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We invite all of you to work closely with us. We would be grateful to receive information about events, projects, publications, exhibitions, conferences or research that we should share with our readers. We also accept proposals for articles.

Please do share information about this magazine with others, particularly via social media.

Paweł Sawicki, Editor-in-Chief

Our e-mail: memoria@auschwitz.org

All editions: memoria.auschwitz.org
THE DUTY OF SHARING STORIES

Lockdown has certainly been a challenging experience for both myself and for my great-grandmother, Lily Ebert - a survivor of Auschwitz, Nazi-enforced slave labour and the death march. It’s brought to light the fragility of life, and as a result of this, I’ve been approaching my visits with my great-grandmother as opportunities to learn as much as I can about her story. Not only has lockdown renewed my appreciation for the life we get to live, but has also made me realise that educating myself on my great grandmother’s past is a race against time. It will soon be the responsibility of my generation to pass on her legacy and her story.

Consequently, I’ve been determined to collect all the tangible evidence I possibly can whilst I still have the chance. I hope to use this evidence - in the form of photos and videos - in order to make information about my great-grandmother’s experience more accessible, and to help people understand what it is she had to go through, just for being Jewish.

The keepsake I was shown that touched my heart the most was a German banknote. This banknote was inscribed with ten words of hope and was given to my great-grandmother by her unnamed American liberator in 1945.

On the fifth of July, I posted a picture of this German banknote on Twitter aiming to discover this soldier’s identity. I joked with my great-grandmother that I’d be able to find him within twenty-four hours.
This tweet ended up going more viral than I could have ever anticipated, and a word of thanks must be issued towards the Auschwitz Memorial for sharing this tweet. It sparked media attention and spurred an international hunt for the name of the soldier who had placed within my great-grandmother the hope of a new life. Incredibly, after eight hours, the tweet had achieved over one million interactions. Whilst in the midst of piecing together the story of this banknote with my great-grandmother, I received a direct message containing the identity of the soldier who had liberated my great-grandmother back in 1945: Private Hayman Shulman.

After doing some more digging, it was soon confirmed that it must have indeed been Private Hayman Shulman who’d written the note. A few days later, a meeting had been organised between myself, my great-grandmother and the son and daughter-in-law of my great-grandmother’s liberator.

We were speechless. My great-grandmother couldn’t believe that we had actually found the name of the first person who had shown her kindness after the war and had been able to meet with his family. After all, only a day earlier, she’d laughed as I jokingly suggested I’d be able to uncover the name of this soldier in under twenty-four hours.

To have discovered the identity of the soldier who had scribbled a message of hope on to a banknote 75 years ago is nothing short of a miracle. As the number of survivors and liberators dwindles over time, meetings like these are increasingly rare. These ‘miracle meetings’ are the ultimate proof that the Nazis didn’t win.

Our experience of meeting with Private Shulman’s family was surreal, and it’s so amazing that we were able to use social media in such a positive way - to connect two dots from opposite ends of the world. I sincerely hope we can learn from this what’s possible when we use social media for good.
It was inspiring to hear about the work Hayman Shulman did after the war - he helped to relocate Holocaust survivors from the Buchenwald concentration camp to Switzerland as an assistant to Chaplin Schechter. Sadly, the trauma of what he saw haunted him for the rest of his life. He very rarely mentioned the horrors he encountered in Buchenwald. Shulman’s son Jason said, “My father was certainly traumatised and, having been through the Battle of the Bulge, he was shocked and unable to bring himself to talk about it.” He added, “it would have been wonderful to have my father here to meet your great-grandmother again in such different circumstances.”

I will never forget this experience. My biggest takeaway is that, as Lily’s great-grandson, the duty of sharing her story will eventually fall upon me and my generation. We must do all we can to ensure that the legacy of those who were forced to witness the murder of six million Jews lives on, throughout history.
On this day, we commemorate the last 4,300 Sinti and Roma who were murdered by the SS in the concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau 76 years ago - despite their fierce resistance. Only five years ago, this date was recognised by the European Parliament as European Holocaust Memorial Day for Sinti and Roma.

Romani Rose, Chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, emphasises the importance of a joint commemoration:

"Today Europe is again facing a new nationalism, antigypsyism and anti-Semitism. In recent times we have witnessed numerous right-wing terrorist assassinations in Germany and other European countries. Historical remembrance is a living obligation for the present and the future. When we remember the crimes of National Socialism and the Holocaust today, we must simultaneously defend democracy and the rule of law."

Due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma and the Association of Roma in Poland, in cooperation with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, had to make the difficult decision to organize only a small commemoration event in the former concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau this year.

Kwiatkowski, Chairman of the Association of Roma in Poland and Mr. Cywinski, Director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, the President of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Dr. Josef Schuster, and the Chairman of the Council of the EKD, Prof. Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, will also take part in the commemoration event on 2 August.

"Despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, we would like to commemorate our people with dignity. We therefore invite institutions, memorial sites and civil society in Europe to make the virtual commemoration event visible and to raise awareness of the Holocaust of the Sinti and Roma through its own commemoration and educational events. Together we can strengthen the demand for political recognition of the Holocaust of the Sinti and Roma in all European states", Romani Rose continued.

From 27 July 2020, the new website https://www.roma-sinti-holocaust-memorial-day.eu/ will be available with a wide range of information on the topic of the Holocaust of Sinti and Roma and will make the multilingual commemoration event accessible to an international public on 2 August 2020. The virtual commemoration will also provide high visibility for local commemoration events throughout Europe.
5 years ago the European Parliament recognized 2 August as European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day

European Parliament resolution of 15 April 2015 on the occasion of International Roma Day – anti-Gypsyism in Europe and EU recognition of the memorial day of the Roma genocide during World War II (2015/2615(RSP))

The European Parliament,

14. Declares that a European day should be dedicated to commemorating the victims of the genocide of the Roma during World War II and that this day should be called the European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day.

April 15, 2015 marked a historical moment. The European Parliament voted with an overwhelming majority to finally adopt a resolution which recognizes “the historical fact of the genocide of Roma that took place during World War II” and concludes “that a European day should be dedicated to commemorating the victims of the genocide of the Roma during World War II.” Of huge importance is the fact that this resolution also “underlines the need to combat anti-Gypsyism at every level and by every means, and stresses that this phenomenon is an especially persistent, violent, recurrent and commonplace form of racism.”

Find out more >>
On 2 August, we commemorate the last 4,300 Sinti and Roma in the German Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, who were murdered by the SS on that night in 1944 despite their fierce resistance. In memory of all 500,000 Sinti and Roma murdered in Nazi-occupied Europe, the European Parliament declared this date the European Holocaust Memorial Day for Sinti and Roma in 2015.

Due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, we had to make the difficult decision that only a small wreath-laying ceremony with limited participation can take place at the Memorial in Auschwitz-Birkenau. This website will soon
be launched in order to host the official virtual commemoration ceremony for the European Holocaust Memorial Day for Sinti and Roma on 2 August 2020, as well as to increase the visibility of local commemorations across Europe.

The commemoration ceremony is organized by the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma and the Association of Roma in Poland in cooperation with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

Contact: zentralrat@sintiundroma.de

Among the speakers at the virtual memorial event are Holocaust survivors Ms Zilli Schmidt, Ms Rita Prigmore and Mr Ivan Bilaschenko, the President of the Slovak Republic Ms Zuzana Čaputová, the President of Austria Mr Alexander Van der Bellen, the President of the German Bundestag Dr Wolfgang Schäuble, the Deputy Marshal of the Sejm Mr Ryszard Terlecki, the President of the European Parliament Mr David Sassoli, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe Ms Marija Pejčinović Burić, the EU Commissioner for Equality Ms Helena Dalli, and the President of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Michaela Küchler.
"EVERY NAME COUNTS"
– A DIGITAL AND PARTICIPATIVE PROJECT OF REMEMBRANCE

The corona pandemic has made it impossible for people to come together at memorial sites to remember the many millions of victims who were imprisoned, exploited, and murdered there by the National Socialists. The Arolsen Archives offer a new form of remembrance, which is open to all: the crowdsourcing project “Every Name Counts” calls for volunteers from all over the world to enter names found on documents into the online archive to ensure that they will never be forgotten.

The background

The Arolsen Archives are an international center on Nazi persecution with the world’s most comprehensive archive on the victims and survivors of National Socialism. The collection has information on about 17.5 million people and belongs to UNESCO’s Memory of the World. Since 2015, the Arolsen Archives have gradually been publishing more and more of their documents in an online archive. It currently contains 26 million documents, which means that almost all the historical collections held by the Arolsen Archives are now online. In May 2020, this year’s European Heritage Award was awarded to the Arolsen Archives for their expanding online archive.

Names function as keys

Around 500,000 users have already searched the online archive for information. Most of them are looking for the names of individuals. Many millions of names can already be found using the simple search function. However, in some cases the digital link between the document and the names it contains is missing. This applies in particular to lists. This can result in a name search being unsuccessful - even if the name in question is contained in a document in the online archive. This is an important issue, because a person’s name can be the last clue to their fate. People all over the world are still looking for information about relatives who experienced persecution - their fates are often still unknown. One of the users of the online archive describes this as follows: “My father never talked about the relatives he lost. So recovering even a name on a list is very important for us. These files add much more information. I am so appreciative of the efforts made in uploading this data.”

The Arolsen Archives have set themselves an ambitious goal: by 2025, it should be possible to find all the names in the millions of documents stored in the archives by means of a simple online search – so that people everywhere can easily access information on the fate of their relatives. “Every name counts” is a major milestone in achieving this goal. But it is also much more than that: “We need a lot of volunteers to achieve our goal. But participating in the “Every Name Counts” project does not just help us digitize our documents,” emphasizes Floriane Azoulay, Director of the Arolsen Archives. “Every list that is transcribed, every name that is digitized is an expression of solidarity with the victims of the crimes committed by the Nazis and carries with it the promise that we will never forget.”

All pictures in the article: Arolsen Archives
Jeder Name zählt...!

All pictures in the article: Arolsen Archives
School students take the lead

A pilot project for “Every Name counts” involving around 1000 school students from Germany was launched on 27 January 2020 - 75 years after the Red Army liberated the Auschwitz concentration camp. The students spent the day transcribing names and dates of birth from deportation lists, reconstructing biographies, and reflecting on the fate of the deportees. The Arolsen Archives had provided the schools that took part with a comprehensive kit of materials in advance for use during the preparation and follow up phases of the project. The students worked on deportation lists from the German towns of Kassel, Frankfurt am Main, Darmstadt, and Wiesbaden. The regional focus made the young people think: often the deportees’ last address was in a street that they knew or in the town that they came from themselves. For the students who took part, working with original documents containing the names and ages of the victims, as well as information about where they lived, was an unusually direct approach to learning about the crimes committed by the Nazi regime.

The project goes international

The project was expanded to international level at the end of April. Anyone who has a PC and a reliable internet connection can now take part in “Every Name Counts.” It uses an internet platform that makes it easy for anyone to help transcribe information like names, dates of birth, and sometimes also the deportees’ occupation or last address from the historical documents and enter them into a database. In order to prevent mistakes or improper use, every document has to be processed three times by three different people. The data are compared, corrected, and completed by staff of the Arolsen Archives before being transferred to the database that lies at the heart of the online archive. This process takes a few weeks, and once it has been completed, the chances of obtaining positive search results are greatly increased.
For choice specific
of started
inform
Read the helpful hints
for working with
our archival documents
join in!
You’re ready to go!
Every Name Counts

Occupation
Fleischer

Date of death

Prisoner category
Sch-J.
Working together to fight oblivion

The documents that are currently being processed for “Every Name counts” come from concentration camps. They might be transport lists, for example, or so-called status reports that documented who were the new arrivals to the camp, who had been transferred to another camp, and who had died. It can be a frustrating, time-consuming task to decipher and enter the data. “The lists are a labor of love sometimes, squinting at faded letters, checking possible names in the internet because the "a" and "o" look identical, etc. It has taken me up to two hours to do some of them. [...]” This is how one of the volunteers described the experience of working on lists from the Mauthausen concentration camp.

However, none of this seems to act as a deterrent: 6000 volunteers have registered to work on the project and exchange information in the forum. And many more take part without registering as users. The online community uses the forum to share personal stories, pictures, and background knowledge. Users work together to try to find answers to the questions thrown up by the documents. People of all generations are involved, ranging from high school students to Holocaust survivors. One young woman told us that she is working on the project together with her grandmother, who helps her to decipher the old German handwriting. Many of the volunteers use the forum to tell us about their background and their motivation for getting involved in the project. Some of them lost relatives in a German concentration camp themselves. Others are pleased to have something meaningful to do while they are unable to leave the house. All feel strongly that it is important to play an active role in fighting against oblivion...

Conclusion

The project “Every Name Counts” has two objectives: in addition to the fact that the Arolsen Archives benefit at a purely practical level from the support provided by participants who help enter the data of Nazi persecutees, the project also prompts many people to think about what the documents mean – and take an interest in the fates of the people whose names they contain. The conscientiousness and the perseverance shown by the volunteers who work on "Every name counts" is impressive. The quality of the data they enter is very high and the contribution this makes to remembrance work is very valuable. It is clear that the project will remain an integral part of the work of the Arolsen Archives and will be developed further in the future.

“Digital remembrance is a modern form of remembrance that we want to use to reach out to young people in particular,” explains Floriane Azoulay as she describes the significance of the project. “It enables them to take action and to participate in a shared experience without leaving the sofa, so to speak. With so many people working together to make sure the fates of individuals are never forgotten, we are gradually building a huge online memorial.”
On August 15th, a concert prepared by the Silesian Philharmonic will be held at the Silesian Museum's Fajrat Square, during which 3 Warsaw Polonaises by an unknown author from the XVIII century, arranged by Szymon Laks for the men's orchestra in Birkenau, will be played live for the first time. The songs were recorded last year by the New Music Orchestra under the baton of Szymon Bywalec and originally intended as part of a larger project called "Forbidden Music", which presents songs that were illegally played or created by prisoners during the functioning of the Auschwitz camp. They are primarily compositions by Polish and Jewish artists, as both performers and listeners were severely punished for playing and listening to their works. However, "to cheer the hearts," and at the risk of their lives, such compositions were performed in Auschwitz, and for those who had the opportunity to listen to them at the time, these were some of the most moving moments of the camp ordeal. The Warsaw Polonaises and the history of their creation are a unique example forbidden music in the camp.

Officially, there were 11 prisoner orchestras at Auschwitz, with the main task of maximizing the pace of crossing the camp gate of the prisoner labor units by playing jumping marches, and one of them was the men's orchestra in Birkenau. The first chaplain and conductor of this orchestra was Jan Zaborski (19848), and after his death in November 1942, Franciszek Kopka (11099) took over the baton. Although the controversial Kopka formally led the orchestra until June 1944, the outstanding Polish musician of Jewish origin, Szymon Laks, had begun to gain great influence on the functioning of the band. The orchestra gradually increased in size, the playing and sound levels of the band improved, and in addition to the Poles who dominated the initial line-up, musicians of Jewish origin from almost all European countries joined the band. The ensemble's instruments included several violins, violas, trumpets, saxophones, clarinets, accordions, a tuba helicon, saxophone, trombone, double bass, drum, plates, kettledrum and cello. The locations where the orchestra played marches and gave Sunday concerts for the SS and fellow prisoners also changed, but the band mainly played in a designated location at the exit from the men's camp. Although no photograph of the orchestra survived, the performance site is visible in a photograph taken by the SS in 1944, which is stored in the PMAB archives. Empty chairs and clearly visible music stands suggest a performance interval. Visible in the distance are the water tank and the camp kitchen building, which no longer exists today.

Szymon Laks was not only an excellent conductor, but also an outstanding orchestrator who prepared the notes for his ensemble. The marching repertoire consisted mainly of lively German compositions, but during the Sunday concerts for the SS, the band played waltzes, tangos, opera and operetta arias and music hits popular at the time, which could also be listened to by the prisoners. Occasionally, there were less formal jazz music concerts or occasional performances for dignitaries on their birthdays, for example, however, there was always one rule: it was forbidden to play music by Polish and Jewish composers. One exceptional situation, when the notes of Polish polonaises ended up in the hands of the musicians, is described by Szymon Laks in his post-war memoirs:
Nuty z Birkenau

Polonezy Warszawskie
One evening [...] I came across a crumpled and greasy paper lying on the ground, covered in writing that caught my attention. I picked it up and when I got to the block, I unfolded it carefully so as not to damage it. It smelled of herring and God knows what else. But they were notes. The melody itself, handwritten but very clear, without harmonisation, or accompaniment.

I washed the precious document as carefully as I possibly could and hung it in a discreet place in the music hall to dry off overnight. Over the next couple of days, I harmonized and wrote down all three polonaises for a small chamber ensemble, and then started rehearsing them in the block as soon as circumstances permitted. They turned out to be true pearls of XVIII century Polish music. Some of my Polish colleagues attributed this "feat" to me, considering it an act of resistance. I was a bit surprised, because for me it was merely a musical satisfaction, admittedly intensified by the Polishness of the music, but I didn't see how its conspiratorial performance could harm the Germans or influence the course of warfare...

After the war I recreated the "Three Warsaw Polonaises" from memory.

The conductor of each of the camp orchestras in Auschwitz had little influence on the composition of his ensemble, in particular, he had no idea whether the musicians would survive another day in the camp. Although newcomers took the place of those who fell ill, or were sent to the gas chamber or "the wire", it was necessary to prepare the instrumentation such that part of one instrument could be replaced by another, which Laks recalls as follows:

"The sudden disappearance of one or more musicians caused "emptiness" in the chords, and often in the solo parts. It imposed a grim obligation on me to keep a close eye on the physical and mental health of my weaker colleagues and to use a special kind of instrumentation. This system, which is referred to in musical jargon as "odeon", consists in allowing any work to be performed by any ensemble, regardless of the presence or absence of one or even several musicians. It is achieved by writing small notes of more important themes into other vocal parts, so that in the absence of the principal soloist he or she is replaced by one of those present, by reading these small notes. Over time, I gained real mastery in this peculiar art, and the sound "gaps" that plagued me appeared less and less frequently. It was only after long months that the composition of the orchestra, which was growing in number, became established as such, which permitted me to abandon my activities as a music gravedigger".

With the efforts of many people and institutions, including the PWM in Cracow, the notes were found, and with the financial support of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Victims Memorial Foundation, and the patronage of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Oświęcim, this musical triptych was recorded and released in the form of a CD.

The discovery and recording of these works bring back to life the musical oeuvre of the Polish cultural legacy, and research is currently underway to determine whether these works are known in Polish music history. The uniqueness of these works is not only the possibility to listen to the sound of the camp orchestra, but also an example of a very rare way of orchestrating, forced by the circumstances of the prisoners (musicians) in the camp.
The premiere of the Polonaises performed by the Silesian Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra coincides with the presentation of the "Forbidden Music" from Auschwitz on the website www.forbiddenmusic.info, dedicated to this subject. Another unique piece presented on the website is a reconstruction of Fryderyk Chopin's etude in E major Op. 10 No. 3, performed illegally at the time by a female prisoner orchestra and released as a CD single on the occasion of the birthday of the deceased prisoner, Helena Dunicz-Niwińska, thanks to whom the reconstruction was possible.

Aware that the concert in Katowice will not be accessible to everyone interested due to the pandemic, we invite you to familiarize yourself with the event and listen to the songs online at www.forbiddenmusic.info, which was created thanks to a special-purpose grant from the National Centre for Culture as part of the "Culture Online" project. We hope its content will be supplemented and reach a broad audience.
Symposium 'Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust in the UK' is available online. The three-part symposium "Teaching & Learning About the Holocaust in the UK" is now available to watch online. Sponsored by the AJR, in partnership with the UK Delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), the symposium formed part of the UK launch of the IHRA Recommendations for Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust.

One of the aims for the Recommendations is to contribute to an ongoing conversation between academics, policymakers, practitioners and wider society about the relevance and importance of teaching and learning about the Holocaust today. In this spirit, the series contains informal discussions with delegates to the IHRA, as well as external experts, on the issues involved in teaching and learning about the Holocaust.

The first panel discussion, "What Holocaust Education Is and Isn’t," chaired by Alex Maws of The Association of Jewish Refugees, featured panelists Jennifer Ciardelli of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Ruth-Anne Lenga of the UCL Centre for Holocaust Education, Alasdair Richardson of the University of Winchester, and Catrina Kirkland of the Holocaust Educational Trust. Some of the topics discussed include the debates around the term "Holocaust education," aspects of teaching and learning about the Holocaust that have changed over the last several years, and how the Recommendations could be used in classrooms.
For the second session, panelists discussed the role played by museums, memorials and archives in teaching and learning about the Holocaust.

This session, called "Britain’s Holocaust Museums, Memorials & Archives," featured panelists Martin Winstone of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation, Barbara Warnock of the Wiener Holocaust Library, Louise Stafford of the National Holocaust Centre and Museum, and Rachel Donnelly of the Imperial War Museums.

The third discussion, "How the IHRA’s work Impacts upon Education, Memory & Heritage in the UK" featured three delegates to the IHRA, Paula Cowan of Vision Schools Scotland, Gilly Carr from the University of Cambridge, and Olivia Marks-Woldman of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. In this conversation, panelists gave a broader insight into what the IHRA does, including sharing best practices in education and remembrance across an international network.
TOUCHING DISCOVERIES
IN CHILDREN' SHOES

An exceptional discovery was made during conservation works on shoes belonging to victims of the German Nazi Auschwitz camp, which are on display at the permanent exhibition, at the Auschwitz Memorial.
A handwritten inscription was found in one of the children’s shoes bearing the child's first and last name, the marking of the transport and the child's registration number on the transport list (Ba 541). Amos Steinberg was born on 26 June 1938. He lived in Prague. On 10 August 1942, he was incarcerated along with his parents Ludwig (Ludvík) and Ida in the Theresienstadt Ghetto near Prague. They were all deported to Auschwitz.

'From surviving documents, it follows that the mother and her son were deported to Auschwitz in the same transport on 4 October 1944. It is likely that they were both murdered in the gas chamber after selection. We may presume that she was most likely the one who ensured that her child's shoe was signed. The father was deported in another transport. We know that he was transferred from Auschwitz to Dachau on 10 October 1944. He was liberated in the Kaufering sub-camp,' said Hanna Kubik from the Museum Collections.
Munkács megyei város šázváratla
Erkertemp
41 József 5

Munkács

Munkácsi Bethlen utca 51 ss. a.

A szakértelmű adóház alakulók

általános ügyészködés torzítása, mert az én tulajdonosomat

áltak le, miután saját tudajdonomról

jelenten be és tisztéettel kérem, hogy ezen butrot

a zálogolás alól feloldani veszedjék.

Ennek alapján mély tisztelettel ismételten kérem, hogy

az elrendelt zálogolás alól az én tulajdonosomat képes butrot fel-

oldani szíveskedjék.

Alátámasztó tisztelettel:


datumszám: Berryman vol. 12 az a. lakosság 31. vettk. 5 év deceská 

nem kicsi

lakása az 1. szobába küldetem nem volt nové elhelyezni

butrot és ezért ösv. Argermann Bernadné, munkácsi Bethlen

u. 51 az a. lakosság ezt a gondjaként a butrot, adata

amig jobb leválasztásat, így fenti butor az én tulajdonomat

képes és nevezetűs csak a fivérőről. A szúrás nem nagyobb

az anykjénél.

Ennek alapján mély tisztelettel ismételten kérem, hogy

az elrendelt zálogolás alól az én tulajdonosomat képes butrot fel-

oldani szíveskedjék.
In total, the Germans transferred 24 transports of over 46,000 Jews from the Theresienstadt Ghetto to Auschwitz. About 18,000 of them were placed in a special family camp in section B11b of the Auschwitz II-Birkenau camp.

In another shoe, however, we came across documents in Hungarian. 'We already have shoes with such findings in our collections, but these are mainly newspapers, which were often used as insoles or additional insulation. This find is precious and interesting because the documents have been preserved in good condition and they contain dates, names of the persons concerned and handwritten captions. They date back to 1941 and 1942,' added Hanna Kubik.

These documents belonged to people probably living in Munkacs and Budapest. 'Some of them are official documents, a fragment of a brochure and a piece of paper with a name. The names Ackermann, Brávermann and Beinhorn appear in the find. They were probably deported to Auschwitz in the spring or summer of 1944 during the extermination of Hungarian Jews. I hope that more in-depth research will allow us to determine the details of the individuals. The discovered documents will be preserved and sent to the Collection along with the shoe,' emphasised Kubik.

The first transports of Hungarian Jews were sent to Auschwitz on 28 and 29 April 1944 from the Kistarcsa camp near Budapest and the town of Topolya in Vojvodina. The main phase of deportation began on 14 May and lasted until 9 July 1944. During this period, 142 trains arrived at Auschwitz with a total of about 420,000 deportees. If we add to this number the transports from April and some smaller ones in late summer and autumn 1944, then the total number of deportees from Hungary will stand at about 430,000. Shortly upon arrival at Auschwitz, 325,000 to 330,000 people lost their lives in the gas chambers, accounting for over 75% of the deported Jews from Hungary.