

Prejudice and Memory



The Holocaust Exhibit
At the National Museum of the United States Air Force™

No Federal Government endorsement of the private entities identified is intended, nor should one be implied.

The Dayton Holocaust Resource Center maintains videotapes, books, periodicals and other curricular materials on the Holocaust and, in particular, on its relevance to today's issues of racism, prejudice and hatred. Our materials are available for loan free of charge to educators in the greater Dayton area and southwest Ohio.

The materials in this booklet can also be found at daytonholocaust.org in the "Education" section. In addition you will find suggestions for classroom discussion topics and additional historical notes.

To find the interviews online: Go to Youtube or Teachertube – at those websites, search "Dayton" and "Holocaust" and all will appear, along with other related videos.

To find the podcasts: Go to <https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit/Tour-Podcasts/Holocaust/> to download podcasts to your smart phone before visiting the exhibit.

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INTRODUCTION

PREJUDICE AND MEMORY: A HOLOCAUST EXHIBIT is a compilation of the memories, artifacts and photographs of Holocaust survivors, liberators (American soldiers who freed concentration camp victims at the end of the war), and rescuers (non-Jews who helped save Jews at great risk to themselves and their families).

What makes ***PREJUDICE AND MEMORY*** different from most exhibits on this subject is that it tells the personal stories of people who live or have lived in the Dayton area.

THESE ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS. Unless told or recorded, Holocaust stories will die, leaving the door open for another such horrendous persecution to happen - perhaps to another group of people - because of prejudice and hatred arising from ignorance and history forgotten.

People respond best to the individual story. I have discovered that personally as I spoke to thousands of school children and other audiences for the past five plus decades. A single picture, a passport with the red letter "J," a letter revealing the death of grandparents in Auschwitz, these touch one's soul.

This exhibit remembers the millions killed and focuses on the individual - mother, father, and child. It tells stories of incredible courage, of horror, sacrifice, loss and rebirth.

We are eternally grateful that we can join in partnership with the National Museum of the United States Air Force in presenting ***PREJUDICE AND MEMORY***. We thank the former Museum Director, Maj. Gen. Charles D. Metcalf, USAF (Ret), for his vision and foresight.

Many others on the Museum staff have contributed to make this presentation unique. Their interest and empathy enrich our mission. The volunteer docents make a visit to the exhibit a true learning experience which children and adults tell us they will never forget.

We are proud to have as part of the exhibit thirty-one black and white photographs, called ***PLACES OF HA'SHOAH***, by Cy Lehrer of Tucson, Arizona.

Words cannot express our appreciation for the most generous contribution made by Ronald S. Lauder of New York that allowed us to begin this journey. And to all the subsequent contributors and grant makers we are most grateful.

With the ***MEMORY*** of the past and a firm hope that ***PREJUDICE*** will disappear in the near future, with a complete faith in the resilience of the human spirit and a hope for the healing of the world, we offer this exhibit to those who enter these halls of history.

RENATE FRYDMAN, Ph.D
CURATOR AND PROJECT DIRECTOR
PREJUDICE AND MEMORY: A HOLOCAUST EXHIBIT





HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

The Dayton area became home to a number of Holocaust survivors after World War II. Some came here to work for the Air Force, some because they had relatives in Dayton, others came because of business opportunities and some entirely by chance. Many of the survivors featured in "*PREJUDICE AND MEMORY*" lived in the area.

RESCUERS

While most Europeans under the Nazi occupation supported or turned a blind eye to the persecution of Jews, a few listened to their own conscience and tried to help -- even at the risk of their own lives and the lives of their families. Many of these selfless people have been identified over the years by the Israeli government and honored with the title "Righteous among the Nations" or "Righteous Gentile." Many others who sacrificed to help their neighbors will never be known. Dayton has been home to several of these righteous people.

LIBERATORS

This term is often used for soldiers who were present at the liberation of death camps and concentration camps, mostly during April 1945. Some actively assisted in the rescue of inmates and others just observed, but their testimony is always valuable. Most of the liberators were very young men, 18 to 20 years of age. They never got over the inhumanity they witnessed at the camps. Some also rescued survivors of the "Death Marches" at the end of the war.





TIMELINE

- 1918: World War I ends in German defeat
- 1919: Germany becomes a democratic republic
Laws restricting Gypsies enacted
Protocols of the Elders of Zion published in Germany
German Workers' Party (DAP) founded
Pogroms in Poland and the Ukraine
- 1920: League of Nations meets for first time, Geneva
First mass meeting of National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP, or Nazis)
Adolf Hitler publishes first Nazi party program
British Army takes control of Palestine
- 1921: Allies assess Germany \$31 billion in war reparations
Hitler establishes *Sturmabteilung* (SA), the "Storm Troopers"
NSDAP begins publishing its newspaper, *Völkischer Beobachter*
Hitler named chairman of NSDAP
The National Fascist Party established by Mussolini in Italy
- 1922: Adolf Hitler was inspired by Benito Mussolini's March on Rome, which brought the
National Fascist Party to power in Italy
Walther Rathenau, Jewish foreign minister of Germany, assassinated
The League of Nations approved mandate giving Great Britain rule over Palestine
American Eugenics Society founded
- 1923: German economy collapses, Deutschmark worthless
France and Belgium occupy the Ruhr
Hitler establishes *Schutzstaffel* (SS)
Hitler's failed "Beer Hall Putsch" in Munich
- 1924: Hitler serves nine months in prison, begins writing *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle)
US limits immigration from Eastern Europe
Nazis win 6.6% of vote in Reichstag elections
- 1925: Fascist organizations founded in several European countries and in the US
Huge Nazi rally in Munich
Gen. Paul von Hindenburg elected president
League of Nations outlaws chemical/biological warfare
Mein Kampf published
- 1926: Hitler Youth Organization founded
- 1927: Many Jewish cemeteries vandalized by Nazis
Rising anti-Semitism in Romania
German government lifts speaking ban on Hitler
Joseph Goebbels publishes *Der Angriff* (The Attack - a newspaper founded by the Berlin
region of the Nazi Party)





- 1928: Nazi Party wins 12 seats in the Reichstag
- 1929: Jewish settlers killed in Jerusalem during Palestine riots
Hitler appoints Himmler head of the *Schutzstaffel* (SS)
Nazi party rally at Nuremberg draws over 100,000
Wall Street Crash/Stock Market Crash
- 1930: Ustasha, fascist organization, founded in Croatia
Hitler appoints himself leader of the Storm Troopers
Nazis win 107 seats in the Reichstag
Nazi Party of Denmark founded
- 1931: German banking system collapses
Nazi Party forms alliance with other right-wing parties
Nazi Party of the Netherlands founded
- 1932: Hitler becomes a German citizen
Hitler receives 11.3 million votes in presidential election, but Hindenburg wins
Franz von Papen becomes Chancellor of Germany
Nazis win 230 of 608 Reichstag seats, but later lose 34 of them
Hindenburg offers to make Hitler Chancellor of Germany; Hitler refuses
- 1933: Albert Einstein speaks out against the Nazis
Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany on January 30
Reichstag burns; Hitler blames communists
German-American Bund founded in US
Franklin D. Roosevelt becomes President of the United States
SA (*Sturmabteilung*) instigates riots and attacks on Jews throughout Germany
Dachau the first concentration camp in Germany, established
Legal discrimination against Jews begins
Gestapo (*Geheime Staatspolizei*, or "Secret State Police") established
First public book burnings
Nazis begin sterilizing "undesirables"
Germany withdraws from League of Nations
- 1934: Hitler proclaims the title of "Führer"
Himmler becomes head of all German police
Thousands attend pro-Nazi rallies in US
"Night of the Long Knives" - Hitler purged Nazi leadership
Hindenburg dies; Hitler takes all power
"Death's Head Units" formed to guard concentration camps
- 1935: Hitler publicly announces intent to re-arm Germany
Germany introduces conscription, builds up armed forces
First "Nuremberg Laws" passed
Jews disqualified from German citizenship
New Polish government begins to persecute Jews
- 1936: Germany defies Versailles Treaty, occupies Rhineland





- Reinhard Heydrich becomes head of SD (*Sicherheitsdienst*, or “Security Service”)
Spanish Civil War begins
Olympic Games in Berlin (August)
Hitler and Mussolini sign Axis pact
Germany signs treaty with Japan
- 1937: Hitler declares Third Reich will last 1,000 years
Buchenwald concentration camp established
Hitler abrogates (repeals) the Versailles Treaty
- 1938: About half of Germany's Jews have now emigrated
Hitler names himself head of German military
Germany annexes Austria
Confiscations of property and discrimination against Jews stepped up
Evian Conference held by the League of Nations: many nations, including US, will not admit Jewish refugees
Mauthausen concentration camp established in Austria
Munich conference, Sudetenland annexation crisis
Kristallnacht, or the “Night of Broken Glass”
The wearing of yellow badges initiate for Jews
All Jewish students expelled from schools
Decree for the Reporting of Jewish-Owned Property, which made it easier for Nazis to take property owned by Jews
Kindertransport begins, rescue of thousands of Jewish children from Nazi-occupied lands
- 1939: All Jewish economic assets seized
Hitler warns that war will mean extermination of European Jews
The wearing of yellow badges by Jews becomes mandatory, but not everywhere
Hungary authorizes forced labor for Jews
Spanish Civil War ends with fascist victory
SS begins “T-4 euthanasia program” of “defectives” (physically and/or mentally handicapped)
British limit Jewish immigration to Palestine
Refugee ship *St. Louis* turned away from US
Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact between Germany and the USSR (August)
Invasion of Poland, World War II begins in Europe (September 1)
Thousands of Polish Jews interned
- 1940: Six “euthanasia” centers established in Germany
“*Blitzkrieg*” invasion of Western Europe begins
Lodz Ghetto in Poland sealed off
Auschwitz concentration camp established
France, Low Countries occupied
Battle of Britain
Wall built around Warsaw Ghetto
Deportation of French Jews begins
- 1941: Population of Warsaw Ghetto reaches 400,000





Dutch workers strike to protest deportation of Jews
It becomes mandatory for Jews in Germany, Alsace, Bohemia-Moravia, and German
annexed territory of western Poland to wear yellow badges
Krakow Ghetto established
Gassings began in Chelmno concentration camp (use of vehicles)
Germany invades USSR (June)
First Soviet prisoners at Auschwitz
Babi Yar massacre
Belzec death camp established
Odessa massacre
Japan attacks Pearl Harbor

- 1942: Wannsee Conference calls for "Final Solution"
Gassing begins at Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Sobibor, Majdanek, and Treblinka
concentration camps
Mass starvation in Polish ghettos
Lublin Ghetto liquidated
Medical experiments on Auschwitz victims
Switzerland expels Jewish refugees
- 1943: United Nations War Crimes Commission was established
Joint Rescue Committee begins work
Liquidation of Jewish slave laborers in Berlin begins
Czestochowa Ghetto liquidated
Bergen-Belsen concentration camp became operational
Khatyn Forest massacre of Polish prisoners by Soviets in 1940 discovered
Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
Mengele begins medical experiments at Auschwitz
Himmler orders liquidation of all ghettos in occupied USSR
Allies occupy most of Italy, Mussolini was imprisoned by the Italian king's military for 2
months before becoming the leader of northern Italy until 1945
The threat to Denmark's remaining Jews is removed
Revolt of prisoners at Sobibor concentration camp
- 1944: Oskar Schindler saves Jewish workers
Mengele's twin studies (medical torture and death) at Auschwitz
Lodz Ghetto liquidated
Normandy invasion (June)
290,000 Hungarian Jews exterminated in 23 days
Raoul Wallenberg saves thousands of Hungarian Jews
Paris liberated
Soviets begin to liberate concentration camps in Eastern Europe
Anne Frank sent to Auschwitz
First "death marches" from Auschwitz to German camps
Battle of the Bulge
- 1945: Soviet army liberates Poland and Hungary
Anne Frank died of typhus at Bergen-Belsen one month before liberation





Evacuation of Auschwitz
Death marches across Poland and Austria
Yalta Conference
US Army crosses the Rhine
Liberation of camps in Germany
Death of Franklin D. Roosevelt
Last death marches within Germany
Suicide of Adolf Hitler
Benito Mussolini executed
Liberation of Mauthausen
Surrender of Germany
Gradual evacuation of camp survivors to Displaced Persons (DP) camps
Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombed
World War II ends
Nazi officials imprisoned and interrogated

- 1945: Nuremberg War Crimes trials start
1.5 million Europeans in DP camps
- 1946: Emigration of survivors to US, Israel and elsewhere starts
- 1948: Establishment of the State of Israel
- 1951: United Nations bans genocide
- 1961: Trial of Adolf Eichmann in Israel
- 1966: Albert Speer and Baldur von Schirach released from prison
- 1979: Joseph Mengele dies in South America
- 1987: Klaus Barbie tried in France
- 1993: US Holocaust Memorial Museum opens
- 1996: Misappropriation of Holocaust victims' funds by Swiss bankers revealed
- 1999: Germany announces plans for Holocaust memorial in Berlin
- 2000: Opening of the Judenplatz Holocaust Memorial in Vienna
- 2005: The European Union and United Nations recognize International Holocaust Remembrance Day (January 27, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz)
Berlin inaugurates its Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe
- 2020 and after: You help remember the Holocaust and help heal the world





THE PEOPLE OF *PREJUDICE AND MEMORY*

The (I) indicates that this person was interviewed for the "Faces of the Holocaust" video series.
The (P) indicates that this person has passed away as of the publication of this pamphlet in 2020.

(P) Abrams, Alvin	(P) Landau, Helga
(P) Bird, John	(I) Levy, Helga
Bosma, Marinus & his (P) mother Helena	(I), (P) Long, Fred
(P) Bomstein, Moritz	(P) May family
(I), (P) Cooper, Delbert	Mellman, Bernard
(P) Feenstra, Joseph & Margarethe	(I), (P) Muler, Ben
(P) Flacks, Paul	(I), (P) Muler, Bernice
(P) Fromm, Theodore	(P) Pauzer, Karl
Frydman family	(P) Poirrier, Adrienne
Garfunkel, Felix & Erica	(P) Poll, Irene Kahn
(P) Gordon, Maurice	(P) Steeber, Henry
(P) Gutman, Bernie	(P) Stine, Abraham & Judith
(P) Gutmann, Max	(P) Unger, Gilbert
(P) Haddix, Ross	(P) Vacca, Gabriel
Hastin, Jim	(I), (P) Van Schagen, Johanna
(I), (P) Heider, Sam	(P) Vancourt, Abbe Raymond
(P) Kahn, Joseph & Martha	Weil, Felix
(P) Kahn, Gertrude Wolff	(I), (P) Weisman, Murray
Kahn, Robert	(P) Wyrobnik, Henry
(I), (P) Key, Donald	(P) Zyznomysky, Stacia





THE PEOPLE OF *PREJUDICE AND MEMORY*

John S. Bird (Liberator)

Born in England, John came to the United States at the age of five in 1930. He attended a private school in Canada and lived in New Jersey and New York. Drafted shortly after beginning studies at Princeton University in 1943, he was assigned to the 86th Infantry Division. John expected to be sent to the Pacific, but instead went to Europe during the Battle of the Bulge (late 1944) and was with Patton's army as it advanced through Bavaria and Austria. As the war was ending, his platoon - leaving the main highway to avoid German snipers - stumbled upon Dachau and assisted in its liberation. Soon afterwards, the 86th was given a short furlough at home and then sent to the Pacific for the invasion of the Philippines. He was there when the bombing of Hiroshima ended the war against Japan. For about six months after V-J Day, he helped comb remote Pacific islands for Japanese soldiers who did not know the war had ended. He was eventually able to resume his studies at Princeton and went to work in New York City. He married, moved to Ohio, and eventually settled in Troy to work at Hobart Brothers. He retired in 1990 as Superintendent of the Hobart Institute of Welding Technology. He and his wife have three children and eight grandchildren.

*General George Patton's **Third Army** led the invasion of Normandy and then the vast sweep across France which liberated that country in the summer and fall of 1944. Patton continued on into Germany that winter, and his troops were usually at the forefront. This is why so many were present at the liberation of concentration camps.*

Moritz Bomstein (Survivor)

Moritz Don Bomstein (originally Bomsztajn) was born in Belchatow, Poland on April 8, 1904. He moved to Piotrkow Trybunalski and married Paula Szpiro. They had three children - Zosia, Jakob (Jack) and Mania. The family was forced into the Piotrkow Ghetto, Poland's first ghetto, by the Germans. From there, the mother and two girls were sent to Treblinka (a death camp in Poland) and were never seen again. Moritz and son Jack were sent to Czestochowa and then to Buchenwald, where Moritz Bomstein wore the uniform in this exhibit. Later, they were sent to Dachau. In 1945, they were put on a train to be transferred again but the Americans stopped the train and liberated them. After the war, the Americans sent them to a DP (displaced persons) camp in Landsburg, Germany to await their quota number to enter the United States. They were in Germany for five years before coming to Cincinnati in 1950. Later, Jack married Bernice and came to Dayton to open a business. They had three sons in Dayton and still reside here. Jack says to survive, they did as they were told. Moritz Don Bomstein died in Cincinnati in February 1954 of a heart attack. He was 49 years old.

Marinus and Helena Bosma (Rescuers)

The Bosmas are natives of Arnhem, in the Netherlands. They lived in Arnhem during the first three years of the war, where they helped many Jews, but between 1943 and 1945 they were in hiding as members of the Dutch underground. The son, Marinus, recalls that his mother helped





find shelter for at least 30 Jewish people, and that they themselves housed at least twelve - a group of four, and later a group of eight.

In 1943, Marinus and his father spirited the last group to Amsterdam where they were handed over to another group that helped them escape to Belgium. As far as Marinus knows, only two of the people they helped were captured by the Germans. The Bosmas' underground shelter was discovered by the SD while Marinus and his father were still in Amsterdam. His mother and sister were held overnight as the Nazis waited for their return. Marinus came home but his father was warned and stayed away. Helena, Marinus and his sister managed to escape out the back door, each going separate ways and leaving all their belongings behind.

"Our survival depended on a lot of good people that were willing to help at great personal danger and no monetary compensation," Marinus says today. "Food stamps, money, clothing somehow showed up. When a people get oppressed by a ruthless enemy as the Germans were, it is unbelievable how people can form a solid united front against a common enemy." When asked how they were brave enough to help so many people, Marinus says, "I really don't know. We were lucky, very lucky. And I see now that the good Lord kept an eye on us, watched over us and let us get away with it. Many were not so lucky."

Marinus and his wife, Nelly, emigrated to the U.S after the war with their three children. A fourth child was born in 1956 in Tipp City. Helena died in Holland. The Bosmas still live in the Dayton area and winter in Florida. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in September 1999 and have seven grandchildren.

Delbert Cooper (Liberator)

Del Cooper was born in Dayton and graduated from Fairmont High School in 1941. As a soldier with the 71st Infantry Division in 1945, he was among the first Americans to enter and liberate Gunzkirchen, a satellite of the notorious Mauthausen concentration camp. His most vivid memory of that harrowing experience was "the sickening smell of dead bodies - the odor of evil," as he calls it today. The day after liberation, he wrote a detailed account to his wife Joan. He also took part in the capture of some German soldiers and an SS officer. After the war, he worked until 1972 at the Defense Electronic Supply Center in Kettering. He and his wife have one daughter. Del died in 2012, age 88.

Johannes and Margarethe Feenstra (Rescuers)

Born in Bonn, Germany, Margarethe married a Dutch citizen. The couple were living in Amsterdam when the war broke out. Johannes made fake ID's for Jews to save their lives. Johannes was arrested by the Nazis only days after Margarethe gave birth to their daughter, Marilou, and for six months she did not know where he was. Margarethe went to the German headquarters hundreds of times to get information about her husband, which eventually helped in his release. Interned at a satellite camp near Sachsenhausen, Johannes was allowed to "work" in Berlin as a volunteer - digging out live bombs that had fallen on the capital. "His pay was coming away from it alive," his daughter says. The Feenstras were reunited when Marilou was only a year old. They later came to the United States. After the war, Johannes had a difficult adjustment to normal life and worried about his friends' survival. The Feenstras lived in the Dayton area and have two daughters and three grandchildren.



About six million perished in the Holocaust.



Paul Flacks (Liberator)

Paul Flacks was drafted at age twenty and assigned to the Third Army. As an advance scout, he was often inside German lines as the Allies advanced across Europe. He was one of the first Americans to liberate the concentration camp at Buchenwald. He worked as an interpreter during the American occupation of Germany and helped identify key members of the SS. His family preserved a number of Nazi books, posters and photos, some of which are now in the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. As a Dayton businessman, he was active in Jewish organizations and was Executive Vice President and National Executive Director of the Zionist Organization of America for twenty years. Even after retirement he edited a Zionist newsletter. His wife Shirley died in 2009, she was active in Dayton's community affairs. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Buchenwald was established in 1938, just before Kristallnacht. It became the largest death camp in Germany and is still maintained as a memorial by the German government. It is located in Upper Saxony, not far from Nuremberg. Between 60,000 and 65,000 people lost their lives there.

Theodor Fromm (Survivor)

Born in Lautenberg, East Prussia in 1912, Theodor's family moved with him to Berlin after 1919 because their province became part of the new state of Poland. His mother died soon after and his father remarried. At fifteen he became an apprentice in a department store, but lost his job when Hitler came to power and Jewish businesses were forced to close. His father's shop also went out of business and, with his brother, he sold neckties on the streets. Theodor met his wife Rosa at a spa where she was employed. They were married in 1937 and not long afterwards, Theodor took his wife and her two sisters to Hamburg where they boarded a ship for America. Rosa was already pregnant with her daughter Barbara, who was born in Louisville and is now a retired teacher in Dayton and a member of the Holocaust Education Committee. The sisters settled with relatives in Louisville, Kentucky. Joseph returned to Rosa's hometown near the French border to prepare the rest of her family for emigration. Rosa's parents were able to leave as well, arriving in the States in September 1938.

Theodor was still in Germany at the time of Kristallnacht, working at a moving and packing firm in Berlin. With help from his employer and others, he was able to avoid arrest for two and a half years. He was granted an emigration visa in March 1941 because he had relatives in the United States, and travelled here by way of Lisbon. Later he learned that all of his family had died in concentration camps in Poland. In Louisville, he and his wife, apart for seven years, were unable to resume their marriage and soon separated. But they later reunited and became parents of a second daughter in 1948. Barbara was raised by relatives and after graduating from college took her younger sister in. Theodor returned to Berlin in 1961 to seek reparations. The family did not hear from him again until 1984, when he was reunited with Barbara. He died in 1987, and Rosa died in Dayton in 1998.





Frydman Family (Survivors)

The Frydman family lived in and around Radom, Poland. Charles' father and grandfather were kosher butchers. In summer they lived on a fruit farm and made a living selling produce. Nearly all the family was rounded up and sent to ghettos and then concentration camps when the Nazis occupied Poland. Most of the family - including his mother, Chana, two younger sisters, and all those depicted in the exhibit photo - were killed at Treblinka, a death camp.

Charles was interned in several small camps but soon escaped, joining the partisans in the Polish forests. After two and a half years in the forest, he was liberated by the Russians in January 1945. He says that he and the other Jews hiding in the forest wanted to survive to see the downfall of Germany because of the suffering it had caused his family and so many others. The single most important factor in his survival was looking forward to having a family of his own someday. He came to Dayton in 1950 and became a successful businessman. He and his wife, Renate, have four children and many grandchildren, all living in the Dayton area.

Erika Garfunkel (Survivor)

Erika Baier (Garfunkel) was born in Papenburg, a small German town with a population of twenty-four Jewish families. On November 9, 1938, her father Salomon was taken to a camp. His tobacco wholesale business was destroyed by Nazi storm troopers.

Because the mayor of Papenburg wanted the Baiers' house, he offered to issue the family passports without the letter J (for "Jude") on them. The family had applied for an immigration visa to Paraguay. The mayor bought the house for his son for a ridiculously low price, but then issued the passports with the letter "J" on them. This made the family's departure for Paraguay impossible.

Elli Waldbaum Baier, Erika's mother, went with her aunt Gida to Bremen to beg for visas at the consulates there. Through their efforts, Erika's father was released from the camp and permitted to immigrate with his family to Ecuador. The family settled in Guayaquil in April 1939.

Through her parent's sacrifices, Erika survived to graduate from the Universidad Central del Ecuador's College of Dentistry in 1954. She married Felix Garfunkel, also a survivor, that same year. He later graduated from a medical school in Ecuador (see below). They came to the United States in 1958.

From a large family on both sides, only Erika's immediate family - including her brother Herman, an aunt and uncle, and their three children - were able to escape the Nazis.

Felix Garfunkel (Survivor)

Cernauti, Romania was home to Felix's middle-class Jewish family. He was eight years old when the war broke out and the Soviet army, in accordance with the infamous Hitler-Stalin pact, occupied his country. In June 1941, the Germans came, and the Garfunkels were ordered into a Jewish ghetto with 46,000 others. A few weeks later they were put on a train to the Ukraine for slave labor. Felix recalls the journey as a nightmare of violence and fear. On arrival, men and women were separated and a forced march began. Felix and his father escaped and hid in an abandoned house -- he remembers that it had been flooded, and was full of mud. They made their way to Mogilev, but were forced into slave labor again. Felix worked on a farm and his father in a foundry. He estimates that 80 to 85% of Mogilev's Jews died from starvation or



3 million non-Jewish Poles were killed.



disease during that period. In the summer of 1943, he was sent to a concentration camp but escaped three months later. He was again in Mogilev when the Soviets liberated the town in the spring of 1944. Remarkably, both parents were still alive, and after they were reunited the family returned to Cernauti. After the war they journeyed to France and eventually to Ecuador, where Felix's father had a cousin. He completed high school and then medical school in Quito and immigrated to the United States in 1958. He has worked as a radiologist in Canton, Ohio and in Xenia, where he retired from Greene Memorial Hospital in 1990. He and his wife, Erika, have three children and three grandchildren.

Romania was a monarchy until the end of World War II, a relatively new country created in the late nineteenth century out of provinces conquered from the Ottoman Empire. The Romanians are an ancient people, descended from the Roman inhabitants of the province of Dacia. The Jewish population of this region has been large since at least the Middle Ages. Romania also has the world's largest Gypsy population, despite the fact that a quarter million of these semi-nomadic people also were killed in the Holocaust.

Maurice Gordon (Survivor)

Maurice Gordon was eleven years old when forced into one of the many Polish ghettos. He escaped with his family and hid in the forests with help from Poland's underground resistance movement. They were still in hiding when the Soviet army liberated Poland in 1945. Remarkably, the entire family survived -- Maurice calls this "a work of God" along with a little luck. He came to the United States after the war and worked in the mobile home industry. He has three children and two grandchildren.

The Polish Underground, also known as the 'Home Army,' operated throughout the war under the direction of the exiled government in London. The espionage network was highly efficient and supplied much valuable information to the Allies. The underground movement was also joined by some Jewish refugees and supplied weapons for the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

Max and Bernard Gutmann (Survivors)

Our exhibit includes a photograph of Max (age 12) and his brother Bernie (age 14) with a pair of oxen, plowing the family fields in prewar Germany. The Gutmanns raised cattle and grew hay, grain, fruit and potatoes. Bernard Gutmann immigrated to the United States in the spring of 1937, sponsored by a great uncle in Cincinnati. Max, his sister Ilse and their parents were still in Germany at the time of Kristallnacht. At the end of 1938, when violent persecution of Jews had begun, the family was forced to sell their farm for 15,000 German marks and then was taxed 14,000 marks for the transaction. Max's father was arrested on Kristallnacht and spent a few months in Dachau. Max and his parents went to Shanghai, China in 1939 after the father's release from Dachau. Ilse was sent to England via the Kindertransport. Max served three years in U.S. Army Intelligence and came to Dayton in 1948. He went into the retail business and eventually became CEO of the Elder-Beerman Stores Corporation. Bernie served in Patton's Third Army on the European front during the Normandy invasion and later became prominent in the shoe industry. Both have died, Max in 2009, Bernard 2015.





Many of the Jews who escaped the Nazi terror ended up immigrating to the United States. Some came here in a very roundabout way: sometimes across Siberia to China or Japan, sometimes via South America or Africa.

Ross Haddix (Liberator)

Ross Haddix was born in Kentucky in 1921. As a soldier in the First Armored Division in 1940, he worked with Sherman tanks. At the end of the war he was with the 11th Armored Division in Czechoslovakia. This division liberated one of the worst camps, Mauthausen in Austria. Ross helped set up a pumping system that brought up water from the Danube River for the liberated prisoners. He also visited and photographed the camp at Gusen. He worked for many years as a printer and now lives in Xenia. He has a daughter, two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Mauthausen is in Austria, near Linz on the Danube. Life there was particularly hard because inmates were forced to work under terrible conditions in a stone quarry. The death rate was very high, and Mauthausen was one of the last camps liberated, on May 5. About 120,000 died there. It was also one of the starting points for the 'death marches,' the forced treks that occurred at the end of the war when the Nazis tried to move prisoners away from the Allied advance.

Samuel Heider (Survivor)

Sam Heider was born in 1924 in the small village of Biejkow, one of six children of Yankel and Chaja Hajder. Unlike most Polish Jews, the Hajders had been farmers for generations and owned their own land. In 1941 the farm was confiscated by the German occupation forces, and the family moved to the ghetto in nearby Bialobrzegi. In 1942 the ghetto was liquidated, and Sam's parents went to their deaths at Treblinka as did his two brothers and three sisters. Sam survived because he was in a work camp at Radom. All he had left of his family was a photograph of his sister, which -- remarkably -- he was able to keep with him by hiding it under his arm, even in the showers. He kept it for the rest of his life. Sam died in 2019.

Before World War II, the largest single population of Jews resided in Poland. During the war years 2.9 million Jews died in camps or ghettos - 88% of all Polish Jews. Most families had been there for centuries, driven out of Western European nations or Russia during the Middle Ages. It is believed that they numbered three million in the 1930s. Today there are virtually none. Most were rounded up and sent to camps when Germany occupied Poland in late 1939, and systematic extermination began early in 1941. Three million Polish Catholics also died in the Holocaust.

Gertrude Wolff Kahn (Survivor)

Gertrude Wolff Kahn was born in 1925 in Neustadt, in the German Palatinate. Her parents owned a business, supplying iron materials for the building trade. When the Nazis came to power the Wolffs were boycotted by all their former customers. As life in Neustadt became more difficult, her parents sent Gertrude to a Jewish boarding school in Berlin, and her sister to a similar school in Switzerland. During Kristallnacht in 1938, her father was severely injured.



Around a quarter million Roma and Sinti (Gypsies) were exterminated.



Shortly after this Gertrude was put on one of the Kindertransports to England. She took her accordion and case as one of her two suitcases permitted. Her accordion is on display in the exhibit. She lived through the London Blitz. Her parents eventually escaped and the family was reunited in America. Gertrude is the wife of Robert Kahn, also a survivor.

Neustadt an der Haardt is a small city in the Palatinate region, located at the mouth of the Speyerbach river. Its picturesque location attracts tourists, and before the war it was a rail junction center. It is the center of the Pfalz wine region and each year celebrates the national Deutsche Weinlesefest.

Kristallnacht - November 9/10, 1938 - was the real turning point in the history of the Holocaust. Persecution of Jews had been indirect and mostly nonviolent until then. But early in November, a Jewish student assassinated a Nazi diplomat in Paris. This event was the excuse for turning loose the Nazi SS and their sympathizers on the Jews of Germany. That night, all over the country, Jewish homes and shops were looted and synagogues were burned. The window glass that littered the streets in Jewish neighborhoods gave rise to the expression "Night of Broken Glass." The shape of the Plexiglas panels on our exhibit recalls that horror. After Kristallnacht many Jews realized that the government was out to destroy them, and thousands fled the country. Many others were unable to escape because they had no country to go to due to quotas and other hindrances preventing them from leaving Germany, before the war broke out ten months later. About 150,000 of Germany's 500,000 Jews managed to escape.

Joseph and Martha Kahn (Survivors)

Joseph, father of Robert Kahn, is shown in the exhibit wearing a German soldier's uniform from World War I. Ironically, he was decorated for bravery by Adolf Hitler in 1934. His medal is also part of the exhibit. In November 1938, the Kahns were evicted from their Mannheim apartment and Joseph was severely beaten. Soon afterward he was taken to Dachau but escaped by signing over his business and property to an SS guard. The family travelled to the United States, where Joseph worked as a shipping clerk, and his wife Martha worked as a seamstress in a factory. Their son Robert was in the U.S. Army. After the war they were also reunited with their daughter Irene, who had been hidden in France by a priest (also pictured on the display) throughout the war.

Robert Kahn (Survivor)

Robert Kahn grew up in Mannheim, Germany. Because of growing discrimination in the 1930s, he was forced out of most childhood activities but took violin lessons at home and learned metalworking in a Jewish trade school. In November 1938, his school and synagogue were burned. When he came home, he saw his father being beaten and mother tied up. The Nazis burned their furniture. As Nazi stormtroopers looted the apartment, they forced him to play his violin for a watching, jeering crowd. This violin is now part of the "**PREJUDICE AND MEMORY**" exhibit. The Kahns fled to Luxembourg but again came under Nazi control when the Low Countries were occupied in 1940. Robert was able to escape through France and Spain to the Canary Islands and then went to the United States where he was reunited with his parents.





He fought with the U.S. Army in the Pacific theatre and later attended the University of Oklahoma. In 1946 he joined the Intelligence service at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where he received awards and remained until retirement. He lives in Dayton with his wife Gertrude and has three children and seven grandchildren.

Mannheim is a medium-sized city in northern Baden-Württemberg at the confluence of the Rhine and the Neckar rivers. It dates back to at least the eighth century and has a famous 'old town' area called the Quadraten. Laid out in a grid pattern, the squares are identified by the letters of the alphabet. Because it was a rail and industrial center more than half the town was leveled by Allied bombers near the end of World War II. The Kahns' apartment house no longer stands.

Donald Key (Liberator)

Donald was born in Union City, Ohio but grew up and now lives in Union City, Indiana - the town is split by the state line. On graduating from high school in 1942, he got married and was soon drafted. Serving as a courier with the Third Army, he participated in the D-Day invasion and was present when the first American troops crossed the Rhine at Remagen in 1945. Although he carried thousands of messages and was always near the front lines, he says he had never heard about the concentration camps until his regiment liberated Buchenwald in April 1945. The experience left him with a lifelong interest in Judaic culture, and his family has many connections with the local Jewish community. He died in 2017 at the age of 94.

Helga Landau (Survivor)

Helga Landau was born in Hagen, Germany. When she was sixteen her widowed mother sent her to England via one of the Kindertransports in May 1939. Prior to that, she and her mother lived in an apartment owned by Jewish people. Three other families moved in with them when forced out of their own homes. In England she lived for a time with a family in London (where she attended secondary school), and then in Bournemouth and in an internment camp on the Isle of Man. She made a living as a seamstress. Her mother's letters went first to the U.S., then to England to Helga. After the war she married a German boy she had known before going to England. They immigrated to Lima, Ohio, where an aunt lived. Her mother and step-father also survived the war through people who helped them. Helga and her husband had two daughters, but were later divorced. Helga moved with her aunt to Dayton. She worked for many years at Reynolds & Reynolds Company.

The Kindertransport helped trainloads of Jewish children from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia reach the safety of Great Britain where they were taken into English homes. About 10,000 children, all forced to leave their parents and families behind, escaped Nazi-controlled territory between November 1938 and September 1939 when war broke out in Europe. Noel Baker, English House of Commons Labor Party member, made an impassioned plea for the rescue of Jewish children in German-occupied lands. It sparked a speedy collection of money by British Jews, with help from church groups, especially the Quakers and Methodists. The Kindertransport was one of the largest children's rescue efforts



Some 70,000 handicapped people were put to death in
Concentration camps and hospitals.



in history. However, another million and a half Jewish children did not survive the Holocaust.

Helga Levy (Survivor)

Born and raised in Berlin, Helga recalls seeing Hitler, Goebbels and other Nazi officials as they drove through the streets of the capital. When Hitler took power, her school began to teach about 'Aryan superiority,' and she recalls that a Jewish friend was the only classmate whose head had the perfect 'Aryan' proportions. A teenager when the war began, she was assigned to a job in a munitions factory. For that reason she was not taken away to a concentration camp with her parents, whom she never saw again. Realizing that she too would eventually be liquidated, she 'went underground' with the help of her father's Gentile friend Emil Krollzig. Amazingly, she survived the war years living right in Berlin under a false identity. She was there when Soviet troops captured the city in April 1945. With the help of American officials she was able to board a ship for the United States. In the mid-1980s she visited Germany and was reunited with Emil's widow. Helga still resides in the Dayton area. Berlin was the old capital of Prussia and, after 1871, of united Germany. During the Nazi era it was home to thousands of high-ranking military and civil officials, the headquarters of the SS and SA, and for a time, the real nerve center of Europe. Throughout Helga's time 'underground,' Nazis were everywhere, almost literally underfoot. Moreover, Berlin suffered hundreds of Allied bombing raids between 1940 and 1945 - some 76,000 tons of explosives, five times the power of the first atom bomb. Berlin was largely rubble when the Soviet army marched in on May 1, 1945. Helga Levy never left the city, and her survival is nothing short of miraculous.

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Fred Long (Liberator)

Born on a farm in Harlan County, Kentucky, Fred enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942. He was trained as a medical corpsman in England and participated in the Normandy invasion in June 1944. He was with Patton's Third Army as it moved across France and Belgium into Germany in 1944-45. Allied troops were not told of the existence of the concentration camps (although their superiors knew), and it was often a traumatic experience when young soldiers stumbled into them. As Fred said, even the horrors of the battlefield were not enough to prepare him for his first sight of a death camp. His regiment was the first to enter Dachau and the episode affected him for the rest of his life. He died in 1999 in Dayton, leaving behind a large family. During his 93 days at Dachau, assisting the survivors, he drew a remarkable map of the camp. This map is now part of our exhibit.





Max May Family (Survivors)

Another picture on the display shows Max and Lydia May and their daughter Carmen in Frankfurt. The family had been in Germany for hundreds of years before the Holocaust. Max May was born in Horschheim, Lydia in Frankfurt and Carmen in Worms. Max was an artist and architect and a decorated veteran of the First World War. A visionary, he saw that the situation for Jews in Germany would worsen after the victory of Hitler's party in 1933. After someone dropped a rock on his granddaughter's baby carriage from their apartment house in Frankfurt, he decided to make a new life for her in the United States. Max May was the first of his family to leave and came to New York in 1936.

On *Kristallnacht*, his wife, daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter escaped from Frankfurt to Holland, then to England and finally to the U.S. in December 1938 to be reunited with Max. Other family members were not able to get out in time and were killed at Theresienstadt, Auschwitz and Riga. Max May died in 1959 and his wife Lydia in 1988, both in Dayton.

The family thrived in America and still resides in the Dayton area, leading productive, community-enhancing lives. The Dayton Holocaust Resource Center sponsors annual writing and art contests in memory of Max and Lydia May.

Bernard Mellman (Liberator)

Bernie Mellman enlisted in the Army reserves in 1942 and served with the U.S. Army in Europe in 1945-46. In April 1945 his battalion, the 542nd Field Artillery, assisted in the liberation of the concentration camp at Dachau. He was twenty years old and like most American soldiers, had no idea that the death camps existed -- even though he was Jewish. It was, he remembers, "a soul-wrenching experience for me. . . I can still see. . . starved, emaciated inmates. . . I remember seeing those ovens and smelling the stench of dead bodies." A few days later Bernie took part in the capture of nearby Munich.

After the war, he became an accountant. He and his wife, Beverly, have four children and eight grandchildren and resided in Dayton until 2000.

Dachau, located in a suburb of Munich, was the first concentration camp established by Hitler in 1933. It became one of the largest and most notorious, though it was never technically considered a death camp. During its twelve years of operation it housed at least 206,000 prisoners, 35,000 of whom died.

Ben Muler (Survivor)

The son of a newspaper printer in Wilno, Poland (now Vilnius, Lithuania), Ben knew about Nazi anti-Semitism long before the war. In 1939, as a result of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, Wilno was occupied by the Soviets. But in 1941, the Nazis occupied the city, and Ben fled with some friends. His family remained behind, convinced that the Germans would not harm them. He never saw his family again. From Minsk, he was recruited into a Russian labor corps and worked near the Volga River until that region, too, was occupied by the Germans. He fled into the Ural Mountains where he worked as a lumberjack - and also met his wife Bernice. At the end of the war he was permitted to return to Wilno but found no one he knew. He learned later that his mother had been shot and his father sent to a camp in Estonia, where he caught typhoid



Only 870 Norwegian Jews were killed, but this was over half the Jewish population of that country.



and was burned to death with other sick prisoners in a human bonfire. He did, however, eventually find a sister who had escaped into Russia. He came to the United States and worked as a printer in Jackson, Mississippi. Later he found a better job at the Dayton Daily News, where he worked until retirement in 1986. He and Bernice have two children and four grandchildren.

Wilno, Vilna, Vilnius - the capital of Lithuania has been part of Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Sweden, and the realm of the Teutonic Knights. It was founded in the tenth century and was capital of Lithuania after 1323. From 1795 to 1915 it was under Russian control, and during that period flourished as a center of rabbinic studies. Between the world wars, Vilna was the capital of a Polish province, and the 1931 census showed a Jewish population of 54,000. As a result of the notorious Hitler-Stalin Pact of August 1939, Vilna became the capital of the new Soviet Socialist Republic of Lithuania. Nazi occupation troops held it from June 1941 until July 1944, and during those three years nearly the entire Jewish population was murdered or taken away to camps. It is still the capital of Lithuania, now an independent state.

Bernice Muler (Survivor)

Born Bronia Fogel in Poland in 1925, Bernice was fourteen when the war broke out and her village came under German control. Departing Russian troops gave her family and neighbors thirty minutes to decide whether they wanted to be evacuated to Russia. Knowing their possible fate under Nazi rule, the Fogels decided to go. They went to an uncle's house in Vladimir, but in 1940 were sent on to a work camp in the Urals and later settled in a nearby town. Bernice was able to attend school for the next few years, but also worked twelve hours a day. She met Ben Muler while in Russia. Her father died in Russia in 1944 for lack of medical treatment, but she, her brother and sister continued to live with their mother in a one-room apartment. Life was very hard, but they knew that they would not have survived in Poland. They were permitted to leave the Soviet Union and Bernice came to the United States in 1949, with husband Ben and their young son, Leon. She and Leon are pictured on a ship on the way to America. She later had a daughter, Elizabeth, in the U.S. Her mother and sister eventually settled in Israel. Bernice and her husband Ben both died in 2014.

While protecting eastern European Jews from Nazi genocide, the Soviet Union often forced them into conditions approaching slave labor. Able-bodied Jews dug ditches, laid railroad track, and sometimes died under harsh conditions - but hundreds of thousands were saved from the death camps. The Soviet government helped families to reunite and allowed the fugitives some freedom of movement. After the war most of these survivors came to the United States or to Israel. Of the Soviet Jews who lived in areas occupied by the Nazis, 107,000 died in Russia and 900,000 in the Ukraine.

Karl Pauzar (Liberator)

Born in 1923 in Dayton, Karl was an All-City football player at Chaminade High School before he was drafted into the Army in 1943. He was sent to Europe in the fall of 1944 and served as a combat infantryman in the 14th Armored Division. He saw action in Alsace, the





Ardennes and in Bavaria, where his division accidentally stumbled upon and liberated the small concentration camp at Ampfing, near Munich. He still vividly remembers the starved, emotionless prisoners they found there. After the war he continued in the Army Reserve, and was called to active duty during the Berlin Wall crisis in 1961. He eventually retired as a lieutenant-colonel. He was married more than fifty years but has no children. Karl was active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He died in 2015.

Adrienne Poirrier (Rescuer)

Adrienne Poirrier was born in 1902 in Mauprevoir, France. Her husband Raymond was killed during the German invasion of France in 1940, leaving her with a young daughter. Working as a bookkeeper in a suburb of Paris, she joined the French Resistance. Her job at a city hall enabled her to steal ration coupons and blank ID cards, which were distributed through the underground network to Jews in hiding. Questioned three times by the Gestapo, she escaped arrest the third time only because her daughter Paulette removed the ration stamps hidden in their home and rode the Paris metro all night with the contraband. Paulette later married an American soldier, Robert Hinders, who brought her and her mother to Dayton in 1947. Adrienne died in 1984 but her daughter contributed her story for this exhibit.

*The **French Resistance**, "Maquis," or "Underground," better known but actually less effective than similar movements in Poland and Czechoslovakia, was directed from London by the Free French government in exile. Most Maquisards had little military training and could not offer much support to the Allies. However, many of them did help fugitive Jews. In some cases the entire Jewish population of towns or villages was saved. Often Jewish children were passed off as Catholic members of French families, and some did not rediscover their Jewish origins until decades later.*

Irene Kahn Poll (Survivor)

Irene Kahn Poll, born in Mannheim in 1922, remembers being called a "dirty Jew" and watching her brother Robert being beaten by a Nazi teacher in front of his classmates. In 1935, as her family was persecuted and their business ruined, she was sent to Lille, France to attend school. She was briefly reunited with her family in Luxembourg in 1939, but lost track of them during the war. In 1942, hiding her Jewish identity, she worked for a time as a governess near Orléans but then returned to Lille where she was hidden by Abbé Raymond Vancourt until the liberation in France in 1944. Later she again found her family in America.

Henry Steeber (Survivor)

Henry Steeber, a native of Vienna, was a survivor of Theresienstadt and later lived in Dayton. He has contributed valuable artifacts to this exhibit. He died in 2009.

Abraham and Judith Stine (Survivors)

Abe and Judith Süss Stine were both in their teens when taken from their homes in Poland and sent to concentration camps. Judith survived three years of forced labor at Auschwitz and lost all of her family except for one sister. Abraham was liberated from Bergen-Belsen in



Over 600,000 were murdered at Belzec.



1945, having escaped a last-minute massacre by hiding in a pile of dead bodies. He returned briefly to Poland but then went back to Germany, where he met Judith. They were married in 1946 and had a son, and then immigrated to Israel for a time. They came to the United States via Germany, and Abraham worked in the scrap metal business in Dayton for many years. Judith has now passed away and Abraham lives in Florida. According to their son, Dr. David Stine, they were unable for many years to tell their friends and family about their experiences in the Holocaust.

Auschwitz, with its sister camp Birkenau, was the largest of all the death camps. Located in southern Poland not far from the Czech border, it housed several million prisoners between its founding in June 1940 and its liberation in April 1945. Hundreds of thousands died in its gas chambers, and the total death count is about 1.6 million. It was also notorious for Josef Mengele's medical experiments and other research with chemical weapons. Factories operating with slave labor surrounded the camps.

Bergen-Belsen, another major death camp, is south of Hamburg. About 50,000 Jews were exterminated there.

Herbert Strauss (Survivor)

Herbert Leopold Strauss was born in Leipzig in 1900. He traced his roots back approximately 400 years in Germany. Strauss served in the German Army during World War I. He graduated from Heidelberg University and completed his education at the Leipzig College of Law, becoming a practicing attorney. He and his wife Gisela had one daughter, Eva, born in 1937.

In 1938, Strauss was arrested and sent to Buchenwald. He remained there for six months. He was one of the lucky ones who was released from Buchenwald, under the condition that he leave the country with his wife and child. He was forced to leave behind everything of value. The family spent two years in England and came to the United States when Strauss was 40. He worked at several jobs to support his family, including being a truck driver's helper and hardware store clerk in Huntington, West Virginia. Eventually he became a bookkeeper in Portsmouth, Ohio. Had he wished to practice law, he would have had to return to law school, graduate and pass the bar exam. At forty, he decided against it.

Strauss had three grandchildren and died in Dayton in 1980. His family's contribution to our exhibit was the sign which was on his place of business, and reads (in German) "Jewish Lawyer - Germans, go to German attorneys!"

Gilbert Unger (Liberator)

Gil Unger was born in Dayton and served with the 90th Infantry Division, landing at Normandy shortly after D-Day in 1944. His division liberated the concentration camp at Flossenburg on April 28, 1945. Even as the soldiers entered the camp, guards were murdering inmates. Gil's division also rescued Jewish prisoners and American POWs from the infamous "death marches." After the war he attended the University of Cincinnati and worked for many years as a music teacher in the Dayton public schools. He and his wife Lois had four children and there are six grandchildren. Gill died in 2014.





Gabriel Vacca (Liberator)

Major Vacca was a fighter pilot whose squadron was stationed at a captured base in Weimar just before the end of the war. He was one of the first Americans to see Buchenwald when it was liberated, and he witnessed a famous event: hundreds of civilians from Weimar were rounded up and brought to see the death camp. Born in Youngstown, Ohio, Gabe joined the army in 1941 and worked as an aircraft mechanic. He then went to flight school and was trained as a fighter pilot, sent to England, and then to France after the Normandy invasion. His 406th Fighter Group provided air support for the Third Army. After the war, he visited Israel six times and developed a strong interest in Jewish history and culture. He died in 1999, but his wife still lives in Riverside.

Abbé Raymond Vancourt (Rescuer)

When Irene Kahn (Poll) left Mannheim for Lille, France at the age of thirteen, she had never heard of the priest Raymond Vancourt. But during the war he would save her life, along with those of her aunt, uncle and cousins, and a great many other Jews in occupied France. Vancourt, a professor at the University of Lille, was a highly respected scholar. Irene and other young Jews were hidden in his house, and only at the end of the war did she learn of his activities with the Resistance. In 1975 she documented his activities for the Israeli government, and as a result he and his cousin and housekeeper, Raymonde Lombard, were honored as "Righteous Gentiles."

Lille is a major industrial center in northern France. It was a prime target for the German army during the Blitzkrieg because of its factories and its strategic location, as well as its military installations. It has been a center for textile manufacture since the Middle Ages. The university was established in 1887. Allied air raids damaged the city severely in 1944.

Johanna Van Schagen (Rescuer)

Johanna was born in Netherlands in 1915. She married Cornelis Van Schagen in 1937 and gave birth to their first child, Johnny, in September of 1938. When the Netherlands was occupied in 1940, its Jews faced the same fate as those in Germany and other occupied countries. Because of Anna's conscience and through connections with the underground, the Van Schagens began sheltering Jewish refugees. The first, a woman named Susan, ultimately chose to leave in an attempt to join her husband in England. Though the Van Schagens successfully hid her and protected her even through a serious illness, they learned later that she did not survive. Immediately after Susan left, another woman named Meta arrived. It was during her time with the family that Johanna gave birth to her second child Nell. Meta later moved to another house to help out because the wife was ill. Meta survived the war. Two more women, a niece and her aunt, came next. They were sheltered by the Van Schagens until the end of the war. They too, survived. In all, the Van Schagens sheltered four total strangers during the years of 1942 to 1944. Anna and Cornelis had three more children, all sons, and immigrated to America, settling first in Dayton and then Vandalia. Anna owned and operated a day care center which still bears her name. Cornelis died in 1977. In 1992, Anna was honored by Yad Vashem as "Righteous Among the Nations". She died in 2006.



250,000 were killed at Sobibor.



*Germany invaded the **Netherlands** in the spring of 1940, part of the larger Blitzkrieg that overran Western Europe that year. The Dutch government surrendered quickly to avoid reprisals and destruction, and the Queen fled to London. During nearly five years of occupation, the Dutch people suffered many hardships but most did not collaborate, and many worked actively against the Nazis through the Underground. The Netherlands was liberated in the fall of 1944. About 106,000 Dutch Jews, or three-quarters of the Jewish population, died in the Holocaust.*

Felix Weil (Survivor)

A native of Frankfurt-am-Main, Felix attended the prestigious 'Philanthropin' school. After Kristallnacht many Jewish families sent their children out of Germany via the Kindertransport to escape the coming catastrophe. At the age of eleven he found himself in England, still not realizing that he would never see his family again. In 1941 his parents and sister were sent to the Lodz ghetto in Poland, and his father died there. His mother and sister died later in concentration camps. In 1945, an aunt and uncle brought him to the United States. But he was drafted and sent back to Germany to serve with the occupation forces. He graduated from Kent State University and has lived in Dayton since 1950. He is now retired from the art business and lives in Chicago. He and his wife Frances have two children and a grandchild.

***Frankfurt**, one of the largest cities in Germany, dates back to Roman times (it was the “ford of the Franks”). The medieval town grew up in the twelfth century around an imperial castle. The Holy Roman emperors were usually elected and crowned there, and it was a center of the Lutheran Reformation. In the Napoleonic era, Frankfurt was the capital of the Confederation of the Rhine, and the first national German assembly was held there in 1848. After the unification of Germany in 1870 it grew into a major industrial center. It was damaged heavily in World War II and afterwards was the headquarters of the American occupation forces. Today it is a global financial center and the site of one of the world's busiest airports. Jews have lived in Frankfurt since the early Middle Ages, and before the war they were very numerous and active in the city's cultural, educational and business life.*

Murray Weisman (Survivor)

Murray Weisman was born in Lodz, Poland in 1930. At the age of nine, on his way to school, he was snatched off the streets by Nazi troops and taken with a truckload of men to a labor camp. He never saw his family again but later learned that most had died at Chelmno after deportation from the Lodz Ghetto. Murray himself is a veteran of no less than seven camps, including Auschwitz, where he escaped death by pretending to be older than he really was. He worked on road construction and as a carpenter. He was liberated from Buchenwald in 1945 and is one of the youngest to have survived such a long imprisonment in the camps. After liberation he went to France under the auspices of the French Government in cooperation with the Jewish Family Service in Paris, the "OSE". In 1950 he immigrated to the United States. He attended the University of Minnesota and Ohio State, where he obtained a BA, MSW and a JD. He was





Executive Director of the Montgomery County Mental Health program and subsequently was a Legal Counsel for the U.S. Air Force. He moved to Florida with his wife Marianne. They are the parents of three children. Murray has passed away (date unknown).

*The **Lodz Ghetto** was one of the largest Jewish neighborhoods in Eastern Europe (205,000 Jewish inhabitants before the war). Lodz is in northern Poland, and at times has been under Russian or Lithuanian control. The ethnic mix is very diverse. The German occupation forces established the ghetto as a vast prison in 1940, herding into it thousands of Jews from all over northern Poland and later from Western Europe. During the war years it was a source of slave labor. An unrecorded number of Jews were killed there or died of disease or starvation.*

Henry Wyrobnik (Survivor)

The man pictured in the exhibit with a concentration camp number tattooed on his arm is Henry Wyrobnik. Henry was born in Lodz, Poland. He, his parents, siblings and many other family members were put into the Lodz Ghetto by the Nazis until August of 1944, when they were sent to Auschwitz. As the Allied armies approached, he and thousands of others were taken on a Death March beginning on January 15, 1945. They were given only small amounts of bread. They marched for two weeks, day and night. If someone lagged behind or walked out of line, they were shot immediately by the German soldiers. They were put on coal trains, other cars were hooked on, and they spent two more weeks on the train. They had nothing to eat but snow.

In Czechoslovakia, people threw food to the trains as they went through the countryside, but Czech people were shot by the SS if they were caught throwing food. One hundred and eight people were on Henry's train, "packed like sardines," and at the end only 35 remained alive. The train finally took them to Mauthausen. There they were forced to bury bodies in mass graves. In Mauthausen, they had no clothes, no food, and were housed in crowded barracks. At the end of three or four weeks, they were sent to Günzkirchen, a subcamp of Mauthausen.

At the end, Henry says, they "spent three weeks without water to drink, living in woods with mud so deep if you stepped into it, you would sink in." Many people from other countries were also imprisoned there.

On May 5, 1945, Günzkirchen was liberated and Henry was freed and eventually sent to a hospital to recuperate. He had lost his whole family, including, parents, one brother and two sisters. Henry met his wife, Dora, also a survivor, in a Displaced Persons (DP) Camp at Feldafing, Germany. They came to the United States in 1949 and he worked for Shillito's in Cincinnati. Later he owned his own business and came to Dayton, where he died in 2007. The Wyrobniks have three children and seven grandsons.

Stacia Zyznomysky (Rescuer)

Born in the Ukrainian town of Kalynew, Stacia says she spent the war years motivated primarily by two emotions: love and fear. Her non-Jewish family hid her best friend, Helen Bittner, in the attic of their house when the Germans occupied the region. Stacia and her sister lived a 'normal' life, going to school and playing with friends, but when at home they shared in the responsibility of caring for their secret guest. Always the family lived in fear of discovery. In 1944, as the front line of battle approached their village, the anti-Communist Zyznomyskys fled to Poland. Helen was left behind, but with falsified documents identifying her as the niece



Between 750,000 and 870,000 Jews were killed at Treblinka.



of Stacia's father. After the war, under the War Orphans Relief Act, Stacia was able to come to the United States. In 1991 Stacia found Helen again. Her parents and brother had died in the Holocaust, but Helen had married and come to the United States via Israel. She lived in Florida and had a family of her own. She and her husband have both passed away (date unknown).

Ukraine, now an independent republic, was one of the fifteen Soviet Republics within the USSR and was part of Russia since ancient times. Ukrainians are, however, a distinct people with their own language and have not always been friendly toward Moscow. Hitler's invasion of the USSR in 1941 drove directly across this region, aiming for the oil fields near the Caspian Sea and for industrial centers like Stalingrad. Soviet resistance was fierce, all the more so because many Ukrainians sympathized with the Nazis and might have tried to help the invaders. Some of the bloodiest and most destructive battles of World War II were fought in Stacia's 'back yard.' Nine hundred thousand Ukrainian Jews were exterminated in the Holocaust.



120,000 Jews perished at Mauthausen.
60% of Belgian Jews perished in the Holocaust.



AMERICAN AIRMEN IN THE HOLOCAUST

As Allied air forces took control of the skies over Europe in the summer of 1944, Adolf Hitler ordered the immediate execution of Allied flyers accused of committing certain acts. Branded as a "*Terrorflieger*" ("terrorist flyer"), the unfortunate airman was not given a trial. However, the German Foreign Office expressed concern about shooting prisoners of war, and suggested that enemy airmen suspected of such offenses not be given the legal status of POWs. Following this advice, the Gestapo and Security Police sent 168 captured Allied airmen (including 82 Americans) to the concentration camp at Buchenwald. These airmen had been shot down over France and turned over to the Gestapo and secret police by traitors in the French Resistance.

Arriving at Buchenwald on August 20, 1944, these men received the same horrible treatment as other inmates. After sleeping outdoors for the first three weeks, the 168 airmen were moved into an overcrowded, filthy 150' by 30' hut along with another 757 inmates - including about 350 Gypsy boys aged eight to fourteen. Most of the boys were soon removed (probably executed) to make room for the Allied POWs, but they still slept five men to a bunk. With medical care essentially nonexistent, the injured and sick airmen suffered immensely. On the night of October 18/19, 1944, 156 of the 168 were transported from Buchenwald and arrived at Stalag Luft III on October 22. Earlier that year, the Gestapo had murdered fifty Allied POWs who had escaped from this same Stalag. Too sick to travel, twelve of the POWs remained at Buchenwald. Two of them died, including an American who contracted pneumonia. The remaining ten were later transported to POW camps.

In 1999, the German government paid 34.5 million Deutschemarks in reparations to various survivors of the Holocaust who were United States citizens, both civilian and military, interned in concentration camps during World War II. American POWs who had been at Buchenwald were among those receiving reparation payments.



About 65,000 were murdered at Buchenwald.
76% of Dutch Jews died in the Holocaust.



AMERICAN MILITARY SURVIVORS

Sergeant Alvin L. Abrams (Survivor)

Alvin L. Abrams was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1924. He entered the U.S. Army at the age of eighteen in early 1943 and participated in the Normandy landings with the 229th Field Artillery Battalion, 28th Infantry 'Keystone' Division. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and was transited first to the STALAG 9B prisoner of war camp. In early February 1945 Sergeant Abrams, along with 300 other Jewish prisoners of war, was segregated and sent to Berga-am-Elster, a satellite of the Buchenwald concentration camp. There he was part of a forced-labor group along with prisoners from other camps, digging tunnels by hand through mountain rock for underground factories. He was liberated in late April 1945 and after many months of recovery, was discharged from military service. He founded a successful construction business in New Jersey. Alvin died in Florida in 2010.

Lieutenant Colonel Jim Hastin (Survivor)

Lieutenant Colonel Hastin was born on Lopez Island, north of Seattle. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in August 1941. After pilot school, he was assigned to the 361st Fighter Group, 374th Fighter Squadron. While on his sixty-ninth mission, he was shot down and bailed out of his P-51 over France. He was helped by French farmers who gave him food, clothing and shelter. Making his way to Paris, he believed that he was on his way to freedom. He and another American were assisted by a French couple who had them pose as Belgian workers on the way to a new job. But German troops apprehended them at a roadblock. They were taken to a prison camp, and then transported by boxcar to the Buchenwald concentration camp. Hastin was liberated in April 1945 and discharged from military service. He entered the heating and ventilation business in Washington State, and retired in 1986.





The “**PREJUDICE AND MEMORY**” booklet has been developed by the Holocaust Education Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton.

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Printing of this booklet was funded through the generosity of: The Leon Norman and Mildred Miriam Nizny Memorial Fund of the Dayton Foundation by the Nizny family and The Barbara and Jack Schultz Memorial Fund by Farley and Linda Frydman. Originally printed in 2001.

Reprinting 2020 sponsored by the Air Force Museum Foundation.

We express our deepest thanks to the following people who helped make the dream of a Holocaust exhibit in Dayton a reality:

Brian Hackett, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Historical Society

Veit Parker, President and CEO of Display Dynamics Inc.

Lloyd Milby, CEO of L.W. Milby Inc.



The figures cited here are from Marilyn Harran et al., *The Holocaust Chronicle*:²⁹
A History in Words and Pictures, Publications International Ltd., 2000.