

# Children of the Holocaust



## Inge Auerbacher

*Born December 31, 1934 in Kippenheim, Germany*

Inge, the only child of Regina and Berthold Auerbacher, was born a year after the Nazis came to power. She lived in a small village in southern Germany where her father had his own textile business. Inge's father, a soldier in World War I, had been badly wounded and received the "Iron Cross" for bravery.

On the night of November 9-10, 1938, just before Inge's fourth birthday, countrywide acts of terror and destruction were carried out against Germany's Jews. Inge's father was arrested and sent to a concentration camp. After his release a few weeks later, the family realized the need to leave the country, but they had nowhere to go. They moved to her mother's home town. Inge's grandfather soon died, hurt by the country he loved so much.

Harsh restrictions were imposed and life became increasingly difficult. A former servant provided them with food. Inge could no longer attend the local public school. Six year-old Inge had to walk two miles to a larger town to catch a train in order to attend a Jewish school in Stuttgart. In 1941, she was forced to wear the yellow star, and was taunted by the other children on the train.

In late 1941, Inge, her parents and her grandmother were told to report for "resettlement." Her father, a disabled World War I veteran, obtained a postponement, but her grandmother was sent to Latvia where she was murdered.

On August 22, 1942, Inge and her parents were arrested and deported. Forced to leave all their possessions behind, they were sent to the Theresienstadt ghetto in Czechoslovakia. Inge and her parents were sent to the disabled war veterans' section of the ghetto where they were allowed to stay together. Conditions were horrendous. Food was scarce, sanitation was poor, and heating was inadequate. The ghetto was infested with disease-carrying vermin. Always hungry, Inge and her parents constantly lived with the fear that they would be deported to the death camps in Poland. In the spring of 1945, the Germans began building gas chambers in Theresienstadt, where they planned to kill all the remaining Jews. But on May 8, 1945, Soviet troops entered the ghetto and ten year-old Inge and her parents were freed.

**Of the 15,000 children who had been imprisoned at Theresienstadt, only 100 survived. The Germans and their collaborators murdered 1.5 million Jewish children in the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Greti Skala

*Born August 10, 1935 in Secovce, Czechoslovakia*

Greti, the daughter of Emery and Stefania (Bley), was three years old when the Germans occupied Czechoslovakia. Her father worked in the family hardware store. The Germans immediately began persecuting and brutalizing the Jewish residents of her town. When they confiscated her father's store, he lost his livelihood. Greti's father desperately searched for a way to survive.

Through a friend, he was able to obtain false baptism certificates, giving the family a new identity. They changed their last name to Skala and moved to Bratislava, the capital city of the region. The family lived as best as they could under wartime conditions. They constantly lived in fear that they would be betrayed. Greti began school and became the top student in her class. She even helped her Christian classmates with their religious lessons.

In early 1944, Hungary seemed to be a relatively safe haven. Greti's father obtained visas for Hungary. Soon after their arrival at a Hungarian hotel, the Germans occupied Hungary. The Skalas were recognized as Jews and denounced. Handed over to the Nazis, Greti and her parents were deported to the Ravensbrueck concentration camp in Germany.

Conditions in Ravensbrueck barely sustained life. The Germans were determined to starve their prisoners to death. Typhus-carrying vermin infested the entire camp. Eight year-old Greti and her mother managed to stay alive. In April 1945, as the Allies approached, Greti and her mother, along with thousands of sick and starving inmates, were evacuated from Ravensbrueck and forced to march westward. Many hundreds died of exhaustion, while others were shot. Some were even killed by allied bombs.

They arrived at Bergen-Belsen, a camp filled with dead and dying prisoners. In May 1945, the camp was liberated. Greti, who had contracted typhus in Bergen-Belsen, and her mother were sent home in trucks to Bratislava. Greti was immediately hospitalized. She soon died. Greti was only nine years old.

**Greti was one of 1.5 million Jewish children who were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Richard Benguigui

*Born March 31, 1937 in Oran, Algeria*

Richard Benguigui was born in Oran, Algeria, on March 31, 1937. At the time of Richard's birth, Algeria still belonged to France, and was home to nearly 120,000 Jews. Seeking to improve the chances for a better life for her children, Mrs. Benguigui moved the family shortly before the war to the bustling port city of Marseilles, France. When the Germans conquered France in 1940, the 350,000 Jews living in the country found themselves the targets of ever-growing persecution.

The Germans divided France, occupying all of the north, allowing French collaborators to rule most of the southern zone, where Richard lived. The government in the south was directly responsible to the Germans and usually cooperated with them against the Jews. On July 31, 1943, Richard's mother was arrested by French collaborators and was deported to the Auschwitz death camp in Poland, where she was subjected to horrific medical experiments. Richard, six years old, and his brothers Jacques, who was twelve, and Jean-Claude, who was five, were sent to live in the children's home in Izieu. Their baby sister, Yvette, was hidden by sympathetic French farmers.

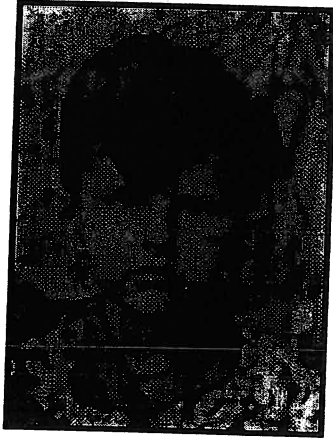
The children's home in Izieu was run by a staff who did everything they could to brighten up the lives of the children with picnics and other pleasurable activities. But the children at the home were Jewish, and the Germans were determined not to let them remain alive for long.

On April 6, 1944, the Nazis came for the children of Izieu. The Benguigui brothers and their friends at the home were deported to the Auschwitz death camp in Poland one month later.

The German officer responsible for the arrests was Klaus Barbie. Barbie escaped justice after the war by working as a spy for the United States. He had been living in South America when the scandal was uncovered decades later. Barbie was eventually extradited to France, where on July 4, 1987, he was sentenced to life imprisonment for "crimes against humanity." On hand for the trial were Mrs. Benguigui and her daughter, Yvette. Both had miraculously survived the Holocaust. Richard and his two brothers were unable to see Barbie brought to justice. They perished in the gas chambers of Auschwitz in May 1944.

**Richard was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Lia Borak

*Born 1928 in Lvov (Lemberg), Poland*

Lia and her twin sister, Mia, were the daughters of Evelina (Wender) and Adolf Borak. They lived in the city of Lvov, in eastern Poland. Their father had been a very wealthy landowner who lost much of his money before the war. The family was still well off, however, and they lived in a comfortable villa in a suburb of the city. The two girls were always dressed in pretty clothes, and had many toys and dolls. They were fraternal twins, and could be easily told apart because Mia wore glasses and had lighter hair.

Lvov had a thriving Jewish community in 1939. It was home to a Jewish population of 110,000, and was a center of culture, education and political activity.

The Germans occupied Lvov on June 30, 1941, and immediately began murdering Jews. During four days of horrible antisemitic rioting, over 4,000 Jews were killed. Soon after, all Jews age fourteen and above were forced to wear the yellow star. Over the next few months, Jewish property was plundered, Jews were sent to forced labor, synagogues were burned down, and Jewish cemeteries were desecrated.

In December 1941, the Germans forced the Jews of Lvov into a closed-off ghetto. During the move, over 5,000 elderly and sick Jews were murdered. Conditions in the ghetto were horrendous. There was terrible overcrowding and little food or sanitation. That winter, the Germans began sending Jews to labor camps, where they were worked to death. After March 1942, the Germans began rounding up Jews and sending them to the Belzec death camp. Only those working in factories that performed essential functions for the German military were to be spared. In January 1943, the ghetto officially became a labor camp. Now the Germans began murdering Jews at their places of work. On June 1, 1943, a final round up of the Jews in the ghetto was begun. German and Ukrainian police units surrounded the ghetto, blocking all exits. Other units were sent into ghetto to capture the remaining inhabitants. When they met resistance, the Germans blew up buildings or set them afire. The 7,000 Jews they forced out of hiding were immediately shot.

Mia and Lia were twelve years old when the Germans occupied Lvov. No details are known about their fate. A rumor circulated that the girls were forced to take part in German experiments on twins.

**One and a half million Jewish children were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Renya Sieger

*Born October 10, 1936 in Cracow, Poland*

Renya, the daughter of Josef and Mala (Reifer) Sieger, was born in Cracow, Poland. Cracow was a large industrial city. Between the two world wars, Jewish cultural and social life flourished in Cracow. By 1939, approximately 60,000 Jews lived in Cracow, Poland's third largest city.

Cracow was occupied by the Germans on September 6, 1939. Renya was not yet three years old when the Germans began persecuting Cracow's Jews. Jewish property was seized and several synagogues were burned down. By March 1941, approximately 40,000 Jews had been expelled to neighboring towns, their property confiscated. At the same time, a sealed-off ghetto was established. The worst problems were the result of overcrowding and poor sanitary conditions. The population was impoverished, and the Germans set up several factories to exploit the cheap labor in the ghetto. Thousands of Jews died in the streets from starvation, disease, and exposure. At the end of May 1942, the Germans began deporting Jews from the ghetto to death camps. By June 8, 1942, approximately 3,000 Jews were deported to the Belzec death camp; 300 had been shot on the spot.

Many strong and healthy Jews were sent to work in the Plaszow slave labor camp. In October 1943, approximately 7,000 Jews were deported to Belzec and Auschwitz. In addition, 600 Jews were shot on the spot. At this time, the Jews living in the old age home, the hospital, and the orphanage were all arrested and sent to death camps. The round ups continued until the end of March 1943 when the ghetto was emptied. Of the Jews sent to the Plaszow labor camp, only a few hundred survived.

Renya and her family disappeared without a trace.

**One and a half million Jewish children were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Monia Levinski

*Born 1931 in Kazlu-Ruda, Lithuania*

Monia, the son of Leon and Chaja Levinski, lived along with his parents and his older sister Assia in a small village in Lithuania. Monia's father was a lumber dealer. Monia was a member of a large, loving, close-knit extended family. His grandparents lived on a large farm a few miles outside of town. Both of his parents had attended high school in Marijampole, the closest city. Marijampole's 2,545 Jews earned their livelihood from trading in agricultural produce and from small industry. The Jews of Marijampole established the first Hebrew high school in Lithuania. A small farm which trained youth interested in pioneering in Palestine was established outside the city.

Monia was a ten year-old schoolboy in the summer of 1941, when the Germans invaded Lithuania. Monia and his family were forced to leave their home. Along with all the Jews of the surrounding area, they were confined to an overcrowded, sealed-off ghetto in Marijampole. Over 7,000 people endured great hardship. There was inadequate food, medicine, and sanitation.

At the beginning of September 1941, the ghetto was emptied. Jews, in groups of 500, were marched a few miles out of the city by members of German mobile killing squads, the Einsatzgruppen, and their Lithuanian collaborators. Anyone trying to escape was immediately shot. Forced to stand along already prepared ditches, they were massacred. Monia was ten years old.

**Monia was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Renate Wolff

*Born October 19, 1933 in Hamburg, Germany*

Renate, the older daughter of Georg and Lilli (Engers), lived with her family in Hamburg, Germany. Before the Nazi takeover, the Jews of Hamburg were prosperous and were well-integrated into the city's social and cultural life. They were prominent in most professions. Renate's father worked as a teacher and cantor for Hamburg's large Reform Jewish community.

The very year that Renate was born, the Nazis came to power in Germany and began passing a series of anti-Jewish measures. Jews were barred from most professions, public schools, and many public places, and Jewish businesses were confiscated. Jews were stripped of their German citizenship and were segregated from the population as a whole. Many Jews began to flee the country, but others, like Renate's parents, believed that the restrictions were only temporary and would soon end.

After the wide-scale destruction, violence, and acts of terror that occurred on the night of November 9-10, 1938, Renate's parents tried desperately to get their children out of Germany. They wrote to refugee assistance organizations in England, begging them to find a place for their daughters. Because their parents could not pay for their children's care in England, the two young girls remained trapped in Germany.

In December 1941, when Renate was eight years old, the entire family, along with 16,000 other German Jews, was deported to Riga, Latvia. The 30,000 local Jews, who had already been living in the sealed-off ghetto, had been murdered by the Germans to make room for them. There was inadequate food, water, and sanitary facilities. Thousands died from starvation, disease, and exposure.

By December 1943, the ghetto was emptied of its population. Most of the inhabitants were murdered by the Germans or sent to labor camps where they were worked to death.

Renate and her family disappeared without a trace.

**One and a half million Jewish children were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Assia Levinski

*Born 1928 in Kazlu-Ruda, Lithuania*

Assia, the daughter of Leon and Chaja Levinski, lived with her parents and younger brother Monia in a small village in Lithuania. Assia's father was a lumber dealer. Assia was a member of a large, loving, close-knit extended family. Her grandparents lived on a large farm a few miles outside of town. Both of her parents had attended high school in Marijampole, the closest city. Marijampole's 2,545 Jews earned their livelihood from trading in agricultural produce and from small industry. The Jews of Marijampole established the first Hebrew high school in Lithuania. A small farm which trained youth interested in pioneering in Palestine was established outside the city.

Assia was a thirteen year-old schoolgirl in the summer of 1941, when the Germans invaded Lithuania. Assia and her family were forced to leave their home. Along with all the Jews of the surrounding area, they were confined to an overcrowded, sealed-off ghetto in Marijampole. Over 7,000 people endured great hardship. There was inadequate food, medicine, and sanitation.

At the beginning of September 1941, Jews were forced to leave the ghetto. In groups of 500, they were marched by members the Einsatzgruppen, special mobile killing squads, and their Lithuanian collaborators, a few miles outside the city. Anyone trying to escape was immediately shot. Forced to stand along already prepared ditches, they were massacred. Assia was thirteen years old.

**Assia was one of 1.5 Jewish children who were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**



# Children of the Holocaust



## Agnes Ringwald

*Born November 17, 1935 in Pestszenterzsebet, Hungary*

Agnes, the daughter of Eugene and Ilona (Roth) Ringwald, lived in the town of Pestszenterzsebet, a suburb of Budapest, Hungary. Agnes's father was a medical doctor. The town's 4,522 Jewish citizens were mostly laborers, but some were businessmen, lawyers, and doctors. A Jewish school had been established in 1922.

When Hungary allied itself with Germany, antisemitic measures were enacted, but the majority of the Jewish citizens were only vaguely aware of the large-scale destruction of the Jews elsewhere in Europe. Jews were considered important to Hungary's economic stability. Many Jewish men, however, were forced to join hard labor battalions and were treated harshly.

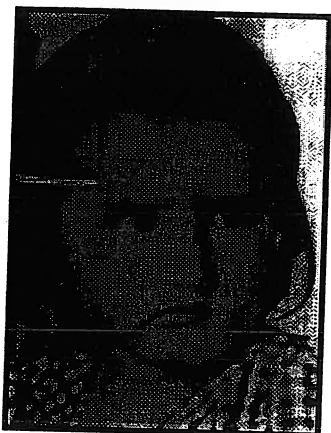
In March 1944, when Agnes was an eight year-old schoolgirl, the Germans invaded Hungary and immediately set into action their plan for the destruction of all Hungarian Jewry. Forced to wear the yellow star and herded into sealed-off ghettos, the Jews of Hungary refused to believe that they would be sent to concentration camps and to their deaths.

In July 1944, the 3,000 Jews remaining in Agnes's town were among the last to be deported to the Auschwitz death camp in Poland.

Eight and a half year-old Agnes and her mother were immediately taken to the gas chambers and murdered.

**Agnes was one of 1.5 million Jewish children who were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Liane Krochmal

*Born July 25, 1937 in Vienna, Austria*

The daughter of Jacob and Amalie Krochmal, Liane was only a baby when Austria lost its independence and became part of Nazi Germany. Vienna had been home to some 175,000 Jews and was one of the world's most important Jewish cultural centers. But Vienna also had a reputation as a city in which antisemitism flourished. When the Germans took over in March 1938, they found many Austrians willing to participate in the persecution of the Jews.

Seeing no hope under the Nazis, the Krochmal family fled to France. From France they hoped to eventually receive permission to enter the United States. Liane had an uncle living in New York who was willing to guarantee the support of the entire family.

Despite her uncle's guarantee, the U.S. State Department refused the Krochmals permission to come to the United States. Soon thereafter, Liane's parents and older brother, Siegfried, eleven years old, were arrested by the French police and handed over to the Germans. They were sent to a transit camp, where Siegfried died. Liane's parents were eventually deported to the Auschwitz death camp in Poland.

Liane, who was five, and her seven year-old sister Renate, were sent to live in the children's home at Izieu. On April 6, 1944, the home was raided and the children were shipped to Auschwitz. They were murdered in the gas chambers upon their arrival.

The German officer who ordered the despicable raid on the children's home was Klaus Barbie. Barbie escaped punishment after the war by agreeing to work as a spy for the United States, and it was only many years later that the scandal was uncovered. Barbie was eventually sent back to France for trial, where on July 4, 1987, he was convicted of "crimes against humanity" and sentenced to life in prison.

The Krochmals never lived to see Barbie brought to trial. They were murdered by the Nazis, because no country would take them. Liane was only seven years old when she died.

**Liane was one of 1.5 million Jewish children who were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Alexander Hornemann

*Born May 31, 1936 in Eindhoven, Holland*

Alexander, the son of Philip and Elizabeth Hornemann, was born in Eindhoven, Holland, on May 31, 1936. His father, an executive with the Philips Corporation, provided a comfortable living for his family.

When the Germans occupied Holland in May 1940, Alexander was four years old. The Nazis immediately instituted harsh anti-Jewish measures. Alexander's family was temporarily exempted from many of the restrictions because of his father's position with the Philips Corporation. After the Germans began deporting Jews to death camps, the Philips Corporation set up a special section for its Jewish employees.

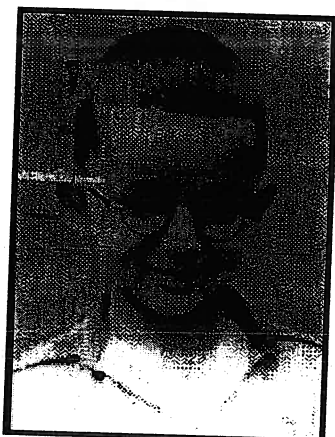
On August 18, 1943, German troops surrounded the Philips plant in Eindhoven, and arrested all the Jews. Alexander's father and the rest of the Jewish employees were sent to Vught, a Dutch concentration camp, where they were put to work in a Philips operation that employed over 3,000 of the prisoners. The Philips workers received extra rations and were given the special privilege of living together with their wives and children. When a Philips Corporation representative told Alexander's mother that the company could guarantee her family's safety only if she joined her husband in the camp, she felt that she had no choice but to go.

On June 3, 1944, the Hornemanns were deported to the Birkenau death camp in Poland. Alexander and his brother remained with their mother and were sent to the women's barracks. Conditions in the camp were horrendous. There was little food, and disease was rampant. Alexander's mother contracted typhoid fever three months after their arrival, and died soon after. A few days after their mother's death, Alexander and his brother, along with 20 other Jewish children, were chosen to be used in horrific medical experiments. In the fall of 1944, the children were transferred to the Neuengamme concentration camp. The children were injected with tuberculosis cultures and became extremely ill.

On April 20, 1945, when the British were less than three miles from the camp, the sick children were put into a truck and brought to a school in Hamburg. They were injected with morphine and hanged. Alexander was eight years old.

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# Children of the Holocaust



## Abraham Beem

*Born June 13, 1934 in Leeuwarden, Holland*

Abraham, the son of Hartog and Rosette Beem, was a five year-old schoolboy when the Germans invaded Holland in May 1940. Abraham's father was a high school teacher in the small city of Leeuwarden, in northern Holland. The Jews of the Netherlands were well-integrated into the general population and they were active in all aspects of the country's social, cultural and economic life.

When the Germans invaded, they immediately embarked upon steps to separate the Jews from the rest of the population. Beginning in October 1940, they liquidated Jewish businesses and banned Jews from most professions. The rich became poor and the middle class was reduced to subsistence levels. At first, the Dutch population resisted the anti-Jewish measures enacted by the Germans. But the Germans reacted brutally, and were able to break up most organized resistance.

Many Jews were forced into restricted ghetto areas in July 1941, and after May 1942, all Jews had to wear the yellow star. Beginning in mid-July 1942, the Germans began rounding up Holland's Jewish citizens. They were first taken to transit camps, and from there to death camps in Poland, where they were murdered.

Abraham's parents decided that the family would go into hiding. They felt that the children would be safer posing as non-Jews in a rural village. Abraham and his older sister were sent to the village of Ermelo, and a Christian family, willing to risk death to save them, was found. Abraham was given a new name and identity. He was known as Jan de Witt, and he attended school along with the other village children.

The Nazis, realizing that many Jewish children had been sent into hiding, intensified their search. They found collaborators willing to turn them in for payment. Nine year-old Abraham was denounced as a Jew in February 1944. Abraham, along with his older sister Eva, was deported to the Auschwitz death camp in Poland, where both were murdered upon arrival.

**Abraham was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Natus Weissblatt

*Born 1926 in Warsaw, Poland*

Natus, the son of Rena and Mark Weissblatt, was a thirteen year-old schoolboy when the Germans occupied Warsaw in September 1939. Warsaw was a large, cosmopolitan city, home to Europe's largest Jewish community. His father was one of the few Jews who was permitted to work for the Polish government. Natus's mother gave private Hebrew lessons, and his grandfather was highly involved in the Jewish community. They lived in an affluent area of Warsaw. Natus was an outstanding student. Part of a large, loving, and highly educated family, Natus had a comfortable, secure early childhood.

In October 1940, Natus and his family, along with all the other Jewish residents of the city, were forced to leave their homes and to live in a ghetto. On November 15, after an 8-foot wall was built around the area, the Jews of Warsaw were cut off from the rest of the world. Over 265,000 people were packed into apartments within 73 streets. That number would soon grow by another 200,000.

Lacking money and the means to earn it, most residents were quickly impoverished. Food, medicine and heat were inadequate. Thousands died from starvation, exposure and disease. Children often risked their lives to smuggle food into the ghetto so that their families could eat. Yet, amidst all the horror, schools and other cultural events were organized.

In July 1942, the Germans began rounding up and deporting ghetto residents in massive raids. Few were exempt. Packed like cattle into freight cars, they were sent to the nearby Treblinka death camp, where most were immediately taken to the gas chambers and murdered.

By September 1942, only 60,000 people, mostly young men and women, were left. They were the last remnants of their families and they resolved to fight the Germans. On Passover eve, April 19, 1943, the Germans began what they believed was to be the final round-up and deportation. Instead they were met with organized, armed resistance. The Germans began to systematically burn the buildings in order to force people out of hiding. Armed mostly with grenades and other incendiary devices, the young Jewish fighters fought the Germans, house by house, for almost a month. The Germans soon turned the ghetto into one great burning torch. On May 16, 1943, it was over.

Nothing is known of the fate of Natus and his family after they were forced into the ghetto and cut off from the world.

**One and a half million Jewish children were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Gabriele Silten

*Born May 30, 1933 in Berlin, Germany*

Gabriele, the daughter of Fritz and Ilse (Teppich) Silten, was born in Berlin, Germany. Berlin, a sophisticated and cosmopolitan city, was home to a highly assimilated Jewish community. Gabriele's father was a pharmacist and the Siltens had a comfortable life.

After Hitler came into power in Germany in 1933, life for Germany's Jews became increasingly difficult. Hitler's Nazi party passed various antisemitic measures stripping German Jews of their citizenship, cutting them off from all social interaction with non-Jews, and harshly restricting Jewish economic life. Jews were barred from most professions and the majority became impoverished. In 1938, Gabriele and her family fled to Holland. Settling in Amsterdam, Gabriele made friends with a girl her own age living in the same building. They attended kindergarten together, and Gabriele quickly learned Dutch.

The Nazis invaded Holland in May 1940, just before Gabriele's seventh birthday. Gabriele was no longer allowed to play with her non-Jewish friends. She had to attend a private school for Jewish children and wear the yellow star.

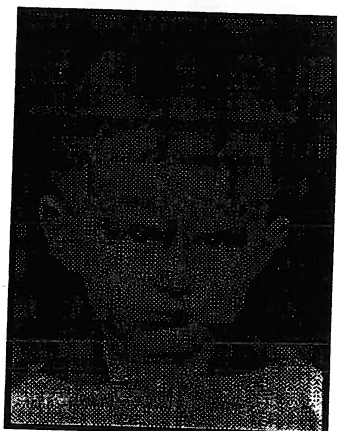
Arrested in a massive raid on June 20, 1943, Gabriele and her family were sent to the Westerbork transit camp. In January 1944, Gabriele and her parents were transported in cattle cars to the Theresienstadt ghetto in Czechoslovakia. Conditions were horrible. The ghetto was extremely overcrowded and infested with typhus-spreading vermin. Gabriele was fortunate to be able to stay with her mother and father. Nearly everyone worked 10 hours a day, seven days a week. There was little food, and Gabriele often went hungry. Ten year-old Gabriele was put to work as a message carrier in the old-age home.

Prisoners at Theresienstadt were generally transported to other camps in Poland, where they were murdered. Gabriele and her parents were still in Theresienstadt when it was liberated on May 8, 1945. They were weak and in poor health.

Only 100 of the many thousands of Jewish children who passed through Theresienstadt survived the Holocaust. Gabriele was fortunate to be among them.

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# Children of the Holocaust



## Emmanuel Alper

*Born 1927 in Pinsk, Poland*

Emmanuel was born in Pinsk, Poland in 1927. His father, David, was a prominent educator, principal in the prestigious Tarbut Gymnasia (a Jewish high school), and active in the Zionist movement. His mother Shoshana (Barlas) was born in Warsaw and married his father in 1922. She taught with her husband at the high school.

Under the Soviet-German Pact, Pinsk was occupied by the Russians in 1939. The Jews living in Pinsk had little information about what the Germans were doing to the Jews living under their occupation, and they felt relatively secure.

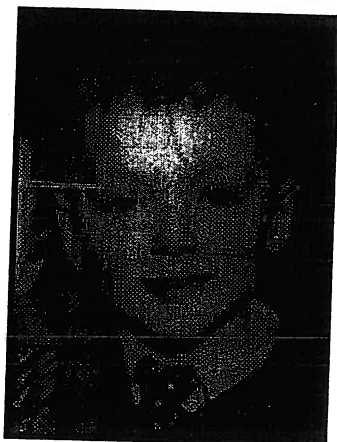
The Germans occupied Pinsk in July 1941 and immediately set up a Jewish Council to facilitate their planned murder of the entire Jewish population of the city. Emmanuel's father was chosen to head the Council, but he resigned within two days, when he realized what would be required of him. Ten days later, the Germans executed him.

The Germans set up a sealed-off ghetto on April 30, 1942. They forced the entire Jewish population, including Emmanuel, his sister Avia and his mother, inside the ghetto. It was overcrowded and lacked adequate food and sanitation. Between October 20 and November 1, 1942, nearly all of the 20,000 Jews remaining in the ghetto were rounded up by the Germans and murdered.

Emmanuel was fifteen years old.

**Emmanuel was one of the 1.5 million Jewish children were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Isi Brauman

*Born 1934 in Liepaja, Latvia*

Isi, the older son of Ana and Abram Brauman, lived in the port city of Liepaja, Latvia, on the shores of the Baltic Sea. His father, a tailor, managed to support the family. In 1935, the city had a Jewish population of 7,379 out of a total population of 57,098. Latvia was annexed to the Soviet Union in 1940. On June 29, 1941, when Isi was a seven year-old schoolboy, the Germans occupied the city.

The Germans immediately instituted anti-Jewish measures, among them decrees ordering the wearing of the yellow star and a draft for forced labor. Jewish males age 16 to 60 were required to report daily at the city square. Of those who reported, some were sent to forced labor, and others were taken to prison. Those who failed to report were arrested in their homes, or on the street, and were murdered.

In August 1941, most Jews were forced to work for the German army. Many Jews had their money, furniture, and household goods confiscated and were forced from their homes. Jews considered unfit were murdered, including residents of the old-age home. By November 1941, half of the Jewish population had been killed.

On December 13, 1941, a decree was issued ordering the Jews to stay at home on December 15 and 16. On the night of December 14, Latvian police, working under German orders, rounded up Jews in their homes and took them to prison. The few holders of work permits and their families were released, but most of the other Jews were taken to a small fishing village to be murdered. Ordered to undress in freezing temperatures, they were led, in groups of 10, to the edge of already prepared trenches. There they were shot by firing squads, two gunmen for each victim. Women were told to hold their babies against their shoulders to make them easier targets. Over 2,700 Jews, including women and children, were murdered during this action.

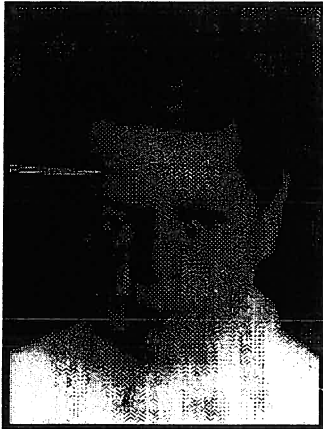
Two similar mass murders took place in February and April 1942. After that, the 805 Jews left in the city were confined to an overcrowded, sealed-off ghetto. The ghetto was emptied in October 1943. The residents were taken to Kaiserwald concentration camp, where most died.

We know nothing about Isi and his family after the Germans occupied Liepaja in 1941. No further traces have ever been found.

**One and a half million Jewish children were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust.**



# Children of the Holocaust



## Samuel Hiller

*Born 1941 in Cracow, Poland*

Samuel, the son of Cesia and David Hiller, was born just before the Germans forced the Jews of Cracow into a closed-off ghetto.

Before the war, Samuel's mother was a saleslady, and his father was a merchant. They lived in Cracow, a large industrial city where Jewish cultural and social life had flourished between the two world wars. By 1939, Cracow, the third largest city in Poland, had 60,000 Jewish citizens.

Cracow was occupied by the Germans on September 6, 1939. The Germans immediately began persecuting the Jews. Jewish property was confiscated and several synagogues were burned down. By March 1941, approximately 40,000 Jews had been expelled to neighboring towns and their remaining property was seized. At the same time, a closed-off ghetto was established. The worst problems included overcrowding, hunger, and poor sanitary conditions. The population was impoverished, and the Germans set up several factories in the ghetto to exploit the cheap manpower in the ghetto. Many Jews died in the streets from starvation, disease, and exposure.

At the end of May 1942, the Germans began deporting Jews from the ghetto to the death camps. At the end of March 1943, Samuel's mother received word that the ghetto was to be emptied and all its inhabitants murdered. Samuel's mother escaped from the ghetto, and arranged for a Christian woman to care for her two year-old son. Unable to bear not seeing her child, Samuel's mother left her hiding place to visit him. On one visit, she was recognized as a Jewess and was shot on the spot by the Gestapo. Samuel's father died in Auschwitz death camp in 1944.

After liberation in 1945, Samuel's aunt claimed the four year-old child, and raised him as her own.

**One and a half 1.5 million Jewish children were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust. Samuel was one of the few who survived.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Victor Rona

*Born December 26, 1928 in Satu-Mare, Rumania*

Victor was born on December 26, 1928 in Satu-Mare, where he lived with his parents and his older brother Erwin. His father, Alexander Samuel Rona, had attended university in Budapest, and he was a professor in the State Commercial College in Satu-Mare. His mother, Magdalena (Balkany), was active in Jewish communal activities.

Jews comprised 20 percent of the population of Satu-Mare. They took an active role in the development of commerce and industry in the city, and were found in almost all professions.

When Hungary annexed this part of Rumania in 1940, it passed antisemitic measures barring Jews from various professions. Victor's father lost his job, but he became director of the Jewish High School, which was founded in 1941. Life for the Jews of Hungary became extremely difficult, but few felt that their lives were in danger.

As a high school student, Victor excelled in literature, music and sports. He won a medal in a fencing competition against a non-Jewish team, despite the prevailing antisemitic attitude of the period. He took piano lessons, and he spent hours working on his stamp collection. He was also active in several Jewish youth organizations, where he was well liked.

In March 1944, Germany invaded Hungary. Two months later, the Jews of Satu-Mare were suddenly forced by the Germans to live in a sealed-off ghetto. Deportations to death camps began almost immediately. Victor and his family were deported on May 30, 1944.

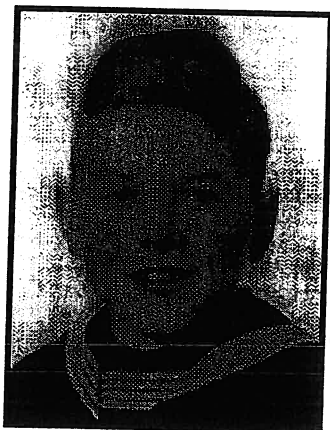
Strong and healthy, fifteen year-old Victor was chosen for forced labor instead of immediate death. From June 1944 until April 1945, he was sent to four different slave labor camps in Germany. Somehow he survived the horrors and terrible deprivations of the camps. He was liberated in April 1945.

Five days later, he died of a bayonet wound in his left arm that he had received in a labor camp two weeks earlier. He received no medical help.

Victor was sixteen years old when he died.

**Victor was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Hans Ament

*Born February 15, 1934 in Vienna, Austria*

Hans, the son of a successful manufacturer, was four years old when the Germans annexed Austria. He spent a lot of time playing with his older brother, Alfred, who taught him to ride his bicycle and play with a wind-up train. The family often spent their summers in the country.

After the German annexation of Austria, the Ament family fled to Belgium, where they immediately applied for visas to the United States. They received the visas in early 1940, but were put on a waiting list for berths on a ship. Hans attended school and quickly learned Flemish.

In May 1940, the Nazis invaded Belgium. Hans's father, who held a German passport, was arrested and sent to an internment camp in France.

In spring 1941, Hans's mother sold his brother's stamp collection for food. Later on she sold her engagement ring. When ordered to report for deportation to a "resettlement camp," they fled to Marseilles in unoccupied France.

In Marseilles, Hans attended the local public school and soon learned French. His mother became ill and was hospitalized. Hans was sent to a children's home in Izieu, and his brother was placed in a home for teenagers.

At the children's home, Hans lived with over 40 Jewish children and several adult counselors. The children often went on hikes, picnics, and swimming, while the older children helped out on local farms. The adults were determined to give their young charges a respite from the stress and danger they had already experienced. In November 1942, the Germans occupied all of France. Now, no Jew was safe.

On April 6, 1944, when Hans was ten years old, the Nazis raided the home. Most of the children and their counselors were sent to the Auschwitz death camp on April 15, where they were murdered in the death camps.

**Hans was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Oro Torres

*Born 1931 in Salonika, Greece*

Oro, the daughter of Eliau Mose and Mazeltov (Sasoon) Torres, was the youngest of five children. Her father owned a family-run clothing store.

They lived in Salonika, Greece, which was home to over 60,000 Jews. The Sephardic Jews of Salonika, descendants of Jews expelled from Spain in 1492, had a strong and active Jewish community and a vibrant, rich cultural life.

When the Germans occupied Salonika, Oro was ten years old. Her older brothers had fought the Germans. After the Greek army was defeated, they made their way back to a drastically changed Salonika. Jews were forbidden to enter restaurants and had to give up their radios. Other anti-Jewish measures were enacted making life exceedingly difficult. Economic measures were decreed, and the Torres family had to surrender the keys of their store to the Germans. They had no means of earning a living, and they were quickly impoverished. About 20,000 Salonika Jews were near starvation or ill with typhus. In July 1942, the Germans decreed heavy labor conscription for Jewish men. Many perished in malaria-infested swamps. On December 6, 1942, the ancient Jewish cemetery was plundered and the tombstones used to line latrines and to pave streets. In March 1943, the Jews were forced to live in a sealed-off ghetto and wear the yellow star.

On April 10, 1943, when Oro was twelve years old, her house was surrounded by Germans. They came inside, shouting, punching, and kicking everyone. They forced Oro and her family to leave the house, allowing them to take only a few personal items. Oro's older brother carried her father, who had recently suffered a stroke and could not walk. They were marched along the streets with other Jews to a transit camp near the train station. The next morning they were shoved into sealed, overcrowded cattle cars. For the 80 people in each car, there was one barrel of olives, one barrel of water, and one barrel for sanitation. Each person received a loaf of bread. They set off for a journey into the unknown.

Almost one month later, they arrived at the Auschwitz death camp. Oro, her mother and sister were sent to a holding area in the Birkenau section of the camp. One week later they were murdered in the gas chambers. Oro was twelve years old.

**Oro was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Eduard Hornemann

*Born 1932 in Eindhoven, Holland*

Eduard, the son of Philip and Elizabeth Hornemann, was born in Eindhoven, Holland, in 1932. His father, an executive with the Philips Corporation, provided a comfortable living for his family.

When the Germans occupied Holland in May 1940, Eduard was an eight year-old schoolboy. The Nazis immediately instituted harsh anti-Jewish measures. Eduard's family was temporarily exempted from many of the restrictions because of his father's position with the Philips Corporation. After the Germans began deporting Jews to death camps, the Philips Corporation set up a special section for its Jewish employees.

On August 18, 1943, German troops surrounded the Philips plant in Eindhoven, and arrested all the Jews. Eduard's father and the rest of the Jewish employees were sent to Vught, a Dutch concentration camp, where they were put to work in a Philips operation that employed over 3,000 of the prisoners. The Philips workers received extra rations and were given the special privilege of living with their wives and children. When a Philips Corporation representative told Eduard's mother that the company could guarantee her family's safety only if she joined her husband in the camp, she felt that she had no choice but to go.

On June 3, 1944, the Hornemanns were deported to the Birkenau death camp in Poland. Eduard and his brother remained with their mother and were sent to the women's barracks. Conditions in the camp were horrendous. There was little food, and disease was rampant. Eduard's mother contracted typhoid fever three months after their arrival, and died soon after. A few days after their mother's death, Eduard and his brother, along with 20 other Jewish children, were chosen to be used in medical experiments. In the fall of 1944, the children were transferred to the Neuengamme concentration camp. The children were injected with tuberculosis cultures and became extremely ill.

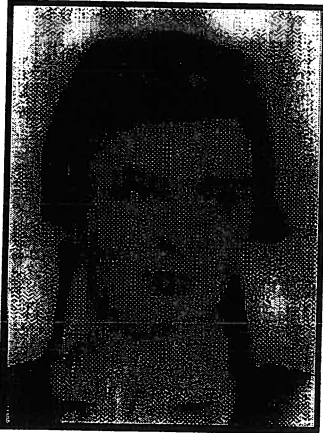
On April 20, 1945, when the British were less than three miles from the camp, the sick children were put into a truck and brought to a school in Hamburg. They were injected with morphine and hanged. Eduard was twelve years old.

**Eduard was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**

Holocaust profiles ]

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# Children of the Holocaust



## Stella Klingerova

*Born December 14, 1927 in Prague, Czechoslovakia*

Stella, the daughter of Gustav and Marie Klinger, was an eleven year-old schoolgirl when the Germans occupied Prague, Czechoslovakia, in March 1939. Her father was a businessman, and had three older children from a previous marriage. Stella's mother stayed home and cared for her.

Prague was a large, cosmopolitan city, and was home to one of the oldest and most revered Jewish communities in Europe. Jews contributed greatly to the economic progress of the city and played a key role in its rich cultural life.

After the German occupation, various antisemitic measures were passed, prohibiting Jews from practicing their professions or taking part in normal civic life. Property was confiscated, and Jews were prevented from participating in religious, cultural or any other form of public activity. They could not, for example, attend public schools or use public transportation.

From October 1941 to March 1945, the Jews of Prague were deported by the Germans to concentration camps.

In early 1942, Stella and her parents were deported to the Theresienstadt ghetto in Czechoslovakia. Conditions in the ghetto were horrible. There was terrible overcrowding, poor nutrition, and antiquated, limited sanitary facilities. Typhus-carrying vermin infested the ghetto. There were daily "selections," and those on the list were deported to the Auschwitz or Treblinka death camps.

Stella and her parents were "selected" in April 1942. They were deported to the Auschwitz death camp in Poland. Upon their arrival they were taken to the gas chambers and murdered. Stella was fourteen years old.

**Stella was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Sura Andrezejko

*Born 1927 in Stawiski, Poland*

Sura, the youngest daughter of Hershel and Fay Andrezejko, grew up on a farm in rural Poland. She lived in a small village, where the entire population was Jewish. Outside the village, the non-Jewish peasants were often hostile to the Jews.

Sura's older brother, Mordechai, left the village in 1938 for the United States. Sura remained in the village with her grandfather, parents, and older sister.

Sura's village, in the Bialystok region, was taken over by the Russians in 1939. Their lives were disrupted, causing much hardship, but no news about the mass exterminations carried out by the Germans in Poland, was permitted by the Russians. The Germans invaded Stawiski in July 1941, and immediately massacred most of its residents. Sura and her family were trapped.

German killing squads, called Einsatzgruppen, continued to massacre Jews in surrounding towns. The Nazis murdered more than 20,000 Jews during the first two months of the German invasion. On November 2, 1942, one of the most carefully organized and intensive round-ups of the war took place.

Sura and her family were hunted down by the Germans. They were taken, along with all the remaining Jews in the surrounding villages, to a military camp.

In January 1943, the entire camp, with its 20,000 inmates, was forced into sealed cattle cars. The Jews were taken to the Auschwitz death camp where they were murdered in the gas chambers. Sura was fifteen years old.

**Sura was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Natan Abbe

*Born 1924 in Lodz, Poland*

Natan, the son of Carola and Israel Abbe, grew up in Lodz, Poland. His father owned a haberdashery store, where he sold hats, gloves, and other accessories. He had two sisters and a younger brother. A large, fairly liberal city, Lodz was home to over 233,000 Jews. It was a major center of the textile industry. Its diverse population of Jews, Poles and Germans lived together in relative peace.

When the Germans occupied Lodz in September 1939, Natan was a fifteen year-old schoolboy. Anti-Jewish restrictions were immediately enacted. Jews were forbidden to congregate for religious services, they were subject to curfew, their radios were confiscated, and they were forced to wear the yellow star. In addition, Jews were barred from most professions, and all Jewish communal institutions were ordered to disband.

On February 8, 1940, all the Jews were forced to live in a run-down part of the city. On May 1, 1940, the overcrowded ghetto was closed off.

Living conditions were horrendous. There was no heat, little food or medicine, and inadequate sanitation. People fell dead in the street from starvation, disease and exposure. Still, the basic appearance of normal inner-city life was maintained. Schools and hospitals still functioned.

The Germans constantly harassed the Jewish residents of the ghetto, randomly seizing people on the streets, raiding their apartments, and subjecting them to horrendous indignities. People were shot for the slightest reason. Young children often became the sole support of thier families. They would smuggle themselves out of the ghetto in order to find food and bring it back to their starving parents, brothers and sisters.

Natan was shot to death in late 1940 by a German soldier at the ghetto gate. He was sixteen years old.

**Natan was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**



# Children of the Holocaust



## Isac Brauman

*Born 1937 in Liepaja, Latvia*

Isac, the younger son of Ana and Abram Brauman, lived in the port city of Liepaja, Latvia, on the shores of the Baltic Sea. His father, a tailor, managed to support the family. In 1935, the city had a Jewish population of 7,379 out of a total population of 57,098. Latvia was annexed to the Soviet Union in 1940. On June 29, 1941, a week after the invasion of Russia, the Germans occupied Liepaja. Isac was four years old.

The Germans immediately instituted anti-Jewish measures, among them decrees ordering the wearing of the yellow star and a draft for forced labor. Jewish males age 16 to 60 were required to report daily at the city square. Of those who reported, some were sent to forced labor, and others were taken to prison. Those who failed to report were arrested in their homes, or on the street, and were murdered.

In August 1941, most Jews were forced to work for the German army. Many Jews had their money, furniture, and household goods confiscated and were forced from their homes. Jews considered unfit were murdered, including residents of the old-age home. By November 1941, half of the Jewish population had been killed.

On December 13, 1941, a decree was issued ordering the Jews to stay at home on December 15 and 16. On the night of December 14, Latvian police, working under German orders, rounded up Jews in their homes and took them to prison. The few holders of work permits and their families were released, but most of the other Jews were taken to a small fishing village to be murdered. Ordered to undress in freezing temperatures, they were led, in groups of 10, to the edge of already prepared trenches. There they were shot by firing squads, two gunmen for each victim. Women were told to hold their babies against their shoulders to make them easier targets. Over 2,700 Jews, including women and children, were murdered during this action.

Two similar mass murders took place in February and April 1942. After that, the 805 Jews left in the city were confined to an overcrowded, sealed off ghetto. The ghetto was emptied in October 1943. The residents were taken to Kaiserwald concentration camp, where most died.

We know nothing about Isac and his family after the Germans occupied Liepaja in 1941. No further traces have ever been found.

**One and a half million Jewish children were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Oswald Kernberg

*Born October 19, 1929 in Vienna, Austria*

Oswald, the son of Herman and Frieda Kernberg, was a nine year-old schoolboy when the Germans annexed Austria in 1938. His father was a manufacturer of knitwear, sweaters, and dresses, and made a comfortable living for his family. Oswald and his older brother Fritz lived with their parents in Vienna, Austria, a glittering, sophisticated city, where the Jewish citizens were highly assimilated into the general cultural and civic life.

With the Nazi annexation, all antisemitic legislation passed in Germany automatically applied to Austria. Jewish citizens were barred from most professions and from attending public schools. Jewish businesses were confiscated, and many families became impoverished. Oswald's parents tried to obtain visas to leave the country, but they were unsuccessful. They heard of special children's transports out of Austria, and tried to get their two sons on one. Fritz, thirteen years old, was deemed too old, but ten year-old Oswald was sent to France.

Oswald lived in various children's homes for the next two and a half years. He lived with other children in similar straits. When the Germans occupied Paris in 1940, Oswald was sent to a home in unoccupied France.

In July 1941, Oswald was chosen to join a transport of 100 children who were sent to the United States. Most of the children who were left behind were murdered by the Germans. Soon after his thirteenth birthday, Oswald received a letter written by his parents, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah. He was never to hear from them again. They were deported, together with Oswald's older brother, Fritz, to Lublin, Poland, where they were murdered.

**Oswald was one of the few Jewish children to survive the Holocaust. One and a half million Jewish children were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Agnes Lebovics

*Born April 13, 1939 in Chust, Czechoslovakia*

Agnes, the oldest daughter of Mor and Marketa Lebovics, was an infant when Hungary took over the part of Czechoslovakia in which she lived. Her father came from a family of wealthy livestock dealers, and he worked in the family business. Her mother's father owned a flourishing print shop. The Hungarians immediately began oppressing the Jews of Chust. Agnes's father was sent to work in a forced-labor camp in Hungary. He was, however, allowed home for visits. Agnes's younger sister, Eva, was born two years later. Soon after Eva's birth, harsh economic and social restrictions were imposed upon the Jewish population, and life became even more difficult for Agnes and her family.

In early 1944, the Germans occupied Chust and immediately increased the persecution of the Jewish population. A German soldier even tried to pull Agnes's earrings from her ears.

In March 1944, Agnes, her sister Eva, and her mother were forced to leave their home and live in a sealed-off, overcrowded ghetto along with over 10,000 Jews from the surrounding area. They were forced to leave their possessions, including the family dog, Boombi, behind. They were allowed to move in with her mother's parents, whose apartment was in the ghetto area. Agnes and Eva cried for their big white dog and could not understand why they were not allowed to bring him with them.

On May 23, 1944, the Lebovics family was forced into sealed, overcrowded cattle cars. They had no food, water or sanitary facilities, and they did not know where they were going. After three days and two nights, the train arrived at the Auschwitz death camp. The women were sent to stand in line. Agnes and Eva held their mother's hand. A Polish "kapo" came over to Agnes's mother and told her that if she wanted her children to live, she should give them to their grandmother and say that they were not hers. She would then go to another line of people chosen to work. By working, Agnes's mother would be able to provide her children with food. Mrs. Lebovics called over to her father, who stood in another line with the men, and asked him what to do. Her father told her to give the children to her mother, and move into the other line. When Agnes and Eva cried out for her and called her name, she returned to them, but was beaten back into line by a German soldier. Five year-old Agnes, her sister, her grandmother and great-grandmother were taken straight to the gas chamber where they were murdered.

**Agnes was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Tsila Marcus

*Born July 14, 1939 in Rovno, Poland*

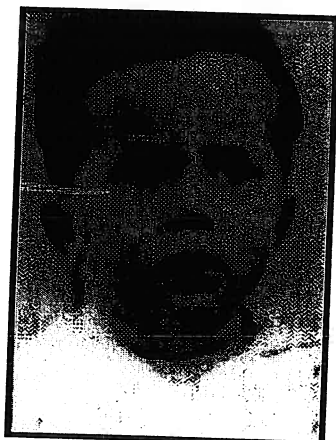
Tsila, the younger daughter of Batya (Fuchs) and Shchane Marcus, was born in Rovno, Poland. Her mother had moved there from Koretz after her marriage. The Germans invaded eastern Poland in June 1941, when Tsila was two years old.

Tsila's father, along with 8,000 other Jews from Rovno, was murdered by the Germans. The remaining Jews were locked into a ghetto where many died from starvation and disease. Tsila's sister, Bella, was murdered when the Nazis raided her apartment. Soon after, the Germans rounded up healthy young women and forced them to work as servants. Tsila's mother was assigned to work for the mayor. There, she became acquainted with a German who worked as a bookkeeper. One day, he confided that he would do everything he could to save her life. In early July 1942, Tsila's mother was told to go to her German friend's home and hide there, as the Nazis were planning to murder the remaining Jews of the city. Mass graves had already been prepared in a nearby forest. Mrs. Marcus and her daughter escaped from the city dressed as Polish peasants. Tsila and her mother walked barefoot, almost 50 miles, to Koretz, where they had relatives. After they smuggled themselves into the sealed-off ghetto, they discovered that most of Tsila's relatives, including her grandmother and aunt, had already been murdered. Two days before the Koretz ghetto was to be emptied and its residents murdered, Tsila's mother received a letter from her German friend telling her to leave the city. She immediately warned the rest of the ghetto. Many tried to escape, but they were caught and murdered.

Tsila and her mother dressed themselves again as Polish peasants and escaped to the forest. Tsila's mother eventually joined the partisans (the underground resistance fighters). Tsila was brought to live with a peasant, since it was determined that being only four years old she was too young to live in the forest. The peasant, fearing for his own life, abandoned the small child in the forest. Tsila lived in the forest for six weeks. The days and nights were very cold. She lived on flowers and grasses, and hid with every noise. Found by partisans, she was reunited with her mother. Tsila looked like a wild animal. Moss grew in her hair and she had become mute. Tsila and her mother stayed with the partisans until liberation. Tsila, who was only five years old, helped them find food in the forest when they were cut off from their supply.

**Tsila was one of the few Jewish children who survived. One and a half million Jewish children were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Mario Sonnino

*Born May 31, 1941 in Rome, Italy*

Mario, the son of Settimio and Ida Sonnino, was born in Rome in 1941. Jews had lived in Rome for over 20 centuries, dating back to the time of the Roman empire. They were fully integrated into Italian society, holding positions in nearly all professions, including the government and the military.

In November 1938, before Mario was born, Italy's dictator, Mussolini, passed various anti-Jewish measures under the prodding of his German allies. These laws caused an abrupt end to most jobs and to public education for the Jews of Italy. Jews were forcibly separated from their non-Jewish friends, colleagues and neighbors. Many were impoverished. Mario's parents struggled to make a living and cope with the drastic changes.

When the Germans occupied Rome in August 1943, Mario was two years old. He lived with his parents, his older brother Sandro, and his three year-old sister, Cesira.

Early on the rainy Saturday morning of October 16, 1943, Mario and his family were arrested in a surprise raid by the Germans. They had decided to round up and deport all Italy's Jews. Mario and his family, along with over 1,000 other Jews, were thrown into trucks and brought to the Military College across from the Vatican. They were kept there for two days, without beds or toilet facilities.

Soon after, they were locked into crowded freight trains. Conditions barely sustained life. There was little food or water. There were no sanitary facilities. They travelled like this for five days.

On October 23, 1943, the trains were finally unsealed. They had arrived at the Auschwitz death camp in Poland. The sick and the weak, the elderly, and all young children along with their mothers, were told to clean up in the shower room after their long journey. They undressed and entered a long sealed room, which turned out to be a gas chamber. They were dead within minutes. Mario was two years old when he was murdered.

**Mario was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Nissim Mordehay

*Born January 8, 1932 in Ihtiman, Bulgaria*

Nissim, the son of Mina (Masiach) and Behor Mordehay, was nine years old when Bulgaria allied itself with Germany. He had a younger sister, Lida who was five. Nissim's family owned a large store that sold textiles and clothing. They lived in the largest building in the city. It was so large that they rented out the first floor to the police department. The town jail was even located in their basement. The family was quite well-off. Each child had a nanny, and there were other servants to do the laundry and cleaning.

The family was well-respected by their non-Jewish neighbors, and all of Nissim's playmates were non-Jews.

Because there were so few Jews in Ihtiman, Nissim's family did not feel the brunt of the harsh anti-Jewish measures passed by the Bulgarian government in 1941. Life went on much as before. His parents were forced to wear the yellow star required by the government, but Nissim and his sister were exempt from wearing it because they were children. However, Nissim and Lida were not permitted to attend public school during the 1942-43 school year, because they were Jews. Their cousin tutored them at home.

In 1943, the Germans began pressing their Bulgarian allies to deport their Jews to concentration camps in Poland. Over 20,000 Jews were deported to Auschwitz from Macedonia and Thrace, areas that had recently been annexed to Bulgaria. The Jews of Old Bulgaria were to be next. The King of Bulgaria ordered all plans for deportations of Bulgaria's Jews stopped. He was, however, unable to prevent the expulsion to the countryside of Sofia's 20,000 Jews. From there, they were to be transported by ship to "the East." The people of Bulgaria protested this action. Nissim's many relatives from Sofia were given shelter in his home. The Bulgarian people began large-scale protests against the treatment of the Jews. Instead of arousing antisemitism, the expelled Jews won the sympathy of the peasants. By January 1944, massive allied bombing of Bulgaria began, and plans to deport the Jews were completely shelved. The Jews of Old Bulgaria were saved due to the courageous defiance of the King of Bulgaria and his people.

Nissim was fortunate. He lived in a country that was able to protect its Jewish citizens. One and a half million other Jewish children did not have the protection of their governments. They were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.

# Children of the Holocaust



## Doris Wohlfarth

*Born October 28, 1937 in Amsterdam, Holland*

Doris was born October 28, 1937 in Amsterdam, Holland. Her parents, Siegfried and Helene, had left their home in Frankfurt, Germany, three years earlier to escape persecution by the Nazis. Prior to that, Doris's father was an accountant working in the German courts, and her mother was the owner of a small mail order business. Doris's father lost his job in 1933 simply because he was Jewish. Realizing that things would only get worse, Siegfried and Helene decided to cross the border into Holland.

Holland accepted many refugees from Germany, and the Jews there enjoyed equal rights. But in 1940, the Nazis invaded the tiny country and immediately began persecuting its Jews. Fearing that the Germans would arrest them, Doris's parents began looking for someone to shelter their daughter. Knowing that they might never see Doris again, Siegfried and Helene tried to prepare their daughter for the separation by distancing themselves from her emotionally. With untold pain in their hearts, they stopped hugging and holding her. Doris was only three years old at the time.

With the help of the Dutch resistance, Doris's parents were able to place their child with a childless Dutch couple. Then they went into hiding. On Friday, August 25, 1944, the Gestapo located their hiding place and arrested them. Less than a month later, they were sent to the Auschwitz death camp in Poland. Doris's father was murdered there, but her mother was transferred to a slave-labor camp in Czechoslovakia. Doris's mother miraculously survived the Holocaust.

With the defeat of Nazi Germany and her liberation, Helene now began her trek back to Holland. Deathly ill and weighing only 70 pounds, she kept herself alive by hoping that the Germans had not found her little girl. When Helene finally located her daughter, Doris, now eight, she did not even recognize her mother.

**Though Doris survived the Holocaust, 1.5 million Jewish children were caught and murdered by the Germans and their collaborators.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Jacqueline Morganstern

*Born 1932 in Czernowitz, Rumania*

Jacqueline was the daughter of Suzanne and Karl Morganstern. She moved to Paris with her parents as a tiny child to escape the oppressive antisemitism of Rumania. Jacqueline's father and uncle owned a beauty shop in the center of the city. When the Germans occupied Paris in 1940, Jacqueline was an eight year-old schoolgirl. Her parents were forced to give their shop to a non-Jewish Frenchman.

Jacqueline and her parents fled to Marseilles, a city in southern France not occupied by the Germans. They carried forged papers identifying them as non-Jews. They were discovered, however, and denounced to the Gestapo.

On June 20, 1944, Jacqueline and her parents were deported to the Auschwitz death camp. For the time being, Jacqueline and her parents were spared. Jacqueline and her mother were sent to the women's camp. Jacqueline's mother became weak because she gave most of her food to her daughter. After she fell ill, her mother was murdered in the gas chamber.

Upon her mother's death, Jacqueline was sent to a special children's barracks. The 20 children in these barracks were being held for use in experiments. The barracks were heated and the children were provided with decent food. The staff sang songs to the children, taught them games and distracted them from the horrible smells of the crematoria. Most of the children spoke only Polish, but Jacqueline found one child who spoke French, and they became close friends.

In the fall of 1944, Dr. Kurt Heissmeyer, the doctor who had requested the children for experimentation, had them transferred to the Neuengamme concentration camp. Jacqueline and the rest of the children were injected with tuberculosis cultures. Shortly before the end of December 1944, they became extremely ill. In January 1945, Dr. Heissmeyer decided to operate on the children. He wanted to find out how their glands had reacted to the TB infection.

On April 20, 1945, when the British were less than three miles from the camp, all 20 children were brought to a school in Hamburg. They were injected with morphine and fell asleep. Thirteen year-old Jacqueline and her friends were then hanged one by one.

**Jacqueline was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust.**



# Children of the Holocaust



## Naomi Posinova

*Born January 4, 1932 in Prague, Czechoslovakia*

Naomi Posinova was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia on January 4, 1932. She was an only child, part of a large, extended family. Her father, Max, was a hat-maker who also owned a plastics factory. Her mother, Rachel, was a housewife.

Prague was a large, urban city, and was home to one of Europe's oldest and most revered Jewish communities. Jews contributed greatly to the economic progress of the city and played a key role in its rich cultural life.

After the German army occupied Prague in March 1939, various antisemitic measures were enacted. Jews were barred from their professions; their property was confiscated; they were prohibited from participating in religious, cultural or any other form of public activity. They could not attend public school, use public transportation, or the telephone. From October 1941 to March 1945, the Germans deported 46,067 Jews from Prague to the death camps.

In August 1942, Naomi and her parents were deported to the Theresienstadt ghetto in Czechoslovakia. Naomi's father worked there in a cap factory and her mother worked in a children's home. Though children over the age of ten were forced to work, Naomi was somehow able to continue her education. Conditions in the camp were horrible. There was terrible overcrowding, lack of adequate nutrition, and limited primitive sanitary facilities. Typhus carrying vermin infested the camp. There were daily "selections," and those chosen were deported to the death camps at Auschwitz and Treblinka.

In late 1944 or early 1945, Naomi and her parents were "selected" for transport to Auschwitz. Soon after their arrival, Naomi and her mother were murdered in the gas chambers. Naomi was twelve years old.

**Naomi was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Baroukh-Raoul Bentitou

*Born May 27, 1931 in Palikao, Algeria*

Baroukh was one of eight children born to the Bentitou family of Palikao, Algeria. On the eve of World War II, the Jewish population of Algeria numbered approximately 120,000. But Algeria was a very poor land. Seeking a better life for his children, Baroukh's father moved the family to the port city of Marseilles in southern France.

Life was disrupted when the Germans invaded France in May 1940. While the Germans occupied all of northern France, they allowed French collaborators to control most of the south, where Baroukh lived. French authorities in the southern area were directly responsible to the Germans and assisted them in persecuting Jews.

On January 23, 1943, Baroukh's father and two older brothers were arrested in Marseilles. They were later deported to the Sobibor death camp where they perished in the gas chamber. Eleven year-old Baroukh went to live at the children's home in Izieu.

Given the circumstances, life at the children's home was comparatively peaceful. Outings arranged by the sympathetic staff helped the children forget, if only briefly, the terror that raged around them. This came to an abrupt end, however, in April 1944, when the Nazis decided that Baroukh and the other Jewish children in the home had lived long enough.

On April 6, 1944, Baroukh and most of his friends were sent to the Auschwitz death camp in Poland. The officer responsible for the arrest and deportation of the children was Klaus Barbie. In a scandal that shook the world, it was discovered that Barbie had escaped punishment after the war by working as a spy for the American government. Barbie, who was then living in South America under an assumed name, was eventually sent back to France for trial, where, on July 4, 1987, he was found guilty of "crimes against humanity" and sentenced to life in prison. Baroukh, however, did not live to see Barbie punished. He perished in the gas chambers of Auschwitz just after his thirteenth birthday.

**Baroukh was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Renate Krochmal

*Born September 3, 1935 in Vienna, Austria*

The daughter of Jacob and Amalie Krochmal, Renate was only two and a half years old when Austria lost its independence and became part of Nazi Germany. Vienna had been home to some 175,000 Jews and was one of the world's most important Jewish cultural centers. But Vienna was also a city in which antisemitism flourished. When the Germans took over in March 1938, they found many Austrians willing to participate in the persecution of the Jews.

Seeing no hope under the Nazis, the Krochmal family escaped to France. From France they hoped to eventually receive permission to enter the United States. Renate had an uncle living in New York who was willing to guarantee the support of the entire family.

Despite the guarantee, the U.S. State Department refused the Krochmals permission to come to the United States. Soon after, on September 16, 1942, Renate's parents and older brother, Siegfried, eleven years old, were arrested by the French police and handed over to the Germans. They were sent to a transit camp, where Siegfried died. Renate's parents were eventually deported to the Auschwitz death camp in Poland.

Renate, who was seven, and her five year-old sister Liane, were sent to live in the children's home at Izieu. On April 6, 1944, the home was raided and the children were shipped to Auschwitz. They were murdered in the gas chambers upon their arrival.

The German officer who ordered the despicable raid on the children's home was Klaus Barbie. Barbie escaped punishment after the war by agreeing to work as a spy for the United States, and it was only many years later that the scandal was uncovered. Barbie was eventually sent back to France for trial, where on July 4, 1987, he was convicted of "crimes against humanity" and sentenced to life in prison.

The Krochmals never lived to see Barbie brought to trial. They were murdered by the Nazis, because no country would take them.

Renate was only eight years old.

**Renate was one of 1.5 million Jewish children who were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Frida Scheps

*Born October 1936 in Paris, France*

Frida Scheps was born in 1936 to a Russian-Jewish immigrant family living in Paris, France. Frida's father, an engineer by profession, wanted to move the family to Palestine. Shortly before the war, Mr. Scheps travelled to Jerusalem to pave the way for the move. While he was making the necessary arrangements, war broke out in Europe, and Frida and her mother were trapped in France.

In 1940, the Nazis invaded France and the persecution of the Jews of France began. At first, various laws restricting the rights of the French Jewish community were enacted. But by 1942, the Germans began rounding up Jews and shipping them to various death camps in Poland.

Seeking somehow to save her six year-old daughter, Mrs. Scheps placed Frida in a Catholic convent school at the Chateau de Beaujeu. Isolated from her past, Frida soon began to forget her Jewish roots. She soon became the best student in her class at catechism and asked to be baptized as a Catholic. Mrs. Scheps wrote to her daughter, begging her not to abandon her faith.

Frida received packages from her mother on a regular basis. One day, however, the packages stopped coming. Frida understood that the Germans had taken her mother away. In the middle of the night, Frida was haunted by dreams reminding her of her Jewish heritage. At the end of the war, nine year-old Frida left the convent school. Two years later, she was reunited with her father in Jerusalem.

**Although the Germans and their collaborators murdered six million European Jews, including one and a half million children, most of France's Jewish community survived. Frida was never caught by the Germans thanks to the nuns at Chateau de Beaujeu.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Hannah Hajek

*Born February 10, 1939 in Prague, Czechoslovakia*

Hannah was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia on February 10, 1939. Her parents, Bedrick and Margit (Karpeles), had left Vienna, Austria, in 1935 for political reasons. Both worked in an Austrian emigree organization, where they were responsible for finding housing for the large numbers of Austrians who fled the Nazi takeover.

Soon after Hannah's birth, the Nazis took over Czechoslovakia, instituting harsh anti-Jewish measures. Mr. Hajek emigrated via Poland to England. Hannah, her mother, and her grandmother remained behind, hoping to join him when he got settled. In October 1941, the Nazis began deporting the Jews of Czechoslovakia to concentration camps. Hannah and her mother constantly feared deportation.

Hannah's mother was arrested twice by the Gestapo because of her underground political activity, but each time she somehow managed to get released.

In 1943, Hannah, her mother, and her grandmother were forced into the nearby Theresienstadt ghetto. The ghetto was overcrowded, lacked adequate sanitation and food, and was infested with typhus spreading vermin. People died daily of disease and malnutrition. Jews were constantly being packed into trains headed for the Auschwitz death camp.

In October 1944, Hannah, her mother and her grandmother were sent to Auschwitz. Upon arrival they were immediately taken off the train and murdered in the gas chambers. Hannah was four and a half years old.

**Hannah was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Lida Mordehay

*Born June 29, 1936 in Ihtiman, Bulgaria*

Lida, the daughter of Mina (Masiach) and Behor Mordehay, was five years old when Bulgaria allied itself with Nazi Germany. She had an older brother, Nissim, who was nine. Lida's family owned a large store that sold textiles and clothing. They lived in the largest building in the city. It was so large that they rented out the first floor to the police department. The town jail was even located in the basement. Lida's family was well-off. Each child had a nanny, and there were other servants to do the laundry and cleaning.

The family was well-respected by their non-Jewish neighbors, and all of Lida's playmates were non-Jews.

Because there were so few Jews in Ihtiman, Lida's family did not feel the brunt of the harsh anti-Jewish measures that were passed by the Bulgarian government in 1941. Life went on much as before. His parents were forced to wear the yellow star required by the government, but Lida and her brother were exempt from wearing it because they were children. However, Lida and her brother were not permitted to attend public school during the 1942-43 school year because they were Jews. Their cousin tutored them at home.

In 1943, the Germans began pressing their Bulgarian allies to deport their Jews to concentration camps in Poland. Over 20,000 Jews were deported to Auschwitz from Macedonia and Thrace, areas that had recently been annexed by Bulgaria. The Jews of Old Bulgaria were to be next. The King of Bulgaria ordered all plans for deportations of Bulgaria's Jews stopped. He was, however, unable to prevent the expulsion to the countryside of Sofia's 20,000 Jews. From there, they were to be transported by ship to "the East." The people of Bulgaria protested this action. Lida's many relatives from Sofia were given shelter in her home. The Bulgarian people began large-scale protests against the treatment of the Jews. Instead of arousing antisemitism, the expelled Jews won the sympathy of the peasants. In November 1943, a new cabinet permitted the Jews of Sofia to return to their homes. By January 1944, massive allied bombing of Bulgaria began, and plans to deport the Jews were completely shelved. The Jews of Old Bulgaria were saved due to the courageous defiance of the King of Bulgaria and his people.

**Lida was fortunate. She lived in a country that was able to protect its Jewish citizens. One and a half million other Jewish children did not have the protection of their governments. They were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Magda Mozes

*Born June 7, 1927 in Cluj, Rumania*

Magda Mozes was born on June 7, 1927 in the northern Transylvanian town of Cluj. She was the only child of Gus and Bertha Mozes. At the time of Magda's birth, Cluj was part of Rumania, but in 1940 northern Transylvania was taken over by Hungary, an ally of Nazi Germany. Magda, a thirteen year-old schoolgirl at the time, found out overnight that she was no longer Rumanian, but Hungarian.

Hungary was a staunch ally of Nazi Germany. As such, the Germans did not invade the country, but urged the government to deport its Jews to concentration camps. The Hungarian government was not willing to send its Jewish citizens to their deaths, but passed many discriminatory laws against the Jewish population. Magda continued her studies at the local Jewish high school until her seventeenth year.

Realizing by 1943 that its German ally was losing the war, Hungary tried to break its alliance with Germany. In a fit of rage, Hitler ordered his armies into Hungary. In 1944, German troops occupied the entire country. With the help of Hungarian collaborators, the Germans began deporting local Jews to concentration camps. Magda and her family were rounded up and herded into a brickyard where they were kept for three weeks.

On June 6, 1944, they were deported to the Auschwitz death camp in Poland. Because Magda was a healthy seventeen year-old, she was not sent to the gas chambers, but was put to work as a slave laborer. When she attempted to stay with her mother, camp guards broke her shoulder and collar bone. Magda and others were transported to work camps in Germany, as the Germans were forced to retreat from eastern Europe. Near the very end of the war she was liberated at Meklenburg by allied soldiers. Magda returned to her home town, Cluj, on August 26, 1945, but could find no trace of her family. They had all been murdered by the Nazis.

**Magda was one of the few Jewish children to survive the camps. One and a half million Jewish children were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**

**Magda came to the United States in 1947, married, and lived to have grandchildren.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Bronislaw Honig

*Born October 8, 1935 in Cracow, Poland*

Bronislaw, the son of Rose and David Honig, was four years old when the Germans occupied Cracow. His father had been a salesman in a hardware store, and his mother worked as a dressmaker. His grandmother stayed home to care for him. Bronislaw was a bright, happy little boy; he was good-looking and well-mannered. The Honigs lived in Cracow, a large industrial city. Jewish cultural and social life flourished there between the two world wars. By 1939, Cracow, the third largest city in Poland, had 60,000 Jewish

citizens.

Cracow was occupied by the Germans on September 6, 1939. They immediately began to persecute the Jews. Jewish property was looted and several synagogues were burned down. By March 1941, approximately 40,000 Jews were expelled to neighboring towns and their property was confiscated. At the same time, a sealed-off ghetto was established. The worst problems included overcrowding, hunger, and poor sanitary conditions. The population was impoverished, and the Germans set up several factories in the ghetto, where people were forced into slave labor. Many Jews died in the streets from starvation, disease, and exposure.

In May 1942, the Germans began rounding up Cracow's Jews and deporting them to the Belzec death camp. Many strong and healthy Jews were sent to work in the Plaszow slave labor camp. Bronislaw's parents were sent to Plaszow in January 1943, but they arranged for Bronislaw to stay with a friendly Jewish policeman. Mr. Honig was forced to work in a warehouse outside the camp. When the ghetto was about to be emptied, the policeman sent him a message. Bronislaw's father smuggled himself out of the camp and back into the ghetto at night. He could hear shots being fired all around him. He took Bronislaw back into Plaszow with him, hidden in a suitcase, piled onto a cart filled with clothes left behind by the deported ghetto residents. A few days later, after another child was discovered living in the camp and shot, Mr. Honig desperately sought a way to get Bronislaw to safety. A young Christian woman who worked with him in the warehouse offered to take the child. Bronislaw was smuggled out in a backpack to the woman, who waited outside the camp. Seven year-old Bronislaw and the young woman were betrayed to the Germans by her stepfather. They were both arrested and murdered.

**Bronislaw was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust.**



# Children of the Holocaust



## Samuel Oliner

*Born 1930 in Zydranowa, Poland*

Samuel, the son of Aron and Jaffa Oliner, grew up on his grandparents' farm in eastern Poland. His father owned some land in the area and ran a small general store. Samuel had an older brother and sister. Samuel's mother died when he was seven, and his father moved away and remarried, leaving Samuel with his maternal grandparents. When the Germans occupied Poland, Samuel was a nine year-old schoolboy. The Nazi occupation was harsh. The Germans immediately began brutalizing Jews. Jews were forced to wear the yellow star, their property was confiscated, and they were subjected to random brutality and murder. Ten year-old Samuel decided to live with his father, stepmother, young stepbrother and baby stepsister.

In July 1942, Jews living in rural villages were forced to leave their homes and move into sealed-off ghettos. Samuel and his family moved to Bobowa, a small town that was 80 percent Jewish. The ghetto was overcrowded, filled with disease-carrying vermin, had little sanitation, very little food, and no medicine. The Germans entered the ghetto at will, randomly brutalizing the residents and taking away the young men, girls, and skilled workers. Many died of starvation and disease. Samuel would often sneak out of the ghetto to bring food back to his starving family.

On August 14, 1942, the Germans rounded up all the remaining residents of the ghetto and murdered them in a nearby forest. Urged on by his stepmother, twelve year-old Samuel escaped into the countryside. After walking for two days, he found refuge with a friendly peasant woman who risked her life by teaching him how to pass as a non-Jew. Samuel was given a new name, different clothes, and was taught to read in Polish and recite the catechism. When he was ready, Samuel left her home to seek work in a village where he was not known. He found work tending cows on a farm. The Polish couple who lived there had moved from the city and rented the formerly Jewish-owned farm from the Germans. They knew little about farm work and needed help. Samuel lived there for three years. Constantly faced with the threat of discovery, Samuel carefully concealed his origins. In March 1945, the Russian army pushed the Germans out of the region. At first, fifteen year-old Samuel was afraid to reveal his true identity, but when other Jewish survivors came out of hiding, he left the farm and joined them. He hoped to find his family, but Samuel soon learned that he was the only survivor.

**Samuel managed by a combination of luck, wits and his looks to escape death. The Germans and their collaborators murdered 1.5 million Jewish children during the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Ruth Moses

*Born 1935 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany*

Ruth was the only child of Berta and Hugo Moses. She lived in Frankfurt am Main, one of Europe's most important Jewish centers. Frankfurt's Jewish community participated in all aspects of the city's social and cultural life. Jewish citizens played an important role in the city's commerce and industry. In 1933, the city even had a Jewish mayor, Ludwig Landmann.

Following the Nazi rise to power on January 30, 1933, Frankfurt's Jews were subjected to physical assaults and to a general boycott of Jewish businesses, even before any official laws were enacted. All public institutions dismissed Jews from their staffs - hospitals, courts, schools, universities, and institutions of culture and the arts. Economic conditions grew even worse after the passage of the "Nuremberg Laws" in 1935. Ruth was born in that year.

After October 1941, Jews were forbidden to leave Germany. The Nazis began rounding them up and sending them to ghettos in eastern Europe. Six year-old Ruth and her parents were deported to a sealed-off ghetto in the city of Riga, the capital of Latvia.

The Riga ghetto's previous residents, 30,000 local Jews, were murdered by the Nazis in November 1941, to make room for the newly arriving German Jews. Conditions in the ghetto were horrendous. The ghetto was plagued with little food, poor sanitation, and horrible overcrowding. Thousands of people died of starvation, disease, and exposure.

The ghetto was eventually emptied of its inhabitants. Most of the inhabitants were gassed to death in transport vans or were shot. Others were sent to labor camps, where they were worked to death. By December 1943, there were no Jews left in the Riga ghetto.

Nothing is known about Ruth's fate after she was sent to Riga. No trace has ever been found.

**One and a half million Jewish children were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Lilly Klein

*Born September 29, 1927 in Mateszalka, Hungary*

Lilly, the daughter of Sara and Sandor Klein, lived with her mother and seven siblings, in the city of Debrecen, Hungary. When the Germans invaded Hungary in March 1944, Lilly was a seventeen year-old student.

Hungary was a staunch ally of Nazi Germany. As such, the Germans did not, at first, invade the country, but urged the government to deport its Jews to concentration camps. The Hungarian government was not willing to send its Jewish citizens to their deaths, but did pass many discriminatory laws against them. Young men were sent to forced labor camps. Lilly was able to continue her studies at the local Jewish high school until her seventeenth year.

By 1943, the Hungarian government realized that their German ally was losing the war. Hungary, therefore, tried to break its alliance with Germany. In a fit of rage, Hitler ordered his armies into Hungary. In 1944, German troops occupied the entire country, and with the help of Hungarian collaborators, began deporting local Jews to concentration camps.

Lilly and her family were rounded up and herded into a sealed-off ghetto where they were kept for two months. The Germans began sending the Jewish residents of Debrecen to the Auschwitz death camp. Towards the end of June, Lilly was put on a train going to Auschwitz. The train could not get through, because the tracks had been bombed in allied air raids. The train was instead diverted to the Strasshoff concentration camp in Austria. There, Lilly was forced to work to the point of total exhaustion. Food was scarce, and those who couldn't work were murdered.

When the camp was liberated in April 1945, eighteen year-old Lilly was barely alive.

**One and a half million Jewish children were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust. Lilly was one of the few to survive.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Ulrich Wolfgang Arnheim

*Born November 2, 1927 in Berlin, Germany*

Ulrich was the only child of Dr. Fritz A. and Milli (Rosenthal) Arnheim. Dr. Arnheim was a successful lawyer. The family lived in Berlin, a large, cosmopolitan, highly sophisticated city. Many of the Jews of Berlin were assimilated and were well integrated into the social and cultural fabric of the city.

When the Nazis came to power in Germany, Ulrich was a six year-old schoolboy. They slowly introduced harsh economic and social restrictions against the Jews. Jews were barred from most professions, and lost their citizenship. Ulrich's father lost his job, leaving the family with no regular income. The Germans began expelling Jews who had not been born in Germany. In November 1938, a country-wide night of massive riots and plundering was directed towards Germany's Jews. This was later known as Kristallnacht, because of all the glass windows that had been broken. Ulrich's parents decided to find a way to leave the country. They attempted to place Ulrich in a boarding school in England. Because his father had lost his job and could not guarantee his monthly maintenance, Ulrich was turned down. A Jewish woman living in England expressed interest in taking him in, but Ulrich's parents were unable to part from him. They tried to obtain visas so that the family could go to the United States.

Ulrich was a good-natured, sensitive, clever child. He studied English at school, and was well liked by his classmates.

The Arnheim family was hopelessly trapped in Germany after October 1941. Emigration from Germany was now forbidden by the Nazis, and harsher restrictions were being passed against the Jews. They were forbidden to use public transportation, and they could be evicted from their homes at any moment. Jews were forced to wear the yellow star. The Germans began deporting Jews to sealed, hunger- and disease-ridden ghettos in eastern Europe. After September 1942, they began deporting German Jews directly to death camps.

Ulrich and his parents were murdered in the Auschwitz death camp.

**Ulrich was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust.**

# Children of the Holocaust



## Ebi Gruenblatt

*Born May 1, 1927 in Nyirmihalydi, Hungary*

Ebi, the daughter of Morris and Margit Gruenblatt, was born in Nyirmihalydi, Hungary. Her father was the manager of a large rural estate. The youngest of four children, Ebi had three brothers who adored her. Her family enjoyed a comfortable, affluent life, and Mr. Gruenblatt was widely known and well-respected.

The Germans occupied Hungary in March 1944. Before Ebi's seventeenth birthday, the Nazis arrested her family, along with other Jews in the area, and interned them in the local synagogue without food or water. After two weeks of deprivation and forced marches through the countryside, they reached the city of Nyiregyhaza, where they were herded into a closed-off ghetto. Lacking work and the means to earn a living, the Gruenblatts were in danger of starving to death. Christian friends helped by smuggling food into the ghetto. Ebi and her family reported for "resettlement" in mid-May. Shoved into cattle cars, travelling under conditions that barely sustained human life, they arrived in Auschwitz five days later.

In June, Ebi and her mother, passing as sisters, were sent to the Plaszow labor camp near Cracow. Filled with constant fear, Ebi and her mother were put to work moving heavy rocks from one location to another. They were being worked to death. In late September 1944, Ebi and her mother were brought back to Auschwitz. They were now sent to Augsburg, Germany, to work in the K.U.K.A. Ammunition Factory. Soon after, the area was heavily bombed by the Allies, and they were evacuated, first to Dachau, and then to a work camp near Muehldorf. Since she knew German, Ebi was given work as a registrar. When the Allies began bombing Muehldorf at the end of April 1945, Ebi and her mother, along with other inmates, were packed into cattle cars. The Germans planned to take them to the Alps and murder them. The tracks were almost completely destroyed and the train could not get far. Allied planes strafed the train while the prisoners took refuge under the boxcars. Ebi, her mother, and others escaped, but the Germans hunted them down and returned them to the train. Allied soldiers finally arrived on the scene and liberated them. Ebi celebrated her eighteenth birthday as a free human being.

**One and a half 1.5 million Jewish children were murdered by the Germans and their collaborators in the Holocaust. Ebi was one of the few who survived.**