.252 men with address records from 1940 to determine who lived in Antwerp at the beginning of the war. This allowed us to grapple how many victims living in the city at the time were affected by the OT labour and what their fate was. Within the data set, we could furthermore indicate how many of the men from Antwerp had left the city by the summer of 1942, before deportations from Belgium started in August 1942, and how many had remained in the port city until then. So how to connect the list of 2.252 men with their 1940 address information? Kazerne Dossin has at its disposal the municipal Jewish registers which were created by Nazi decree of October 28, 1940. All address information

from this rich source had already been connected with the deportation lists of the Dossin barracks in Mechelen in a Person Database. So for those of the 2.252 men that were deported from Mechelen, we could easily retrieve the address information and filter out the Antwerpians. For the men that were not deported from Mechelen, but from France or who were not deported the addresses were checked one by one to sort out the Antwerpians. This detailed research led to a list of 1.553 Jewish men, living in Antwerp in 1940 who were taken for slave labour in Northern France in the summer of 1942 (either from Antwerp or from Brussels, Liège and Charleroi). However, when consulting additional sources such as OT payroll lists, correspondence from the Association of Jews in Belgium, the list of men at the Les Mazures camp constructed by researcher Jean-Emile Andreux and personal testimonies it became clear that the list was incomplete. We therefore analysed these additional sources and added the newly found names to the deduced list of 1.553 men, leading to a final list of 1.625 Antwerpian OT men. We can therefore also conclude that the number of 2.252 OT workers taken from the whole of Belgium was, in fact, higher.

Subsequently, we divided the 1.625 men into 19 subpopulations based on their fate:



Jewish forced labourers at the OT camp Les Mazures, wearing the Belgian yellow badge. (Source: Kazerne Dossin – Fonds Erlich-Liberman, KD\_00365)



Subsequently, we divided the 1.625 men into 19 subpopulations based on their fate.

These categories will later on allow us to compare the fates of the families of the men between groups, so as to establish whether the actions of the man had an impact on the fate of his family. E.g. Did relatives of men who successfully escaped the OT camps have higher chances of survival than the families of the men that were deported directly from the OT camps to Auschwitz-Birkenau? As it was not possible, time wise, to research the families of all 1.625 Antwerpian OT workers, we created a research sample. This included all men from the 17 smallest categories, and a relevant percentage of the men in the two largest categories. For all further calculations a weighted average was used to sort out the weight of the two largest categories in comparison to the smaller ones. In total, 628 of the Antwerpian men were included in the research sample.

In a next step, we added address information from the summer of 1942 to the data of the men in the sample to be able to determine who had left Antwerp by the time they were claimed by Organisation Todt and where they moved to, on which date. This data can illustrate the social movement away from Antwerp and the precautions taken by some of the families to avoid the forced labour by leaving the city. Based on an extrapolation of the research sample we can state that an estimated 1.528 of the 1.625 Antwerpians were still in Antwerp when taken for Organisation Todt, which is in line with the numbers of 1.518 and 1.526 men taken from Antwerp as mentioned in official OT sources. The last, and largest step in the project was to identify the relatives of the 628 men from the research sample. Using records such as the municipal Jewish registers, a list was created containing 1.501 family members of the OT men from the research sample. Family members were defined for the project as next of kin living at the same address in Antwerp as the OT worker. For each of these relatives information regarding his or her fate was collected, as well as data on the way in which a person was arrested (if applicable) and if he or she survived deportation. Based on this analysis, we can now explore the timing of

WOENSDAG 5 AUGUSTUS 1942.

Na een zeer smartelijk afscheid van onze ouders en familieleden genomen te hebben gaan wij om 5½ uur naar de Centraal Station. Beladen met zware koffers. Daar worden wij met nog over de 300 rasgenooten onder bewaking van Duitsche gendarmen de statie opgeleid naar ons eerste en onze papieren afgenomen te hebben. Mijn moeder is mij trots het gevaar mij nogmaals voor wel komen zeggen. Op het perron worden wij in een speciaal trein gezet die een beetje later vertrekt. Wij worden nog verwelkomd door onze familieleden die het aangezicht hebben in de statie te komen. Eerst met vroege uur zijn nog eens alle huizen langs de spoorbaan bezet met waiwende rasgenooten. De bestemming van onze trein is ons onbekend. De stemming is heel goed onder ons. Rijden voorbij Mechelen, Gent. Stoppen 1 uur in Kortrijk alle staties waar wij langs rijden werpen wij postkaarten uit de vensters die opgevoerd worden. Wij worden goed bewaakt door O.T. soldaten met geweren.

A page from the diary of Belgian-Jewish Mozes Sand on which he describes his departure for an Organisation Todt labour camp in France Source: Kazerne Dossin – Diary Mozes Sand, KD\_00098

deportation of the slave labourers as well as the timing of the arrest of their family members who remained at home. Also, the deportation numbers of OT relatives can now be compared to the deportation rates for Jews in Belgium and more specifically in Antwerp. Forthcoming publications will elaborate on the specific numbers and place them in context.

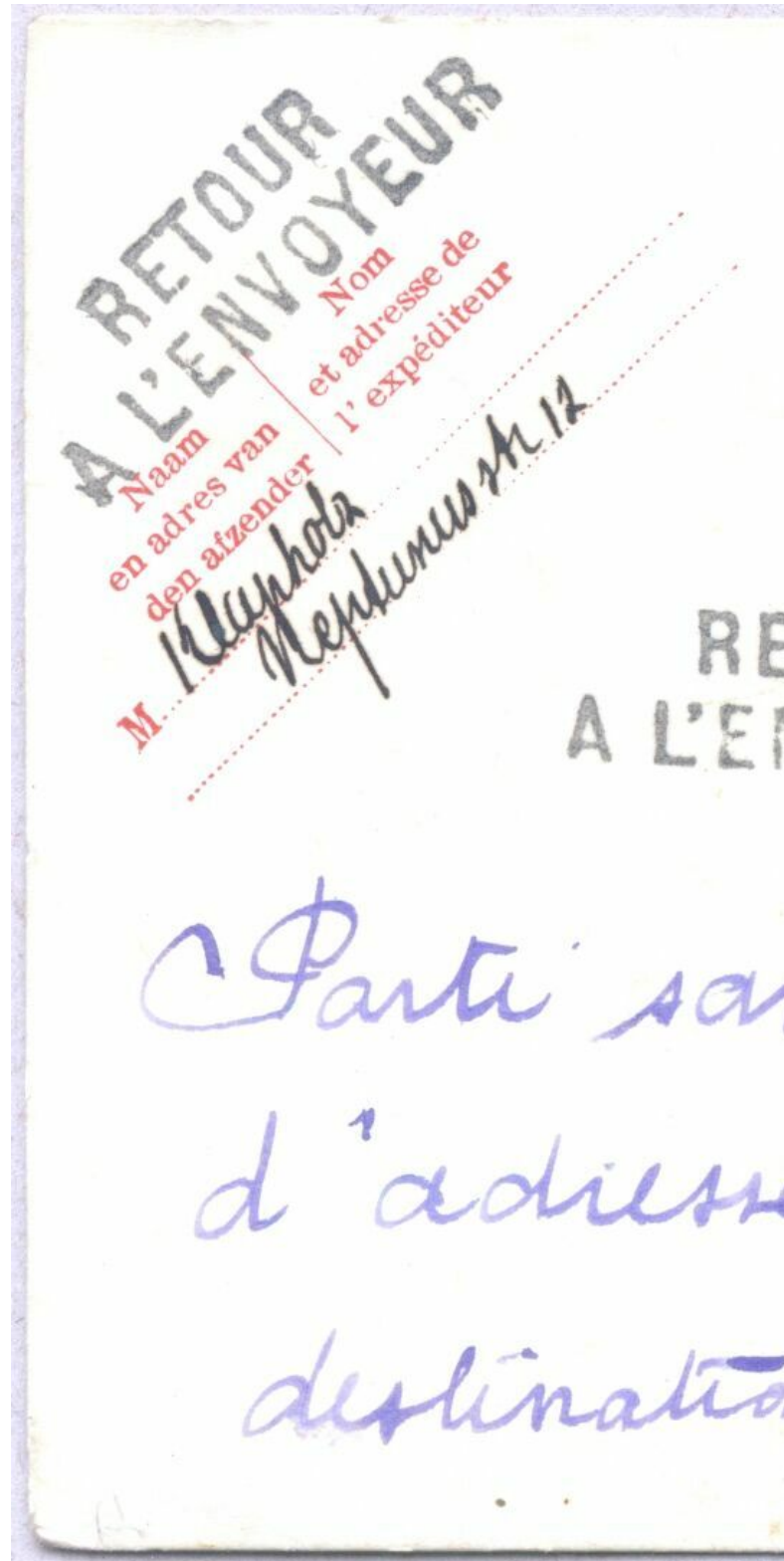
### THE IMPORTANCE OF MICROSTORIES

Apart from delivering statistical analysis, the Left Behind project seeks to translate macro history, based on the above mentioned data, into micro history, based on personal stories and items, and vice versa. Both elements of research enhance each other and lead to new insights into the lives and fates of Holocaust survivors and victims. For the Left Behind project, on a micro-historical level, Kazerne Dossin has documented personal stories of about 20 Antwerpians to illustrate

Dossin has documented personal stories of about 20 Antwerpians to illustrate communication lines between the OT workers and their families. By using documents such as the diary of Mozes Sand, personal letters, photographs and testimonies of relatives of OT workers, relevant data is collected. Furthermore, we try to connect the macro analysis of the deportation and survival rates with these microhistories. Can elements from these microhistories help explain the deportation and survival rates?

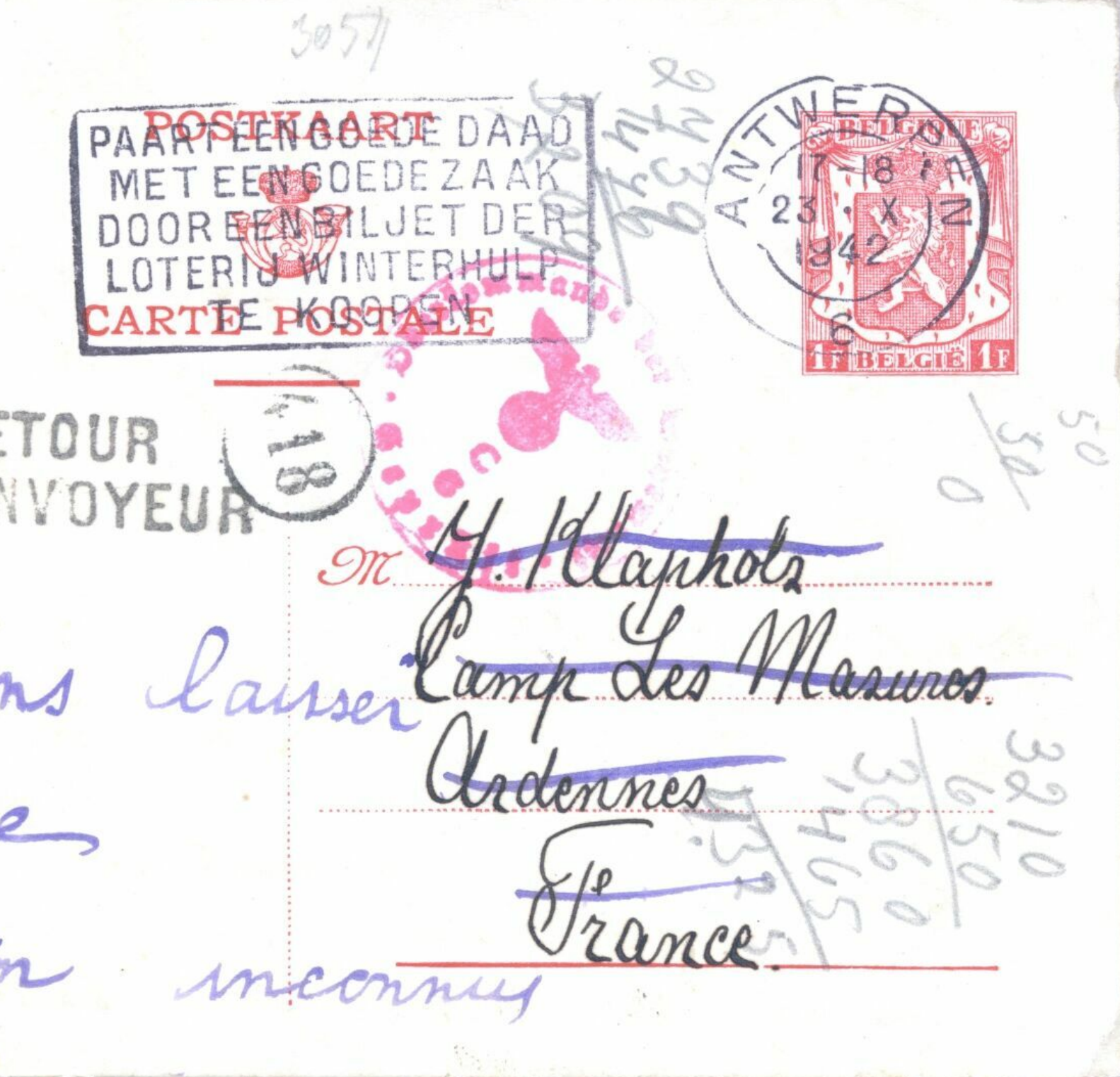
Although not expected when starting the research project, it soon became apparent that multiple ways of communication existed between the OT men and their families. These are described in detail in sources such as the diary of Mozes Sand. An in depth study of the document led to the identification of several official and unofficial communication channels, including the shipment of parcels and letters either via censored mail or clandestinely posted by non-Jewish coworkers met at the construction sites, visits to the families in Antwerp by non-Jewish coworkers, the arrival of news via new transports of workers from Antwerp and even (clandestine) visits to the men in the OT camps by their relatives. Most OT workers as well as their families have been deported and wiped out, making it impossible to determine if communication existed and if so, how it influenced the decisions made by the OT men or their families. The remaining traces of these communication lines are therefore of the utmost importance. A series of postcards exchanged between Mathilde Kornitzer, living in Antwerp, and her husband Jacob Klapholz, an OT worker held at the Les Mazures camp, show how they maintained contact after Jacob was taken. The last postcards Mathilde sent him mid-October 1942, were returned to her, indicating that Jacob had left, "destination unknown". He had been deported and would not survive Auschwitz-Birkenau. Mathilde correctly interpreted the signs and went into hiding. She thus survived.

Vice versa, the establishment of contact between the families in Antwerp and the workers in the North of France could create dangerous situations for the women and children left behind in the port city. This is illustrated by the story of Anna Erlich. Both her



father Szymon Erlich and her cousin Vital (called Bertrand) Liebermann, were OT workers. Anna, her sister Rosa and their mother remained at their official address. Photos sent by Bertrand to his cousins and aunt in Antwerp show that communication was still ongoing in 1943. The three women were arrested in autumn that year and only Anna survived. Receiving and sending messages thus could also lead to greater danger and the arrest of entire families. Many letters, postcards and





Postcard from Mathilde Kornitzer to her husband Jacques Klapholz at Les Mazures, returned to sender in October 1942.  
Source: Kazerne Dossin – Fonds Blanche Kornitzer, A008933.01

photos exchanged between the OT men and their families are lost. And for many families there might not have been any communication at all since Antwerp was hit by four large raids in August and September 1942, leading to the deportation of hundreds of relatives of the OT men, before their own mass deportation in October 1942. However, such micro studies do allow us to illustrate some of the possible reactions to the existence of such communication and to take into account the

impact of news on both the men and their families.

#### MAPPING: FROM PUBLIC OUTREACH TO RESEARCH TOOL

Combining micro and macro analysis for both an academic and a wider audience has always been a core element in the Left Behind project. The visual part was initially only included as a tool for academic presentations and publications, and





OT worker Vital (Bertrand) Liebermann (left) sent this photo to his cousins in Antwerp in July 1943, while he was held at the Les Mazures labour camp. (Source: Kazerne Dossin – Fonds Erlich-Liberman, KD\_00365)

and to invite a broad audience to engage with both the statistical research and the personal stories. We envisioned the results of both approaches to be included in academic publications and in a product for a wider audience such as a – commemorative and/or educational – website or app. Although we initially thought of mapping as an 'easy access', the data gathered on the families' movements and timing of their arrest also led to additional research questions, incorporating the mapping

element as a third important research step for the Left Behind project. The visualisation of the data on both the complete population of OT families as well as on individual workers and their families, created an extra value/layer in the analysis as the maps also allowed us to pose additional research questions: e.g. Did OT relatives live in the same areas as the other Jews in Antwerp or is there a geographical distinction? And were the relatives deported earlier or later than non-relatives?



As a small institute, however, Kazerne Dossin was faced with very limited experiences with mapping, and especially visualising stories via maps. Wolfgang Schellenbacher (DÖW) was so kind as to guide us through the possible outcomes and to create maps for the project. Kazerne Dossin delivered an overview of the addresses of the families, which he transformed into geo-coordinates. Via trial and error we learned how to 'clean up' the addresses included in the datasets. A few streets mentioned in the

1940 registers do not exist anymore today and need to be set out approximately where the streets used to be, and in some cases, the numbering of the houses in some of the streets may have changed, leading to less precise indications of the exact houses for a small amount of data in the historical dataset. Three heat maps were created via QGIS, a free and open-source cross-platform, which gave a visual overview of the dispersion of the OT families in Antwerp and especially the concentration of these families, mostly within the Jewish neighbourhood of Antwerp. The three maps all focused on the city, but from a different height, thus showing more details or less, depending on the area that was shown on each map.

In addition to the dispersion of the families at one point in time, we also wished to show the public – both academic and general – how certain events impacted the OT families. Many fell victim to the four large raids in Antwerp in the summer and autumn of 1942. Adding a timeline to a map of Antwerp allows to combine geo-spatial and time elements, e.g. who was arrested during the first large raid in Antwerp, who during the second, who received a convocation for forced labour, etc. We considered multiple licenced software packages, but all came with quite high licence fees and the necessity to have experience with GIS or even programming, or they did not allow us to combine time and space data. Neatline software was used to create more detailed and interactive maps of Antwerp, based on the geo-coordinates already provided. These maps also included a time element which allows users to switch between certain moments in time.

Mapping the addresses of the OT families and the raids in Antwerp was made possible by Neatline (an Omeka plugin).

In the future, to fully present the research data to a wider audience and to continue to analyse geospatial data by using maps, we wish to include the information on the members of the families in the map, mentioning their names and dates of birth when clicking on a certain address (but of course in compliance with the GDPR for those that survived). Neatline does not provide a function to upload both the address and the person data in one sequence: one can upload the address data but then has to put in manually the



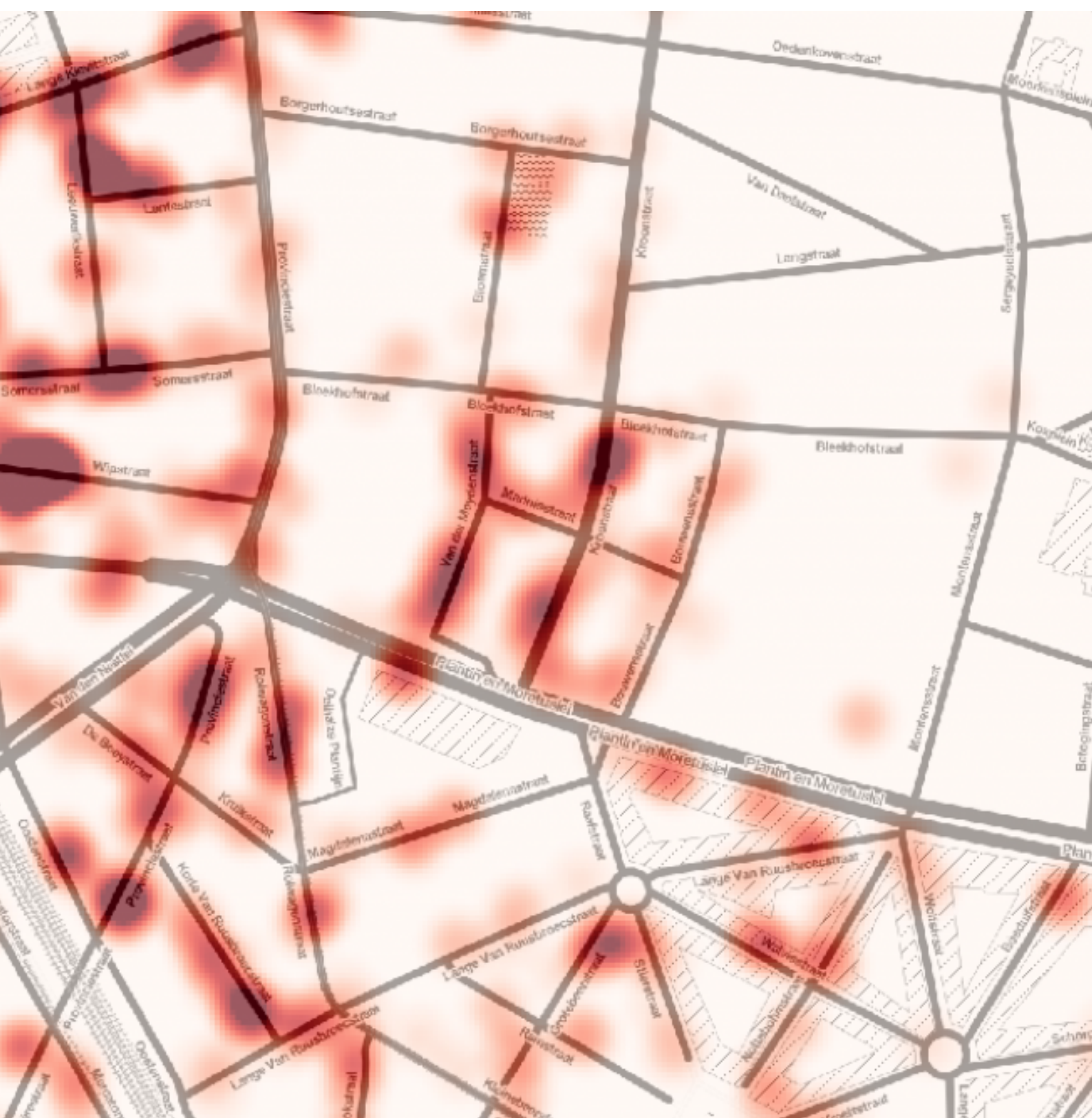
person data. Doing this for 1.501 persons would be too time consuming. Kazerne Dossin has therefore partnered up with the city of Antwerp to use the licensed ArcGIS software. This will allow us to incorporate time, space and personal data in the overview map, but will also allow us to create maps showing the personal journey of some of the families. However, for institutes that want to analyse and show large datasets, Neatline remains highly recommended.

## CONCLUSION

This project started with Ms. Gaby Morris searching for answers on the fate of her family, deported from Belgium during the Holocaust. This endeavor led her to Kazerne Dossin as her family members were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau from the SS-Sammellager Mecheln in 1942. Microhistorical research further revealed the obligatory slave labour in Organisation Todt labour camps in Northern France to which Ms. Morris's grandfather had been forced, together with over 2.250 Jewish men from Belgium, including 1.624 fellow-Antwerpians. Without any direct documents from the family itself, it became clear that Ms. Morris' grandmother was left behind in Antwerp with the youngest children in a most vulnerable situation. Hundreds of other Jewish families from Antwerp found themselves in the same position and little was known about their fate. With the Left Behind project Kazerne Dossin's research team aims to advance knowledge on this little known aspect of Holocaust history in Belgium and seeks to explore the combination of micro, macro and spatial analysis, incorporating personal stories, analysis of large datasets and analysis of time and space elements on interactive maps into one research project. As such, Left Behind wishes to visualize its findings for both academics and a wide audience. At the same time, the team expects the mapping of data related to time and location to also have an increasing impact on and contribute to in depth academic analysis. The first research results indicate that the OT slave labour of Jewish men from Antwerp and the impact it had on their own as well as their families' fate may well be an important factor in explaining the higher deportation number in Antwerp as compared to other large cities in Belgium and the country's general deportation rate.







---

# ON THE TRAIL OF JEWISH CHILDREN IN BERLIN WITH A SMARTPHONE

---

Hanni Weissenberg and Zvi Aviram hid in garden sheds, movie theaters, and in strangers' apartments in Nazi Berlin. As Jewish youths, both had to go into hiding in order to survive. Zvi and Hanni are protagonists in a new interactive educational project titled "Marbles of Remembrance" from the Arolsen Archives.

"Marbles of Remembrance" includes five multimedia city tours that enable people to learn about the life stories of children and young people who went into hiding in Berlin, were taken away from Germany, or were murdered in the Holocaust in the Nazi era.

## **Life underground**

Zvi Aviram (1927 – 2020) was 16 years old in 1943, when the Nazis deported his parents to the Auschwitz concentration camp. He hid in various places, including his aunt Marie Grünberg's garden shed, and joined the Chug Chaluzi resistance group along with some of his friends. Teacher Yizchak Schwerzens had founded the Zionist group to prepare Jewish young people for life in hiding. "Marbles of Remembrance" features audio messages from Zvi in which he talks about this time. The Gestapo arrested him several times – but he survived and emigrated to what was then Palestine in 1948. He started a new life in Israel, and later shared his experiences as a contemporary witness.

Hanni Weissenberg (1924 – 2019) went underground too and had to hide from the Nazis all on her own in Berlin for several years. Historians refer to Berliners who went into hiding during the war as U-Boote, which is German for "submarines." She was one of them. Her parents had died in Berlin in 1940 and 1943, and her grandmother was deported in 1942. She used to dye her hair blonde to make herself less noticeable, and she often spent time in movie theaters, where she found shelter in the darkness. Later, she managed to obtain a postal identity card, which made her

life in illegality easier. After liberation, Hanni went to live with her uncle's family in Paris, where she met her husband and started a family of her own. Users can listen to evocative audio messages telling them about Hanni's experiences as they follow the tour through Berlin-Wilmersdorf.

In addition to the two biographical tours featuring Zvi and Hanni, "Marbles of Remembrance" also offers three informational tours that focus on various aspects of Jewish life in Berlin during the Nazi era. Uncover the city's hidden history. The Arolsen Archives collaborated on Marbles of Remembrance with fabular.ai, a research spin-off of the University of Bremen, to develop a chatbot that is available free of charge in German and English on the messaging service Telegram. The idea for Marbles of Remembrance was born at a culture hackathon in 2017.

"Digitization and innovative formats enable us to find all sorts of new ways of telling the stories of Nazi persecutees on the basis of the documents in our archive. "Marbles of Remembrance" offers multimedia tours – this approach is new for us. The stories are told not only through text messages, but also with documents, photos, infographics, and voice messages," explains Christian Höschler from the Arolsen Archives.

With Marbles of Remembrance, students and interested adults can set off on their own search for clues using their smartphones. Each stop on the tour will help them understand

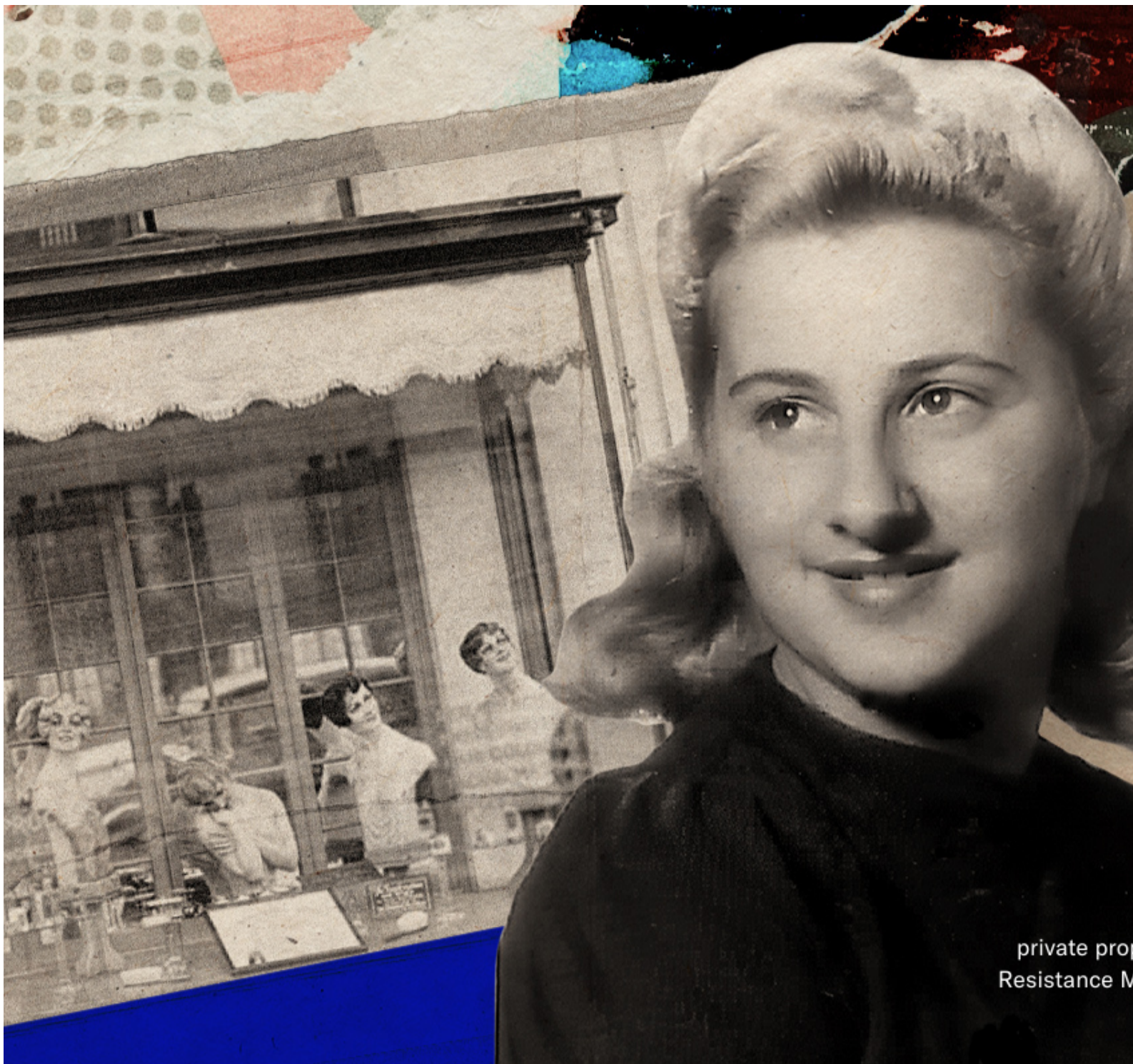


more about the fates of Zvi, Hanni, and other children. The stories of the persecuted children and young people are based on information from the card file of the Reich Association of Jews in Germany and from the "pupil cards" it contains, which are kept in the Arolsen Archives. Using these documents, "Marbles of Remembrance" brings to light information about 8,500 Berlin children and more than 340 locations and makes it publicly accessible. "We've grown up with the Internet and with smartphones – and that's how we get most of our information. Direct communication on social media platforms is part of everyday life and learning. That makes the chatbot particularly

suitable as a new medium for interactive storytelling. This way, you experience history on a more direct, more emotional level," explains Nina Hentschel, Co-Founder & CMO at Fabular.ai.

"Marbles of Remembrance" is funded by the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future."

If you would like to try out "Marbles of Remembrance" for yourself, just search for @MarblesBot on Telegram.



private prop  
Resistance M



# NEW PERMANENT EXHIBITION

## *GYPSY CAMP IN THE ŁÓDŹ GHETTO* *(1941-1942)*

The Gypsy camp in Łódź (Zigeunerlager in Litzmannstadt) was the first strict seclusion site intended exclusively for the Roma and Sinti in occupied Polish territory. November 2021 marked its 80th anniversary, and a new permanent exhibition was opened in the so-called Roma Smithy, one of the surviving buildings of the former camp.

As was the case with the Jewish population, the Roma were systematically eliminated from the social life of Nazi Germany. Over time, the initial administrative harassment escalated into their physical isolation. The turning point in this matter was the decision in September 1941 to resettle the Roma population in camps and ghettos in the occupied eastern territories. Consequently, between 5 and 9 November 1941, 5007 people (including 1130 men, 1188 women and 2689 children) were deported from Styria and Lower Austria (the former Burgenland) to Łódź. As a result of the prevailing conditions, 11 people did not survive the journey. Besides the German Roma (Sasytka Roma), the deportees included representatives of the broader Gypsy community, among them the Kelderasz aka Kelderari (Coppersmiths), Lowari aka Lalleri (Horsemen) and Sinti tribes. They all arrived at the Radegast station, from where they proceeded to the camp located in the district of today's streets: Wojska Polskiego, Obrońców Westerplatte, Starosikawska and Głowackiego, in the area pre-separated from the Łódź ghetto (Litzmannstadt ghetto).

The living conditions in the hastily organised camp, which had only fifteen buildings, were atrocious. The lack of sanitary facilities, proper living conditions and, above all, difficulties with provisions led to the death of around 700 people in the first few weeks due to a typhus epidemic. From mid-December 1941 to mid-January 1942, the remaining inmates were deported and murdered at the first Nazi extermination camp, Kulmhof in Chełmno nad Nerem (Chełmno on the Ner River).

Following the end of the war, the area was transformed, as was much of the ghetto. Some of the buildings were demolished and replaced by a housing estate of flats. Only a few tenement houses and outbuildings have survived to the present day. The memory of the Roma camp, much like that of the Lodz Ghetto, has effaced over time. The situation began to change in 2004, when a commemorative plaque was set into the wall of the so-called Roma Smithy Building, on the initiative of the Łódź municipal authorities. In 2009, the first permanent exhibition on the history of the camp was created in the building. Since then, the site has been under the care of the Museum of Independence Traditions in Łódź.

The current exhibition was created in the unique space of the former camp building, which serves as a reminder of the suffering of Porajmos victims (the Devouring). Drawing on the few surviving documents and accounts, it attempts to document the events that unfolded at the turn of 1941/1942. It is all the more relevant since there are no surviving first-hand testimonies of the victims - thus, the exhibition aims to restore the voice that was brutally taken away from them.

Given the nature of the site, the primary aim of the exhibition is its educational aspect. The exhibition is intended as a starting point for further educational activities - primarily serving didactic purposes as part of visits conducted for organised groups and individuals. The exhibition presents critical issues in the camp's history, including the deportation process to Łódź, the demographic structure of the resettled persons, conditions they had to live in, the spread of the



conditions they had to live in, the spread of the typhus epidemic and liquidation of the camp. The postscript, in turn, is a fragment about Kuźnia Romów (The Roma Smithy Building) as a crime site - a place of remembrance. Elements of the author's narrative have been practically eliminated in favour of historical sources. It was done primarily to shift the focus from factual knowledge to establishing an emotional connection with the recounted story. Therefore, a unique element is the audio account of Arnold Mostowicz, a physician and prisoner of the Łódź ghetto, who diagnosed the spread of the epidemic in the camp and

witnessed the tragedy of the Roma. His memories of the prevailing conditions in the camp, documented years later, are a shocking picture of the reality in which the inmates had to live and die.

The new exhibition and accompanying activities provide an opportunity to learn about the history of this unique and only Gypsy family camp, besides (Zigeunerfamilienlager) in Auschwitz II-Birkenau, a place of isolation for the Roma during the occupation of Poland.

Exhibition scenario: Marcin Gawryszczak, Andrzej Grzegorzcyk  
Cooperation: Bogdan Galas, Maria Szulc  
Substantive consultant: Izabela Terela  
Visual design: Tamara Sass

Partners: National Archive in Łódź, Museum of Martyrology in Żabikówo, Museum of the Former German Kulmhof Death Camp in Chełmno on the Ner, Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes, Association of Roma in Poland, Foundation Towards Dialogue, Roma Counselling and Information Centre in Poland.

The exhibition has been co-financed with funds from the Ministry of Culture, National Heritage and Sport derived from the Culture Promotion Fund and funds from the City of Łódź under a specific grant.

# AUSCHWITZ AS A MEMORY TO BE LEARNED FROM DURING THE GENEVA SUMMIT BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA

**In June 2021, the city of Geneva experienced one of the most important diplomatic Summit in its History. On the shores of Lake Geneva, we talked about Joe Biden, Vladimir Putin... and Carl Lutz.**

Indeed, a Swiss education organization had set up a large exhibition on the shores of the lake, dedicated to the history of the Righteous Carl Lutz and the Jews of Budapest during the Holocaust. A panel was dedicated to the persecution of this Jewish minority in April-May 1944, and its arrival at the camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The event was opened by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, the United States Special Envoy on Holocaust Issues, Cherrie Daniels, and the Administrative Councillor in charge of diversity in the City of Geneva, Alfonso Gomez.

Geneva, in addition to being now home to the Red Cross and many international organizations, was also the center of rescue activities for Hungarian Jews during WWII. It became a popular place for emigrants after the war. Thus, many Hungarian Jewish families from Geneva had bequeathed their personal photos to the organizers.

Featured in early June 2021, the exhibition was exceptionally put back in place during the Summit between President Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin,

next to the place of stay of the White House press corps.

"Just as in the 1930s, lies, hatred, scapegoating and dehumanization are a serious threat to our social fabric today, said UN High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet in her opening statement. We must ensure that public discourse is based on respect and facts, which objectively reflect the truth - including the fundamental truth of our equal rights and dignity as human beings."

In 2022, the exhibit will travel to Hungary and be featured next to the Shoes on the Danube Bank monument.

Cercle Carl Lutz is a Swiss educational organization named after the Righteous who led the largest diplomatic rescue operation of WWII. It trained the guides of the Auschwitz Museum and organized numerous panels and events in France, Hungary, Switzerland, Greece, Sweden, the United States and more recently in Warsaw, Poland. [www.carl-lutz.com](http://www.carl-lutz.com)



## CARL LUTZ DÉBUTE SON MANDAT À BUDAPEST

Le 2 janvier 1942, Carl et Gertrud Lutz arrivèrent à Budapest, où Lutz avait été nommé vice-consul. Ils furent accueillis par le Ministre (Ambassadeur) Maximilian Jegen.

La Suisse à travers Lutz était chargée de représenter onze États en guerre contre les pays de l'Axe, dont les États-Unis et le Royaume-Uni. Le couple Lutz prit résidence à l'ancien légation britannique à Buda, tandis que le vice-consul installa son bureau à l'ancienne Légation américaine à Pest.

En tant que représentant du Royaume-Uni en Hongrie, Carl Lutz était maintenant en charge de l'exécution du Troisième Livre Blanc, datant de 1939. C'est dans ce cadre-là que le 27 mars 1942, Carl Lutz reçut une requête du Foreign Office à Londres, lui demandant d'identifier 250 orphelins juifs amenés à émigrer en Palestine et qui avaient reçu un certificat d'émigration. Entre 1942 et mars 1944, pas moins de 10 000 Juifs (pour la plupart des adolescents) purent émigrer en Palestine, même si tous ne purent atteindre leur destination.

## CARL LUTZ BEGINS HIS TERM IN BUDAPEST

On January 2, 1942, Carl and Gertrud Lutz arrived in Budapest, where Lutz was appointed vice-consul. They were greeted by Swiss Minister (Ambassador) Maximilian Jegen.

Switzerland via Lutz was to represent eleven countries at war with the Axis, including the United States and the United Kingdom. Carl and Gertrud Lutz were doing at the former British Legation in Buda and the vice-consul set up his office in the former American Legation in Pest.

As a representative of the United Kingdom, Carl Lutz was in charge of the execution of the third White Paper dating from 1939. On March 27th, 1942 Carl Lutz therefore received a request from the London Foreign Office, to identify 250 orphans who were authorized to emigrate to Palestine. Entry candidate received an emigration certificate. Between 1942 and March 1944, around 10,000 Jews (most of them teenagers) were able to emigrate to Palestine, albeit some of them would not reach their destination.



1. Budapest avant la destruction de la gare principale. 2. Photographie de Carl et Gertrud Lutz. 3. Carte de la Hongrie. 4. Document de l'Office des réfugiés suisses. 5. Photographie de la ville de Budapest. 6. Photographie de la gare principale de Budapest. 7. Photographie de la ville de Budapest. 8. Photographie de la ville de Budapest. 9. Photographie de la ville de Budapest. 10. Photographie de la ville de Budapest.



# MEMORIA

MEMORY • HISTORY • EDUCATION

**memoria.auschwitz.org**

**PUBLISHER**

Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Paweł Sawicki

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Agnieszka Juskowiak-Sawicka

**EDITED BY**

Bartosz Bartyzel  
Imogen Dalziel  
Marek Lach  
Łukasz Lipiński

**CONTACT**

[memoria@auschwitz.org](mailto:memoria@auschwitz.org)



POWERED BY JOOMAG