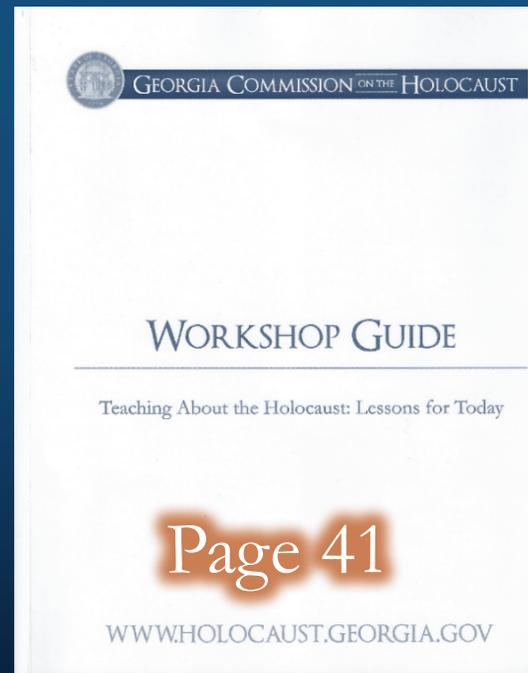


Content, Context, Complexity

Categories of Behavior: To Act or Not to Act

ID Card Activity



- The Holocaust took place because individuals, groups and nations made decisions to act or not act.
- Those involved in the Holocaust can be placed in categories based on their choices and behavior.
 - Perpetrators & Collaborators
 - Targets
 - Rescuers & Resistance
 - Bystanders

1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS

- Individuals and groups that were responsible for the Holocaust.
- The perpetrators were not beasts but human beings who made moral and ethical choices.
- They chose to violate human rights.

1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS

Beware of over-characterizing them as something greater than what they were – human beings who made choices.



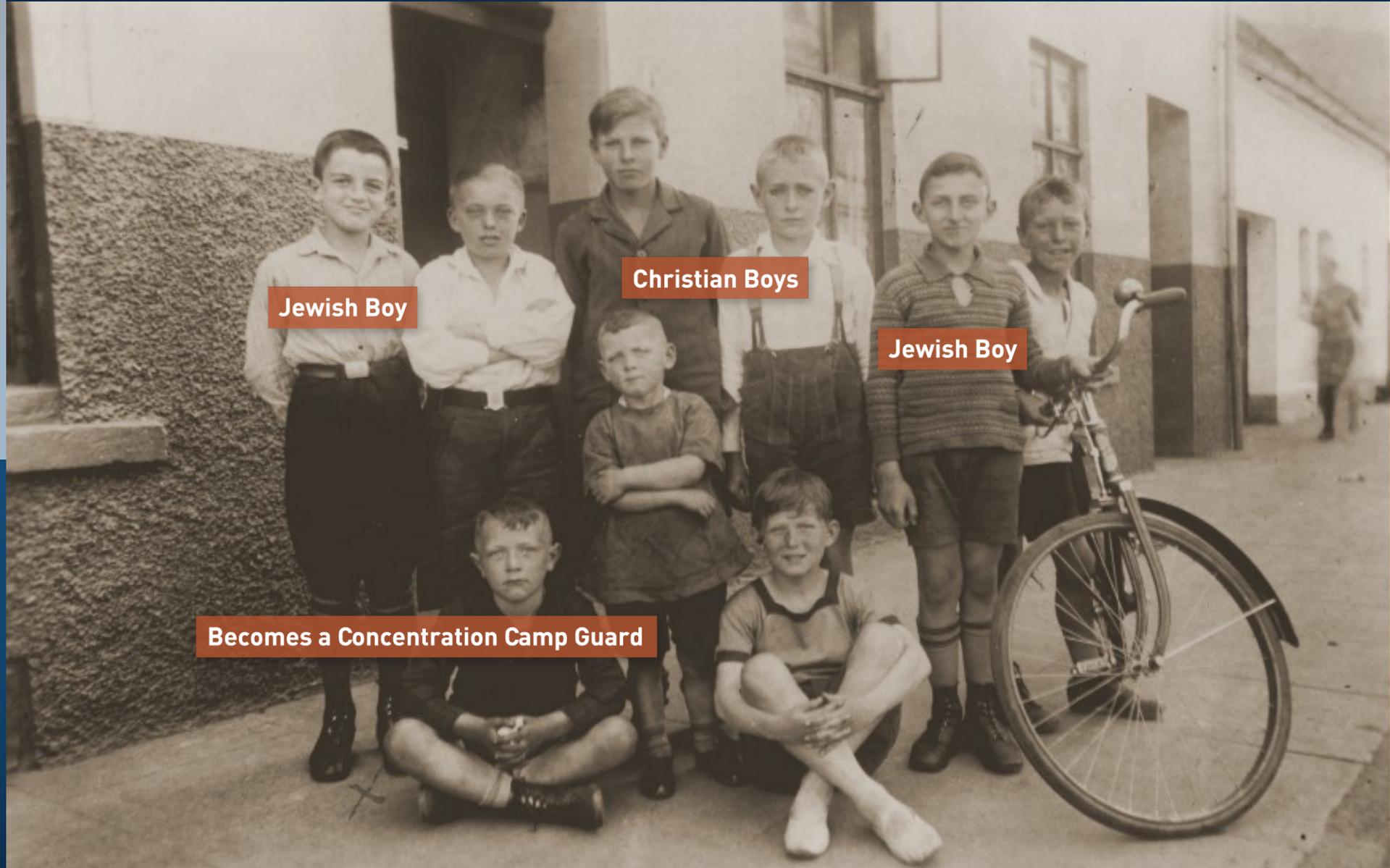
Berlin, Germany
– **1937:** A group of young German boys view "Der Stürmer," "Die Woche," and other propaganda posters that are posted on a fence in Berlin.

[Source: [USHMM Photo Archives](#)]



Breman, Germany – circa 1929:
“We were a happy-go-lucky group, never thinking of harming each other.”

[Source: [USHMM](#)]



Jewish Boy

Christian Boys

Jewish Boy

Becomes a Concentration Camp Guard

1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS

- Individuals or groups who worked with the Nazis regardless of whether they shared a common goal or believed in the Nazi racial ideology.

Train engineer describes delivering Jews to the Treblinka killing center.
[Source: [USHMM](#)]



Bielefeld, Germany – 1936: German customs officials supervise the packing of a moving van containing the belongings of a Jewish family preparing to emigrate. Part of the officials' job was to prevent the smuggling of valuables that law prohibited Jews from taking with them.

[Source: [USHMM](#)]



Germany – Thursday, August 1, 1940 - Friday, May 1, 1942: Group portrait of T-4 Euthanasia program personnel at a social gathering.

[Source: [USHMM Photo Archives](#)]



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**RIGA, LATVIA – JULY
1941:** Civilians attack a
Jewish man in a street.

[Source: [USHMM](#)]



Lithuania, July–August 1941: A member of the Lithuanian auxiliary police auctions off property of Jews who were recently executed in the nearby Rase Forest. [Source: [USHMM](#)]



Paris, France – May 14, 1941: French police guard Jewish men, most of them Polish-born, who were among 3,747 men transported in four trains to French-guarded internment camps southwest of Paris. [Source: [USHMM](#)]



Paris, France – 1942: A police official distributes Jewish badges after German occupation orders require Jews residing in the northern occupied zone of France to wear badges.

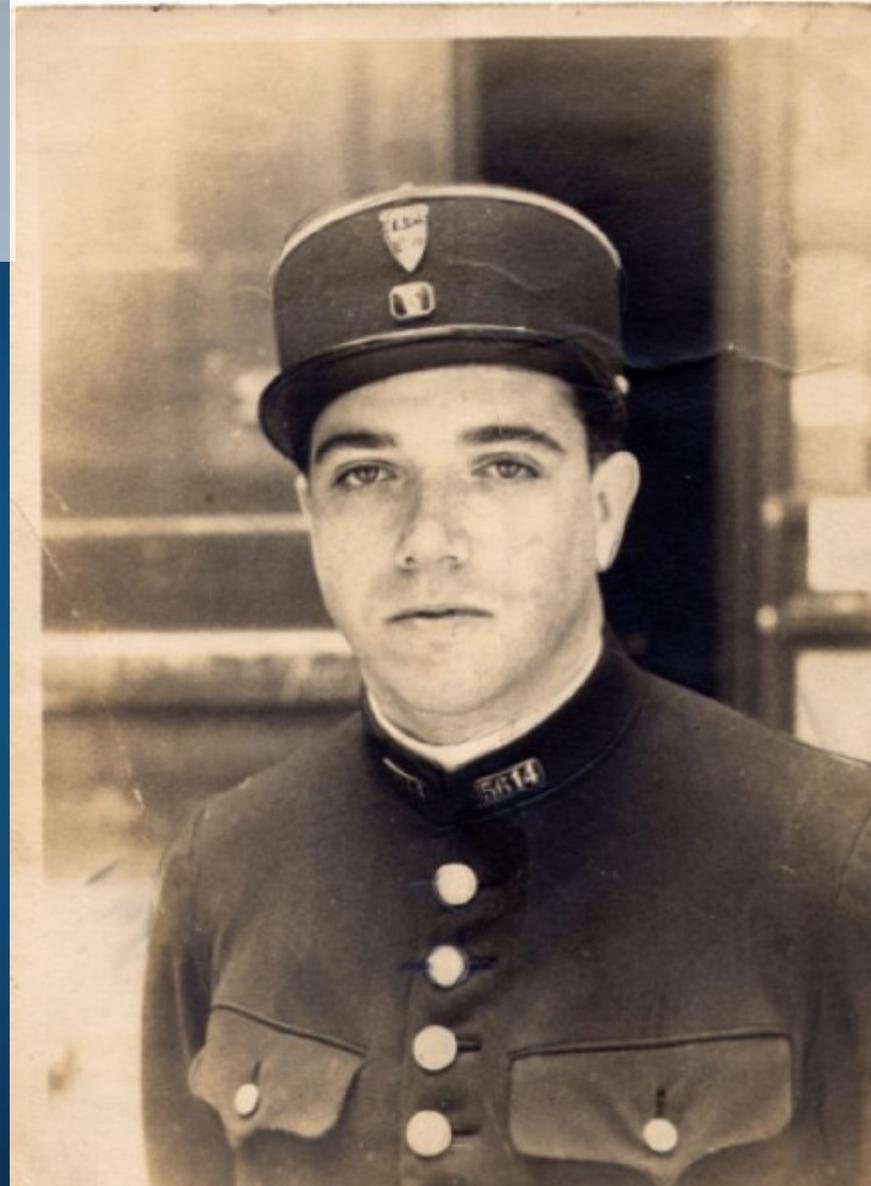
[Source: [USHMM Some Were Neighbors: Photo Activity](#)]



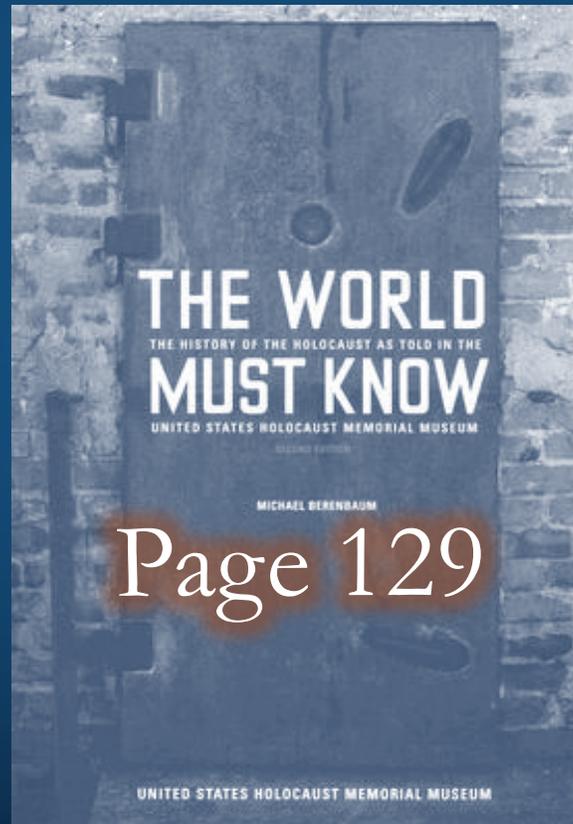
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Théophile Larue, a Paris policeman, warned his Jewish neighbors, of the upcoming “Vél d’Hiv” roundup and then, with his wife Madeleine, hid them in his home for a week. [Source: Yad Vashem via [USHMM](#)]

Beware of generalizing and stereotyping! While many members of Parisian police force collaborated, there were individuals who made a different choice.



Collaborators were not just individuals, groups, and governments – companies and cooperations collaborated as well.



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Neutral countries
 actually helped both
 sides during the war.
 For example, Sweden
 was both collaborator
 and rescuer.



1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS

2. TARGETS Groups and individuals who were targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic or national reasons.

- Jews were the primary victims—six million were murdered; Gypsies, the handicapped and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny.

3.

1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS

2. TARGETS

3. **RESCUERS** Individuals or groups who made choices and risked their own lives to save others.

- Although stories of rescue are very popular, only a tiny percentage of the targeted populations were rescued.

1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS
2. TARGETS
3. RESCUERS
4. **RESISTANCE** Individuals or groups who made choices and risked their own lives to stand up against the Nazis and their collaborators.

Belarus, 1943:
Jewish partisan
photographer Faye
Schulman poses in
the forest.

[Source: Jweekly.com]



Hamburg, Germany – 1936: August Landmesser stands with arms crossed as crowd collectively performs Nazi salute. It is believed he had been a member of the Nazi Party from 1931 to 1935 but was expelled from the party for marrying a Jewish woman with whom he went on to father two children. [Source: [The Washington Post](#)]



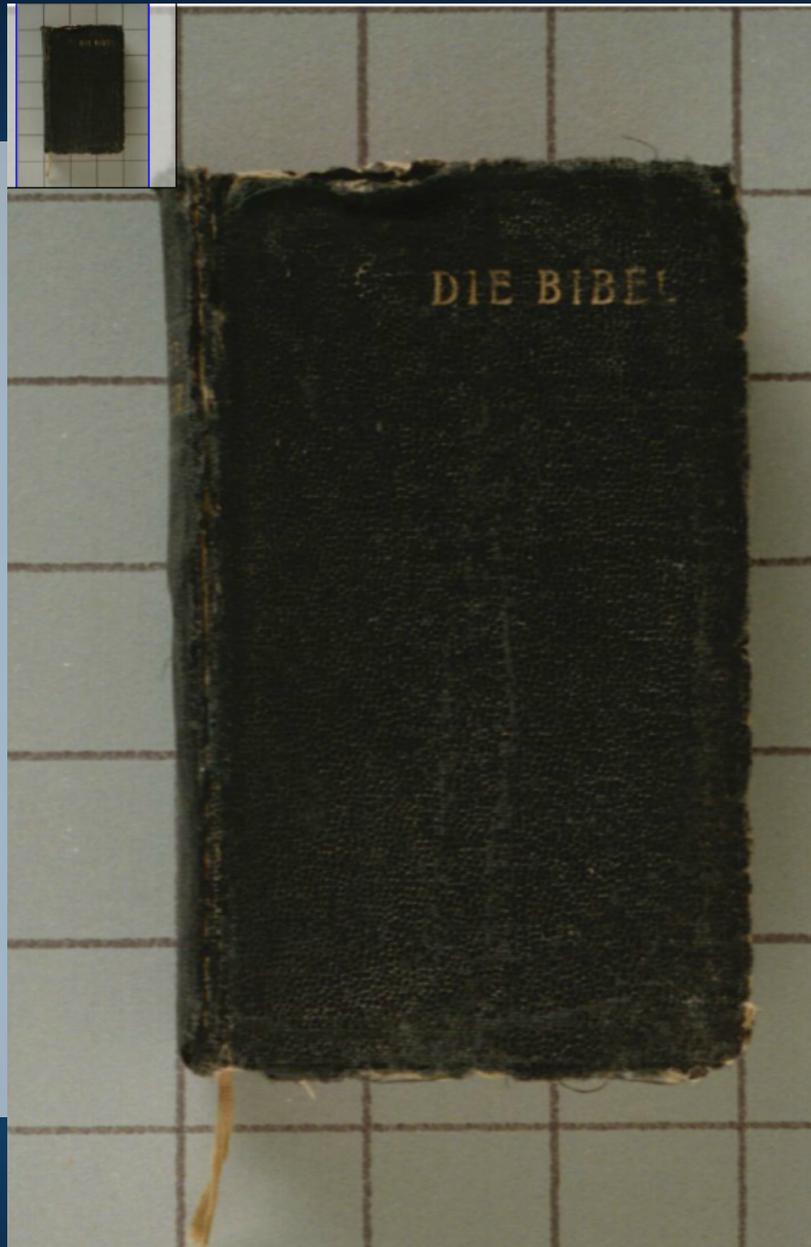
**Eibergen region,
Netherlands – 1942-
1943:** A Dutch
policeman looks out
the hatch of a small
bunker that served as
a hiding place for
Dutch Jews

[Source: [USHMM Photo
Archives](#)]



Sachsenhausen concentration camp, Germany – April 1945: In the camp, Soviet soldiers found this German edition of the Old and New Testaments on a dead prisoner, a Jehovah's Witness. The bible was sent to the prisoner's surviving family members.

[Source: [USHMM Collections](#)]



**Warsaw, Poland –
September 13,
1939:**

Photographer
Julien Bryan
comforts a ten-
year-old Polish
girl named
Kazimiera Mika,
whose older
sister was killed in
a field in Warsaw
during a German
air raid.

[Source: [USHMM
Collections](#)]



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PHOTOGRAPHY AS RESISTANCE

Cas Oorthuys was a photojournalist.

During the war he was a member of the resistance and in September 1944 he joined the Ondergedoken Camera (Hidden Camera); a group of Dutch photographers who document the occupation.

After the liberation Oorthuys becomes *the* photographer of the reconstruction of the country.

Amsterdam, the Netherlands – 1945: The execution of thirty people on the Weteringplantsoen is a reprisal for the murder of an SD official on the Stadhouderskade. Passersby are forced to stand and watch. Resistance members secretly cover the bodies with the Dutch flag.

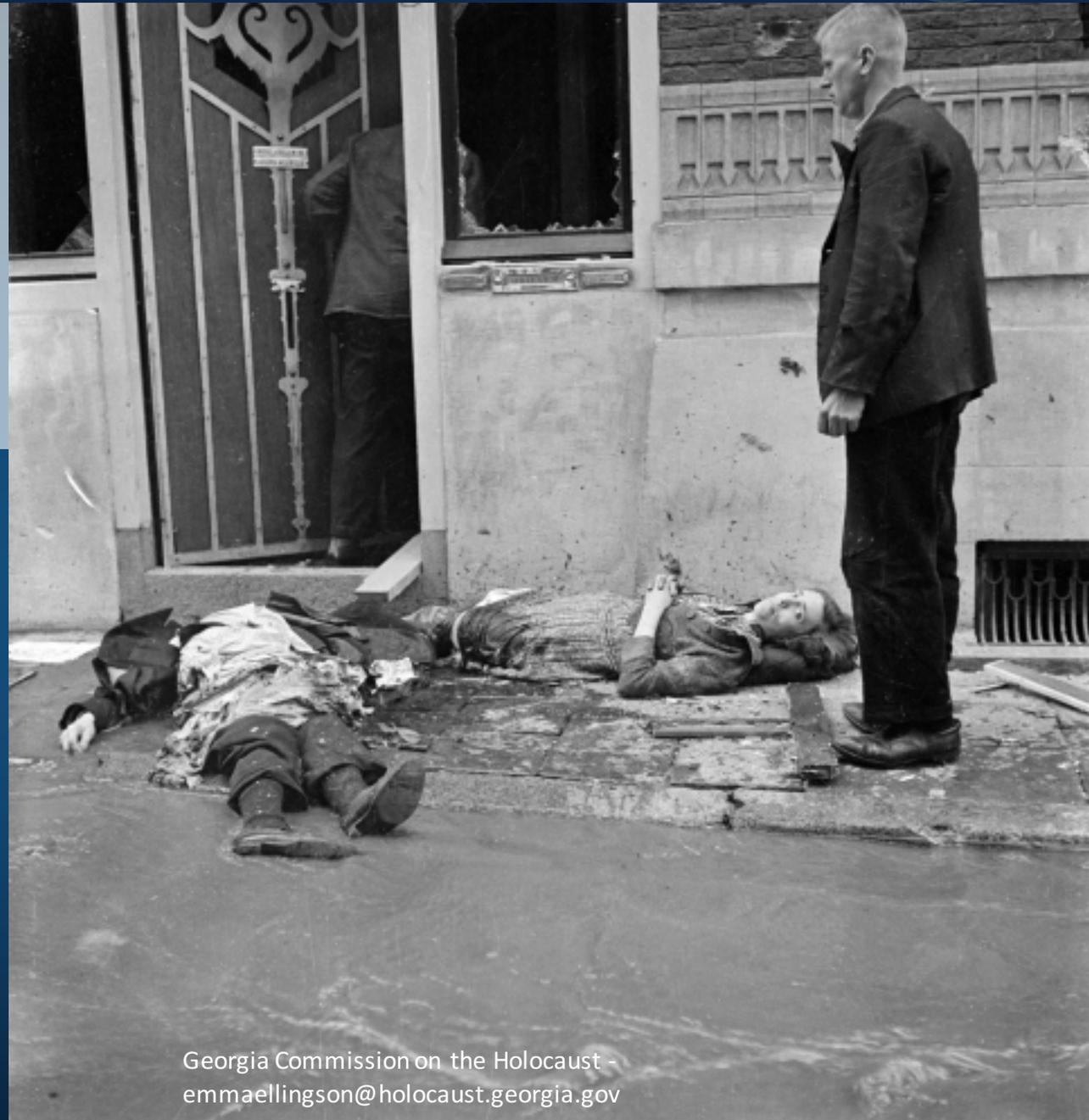
[Source: annefrank.org]



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Amsterdam, the Netherlands – 1940: A direct hit on the Herengracht. Twelve houses are damaged. There are 44 fatalities and 79 injured. It is close to the Workers Press building, where Cas Oorthuys works.
[Source: annefrank.org]

His wife Lydia said; ‘Cas saw dead and wounded people for the first time. Cas was especially upset by the wounded woman, who looked at him reproachfully with wide eyes and who didn’t want to be photographed.’



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1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS
2. TARGETS
3. RESCUERS
4. RESISTANCE
5. **BYSTANDERS** Individuals, groups, or entire nations who chose to do nothing.

**TOMASZÓW
MAZOWIECKI,
POLAND,
SEPTEMBER–
OCTOBER 1939:**
German soldiers
force one Jewish
man to cut the
beard of another in
a humiliating
violation of Jewish
law. The ethnic
identity of the
civilian onlookers—
German or
Polish?—is
unknown. [Source:
[USHMM](#)]



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Vienna, Austria – March 1-April 1, 1938:

Austrian Nazis and local residents look on as Jews are forced to get on their hands and knees and scrub the pavement.

[Source: [USHMM Photo Archives](#)]



**Darmstadt,
Germany –**

November 10, 1938:

Local residents watch as the synagogue is destroyed by fire, on the morning after Kristallnacht

The fire department prevented the fire from spreading to a nearby home, but did not try to limit the damage to the synagogue.

[Source: [USHMM Photo Archives](#)]



Krakow, Poland – 1940: A segregated streetcar in Krakow. The sign in German and Polish reads, "for Jews; for non-Jews."

[Source: [USHMM Photo Archives](#)]



FÜRTH, GERMANY – 1935: German girl at swimming pool entrance.

Knowing that Jewish neighbors were barred from entering, were people present at this pool complicit in discrimination? At what age should individuals be held responsible for discriminatory behavior? [Source: [USHMM](#)]



Kerpen, Germany – 1942: Uniformed Gestapo officials load Jews onto trucks for deportation in full view of many onlookers. [Source: [USHMM](#)]



Amsterdam, Netherlands – June 20, 1943: Jews assembled for transport to the Westerbork transit camp (a way station to the Auschwitz killing center), in a photograph taken clandestinely from a nearby building. Neighborhood boys watch from the corner (left) and other local residents from their window (center).

[Source: Dutch Resistance Museum via [USHMM](#)]



Most Europeans neither aided nor hindered the
“Final Solution.”

“One of the elements about ‘typical Holocaust history’ is it tends to be divided up into perpetrator, victim, and bystander. I think over time as we keep looking at this history the term bystander becomes less and less effective as a way of understanding what takes place in this history.”

-- Edward Phillips, Director of Exhibitions at
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum