

LEQ: WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HOLOCAUST AND WHAT WERE THE EFFECTS?



# WHAT WAS THE HOLOCAUST AND HOW DID PEOPLE COLLABORATE?

<http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org/about/exhibit>

DIRECTIONS: ON THE WHITEBOARD WRITE ONE THING YOU ALREADY KNEW ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST AND ONE THING YOU LEARNED FROM THE BACKGROUND VIDEO. WE WILL CREATE A CLASS BRAINSTORM LIST.



# WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HOLOCAUST?

DIRECTIONS: YOU WILL ASSESS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH PERSON FOR THE HOLOCAUST.

1 - NOT RESPONSIBLE

2 - MINIMALLY RESPONSIBLE

3 - RESPONSIBLE

4 - VERY RESPONSIBLE

BE ABLE TO JUSTIFY WHY YOU ASSIGNED THAT PERSON THAT NUMBER.

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
EDUCATION DIVISION

## Teaching about the Holocaust

### Assessing and Defining Responsibility

If you were a judge, how would you assess the "responsibility" of these people for what happened in the world between 1933 and 1945? Indicate one of the following:

1. Not responsible
2. Minimally responsible
3. Responsible
4. Very responsible

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. One of Hitler's direct subordinates, such as Heinrich Himmler or Joseph Goebbels

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. A German who voluntarily joined Hitler's special elite, the SS

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. A German industrialist who financially supported Hitler's rise to power and continued to support him verbally

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. A judge who carried out Hitler's decrees for sterilization of the "mentally incompetent" and internment of "traitors"

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. A doctor who participated in sterilization of Jews

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. A worker in a plant making Zyklon B gas

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. The Pope, who made no public statement against Nazi policy

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. An industrialist who made enormous profits by producing Zyklon B gas

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. A manufacturer who used concentration camp inmates as slave labor in his plants

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. An American industrialist who helped arm Hitler in the 1930s

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. A person who voluntarily joined the Nazis in the 1930s

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. A person who agreed to publicly take the Civil Servant Loyalty Oath (swearing eternal allegiance to Adolf Hitler in 1934)

110 FACULTY WALLERNE DR. FACULTY DR. WASH. STATE UNIV. PULLMAN, WA 99164-2110 [www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org)

# WHY DIDN'T PEOPLE RESIST THE HOLOCAUST?

1.) THE POWER OF THE GERMANS

2.) GERMAN TACTICS

3.) ISOLATION OF JEWS AND LACK OF WEAPONS

4.) SECRECY OF DEPORTATION

# Jigsaw

THERE ARE FOUR MAIN REASONS PEOPLE DID NOT RESIST THE HOLOCAUST. YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLETE THE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER FOR **ONE SECTION** AND THEN SHARING OUT TO YOUR GROUP.

- 1.) The Power of the Germans
- 2.) German Tactics
- 3.) Isolation of Jews and Lack of Weapons
- 4.) Secrecy of Deportation

## OBSTACLES TO RESISTANCE

Many factors made resistance to the Nazis both difficult and dangerous. The form and timing of resistance were generally shaped by various and often formidable obstacles. Obstacles to resistance included:

**Superior, armed power of the Germans.** The superior, armed power of the Nazi regime posed a major obstacle to the resistance of mostly unarmed civilians from the very beginning of the Nazi takeover of Germany. This was particularly true of the German army during World War II. It is important to remember that at the outbreak of war in September 1939, Poland was overrun in a few weeks. France, attacked on May 10, 1940, fell only six weeks later. Clearly, if two powerful nations with standing armies could not resist the onslaught of the Germans, the possibilities of success were narrow for mostly unarmed civilians who had limited access to weapons.

**German tactic of "collective responsibility."** This retaliation tactic held entire families and communities responsible for individual acts of armed and unarmed resistance. In Doblyshov, near the old Lithuanian capital of Vilna, the entire ghetto population was killed after two young boys escaped and refused to return. In the ghetto of Bialystok, Poland, the Germans shot 120 Jews on the street after Abraham Melamed shot a German policeman. The Germans then threatened to destroy the whole ghetto if Melamed did not surrender. Three days later, he turned himself in to avoid retaliation in the ghetto. At the Treblinka killing center in occupied Poland, camp guards shot 26 Jews after four prisoners slipped through the barbed wire in winter 1942. After Meir Berliner, a Jewish prisoner at Treblinka, killed Max Bialos, a high ranking Nazi officer, guards executed more than 100 Jews in retaliation.

In Yugoslavia, the German army routinely executed 50 to 100 people for every German soldier killed by partisans. In Serbia, Jews and Gypsies (Roma) filled the retaliation quota, and by November 1941, German firing squads had murdered almost the entire adult male Jewish and Roma population of Serbia. One of the most notorious single examples of German retaliation as punishment for resistance involved the Bohemian mining village of Lidice and its 700 residents. After Czech resistance fighters assassinated Nazi leader Reinhard Heydrich in 1942, the Nazis retaliated by "liquidating" nearby Lidice, whose citizens were not involved in the assassination. The Germans shot all men and older boys, deported women and children to concentration camps, razed the village to the ground, and struck its name from the map.

## OBSTACLES TO RESISTANCE

**Isolation of Jews and lack of weapons.** Jewish victims of Nazism faced an additional, specific obstacle to resistance: Jews were isolated and unarmed. Even if individuals had the physical strength, the will, and the opportunity to escape from imprisonment in a Nazi ghetto or camp, they faced great difficulties in finding hiding places on the outside, food, and a sympathetic local population willing to risk safety in favor of assistance. Most Jews could not blend easily into non-Jewish communities because of various differences of accent or language, religious customs, and physical appearance, including the circumcision of male Jews.

In many occupied regions of eastern Europe, local populations, including many peasants in forest areas where Jews often had the best chances of hiding, were either hostile to Jews or indifferent to their fate. Local populations themselves were living under harsh conditions of occupation, subject to food rationing and many forms of German terror including murder, roundups for forced labor, and deportation to concentration camps. Civilians who did help Jewish escapees did so under penalty of death.

**Secrecy and deception of deportations.** The speed, secrecy, and deception that the Germans and their collaborators used to carry out deportations and killings were intended to impede resistance. Millions of victims, rounded up either prior to mass shootings in occupied Soviet territory or for deportation to Nazi killing centers where they were gassed, often did not know where they were being sent.

Rumors of death camps were widespread, but Nazi deception and the human tendency to deny bad news in the face of possible harm or death took over as most Jews could not believe the stories. There was no precedence for such a monstrous action as the planned annihilation of a whole people as official government policy. The German or collaborating police forces generally ordered their victims to pack some of their belongings, thus reinforcing the belief among victims that they were being "resettled" in labor camps.

When, as late as summer 1944, almost one-half million Jews were deported to Auschwitz from German-occupied Hungary, many had not even heard of the camp. To further the deception for those Jews left behind after the first wave of deportations, many deportees were forced to write postcards to friends and relatives just before they were gassed: "Arrived safely. I am well."

# WHO WAS AFFECTED BY THE HOLOCAUST?

## DIRECTIONS:

YOU WILL BE GIVEN A REAL HOLOCAUST VICTIM CARD. READ THROUGH YOUR CARD AND UNDERSTAND THE BACKGROUND. FILL IN THE BOTTOM OF YOUR GRAPHIC ORGANIZER EXPLAINING WHO YOUR PERSON WAS, WHERE THEY ARE FROM, AND PREDICT WHAT YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN TO THEM.



**Name:** Bertha Adler

**Date of Birth:** June 20, 1928

**Place of Birth:** Selo-Solotvina,

Bertha was the second of three daughters born to Yiddish-speaking Jewish parents in a village in Czechoslovakia's easternmost province. Soon after Bertha was born, her parents moved the family to Liege, an industrial, largely Catholic city in Belgium that had many immigrants from Eastern Europe.

**1933-39:** Bertha's parents sent her to a local elementary school, where most of her friends were Catholic. At school, Bertha spoke French. At home, she spoke Yiddish. Sometimes her parents spoke Hungarian to each other, a language they had learned while growing up. Bertha's mother, who was religious, made sure that Bertha also studied Hebrew.

**1940-44:** Bertha was 11 when the Germans occupied [Belgium] Liege. Two years later, the Adlers, along with all the Jews, were ordered to register and Bertha and her sisters were forced out of school. Some Catholic friends helped the Adlers obtain false papers and rented them a house in a nearby village. There, Bertha's father fell ill one Friday and went to the hospital. Bertha promised to visit him on Sunday to bring him shaving cream. That Sunday, the family was awakened at 5 a.m. by the Gestapo. They had been discovered.



**Name:** Gideon Boissevain

**Date of Birth:** June 5, 1921

**Place of Birth:** Amsterdam, Netherlands

Gideon was known affectionately as "Gi" by his family and friends. His parents were descended from the Huguenots, and 17th centuries. Gi had two brothers and two sisters, and his father worked in the insurance business.

**1933-39:** Gi had a large circle of friends, both Christians and Jews, and after school they all liked to get together. He and his friends enjoyed taking bike trips, having parties and playing records. In the mid-1930s his parents joined the Dutch Nazi party because it appeared to them, at first, to offer a good, orderly political system. They quickly abandoned the party, however, when they saw how brutally its members behaved.

**1940-44:** Gi completed a training course to be an actuary, and was working at an insurance company. Then on May 10, 1940, the Germans invaded the Netherlands, and by the 18th German troops had occupied Amsterdam. Gi and his brother began to work for the Dutch resistance. His parents helped to hide Jews. On Sunday, August 2, 1942, Gi and his brother were arrested and imprisoned.

# HOMWORK GALLERY WALK

## DIRECTIONS:

FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HOLOCAUST VICTIM! GO AROUND THE ROOM AND COMPLETE THE REST OF YOUR GRAPHIC ORGANIZER ANSWERING WHAT WAS THEIR FATE!

- 1.) Search around the room for your victim's name!
- 2.) Look for your person's name and read their fate!
- 3.) It is ok to read others, just keep an eye on the time!
- 4.) Complete your graphic organizer to hand in tomorrow for a grade!



**Name:** Bertha Adler  
**Date of Birth:** June 20, 1928  
**Place of Birth:** Selb-Solotvina,

Bertha was the second of three daughters born to Yiddish-speaking Jewish parents in a village in Czechoslovakia's easternmost province. Soon after Bertha was born, her parents moved the family to Liège, an industrial, largely Catholic city in Belgium that had many immigrants from Eastern Europe.

**1933-39:** Bertha's parents sent her to a local elementary school, where most of her friends were Catholic. At school, Bertha spoke French. At home, she spoke Yiddish. Sometimes her parents spoke Hungarian to each other, a language they had learned while growing up. Bertha's mother, who was religious, made sure that Bertha also studied Hebrew.

**1940-44:** Bertha was 11 when the Germans occupied [Belgium] Liège. Two years later, the Adlers, along with all the Jews, were ordered to register and Bertha and her sisters were forced out of school. Some Catholic friends helped the Adlers obtain false papers and rented them a house in a nearby village. There, Bertha's father fell ill one Friday and went to the hospital. Bertha promised to visit him on Sunday to bring him shaving cream. That Sunday, the family was awakened at 5 a.m. by the Gestapo. They had been discovered.



**Name:** Gideon Boissevain  
**Date of Birth:** June 6, 1921  
**Place of Birth:** Amsterdam, Netherlands

Gideon was known affectionately as "Gi" by his family and friends. His parents were descended from the Huguenots, and 17th century. Gi had two brothers and two sisters, and his father worked in the insurance business.

**1933-39:** Gi had a large circle of friends, both Christians and Jews, and after school they all liked to get together. He and his friends enjoyed taking bike trips, having parties and playing records. In the mid-1930s his parents joined the Dutch Nazi party because it appeared to them, at first, to offer a good, orderly political system. They quickly abandoned the party, however, when they saw how brutally its members behaved.

**1940-44:** Gi completed a training course to be an actuary, and was working at an insurance company. Then on May 10, 1940, the Germans invaded the Netherlands, and by the 18th German troops had occupied Amsterdam. Gi and his brother began to work for the Dutch resistance. His parents helped to hide Jews. On Sunday, August 2, 1942, Gi and his brother were arrested and imprisoned.

# WEBSITE HOMEWORK - IF TIME RUNS OUT!

## DIRECTIONS:

FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HOLOCAUST VICTIM! GO TO THE WEBSITE AND COMPLETE THE REST OF YOUR GRAPHIC ORGANIZER ANSWERING WHAT HAPPENED!

- 1.) [www.mrsnykiel.weebly.com](http://www.mrsnykiel.weebly.com)
- 2.) Find today's date and the resources
- 3.) Click on Holocaust Victims Cards
- 4.) Look for your person's name and read their fate!
- 5.) Complete your graphic organizer to hand in tomorrow for a grade!



**Name:** Bertha Adler

**Date of Birth:** June 20, 1928

**Place of Birth:** Selo-Solotvina,

Bertha was the second of three daughters born to Yiddish-speaking Jewish parents in a village in Czechoslovakia's easternmost province. Soon after Bertha was born, her parents moved the family to Liège, an industrial, largely Catholic city in Belgium that had many immigrants from Eastern Europe.

**1933-39:** Bertha's parents sent her to a local elementary school, where most of her friends were Catholic. At school, Bertha spoke French. At home, she spoke Yiddish. Sometimes her parents spoke Hungarian to each other, a language they had learned while growing up. Bertha's mother, who was religious, made sure that Bertha also studied Hebrew.

**1940-44:** Bertha was 11 when the Germans occupied [Belgium] Liège. Two years later, the Adlers, along with all the Jews, were ordered to register and Bertha and her sisters were forced out of school. Some Catholic friends helped the Adlers obtain false papers and rented them a house in a nearby village. There, Bertha's father fell ill one Friday and went to the hospital. Bertha promised to visit him on Sunday to bring him shaving cream. That Sunday, the family was awakened at 5 a.m. by the Gestapo. They had been discovered.



**Name:** Gideon Boissevain

**Date of Birth:** June 5, 1921

**Place of Birth:** Amsterdam, Netherlands

Gideon was known affectionately as "Gi" by his family and friends. His parents were descended from the Huguenots, and 17th centuries. Gi had two brothers and two sisters, and his father worked in the insurance business.

**1933-39:** Gi had a large circle of friends, both Christians and Jews, and after school they all liked to get together. He and his friends enjoyed taking bike trips, having parties and playing records. In the mid-1930s his parents joined the Dutch Nazi party because it appeared to them, at first, to offer a good, orderly political system. They quickly abandoned the party, however, when they saw how brutally its members behaved.

**1940-44:** Gi completed a training course to be an actuary, and was working at an insurance company. Then on May 10, 1940, the Germans invaded the Netherlands, and by the 18th began to work for the Dutch resistance. His parents helped to hide Jews. On Sunday, August 2, 1942, Gi and his brother were arrested and imprisoned.