

The Holocaust

Lesson 3



20th January 1942, 'Final Solution' agreed at the Wannsee Conference.

From 1942:
Chelmo
Belzec
Sobibor
Treblinka
Majdanek
Auschwitz-Birkenau
Plus, many other subcamps.

Manfred Goldberg
Card 5.

20th November 1945
– Nuremberg Trials Begin

Renee Salt
Card 1.

Mala Tribich
Card 6.

1944: Nazis knew they were going to lose the war and began destroying evidence of mass murder such as blowing up gas chambers.

Hannah Lewis
Card 2.

19th April 1943 – Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

800,000 Jews living in Hungary.

1944: Germany occupies Hungary.

15th April 1945: Bergen-Belsen concentration camp is liberated by the British Army.

1943: Germany occupies Italy, Monaco, Albania

Susan Pollack
Card 3.

Susan Pollack
Card 4.

Susan Pollack
Card 7.

8th May 1945: VE-Day -Second World War ends.

Card 1: Renee Salt

Early one morning, in the summer of 1942, we were woken up with screams of 'Alle Juden raus!' – all Jews out! We hid my grandparents and my four-year-old cousin in the attic, fully expecting to return soon to our room in the ghetto. In fact it was the last time we saw them and we later learnt that they had all been shot. The rest of us .. went out into the street, which was by then crammed with people, and like sheep we followed one another until we came to a large field, which was surrounded with Gestapo and SS men, all armed and with large guard dogs. ... Then they ordered parents to hand over all children up to 18 years of age. The cries of the children and the mothers' screams of "Almighty God help us, where are you?" still ring in my ears today.

[Timeline](#)

Card 2: Hannah Lewis

At first I didn't see her, and then all the yelling and the screaming and the commands, I suddenly saw her. She was with a group of other people and they were being pushed in front of the well, the well that she always collected water from. I tried to catch her eye, but it was as if she didn't see me and I didn't exist. ... I couldn't work out why was she not looking at me. And I was about to go down and take her hand as I'd done so many times before and somebody uttered a command. I was standing on the doorstep, looking at her and they started to shoot and I saw her fall. I saw the blood on the snow and in that moment, I always say I grew up. I knew I mustn't make a sound. I knew why she wasn't looking at me. I'd seen executions before, but they didn't have my mummy in it.

Timeline

Card 3: Susan Pollack

The selection took place immediately. My saviour at that time was a former Hungarian-speaking victim, and he started whispering to everyone, the few survivors, 'Don't say you are young, younger than fifteen years old.' ... So, when the German, the Nazi came and asked, 'How old are you?' I said, 'Ich bin fünfzehn,', 'I am fifteen years old.' And so he pushed me, but not before my mum, who was in her forties had been pushed to another side... I didn't know what was happening to her... And that's the last time I have seen my mum. I learnt about it later that she was gassed. I didn't cry. Human feelings left me completely.

Timeline

Card 4: Susan Pollack

There he was in his elegant uniform and we girls, stark naked, had to march in front of him. And for him to decide are we going to live or die? Are we going to be useful? That was the idea behind it. For doing some slave labour work. We knew that. I knew it from those who had been there for some time. I wanted to survive, was some feeling that overcame-, I wanted to live. So, I held myself straight, pinched my cheeks and I marched in front of him.

Timeline

Card 5: Manfred Goldberg

Anyone who didn't have the strength to keep pace with the march and began trailing behind was immediately shot, and their bodies just left where they fell. So, quite a number of people who were too weak, because the pace of the march was set by the SS guards who were strong, well-fed men, and they could march at a fair pace. And anyone who couldn't keep up with that pace, and began trailing, immediately lost their lives.

Timeline

Card 6: Mala Tribich

So, as we went in, the first thing that hits you is the smog and the smell, ... And then there were people there, but they were skeletons, and they would be, sort of, shuffling along, aimlessly, and then just collapse and die. So, there were dead bodies everywhere, and there were piles of bodies, and piles of twisted, decaying, undressed, naked corpses. It was just horrific.

Timeline

Card 7: Susan Pollack

I had pulmonary tuberculosis and Typhoid and famine oedema, my leg swelled up, my left leg was swollen up. And what else did I have? Well, severe malnutrition. And I was close to death. And it was a miracle with me, an absolute miracle. I lay there, and I became aware that somebody was touching me. And I couldn't fathom it out, I thought, well, 'Who's that? What is going on?' And he lifted me up with his gentle hands and kindness and placed me in that ambulance. I remember that quite clearly because it was such a new sensation. ...Imagine, these people, these soldiers, after a hard war and battle until they got to Belsen, they still had that kindness in their heart. How is that possible? To this day I don't understand it. What is it that put that kindness, that goodness in their heart?

Timeline