

A r o l s e n
A r c h i v e s

International Center
on Nazi Persecution

Trans- national Remem- brance

of Nazi Forced Labor
and Migration:
Paths of Life, Places and
Experiences

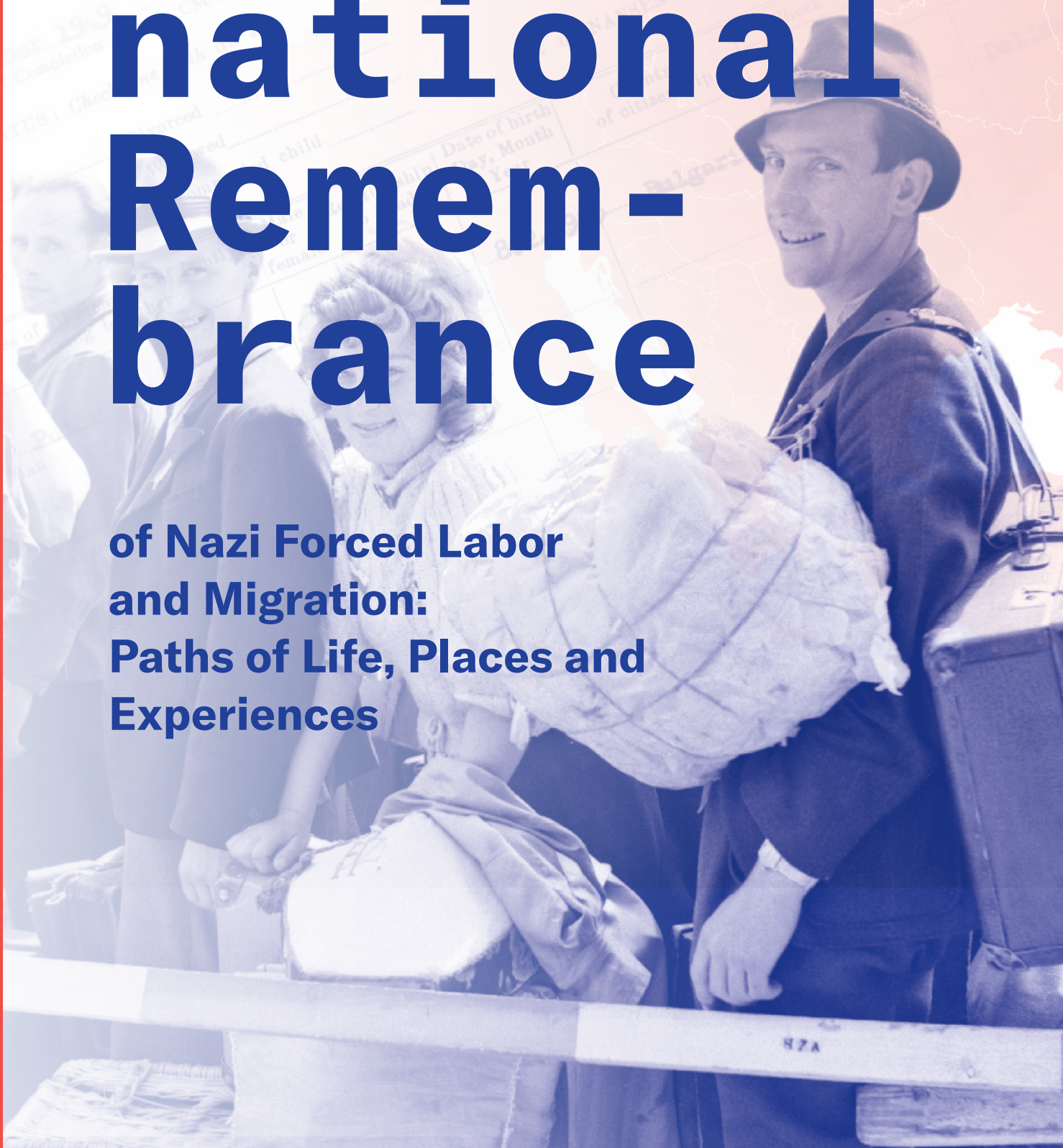


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Introduction to the »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« Project

When the Allies liberated Germany and the countries occupied by Germany, they encountered between 10 and 12 million people who were no longer in their native countries on account of Nazi persecution. The first years after the end of the Second World War were thus a time of constant migration: people were on the move. Millions of former forced laborers and other individuals who had been uprooted as a result of the war – and who were now defined as Displaced Persons (DPs) – lived in various camps, returned to their native countries, or emigrated to foreign countries. From the places where they were liberated to the towns they emigrated to, a network was formed that spanned the entire world.

The aim of the »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« project is to explore the wide variety of paths these people took and to research the places connected with their migration. The »Applications for IRO Assistance«, known as CM/1 applications for short, are the basis for the biographical data. From July 1947 onwards, applicants filled out these four-page forms in order to be recognized as DPs by the International Refugee Organization (IRO). The decision as to whether or not the IRO would provide them with care and support them in their efforts to emigrate depended primarily on their path of persecution. Therefore, the CM/1 application forms required applicants to list what had happened to them and their families over the last 10 or 12 years and where they had resided (been forced to reside). Thanks to the EVZ-funded project »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration«, the data of more than 1,700 people have now been evaluated and made accessible for the very first time.

The project provides three different ways to explore the life paths of the people concerned: an Interactive Map, group biographies illustrated with the aid of Story Maps, and workshop materials

presenting the project's potential for use in the context of historical education.

Maps make it easier to understand the paths people took – especially when the maps can be customized in line with the interests of individual users. The Interactive Map → in the »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« project – see also chapter 4 of this brochure – lets you do exactly that: users can display the biographies of individual persons or of entire groups (samples). They can select places or periods of time and the map will show the whereabouts of specific people at specific times. A link enables users to access the original CM/1 applications, which can provide fresh impetus for research.

The Story Maps → focus on the paths of particular groups. They provide a multi-media approach enabling users to explore the situations of specific samples such as stateless DPs or DPs who emigrated to Great Britain, for example. A total of eight Story Maps tell their stories. We hope the number of Story Maps will grow, and we look forward to adding new Story Maps created by our users!

Biographies – especially when they are digitally accessible and barrier-free – provide a wide range of possibilities for use in schools or other educational contexts. Projects which involve the creation of Story Maps, for example, are based on an explorative historical learning approach. A user guide → explaining how the »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« website can be used as a tool in historical education is also provided. For more information, see the detailed information given in chapter 5 of this brochure, which also includes various other materials.

**If you have any questions,
please contact us at
transrem@arolsen-archives.org**

Bad Arolsen, Minsk and Osnabrück, December 2019

Short Introduction to Displaced Persons (DPs) and the Holdings of the Arolsen Archives



Map of the zones of occupation in Germany and Austria,
III-1-K, ITS Archive, Arolsen Archives

The term Displaced Persons (or DPs for short) dates back to the last years of the war and reflects the thinking of the Allies, who were aware that large numbers of people from Western and Eastern Europe found themselves outside of their native countries as a consequence of the Second World War. Nazi Germany had deported millions of forced laborers, and the few survivors of the concentration camps also needed to be provided with medicine, clothing and food after the liberation. They also had to make a new start and decide how and where to live the rest of their lives. They were supported in this by the Allied military governments and international aid organizations. These bodies had developed a clear definition of who was to be considered a DP: DPs – or United Nations DPs, to be precise – were defined as all non-German civilians who had been deported by the Nazis or who, for some other

reason related to the war, found themselves outside of their home countries when the war ended. Germans were only given DP status if they could prove that they had been persecuted by the Nazis. The decisive factors for receiving DP status and support, therefore, were a person's nationality and – in most cases – their racial, political or religious persecution by the National Socialists. In addition to the forced laborers, there were two other large groups that made up the DP community. The first group consisted of the many Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians who had come to Germany in the last weeks and months before and after the end of the war. Like many Polish and Ukrainian DPs, they rejected communism or feared being condemned as collaborators because they were suspected of cooperating with the Germans. The other group consisted of infiltrates, most of whom were Eastern European Jews who had survived either in the Soviet Union or in the Middle East or who had initially returned to their native countries after having been liberated from a concentration camp or hideaway. Fleeing outbursts of violent antisemitism, they began to arrive into Germany in 1946, with the intention of organizing their emigration into another country from there.

It is difficult to determine exactly how many DPs there were. One reason for this is that many people who were liberated tried to return to their native countries on their own before they were registered. However, researchers estimate that there were between 10 and 12 million DPs in May 1945. In order to better organize the care of such large numbers of people, they were assigned to DP camps in the three western occupation zones according to their nationalities. This made it possible to organize return transport to their native countries more quickly. In fact, in May and June 1945, up to 80,000 DPs per day returned home from the French, British and US occupation zones. But not all DPs were able or willing to return to



DPs in Hamburg/Germany, Copyright: IWM.

the place where they had been before being deported by the National Socialists. Some DPs were not mentally or physically well enough to embark upon such a journey. Many DPs also rejected the new governments that had come to power in their home countries after the end of the war. As time went on, the Western Allies also suspended the forced repatriation of DPs whose home countries had been annexed by the Soviet Union after 1945. And so the way DPs were dealt with changed over time. Instead of only organizing their repatriation, the IRO (International Refugee Organization), the aid organization which was responsible for them, was increasingly involved in organizing their emigration, i.e. their relocation to a new country. By the end of 1951, when the IRO ceased operations in Europe, a total of over 700,000 DPs had emigrated under its resettlement schemes.

In order to emigrate and make a new life for themselves, the DPs had to fill in a great many documents, many of which are now kept in the Arolsen Archives. When the Allies established the International Tracing Service (ITS), the predecessor to the Arolsen Archives, it focused on searching for survivors of Nazi persecution and reuniting them with their families and friends. This is why documents that had had been created for DPs by official

organizations like the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA), the IRO, and other international aid organizations ended up in Arolsen. In addition to the 3.5 million individual DP documents that are stored there in the postwar card file (Nachkriegszeitkartei, Collection 3.1.1.1), around 350,000 CM/1 files also provide a valuable basis for exploring the biographies of former forced laborers and other survivors of Nazi persecution. A large number of documents can already be accessed in the online archive → of the Arolsen Archives.

It is important to note that aid organizations such as the IRO were active worldwide. This means that while the majority of documents stored in the Arolsen Archives relate to DPs in Germany and Austria, there are also some documents for people who ended up outside of Europe, in places such as the Middle East or Africa, as a result of the war. This also explains why the Interactive Map on the »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« portal covers the whole world.

CM/1 Applications – the Historical Context of one of the Most Influential Documents for DPs

When the Second World War came to an end, the Allies had clear ideas about how to support DPs. After being registered and receiving food, clothing and medical care in the DP camps, they were to be taken back to their native countries. By the time the IRO took over responsibility for the DPs from UNRRA in July 1947, however, the situation looked different. Most of the around 700,000 DPs who were looked after by the IRO could not or did not want to return to their native countries. As a result, repatriation arrangements had to be made for fewer and fewer DPs. Instead, IRO employees increasingly helped DPs emigrate to different countries in the context of their Care and Maintenance program. The decision as to whether a person was considered to be a DP and was therefore eligible for support from the IRO was made on the basis of one important document: the »Application for IRO Assistance«, also known as the CM/1 form.

The applicants had to describe their current situation on this form: What financial resources did they have for emigration? Were they working at the moment? What kind of professional and language skills did they have? What were their future plans and why were they not returning home? One question was of special significance: Where had the applicant and their family been during the last 10 or 12 years? This meant that people wrote down what had happened to them in very great detail. Based on the information provided on the CM/1 application, the supplementary documents, and an additional interview, eligibility officers decided whether the applicants could be accepted onto the Care and Maintenance program of the IRO and would therefore be recognized as DPs from then on. In order to be recognized as a DP and receive support from the IRO, a person had to have been persecuted for political, racial or religious reasons by the Nazis or other governments allied with them. However, there were many restrictions. The eligibility officers made a basic distinction between applicants »within the

mandate of the organization«, meaning those who were the responsibility of the IRO, and applicants who were »not within the mandate of the organization«, meaning those who did not meet the criteria established by the IRO. The decision was always made on the basis of the information available on the head of the family.

What happened next? In fact, the IRO could organize a number of different procedures for DPs: they could help them to return home, help them to emigrate, or make it possible for them to settle in their current location. IRO employees were also able to stamp the restriction »legal and political protection only« on the CM/1 application. In these cases, the IRO took over tasks that would otherwise have been the responsibility of the government and authorities of a DP's native country. The extent of the support provided could often change, however, which is why the validity date for a DP's status is often noted as well.

The CM/1 form was filled out by the DPs themselves or was filled out on the basis of the information provided by the applicants. So these forms include the details that the applicants could remember, the details that they wanted to share or the details that they did not deliberately hide. For any number of reasons, there may be discrepancies when the CM/1 files are compared with other documents for the same person. For one thing, many applicants no longer had any of their own documents, either because they had lost them during their years of persecution or because the documents had been taken from them. Because of this, applicants often had to provide information from memory. Furthermore, applicants sometimes deliberately left out certain details when filling out the CM/1 form because they feared they would otherwise not receive support from the IRO. On account

A detailed, interactive description of the CM/1 applications can be found in the e-Guide of the Arolsen Archives: eguide.arolsen-archives.org

IV CM/1

18. Organisations *Omnia 4.7.50 Negative 1.8.50*

For whom	Date	Name	Purpose

19. Present Address

Date	Street address or name of camp	Town or City	Country
17.3.50	D.P. Camp Schullenburg	Germany	Klaender

20. Remarks. Use for any additional information *CM/1 - 8/3/50 memo.*

21. Date and reason for coming to Germany. *Deported in 1942*

22. Valid reasons for not returning. *Home country as occupation*

23. I hereby declare that the above statements are correct to the best of my knowledge, and that I have made no previous application for I.R.O. assistance.

Within the mandate of I.R.O.
Eligible for care and maintenance
17/3/50
900 I.R.O. Area Office

Bratus
Signature
P. Bratus
Signature of Interviewer
Date

I.R.O. (B.Z.) FORM No 1
CM/1
APPLICATION FOR I.R.O. ASSISTANCE *deferred 31/8/50 re-registration Return*

1. *BRATUS* Family name
4. *16.3.50* Date
5. *354.056* Identity No.
6. *Polish* Citizenship
6a. *Ukrainian* Ethnic Group
7. ☒ M. ☒ W. ☒ C. Marital status
8. Names
(1) *STANISLAW* Relationship to head *head* Date of birth *1.2.06* Citizenship *Polish* Town, province and country of birth *DOBYNICE - Poland*
(2) *man*
(3) *children*
(4) *Other members of family*
(5) *Full names*
(6) *Other members of family*
(7) *Full names*
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(97) *Full names*
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(99) *Full names*
(100) *Other members of family*

10. Places of residence for last 10 years

For whom	dates	Town or village, province and country
1.	1938-11.42	ROGATEN - Poland
	11.42-9.45	LADGENAI Krs. DLF - Germany
	9.45-3.47	SEGIN / Brit. Zone - " "
	3.47-8.48	OSNABRÜCK - " "
	1.48-3.49	CREEBRIDGE - ENGLAND
	3.49-6.49	OSNABRÜCK - Germany
	6.49-3.50	SCHULENBURG - " "

CM/1 application for Stanislaw Bratus, 3.2.1.1/78962797/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives.

of this, as well as for fear of not receiving support, DP's sometimes left out certain aspects of their background or claimed other nationalities or claimed to be stateless despite being in possession of a valid passport.

However, there is one other aspect which it is important to take into consideration when working with the CM/1 applications. IRO employees were required to accept and check every CM/1 application submitted to them. For this reason, the Arolsen Archives also hold applications from people who were not considered DP's.

After the war, different variations of the CM/1 files existed. The »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« project focuses on the collection of CM/1 files from Germany preserved in the Arolsen Archives. Collection 3.2.1.1 contains around 199,000 CM/1 files which make up the majority of all the CM/1 files held by the Arolsen Archives. However, CM/1 forms were not only filled out by applicants in the French, British and

US American zones of occupation. There are also forms which were completed in Austria, Switzerland, Italy, the UK and even in places like Egypt, India, Palestine/Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey and East Africa. In the Arolsen Archives, the applications, further documents and letters are stored in different collections, and a total of around 850,000 people are mentioned in all of the files associated with the Care and Maintenance program. Although this number is high, not all of the CM/1 forms that were ever filled out have been preserved. This is mainly because IRO employees used to destroy the documents as soon as the DP's had emigrated and therefore no longer needed assistance. This practice was stopped when the German reparation authorities realized how important the documents were and asked for the files to be preserved.

For whom	Dates	Type of work	Wages	Employer	Town, province and country	Reason for change
1.	1938-1942	Bauer	-	Beschickung	Kogaten, Poland	verschleppt
	11.42	Arbeiter	SD-RM.	Bism-Fabrik	LAUDENAU, Germany	deport.
	4.45	Arbeiter	-	B.P.	Essen, Germany	
	3.47	Arbeiter	-	Lager.	Germany	
	3.47	Arbeiter	-	"	Essen, Germany	
	8.47	Arbeiter	SD-RM.	Bism-Fabrik	"	nach England gebracht.
	1.48	Bauer	-	kein	Creebridge, England	Frank
	2.48	Kraus	-	Hospital	Worms, Germany	German
	3.49	Arbeiter	-	Schulbau	Hamm, Germany	Zurück geschickt.
	3.50	Arbeiter	-	-	-	-

For whom	Dates	Type of School	Town, province and country
1.	1921-22	Volkschule	Ostynice - Poland

For whom	Speak		Read		Write		Language
	fluently	slightly	fluently	slightly	fluently	slightly	
1.	✓		✓		✓		Ukrainian
	✓				✓		Polish

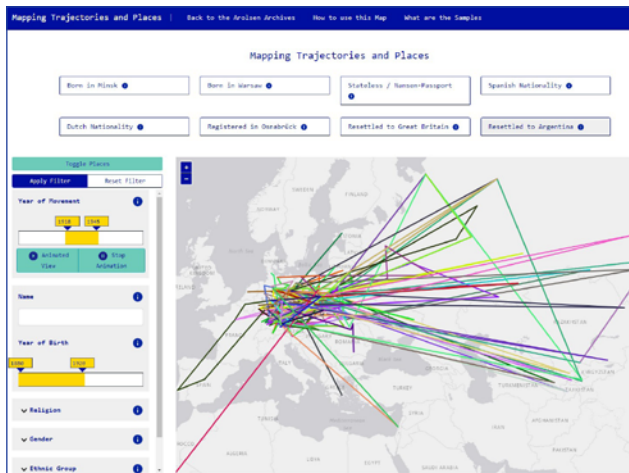
For whom	Property	Type	Value	Location
	Cash and Income			
	Assistance from relatives			

1. Birth plates issued: *J. Richter*

Full name	Relationship	Complete address
BRATUS, Jeno	Bruder	Canada
BRATIS, Stanislaw	wife	Kuty, Ukrainian/USSR
" Michel	son	

For whom	Date	Type	Place of issue	By whom
1.	5.6.44	Arbeitsbuch	Alpe - Germany	Arbeitsamt
1.	2.2.48	Certificate	England	Polizei

How to Use the »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« Interactive Map



Screenshot of the Interactive Map

The Interactive Map of the world → shows the migration of people who applied to the International Refugee Organization (IRO) for Displaced Person (DP) status and the support that went with it. The information about their places of residence was taken from the application forms (CM/1 files) and constitutes the underlying data for the map. The data of a total of 1,748 people from 805 CM/1 files were processed for display on the map. Eight topical samples were created on the basis of the data; these can be used to explore group biographies.

Using the Interactive Map, it is now possible to search the data sets and apply filters for specific attributes for the very first time. You can also view further information on the places of birth and places of residence of the persons concerned and access the digitized sources in the online archive of the Arolsen Archives directly.

Quick guide to the functions of the Interactive Map

1. Choose a sample. The Interactive Map then displays the paths of the people assigned to this sample.
2. You can search the data of the samples in the table beneath the world map. Each data set

shows the movement of a person from one place to the next. The date and place of birth are also shown. The search function for the sample concerned searches all the information in the table and includes »fuzzy search«, which means you can search for first and last names, for places or for dates. The search is not case-sensitive, so it does not matter whether you use capitals or small letters.

3. You can filter the sample data by year of movement, year of birth, gender and – based on the information from the CM/1 file – religion, ethnic group or nationality. It is also possible to filter the displayed data by name. Please note that you can only search for full names in this filter (first AND last name). After choosing the filters, click »Apply Filter« and the paths shown on the map will be displayed in accordance with your selection. A fast way of returning the filters to their initial settings is to click »Reset Filter«.
4. The »Toggle Places« button displays dots on the map for the places the applicants listed as places of residence in the files.
5. The movements of the people are shown by lines on the map. Each line represents a movement between two places. The color of the lines corresponds to the color used for each person in the table beneath the map. By clicking a line on the map, further information is displayed about the person as well as about the places connected by the line. The info box which opens also contains a direct link to the digitized CM/1 file in the online archive of the Arolsen Archives.
6. »Animated view« provides the option of viewing the data automatically year by year or progressively over a given period of time. The animation starts and ends with the chosen »Year of Movement«. This makes it possible to identify patterns in the data over time.

Workshop Concept and Materials

Topic

»Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration: Displaced Persons from Eastern Europe«

Target group

High school students and university students from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine as well as from other countries

Duration

About 4.5 to 5 hours plus breaks

Objective

The goal is to spread knowledge about the history of Nazi forced labor and the post-war migration of Displaced Persons (DPs) from Eastern Europe using interactive, modern approaches offered via the »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« portal →.

Tasks

- Systematize the conceptual framework of the topic, correlate it with previous knowledge about the events of the war and post-war periods
- Show multiple perspectives of historical events with transition from the global to the local level
- Form an idea of the main migration routes of former forced laborers after the war
- Look at the consequences of the Second World War from the perspective of people who survived the violence and did not return to their homes
- Re-enact the stories of former forced laborers from Eastern Europe who did not return to their native country after the war

Forms of work

Individual and group work, games, discussion

Techniques

Mind map, timeline, re-enactment, presentation

Watch the film »OST« (Belteleradiocompany, 2019) to become familiar with the topic.

Equipment

Screen projection unit, flip chart, Internet-connected devices (if necessary, the participants can bring their own), a 2m length of wide tape, cards with dates, events, and quotes, three illustrations (see Appendix 1), markers, hand-outs with biographies of returning forced laborers (see Appendix 2).

Do you want to help remember Displaced Persons?

You can get involved by recording the information you find out about individual forced laborers and their families in the online archive of the Arolsen Archives. You can share your knowledge with the rest of the world by adding a comment under the CM/1 applications of the persons concerned.

Have you found interesting documents or photos? How about using them to create your own Story Map? You can create it online, and if you contact us at transrem@arolsen-archives.org →, we will add it to the »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« website.

Online archive of the Arolsen Archives: collections.arolsen-archives.org →
Story Maps: storymaps.arcgis.com →

Preparation

Revision and consolidation of the Second World War chapters in a history textbook, including the use of forced labor by the Nazis.

Subject matter of the workshop

This workshop is based on the results of the »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« project. It is aimed at young people and is devoted to issue-related work with a focus on biographies. The Interactive Map → – which is based on historical documents – helps participants to picture the events of post-war life in relation to the mobility of the population and thus to forced migration during the Second World War. Information about people born in Minsk, Nansen passport holders and Jews who survived the Holocaust in concentration camps may be of particular interest to the residents of post-Soviet countries. Links to the history of the area the workshop participants come from will facilitate a better understanding of the topic and a critical interpretation of historical processes and will help to establish a connection between the local context and the global context.

The one-day event will consist of three theme-based units:

1. History of forced migration: Displaced Persons from Eastern Europe
2. Introduction to the »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« website on the history of post-war migration
3. Avoiding »anonymity«: Life stories of Displaced Persons

Unit 1

History of forced migration: Displaced Persons from Eastern Europe

The presenter starts this unit, which is focused on multiple perspectives, by gathering opinions as to what migration and mobility of population are and how they are represented in the modern world. This will help to identify knowledge levels, expectations, and possible stereotypes with regard to the topic. The results are documented as a mind map.

The presenter then defines the key concepts of the workshop: »migration«, »forced labor«, »Displaced Persons«, and »citizenship«.

The next step is for he or she to give a short, comprehensive presentation titled »Consequences of the Second World War and the mobility of population«, which focuses on the history of forced migration and Nazi forced labor. A post-war map of the

world with pinpoints locating camps for Displaced Persons (DPs) in Germany, Austria and Italy should be shown. The speaker will focus on describing the main categories of DPs, namely former forced laborers, prisoners, refugees, Holocaust survivors, and Nansen passport holders from Eastern Europe. This unit will also feature some details about daily life in the DP camps, the difficulties of repatriation, and the role of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and of the International Refugee Organization (IRO). The unit can be based on the historical information provided in this brochure (Chapters 1 to 3).

The following questions should be answered in the presentation:

- What possible migration routes were available to DPs?
- Which countries accepted stateless people who could not return to their native countries?
- How did organizations look for Nazi criminals and collaborators among the DPs?
- How did the post-war division of Germany and the creation of the state of Israel influence the decision not to return DPs to their native country?
- What were the fates of those who returned home?
- How do we remember the DPs who returned to their native country and how do we remember those who emigrated?

Following the presentation, students will work with a timeline to better structure the course of events for themselves. They are given cards with dates, events, as well as quotes and illustrations (see Appendix 1). These should be laid out in chronological order on the floor along the tape, which symbolizes the course of history.

Download

The workshop materials (Appendix 1 and Appendix 2) are also available in Belarusian and Russian.

You can download them from the website of the History Workshop Minsk:

gwminsk.com/educational_material →

Unit 2

Introduction to the »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« website on the history of post-war migration

The presenter will demonstrate the »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« website → , having previously told the audience about the Arolsen Archives and the historical significance of its holdings. The participants are then introduced to the files and records to be found online on the »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« portal, for instance the Interactive Map showing the migration routes or the Story Maps. The main samples that can be explored on the website are outlined in brief: DPs who resettled to the Great Britain and Argentina, DPs who were born in Minsk or Warsaw (more on this later during the workshop), people of Spanish and Dutch nationality, Nansen passport holders, and DPs who registered in Osnabruck.

Next, the participants divide into three groups to work with Story Maps → and prepare flip charts to present the following topics:

1. Trauma and Displaced Persons – the story of Stanislav Bratus (arola.to/storymap-trauma →)
2. Country of destination: UK – the story of Sophie Sobala (arola.to/storymap-uk →)
3. Nansen passports – the story of Michael Hubert (arola.to/stroymap-nansen →)

During the preparation phase, students can make use of any information they find online, including information from the online archive → of the Arolsen Archives, for example. During the presentation phase, the focus is on specific biographies that are presented on Story Maps. Participants are invited to present their topics as eyewitness accounts narrated in the first person.

Unit 3

Avoiding »anonymity«: Life stories of Displaced Persons

The presenter hands out cards with life stories of forced laborers from the Soviet Union who returned home after the war. Appendix 2 contains three biographies that can be used in various ways and can be complemented with the life stories of forced laborers from your area.

After students have studied the topic, the groups of participants are asked to shed light on the following: Where and how did the person concerned become involved in forced labor? What did they do during the war? Why did they return home after the war? What consequences of forced labor did they suffer? The presenter notes down the key points on the flip chart.

Then the participants work in small groups (2-4 people on average) with biographies from the sample of DPs who came from Minsk. They try to find patterns in stories, notice out-of-the-ordinary

Copyright: Arolsen Archives.



aspects, and draw possible parallels. They try to find out why these people did not want to return to their native countries and how it was possible for them to avoid deportation.

After studying the sample, each group chooses one biography and uses materials available in the online archive → of the Arolsen Archives as well as material from various publications and from the Internet to create a Story Map for the chosen DP, which can be uploaded to the »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« portal at the end of the workshop. Comments can also be left on the CM/1 file of the DP concerned, which can be accessed via the Interactive Map.

In order to create the Story Map, students will reflect on the information they have studied and will use their critical thinking skills when working with the sources. They will complete a profile for the person concerned, which will include the following data: the year of birth, what their life was like before the war, where they were taken as a forced laborer, where they were registered as a DP, where the person wanted to go and in which camps they stayed as well as what their fate was after these events. If possible, the self-identification and religious affiliation of the DP should also be noted.

The Story Maps are then presented to the other participants.

The workshop closes with a period of reflection on the current situation of refugees in the world. At the end, participants evaluate the event by playing »Backpack«, a game which involves the participants deciding what they will take with them, what they will »throw away« (i.e. what they will not support as an idea based on the results of their work), and what they will leave at the workshop.



Workshop Program

Example of a one-day workshop

What	Method	Duration
Introductory part		
Presentation of the program and introductions	Circle of participants	25 min
Unit 1: History of forced migration: Displaced Persons from Eastern Europe		
Migration in today's global world	Mind map on flip chart	25 min
Defining »migration«, »forced labor«, »citizenship«, »Displaced Persons«	Notes on flip chart	5 min
Consequences of the Second World War and the mobility of population	Power Point presentation with documents and maps	30 min
Timeline	Game	15 min
Unit 2: Introduction to the »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« website on the history of post-war migration		
»Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« website: presentation of biographical routes on the Interactive Map	Interactive presentation of the online resource	20 min
Working with Story Maps: • Trauma and Displaced Persons • The way to Great Britain • Nansen passports	Work with devices in three separate groups to prepare presentations on a flip chart	30 min
Presentation of Story Maps to the group	Presentation and discussion	15 min
Unit 3: Avoiding »anonymity«: Life stories of Displaced Persons		
Forced laborers who returned to the Soviet Union	Individual work with cards and answering the questions	10 min
Sharing results	Discussion using a flip chart to note key points	20 min
Work with the sample of immigrants from Minsk	Work in small groups using laptops with Internet access	15 min
Preparing biographies as Story Maps	Work in small groups	60 min
Sharing results	Online presentation and a question-and-answer session	25 min
Evaluation of workshop results	Reflection »Backpack« game	20 min

Expected result: The workshop is expected to increase the participants' level of knowledge about the topic of post-war migration, to make them closely acquainted with the »Transnational Remembrance of Nazi Forced Labor and Migration« website, and to result in the creation of new biographies of former Displaced Persons in the form of Story Maps that can be shown online.



Workshop materials

Appendix 1, Timeline print-outs of
historical events from 1922 to 1948

Set 1 — Print-outs: dates

1922

1933

1933

1938

1939

1941

1941

1941



Workshop materials

Appendix 1, Timeline print-outs of
historical events from 1922 to 1948

Set 1 — Print-outs: dates

1945

1945

1945

1945

1945

1948



Workshop materials

Appendix 1, Timeline print-outs of
historical events from 1922 to 1948

Set 2 — Print-outs: historical events

Introduction of the Nansen passport

**Rise to power of the Nazis
in Germany**

**Establishment of the first
concentration camp in Germany**

November pogroms

Beginning of the Second World War

Invasion of the Soviet Union

**Establishment of the extermination
camps, e.g. Sobibor, Majdanek,
Treblinka and Auschwitz**

**Decision on forced recruitment
and deportation of civilian laborers
from the Eastern Territories**



Workshop materials

Appendix 1, Timeline print-outs of
historical events from 1922 to 1948

Set 2 — Print-outs: historical events

**Act of unconditional surrender of the
German armed forces**

Victory Day

Potsdam Agreement

End of the Second World War

Beginning of the Nuremberg trials

Displaced Persons Act



Workshop materials

Appendix 1, Timeline print-outs of historical events from 1922 to 1948

Set 3 — Print-outs: descriptions

This document was developed by the Norwegian Fridtjof Nansen, High Commissioner for Refugees appointed by the League of Nations. Initially, it was issued to Russian refugees, and later to other refugees unable to get a regular passport. It was introduced by the decision of a conference convened in Geneva. The holders of Nansen passports were enabled to cross national borders of the countries participating in the conference and were not subject to the restrictions imposed on stateless persons. Pursuant to the decision of the League of Nations passed on 12 July 1924, Nansen passports were issued to approx. 320,000 Armenians who had escaped the 1915 genocide and dispersed across many countries. In 1942, the Nansen passport was recognized by the governments of 52 states, and it became the first refugee travel document.

This was the year the Nazis became the largest parliamentary party. German President Hindenburg entrusted Hitler to form a government. Hitler was appointed as the Chancellor of Germany. In a matter of months, democracy was abolished and Germany became a centralized single-party police state.

On 22 March of this year, the first concentration camp was established near Munich in Dachau. Communists, socialists, liberals, and anyone considered to be an enemy of the regime were taken there. The penal system and other forms of physical and psychological abuse of prisoners were developed and practiced there. Later, a network of Nazi concentration camps modelled on Dachau was established.

This was the first mass action involving direct physical violence against Jews on the territory of the Third Reich. During the course of one night, Nazi followers supported by Nazi authorities killed 91 Jews, injured and harmed hundreds and humiliated thousands of Jewish people in dozens of cities in Germany and Austria. About 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent to the Sachsenhausen, Buchenwald and Dachau concentration camps. On the same night, 267 synagogues, 7,500 trade and commercial enterprises and hundreds of Jewish houses were burned down or destroyed.

On 1 September, the German armed forces invaded Poland. On 3 September, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany. This was the beginning of the largest war in the history of mankind, unleashed by Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Japan's militarism. 62 states with a population of 1.7 billion people were involved in the war. The hostilities took place on the territory of three continents and in the waters of four oceans.

In the early hours of 22 June, the German invasion of the Soviet Union supported by the Nazi allies – Italy, Hungary, Romania, Finland and Slovakia – was launched. The military invasion was launched suddenly and without any warning. The code name for the invasion was Operation Barbarossa. That is how the Eastern Front of World War II started.

Extermination camps were created as institutions for the mass murder of various population groups. The first concentration camps in Nazi Germany were established to isolate individuals suspected of opposing the Nazi regime. However, they soon developed into a giant machine for the suppression and extermination of people of different nationalities, »anti-social« elements or representatives of »inferior races« in countries under the Nazi rule, particularly in occupied Poland. They played a decisive role in the Nazi policy of exterminating Jews.

At a meeting held on 7 November in Berlin, Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering, referring to the use of labor from the East, said the following: »Free labor must also be used alongside the Russian prisoners of war. [...] Russian workers have proven their efficiency in building a powerful industry, and now they should be used in Germany.« Goering's directives were the start signal for the large-scale mobilization of Soviet people in Germany.



Workshop materials

Appendix 1, Timeline print-outs of historical events from 1922 to 1948

Set 3 — Print-outs: descriptions

This legal document established the armistice on the Second World War fronts against Germany, it compelled German servicemen to cease resistance and surrender the personnel and material of the armed forces. Furthermore, it actually meant the withdrawal of Germany from the war. The document marked the victory of the Soviet people and the end of the Second World War in Europe. It was signed on 7 May. The surrender of Nazi Germany took effect on 8 May at 23:01 (Central European Time).

On 2 September at 9:02 Tokyo Time, the act of unconditional surrender of Japan was signed on board the USS Missouri. The largest war in human history was over.

Celebration of the victory of the Red Army and the Soviet people over Nazi Germany in the Great Patriotic War. The Victory Day was established by Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on 8 May, and it is celebrated every year on 9 May.

The international trial of the major Nazi war criminals. It is often called the »greatest trial in history«. It was held from 20 November 1945 to 1 October 1946 in the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg (Germany).

Documents adopted at the Potsdam conference, containing decisions on the new political and territorial structure of Germany, its demilitarization, the reparations to be paid by Germany, and the fate of German war criminals. At the conference, the victorious states (the USSR, the United States and the United Kingdom) were represented by the heads of government and foreign ministers. Initially, Stalin, Truman and Churchill participated in the conference.

On 25 June, the U.S. Congress passed an act under which approx. 400,000 Displaced Persons could immigrate to the United States above the established quotas. US officials issued about 80,000 DP visas for displaced Jews.



Workshop materials

Appendix 1, Timeline print-outs of historical events from 1922 to 1948

Set 4 — Print-outs: Summary table of dates, events and event descriptions

1922

Introduction of the Nansen passport

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1933

Rise to power of the Nazis in Germany

This was the year the Nazis became the largest parliamentary party. German President Hindenburg entrusted Hitler to form a government. Hitler was appointed as the Chancellor of Germany. In a matter of months, democracy was abolished and Germany became a centralized single-party police state.

1933

Establishment of the first concentration camp in Germany

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1938

November pogroms

This was the first mass action involving direct physical violence against Jews on the territory of the Third Reich. During the course of one night, Nazi followers supported by Nazi authorities killed 91 Jews, injured and harmed hundreds and humiliated thousands of Jewish people in dozens of cities in Germany and Austria. About 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent to the Sachsenhausen, Buchenwald and Dachau concentration camps. On the same night, 267 synagogues, 7,500 trade and commercial enterprises and hundreds of Jewish houses were burned down or destroyed.

1939

Beginning of the Second World War

On 1 September, the German armed forces invaded Poland. On 3 September, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany. This was the beginning of the largest war in the history of mankind, unleashed by Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Japan's militarism. 62 states with a population of 1.7 billion people were involved in the war. The hostilities took place on the territory of three continents and in the waters of four oceans.

1941

Invasion of the Soviet Union

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1941

Establishment of the extermination camps, e.g. Sobibor, Majdanek, Treblinka and Auschwitz

Extermination camps were created as institutions for the mass murder of various population groups. The first concentration camps in Nazi Germany were established to isolate individuals suspected of opposing the Nazi regime. However, they soon developed into a giant machine for the suppression and extermination of people of different nationalities, »anti-social« elements or representatives of »inferior races« in countries under the Nazi rule, particularly in occupied Poland. They played a decisive role in the Nazi policy of exterminating Jews.

1941

Decision on forced recruitment and deportation of civilian laborers from the Eastern Territories

At a meeting held on 7 November in Berlin, Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering, referring to the use of labor from the East, said the following: »Free labor must also be used alongside the Russian prisoners of war. [...] Russian workers have proven their efficiency in building a powerful industry, and now they should be used in Germany.« Goering's directives were the start signal for the large-scale mobilization of Soviet people in Germany.

1945

Act of unconditional surrender of the German armed forces

This legal document established the armistice on the Second World War fronts against Germany, it compelled German servicemen to cease resistance and surrender the personnel and material of the armed forces. Furthermore, it actually meant the withdrawal of Germany from the war. The document marked the victory of the Soviet people and the end of Second World War in Europe. It was signed on 7 May. The surrender of Nazi Germany took effect on 8 May at 23:01 (Central European Time).

1945

Victory Day

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1945

End of Second World War

On 2 September at 9:02 Tokyo Time, the act of unconditional surrender of Japan was signed on board the USS Missouri. The largest war in human history was over.

1945

Beginning of the Nuremberg trials

The international trial of the major Nazi war criminals. It is often called the »greatest trial in history«. It was held from 20 November 1945 to 1 October 1946 in the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg (Germany).

1948

Displaced Persons Act

On 25 June, the U.S. Congress passed an act under which approx. 400,000 Displaced Persons could immigrate to the United States above the established quotas. US officials issued about 80,000 DP visas for displaced Jews.

Workshop materials

Appendix 1, Timeline print-outs of historical events from 1922 to 1948

Set 3 — Print-outs: quotes

#1

»[O]ne morning we were at home, didn't have nothing for breakfast yet. And then there was this guy, rushing here and yelling that the Germans had already surrounded the village. The village is surrounded and there's nowhere to go. And then we see from the other side, they are herding people down here, there was a school close by. And there was a training ground next to it. [...] Then we saw policemen and the Germans coming to us. So they're approaching. 'Get out, get out of the house!' Well we took the little one, we were two sisters and our parents. When we came to the place, there was already a bunch of people, everyone realized that youngsters go to the courtyard, and the guys go to the school. Guys were shouting: 'Ivan, come here, these evil Germans will take you too. Man, come here.' They took him and hid him behind the old men. Well my mother and the little one stayed here while they herded me and my sister to the courtyard. [...] It was nearly in the evening. And this happened on 10 January 1943.«

From the memoirs of Anna Poleshchuk, born in 1929,
zeitzeugenarchiv.gwminsk.com

#2

»[In the rations that camp prisoners were getting] there was about 200g of bread. [...] Sometimes there was sawdust like from some sort of a broad-leaved tree, at times it was undivided, not thoroughly mixed, you see, 200g in the evening, and then some tea, well sometimes they would give us a bite of liver sausage, this big, and there's this bread and tea, without sugar, herbal tea, there grew herbs. [...] And then for lunch there was cabbage, sour like the one you make in autumn, like pickled cabbage, probably they added, like, some acids, it was so acid that it made my jaws ache.«

From the memoirs of Adam Chuevsky, born in 1925,
zeitzeugenarchiv.gwminsk.com

#3

»In June 1944, American Flying Fortresses began raiding and bombing the city. At this time, the German guards were hiding in the bomb shelter, and we could take food from the wagonloads. Everyone expected the Americans to come for rescue in August 1944. For two days the Germans and their dogs wouldn't let us out of the camp. We wrote down the information about ourselves and put those notes between the bricks in all buildings, outside and inside, as there were rumors that the camp would be blown up. Around 15 August 1944, we went beyond the fence and saw that there were no guards.«

From the memoirs of Konstantin Adamets, born in 1925,
zeitzeugenarchiv.gwminsk.com

#4

»On 24 April 1947, the British Ministry of Labour and National Service wrote: 'The recruitment of Displaced Persons (who will be described in future as »European Volunteer Workers«) for employment in Great Britain is now proceeding and the first batch has arrived in this country'. Like other Belarusians, I came to Australia as a 'farm laborer' to do timber work under a contract. My wages were £5 per week, and we lived in tents in the area abundant in mosquitoes, flies and snakes. We cooked meals for ourselves [...]. Then I had to take up factory jobs in Sidney [...].«

From the memoirs of Mikola Antukh, in: Alexander Odinets (ed.): *Post-war emigration. Crossroads of destinies*, Minsk 2007, pp. 17-25.



Workshop materials

Appendix 2: Biographies of forced laborers who returned home

Zinaida Goryachko



Zinaida Goryachko

zeitzeugenarchiv.gwminsk.com/ru/archiv/workers/goryachko-zinaida

Zinaida was born on 11 June 1931 in the small village of Vysochany, Lioznensky district, Vitebsk region. There she successfully completed three years of schooling and dreamed of becoming a teacher in the future.

In the summer of 1941, the Germans appeared in Vysochany, and in 1943 the village was burned down, and its inhabitants were taken to a POW camp in Masyukovshchina. From there, they were deported in freight cars and were taken to the city of Siegen in Germany. All forcibly deported people were lodged in barracks. The families were not separated and their members lived together. They were obliged to wear a patch in the form of a blue square attached to their clothes; the patch had the inscription »OST« which meant Ostarbeiter (East European worker). The working day at the factory lasted for 12 hours. Zinaida welded metal pipes.

Zinaida's father cut metal plates, and her mother washed dishes. Meals usually consisted of a ladle of thin broth with pieces of cubed kohlrabi floating in it. Twice a day (morning and evening) the forced workers were given a coffee-like beverage. Shortly before the liberation, the workers were taken into a bunker and locked inside it. People had difficulty breathing. Sometime later, someone found a way out of the bunker and came back to show it to others. When they emerged from the bunker, it was surrounded by American soldiers.

When the family returned home, they found out that their village had been burned down. They lived in a dugout in the nearby village of Buraki. Zinaida completed her 5th year of schooling. In 1946 her father died and she decided to move to Minsk and go to college. In 1948, she graduated with honors. Having successfully completed her professional training as a worker making half-finished products, she found work at the Kachanovich shoe factory. After taking advanced training courses, she was promoted to master. At the factory she met an electrician named Yevgeny Goryachko, whom she soon married. On 9 June 1966, Zinaida was awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labor for her outstanding work. In 1971, she became Deputy Chairman of the Trade Union Committee of the Minsk Shoe Production Association »Luch«.

Biography compiled by the team of the History Workshop Minsk



Workshop materials

Appendix 2: Biographies of forced laborers who returned home

Vaclav Kovalevsky



Vaclav Kovalevsky, 60(1)-1286-6667,
Belarusian Oral History Archive Project.
nashapamiac.org

German Nazis herded all the villagers together and set their houses on fire. All the village residents – around 150 households – were taken to Germany as forced laborers. The Kovalevsky family and the residents of their native village were taken to an estate near the German city of Parchim (today the city is in the federal state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) where they performed agricultural work. An important part of Vaclav's biography are the post-war challenges he faced. After the war, the family returned to the site of the burned down village and lived under a tree for several weeks. To help feed his family, Vaclav had worked part time as an agricultural laborer from early childhood. He only received primary education. He spent all his life working in the forest and in collective farms in his community.

Belarusian Oral History Archive
Project nashapamiac.org
biography by Alesja Belanovich-Petz

Vaclav was born on 7 June 1928 in the village of Rudnia Nalibokskaya which at that time was part of Poland. The interview vividly shows his »Polish« identity. Vaclav talks about the »Polish« and »Soviet« war, remembers songs in Polish, goes to Polish Roman Catholic church. After the war, his sister Adolfina seized the opportunity to move to Poland. Vaclav recalls how the Soviet authorities denied him permission to visit his sister because he was liable for military service, and the local officials feared that he might leave the Soviet Union for good and stay in Poland. Only his mother was allowed to go.

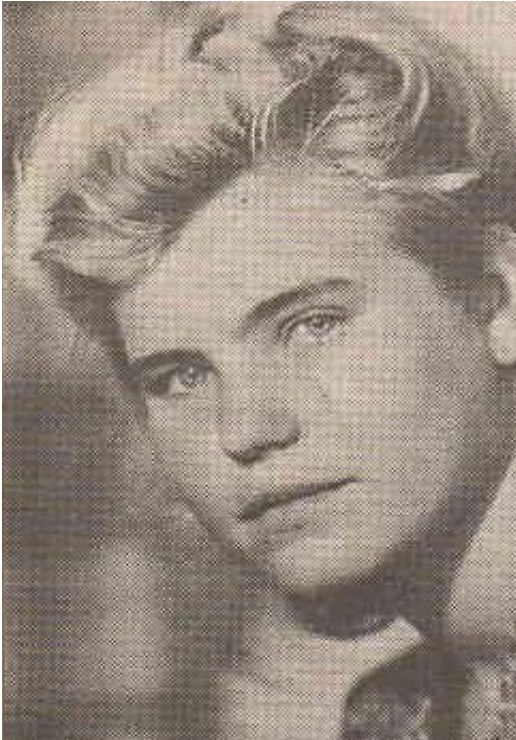
In 1943, not only the whole Kovalevsky family, which included 10 children, but all the other residents of the village of Rudnya Nalibokskaya as well were compelled to do forced labor in Germany. Vaclav says that during a raid on guerrillas, the



Workshop materials

Appendix 2: Biographies of forced laborers who returned home

Elvina Semakova



Elvina Semakova, 41(1)-624-2207,
Belarusian Oral History Archive Project.
nashapamiac.org

Elvina was born on 7 August 1926 to a family of teachers in the village of Korma, Gomel region. In 1931, the family moved to the city of Bykhov, where Elvina's mother worked as a school teacher and her father as an accountant. In 1938, Elvina's father was caught up in a wave of Stalinist repression and sent to the Gulag. Shortly before the outbreak of the German-Soviet war, he had been »rehabilitated« and was therefore able to return to his family. However, the family had already found out how »enemies of the people« were treated.

When the German-Soviet war began, Elvina's father was conscripted into the army. After an unsuccessful attempt to flee, Elvina, her mother and younger brother found themselves under German occupation. In March 1944, they were rounded up and taken to Germany as forced laborers. They worked at a Krupp foundry in the German city of

Witten until they were liberated by the Americans in April 1945. They returned to Belarus, but Elvina's mother was prohibited from working in urban areas, so the family moved to the countryside. Elvina's initial efforts to obtain a teaching qualification from a pedagogical institute failed. The reason for this was her personal history report in which she honestly stated that she had been taken to Germany during the war. She was expelled from the institute. However, after a few months, the institute administration called Elvina into their office to take a picture for the local newspaper about the »young girl returning to normal life«. After this, Elvina was able to enroll in her first year of study.

Elvina graduated from the pedagogical institute and became a teacher at a rural school, where she met her future husband, a Red Army soldier who decided to pursue military career after the war. The young family moved to Minsk and settled down in the Uruchye military community where Elvina lives to this day.

Belarusian Oral History Archive
Project nashapamiac.org
biography by Alesja Belanovich-Petz



Workshop materials

Appendix 2: Biographies of forced laborers who returned home

Adam Chuevsky



Adam Chuevsky
zeitzeugenarchiv.gwminsk.com/ru/archiv/workers/chuevskiy-adam

Adam was born in 1925 in the village of Kamenka near the city of Dzerzhinsk (Belarus). Before the war, he completed 7 years of schooling. Adam planned to move to the city and work at an aircraft factory. However, during the war he was forcibly deported. On 21 July 1942, young people of 16 to 18 years of age were gathered together in one of the schools in Dzerzhinsk. Adam wanted to join a guerilla unit, but he feared for his family, so he had to join the other young people at the school. The next day, he and all the others were deported from the Koidanovo railway station to Munich, where they were sent to a military factory. However, after three days of work at the factory, Adam and several other forced laborers escaped into the woods. He was soon caught and on 8 August 1942, he was sent to Dachau concentration camp as a punishment for his escape. He was released by American soldiers on 29 April

1945, and a few months later was sent to Austria, where he was handed over to representatives of the Soviet Army. Only in late 1946, after spending time working in a camp near Vienna, was he able to return home. After the war, Adam worked as a plasterer, then at a peat enterprise and as a construction worker. In 1957 he married Olga Alexandrovna and they had two sons. In 1985, Adam retired.

Biography compiled by the team of the
History Workshop Minsk

Imprint

Arolsen
Archives



Institut für Migrationsforschung
und Interkulturelle Studien

IMIS

Institute for Migration Research
and Intercultural Studies

evz FOUNDATION
REMEMBRANCE
RESPONSIBILITY
FUTURE

NIOD
instituut voor
oorlogs-, holocaust-
en genocidestudies

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image cover

DPs in Hamburg/Germany, Copyright: IWM