



Holocaust History



- 1935 September - Reichstag (German legislature) passes anti-Semitic "Nuremberg Laws" depriving Jews of citizenship.
- 1936 March - Jewish doctors barred from practicing medicine.
- 1937 July - Buchenwald Concentration Camp opens.
- 1938 April - Jews inside the Reich required to register all property.
- July - International conference in Evian, France fails to help German Jews.
- October - All Jewish passports required to be marked with a large "J."
- October - Britain restricts Jewish entrance into Palestine (later called Israel).
- November 9 - "Kristallnacht" (Night of Broken Glass) anti-Semitic riots destroyed 200 synagogues and looted 7,500 Jewish shops.
- November 11 - New York Times headlines story of Kristallnacht.
- November - 26,000 Jews arrested and sent to concentration camps.
- November - Jewish students forbidden to attend schools.
- December - German Jews fined for property destroyed during Kristallnacht.
- December - German government seizes all Jewish-owned businesses.
- 1939 October - First deportations of Jews begin.
- October - British report reveals concentration camp abuses.
- November - Wearing of yellow Star of David patch is required in public.
- 1940 April - Lodz Ghetto established with 165,000 people in 1.6 square mi.
- May - Auschwitz concentration camp established.
- November - Warsaw Ghetto sealed 500,000 people within.
- 1941 July - Nazis decide upon the "Final Solution," the extermination of all Jews in Europe.
- September - First experiments with gassing are made at Auschwitz.
- September - 35,000 Jews massacred outside of Kiev, Russia.
- October - Establishment of Auschwitz-Birkenau for extermination of Jews, Gypsies, and Slavic people.
- October - Mass deportation of German Jews begins.
- 1942 March - Extermination begins; 600,000 Jews killed by year's end.
- June - Treblinka Extermination camp opens.
- October - Allied nations pledge to punish Germany for its genocide.
- 1943 April - Warsaw Ghetto Jews revolt before Germans liquidate 70,000 in May.
- October - Armed revolt in Sobibor Extermination camp.
- 1944 May - Nazis deporting 380,000 Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz.
- July - Soviet troops liberate Maidanek extermination camp.
- 1945 January - Soviets arrive in Warsaw and find 5,000 starving inmates alive; other prisoners taken on death march away from approaching Allies.
- January - Stutthof concentration camp death march of inmates begins.
- April - British troops liberate Bergen-Belsen death camp; U.S. troops liberate Buchenwald.

Adapted from www.holocaust-trc.org/wmp02.htm

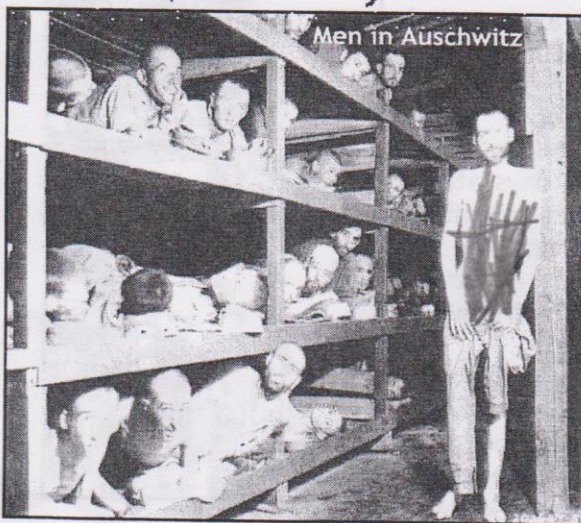
Survivor Stories

When we have nothing to eat,
They gave us a turnip, they gave us a beet.
Here have some grub, have some fleas,
Have some typhus, die of disease.

Poem from a Jewish Ghetto remember.org/courage/chapter6.html

"We were pushed up on railroad cars, actually cattle cars. ... We were about 50 people or 60. Twenty more, 30 more, so we must have been in that little cattle car, which is about a third of the size of an American railroad car, about 120, 140. And before we knew, whoever didn't make it of the family in the same car was cut off and they, they just slammed the doors, and those who were outside, they still had to put barbed wire on the little bit of opening which was on the outside on the top of the railroad car. These cars were usually used for cattle transports or for grain." (Bart Stern)

"The only facility in the train was two buckets for over a hundred men, women, and children. And the train was standing on one place. It was unbearably hot. Lack of air. So some people had an idea that the minute we start moving it's going to get cooler. But at one moment, we heard that the gate opened up in the boxcar, so we thought, "Maybe they changed their mind. They're going to leave us out." But instead, they brought a few dozen Jews discovered in a hiding place; they were all badly beaten up because they were hiding.... And they added to our car." (Leo Schneiderman)



It was late at night that we arrived at Auschwitz. When we came in, the minute the gates opened up, we heard screams, barking of dogs, blows from those Kapos, those officials working for them, over the head. And then we got out of the train. And everything went so fast: left, right, right, left. Men separated from women. Children torn from the arms of mothers. The elderly chased like cattle. The sick, the disabled were handled like packs of garbage... My mother ran over to me and grabbed me by the shoulders, and she told me "Leibele, I'm not going to see you no more. Take care of your brother."

(Also Leo Schneiderman)

"I tell you what I looked like. I weighed at liberation sixty-nine pounds. I'm not a very short lady. I don't know how tall I was at that time, how much I grew during the war, when, uh... I am five four and a half now. Can you imagine sixty-nine pounds? My face was swollen because I was beaten up severely on the death march. My hands had frostbite. My toes were black from frost. I had one dress, a blanket that was wrapped around my body. Between the blanket and the dress, my body was wrapped around with straw." (Nesse Galperin Godin)

Last three accounts excerpted from www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/phistories/

Survivor Stories

"At the age of seven, I knew already that we're different ... all of a sudden stones were thrown from the neighbors' windows. I was terribly scared and asked Papa why they did this to us. He said only softly, "Because we are Jews". That was in the year 1937.

We stayed for another two years ... we had to wear the yellow Star of David and we were not allowed to leave our homes after 8 p.m., while we could ride only in the last carriage of the tramway, since the first ones were "Not allowed for Jews".

Many houses bore captions in large letters, "Do not buy in Jewish shops," or "Jews get out". Instinctively I didn't want to know anything about it and that's why my teddy bear was my best friend. My elder sister Esther had once brought it to me ...

One day, when I was eleven and a half years old, Mama received a printed summon, instructing us to appear at Prague's Exhibition Halls, in order to join a "transport" (i.e. the actual deportation convoy of human beings to the concentration camps) which would drag us into the unknown..."

Judith Jaegermann excerpted from www.remember.org/witness/

"On November 9, 1938, I stood by the window of our house - the house where I was born - and watched while they burned down the big synagogue across the street (photo). The Boerneplatz Square was crowded with thousands of spectators; they made a circus out of it. We saw it all. Suddenly they burst into our rooms with axes and bars and smashed everything up.

We ran to the neighborhood police station for help. They looked at us and just laughed. Several days after, on the 15th of November, my mother sent my little sister Lorle, my younger brother Asher, and me to Holland. We went together with a group of about twenty-five children, organized by some Jewish women; I don't know who they were.

When we arrived at the Dutch border, two S.S. men (German soldiers) took us off the train, into a waiting room. All the Germans had to leave the room because they couldn't have Germans and Jews in one place together - we were very dangerous people, you know; I was fourteen, Lorle was eight, Asher was twelve, and there was another child of three or four. They told us there was no toilet, no water fountain, no nothing, and don't cry. Right away, the little ones started crying.

We weren't allowed to leave the room until evening when they put us aboard another train.... We crossed the border into Holland. When we arrived, a committee was waiting to greet us. There were journalists and photographers; everyone was asking how things were in Germany. We told them about the burning and arrests. ... I think I realized all at once that something was irreversibly broken. It was only at that moment that I understood what was going on, or maybe more, I started to think about what might be in store in the future."

Joseph Heinrich, excerpted from www.humboldt.edu/~rescuers/book/Pinkhof/josephh/joe1.html

