Arolsen Archives

International Center on Nazi Persecution

Football Players in Focus

Educational Materials on Sports, Persecution, and Remembrance

Imprint

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Cover: Polish football player Antoni Łyko at a match of his team Wisła Kraków in 1937 (dark jersey) and as a prisoner in the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1941 (© National Digital Archive, Poland; Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum).

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Introduction

This educational material is about people from various European countries who were victims of Nazi persecution. They had one thing in common: they were football players. The spotlight is thus on a subject that was already very popular before the Nazi era. Today, football is a unifier across generations and borders worldwide. Millions of athletes enjoy the sport as much as the millions of fans that visit the stadiums. Discussing the issue of football can thus open up new target groups for historical education regarding the Nazi past. And for those who are already familiar with its broader history, the game with the round leather ball can offer an exciting new perspective.

Edit Lieb.

BVB fans at a memorial tour to the former Auschwitz-Monowitz camp, 2013 © BVB

When examining the past, we often wonder what the societal causes and structures were that enabled the crimes of the Nazis. In the course of many educational projects about Nazi Germany, explorations of the past are often followed by questions about our own society and the issues of discrimination and inequality. The everyday life and experiences of the participants in educational programs also play an important role.

The following materials were compiled in collaboration between the Arolsen Archives and the football club Borussia Dortmund, which has been carrying out educational projects on the history of Nazi persecution with fans and employees for many years. This collaboration brought together various experiences in historical-political education. At the

heart of the materials are archival documents and biographical information, as well as explanations and worksheets that enable methodologically diverse forms of cooperative learning. While the materials are suitable for use in classrooms, they are primarily aimed at study groups and initiatives outside of schools. Workshops may take place in the context of working with football fans, as an activity accompanying trips to memorial sites, or as an initiative undertaken by sports teams and clubs.

Projects for historical-political education already have a certain tradition in German football, and they are becoming increasingly popular in other European countries. An introductory text in **Section 2**

gives an overview of the development in this area. What has become evident in the course of remembrance and education initiatives related to football is that age in particular is not a barrier to cooperative learning about the history of Nazi persecution. Instead, very diverse groups often get together under the colors of their respective football club of choice, in order to discuss issues that transcend football and to get involved in various social issues. We therefore consider the material at hand a particular source of inspiration for educational work targeting all age groups in different situations.

Our hope is to also encourage groups and institutions for whom the field of historical and political education is uncharted territory to carry out a workshop. We are confident that using these materials can be a fascinating experience for

participants. In order to make it as easy as possible to get started, a practical suggestion for a project day is provided in **Section 5** as an introduction to the materials. Depending on their experience, it is up to the teamers of the workshop to decide whether to stick closely to our suggestions or whether the archival documents and biographies would better serve as the basis for a workshop that they themselves design.

Looking back at European Societies and Groups of Nazi Victims

Everyday activities in football are an interesting indicator of the imminent transition that began in Nazi Germany in 1933, and of changes in the European societies that were successively targeted by the German policy of war and conquest from 1938 onward. As a result, the following questions may be formulated and discussed: What impact did the rise to power of the Nazis have on football in Germany? Where and for whom was it still possible to play football after the start of the war? What were the limitations for Jewish athletes outside of Germany, even before Nazi occupation? Who were the victims of Nazi persecution and what happened to them?

On the basis of these questions, workshop participants can gain an understanding of the situation in various European societies. Not only will they learn about the history of European football, they can also gain a new perspective on watershed events in European history, marked by the war and the Holocaust, in connection to a cultural phenomenon that relates to their own lives. An introductory text in **Section 3** on football in the 1930s and 1940s provides an overview of the development and various starting points for further research.

Football players did not constitute a separate prisoner category in Nazi camps, and yet they were present everywhere. The biographies selected for these materials portray people of different origins, with different life stories, and different political orientations. But they all have their place in the timeline of European football.

Didactic Considerations

The materials were compiled on the basis of different educational guiding principles. The focus is on the life stories of football players from several European countries. Biographical information offers varied opportunities for historical learning. Firstly, the different biographies can be placed within a broader context. The history of National Socialism is best understood when it is split up into different periods. What this shows is: Nazi persecution in Europe affected different people at different times. While the persecution of opponents based on politics and race began immediately after the Nazis had seized power in Germany, people in other countries continued to live in perceived safety for a few more years. And others who sought refuge in different countries became the target of German persecutors at a later stage.

The biographies are reconstructed along a timeline, where possible, starting before the establishment of Nazi rule in the individual country and reaching, in some cases, into the postwar period. Thus, the widely held general view that people were »victims« only is dispelled and the way paved to portray them as individuals with a unique life story.

The timeline also makes it possible to correlate different life stories, showing the important differences as well as the similarities they have. This serves an important learning objective: when differences become tangible, diversity becomes evident. Jews are thus no longer perceived as the stereotypical »Jew« that was portrayed by Nazi ideology, and it becomes clear just how diverse this group is. Secondly, learning about Nazi persecution should also raise learners' awareness of the different groups of victims, because this alone shows the true extent of the mass crimes committed. This approach is further supported by the European perspective on which these materials are based.

In the outline of the project day proposed in **Section 5**, key questions and contents for three workshop phases are presented. Material and information on the implementation and moderation of the first workshop (timeline) can be found in **Section 6**. Specific, further tasks in **Sections 7** and **8** are designed so that the workshop can be expanded depending on both the time available and the group context. Certain aspects of persecution as well as survival after liberation can be explored in more depth using individual biographies. Work tasks that encourage researching additional information online can be incorporated during all phases. The direction which the online research will take cannot be determined in advance.

A closer look at the materials presented here and the information available on the Internet makes it clear that our knowledge of the collected life stories of people varies greatly. While detailed information is available for some, there is only fragmentary information on the persecution of others. To see these differences in the materials preserved is an important lesson in understanding the history of the Nazis' crimes against humanity. The participants of the workshop will learn that the common truism that we already know all there is to know about Nazi persecution is incorrect. On the contrary: For most of the millions of people persecuted and murdered, there are only fragments of information available. The fates of many people have remained unknown to this day, despite the existence of archival documents that contain information about their persecution. The fragments available represent documents of very different types of sources. Dealing with and understanding historical documents are additional study objectives of the work with these materials. **Section 4** provides more detailed information on this.

In summary, working with the materials presented here can yield a wide variety of results. Irrespective of that, however, the objective of historical-political educational work should be for the participants to converse with one another on the topic and develop their own ideas for further

investigating history. The documents can be used not only to reconstruct aspects of the persecution of the persons presented and to acquire background information about the sites of Nazi crimes. Going beyond this, participants also acquire skills in working with sources that are important for their own remembrance projects. In the best case, research-based learning practiced as part of the workshop itself stimulates research and a remembrance project about your own city or club history.

Section 10 concludes with some practical tips on how to carry out remembrance projects, and where archives and memorial sites with source materials are located. These can offer help in researching and planning projects. The large online archive of the Arolsen Archives also offers extensive research options for biographical and location-based research.

In addition to the English version, this publication is also available in German. In terms of content, the two versions differ only insofar as the English version sometimes provides additional website links that are language-specific. In addition, the English version also contains translations of all archive documents that are originally in German.

The **Arolsen Archives** are an international center on Nazi persecution with the world's most comprehensive archive on the victims and survivors of Nazi Germany. The collection, which holds information on about 17.5 million people, belongs to UNESCO's Memory of the World. It contains documents on the various groups of victims of the Nazi regime and is an important source of knowledge, especially for younger generations. Every year, the Arolsen Archives answer

inquiries on about 20,000 victims of Nazi persecution. Offers for research and education are more important than ever, in order to convey knowledge about the Holocaust, concentration camps, forced labor, and the consequences of Nazi crimes to today's society. The Arolsen Archives are building an extensive online archive and are making the documents accessible worldwide.



The Arolsen Archives are the world's most comprehensive archive on Nazi victims

Football club **Borussia Dortmund** (**BVB**) has been involved in educational and remembrance work on the Holocaust for many years. Following early day trips to German memorials in 2008, fans have been visiting the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial in Poland every year since 2011 with multi-day trips. A second annual project was established in 2014, which traces the steps of a deportation from Dortmund to the Zamość ghetto. Since 2017, employees of BVB and its main sponsor Evonik Industries have

also had the opportunity to join an annual educational trip to the Auschwitz Memorial. The multiday educational projects always include the history of the persecution of Dortmund's Jews. In addition to these activities, regular events and workshops are held in Dortmund, which also focus on antisemitism and other forms of discrimination that occur today.



Remembrance of Jews from Dortmund at the Belzec memorial site, 2017 © BVB

Football Remembrance Projects in Germany and Europe

Remembrance activities for the victims of the Nazis take place at regular intervals in German football stadiums. The fans of various clubs are furthermore engaged in the history of the Holocaust and other Nazi crimes through readings, memorial events, tours, or football tournaments named after persecuted club members. These types of initiatives for historical-political education are now part of an established tradition in the German football landscape.

History Repressed for Decades

For a long time German football clubs found it difficult to take a critical look at their own history during the Nazi regime. Like many public entities, they considered themselves to be »non-political« institutions without a specific role in Nazi society. The fact that many clubs willingly submitted to the new rulers after 1933 and, among other things, readily excluded Jews from the clubs, was almost universally kept quiet or glossed over.

An important step in dealing with the history of German football was taken with the publication of the study »Fußball unterm Hakenkreuz: Der DFB zwischen Sport, Politik und Kommerz« (Football Under the Swastika: The DFB between Sport, Politics, and Business) in 2005, originally commissioned in 2001 by the German Football Association (DFB). Despite some criticism, the study provided an important impetus for discussion. At the turn of the century, some clubs followed suit and published their own books about their history during the Nazi era.



Nie wieder (»Never Again«) Initiative

https://www.niewieder.info

Julius Hirsch Prize https://www.dfb.de/preisewettbewerbe/julius-hirsch-preis ☑



Nils Havemann: **Fußball unterm Hakenkreuz: Der DFB zwischen Sport, Politik und Kommerz,**Frankfurt am Main 2005.

Almost simultaneously, the first fan clubs and projects started to include visits to memorial sites as part of their outings. For example, some initiatives combined an away game in Munich with a visit to the Dachau concentration camp memorial. Other projects included visits to memorial sites with fan groups in the neighboring countries of Poland, the Czech Republic, and France. These initial activities incorporated the discussion of Nazi crimes into initiatives against right-wing extremism in fan work, which received increased attention in the run-up to the 2006 World Cup in Germany. Fan and grassroots initiatives such as the »Alliance of Active Football Fans« (BAFF), whose exhibition »Tatort Stadion« (The Stadium as a Crime Scene) had been informing the public at large about racism and antisemitism in football since 2001, made an important contribution to the positive shift in discourse during this period.

In 2004, the initiative »Never Again – Remembrance Day in German Football« was created, which provided an overarching framework for the various remembrance activities and contributed to the networking of fans and commemorative initiatives. Many of the aforementioned activities have since taken place annually around International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27. In 2005, the DFB awarded the Julius Hirsch Prize for the first time, and since then it has regularly honored commemorative initiatives and historical education projects in football.

Jewish History as Part of the Club's History

A selection of current projects shows just how diverse these activities have become: Jewish football player Ernst Alexander has a street named after him near the Veltins Arena in Schalke, while fans of Hertha BSC Berlin researched the story of team doctor Hermann Horwitz, who was murdered in Auschwitz in 1943. Bayern Munich fans not only remembered the Jewish club president Kurt Landauer, but also club member Hugo Railing with a choreography. He died in the Sobibor extermination camp in 1942. At Borussia Dortmund, members and fans have for years been retracing the

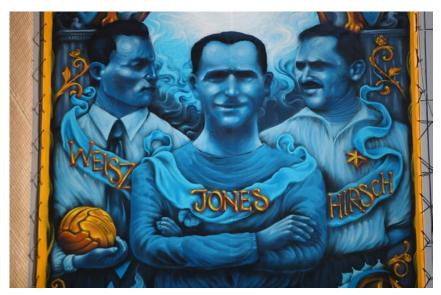
steps of the deportation of almost 800 Jews to Zamość, Poland. They are making an important contribution to bringing this event back into the memory of the city of Dortmund. For many years, a memorial run in Dortmund has been held by BVB fans commemorating the club's former



Participants in the Czerkus Memorial Run in Dortmund, 2017 © BVB

groundskeeper, Heinrich Czerkus. He was active in the resistance as a communist and was shot by the Nazis a few weeks before the end of the war.

In the city of Fürth also, fans linked remembrance work with sports for the first time in 2018, dedicating a football tournament to former champion striker Julius Hirsch.



Mural at Stamford Bridge, the Stadium of Chelsea London © FC Chelsea

Remembrance in Europe

Other European leagues have seen a recent increase in the number of clubs remembering not only the heroes of past successes, but also football players who have been persecuted and murdered.

In January 2019, Chelsea FC installed a large mural in memory of Julius Hirsch, Árpád Weisz and Ron Jones at its stadium in London. Hirsch and Weisz were murdered as Jews in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Jones was interned in a POW camp in Auschwitz-Monowitz.

The memory of Árpád Weisz, a Hungarian Jew, is also kept alive with initiatives from the clubs in Bologna, Italy, and Dordrecht in the Netherlands, where Weisz enjoyed a successful coaching career and went down in both clubs' annals.

An international cooperation of Borussia Dortmund, Feyenoord Rotterdam, the fare network and the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam has resulted in the creation of guidelines and recommendations, titled »Changing the Chants,« which will be published in autumn 2021 (https://changing-

thechants.eu (2). The aim is to raise the profile of remembrance and education projects in football and to encourage more clubs and fans at the international level to keep alive the memory of murdered and persecuted players through their own projects, as well as to take action against today's racism and antisemitism in stadiums. The project is also intended to show the clubs just how their power of attraction in their respective region may be used to people interested in learning about the Holocaust and Nazi persecution. Through clear public statements, such as official participation in

local commemorative events, clubs both large and small can fulfill an important function as future bearers of remembrance.

Of course, this is easiest when the clubs dedicate themselves to their own history with educational and remembrance projects, or when fans in group projects undertake to learn about sports under the Nazis, or if they research local biographies and places of persecution.

Football in Nazi Germany and Europe in the 1930s and 1940s

At the end of the 1929/30 season, several thousand spectators in Krakow cheered on their club Cracovia for the second Polish championship. On June 14, 1931, 50,000 visitors in Cologne's Sportpark Müngersdorf watched Hertha BSC Berlin win the German championship with a 3-2 victory over SV 1860 Munich. On May 16, 1937, fans in Bologna, Italy, celebrated their club's second championship in a row in a 2-0 home win against AC Milan. Football already entertained people in Europe 90 years ago, and some elements of European football in the 1920s and 1930s were the same we know today.

And yet a lot was different, too, because just a few years later, numerous football players suffered under the German occupation of Europe. Many died as soldiers at the front, as resistance fighters, or as prisoners in German camps. WWII was particularly incisive for Jewish sports. Clubs that had been permanent fixtures in European football no longer existed after the Holocaust. Some Jewish players, coaches, and officials were very influential in their clubs in many European countries in the 1930s. After 1945, they had disappeared completely. They had fallen victim to the Nazis. Many were murdered, while others managed to escape. A few survived in ghettos and camps or in hiding.

Considering this, the three examples given above appear in a different light. The Jewish players Ludwik Gintel and Leon Sperling were important pillars of the championship-winning Cracovia team. While Gintel managed to flee to Palestine after the war had started, Leon Sperling was murdered in 1941 in the Lemberg ghetto (L'viv).

The championship team from Berlin also had a hero off the pitch. The Jewish team doctor Hermann Horwitz was considered a master of his trade who ensured that the team was optimally supported. During an injury break in the final, he treated Willy Kirsei, who was then able to play on and score the winning goal. Twelve years later, in the spring of 1943, Horwitz was deported from Berlin to Auschwitz and later murdered there.

Finally, the championships in Bologna would have been impossible without Árpád Weisz, a Hungarian Jew and a coaching legend from a young age. He later fled from the Italian fascists

to the Netherlands, but was arrested after the German invasion and deported via the Westerbork transit camp to Auschwitz, where he was murdered. The list of examples like these could go on and on. But it is clear from just a handful of examples: The first heydays of European football came to an abrupt halt due to the Nazi reign and WWII.

Football in Germany before the Nazi Regime

Although football was already played in Germany in the 19th century, it took some time before it became mainstream and a major event that attracted spectators. When football became increasingly popular in the 1880s and 1890s, the gymnastics movement turned out to be one of its fiercest opponents in Germany. Back then, sports and especially gymnastics were not only commonly believed to serve as an exercise, but were even associated with military drill.

One of the pioneers of the new sport called football was Jewish student Walther Bensemann. He learned the game as a teenager in Switzerland and was later involved in the founding of several clubs in Germany - among them Karlsruhe FV. In 1910, this club won the German championship which had been organized under the umbrella of the DFB since 1902, with its Jewish key players Julius Hirsch and Gottfried Fuchs - national players to-be. The German national team in the still young sport played its first international match against Switzerland on April 5, 1908. The start of WWI (1914-1918) that followed soon after was a turning point in European history, which did much to significantly slow the development of football in Continental Europe.

But after WWI, enthusiasm for football returned in the Weimar Republic. Many active athletes were interested in playing football, which at the time and for decades to come was only played by men. Former opponents of team sports changed their minds, and those backing military sports now believed that football had the potential to instill virtues such as discipline. This change of perspective was also related to the fact that, after its defeat in



Julius Hirsch (white jersey) at a match of his Karlsruher FV, 1912 © Fußball und Olympischer Sport

1918, Germany was forbidden to engage in any markedly military sports because it had caused the war. The football clubs were given new pitches, and football became mainstream, a broadly accepted way of promoting or restoring "public health." At the same time, more and more spectators came to the games. Their numbers tripled in the 10 years leading up to 1920. In the first final rounds played in the German championship after the end of the war, on average more than 11,000 spectators watched the games live in the stadiums.

Although initial efforts were underway to »professionalize« the sport, there were no professional football players in Germany in the early years. Football players also had a day job besides sports. Games during this period were not exclusively played under the umbrella of the DFB, which was founded in 1902. The Workers' Gymnastics and Sports Association (ATSB) started organizing their own nationwide championship in 1920, for example. More than 3,500 football clubs from the labor movement were organized under the umbrella of this association. There were also independent company sports clubs, Catholic youth clubs, and some Jewish clubs that created their own leagues. The latter played a marginal role, though, in the 1920s. Although national team players Fuchs and Hirsch remained an exception, Jews were firmly established in German football as players and officials. Even pioneer Bensemann remained active. In 1920 he founded the magazine »Kicker, « which is still popular today. It was only in 1933 that Bensemann left the country for fear of impending persecution, returning to Switzerland where he died a year later.

German Football and the Persecution of the Jews under Nazi Rule

After the Nazis had seized power on January 30, 1933, Jews and political opponents in German football, as well as in society in general, were facing repression, exclusion, and persecution. The ATSB with its 10,000 sports clubs and more than 900,000 members was banned in May of that year. Many political opponents of the Nazis suffered in prisons and concentration camps, and many more lost their jobs in football.

On the organizational level, a newly established Reichssport leadership established 16 sports divisions, and the DFB, like many institutions in the Reich, was brought under Nazi control (»Gleichschaltung«), i.e., it was transformed into a special office within the centrally organized »Deutscher Reichsbund für Leibesübungen« (DRL, German Reichsbund for Physical Exercise). The organization of games also became more centralized. From the 1933/34 season there were 16 regional leagues, the winners of which played qualifying matches against each other before the German champions were finally crowned in semi-finals and a final in Berlin (with the exception of 1935).

The head of the new special office and former DFB president Felix Linnemann demanded that the clubs swiftly deal with the »race issue.« It is notable that part of the club and association functionaries very willingly subordinated themselves to the new government – some of them hastily acting in anticipatory obedience. In the »Stuttgart Declaration« on April 9, 1933, 14 clubs from South and South-West Germany announced their willingness to »actively participate in the removal



Information about the History of Nazi persecution

The Holocaust Encyclopedia of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum offers extensive information: https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org ☑

A website of Birkbeck University of London gives information about the history of the concentration camps: http://www.camps.bbk.ac.uk 🖸

of Jews from sports clubs.« This took place without a government guideline and before any general measures had been decided on in the DFB. To date, it could not be established whether the association ordered the removal of Jewish members. So this process varied greatly in football, as in other sports clubs. Some Jewish members pre-empted antisemitic discrimination by resigning, such as former national player Julius Hirsch.

Other Jewish athletes and officials reacted to the exclusion from their clubs by organizing themselves more autonomously. Jewish sports associations such as »Makkabi« and »Schild« counted almost 50,000 active Jewish athletes in the mid-1930s and were among the largest institutions of Jewish life in Germany at the time.

The first years of Nazi rule were marked by Jews being gradually excluded from all parts of public and economic life and having their civil rights curtailed. Many laws were intended to »legitimize« this antisemitic policy, including the so-called Nuremberg Laws of September 1935. Jewish businesses had already been boycotted, Jews lost



For Further Reading: Football in Nazi Germany

Julian Rieck: Ordinary Organizations? The German Football Association in the Time of National Socialism, in: Hispania Nova 18 (2020), pp. 268–300, online at https://doi.org/10.20318/hn.2020.5106

their positions in the civil service and were no longer allowed to work in the professions they had previously pursued. Jewish sport was also not to endure. After the Olympic Games in Berlin in the summer of 1936 – Italy had won the Olympic football tournament in the final against Austria – the anti-Jewish policy of the Nazis visibly intensified until it reached a temporary culmination in the shape of the pogroms in November 1938. While in the previous month of October almost 17,000 Jews of Polish nationality had already been forcibly expelled, the state-directed pogroms that took

place from November 7–13, 1938, revealed a new level of physical violence. Synagogues and other Jewish institutions were attacked and destroyed across the country. More than 1,300 Jews died during and following the pogroms. About 30,000 Jewish men were deported to concentration camps.

On November 9, 1938, the Berlin office of the German Maccabi President was also destroyed. The last remaining Jewish football clubs were banned. Sports and leisure activities were almost impossible for Jews who remained in Germany at that time. For them, it was all about survival. Some managed to leave Germany at the last moment, but this proved rather difficult and came at a high cost, which by no means all Jewish citizens could afford. Many of them also found it difficult to leave their homeland permanently, and hoped that the situation would improve somehow. On the eve of the war, around 210,000 of the former 550,000 Jewish citizens (1933) remained in Germany.

After the German invasion of Poland, which marked the beginning of World War II on September 1, 1939, the next phase of anti-Jewish policy followed. Jewish citizens were now to be forcefully expelled from the Reich. As early as the spring of 1940, German and Austrian Jews were deported to Poland and France for the first time. But it was not until a few months after the German attack on the Soviet Union in June 1941 that the deportations continued. As early as the summer of 1941, mass executions of Jews in the Soviet Union, behind the advancing Wehrmacht, marked the transition to mass murder. From September 1941, it was no longer possible for German Jews to leave the country. They also had to wear a yellow star on their clothes from then on. The following month, in October 1941, mass deportations began to various ghettos and camps in German-occupied Eastern Europe, where most of the German Jews were murdered. At the Wannsee Conference on January 20, 1942, the procedure and coordination of future deportations from all over Europe were agreed upon.

The beginning of the war and its gradual expansion across the whole of Europe also impacted the rest of German society. More and more aspects of life were affected by the aggressive German war policy, yet the Germans were largely in favor of this approach. And while their former teammates or rivals were persecuted and murdered, many a German footballer or club official profited from the »Aryanization« of Jewish property or the exploitation of foreigners for forced labor. Some were directly involved in the crimes, such as Otto »Tull« Harder, star striker of the Hamburger SV championship teams of 1923 and 1928. As a member of the SS, he was part of the security team at the Neuengamme concentration camp in 1940 and in command of its sub-camp in Hanover-Ahlem from 1944.

At the start of the war, games were still being played, but many teams recorded losses of players who were drafted into the army. Nevertheless, football was also important to the Wehrmacht and the SS, and numerous competitions were carried out in the occupied territories. Even the German national team played games during the war, but only against teams from friendly states or allies.



The German language brochure **»Verlorene Helden«** of the football magazine »11 Freunde« documents the biographies of persecuted players, officials, and members of dozens of German football clubs: https://aroa.to/football-11freunde ☑

The German language brochure **»Auf den Spuren von Julius Hirsch**« examines the history of the deportation of the German-Jewish national player. It can be downloaded from the DFB website: https://aroa.to/football-dfb ☑

The games were a welcome means for the Nazis to give the population a sense of normality. This also helps to explain why international matches came to a halt in the winter of 1942 when the Wehrmacht started to lose the war. The last international match took place against Slovakia on November 22, 1942 (5–2).

Football in Europe until World War II

Similar to the development in Germany, the first football clubs and championship rounds in other European countries were established as early as the end of the 19th century. A particularly large number of football clubs were founded in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which covered large parts of East-Central Europe until the end of WWI, and from which independent nation-states emerged after the end of the war. This included parts of Poland and Yugoslavia, as well as Czechoslovakia and Hungary, which developed their own football leagues in the 1920s. These countries now quickly followed the developments in other parts of Europe, where football became a mass event as its popularity grew. While football players in almost all European leagues continued to perform regular jobs, the first professional leagues emerged in the successor states of Austria-Hungary in the mid-1920s. From 1927, the first European club competition was held among clubs from these leagues, from 1930 also including Italy and other countries. It was called the Mitropa Cup. The first winner was Slavia Prague over two legs against Rapid Vienna in the autumn of 1927. The policy of war and expansion pursued by the German Reich strongly impacted football in the annexed and occupied neighboring states as well as at the international level. Depending on their prior political situation and on when the Wehrmacht invaded and occupied them, some countries continued their sporting activities without restrictions for a long time, whereas the 1940 Mitropa cup was cancelled before the final never to be played again. The World Cup, which was held every four years from 1930 to 1938 (the first winner was Uruguay, then Fascist Italy twice in a row), did not take place during the war. It took until 1954 for the World Cup to be restarted.

In some countries, however, football was off limits for some players even before the war began. In many parts of the continent in the 1920s and 1930s, the antisemitic sentiment had reached a level that caused many Jewish athletes to leave their respective homeland. Jewish player and coach Árpád Weisz was discriminated against early on in his native Hungary. In his new country of residence, Fascist Italy, he was also discriminated against on the basis of his Jewish background, which finally caused him to move to the Netherlands in early 1939.

In Austria, where a season of professional football was played for the first time ever in continental Europe from 1924/25, Jewish athletes increasingly experienced antisemitism, both in the stadium stands and on the pitch in the early 1930s. This is what happened to Norbert Lopper in Vienna, who played at the Jewish club Hakoah Vienna as a teenager. In the second half of the 1920s, the club had been an international flagship of Austrian football. One day after the »Anschluss« (annexation) of Austria to the German Reich on March 12, 1938, the club like all Jewish clubs was broken up and its name deleted from the league tables.

Other organizations, such as workers' sports clubs, had already been dissolved in the authoritarian »Ständestaat« (corporate state) in Austria after 1933. All remaining sports clubs and competitions were incorporated into the existing sports structures of the German Reich in the spring of 1938. That is why the German football champion in the summer of 1941 went by the name of Rapid Vienna. The team defeated FC Schalke 04 in the final. The history of Rapid, which had come out of the »1. Wiener Arbeiter Fußball-Club, « and the participation of numerous Jewish members in building up the club had now been erased from the club's memory. The renaming to »Rapid« had been proposed by the first »club secretary,« Wilhelm Goldschmidt. He was deported to the Izbica ghetto in occupied Poland in June 1942 and murdered there or in one of the »Aktion Reinhardt« murder camps.

The course varied significantly in the neighboring states of Germany. In Western Europe, the

war began with the German invasion of France and the Benelux countries in the summer of 1940. While six clubs from Luxembourg took part in the German »Gauliga Moselland« competition from 1941, football in the Netherlands continued under German occupation as an independent league. Even the number of spectators increased once again during the years of occupation. Some officials from the clubs and the association sought to be in the good graces of the occupiers. In some cases, Jewish players were removed from the squads even before the German authorities issued a corresponding decree. They were later arrested and deported. While football games took place in France during the German occupation, no French champion was crowned until 1946.



Hakoah Vienna, Austrian football league winner in 1925 $\mbox{@}$ Wikimedia Commons

East of Nazi Germany, Poland had already become a theater of war with the German invasion of September 1939, which also heavily impacted football. Football had evolved in Poland even before the country became an independent state after WWI. Until 1927, the league was organized regionally. Makkabi Warszawa was the first Jewish club in the Warsaw League in 1926. This club also produced Józef Klotz. In a 2–1 win against Sweden



For Further Reading: Football in Europe

Markwart Herzog / Fabian Brändle (ed.): **European Football During the Second World War,** Stuttgart 2018.

Ezra Mendelsohn: Jews and the Sporting Life, Oxford 2009.

in 1922, the striker scored the first ever goal for a Polish national team. He switched to Cracovia (Krakow) in 1926. Along with him, it was mainly Kraków players who won the first Polish championship in 1921, and who also shaped Poland's national team in the 1920s. They also included Jewish players Leon Sperling and Ludwik Gintel. While Gintel emigrated to Palestine after his career, Sperling was murdered in the Lemberg ghetto at the end of 1941.

Poland had the largest Jewish population of any country in Europe. Just over 10% of the Polish population were Jews before WWII, almost 3.5 million people. As a result, Jewish life was ubiquitous and Jewish sports clubs were well known and successful in many cities. Two Jewish

clubs were founding members of the nationwide league from 1927. Hasmonea Lwów, which was founded in 1908 in the Austro-Hungarian Empire when the city was still called Lemberg and belonged to the Crown Land of Galicia, also had a national striker in its ranks, Zygmunt Steuermann. Jutrzenka Kraków, on the other hand, was closely associated with the Jewish labor movement. To understand just how diverse Jewish sports was in Poland in the inter-war period, one must only consider the total number of 164 Jewish football clubs that were active in the 15 regional associations in 1934. The history of other Polish clubs that still play a leading role in the country's football today goes back to this eventful period between the two world wars, when many of them celebrated their first successes.

Shortly after the war began on September 1, 1939, Poland was the first country in Europe to be fully occupied by Germany in the West and by the Soviet Union in the East. In the Soviet part, football was still allowed with some restrictions. In German-occupied Poland, the football league was banned one day after the start of the war. Numerous football players from Poznań, Kraków and Lódź or from the Warsaw clubs Polonia and Legia had previously been drafted into military service. Others were later deported to prisons and concentration camps as political opponents of the German occupiers. Among them were the two Krakow players Antoni Łyko (Wisła) and Witold Zieliński (Cracovia), who were rivals on the pitch in the prewar period. They would eventually meet again in the Auschwitz concentration camp, which had been established in May 1940. Łyko and Zieliński were shot together with almost 70 other prisoners on July 3, 1941 in a »retaliatory action« by the camp SS in the Auschwitz main camp.



The league-winning team of KS Cracovia with Jewish players Ludwik Gintel (standing, 4th from left) and Leon Sperling (standing, 4th from right), 1921 © National Digital Archive, Poland

The high number of 25 active or former national footballers who were murdered by the Nazis during WWII – Jews and Non-Jews – shows just how unique the example of Poland is.

WWII ended in Europe on May 8, 1945, with the unconditional surrender of the Wehrmacht. In the years after the war, many of the expelled, emigrated, or murdered players were initially forgotten in most

European countries. Football leagues were regrouping, and football was an important part of restored normality. It took decades for fans, clubs, and historians to commemorate the stories and biographies of persecuted football players — and many more are still unknown to this day.

Educational Work with Historical Documents from the Arolsen Archives

Archive documents, such as prisoner index cards, deportation lists, or lists from the concentration camp administration can assist us in understanding the history of Nazi persecution. As remnants of the past, they focus on the victims, their suffering, and their treatment by the Nazis. Unlike textbooks, these documents offer first-hand access to history. Yet unlike textbooks, they are not necessarily self-explanatory. What you see and read in the documents at first glance may not necessarily match up with their historical significance. Historical documents can be the starting point for research-based learning, in which the participants take on the role of historians and evaluate sources themselves.

Unique Features and Challenges with Historical Documents

Historical documents were created in a specific context and for a specific purpose. Generally speaking, they also reflect the disposition of the author by means of the words used, which may be discriminatory, trivializing, or euphemistic. This also applies to lists, index cards, and forms. These were also created for a specific purpose and with a specific attitude. The persons who filled out the forms had to adhere to the predetermined structures and rules for relevant entries. It should also be considered

A look at the concentration camp documents section in the storage room of Arolsen Archives

that some of the authors, e.g., the prisoners, were under pressure when filling out the form, while at the same time pursuing their own agenda. In some cases, the forms were filled in neither by the subjects themselves nor in their mother tongue, but rather by a third party.

To be understood, historical documents have to be deciphered, read critically, interpreted, and put into context. In contrast to reading textbooks, studying these types of documents may mean that some matters remain inconclusive, with questions unanswered, or contradictions unresolved. This may even result in additional questions that lead to further research (on the Internet or in archives).

Similar to the work of historians, the examination of documents in an educational context consists of comprehension, source criticism, and source interpretation. Ideally, all three steps are applied to participants' work with the documents in the workshop while the teamers provide appropriate support.

Comprehension, Source Criticism, and Source Interpretation

Comprehension is about understanding what kind of document one is working with, i.e., when it was created, by whom, for what purpose, and what its core message is. Some of this information may be gleaned

> from the document itself, e.g., the title of the document, while other things must first be deciphered, decoded, or interpreted. Many documents, especially those from the concentration camp administration, contain entries that may be legible but need explanations to be comprehensible. In order to place a document in its specific historical context and to understand the meaning of terms, abbreviations, and references, it may be necessary to refer to other sources of information. Archives usually provide this type of information in finding aids in the form of archival descriptions. Explanatory information on many of the documents in this publication can also be found in the e-Guide of the Arolsen Archives.

Following the comprehension stage, a document needs to be examined via source criticism. This means questioning the document in terms of its credibility, plausibility, and accuracy. This may take the form of direct criticism, e.g. by recognizing that the young age given on a prisoner registration card does not match the indicated profession. Another approach is to compare sources, e.g. by analyzing and explaining contradictory information in several documents. In the context of research-based learning, different information about a person from different documents can be collected and critically compared. Questions about the author's interests and perspective are also part of a critical analysis of source material.

course of participants' engaging with the sources. This is no longer just about the information gained through the process of comprehension, but instead aims at more general historical knowledge. This pertains in particular to the work with biographical documents: The focus here is not solely on biographical details or the reconstruction of a biography, but on structural questions about Nazi persecution, such as imprisonment in a concentration camp.

The tasks on specific sources of individual biographies contained in **Sections 7** and **8** take into account the three steps mentioned above without following a strict pattern. The teamers can pass these tasks on to the participants to facilitate their working with the documents. This will help them understand, critically analyze, and interpret the documents. By working with documents, the participants not only learn about the history of Nazi persecution, but also develop their ability to read and evaluate sources – an important prerequisite for working independently with archival material in the context of remembrance projects about their own city or club.



The **e-Guide** is an online tool that describes the most common types of documents from the Arolsen Archives, including many of the documents included in this publication. Their historical use is explained through questions and answers. Abbreviations or the purpose of individual sections of the documents are explained interactively. Users can thus acquire contextual knowledge via their own smartphone or tablet: https://eguide.arolsenarchives.org/en

Finally, through source interpretation, the information is placed and evaluated in its historical context thus helping to answer bigger questions. Source interpretation requires a certain knowledge of the historical context. In a workshop setting, this means that previously covered content can be drawn upon, or that the context can be developed in the

Suggestion for a Project Day

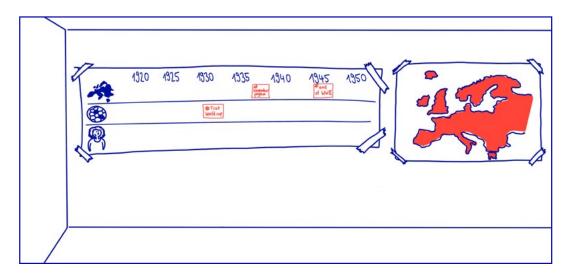
One way of using the following materials is to organize a project day consisting of three workshops and a concluding discussion. This section offers suggestions on how to structure, prepare, and carry out such a day. Detailed instructions with ideas for tasks and ways to delve deeper into the material are provided at the beginning of the respective sections.

Workshop I: Timeline of Politics and Football

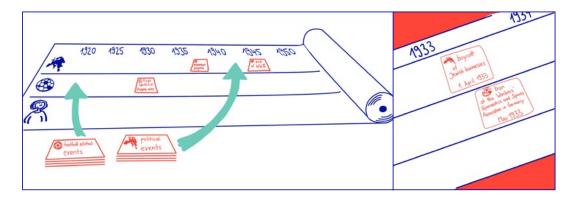


80 min. group work + 20 min. group discussion

On the basis of the introductory text about football in Nazi Germany and Europe, the participants, divided into groups, first create a timeline on which political and football-related developments are shown next to each other. Depending on their background, the groups can expand both areas of the timeline through online research on their own city or club.



With the timeline, the participants establish a foundation for the subsequent work with biographies of persecuted football players in workshops II and III. In addition, an overview map showing borders in Central Europe in 1941 offers the participants geographical orientation.

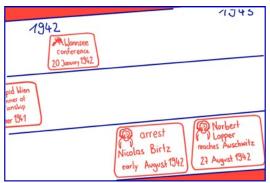


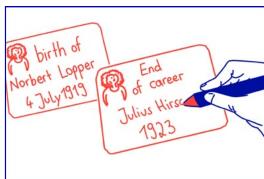
Workshop II: Football Players in Focus



90 min. group work + 15 min. presentation per group

In the second phase, the participants work in groups, each focusing on the biographies of one politically and one racially persecuted football player. Using the source material, the participants create biographical event cards that add to the timeline. This enables them to get to know the life stories, which they subsequently present in a larger context. Concrete questions help participants prepare and present information on the respective player's history of persecution and the locations relevant in it. The places of persecution are also marked on the overview map.





Sketches of the Timeline © Nora Zirkelbach

Workshop III: Intertwined Stories of Persecution



80 min. partner work + 30 min. results review and discussion

The third phase is dedicated to delving deeper into additional biographies of four footballers each, who were linked to two places of Nazi persecution: Westerbork and Auschwitz. Peparing for their work with the biographies, participants will first read an introductory text on the players' respective place of persecution. Working with a partner, they will then specifically focus on one of the eight biographies of the persecuted football players. Based on archival documents and supported by online research, they will then reconstruct the stories of the players and discuss whether and how they are remembered today. At the end, they will create biography sheets that are presented and viewed in the form of a small poster exhibition. The discussion of these results will be about the similarities and differences between the eight footballers.

Workshop Conclusion



30 min. discussion and planning of individual projects, if applicable

In the final discussion, the participants talk about the differences of Nazi persecution targeted at different groups (victims of the Holocaust on the one hand, political opponents on the other) through the pathways and fates within the stories of persecution that they have examined. This will also allow them to place the camps that they have dealt with over the course of the day into a larger context. By way of asking about connections to these places of persecution, the teamers will finally guide the discussion towards the participants' own city or club and thus to the possibility of individual research and remembrance projects. An instruction for moderating the final discussion as well as tips and suggestions for starting your own research and projects can be found at the end of the materials (see Sections 9 and 10).

Workshop I

Timeline of Politics and Football

- → Instructions for Teamers
- → Overview of Important Timeline Events
- → Overview Map of Historical Borders and Places



Workshop I: Instructions for Teamers

For the timeline, a 4–5 meter stretch of paper (wallpaper, wrapping paper, etc.) is placed on a wall. The timeline begins and ends well before and after the time of Nazi rule – for example from »1914/18 – World War I« to »1954 – FIFA World Cup in Switzerland.« Colored moderation cards can be used as event cards that are placed on the timeline.

The timeline has three differently colored levels that are used one by one throughout the project day. This first workshop only deals with the level of general politics and the development of World War II (a) as well as the level of development in football (b). In the second workshop, a further level with individual biographies (c) will be added.

For easier orientation, the overview map should also be placed next to the timeline, for which a template is attached. It shows the borders of areas under German control in June 1941 and also contains various places that are important for biographical work in the two subsequent workshop phases.

Suggested Structure

- Getting started, preparation of timeline, clarification of work assignments
- ① 10 minutes
- Reading of background text 3
- 30 minutes
- 3 Online research on individual cities/clubs
- 20 minutes
- 4 Creation of the event cards for the timeline
- 20 minutes
- **6** Compilation and discussion of the timeline
- 20 minutes

Divided into groups, participants first read and discuss the text on the history of football and Nazi persecution (see Section 3). Participants can either read the entire text or split it into sections amongst themselves. Each group will then compile and discuss important events, and **5–10 event cards are prepared for timeline levels a and b**. In addition to drawing from the text, the groups can build on their own knowledge.

For easier orientation, teamers can prepare some (not too many!) exemplary event cards and thus help clarify the two levels of the timeline (e.g., »Nazi takeover of power«, »Founding of the DFB«). Further examples can be found in the following overview of timeline events, which may also be used to check whether the participants were able to extract the most important events from the text. The teamers should make sure that they are able to provide brief information about each event, if needed. Where necessary, they should ask the participants to research information about the event online in order to be able to share it with the group after establishing the timeline together.



Depending on the composition and background of the group, the timeline can be individualized through online research on both levels. Local events during the Nazi era (attack on synagogues during the November pogroms, beginning of German occupation, onset of deportations, nearby places of persecution, etc.) can complete the overall picture, as can data from the history of a football club. The local events are also recorded on event cards for the timeline levels a and b.



After completion of the work phase, the event cards are added to the increasingly growing timeline. The teamers must check for correct chronological and thematic position and verify the selected events. A 15-minute break could be taken for this purpose.

Once all event cards have been added, **the timeline is discussed within the group**. Individual aspects can be specifically enquired about or highlighted by the teamers. This starts with level b, the **sporting events**. Who created which card and why? For which events was additional information discovered? What stood out to the participants?

In the following **discussion of political developments**, the event cards (only a selection if there are too many) are examined in the group and unresolved questions are clarified. Are all events and locations understood for the most part? A central insight from the discussion should be that Nazi persecution occurred and escalated gradually. The following points can serve as a reference:



The origins of National Socialism and its ideology go way back to the period before the Nazis seized power (e.g. the founding of the Nazi Party in 1920), while antisemitism is a phenomenon of the late 19th century.



After the Nazi takeover of power on January 30, 1933, political opponents were the first to be massively subjected to violence. For a long time, they made up the majority of prisoners in the concentration camps.



Jewish citizens were also targeted by Nazi politics right from the start. Many measures aiming to exclude Jews from public life were implemented in the early days. This resulted in a dense web of laws and regulations that not only made numerous professional and private activities impossible, but also defined who was considered a Jew in the first place.



While there had also been physical violence against Jews before, 1938 is considered a turning point in the antisemitic policies of the Nazi state. During the November pogroms, more than 1,200 synagogues and community institutions were destroyed. More than 30,000 Jewish men were deported to concentration camps, and more than 1,300 Jews died during and immediately following the pogroms.



After the beginning of the war in September 1939, anti-Jewish policy was further tightened. In occupied Poland, the armed forces, the SS, and the police murdered thousands. As of September 1941, it was no longer possible for Jewish citizens to leave the German Reich. Deportations began shortly afterwards.



In terms of the German war policy, the most important events should also be named, and it should be noted that the starting point of the war in various countries differed.



In terms of the German occupation of various European countries, it should be discussed, depending on the context, which groups were affected by which persecution measures, and how the occupiers (and collaborators) proceeded.



At the international level, it is possible to compare how the persecution of Jews was organized in different countries and who was involved. Particularly notable events are important for the timeline.



Overview of Important Timeline Events of Levels a and b (Reference for Teamers)

Level A: Political Development and Progression of WWII

1914-1918: WWI

February 20th 1920: Founding of the Nazi Party

January 30th 1933: Transfer of power to the Nazi Party

April 1st 1933: Boycott of Jewish businesses

September 1935: »Nuremberg Laws«

November 1938: November pogroms

January 1939: Mandatory name change for Jewish citizens in Germany (»Israel«/«Sarah«)

September 1st 1939: Wehrmacht invades Poland

May 1940: Construction of Auschwitz concentration camp

June 21st 1941: German invasion of the Soviet Union

October 15th 1941: Start of mass deportation of Jews from the Reich territory

January 20th 1942: Wannsee Conference

March 17th 1942: Start of the »Aktion Reinhardt«

May–July 1944: »Hungary Action« in Auschwitz-Birkenau

January 27th 1945: Liberation of Auschwitz

May 8th 1945: End of WWII

Level B: Developments in Football

1902: First German football championship under the umbrella of the DFB

April 5th 1908: Germany's first international match (against Switzerland)

1920: Founding of the football magazine »Kicker« by Walther Bensemann

1922: The Polish national team makes their debut against Sweden (2-1)

1924/25: First professional football season on mainland Europe (in Austria)

Autumn 1927: Slavia Prague is the first team to win the European Mitropa Cup

July 1930: First World Cup, Uruguay becomes world champion

April 9th 1933: »Stuttgart Declaration« by southern German football clubs to exclude Jewish club members

May 1933: Prohibition of the Workers' Gymnastics and Sports Association in Germany

1933/1934: Introduction of 16 regional leagues as the highest division in German football

Summer of 1936: Italy wins the football tournament of the Olympic Games in Berlin

March 1938: Destruction of all Jewish football clubs in Austria, integration of the other clubs into the German league

November 1938: Banning of Jewish football clubs in Germany

September 1939: Banning of football in occupied Poland (General Government, Generalgouvernement)

1940: Cancellation and end of the Mitropa Cup due to WWII

1941: Rapid Vienna becomes German football champion by defeating Schalke 04

November 22nd 1942: Last international game of the German national team against Slovakia (5–2)



Overview Map



The overview map shows the borders of territories under German control and of other European states in June 1941, before the invasion of the Soviet Union. In addition to some cities (blue dots), the map also shows important places of persecution (red dots) that will play a role in the subsequent workshop phases (created with QGIS 2020).

We recommend using the link or the QR code to download the map, print and place it next to the timeline.



PDF of the map (4 x A4) including sticky edges https://aroa.to/football-map4A4 ♂



PDF of the entire map on one page https://aroa.to/football-map1A4 🖸

Workshop II

Football Players in Focus

- → Instructions for Teamers
- → Worksheets and Archival Documents for
 - **a)** Julius Hirsch (1892–1943)
 - **b)** Nicolas Birtz (1922–2006)
 - **c)** Norbert Lopper (1919–2015)
 - d) Čestmír Vycpálek (1921–2002)



Workshop II: Instructions for Teamers

In the second workshop phase, the previously developed timeline on politics and football is expanded in group work with four biographies of persecuted footballers. Worksheets and archived materials are available for this, and participants also conduct targeted online research. The biography pairs Julius Hirsch and Nicolas Birtz as well as Norbert Lopper and Čestmír Vycpálek are worked on in groups. The aim is for each group to work with a Jewish victim of Nazi persecution who was deported to a death camp (Julius Hirsch or Norbert Lopper), as well as with a person whom the Nazis classified as a political opponent and detained in a concentration camp (Nicolas Birtz or Čestmír Vycpálek).

Working and dealing with the biographies is a means of conveying basic knowledge about Nazi persecution as well as what the differences are between victim groups. The working phase and the later presentation will thus include questions such as what can be learned about the reasons for persecution and the places of persecution that individuals had to pass through, and to what

Suggested Structure

- Getting started, clarification of work assignments, distribution of material
- ① 10 minutes
- 2 Group work with worksheets and archival documents
- 50 minutes
- **3** Creation of cards and organization of the material for the timeline
- 30 minutes
- 4 Creation and discussion of the timeline (all participants)
- 30 minutes

extent the paths of persecution differed. It is also discussed what sources there are about persecution and who created them. In many cases, the e-Guide of the Arolsen Archives offers important information.

The same set of tasks can be found on the worksheets for the individual footballers. In addition, each worksheet contains one or two additional in-depth tasks regarding the archival documents on the specific person, which more advanced participants can also work on and include in the final presentation.

To flesh out the timeline, each of the four biographies is labeled with a card color or (in the case of white cards) a specific pen color. Important events are recorded on the presentation cards. It is also a good idea for participants to use archival documents and, if available, photos of the respective person to create the timeline. **All four biographies together comprise level c of the timeline**.

The groups will then present the results to each other. If two groups are working on the same biographies (in the case of a high number of participants), they can take turns when presenting the contents. The map of Europe (visible to everyone) allows for an easier overview. Places where footballers lived and were persecuted are marked in color or connected with colored lines.



Julius Hirsch (1892–1943)

Julius Hirsch was from a Jewish merchant family in Karlsruhe. At the age of ten, he joined Karlsruhe FV and started playing football. He was one of the most successful German football players before WWI, in which he fought on the front. He kept playing football after the war until 1923.

Shortly after the Nazis had seized power, on April 10, 1933, several southern German football clubs, including Karlsruhe FV, declared that Jewish members were to be excluded. In light of this, Julius Hirsch wrote a letter to the club's management. He then temporarily lived in France and was able to avoid being arrested after the November pogroms. He was not affected by first deportations of Jews from southwest Germany in 1940, but eventually he had to perform forced labor. Following the divorce from his non-Jewish wife in December of 1942, he was no longer protected when the Gestapo deported the Jewish forced laborers remaining in the Reich, as part of the »Fabrikaktion« in the spring of 1943.

From Karlsruhe, the Gestapo deported Julius Hirsch to Auschwitz. The deportation train with a total of 1,500 Jews from different cities traveled for several days and made an overnight stop in Dortmund. From here he managed to send a postcard to his family. The transport reached the "ramp" of Auschwitz-Birkenau on March 4, where around 670 deportees were "selected" for work in the concentration camp. Julius Hirsch was not one of them. He was probably murdered in one of the gas chambers immediately upon arrival.

Tasks:



Examine the following sources to determine who created them and what information they contain on Julius Hirsch, his persecution, and specific places of persecution.



Research more information about Julius Hirsch and his football career **on the Internet** (for example here: https://aroa.to/football-hirsch \Box). Use your browser's translation feature if you find information in a language that you cannot understand.



Integrate the biography into the timeline. To do so, use your research results (from tasks 1 and 2) to prepare event cards that trace his life, football career, and persecution. You can also use the source materials and images (if you have any) to add to the timeline.

Additional Tasks:



Discuss the significance of Julius Hirsch's marriage to and divorce from a non-Jewish woman for his life under Nazi rule and his persecution.



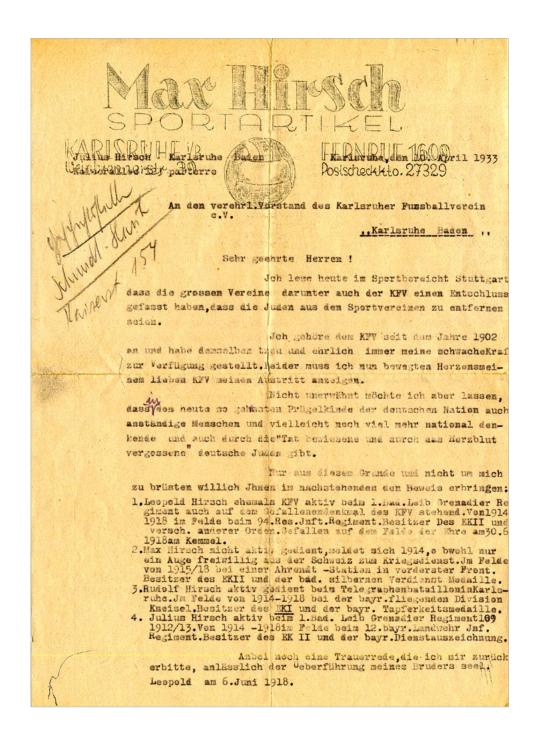
Julius Hirsch's family started a search for him in 1945. **Visit the online exhibition of the Arolsen Archives** (https://aroa.to/exhibition \Box) and find out (in the gray section on the right) how the American Joint Distribution Committee searched for missing people and documented crimes.



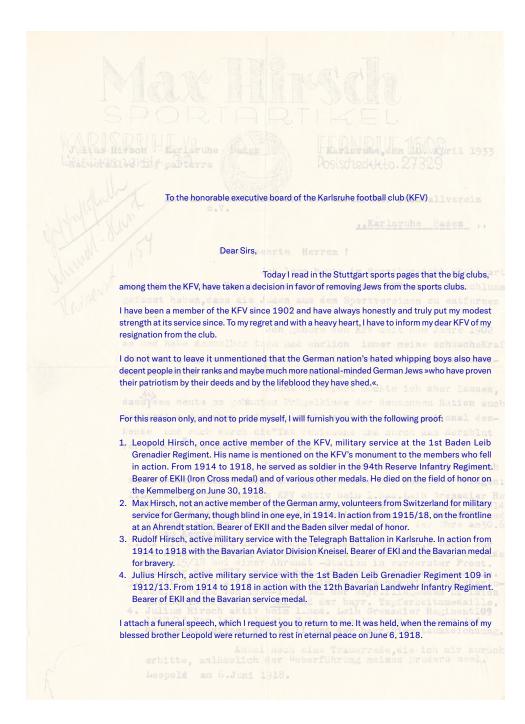
Document 1: Letter from Julius Hirsch to the management of Karlsruher FV

Document 2: List of Jews deported from the state of Baden on March 1, 1943.

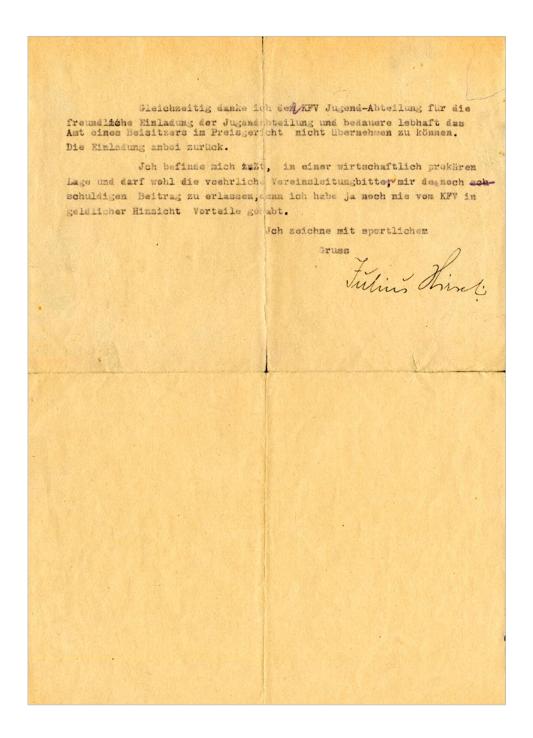
Document 3: Search appeal from the Hirsch family to the American Joint Distribution Committee.



Document 1: Letter from Julius Hirsch to the management of Karlsruher FV, April 10, 1933, page 1, Karlsruhe City Archives, 8/SpoA 5140.



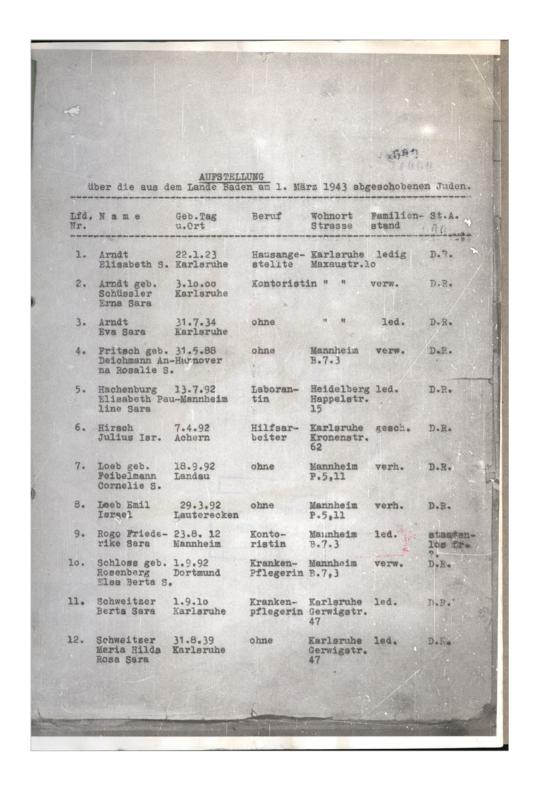
Translation of Document 1: Letter from Julius Hirsch to the management of Karlsruher FV, April 10, 1933, page 1, Karlsruhe City Archives, 8/SpoA 5140.



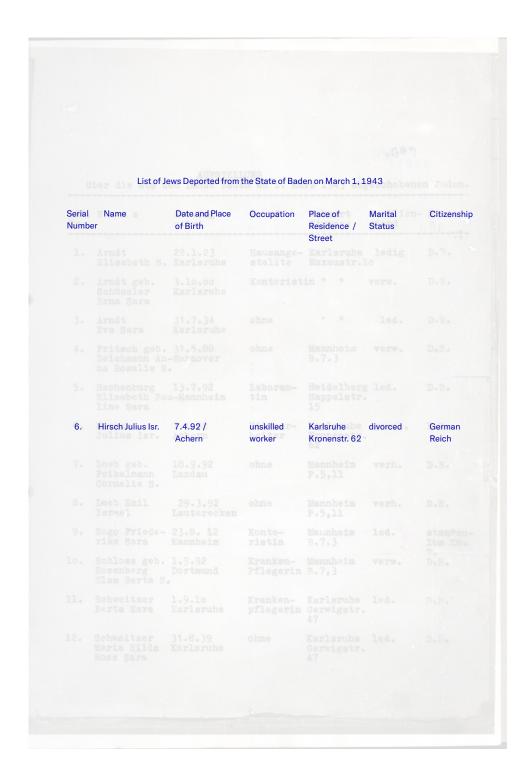
Document 1: Letter from Julius Hirsch to the management of Karlsruher FV, April 10, 1933, page 2, Karlsruhe City Archives, 8/SpoA 5140.

gor abt.
I sign with sporty greetings
Filing Shine

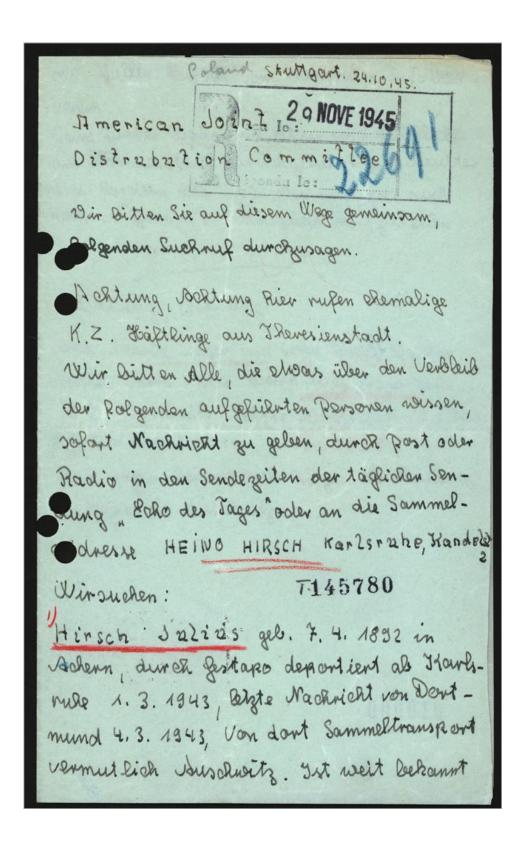
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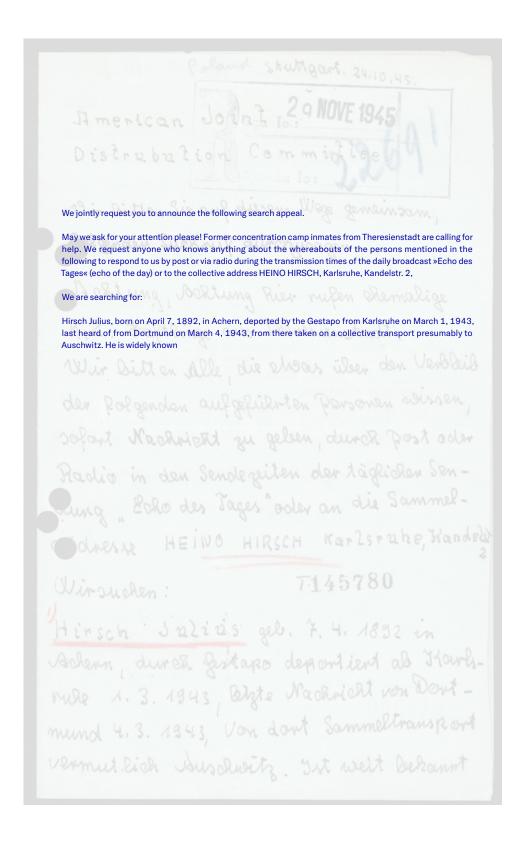
Document 2: List of Jews deported from the state of Baden on March 1, 1943, presumably created by the regional Gestapo, undated, 1.2.1.1/11201227/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives.



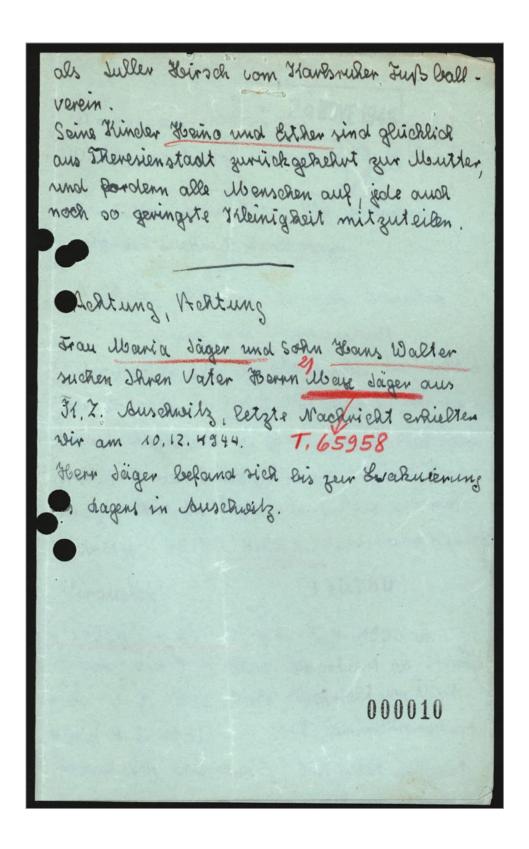
Translation of Document 2: List of Jews deported from the state of Baden on March 1, 1943, presumably created by the regional Gestapo, undated, 1.2.1.1/11201227/ ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives.



Document 3: Search appeal from the Hirsch family to the American Joint Distribution Committee, October 24, 1945, page 1, 6.3.3.2/87074665/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives.

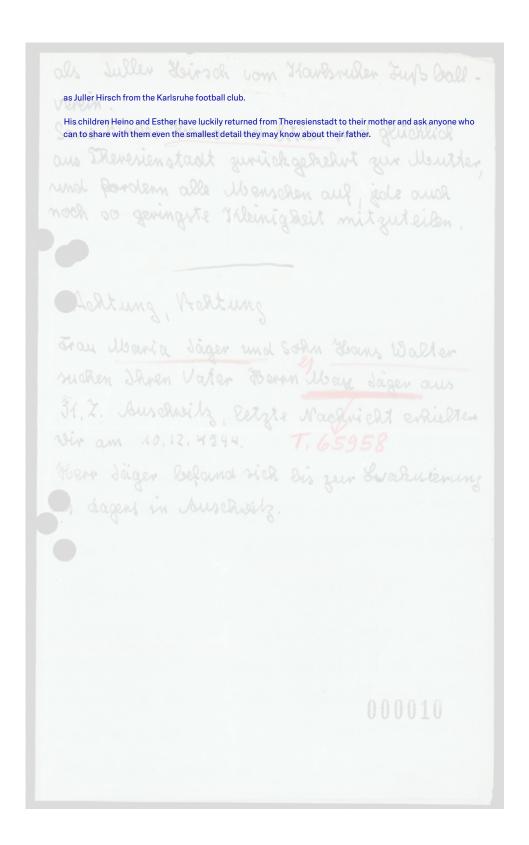


Translation of Document 3: Search appeal from the Hirsch family to the American Joint Distribution Committee, October 24, 1945, page 1, 6.3.3.2/87074665/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives.



Document 3: Search appeal from the Hirsch family to the American Joint Distribution Committee, October 24, 1945, page 1, 6.3.3.2/87074665/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives.

3/3 **Julius Hirsch**



Translation of Document 3: Search appeal from the Hirsch family to the American Joint Distribution Committee, October 24, 1945, page 1, 6.3.3.2/87074665/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives.



Nicolas Birtz (1922–2006)

Nicolas Birtz was born in Luxembourg on March 17, 1922. Little is known about his upbringing. He started playing football at his home club Stade Dudelange at an early age. Luxembourg was occupied by the Wehrmacht on the first day of the German invasion of France and the Benelux states in May 1940. After a short period of military governance, the country was placed under German civil administration with the aim of integrating it entirely into the German Reich. In this context, the Luxembourg football clubs were incorporated into the German Gauliga Moselland in 1941. With his club, which was now called FV Stadt Düdelingen, Birtz won this league in the first year. But in the following qualifying round for the German championship, Düdelingen was defeated by FC Schalke 04, who would go on to become champion.

During German occupation, Nicolas Birtz was also an activist of the Alweraje resistance group. In 1942, he was arrested by the Gestapo along with about 100 resistance members in Luxembourg. He was taken to the SS special camp/concentration camp Hinzert, where many political prisoners from the Benelux countries were incarcerated. Later on he was moved to the Natzweiler concentration camp, where he was liberated by the Allies.

After the war, Nicolas Birtz continued his football career for a short time. In 1948, he played his only international match. He also remained politically active and eventually became mayor of his hometown.

Tasks:



Examine the following sources to determine who created them and what information they contain on Nicolas Birtz, his persecution, and specific places of persecution.



Research more information about Nicolas Birtz and his football career **on the Internet** (for example here: https://aroa.to/football-birtz ☑). Use your browser's translation feature if you find information in a language that you cannot understand.



Integrate the biography into the timeline. To do so, use your own research results (from tasks 1 and 2) to prepare event cards that trace his life, football career, and persecution. You can also use the source materials and images (if you have any) to add to the timeline.

Additional Task:

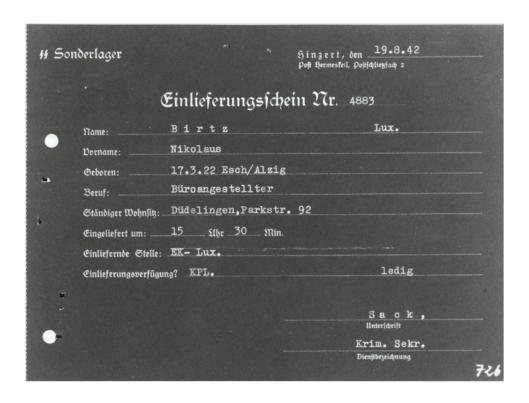


Using the post control card for Nicolas Birtz from Natzweiler concentration camp and the description of this type of document in the e-Guide of the Arolsen Archives, **find out** whether he and other prisoners in Nazi concentration camps were able to keep in touch with their families.



Document 1: Record of arrival for Nicolas Birtz at the SS special camp Hinzert

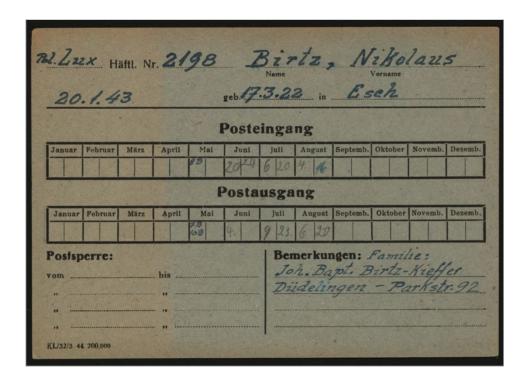
Document 2: Post control card for Nicolas Birtz from Natzweiler concentration camp



Document 1: Record of arrival for Nicolas Birtz at the SS special camp Hinzert, issued August 19, 1942, 1.1.13.2/450343/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives.



Translation of Document 1: Record of arrival for Nicolas Birtz at the SS special camp Hinzert, issued August 19, 1942, 1.1.13.2/450343/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives.



Document 2: Post control card for Nicolas Birtz from Natzweiler concentration camp, created presumably in May 1944, 1.1.29.2/3149159/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. Detailed information on this type of document can be found at https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/details/post-control-card ☑



Translation of Document 2: Post control card for Nicolas Birtz from Natzweiler concentration camp, created presumably in May 1944, 1.1.29.2/3149159/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. Detailed information on this type of document can be found at https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/details/post-control-card ☑



Norbert Lopper (1919-2015)

Norbert Lopper was born in Vienna in 1919 and grew up in humble conditions in a moderately religious Jewish family. A football enthusiast, he began playing in clubs at an early age. At the age of 16, he joined the youth team of Hakoah Vienna in 1935. This traditional Jewish club was founded as early as 1909 and had its most successful period in the 1920s. The 1st men's team became Austria's first professional football champion in 1925 and then embarked on a legendary trip to the USA.

Even as a youth player at Hakoah, Norbert Lopper witnessed antisemitic incidents time and again, both on the pitch and in the stands. Austria was annexed by the German Reich (»Anschluss«) in March 1938. Antisemitism intensified drastically, and the then 18-year-old decided to flee to Belgium. He was able to continue playing in Belgium. He also met his future wife Rebecka in the Belgian capital. In May 1940, after the Wehrmacht had invaded and occupied Belgium, Norbert Lopper, Rebecka, and her parents planned their escape from the Germans across the Pyrenees. But this failed, and in the fall of 1940 they returned to Brussels.

Less than two years later, the newly married couple was arrested by the police and deported to Auschwitz by way of a transit camp. Later on, his family members in Austria were also deported to Auschwitz. His wife and other close relatives were murdered. Norbert Lopper himself was forced to work after arriving at the camp. He survived Auschwitz and other concentration camps and later returned to Vienna.

Tasks:



Examine the following sources to determine who created them and what information they contain on Norbert Lopper, his persecution, and specific places of persecution.



Research more information about Norbert Lopper and his football career **on the Internet** (for example here: https://aroa.to/football-lopper ☑). Use your browser's translation feature if you find information in a language that you cannot understand.



Integrate the biography into the timeline. To do so, use your own research results (from tasks 1 and 2) to prepare event cards that trace his life, football career, and persecution. You can also use the source materials and images (if you have any) to add to the timeline.

Additional Tasks:



Watch excerpts from an interview with Norbert Lopper (https://aroa.to/football-interview1 ☐ and https://aroa.to/football-interview2 ☐). What did he experience as a young football player in Vienna and later as a prisoner in Auschwitz?



Use Norbert Lopper's application for IRO assistance and the description of this type of document in the e-Guide of the Arolsen Archives to **find out** how the IRO supported so-called displaced persons and why he submitted his application in 1951.



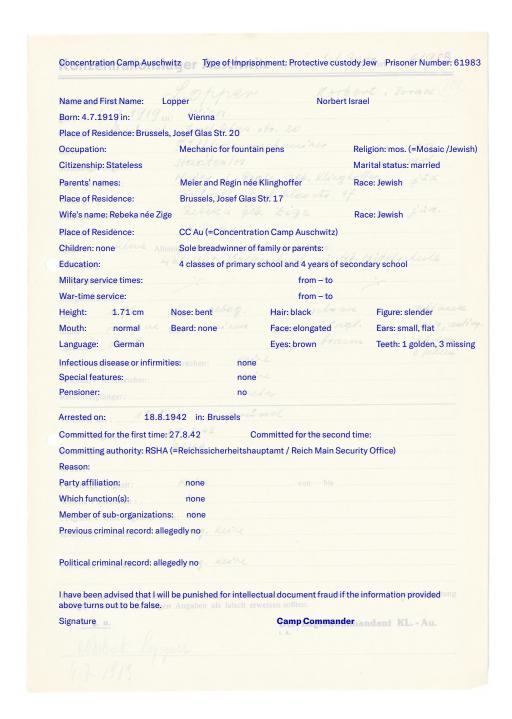
Document 1: Prisoner registration form for Norbert Lopper from the Auschwitz concentration camp

Document 2: Excerpt from an application for assistance by the IRO for Norbert Lopper

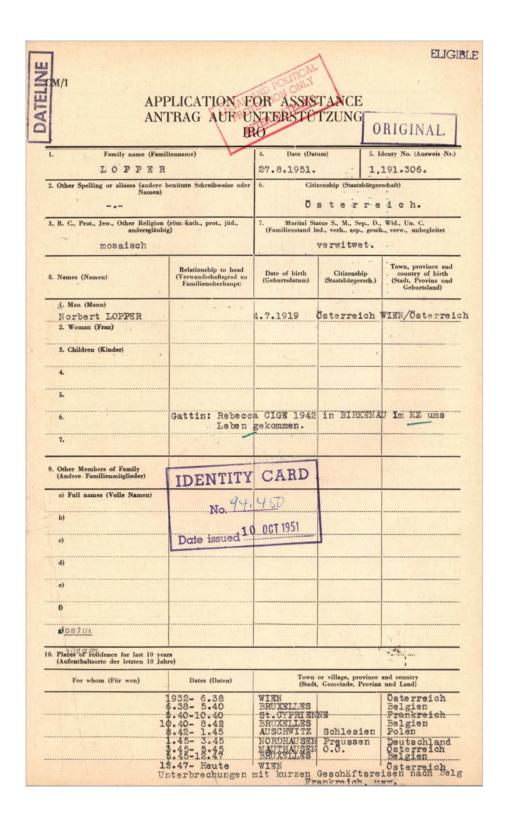
Document 3: Certificate of incarceration from the International Tracing Service (ITS) for Norbert Lopper

	Lopper 10	rbert , Frace
Name und Vorname;	00/700	
geb.: 4.7.191	19 zu: Wien	
Wohnort: Brein	rel, Josef Glas ets. 20	
Beruf:	Fil Alfeder in ech aus ker	Rel.; mos
Staatsangehörigkeit;	Stanten los	Stand: verh.
Name der Eltern:	Meier ii. Regla geb. Klin	
Wohnort:	milnel, porf stoots	7
Name der Ehefrau:	Rebelca geb. Lige	Rasse: ¿'id.
Wohnort;	. K.L. Au	
Kinder: Keine	Alleiniger Ernährer der Pamilie oder der Eltern:	41 M:Hol-1.12
Vorbildung:	4 Dl. aut. Vollerschule ii	y. I'llestenere
Militärdienstzeit;	von — bis	
Kriegsdienstzeit:	von — bis .	
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	Bart: Kei'nen Gesicht: ld.	Ohren: Klein,
Sprache; deut.		Zähne: 1 Gold
Ansteckende Krankheit		
Besondere Kennzeichen		
Rentenempfänger;	nein	
Verhaftet am : 18	9.8.42 wo: Brissel	
1. Mal eingeliefert :		
Einweisende Dienststelle	0 (1/1)	
Grund:		
Parteizugehörigkeit:	Kei'ne von — bis	
Welche Funktionen ;	٧٠	
Mitglied v. Unterorganis	sationen: -"-	
Kriminelle Vorstrafen:	- United	
	-,	
Politische Vorstrafen:	ang. Kei're	
Ich bin darauf hingev	wiesen worden, dass meine Bestrafung wegen in	tellektueller Urkundenfälschun
	obigen Angaben als falsch erweisen sollten.	A STATE OF THE STA
<u>v. g. u.</u>	Der Lagerko	mmandant KLAu.
Worbert &		

Document 1: Prisoner registration form for Norbert Lopper from the Auschwitz concentration camp, 1.1.2.1/1308330635/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives [copy of the original from the holdings of the Auschwitz Memorial]. Detailed information on this type of document can be found at https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/details/prisoner-registration-form □

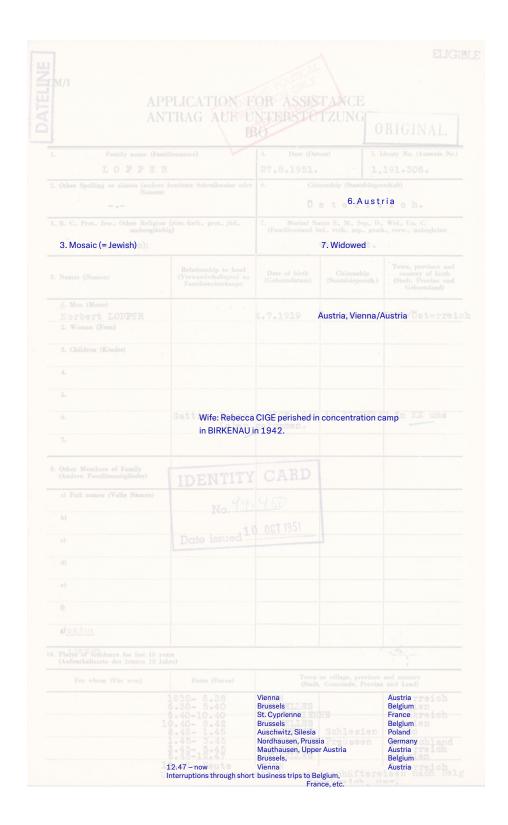


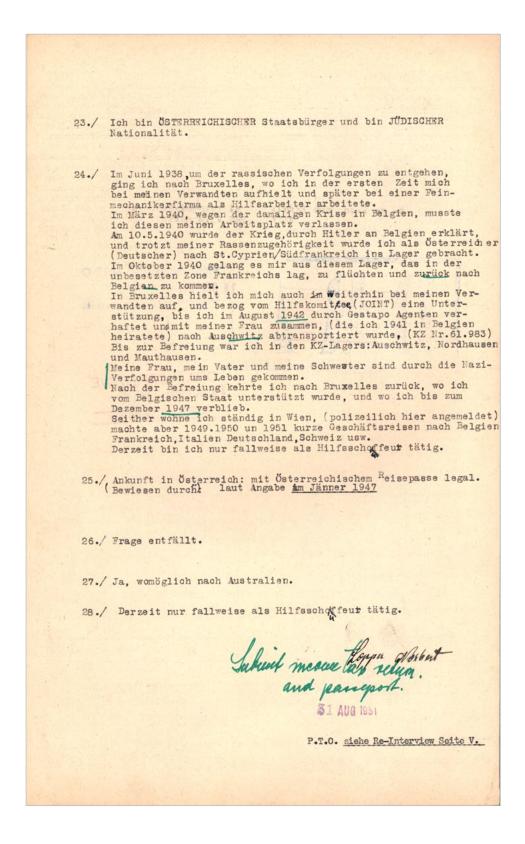
Translation of Document 1: Prisoner registration form for Norbert Lopper from the Auschwitz concentration camp, 1.1.2.1/1308330635/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives [copy of the original from the holdings of the Auschwitz Memorial]. Detailed information on this type of document can be found at https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/details/prisoner-registration-form



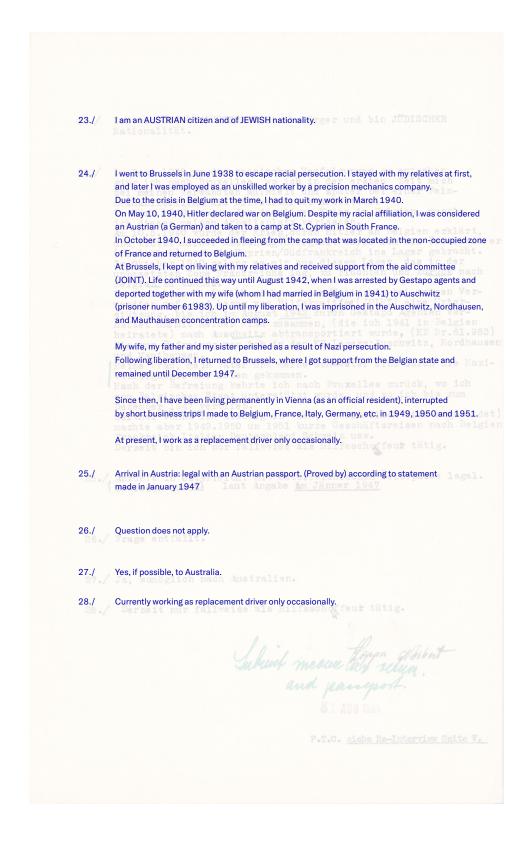
Document 2: Excerpt from an application for assistance by the IRO for Norbert Lopper, August 27, 1951, page 1, 3.2.1.3/80728409/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. The full document is available online at https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/archive/?doc_id=80728409 ☑. Detailed information on this type of document can be found under https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/

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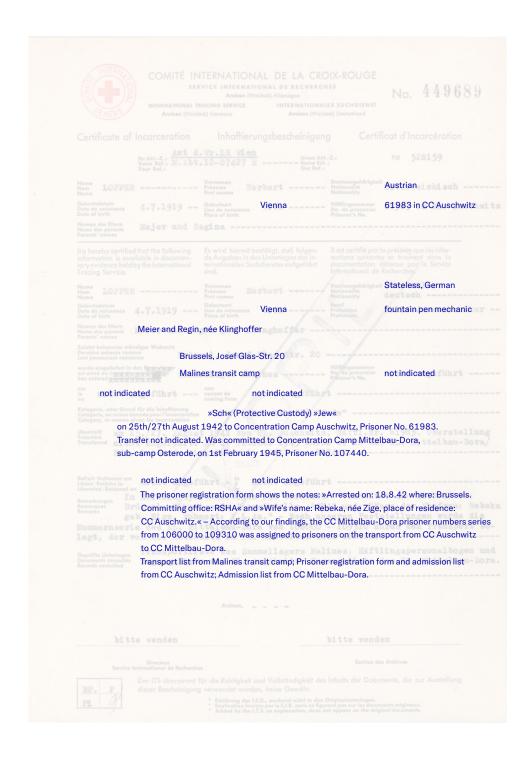
Document 2: Excerpt from an application for assistance by the IRO for Norbert Lopper, August 27, 1951, additional sheet, 3.2.1.3/80728409/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. The full document is available online at https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/archive/?doc_id=80728409 2. Detailed information on this type of document can be found at https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/details/cm1-application-1 2.



Translation of Document 2: Excerpt from an application for assistance by the IRO for Norbert Lopper, August 27, 1951, additional sheet, 3.2.1.3/80728409/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. The full document is available online at https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/archive/?doc_id=80728409 ☑. Detailed information on this type of document can be found at https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/details/cm1-application-1 ☑

	COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE SERVICE INTERNATIONAL DE RECHERCHES Arolsen (Woldeds) Allemagne INTERNATIONAL TRACINO SERVICE Arolsen (Woldeds) Devisabland No. 449689
	Certificate of Incarceration Inhaftierungsbescheinigung Certificat d'Incarcération
	Tro 528159 We Ref.: M. Abt. 12-07427 E Unser Akt. Z.: Your Ref.: Our Ref.: Our Ref.:
	Name LOPPER Vornamen Prénoms Norbert Stochtengehörigkeit Österreichisch Name Norbenzt Molfondlity
	Geburtsdotum Date de naissance Date of blirth 4.7.1919 Geburtsort Lleu de naissance Date of blirth Wien Höfflingsnummer No. de prisonnier Prisoner's No.
	Nomen der Eilern Mons des porents Majer und Regina
	It is hereby certified that the following information is available in documentary evidence held by the International Tracing Service. Es wird hiermit bestätigt, daß folgender de Angaben in den Unterlagen des Internationalen Suchdienstes aufgeführt sind. Il est certifié par la présente que les informations suivantes se trouvent dans la documentation détenue par le Service international de Recherches.
	Name LOPPER Vornamen Prénomes Morbort Stachtangehörigkeir stastenlos, Moissanlink deutsch Worlandlink deutsch
+	Geburtsdrum Date de noissance 4.7.1919 Lieu de noissance Wien Profession Plate de linh Profession Profession
	Name der Eltern Nams des parents Parents names
	Zuletri bekonnter stöndiger Wohnsitz Dernière odresse connue Brüssel, Josef Glas-Str. 20
	wurde eingeliefert in des Mentremer est entie au comprisoneren Sammellager Malines Nosse prisoneier has entered grafter Nosse Sammellager Malines Nosse prisoneier in cht angeführt
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	Uberstellt Ironsfered in 25./27. August 1942 zum M. Augehwitz, Haftl.Nr. 61983. Überstellung Ironsfered nicht angeführt. im I. Februar 1945 wurde er in das KL. Mittelbau-Dora/Kdo. Osterode eingeliefert, Haftl.Nr. 107440.
	Befreil: Enflossen am nicht angeführt in nicht angeführt
	Brüssel. Einweisende Menststelle: RSHA" und: "Name der Ehefrau: Rebeka Remorks geb. Zige, Wohnort: K.L.Au." - Nach unseren Feststellungen wurde die Nummernserie des KL. Mittelbau-Dora von 106000 - 109310 durch den Transport be-
	legt, der vom KL. Auschwitz im KL. Mittelbau-Dora eintraf
	Geprite Unterlogen Transportiiste des Sammellagers malines; not vingspersonatorgen und Decuments consulted Zugangsliste des KL. Auschwitz; Zugangsliste des KL. Mittelbau-Dora.
	Arolsen,
	bitte wenden bitte wenden
	Service International de Recherches : Der ITS übernimmt für die Richtigkeit und Vollständigkeit des Inhalts der Dokumente, die zur Ausstellung
act i	BP. P. dieser Bescheinigung verwendet wurden, keine Gewöhr. Erklärung des I.S.D., erscheint nicht in den Originalunterlagen. Erplication fournie par les J.E. mains en figurant pas sur les documents originaux. Added by the I.T.S. are explanation, does not appear on the original documents.
Mary B	* Added by the L.T.S. as explanation, does not appear on the original documents.

Document 3: Certificate of incarceration from the International Tracing Service (ITS) for Norbert Lopper, issued for the Vienna Compensation Office on April 17, 1964, 6.3.3.2/101547402/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. In official certificates such as this one, the ITS, the predecessor of today's Arolsen Archives, summarized the information on an individual that was available in its collections. They were mostly requested by legal representatives or authorities in the context of compensation proceedings.



Translation of Document 3: Certificate of incarceration from the International Tracing Service (ITS) for Norbert Lopper, issued for the Vienna Compensation Office on April 17, 1964, 6.3.3.2/101547402/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. In official certificates such as this one, the ITS, the predecessor of today's Arolsen Archives, summarized the information on an individual that was available in its collections. They were mostly requested by legal representatives or authorities in the context of compensation proceedings.



Čestmír Vycpálek (1921–2002)

Čestmír Vycpálek grew up in Prague and learned to play football in the Czech city's backyards. His father took him to the Slavia Prague stadium at an early age, and at only 17 he made it to the 1st team, which won many titles in Czechoslovakia in the 1930s.

Before World War II, Nazi Germany had annexed territories in the west of Czechoslovakia in October 1938, and in March of 1939, six months before the start of the war, they occupied the remaining Czech part of the country and established the so-called Reich Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. While part of the population was considered German, Czech citizens and all Jews were regarded as people with limited rights. This was also the case for Čestmír Vycpálek, although he was still allowed to play football for Slavia after the annexation. After a final championship title in 1943, he moved to the Slovak club AC Nitra. At the time, the Slovak Republic was an authoritarian state collaborating with the German Reich, but the borders between the Republic and the »protectorate« were strictly controlled. In 1944, Vycpálek wanted to participate in a football match between the representative teams from Bohemia and Moravia and illegally crossed the border to do so. He was arrested and sent to the Dachau concentration camp. He survived in the camp until the liberation by the US Army.

A year after the end of the war, Čestmír Vycpálek moved to the Italian football league. He enjoyed a very successful career there, both as a player and later as a coach until the 1970s.

Tasks:



Examine the following sources to determine who created them and what information they contain on Čestmír Vycpálek, his persecution, and specific places of persecution.



Research more information about Čestmír Vycpálek and his football career **on the Internet** (for example here: https://aroa.to/football-vycpalek ☑). Use your browser's translation feature if you find information in a language that you cannot understand.



Integrate the biography into the timeline. To do so, use your own research results (from tasks 1 and 2) to prepare event cards that trace his life, football career, and persecution. You can also use the source materials and images (if you have any) to add to the timeline.

Additional Task:



Find out from Čestmír Vycpálek's personal effects register from the Dachau concentration camp and the description of this type of document in the e-Guide of the Arolsen Archives what he was carrying with him when he was arrested and what happened to his personal belongings after arriving at the concentration camp.



Document 1: Prisoner registration form for Čestmír Vycpálek from the Dachau concentration camp

Document 2: Personal effects register for Čestmír Vycpálek from the Dachau concentration camp

Name und Vorname: Vycpalek Cestmir	
geb.: 15.5.21 zu: Prag	Prot.
Wohnort: Nitra m Kanalova 2420	
	Rel.:r.k.
Staatsangehörigkeit: Tschech	
Name der Eltern: Premysl und Jarmila geb. Kankova	Rasse: arisch
Wohnort: Prag XIX, Rabova 5	Prot.
Name der Ehefrau:	Rasse:
Wohnort:	
Kinder: keine Alleiniger Ernährer der Familie oder der Eltern:	
Vorbildung:	
Militärdienstzelt: von — bis	
Kriegsdienstzeit:von — bis	
Grösse: 175 Gestalt: Schl. Gesicht: oval	Augen: blau
Nase: normal Mund: normal Ohrenormal	Zähne: volk
Haare: schwarz Sprache: tschechisch	
Ansteckende Krankheit oder Gebrechen:	
Besondere Kennzeichen:	-to-come progress di
Rentenempfänger:	
Verhaftet am: 18.10.44 wo: Nitra	
1. Mal eingeliefert: 17.11.44 2. Mal eingeliefert:	
Binweisende Dienststelle: Stapo Brünn	
Grund:	
Parteizugehörigkeit:	
Welche Funktionen:	
Mitglied v. Unterorganisationen:	
Kriminelle Vorstrafen:	
Politische Vorstrafen:	
ch bin darauf hingewiesen worden, dass meine Bestrafung wegen intelle	ktueller Urkundenfälschn
erfolgt, wenn sich die obigen Angaben als falsch erweisen sollten.	· Ormandelinaischu
v. g. u. Der Lageri	kommandant

Document 1: Prisoner registration form for Čestmír Vycpálek from the Dachau concentration camp, November 17, 1944, 1.1.6.2/10355317/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives.

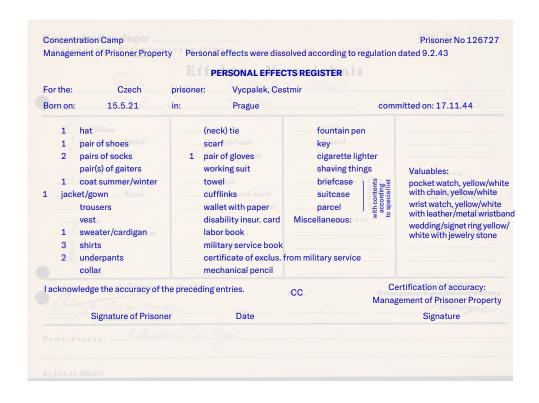
Detailed information on this type of document can be found at https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/details/prisoner-registration-form □



Translation of Document 1: Prisoner registration form for Čestmír Vycpálek from the Dachau concentration camp, November 17, 1944, 1.1.6.2/10355317/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. Detailed information on this type of document can be found at https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/details/prisoner-registration-form



Document 2: Personal effects register for Čestmír Vycpálek from the Dachau concentration camp, 1.1.6.2/10355316/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. Detailed information on this type of document can be found at https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/details/personal-effects-register ☑



Translation of Document 2: Personal effects register for Čestmír Vycpálek from the Dachau concentration camp, 1.1.6.2/10355316/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. Detailed information on this type of document can be found at https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/details/personal-effects-register ☑

Workshop III

Intertwined Stories of Persecution

- → Instructions for Teamers
- → Background Text on the History of Auschwitz
- → Worksheets and Archival Documents for
 - **a)** Antoni Łyko (1907–1941)
 - **b)** Adam Kniola (1911–1942)
 - c) Marian Einbacher (1900–1943)
 - d) Ludwik Szabakiewicz (1902–1944)
- → Background Text on the History of Westerbork
- → Worksheets and Documents for
 - **e)** Ernst Alexander (1914–1942)
 - f) Erich Gottschalk (1906–1996)
 - **g)** Eddy Hamel (1902–1943)
 - **h)** Árpád Weisz (1896–1944)
- → Template for Biography Sheet



Workshop III: Instructions for Teamers

In the third workshop, the examination of the biographies of persecuted football players is expanded to include **eight additional biographies**. The paths of persecution of four of these people crossed in the **Westerbork** transit camp in the Netherlands; the path of the four others in the **Auschwitz I concentration camp**, known as the main camp. The participants will explore the history of these places and examine the biographies. This is not only about the history of the persecution of these football players, but also about ways of commemorating them. The result is eight biography sheets, which are then presented.

After splitting up into two groups and assigning of each of the four biographies, the participants first read the **background text on the respective camp**. This prepares them for the subsequent work with the biographies as well as for a later discussion about the locations and their significance in the events of persecution. Based on the text, the participants will agree on about three to four important events from the history of the location and create event cards for them. These will be integrated into the timeline during the final discussion.

Suggested Structure

- Getting started, clarification of work assignments, distribution of material
- ① 10 minutes
- 2 Group work on the history of both locations
- 30 minutes
- 3 Creation of the biography sheets with a partner
- 40 minutes
- Presentation of the biography sheets and discussion
- 15+15 minutes

Next, the **participants work in pairs with one of the eight biographies**. One of the objectives is to determine all of the stages of the football career as well as information about the persecution. The participants will also work on ways and means of commemorating the person. The results are recorded on a biography sheet. The teamers should ideally provide the biography sheet (see the print template) in A3 format.

At the end of this workshop phase, the four biography sheets for the collected biographies Westerbork and Auschwitz are fixed to a wall to form a small exhibition. The exhibition is first viewed by the participants themselves. The following discussion will examine what the differences and commonalities were between the people on display. The discussion should cover all three levels of the biography sheets (career, persecution, commemoration).

As a result, it will become clear that the football players were persecuted regardless of the state of their careers and that football itself was not of particular relevance for their persecution. It will also become evident that Auschwitz was of central importance also in the persecution of the football players from the Westerbork group, but in a different way than for the four Polish players. This is due to the varying reasons of persecution (persecution of Jews on the one hand, political opponents on the other). Finally, it will become clear that the ways and forms remembrance takes differ in extent: The participants will discover special commemoration initiatives for some football players, others have »only« been mentioned in newspapers or blog articles, but not through activities outside the internet.

The Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration and Extermination Camp

The German concentration camp Auschwitz was founded in June 1940 on the site of former Polish barracks. The town of Oświęcim had already been occupied by the Wehrmacht a few days after the start of the war in September 1939 and henceforth bore the German name Auschwitz. It was located in the area of Eastern Upper Silesia, annexed by the Reich.

The Auschwitz camp existed until January 1945. Over the course of four and a half years, its shape and function changed significantly several times. The single concentration camp Auschwitz became the largest concentration camp complex of the German Reich. The Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and extermination camp (from March 1942) and the Auschwitz-Monowitz concentration camp on the construction site of IG Farben from Frankfurt am Main (from October 1942) were established as independent camps. There were an additional 28 sub-camps and other subordinated camps, some of which were more than 100 km away in Silesia.



The Gatehouse of Auschwitz-Birkenau shortly after Liberation in 1945 © German Federal Archives

Contrary to popular belief, the significance of Auschwitz as a scene of the Holocaust was not predetermined: Between the arrival of the first transport of Polish political prisoners from the Tarnów prison on June 14, 1940 and the liberation by the Red Army on January 27, 1945, the background of the prisoners changed significantly. Polish prisoners formed the largest group in the first phase of the camp's history. From the spring of 1942, more and more Jews from all over Europe were transported to the camp. In 1943 and 1944 in particular, many of them, almost 900,000 people, were murdered immediately upon arrival at the camp. For this purpose, two provisional gas chambers were initially used in Birkenau and later replaced by four large new buildings with gas chambers and a crematorium between March and June 1943, the remains of which can still be seen on the site of the memorial today. However, the mass murder of Jews was only part of the history of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp, which from spring 1943 was expanded as a concentration camp for Jewish and non-Jewish prisoners (men and women). From October 1942 there was also the Auschwitz III-Monowitz camp, in which, at its peak in the summer of 1944, 10,000 prisoners had to work on the construction site of the

> German company IG Farben. Many of them died due to grueling living and working conditions.

> 200,000 Jews were also registered for slave labor in the Auschwitz camp complex. They made up a little less than half of the almost 430,000 people who were prisoners in the main or subcamps of Auschwitz in the course of the camp's existence. The groups of inmates strongly varied. They included Soviet prisoners of war, Sinti and Roma, political prisoners from Poland and other countries, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, as well as alleged career criminals and so-called asocials. For many prisoners, Auschwitz was just one of several places on their path of suffering. Former football player Ludwik Szabakiewicz from Lemberg, for example, came to Auschwitz from the

Majdanek camp and was later transported to the Natzweiler concentration camp.

In Auschwitz, all prisoners had to perform slave labor. The arduousness of the work, living



Polish football player Antoni Łyko as a prisoner in Auschwitz © Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum

conditions in the blocks, and the daily rations, however, could vary greatly depending on which group a person belonged to. Personal networks played a major role in the survival of the prisoners, and conditions could also vary widely between the individual parts of the camps.

Particularly as the importance of slave labor for the German Reich continued to grow during the war, conditions sometimes improved for some of the prisoners. Some used the now free Sunday to organize football matches. A popular place for this was, for example, the roll call square in the main camp. For these prisoners, sport was a welcome distraction from the dreadful and difficult life at the camp. Being able to defy the physical hardship restored their self-esteem to a certain extent. But only a few of the prisoners in Auschwitz were allowed to play football and were physically strong enough to do so. Former Wisła Kraków player Antoni Łyko played a game in Auschwitz at least once. It turned out to be Łyko's only game while at the camp; he was murdered by the SS a short time later.

Szabakiewicz and Łyko were not the only football players held in Auschwitz. Athletes from all over Europe were imprisoned there, including boxers, swimmers, and gymnasts. But very few of them were able to perform sports in Auschwitz. The well-known Polish football player Marian Einbacher had participated in Poland's first international match and was murdered in Auschwitz, as was Adam Kniola from Warsaw. All of them were brought to Auschwitz as Polish »political prisoners.«

There were also many athletes among the Jews who were murdered immediately upon arrival, or later, in Birkenau, for example Jewish footballers Julius Hirsch from Germany and Eddy Hamel from the Netherlands.



The **Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum** offers a wide range of information about the history of the camp on its English homepage: http://auschwitz.org/en/history



Antoni Łyko (1907-1941)

Antoni Łyko was born on May 27, 1907 in Rakowice, Poland. He was a trained lathe operator whose greatest passion was football. His career began in 1930 playing for Wisła Krakow. One of the more memorable matches he played was a friendly against Chelsea in May 1936 in front of 15,000 fans. The only goal was scored by Antoni Łyko. His career was stopped in September 1939 by the German invasion of Poland. Antoni Łyko soon joined a resistance group that carried out acts of sabotage, among other things. His group worked mainly in the Krakow waterworks. In the spring of 1941, the Nazis arrested many members of the numerous resistance organizations that were active in the city. Łyko was taken to the Montelupich prison. From there, he was transferred to the main camp of Auschwitz soon after. Only a few months after his arrival, Łyko was murdered by the camp SS as part of a »retaliatory measure.« Together with 70-80 other Polish prisoners who were accused of working for the resistance, the SS took him to the execution grounds in the so-called gravel pit on the edge of the camp's grounds. Along with him, a former sporting rival from the Cracovia Krakow team, Witold Zieliński, died that day.



Antoni Łyko, 1937 © National Digital Archive, Poland

Tasks:



Examine the following sources for information about the persecution of Antoni Łyko and his imprisonment in Auschwitz.



Research more information about Antoni Łyko on the Internet (for example here: https://aroa.to/football-lyko 🖸). Find out if, how, and by whom he is remembered. Use your browser's translation feature if you find information in a language that you cannot understand.



Use the template to create a biography sheet for Antoni Łyko by summarizing your results from tasks 1 and 2. **Discuss** how and by whom he might be (additionally) remembered. Also include the photograph above to create the biography sheet.

Additional Task:



Examine the admission list in terms of age, gender, origin, and other information about the persons listed. What do you notice, what seems remarkable?



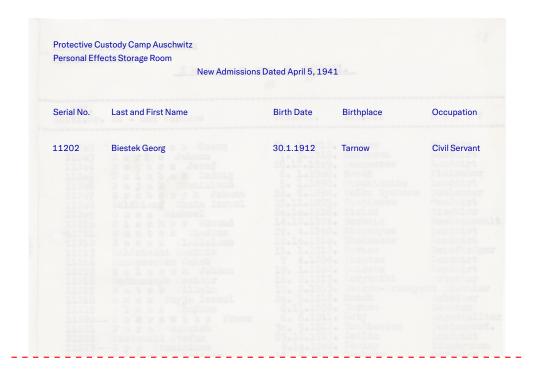
Document 1: Admission list dated April 5, 1941, from the personal effects storage room of the Auschwitz concentration camp

Document 2: Index card for Antoni Łyko from the Auschwitz concentration camp

Zugang vom 5. 4. 1941.						
Haftl.Br. Zu - und Vorname	Gob.Dat.	Geb.Ort	Beruf			
11202 Biestek Goorg 11205 Bart o Johann 11204 Bogacz Josef 11205 Dsiuban Indwig 11206 Bujak Johann Indwig 11206 Bujak Johann Index 11207 Grabesyk Johann 11208 Goldklang Chaim Israel 11209 Gusa Michael 11210 Fischor Edmund 8,1211 Gustek Thaddus 11212 Bosak Ladislaus 11212 Bosak Ladislaus 11213 Beldsinski Kasimir 11214 Damassowicz Jakob 11215 Baldsinski Kasimir 11216 Bodnarcyk Kasimir 11217 Bates Szyjalsrael 11218 Ames Szyjalsrael 11219 Iski Thadaus 11220 Dzsrawiski Stefan 11222 Karbowski Stefan 11222 Syp Stanislaus	30. 1.1912. 7. 3.1919. 26.12.1909. 6. 1.1908. 5. 1.1898. 28. 6.1898. 25.11.1895. 20.10.1916. 14.12.1874. 29. 4.1908. 22.10.1910. 11. 1.1912. 7. 4.1894. 19. 1.1902. 19. 1.1902. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10.	Sanok Taxnow Kety	Beauter Landwirt Landwirt Schloseer Landwirt Schloseer Landwirt Landwirt Landwirt Landwirt Landwirt Landwirt Landwirt Arbeiter Ski Tischler Arbeiter Angestellter Postangest Landwirt L			

Lfd. Häftl.Nr.	Zu - und Vorname	Geb.Dat.	Geb.Ort	Beruf
11779	Walczyk Georg Lyko Anton Brozdowski Josef Weigel Friederik Grudniewicz Vinzent Tworzydlo Anton Szymanski Thadäus Malczyk Thadäus Malczyk Thadäus Malczyk Thadäus Malczyk Thadäus Malczyk Thadaus Michael Kott Paul Szmolawa Theodor Gorka Stunislaus Miller Josef Zajic Eduard Batko Marian Seidler Rudolf Maniura Ernst Sokolinski Franz	27. 5.1897.	Krakau	Monteur
11780	Lyko Anton	27. 5.1907.	Karowice	Ponting
11781	Brozdowski Josef	17. 2.1094.	Dwaren	Richter
11782	Weigel Friederik	4. 9.1002.	Slowniki	Apotheker
11783	Grudniewicz Vinzent	4 6 1877	Bochurgues	Postbeamter
11784	Pworzydlo Anton	26. 7.1905.	Skarzysko Kam	ienna Arst
11785	Szymanski Inadads	10. 5.1915.	Krakau	Angestellter
11786	Malczyk Thaunus	27. 9.1913.	Skola	Arst
11/8/	Distrover Andreas	16.11.1909.	Miechow	ohne
11100	Voromeld Michael	15. 2.1898.	Pnikut	Zollbeamter
11700	V o + + Poul	17. 3.1918.	Gleiwitz	Offizier
11701	Sanolewa Theodor	9. 8.1909.	. Huta Slazka	Kaufmann
11709	Gorka Stanislaus	13. 9.1903.	. Dembica	Ingenieur
11793	M H 1 1 e r Josef	16. 1.1903.	. Karwin	Kaufmann
11794	Zaiic Eduard	12. 9.1901.	. Karwin	Buchhalter
11795	Batko Marian.	25. 3.1901.	. Podgorze	Lehrer
11796	Seidler Rudolf	17. 6.1886.	Karwin	Elektromontew
11797	Maniura Ernst	15.10.1921	. Godula Hutte	Kaulmann
11798	Sokolinski Franz	18. 2.1899	. Juszczyn	Angestellter
11799	Rychlinski Franz	3. 4.1908	. Fradnik Uzerw	ony Zannteomia
11800	Kudyk Viktor	21. 3.1901	. KTAKRU	Tellier Columbad
11801	Basta Johann	17. 6.1918	. Wola Kurowska	Mechaniker
11802	Rychlik Kasimir Kudyk Viktor Basta Johann Rozanski Zdzielaus Stalmach Johann	28. 4.1909	. Krakau	Kraftw-führer
11803	Stalmach Johann	12. 5.1908	· Arahau	Mechaniker
11804	Malek Kasimir			Schlosser
11805	Wypych Alexander	1. 1.1911	· ALL CLACETA	Sobloses

Document 1: Admission list dated April 5, 1941, from the personal effects storage room of the Auschwitz concentration camp, Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum [copy under 1.1.2.1/493973 and 1.1.2.1/493983/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives].





Translation of Document 1: Admission list dated April 5, 1941, from the personal effects storage room of the Auschwitz concentration camp, Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum [copy under 1.1.2.1/493973 and 1.1.2.1/493983/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives].



Document 2: Index card for Antoni Łyko from the Auschwitz concentration camp, Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. The date listed after »Abgang« (departure) presumably indicates the day on which Antoni Łyko was murdered.



Translation of Document 2: Index card for Antoni Łyko from the Auschwitz concentration camp, Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. The date listed after »Abgang« (departure) presumably indicates the day on which Antoni Łyko was murdered.



Adam Kniola (1911-1942)

Adam Kniola was born on February 7, 1911 in Lublin. His football career got underway at Warta Poznań when he was a teenager. The striker went on to score 56 goals in 111 matches for the club's first team. He also played twice for the Polish national team. On his debut against Yugoslavia in 1931, he scored two goals in front of 15,000 fans at his home stadium. He later moved to Warsaw to play for KS Warszawianka, which was also in the first Polish league at the time. When the German Wehrmacht invaded Poland in September 1939, Adam Kniola was 28 years old. On August 15, 1940, he was arrested in Warsaw and taken to the recently set up Auschwitz concentration camp. In Auschwitz he received the prisoner number 2454. The story surrounding his arrest is unknown. He may have been the victim of arbitrary arrests made by the Germans that were commonplace at the time. Adam Kniola survived his imprisonment for almost two and a half years before his prisoner number was entered in the death book at the morgue of Auschwitz concentration camp at the end of 1942.



Adam Kniola, circa 1931–1935 © National Digital Archive, Poland

Tasks:



Examine the following sources for information about the persecution of Adam Kniola and his imprisonment in Auschwitz.



Research more information about Adam Kniola **on the Internet** (for example here: https://aroa.to/football-kniola ☑). **Find out** if, how, and by whom he is remembered. Use your browser's translation feature if you find information in a language that you cannot understand.



Use the template to create a biography sheet for Adam Kniola by summarizing your results from tasks 1 and 2. **Discuss** how and by whom he might be (additionally) remembered. Also include the photograph above to create the biography sheet.

Additional Task:



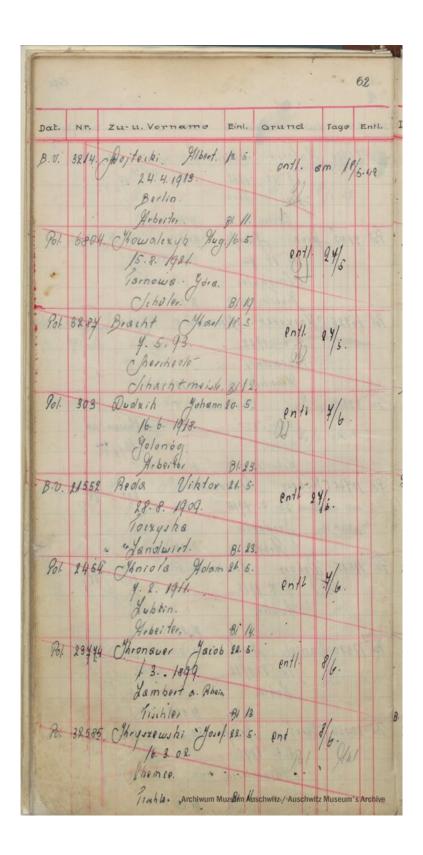
Examine the excerpt from the bunker book in terms of age, gender, origin, and other information about the persons listed. What do you notice, what seems remarkable?



Document 1: Excerpt from the bunker book of the Auschwitz concentration camp

Document 2: Excerpt from the death book of the morgue of the Auschwitz concentration camp

1/2 Adam Kniola



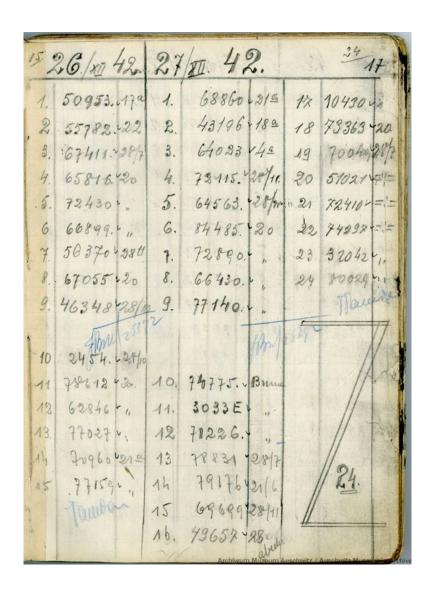
Document 1: Excerpt from the bunker book of the Auschwitz concentration camp, list of admissions from May 13–22, 1942, Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum [copy under 1.1.2.1/519798/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives]. The internal prison of a concentration camp, in which the SS imprisoned and mistreated prisoners, e.g., because of violations of the camp regulations, was called a bunker.

1/2 Adam Kniola



Translation of Document 1: Excerpt from the bunker book of the Auschwitz concentration camp, list of admissions from May 13–22, 1942, Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum [copy under 1.1.2.1/519798/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives]. The internal prison of a concentration camp, in which the SS imprisoned and mistreated prisoners, e.g., because of violations of the camp regulations, was called a bunker.

2/2 Adam Kniola



Document 2: Excerpt from the death book of the morgue of the Auschwitz concentration camp, Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum [copy under 1.1.2.6/130566310/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives]. Within this book, Adam Kniola can only be identified by his prisoner number, 2454.



Marian Einbacher (1900-1943)

Marian Einbacher was born on January 9, 1900 in Posen, which was part of Prussia at that time. After the Treaty of Versailles, the area became Polish and the city was renamed Poznań. Einbacher played for Warta Poznań from 1921. With this club, he was runner-up in the Polish league twice, and in 1921 he also played in the historic, first international match of independent Poland. The team lost 1-0 to Hungary. In 1925, Einbacher had to end his career and started working as a bank teller in Sandomierz. He was arrested during the German occupation and deported to Auschwitz on March 28, 1942, on a train from Radom. He was registered in the camp as Polish political prisoner number 27428. On July 28, 1942, he was admitted to the sick bay (Block 28) in the Auschwitz main camp. On January 11, 1943, he was again taken to a sick bay (Block 20), where his death was entered into the books the next day. The cause of death indicated intestinal catarrh with dropsy.



Marian Einbacher, 1921 © National Digital Archive, Poland

Tasks:



Examine the following sources for information about the persecution of Marian Einbacher and his imprisonment in Auschwitz.



Research more information about Marian Einbacher **on the Internet** (for example here: https://aroa.to/football-einbacher ☑). **Find out** if, how, and by whom he is remembered. Use your browser's translation feature if you find information in a language that you cannot understand.



Use the template to create a biography sheet for Marian Einbacher by summarizing your results from tasks 1 and 2. **Discuss** how and by whom he might be (additionally) remembered. Also include the photograph above to create the biography sheet.

Additional Task:



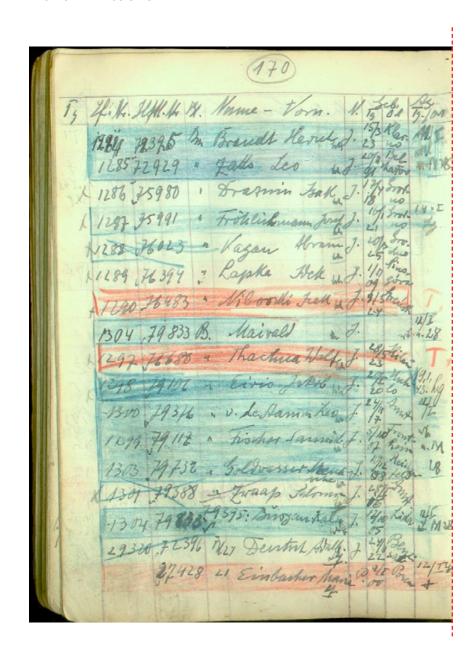
Examine the excerpt from the register of the sick bay in terms of age, gender, origin, and other information about the persons listed. What do you notice, what seems remarkable?



Document 1: Excerpt from the register of the sick bay (Block 20) of the Auschwitz concentration camp

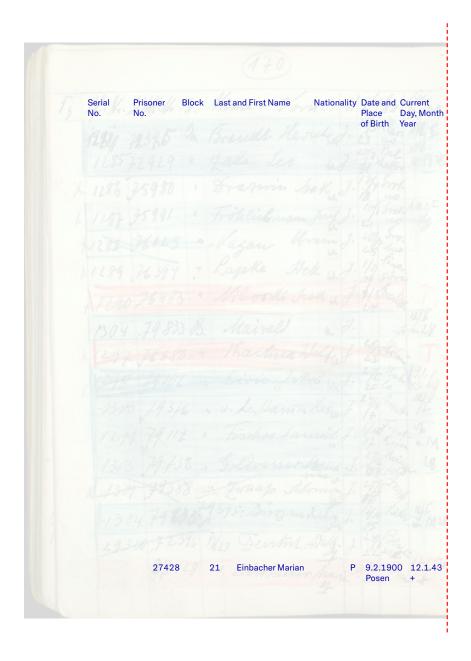
Document 2: Death register entry of the Auschwitz concentration camp, entry on Marian Einbacher

1/2 Marian Einbacher



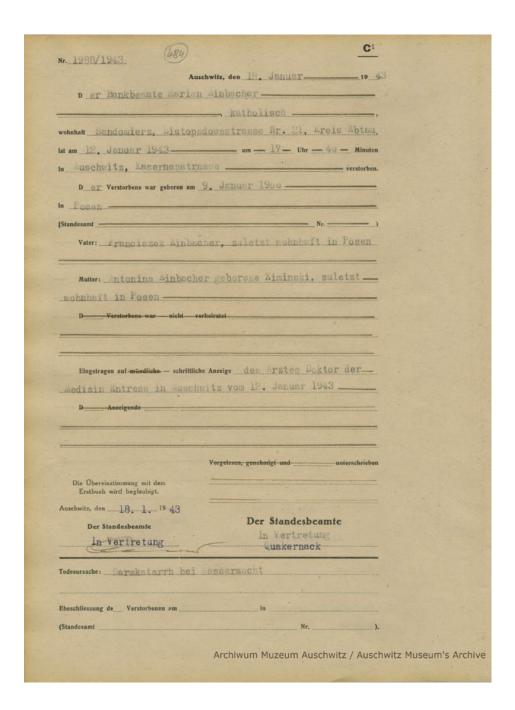
Document 1: Excerpt from the register of the sick bay (Block 20) of the Auschwitz concentration camp, admissions from January 11 and 12, 1943, Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum [copy under 1.1.2.1/506053/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives].

1/2 Marian Einbacher



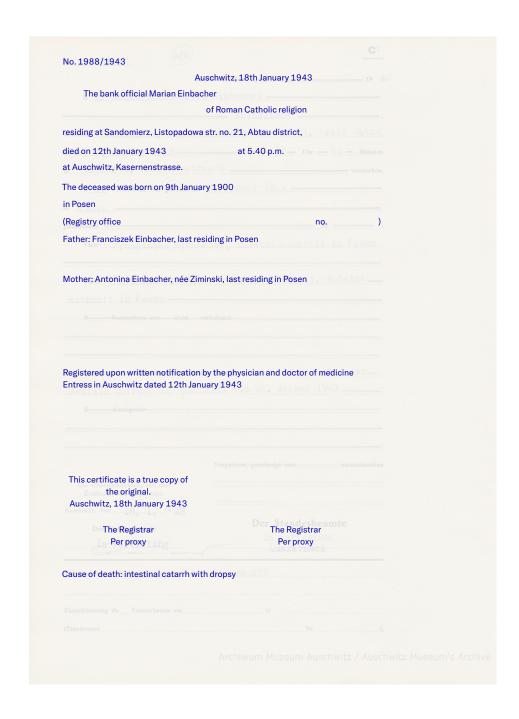
Translation of Document 1: Excerpt from the register of the sick bay (Block 20) of the Auschwitz concentration camp, admissions from January 11 and 12, 1943, Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum [copy under 1.1.2.1/506053/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives].

2/2 Marian Einbacher



Document 2: Death register entry of the Auschwitz concentration camp, entry on Marian Einbacher, Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum [copy under 1.1.2.1/575893/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives] Detailed information on this type of document can be found at https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/details/death-register-entry-for-deceased-concentration-camp-prisoners

2/2 Marian Einbacher



Translation of Document 2: Death register entry of the Auschwitz concentration camp, entry on Marian Einbacher, Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum [copy under 1.1.2.1/575893/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives] Detailed information on this type of document can be found at https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/details/death-register-entry-for-deceased-concentration-camp-prisoners



Ludwik Szabakiewicz (1902-1944)

Ludwik Szabakiewicz was born on June 6, 1902 in Jarosław, at the time Austria-Hungary, today Western Ukraine. He played football for Pogon Lwów (formerly Lemberg / today L'viv). From 1923-1926, he and the team won the Polish league three times. He also played twice for the Polish national team in the 1920s. In 1942, he was arrested in Lwów for reasons unknown and sent to the Lublin-Majdanek concentration camp. On April 9, 1944, Szabakiewicz was transported from there to the Auschwitz concentration camp. He was assigned prisoner number 181651 and was sent to the men's camp (BII-d) in Auschwitz-Birkenau. His prisoner number can be found on a list of prisoners who were assigned to the potato peeler unit in the summer of 1944 and had to undergo an examination by the SS Hygiene Institute in Block 31 in Birkenau. Soon after he was transferred to the Natzweiler concentration camp. His fate is unknown. It can be assumed that he died during the transport or shortly after arriving at the Natzweiler concentration camp.



Ludwik Szabakiewicz, around 1922–1926 © National Digital Archive, Poland

Tasks:



Examine the following sources for information about the persecution of Ludwik Szabakiewicz and his imprisonment in Auschwitz.



Research more information about Ludwik Szabakiewicz **on the Internet** (for example here: https://aroa.to/football-szabakiewicz ☑). **Find out** if, how, and by whom he is remembered. Use your browser's translation feature if you find information in a language that you cannot understand.



Use the template to create a biography sheet for Ludwik Szabakiewicz by summarizing your results from tasks 1 and 2. **Discuss** how and by whom he might be (additionally) remembered. Also include the photograph above to create the biography sheet.

Additional Task:



Examine the transport list in terms of age, gender, origin, and other information about the persons listed. What do you notice, what seems remarkable?



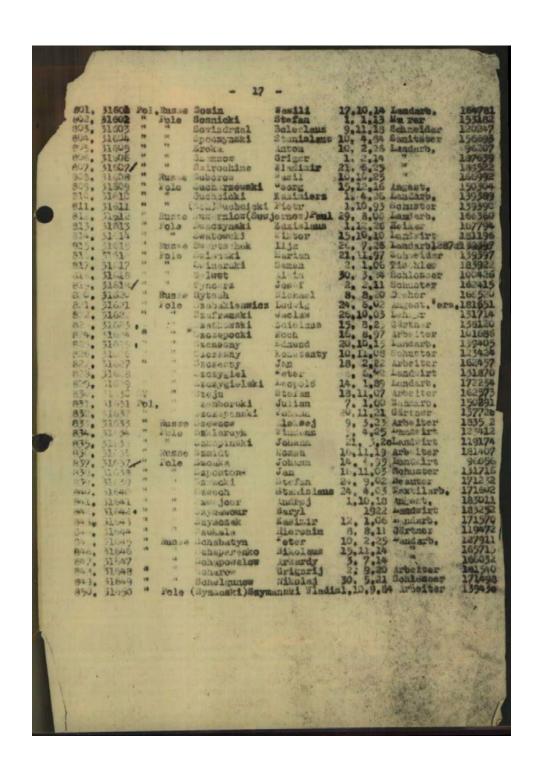
Document 1: Excerpt from an examination book of the SS Hygiene Institute in Auschwitz

Document 2: Excerpt from fragments of a transport list from the Auschwitz concentration camp to the Natzweiler concentration camp

1/2 Ludwik Szabakiewicz

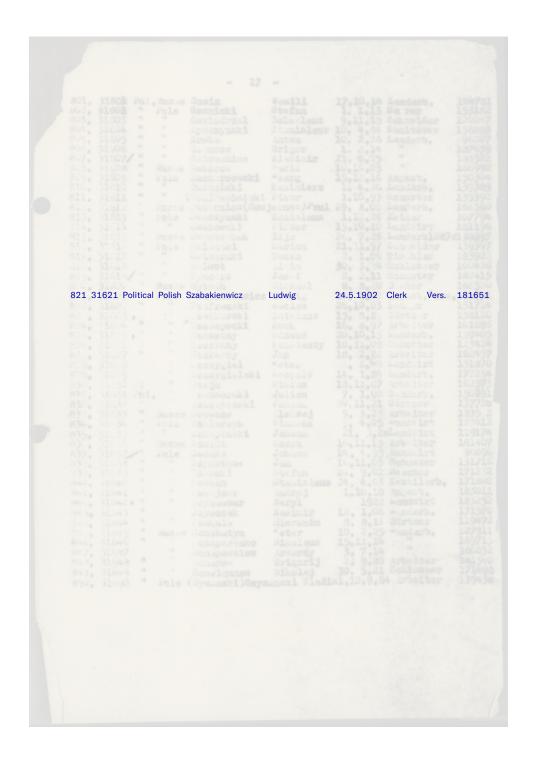
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Document 1: Excerpt from an examination book of the SS Hygiene Institute in Auschwitz, Prisoners Sick Bay, Block 31, on the Commando of Potato Peelers, entries dated August 15, 1944, Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. Ludwig Szabakiewicz can only be identified by his prisoner number, 181651.



Document 2: Excerpt from fragments of a transport list from the Auschwitz concentration camp to the Natzweiler concentration camp, undated (probably created on August 23, 1944). Ludwig Szabakiewicz is listed under number 821. The addition »Vers.« (for »Verstorben« = deceased) presumably means that he died during or shortly after the arrival of the transport, 1.1.29.1/3131092/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives.

2/2 **Ludwik Szabakiewicz**



Translation of Document 2: Excerpt from fragments of a transport list from the Auschwitz concentration camp to the Natzweiler concentration camp, undated (probably created on August 23, 1944). Ludwig Szabakiewicz is listed under number 821. The addition »Vers.« (for »Verstorben« = deceased) presumably means that he died during or shortly after the arrival of the transport, 1.1.29.1/3131092/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives.

Police Transit Camp Westerbork

Police transit camp Westerbork was one of two locations where the German occupiers in the Netherlands collected Jews before their deportation to Eastern Europe. The camp had already been established before the start of the war by the Dutch authorities as »Central Refugee Camp

to detain all German and Austrian Jews who were apprehended in the Netherlands. From July 1942, the camp served the Nazis as a so-called transit camp for the deportation of all Jews as well as Sinti and Roma from the Netherlands. More than 100,000 people were deported from here by

autumn 1944, more than half to Auschwitz, and almost 34,000 to the Sobibor death camp in the General Government (Generalgouvernement) in occupied Poland.

Searching for safety, many football players ended up in the Netherlands as well, but were unable to escape persecution after the start of the war. Among them were Schalke's Ernst Alexander and Bochum player Erich Gottschalk with his family. The arrests of Dutch Jews also resulted in numerous athletes being brought to Westerbork. Among them was Jewish Ajax player Eddy Hamel, who was no longer able to leave the country despite being a US citizen. Another prominent football player in Westerbork was Hungarian star coach Árpád Weisz, who was held in Westerbork with his family. He had been forced to end his successful

stint in Italy and trained FC Dordrecht from 1939.

Most people were only in the camp for a short time. The living conditions were comparatively good, and leisure activities such as football were offered. The people in Westerbork used these opportunities to escape from the harsh reality. At the same time, some of the Jews were lulled into a false sense of security by these activities, which the Germans deliberately allowed. The threat at Westerbork was not hygienic conditions, illness or hunger, but that anyone could be deported to a camp in the East at any time.



Camp Inmates on the main Road of the Westerbork Camp, circa 1944 © Wikimedia Commons

Westerbork.« The idea was to house the steadily growing flux of Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria and to control immigration from these countries. In the months prior to the start of WWII in September 1939, thousands of Jews had sought refuge from antisemitic persecution in the Netherlands. The Netherlands were often the first place of refuge, especially for Jews from western Germany.

After the Wehrmacht had invaded Germany's western neighbor in May 1940, German authorities took over the camp. The primary purpose was



The Herinneringscentrum Kamp Westerbork offers extensive information about the history of the camp in English on its website: https://kampwesterbork.nl/en/history



Ernst Alexander (1914-1942)

Ernst Alexander was born on February 5, 1914 as the son of a Jewish merchant family in Gelsenkirchen. Ernst was a trained businessman and played football in the youth team of FC Schalke 04. After the Nazis had seized power, the pressure on the Jewish population increased. Numerous clubs excluded Jewish members. The business of Ernst Alexander's parents was also shut down. In the summer of 1938, his father Georg was deported to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, resulting in his mother Ella's suicide. After the November pogroms in 1938, Ernst Alexander fled to the Netherlands with his younger siblings Alfred and Johanna. He soon lost sight of his siblings and was interned in various refugee camps. At the same time he was still able to play football. As early as November 1939, shortly after the camp's opening, Ernst Alexander was a refugee in the Westerbork camp. He remained imprisoned even after the Germans took control of the camp. The deportations from Westerbork began in July 1942. Ernst Alexander was deported to Auschwitz on one of the first trains. He survived only a few weeks and died on August 28, 1942, at the age of 28.



Ernst Alexander, circa 1939 © Nationaal Archief, Den Haag

Tasks:



Examine the following sources for information about the persecution of Ernst Alexander and his imprisonment in Westerbork.



Research more information about Ernst Alexander **on the Internet** (for example here: https://aroa.to/football-alexander ☑). **Find out** if, how, and by whom he is remembered. Use your browser's translation feature if you find information in a language that you cannot understand.



Use the template to create a biography sheet for Ernst Alexander by summarizing your results from tasks 1 and 2. **Discuss** how and by whom he might be (additionally) remembered. Also use the photograph above to create the biography sheet.

Additional Task:



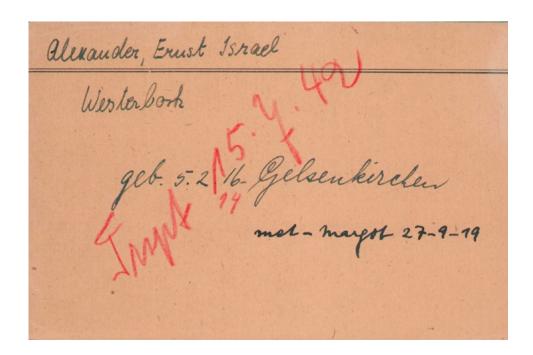
Examine the excerpt from the Westerbork register in terms of age, gender, origin, and other information about the persons listed. What do you notice, what seems remarkable?



Document 1: Index card from the Judenrat (Jewish council) file in Amsterdam for Ernst Alexander

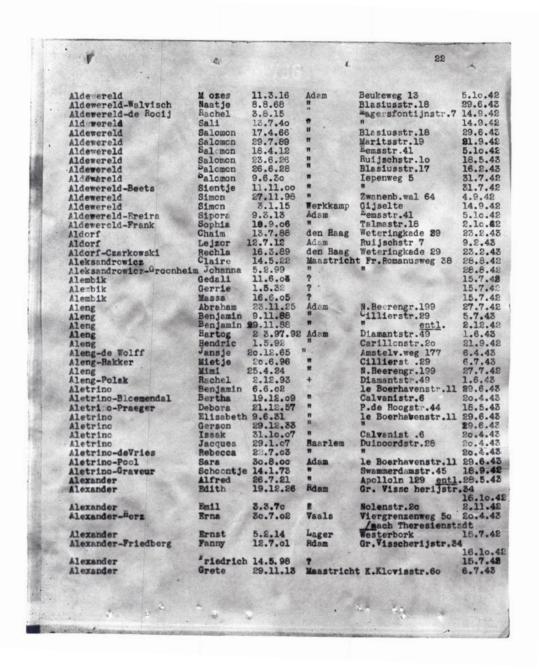
Document 2: Excerpt from the Westerbork register of the Information Office of the Dutch Red Cross

1/2 Ernst Alexander



Document 1: Index card from the Judenrat (Jewish council) file in Amsterdam for Ernst Alexander, 1.2.4.2/130251048/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. Detailed information on this type of document can be found at https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/details/index-card-from-the-jewish-council-card-file-in-amsterdam ☑

2/2 Ernst Alexander



Document 2: Excerpt from the Westerbork register of the Information Office of the Dutch Red Cross, created after WWII, 1.1.46.7/5154640/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. The last column contains the date of deportation from Westerbork.



Erich Gottschalk (1906–1996)

Erich Gottschalk was born in 1906 in Wanne-Eickel. He attended the Goethe-Gymnasium in Bochum, completed a business apprenticeship, and was an enthusiastic footballer. After WWI, he was initially a member of a predecessor club of what is known as VfL Bochum today. After Jews were only allowed to play sports in Jewish clubs, he became the captain of the TuS Hakoah Bochum team, with which he won the Jewish football league championship in Germany in 1938. Shortly thereafter he had to flee to the Netherlands with his wife Rosa. After the invasion of the Netherlands, they were interned in the Westerbork transit camp. That is where their daughter Renée was born in June of 1941. Erich Gottschalk continued to play football in Westerbork. In September 1944, the family was deported to Theresienstadt, and a short time later to Auschwitz-Birkenau. That is where Erich Gottschalk was separated from his family and selected for slave labor. His wife and daughter as well as all of his other relatives were murdered in Auschwitz in 1944. Erich Gottschalk himself managed to escape in the spring of 1945 during one of the notorious death marches. After the war, he went back to the Netherlands to look for his family. That is when he found out that none of them had survived.



Erich Gottschalk, circa 1938 © Jewish Museum of Westphalia

Tasks:



Examine the following sources for information about the persecution of Erich Gottschalk and his imprisonment in Westerbork.



Research more information about Erich Gottschalk **on the Internet** (for example here: https://aroa.to/football-gottschalk ☑). **Find out** if, how, and by whom he is remembered. Use your browser's translation feature if you find information in a language that you cannot understand.



Use the template to create a biography sheet for Erich Gottschalk by summarizing your results from tasks 1 and 2. **Discuss** how and by whom he might be (additionally) remembered. Also use the photograph above to create the biography sheet.

Additional Task:



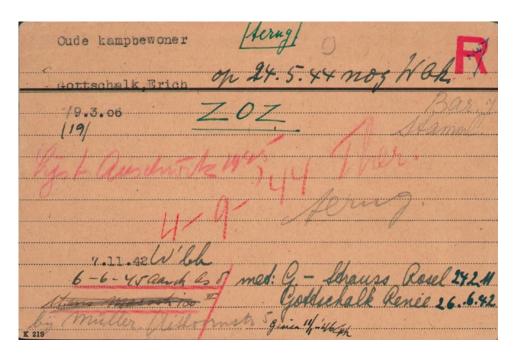
Examine the excerpt from the Westerbork register in terms of age, gender, origin, and other information about the persons listed. What do you notice, what seems remarkable?

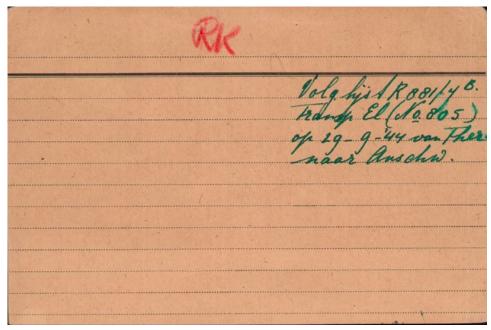


Document 1: Index card from the Judenrat (Jewish council) file in Amsterdam for Erich Gottschalk

Document 2: Excerpt from the Westerbork register of the Information Office of the Dutch Red Cross

1/2 Erich Gottschalk





Document 1: Index card from the Judenrat (Jewish council) file in Amsterdam for Erich Gottschalk, 1.2.4.2/130296048/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. Detailed information on this type of document can be found at https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/details/index-card-from-the-jewish-council-card-file-in-amsterdam ☑

2/2 Erich Gottschalk



Document 2: Excerpt from the Westerbork register of the Information Office of the Dutch Red Cross, created after WWII, 1.1.46.7/5156086/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. The last column contains the date of deportation from Westerbork.



Eddy Hamel (1902-1943)

Edward (»Eddy«) Hamel was born in New York City in 1902. His parents had previously immigrated to the USA from Amsterdam. He returned with them as a teenager and was discovered as an amateur player by Ajax Amsterdam in 1922. As a right winger, he became the first Jewish Ajax player and was a fan favorite. In August 1929 he married his wife Johanna. After his career on the pitch, he became a trainer. With his wife and two children, he witnessed the beginning of the war and the German occupation in Amsterdam. Eddy Hamel was arrested on October 27, 1942 for not wearing a »Jewish star« on his jacket. He was brought to Westerbork with his family. From there, the Nazis deported him to Auschwitz. He was among 50 Jewish men and 19 women selected from his transport to perform slave labor. But Eddy Hamel only survived a few months under the murderous conditions in Auschwitz-Birkenau. On April 30, 1943, he was murdered in a gas chamber at the age of 40.



Eddy Hamel, 1926 © Sports Illustrated

Tasks:



Examine the following sources for information about the persecution of Eddy Hamel and his imprisonment in Westerbork.



Research more information about Eddy Hamel **on the Internet** (for example here: https://aroa. to/football-hamel \Box). **Find out** if, how, and by whom he is remembered. Use your browser's translation feature if you find information in a language that you cannot understand.



Use the template to create a biography sheet for Eddy Hamel by summarizing your results from tasks 1 and 2. **Discuss** how and by whom he might be (additionally) remembered. Also use the photograph above to create the biography sheet.

Additional Task:



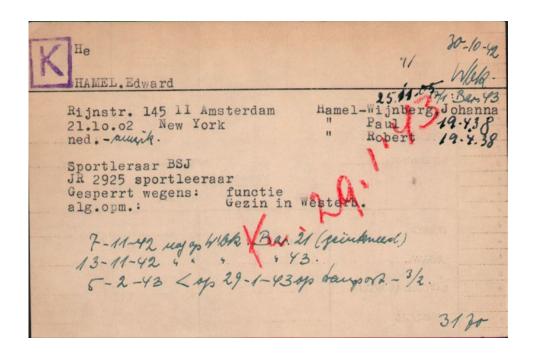
Examine the excerpt from the Westerbork register in terms of age, gender, origin, and other information about the persons listed. What do you notice, what seems remarkable?



Document 1: Index card from the Judenrat (Jewish council) file in Amsterdam for Eddy Hamel

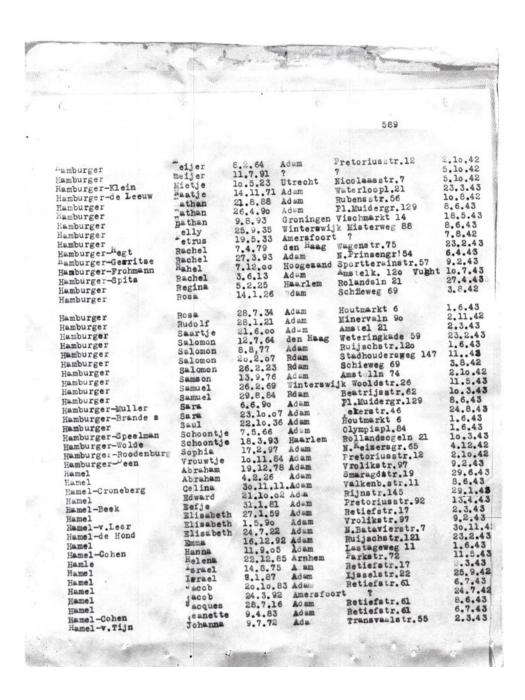
Document 2: Excerpt from the Westerbork register of the Information Office of the Dutch Red Cross

1/2 Eddy Hamel



Document 1: Index card from the Judenrat (Jewish council) file in Amsterdam for Eddy Hamel, 1.2.4.2/130301918/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. Detailed information on this type of document can be found at https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/details/index-card-from-the-jewish-council-card-file-in-amsterdam ☑

2/2 Eddy Hamel

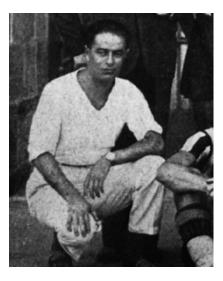


Document 2: Excerpt from the Westerbork register of the Information Office of the Dutch Red Cross, created after WWII, 1.1.46.7/5155212/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. The last column contains the date of deportation from Westerbork.



Árpád Weisz (1896–1944)

Árpád Weisz was born in 1896 in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He experienced antisemitism at an early age. As an active football player, he moved from Hungary to Czechoslovakia and on to Italy in the 1920s, where he was a coach at a young age. He was successful with Inter Milan, AS Bari, and FC Bologna, but the »racial laws« issued by the Fascist government forced him to leave Italy. He came to the Netherlands via Paris in the spring of 1939, where he and his family lived for only a short time. He continued to work as a coach at FC Dordrecht until the German occupiers forbade him to work in September 1941. In the summer of 1942, he and his family were arrested and taken to Westerbork. The family remained in the Westerbork transit camp for only a few weeks before they were deported to Auschwitz. His wife and his two children Clara and Roberto were probably murdered by the SS immediately after the train had arrived on October 5, 1942. Weisz himself died in Auschwitz in January 1944.



Árpád Weisz, circa 1933–1934 © Football Club Internazionale Milano

Tasks:



Examine the following sources for information about the persecution of Árpád Weisz and his imprisonment in Westerbork.



Research more information about Árpád Weisz **on the Internet** (for example here: https://aroa. to/football-weisz ☑). **Find out** if, how, and by whom he is remembered. Use your browser's translation feature if you find information in a language that you cannot understand.



Use the template to create a biography sheet for Árpád Weisz by summarizing your results from tasks 1 and 2. **Discuss** how and by whom he might be (additionally) remembered. Also use the photograph above to create the biography sheet.

Additional Task:



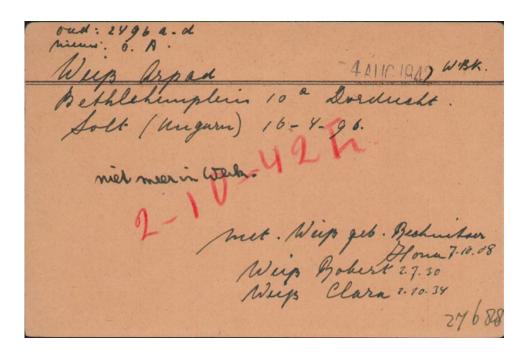
Examine the extract from the Westerbork register in terms of age, gender, origin, and other information about the persons listed. What do you notice, what seems remarkable?



Document 1: Index card from the Judenrat (Jewish council) file in Amsterdam for Árpád Weisz

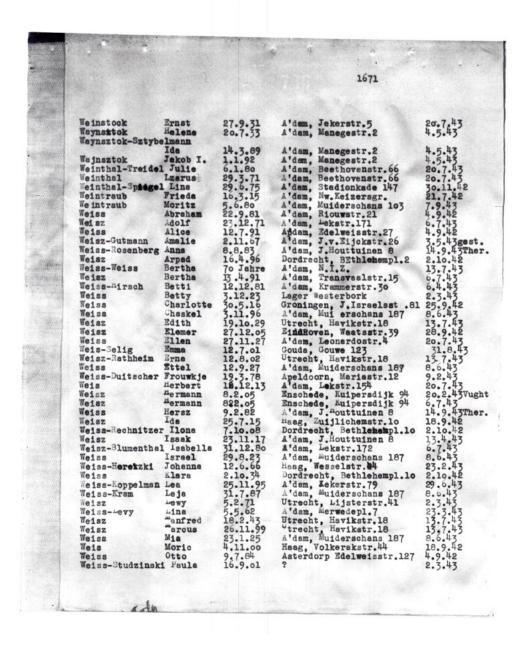
Document 2: Excerpt from the Westerbork register of the Information Office of the Dutch Red Cross

1/2 **Árpád Weisz**



Document 1: Index card from the Judenrat (Jewish council) file in Amsterdam for Árpád Weisz, 1.2.4.2/130398085/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. Detailed information on this type of document can be found at https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/details/index-card-from-the-jewish-council-card-file-in-amsterdam ☑

2/2 **Árpád Weisz**



Document 2: Excerpt from the Westerbork register of the Information Office of the Dutch Red Cross, created after WWII, 1.1.46.7/5156788/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives. The last column contains the date of deportation from Westerbork.



Master Template of Biography Sheet

Document may best be enlarged to	no.		
		Photo	
Surname, First Nam	e, Date of Birth		
-			
Career			
		Persecution	
		44	
		/	
		4 Remembranc	a



Final discussion: Instructions for Teamers

The final discussion (about 30 minutes) brings together the findings from the project day about the different groups of victims of Nazi persecution and the different places of persecution. This will then lead to an open discussion about possible individual research and remembrance projects of the participants.

Groups of Victims and Places of Persecution

Following the preceding workshop, the participants will first examine the differences and commonalities between the Auschwitz and Westerbork sites. The participants will add the three to four metaplan cards on the history of the respective camp to the general timeline (politics level) and discuss when the respective camp was established and what its role was in the context of persecution. The teamers will then talk about the significance of the locations in terms of the persecution of different groups and the point in time at which the purpose of the locations became relevant. The teamers will also include other camps that are marked on the overview map and which play a role in the second workshop phase through the discussion of the biographies of Julius Hirsch, Norbert Lopper, Nicolas Birtz and Čestmír Vycpálek, either by classifying them themselves or by asking the participants to do so.

The result should show that Auschwitz-Birkenau and Westerbork, along with other locations, had the function of death camps or transit camps in the extermination of European Jews from 1942 onward. Even before and during the Holocaust, the Nazis used the Auschwitz concentration camp and other concentration camps to imprison political opponents and other groups exposing them to systematic violence and slave labor under life-threatening and often murderous conditions. But as the biography of Norbert Lopper shows, these camps are also part of the history of the Holocaust, since the Jews who were not directly murdered after deportation but were »selected« to perform slave labor formed a significant share of the prisoners in the concentration camps in the second half of the war. Lopper was deported from Auschwitz to Mittelbau-Dora to perform forced labor and on to Mauthausen, where he was finally liberated.

Individual Research and Remembrance Projects

To conclude the workshop with a discussion and possible agreement on follow-up activities, the teamers will distribute the information sheet with tips for individual research and remembrance projects. In addition, the teamers will ask questions about the participants' own city and links to the previously discussed places of persecution and others. (What happened in our city? Who was persecuted? Were the locations that we learned about also important to victims from our city? Which other sites of persecution played a role?) Depending on the prior knowledge of the participants, initial information can already be collected, and gaps in remembrance can be identified. The information sheet gives advice on where further research can be carried out locally and online. The participants may even be able to carry out an initial search for their own city in the online archive of the Arolsen Archives during the workshop in order to get a sense of how much material is available.

In a last step, the teamers initiate a discussion about different forms of remembrance activities. The information sheet provides some ideas for this, and the results of the previous workshop phase can be taken up (e.g., which form of remembrance did you find particularly appealing or appropriate? How can the commemoration of the victims of Nazi persecution be integrated into your own club or fan-specific activities? How could we remember them additionally?). Ideally, the discussion will result in agreeing to take action together. Alternatively, the teamers may suggest a way in which participants who are interested in follow-up activities can continue to exchange ideas.



Tips for Individual Research and Remembrance Projects

Researching the history of Nazi persecution and its victims as well as starting your own remembrance project is much easier than you might think. Five ideas for individual projects, which differ in terms of the time required and the level of difficulty, are provided on this information sheet. In addition, you will receive information on where to start researching the local history of persecution.

Idea 1: A Remembrance Banner in the Stands

Display a banner in the stands during a football game that recalls local Nazi persecution or commemorates one or more victims. The occasion for this could be the anniversary of an act of persecution (pogrom night, deportation, etc.) or the date of death of the persecuted person.



Time required: medium



Difficulty: easy

Idea 2: Visit a Memorial with Fans of Your Club

Organize a visit to a memorial with fans of your club and help to spread awareness about Nazi persecution and to ensure it is not forgotten. Share your thoughts or a photo of the memorial visit with the hashtag of your club on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. The visit should be prepared and reflected on site. You can find special materials for this on the Arolsen Archives website: https://aroa.to/documented-en <a>C.



 $(\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{O})))$ Time required: high



☼ ☼ Difficulty: average



If you want to find out more about the fate of individual prisoners or about Nazi persecution locally, we recommend researching in the online archive of the Arolsen Archives: https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en <a>C.

We also recommend visiting your local city, community, or district archive that keeps other documents. They will certainly be glad to help. The Archives Portal Europe offers a comprehensive overview: https://www.archivesportaleurope.net/directory 2

Idea 3: An Exhibition in Your Stadium, Clubhouse, or Fan Club

Launch an exhibition about Nazi crimes and the victims of persecution locally in your stadium, clubhouse, or fan club. Research documents and images and think about what story the exhibition should tell and how it should be designed. One way would be to create several posters with documents and photos as well as explanatory texts.



Time required: high





Difficulty: high

Idea 4: An Article in the Stadium Magazine or on Your Club's Website

Research the local history of persecution and the life stories of individual victims of persecution from your city and summarize the results in an article for your stadium magazine or your club's website. The article can also be combined with one of the aforementioned activities and used to promote or explain them.





Time required: medium 🌣 🖒 🗘 Difficulty: average





Idea 5: Help to Clarify Fates and Remember!

Help us to ensure that all names of victims of Nazi persecution can be found in the online archive of the Arolsen Archives as soon as possible! Sometimes a name on a transport list is the last known piece of information about a victim. Especially for relatives, it is very important to find this information. On a special online platform, you can link the scans of the documents to the names and thus make an important contribution to remembering the victims. You can find all information about the project here: https://aroa.to/joinin ♂.



Time required: low





☆ ☆ Difficulty: easy



Many sites of Nazi crimes in Germany and other European countries offer memorials with guided tours and research assistance. You can find an overview and contact addresses at: https://www.gedenkstaetten-uebersicht.de/en/europe In addition, many cities and municipalities have their own remembrance initiatives.

Please contact us if you need further tips and help with research or advice for your remembrance project! Contact: education@arolsen-archives.org

In many European countries, football players were persecuted by the Nazis during World War II. As Jews or political opponents, they were deported to German camps. This publication includes various biographies of athletes who were persecuted in this way – some more well known than others – and provides an opportunity to learn about the history of individual camps and Nazi occupation in Europe through their individual stories of persecution. Short biographies provide insights into the life of football players in the pre-war period and an overview of the early years of European football. Documents from the Nazi era promote a questioning approach to learning about Nazi persecution and the suffering of different groups of victims who had only one thing in common: they were football players.

These educational materials are suitable for use in schools and other educational contexts. They have been compiled with fan initiatives and fan clubs especially in mind. They include information on how to design a project day in order to learn about the history of Nazi persecution from the perspective of football. Source materials are explored with the help of online tools. Additional information is provided to encourage people to do research on persecuted athletes from their own city or on the role of their own club during the Nazi era.

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