

1

How many of you have family members  
who perished in the Shoah?

2

Arthur Kurzweil said it best:

“...The Talmud says that when the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, then the Jews did their family trees.  
...Sometimes if you want to go forward, you first have to go backward. You see where you are coming from, and you know where you are going.  
... *Most people in the world don't know quite what to do with the Holocaust.*  
But I think we genealogists have found out what to do.  
We remember names.  
When the Nazis rounded us up, they took away our names and they gave us numbers.  
What we are involved with doing is taking away their numbers and giving them back their names.”

3

Two opposing ideas:

1. Everything was destroyed during the Shoah:  
“Europe is just one big Jewish cemetery.”
2. The Nazis kept very good records.

4

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## Two most important first steps:



- Submit an inquiry to ITS/Arolsen.
- Submit an inquiry to the USHMM.

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## AROLSEN ARCHIVES:

- **Best for tracing individuals**
- Formerly International Tracing Service (ITS)
- Forced laborers, camp prisoners, displaced persons
- Free, online searchable records
- Extremely important for family research and restitution cases



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## AROLSEN: SIZE AND SCOPE



- 30 million original documents,
- 50 million reference cards
- References to more than 17.5 million individuals
- Millions of index cards and digital databases
- Continually growing through digitization and partnerships, including Ancestry, Yad Vashem and JewishGen

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## I. PERSECUTION DOCUMENTS



- **Concentration camp records:** Prisoner registration cards, transfer and death lists, medical records, work assignments.
- **Gestapo and police files:** On political prisoners, Jews, Roma, Sinti, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, etc.
- **Ghetto records:** Deportation lists, census documents, labor rosters.

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## 2. FORCED LABOR RECORDS



- The Arolsen Archives holds millions of documents related to people who were forced to work under Nazi rule:
- **Work cards and personnel files** from German companies, labor camps, and state-run labor institutions.
- **Correspondence about laborers** between German employers and authorities.
- **Lists of foreign workers** (especially from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union).

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## 3. DISPLACED PERSONS (DP) RECORDS



- After WWII, millions of survivors and refugees needed assistance. Arolsen holds:
- **DP registration cards and resettlement records**
- **UNRRA and IRO documents** (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and International Refugee Organization)
- **Camp rosters**, emigration applications, and requests for assistance or tracing.

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## 4. DEATH AND BURIAL RECORDS

- Documents that confirm or provide evidence of death, particularly for victims of concentration camps and forced labor:
- **Death certificates**, post-war exhumation reports
- **Lists of the deceased**, cemetery and grave records
- Records compiled for **reparations or restitution** purposes



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## 5. TRACING AND CORRESPONDENCE FILES

- Since 1945, the ITS/Arolsen Archives facilitated tracing requests from families and survivors:
- **Correspondence with survivors and relatives**
- **Search requests** for missing persons
- Internal research documentation used to determine fates or identities

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## SOME DOCUMENTS ARE ONLINE:

- Displaced persons: e.g. documents from the International Refugee Organization (IRO), often with photos of people.
- Concentration camps, ghettos, Nazi penal institutions (13M records):
  - Documents about individual prisoners, particularly comprehensive from the Dachau and Buchenwald concentration camps.
  - Transport lists and prisoner lists from various camps.
- The ITS' own case files and child-tracing files



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START HERE WITH AROLSEN:  
[HTTPS://COLLECTIONS.AROLSEN-ARCHIVES.ORG/EN/ARCHIVE](https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive)

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- <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/de/search>
- Search by name and by lists
- Remember: *not all documents have been indexed*

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## ONLINE SEARCH TIPS

- Guide to understanding Holocaust documents from ITS: <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive>
- When you search in the online archive, **even if you do not get any search results, documents may still exist** – or there may be more documents than those listed in the results.
- Do both: **send an inquiry to the Arolsen Archives and search online**.



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## AROLSEN: SUBMIT A RESEARCH REQUEST

- **Fill out the inquiry form.**
- **Even if you have applied before, apply again.**
- **6-12 weeks average wait time**
- **More than 2,000 inquiries every month**
- **FREE**
- <https://arolsen-archives.org/en/search-explore/inquiries/submit-inquiry/>



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## THE AROLSEN ARCHIVES KEEPS ADDING DOCUMENTS TO THEIR ONLINE ARCHIVE.

- Go here for updates:
- <https://arolsen-archives.org/en/news/update-online-archive/>

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**NEXT STEP:**  
**UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM (USHMM) – WASHINGTON, DC**

**America's national Holocaust repository**

- Massive archive: documents, artifacts, photographs, oral histories
- Integrated research center used by scholars worldwide
- Hosts the **Holocaust Survivors and Victims Database**
- Acts as a coordinating and educational hub in the U.S.
- Works closely with Yad Vashem and Shoah Foundation

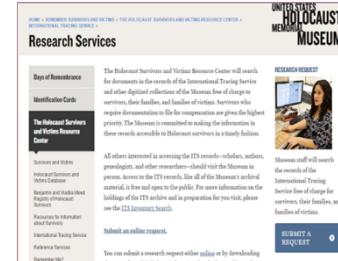
21

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**THE HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS RESOURCE CENTER**



- **searches for documents in Arolsen and other digitized collections of the Museum.**
  - <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/the-holocaust-survivors-and-victims-resource-center/international-tracing-service/submitting-a-request-for-research>
- **FREE to survivors, their families, and families of victims.**
- **High priority: survivors who require documentation to file for compensation.**



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**USHMM (CONT.)**



- **Do your own research:**
  - <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/the-holocaust-survivors-and-victims-resource-center/holocaust-survivors-and-victims-database>
  - [https://www.ushmm.org/online/hsv/person\\_advance\\_search.php](https://www.ushmm.org/online/hsv/person_advance_search.php)

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**IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SEARCH REQUEST TO AROLSEN AND TO THE USHMM? FROM JO-ELLYN DECKER AT USHMM:**

- Yes!
- "... We are able to search the millions of records we've indexed within our holdings that are not at the ITS.
- For example, the *Holocaust Survivor and Victims Resource Center Database*, (HSV) has several indexes and in some cases, linked documents to the index record. We also search through the ITS database when we receive a research request as well as online resources.
- If someone asks ITS and us, we get a duplicate report and then we only check our 'other resources.' But, of course, sometimes the reports are behind, and we do the same search in the ITS collections again. But that's not really a problem for us. We're happy to work on them.
- Typically, we search all the resources at our disposal in order to find additional information about individuals."

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KL. MITTELBAU		T/D NR. <input type="text" value="12345678"/>
MUNK Name		EL. FLOSSENBUED
24.1.1925 Geb. Datum		T/D Nr. <input type="text" value="34574"/>
Postkontrollkarte		34574
Arbeitskarte		<input type="checkbox"/>
Reisekarte		<input type="checkbox"/>
Krankenblätter		<input type="checkbox"/>
Rohrgenkontrollkarte		<input type="checkbox"/>
Zahnbehandlungskarte		<input type="checkbox"/>
Abgang durch Tod		<input type="checkbox"/>
Totenmeldung		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>FLOSS.</b> <b>MUNK, Tibor</b> <b>Date of arrival in Fin. 8.11.44 N° 34574</b>		
<b>34574</b> <b>Aug. 1944</b> <b>Munk Tibor</b> <b>21</b> <b>get. 21. I. 1945</b> <b>ledig</b> <b>Urgent</b> <b>Beruf: Schiawacher</b> <b>Y</b>		
<i>Munk, Tibor, Kl. Mittelbau, u. m. 4.12.44</i>		

25

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29.11.48. <i>G 71/11574</i>		ANTRAGSTELLER-KARTE	
Name: GALAS, Felicia		Name: GALAS, Felicia	
BD: 17.6.25 BP: Loda/Poland		Nat. Jew.	
Next of Kin: Parabren & Hindra, nee DUBROVSKA		Möglichster Eltern: Abram, Michael u. Minda	
Source of Information: Umschr. auf 1022, Frankfurt/44		Datum: 17.6.1948	
Last location: Zeilheim, Frankfurt, comp. 1022/44		Adresse: 8243 Ender-Skokovska-11 Illinois/USA.	
CC-Poison: None		GALAS, Chaim, geb. 1919	
Arr. Frankfurt		Geschlecht: GALAS, Fliebel, geb. am: 1921	
Transf. on		(Verwandtschaftsgrad)	
Died on		Brüder	
Cause of death			
Buried on			
Grave		D.C. No.	
Remarks		D 11.4	

T / D No.: 9307L		MS. 12.5.70	
Biel No.: 9307L		v. P. C. 1. 1948	

Date 31.5.50 K.o.N. <i>D P List</i>			
Name: G A L A S, Felicitas		File No.: AT-1022	
BD: 17.6.25 BP: Loda (Poland)		Nat. Jew.	
Next of Kin: Parabren & Hindra, nee Dubrovská		verh. MDRK	
Source of Information: Umschr. auf 1022/44		Datum: 17.6.25	
Last location: Zeilheim, Frankfurt, comp. 1022/44		Adresse: L'uds	
CC-Poison: None		Nat. -	
Arr. Frankfurt			
Transf. on			
Died on			
Cause of death			
Buried on			
Grave		D.C. No.	
Remarks		D 12.5.50 B 12.5.50	

Liste der Personen, die am 19.1.1946 einen Personalausweis von den USA erhielten. Ein großer Kreis in Prag bekommen haben.		Ungarisches Rotes Kreuz in Prag	
Reg. No.: 7 532		Rotes Kreuz	
Mutter: GALAS, Ilona		Az.: DP-Liste	
Bemerk.: Bergen - B -		Tschechoslowakei	
Bemermann, Tibor			

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Nr.	Antragsteller Name	Vorname	Einkommen aus Antragsteller	Ges. Betrag	Ges. Betrag	Ges. Betrag	Ges. Betrag
					Tagt.	Monat	
19.	Siecher	Roska	26.9.45	1.5.45			69.55
20.	Stammbaum	Bluma	23.9.45	17.6.45			232.50
21.	Stoschmann	Rosa	19.9.45	22.6.45	297.60		
22.	Storian	Elisabeth	23.9.45	26.5.45			153.45
23.	Fortlandisch	Antonia	19.9.45	29.6.45	386.90		
24.	Frankenthal	Else	19.9.45	26.9.45			170.70
25.	Friedrich	Eduard	16.9.45	1.6.45	1.5.45		18.45
26.	Froehl	Erika	16.9.45	21.6.45			14.55
27.	Funkl	Rosa	16.9.45	22.6.45			11.55
28.	Fried	Eloisa	19.9.45	22.6.45			111.55
29.	Fried	Elly	19.9.45	30.9.45			65.10
30.	Froehlich	Tanina	19.9.45	2.5.45			68.45
31.	Sieher	Josephine	19.9.45	1.5.45			19.50
32.	Sallas	Lejla	19.9.45	16.6.45	13.5.45		222.65
33.	Sieher	Era	26.9.45	30.9.45			11.50
34.	Siebel	Margarete	19.9.45	15.6.45			299.80
35.	Silber	Gabriele	16.9.45	15.6.45			322.65
36.	Silber	Hermann	18.4.45	13.5.45			142.05
37.	Silber	Elisabeth	16.9.45	1.6.45			192.65
38.	Silberberg	Elisabeth	16.9.45	1.6.45			192.65
39.	Silberberg	Elisabeth	16.9.45	26.5.45			186.00
40.	Soldstein	Elisabeth	16.9.45	26.5.45			186.00
41.	Sottlmann	Wolma	24.9.45	5.6.45			195.30
42.	Sottlmann	Rosa	23.9.45	2.5.45			41.85
43.	Spreinert	Terisa	21.9.45	22.6.45	288.30		
44.	Spreinert	Anna	16.4.45	19.6.45	188.65		
45.	Spreinert	Ella	2.9.45	1.6.45	500.05		
46.	Spreinert	Sonia	23.9.45	24.5.45	124.90		
47.	Spreinert	Elka	16.9.45	26.9.45	16.55		

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**Collections Search**  
Login Bookmarks Search History

Search

Advanced Search Help Feedback Ask a reference question

**LIMIT YOUR SEARCH**

Record Type

- Document 9,283
- Film 5,073
- Names Source 34,561
- Object 16,330
- Oral History 67,076
- Photograph 33,051
- Publication 97,699

Digital Resource

<https://collections.ushmm.org/search/>

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**Collections Search**  
Login Bookmarks Search History

Search

Advanced Search Help Feedback Ask a reference question

**LIMIT YOUR SEARCH**

Record Type

- Photograph  120
- Digital Resource
- Image  120
- Photo Usage Rights

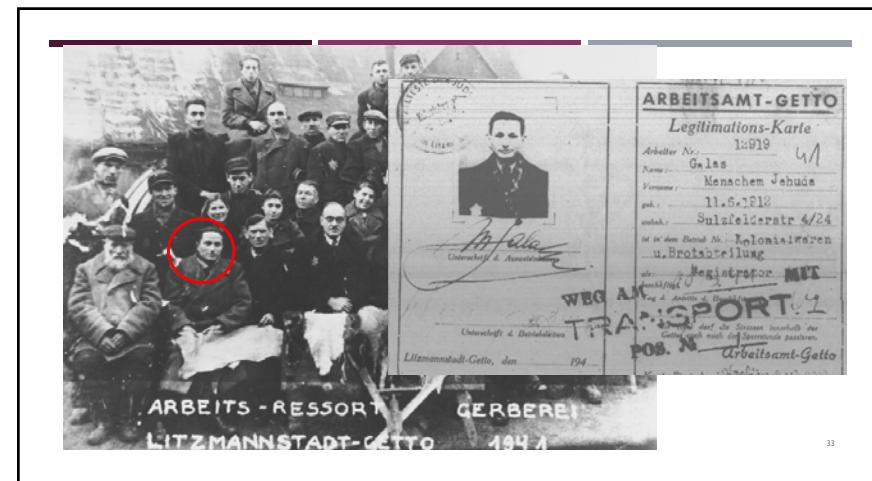
You searched for: Lodz Ghetto leather  Record Type: Photograph

Previous | 1 - 20 of 120 | Next > Sort by relevance

1. Group portrait of the leather factory workers in the Lodz ghetto.

Record Type: Photograph  
Photograph #: 60748  
...Group portrait of the leather factory workers in the Lodz ghetto...

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## USHMM has many resources available online.

- USHMM has made the first four volumes of their *Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos 1933-1945* freely available on its website at <http://tinyurl.com/m9qat2t>
  - Volume I includes the **major concentration camps, their subcamps**, SS construction brigades, and early camps set up by the police, SA and SS shortly after the Nazis seized power.
  - Volume II includes **ghettos** in German-occupied territories. Volume III: Camps And Ghettos Under European Regimes Aligned With Nazi Germany
  - Volume III describes **over 700 persecutory sites** located in Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Romania, Serbia, and Slovakia, as well as in French and Italian colonies in Africa, and in Italian-occupied territories in Europe. Introductory essays on each of the German-allied countries provide context for the establishment of the various national camp systems
  - Volume IV: Camps and Other Detention Facilities under the German Armed Forces documents an under-researched segment of the larger Nazi incarceration system, specifically **camps and other detention facilities operating under the direct control of the German military**. It includes documentation of prisoner-of-war camps, military brothels, work camps for Tunisian Jews, and military penal camps and prisons.
  - Each volume matches the physical format of the book, and each consists of two pdf files. The place name index is in the back of the second part of each volume.
  - Each article includes citations and bibliographies for further research.

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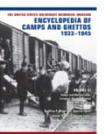
## THREE MORE EDITIONS COMING



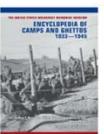
Volume I: Major Concentration Camps and Subcamps under the SS-Business Sector  
Coming Soon



Volume II: Ghettos  
Coming Soon



Volume III: Camps and Ghettos Under European Regimes Aligned With Nazi Germany  
Coming Soon



Volume IV: Camps and Other Detention Facilities Under the German Armed Forces  
Coming Soon

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## 1170 NEDENIGAMME

ständigen Ausstellung im Dokumentenhaus des KZ-Gedenkstätte Niedenigamme, Ausstellung des Museums für Hamburgische Geschichte (Hamburg: VSA-Verlag, 1980).

Elke Zocherius  
trans. Stephen Palawitz

### NOTES

1. AG-Dr. US 2-289, Nr. 1477.
2. AG-Dr. Interviews Joanna Fryczkowska, Ida Desch, Steffa Frangz.
3. AG-Dr. (Bericht Franziska Wiegner).
4. Vierteljährschbericht an das SS-Wirtschaftsverwaltungsamt vom 1. Januar 1943, *Reproduktion der Umschläge der Arbeit und Vernichtung: Die Konzentrationslager Niedenigamme 1938-1945: Katalog zur ständigen Ausstellung im Dokumentenhaus des Museums für Hamburgische Geschichte* (Hamburg: VSA-Verlag, 1980).
5. AG-Dr. Steffa Frangz (Briefsammlung).
6. AG-Dr. Interview Joanna Fryczkowska, 1991.
7. AG-Dr. Friedhofsstätte AG-NC: Die Toten, CD 2005.
8. Aussage von Ursula Lemke vom 08.09.1949, BStU, Best. MfS-BV Schwerin ASt 385/49, 1/13, 29, 88.
9. H. H. Giger, *Zwangsarbeit und verdeckte Überlebensstrategie der Gesetzlosen: Freiwillige und Zwangsangehörige des Konzentrationslagers Niedenigamme 1944-1945* (Berlin: Metropol, 2007), p. 22.
10. AG-Dr. Joanna Fryczkowska, Interview vom 26.11.1991.
11. BStU, MfS-BV Schwerin ASt 385/49, vol. 1; BA-DrH, ZM 327, File 12.

Jewish Hungarians in the camp. These women had been transported from Auschwitz directly to Salzwedel. In the autumn of 1944, there were also transports from the Polish camps, roughly the same number. The majority of them were young women, mostly teenagers. There were women of other nationalities (Germans, Greeks, Italians, and Czechs) in the subcamp, but their numbers were smaller; most likely, they were transported at the end of the war when there was a transports strike among the workers.

All the women in the subcamp were used at the city's largest munitions factory, Draht- und Metallwarenfabrik GmbH Salzwedel. This factory produced mostly ammunition for the infantry. The women worked primarily in the production of fuses and detonators. They also produced metal components, the production of explosives and bullets, and in storing the same. Little regard was given to the health of the women. They worked in shifts, 12 hours a day; that is, when half of the women were in the camp, the other half worked for 12 hours in the factory, with a 15-minute meal break.

The women in Salzwedel worked on the production line and in the storage areas. They were not allowed to work on items other than munitions but had been manufacturing infantry munitions since 1928. In 1937, it employed approximately 1,000 workers. The number of workers continued during the war, with the labor force being strengthened with forced laborers, both male and female. The number of female workers, depending on the stage toward the end of the war, could only be met with the ruthless exploitation of the approximately 1,000 female concentration camp prisoners. At the end of 1944, there were approximately 1,800 workers. The following is a breakdown of the workers in the camp: 234 German employees, 1,000 concentration camp women, and about 70 female forced laborers.

The reasons for the female inmates' imprisonment can only be assumed, but the women could have been imprisoned for their political activity.

At the end of March 1945, the camp functioned as a collection point for the evacuated camps. Within a short period of time, the number of women in the camp doubled (to approximately 3,000). During the last days of the camp's existence, there was a large influx of Dutch women evacuated from Ravensbrück to Salzwedel.

Some women renounced murders and attempted murders of

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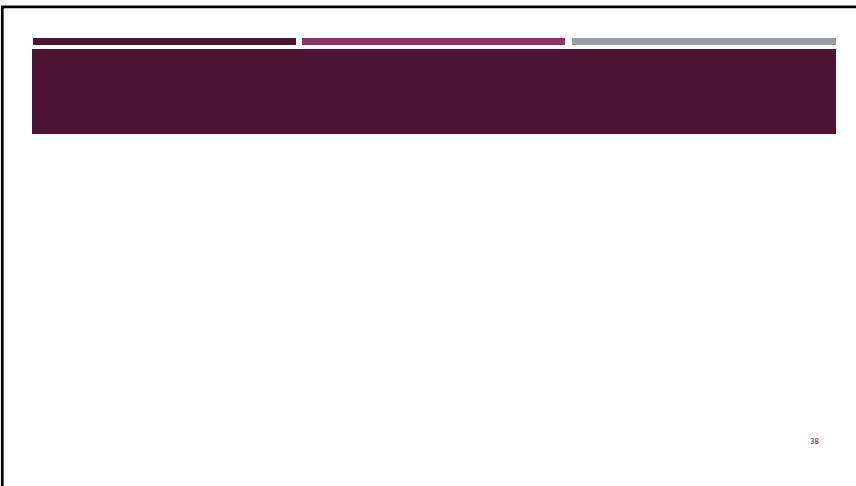
## Visiting the USHMM in person: Scholars, authors, genealogists, and other researchers.



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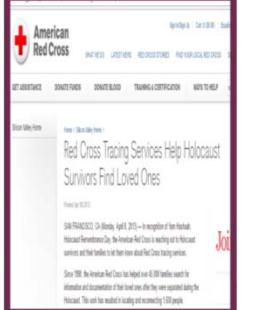


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## NEXT STEP: INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS (IRC)



- The 1989 release of files on 400,000 people held in WWII concentration camps led to the 1990 creation of the Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Center.
- The Center provides help for any U. S. resident who lost someone in Europe between 1933 and 1957.
- Contact a local Red Cross chapter. A caseworker will help you fill out a tracing form which will be forwarded on to the Center in Baltimore, Maryland.
- The Red Cross works with Red Cross and Red Crescent chapters around the globe, as well as Magen David Adom in Israel and various archives and organizations.
- A complex search may take a year or more to complete.
- **FREE**



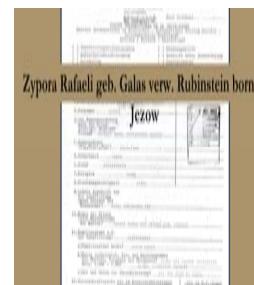
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### IRC (CONT.)

- February 2010: a new lead— one of my mother's first cousins may have survived the war.
- I contacted the IRC that month.
- April 2010: I received two documents that stated that as of 1964, my first cousin Cypora was alive and living in Israel.

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### Cypora



- First husband: Mendel Rubenstein; now married to Mordechai Rafaeli
- Birth: June 14, 1908 in Jezow
- Last address before arrest: Woljanska 159, Lodz
- Date of second marriage: 1950 in Haifa
- Originally deported to the Lodz Ghetto, fled from the ghetto at the end of 1941 to Rogow where she hid with a peasant until the end of the war
- After liberation she went to Lodz in 1945; from there for a few weeks to Szczecin.
- At the beginning of 1947 immigration to Palestine; held from the beginning of 1947 to May 14, 1948 on Cyprus; then immigrated to Israel. Trip to Israel started in Italy but was interrupted by a stopover on Cyprus.
- Address at the time of filling out the form: Kfar Chassidim near Haifa.

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## Second document

Cypora had a son who died in 1948 during the War of Independence, shortly before her arrival in Israel.

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THE RED CROSS TRACING FORM:  
[HTTPS://WWW.REDCROSS.ORG/CONTACT-US/INTERNATIONAL-RECONNECTING-FAMILIES-INQUIRY-FORM.HTML](https://www.redcross.org/contact-us/international-reconnecting-families-inquiry-form.html)

[www.redcross.org/contact-us/international-reconnecting-families-inquiry-form.html](https://www.redcross.org/contact-us/international-reconnecting-families-inquiry-form.html)

**We may be able to help you locate a family member separated by international crisis**

Please read the following guidance before completing our web inquiry form (below)

**The American Red Cross Restoring Family Links program provides the following services:**

- **International Tracing:** Reconnecting loved ones separated by international armed conflict, disaster, or migration
- **Red Cross Messages:** Maintaining communication between loved ones separated by international armed conflict, disaster, or migration when no other means of communication are available
- **Health and Welfare Reports:** Reconnecting loved ones when communication has been lost unexpectedly and there is a concern for their health and wellbeing
- **Certificates of Detention:** Providing proof of detention for those visited by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) while in detention
- **International Committee of Red Cross Travel Documents:** Providing stateless persons with one-time travel documents to another officially sanctioned country for permanent resettlement

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**YAD VASHEM (JERUSALEM, ISRAEL)**



- Best described as the global anchor of Holocaust documentation
- World's largest and most authoritative Holocaust archive
- Holds:
  - Pages of Testimony for ~5 million victims
  - Survivor testimonies (audio, video, written)
  - Nazi documentation, ghetto records, camp records
  - Photographs, artifacts, personal papers
- Coordinates research with museums and scholars worldwide
- Maintains the official **Righteous Among the Nations** database
- Public, searchable online databases

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YV

- Digital collection:
  - <https://www.yadvashem.org/collections.html>
- Online database and request for information:
  - <https://www.yadvashem.org/archive/information-services/remote.html>

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**YAD VASHEM**  
THE WORLD HOLOCAUST  
REMEMBRANCE CENTER

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[The Holocaust](#) [Digital Collections](#) [Archives](#) [Research](#) [Education & E-learning](#) [Museums](#) [Exhibitions](#) [Remembrance](#) [Righteous](#)

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Search/Home

EN | HE | RU | ES | DE

# THE CENTRAL DATABASE OF SHOAH VICTIMS' NAMES BETA

---

Last / Maiden Name  ?

First Name  ?

Place  ?

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<input type="text" value="Gelas"/>  <input type="text" value="First Name"/>  <input type="text" value="Lodz"/> 				<input type="button" value="Search"/>	<a href="#">Advanced Search</a>
37 Results for  Last / Maiden Name = Gelas  Place = Lodz					
<span style="float: left; margin-right: 10px;"> <span style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px 5px;">Page</span> <span style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px 5px;">1</span> of 1 </span> <span style="float: right;">Map</span>					
First Name	Last Name 	Birth Year	Place of Residence 	Source	Fate based on this source 
 Rosa	Gelas	1924	Lodz, Poland	List of murdered Jews from Germany	murdered
 Chaim	Gelas	1913	Lodz, Poland	Page of Testimony	murdered
 Fishel	Gelas		Lodz, Poland	Page of Testimony	murdered
 Chaim	Gelas		Lodz, Poland	Page of Testimony	murdered
 Istroel Srulek	Gelas		Lodz, Poland	Page of Testimony	murdered
 Avram Michael	Gelas		Lodz, Poland	Page of Testimony	murdered
 Blumka	Gelas		Lodz, Poland	Page of Testimony	murdered
 Hinda Debora Dworja	Gelas		Lodz, Poland	Page of Testimony	murdered
 Szymon	Gelas	1925	Litzmannstadt, Poland	Mauthausen camp personal card file	not stated

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Use the *advanced search function* to find the submitters.

- Navigate to the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names
- Click "Advanced Search" near the search bar, and utilize specific fields like maiden name, birth/death place, or submitter's name.
- The system allows for Soundex or exact spelling searches to filter results.
- <https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/names>
- Example: Galas, Felicia

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GUIDE TO GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES AND RESEARCH AT YAD VASHEM



**Guide to Genealogical Resources and Research at Yad Vashem**

As of May 2015

Yad Vashem provides an unsurpassed source of Holocaust-era documentation. Its vast archive houses the largest compilation of Holocaust collections in the world including: 179 million pages of documentation, over 123,000 survivor testimonies, around 1,000 photographs, 1.7 million videos compiled and digitized on Pages of Testimony, a library with a collection of over 150,000 titles in 24 languages and a collection of original footage and a visual center with over 8,500 Holocaust-related films.

Yad Vashem also offers additional resources, including the International Institute for Holocaust Research as well as the extensive online materials offer an incomparable source of information for Holocaust-era investigative study.

Yad Vashem is continuing efforts, at an unprecedented scale, to make documents, photographs, testimonies, names and other data easily accessible to researchers, students and the public.

**Online Collections and Resources:** available in English unless noted otherwise. Data is added to these resources on an ongoing basis.

[http://www.genshoah.org/pdfs/Guide\\_to\\_Yad\\_Vashem\\_Genealogical\\_Resources.pdf](http://www.genshoah.org/pdfs/Guide_to_Yad_Vashem_Genealogical_Resources.pdf)

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VISIT YAD VASHEM









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NEXT:  
JEWISHGEN



- <https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/>
- The database now includes more than 6 million records from approximately 200 component databases.
- I typed in “GALAS”



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**JEWISHGEN ADDITIONS JULY 2025**  
More Than 6,000,000 Records Now Searchable in the JewishGen's Holocaust Database!

**(Holocaust Database Increases Access by More Than 1,750,000 Records)**

JewishGen is proud to announce its 2025 annual update summary for the Holocaust Database. The Holocaust Database can be found at <https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/>. The database includes information from a variety of records including but not limited to: ghetto census reports, transport lists, forced labor lists, camp lists, victims lists, survivor lists, post-war transport lists and displaced persons camp lists. The information available has been provided by a wide range of donors and partnerships with other organizations, archives and individual researchers.

Over the last year, the Holocaust Database added access to more than 1,750,000 records from approximately 50 different data sets. This update brings the total number of Holocaust Database records to more than 6 million!

A significant agreement with the Arlosen Archives (<https://arlosen-archives.org/en/>) now gives JewishGen researchers the ability to search our centralized database and find records of interest in Arlosen's "Red Line Card Inquiries" database and their "List of Austrian Holocaust Survivors Returned to Vienna". Actual records and source documents are kept at the Arlosen Archives.

Thanks to Randy Schoenberg, JewishGen researchers can now locate records on Geni (Geni.com) family trees that indicate individuals who were connected to Auschwitz and Theresienstadt.

JewishGen volunteers will complete the indexing of close to 100,000 records from The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) French office records located at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research (YIVO) (<https://www.yivo.org/>). These lists include passenger manifests from the late 1930's through the post-war 1950's, various refugees and survivor lists, victim lists, and displaced persons (DP) lists. It even includes a list of Jewish "Discharged Members of the French Foreign Legion in the Les Milles French Internment Camp 1940". Although the majority of these records are currently online, continuing work on these records will take place through year-end.

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**The JewishGen Holocaust Database**  
773 total matches found

**Surname (phonetically like) : GALAS**  
Run on Tue, 21 Feb 2017 12:24:36 0700

Press the Button to view the matches

Description	Press the Button to view the matches
Hungary Holocaust Memorial →	List 29 records
Prisoners in the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp →	List 22 records
Dutch Survive Lists →	List 1 record
Keladan: Yedidim: Jews Murdered During the Holocaust →	List 12 records
Krakow Ghetto →	List 2 records
Schindler's Lists →	List 1 record
Łódź Ghetto Hospital Illness Records →	List 4 records
The Łódź Ghetto Work Manifestation Cards →	List 2 records
Łódź Ghetto List →	List 15 records
Displaced Persons From Bergen-Belsen to Sweden - 24 July 1945 →	List 1 record
Theresienstadt deportation list 1944 →	List 6 records
Theresienstadt Ghetto List →	List 8 records
Arad Census - 1942 →	List 21 records
Extraordinary Commission Lists: Riga →	List 1 record

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**Krakow Ghetto**

**Searching for Surname (phonetically like) : GALAS**  
2 matching records found.  
Run on Tue, 21 Feb 2017 12:25:15 0700

Surname	Given Names	Born	Notes	Reel / List / Line
GALAS	Bluma	1915		5 / 62 / 11
GALAS	Israel	1925		5 / 62 / 12

Krakow Ghetto is a link.

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**Jewish Inhabitants of Kraków, 1940**

This database is an index to over 19,000 registration forms for the Jewish inhabitants of Kraków (Cracow, Krakau), Poland, created in the summer of 1940.

**Introduction**

According to the *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*, there were 60,000 Jews in Kraków in 1939, prior to the German occupation in September of that year. Many Kraków Jews fled, but other Jews, particularly from neighboring towns of Shawina, Wieliczka, and Rabka, as well as some non-Polish Jews, came to Kraków.

**The Data**

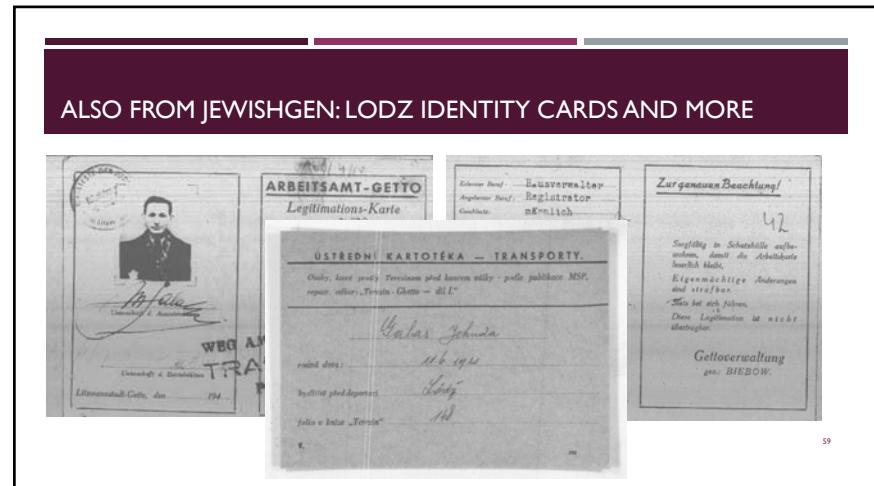
The database is an index to registration forms for the Jewish inhabitants of Kraków, Poland, which were created under the direction of the *Jüdische Gemeinde* in Krakau (Jewish community in Kraków), in response to a Nazi order, mostly during July and August 1940. The registration forms, in German, are arranged alphabetically. No forms were made for children under the age of 15.

The *Jewish Historical Institute* (Żydowski Instytut Historyczny = ŻIH) in Warsaw acquired the registration forms after World War II, and placed them in their Record Group 206. The Jewish Historical Institute microfilmed these files for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) Archives in 1995. These 20 reels of microfilm can be found in the [Document Archives](#) of the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#), in Record Group 15.058M, Accession Number 1995.A.0083. [\[Catalog Entry\]](#)

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### USC SHOAH FOUNDATION – VISUAL HISTORY ARCHIVE

- The world's largest collection of survivor video testimony
- ~55,000 video testimonies
- Survivors, witnesses, liberators, rescuers
- Indexed by:
  - Camps
  - Ghettos
  - Towns
  - Languages
  - Events
- Used globally by universities, museums, and researchers
- Partial access online; full archive via partner institutions
- This is the **primary global repository of survivor voices.**

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### SHOAH TESTIMONIES NOW ON JEWISHGEN

<a href="#">Jewish Prison (Concentrations) Camps</a> →	List 2 records
<a href="#">Gross-Rosen (Victims and Survivors)</a> →	List 1 record
<a href="#">Humanian Jewish Lawyer</a> (1944) →	List 1 record
<a href="#">JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry - Germany</a> →	List 1 record
<a href="#">JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry - Sweden</a> →	List 4 records
<a href="#">JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry - Piotrkow</a> →	List 1 record
<a href="#">JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry - Argentina</a> →	List 4 records
<a href="#">JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry - Australia</a> →	List 1 record
<a href="#">Jewish Vital Records: Births</a> →	List 1 record
<a href="#">USC Shoah Foundation - Survivor Interviews</a> →	List 12 records
 <a href="#">Jewish Records Indexing - Poland</a> →	List 3 records from Kraków Województwo List 2 records from Łódź Województwo List 91 records from Piotrków Gubernia List 4 records from Radom Gubernia List 28 records from Warszawa Gubernia List 11 records from no specified Region

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USC SHOAH FOUNDATION INSTITUTE'S TESTIMONIES OF THE HOLOCAUST



- The Shoah Foundation Institute at the University of Southern California collection:
  - 52,000 video testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses
  - 32 languages
  - 56 countries.
- SEARCH: <http://vhaonline.usc.edu/Search>
- My mom: <http://vhaonline.usc.edu/viewingPage?testimonyID=3508&returnIndex=0>
- (search "Felicia Brenner")

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How to view Shoah testimonies:  
[https://vha.usc.edu/appdata/docs/vha\\_user\\_manual.pdf](https://vha.usc.edu/appdata/docs/vha_user_manual.pdf)

Testimony Location

Filter by State/Province: **Pennsylvania** **APPLY**  
 north carolina

Access Site	Country
Duke University	Durham, North Carolina, United States
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Chapel Hill, North Carolina, United States
University of North Carolina at Greensboro	Greensboro, North Carolina, United States

Testimony Location

Filter by State/Province: **Pennsylvania** **APPLY**  
 Country

Access Site	Country
Agency for Jewish Learning	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States
DePaul University	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States
Seton Hall University	Greensburg, Pennsylvania, United States
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States
West Chester University Holocaust and Genocide Education Center	West Chester, Pennsylvania, United States

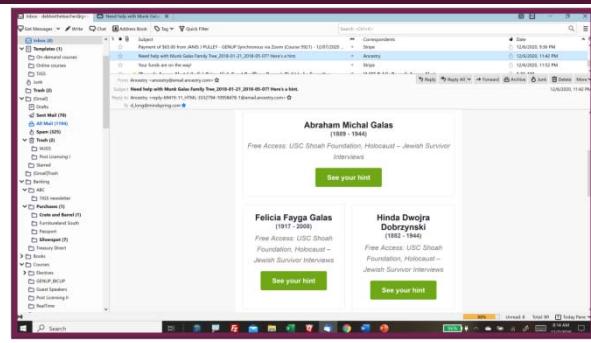
64

MORE TESTIMONIES AVAILABLE IN THE PHILLY AREA:

- Gratz College (Melrose Park): The Holocaust Oral History Archive contains one of the largest collections of audio-taped testimony in the U.S., featuring interviews with nearly 900 survivors, liberators, and witnesses, mostly from the Philadelphia area.
- Horwitz-Wasserman Holocaust Memorial Plaza (Center City Philadelphia): Located at 16th and Arch, this plaza uses the iWalk app to provide on-site, interactive video testimonies from Holocaust survivors.
- Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center (HAMEC - Elkins Park): Located in the Jewish Identity Center, HAMEC provides educational resources and houses testimonies, often featuring programs with survivors and their descendants.
- University of Pennsylvania (Penn Libraries): Provides access to the USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive, which contains over 55,000 video testimonies, including many from the Philadelphia area.
- The Esther Raab Holocaust Museum & Goodwin Education Center (Southern NJ): Located just across the river, this center provides education and houses local survivor testimonies.

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ANCESTRY ALSO PROVIDES LINKS TO SHOAH TESTIMONIES



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Y  
Destruction and Ruin

M  
In memory of our brother z"l

co  
My experiences in the Nazi hell [Y]

m  
Under the rule of the Germans in Czechoslovakia

Echoes from the ruins of Dobromil

M  
My experiences during the War [Y]

no  
The destruction of Dobromil

Before and during the two World Wars

From Maz Gleich and Moshe Gorlin

N  
The Nazi invasion of our town Dobromil

di  
In Dobromil right after the destruction

R  
Dorot Jewish Division, New York Public Library Jewish Book Center.

<https://www.nypl.org/collections/judaica/zkorbooks>

Shaul Rotter 257-261  
Efraim Greidinger 262-286  
Yosef Rosenblatt 287-297  
Walter Artzt 298-311  
Shalom Hammel 312-318  
Berish Kraemer 319-323  
Moshe Drucker 324-327  
Testimonies 328-329  
Yakov 331-332  
Max Springer 333-334



NEXT:  
STEVMORSE.ORG



- Holocaust and Eastern Europe
  - Bereza and Antopol: Information about the towns of Bereza and Antopol in Belarus
  - Auschwitz Prisoner Photos: Searching the Auschwitz Prisoner Photos in One Step
  - Dachau Concentration Camp: Searching the Dachau Concentration Camp Records in One Step
  - German Jewish Roof Card Collection: Searching the German Jewish Roof Card Collection in One Step
  - German Jews 1933: Searching the 1933 German Jews Database in One Step
  - Siberian Refugee Camps: Searching the Polish "Index of the Repressed" in One Step
  - Soviet Gulags: Searching for People Interned in Soviet Gulags in One Step (1935-1955)
  - Stalin's Secret Police: Viewing Stalin's Secret Police Members in One Step (1935-1939)
  - Lodz Cemetery: Searching the Lodz Cemetery in One Step
  - Russian Phone Directory (English): English front-end for old Moscow and St. Petersburg Phone Directories
  - Russia's Fallen (English): English front-end for Database of Russia's Fallen
  - Reference Books: Searching Reference Books for Jewish Surnames in One Step

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EXAMPLE: SIBERIAN REFUGEE CAMPS

Try a lot of spellings or first names. Note "Rubenstein" below.

Name	Name	Name	Name	born	Volume	Fate+source	ID
351 Rawacki	Mendel	Ber		1920		Arrested in Belarus and Ukraine from 1939 to 1941	English Polish 71535
352 Recht	Mendel	Aron		1919		Deported in the Volodja district	English Polish 217167
353 Rejchman	Mendel	Jakob		1928		Deported in the Koen ASSR part 2	English Polish 299445
354 Rogowskia	Mendel	Abram		1915		Deported from the Bilyostok district	English Polish 235796
355 Rojtman	Mendel	Josef		1912		Arrested in Belarus and Ukraine from 1939 to 1941	English Polish 76079
356 Rojtman	Mendel	Zalak		1907		Arrested in Belarus and Ukraine from 1939 to 1941	English Polish 322419
357 Rot	Mendel	Heimann		1895		Index	English Polish 613796
358 Rothblat	Mendel	Chaimel		1915		Deported in the Volodja district	English Polish 217282
359 Rotenstreich	Mendel	Reydl		1915		Deported from the Lviv district	English Polish 201504
360 Rotman	Mendel	Birok		1900		Arrested in Belarus and Ukraine from 1939 to 1941	English Polish 94670
361 Roman	Mendel	Biroch		1900		Arrested in the region of Lviv and Drohobych	English Polish 682691
362 Rotstein	Mendel	Abram		1907		Arrested in Belarus and Ukraine from 1939 to 1941	English Polish 53735
363 Rozenfeld	Mendel	Chul		1921		Arrested in Belarus and Ukraine from 1939 to 1941	English Polish 77057
364 Rożniak	Mendel	Benjamin		1906		Deported in the Koen ASSR part 2	English Polish 299835
365 Ruda	Mendel	Abram		1915		Deported in the Volodja district	English Polish 310164
366 Rubenstein	Mendel	Jacob		1905		Deported in the Volodja district	English Polish 217458
367 Rubinstein	Mendel	Moshe		1903		Deported in Belarus and Ukraine from 1939 to 1941	English Polish 311445
368 Ryba	Mendel	Aron		1925		Deported from the Bilyostok district	English Polish 213257

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Father's Name: Jacob  
Mother's Name:  
Date of Birth: 1908

	Fate	Begin	End	Country	County	Area	the City	
	year	mon	day	year	mon	day		
1	Deportation	1940					Bialystok	
2	Exile	1940	7	10			Wologodzka wielikoustiugski Poldarskij	
3	Release	1941	9	8			Uzbek SSR	Kagan

	Source	signature
1.	Personal files deported at the USC in Wologodzki District (team 20, inventory 17) - briefcase	WLG-T- 2545
2.	Personnel cards of deportees drawn up in the years 1940-41, found in the file deported at the USSR in the Volodymyr region	WLG-K
3.	List of Polish citizens released from speco-wolves of Wologodzki on the base. Decree of 12.05.1941 (archives CI USO Wologodzki District, team 29, inv. 2, folder 21) - card	WLG5322



STOCKHOLM SYNAGOGUE

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LODZ CEMETERY

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US HOLOCAUST MUSEUMS

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HOLOCAUST MONUMENTS, MEMORIALS, AND MUSEUMS

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Holocaust\\_memorials\\_and\\_museums](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Holocaust_memorials_and_museums)
- <http://www.gedenkstaetten-uebersicht.de/en/europe/cl/deutschland/inst/mahn-und-gedenkstaette-ravens/>

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CONCENTRATION/LABOR/EXTERMINATION CAMPS

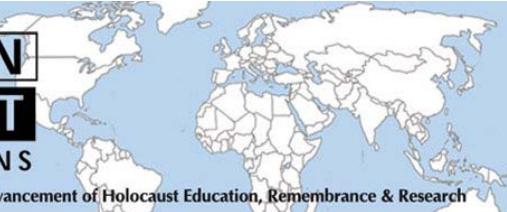
■ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Nazi\\_concentration\\_camps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Nazi_concentration_camps)

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HTTP://WWW.AHOINFO.ORG/

ASSOCIATION OF HOLOCAUST ORGANIZATIONS

An International Network for the Advancement of Holocaust Education, Remembrance & Research



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CENTRAL ZIONIST ARCHIVES, ISRAEL

■ [www.zionistarchives.org.il/en/collections/Pages/Default.aspx](http://www.zionistarchives.org.il/en/collections/Pages/Default.aspx)

■ Genealogy:  
[www.zionistarchives.org.il/en/familyresearch/GenealogyDatabases/Pages/Default.aspx](http://www.zionistarchives.org.il/en/familyresearch/GenealogyDatabases/Pages/Default.aspx)



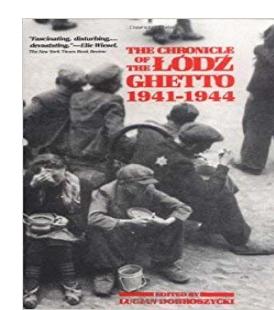
82

GOOGLE BOOKS

pp. 273-4:  
"Icek Dobrynski of 38 Zgierska Street, resettled here from Zdunska Wola, 46 years old, jumped from the fifth floor at 40 Zgierska Street and died instantly. The Order service listed a nervous breakdown as the cause.

On October 22, 1942, "after a relatively long time, the ridge on Koscielny Square has once again become the scene of a suicide. 45-year-old Fraida Ruchla Dobrynska of 38 Zgierska, a native of Lodz, jumped from the upper platform of the bridge to the roadway of Zgierska Street at 5:45 am. She suffered very serious injuries. The Emergency Service physician had the woman brought to the Hospital No 4 on Mickiewicz Street. As reported yesterday, her husband 46-year-old Icek Dobrynski of Zdunska Wola was killed when he leaped from a fifth story. Fraida Ruchla first tried to join her husband in death by attempting suicide near the barbed wire fence. She did not succeed, however, because the sentry was not willing to shoot her. So she leaped from the bridge.

The cause of both suicides goes back several weeks. The couple's two children were taken away during the evacuation in September."



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HIAS

- Check HIAS Records, Location Service, 333 Seventh Avenue, New York, New York 10001, 212.613.1424. Fax: 212.967.4442. Email: [valery.bazarov@hias.org](mailto:valery.bazarov@hias.org). Fee per search.
- Check American Joint Jewish Distribution Committee files at <http://archives.jdc.org/Sharedlegacy/search-names>.
- To locate persons who may have gone to Israel, Mrs. Batya Unterschatz-Landsman conducts research for a fee. Her email address is in the handout. Be aware that the person's last name may have been changed to a Hebrew version of a European name.

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HOLOCAUST  
REUNION PROJECT

Empowering Holocaust Survivors and their children to find family and reclaim their histories by leveraging the extraordinary potential of DNA testing.



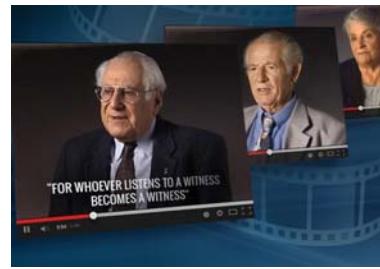
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WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR RESEARCH?



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SUBMIT PAGES OF TESTIMONY TO YAD VASHEM



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## Consider social media.



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## ALLGENERATIONS.ORG



- The **Together email bulletin** from **Allgenerations** lists events (some of genealogical interest) and regular postings for individuals searching for family members and friends lost during the Holocaust.
- Email [allgenerations@aol.com](mailto:allgenerations@aol.com) or
- Go to [www.allgenerations.org](http://www.allgenerations.org) for subscription information.



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## IN APRIL, PARTICIPATE IN THE READING OF THE NAMES.



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Only guard yourself and guard your soul carefully, lest you forget the things your eyes saw, and lest these things depart your heart all the days of your life, and you shall make them known to your children, and to your children's children.

—Deuteronomy 4:9

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ISRAELI POET YEHUDA AMACHAI  
(TRANSLATED BY RABBI STEVEN SAGER):

Now two generations of forgetting have passed  
And the first generation of remembering has arrived. Woe to us that already  
Have arrived at remembering, for memories are the hard shell of an empty heart.  
In a little while, people will walk through fields and cities  
With something like nature lovers' plant guides in hand--  
And they will call to one another:  
Here I found it, no mistake, here are the signs, here is the characteristic color  
Of the eyes and hair, here is the well-known smile; this is its fragrance,  
And this is its name: this was a friend, friend of a friend, this a woman  
Of long ago; this one is the image of my father, and this the image of me and of you;  
When you will flower and when you will wither; this is the scientific name,  
And this is the common name between lovers and friends,  
And this is a name with no person, and this is a person with no name.  
And this is how it was.



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Please review the resources in the  
handout.

Thank you for listening.

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