

# NAZI PERSECUTION OF HOMOSEXUALS 1933–1945

## ONE PERSON'S STORY



USHMM

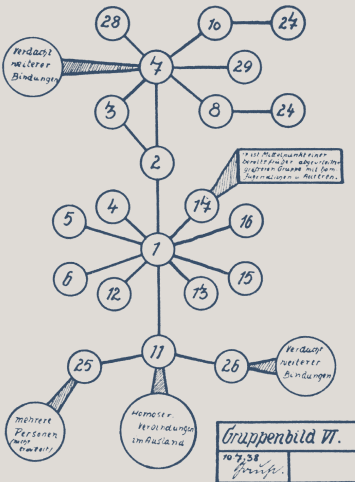
**NAME:** HARRY PAULY

**DATE OF BIRTH:** 1914

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** GERMANY

At age 15, Harry began acting in the Berlin theater. Before the Nazis came to power, Harry spent much of his time with other actors at the theater and in nightclubs and cafés where homosexuals gathered.

Under the Nazis, life for Harry changed. He was arrested twice (1936, 1943); convicted twice under §175; and imprisoned in a concentration camp at Neusustrum.



In the section of the exhibition called “Nazi Ideology of Persecution,” this Nazi chart portrays homosexuality as a threat to the German people. Consider how the Nazis might have used this document.

Karl W. Gahl, Statistische Untersuchungen über Gruppenbildung bei Jugendlichen . . . (1940)

In 1944, Harry was drafted into a “cannon fodder” battalion but survived the war. After the war, he opened a small theater.

For further information about Harry Pauly, see the Museum’s Web site, [www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org).

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UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

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**NAME:** ROBERT T. ODEAN

**DATE OF BIRTH:** NOVEMBER 30, 1904

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** HAMBURG, GERMANY

While living in Berlin in 1937 as a musician and actor, Robert was denounced by a friend. Sentenced under the Nazi-revised §175, he spent 27 months in prison.

After release from prison, Robert remained under police surveillance. In 1942, he was again arrested under §175 and deported to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

**Kennzeichen für Schutzhäftlinge in den Konz. Lagern**  
Form und Farbe der Kennzeichen

	Politisch	Berufs- Verbrecher	Emigrant	Bibel- forscher	Homosexuell	Rassial
Grund- farben	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
Abzeichen für Vorfälle	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
Häftlinge der Straf- kompanie	●	●	●	●	●	●
Abzeichen für Juden	★	★	★	★	★	★
Besondere Abzeichen	△ Jüd. Helf- schänder	△ Helf- schänderin	○ Nacht- verrückter	2507 Häftlings- nummer	2507 Häftlings- nummer	2507 Häftlings- nummer
	△ Pole	△ Hebräer	△ Verurteilt angehöriger	△ Häftling Ia		

The pink triangle was used by the Nazis in concentration camps to identify homosexual prisoners. This chart is located in the section of the exhibition called “Protective Custody in Concentration Camps.” Note the ways the Nazis categorized the people they imprisoned.

*Dokumentationsarchiv des Österreichischen Widerstandes, Vienna*

After the war, Robert returned to Berlin, where he worked as a writer and composer. He died in 1985.

For further information about Robert T. Odean, see the Museum's Web site, [www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org).

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**PLACE OF BIRTH:** LÜBECK, GERMANY



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**NAME:** KARL LANGE

**DATE OF BIRTH:** OCTOBER 28, 1915

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** HAMBURG, GERMANY

At age 19, Karl was arrested by the Nazis under §175. His first prison sentence lasted 15 months. Karl was rearrested in 1937 and spent the next eight years in the Fuhlsbüttel prison. He was released in 1945.

With the end of the war, Karl—then 30—found a position in a Hamburg bank. He was fired after 18 months when his employer learned that he had been imprisoned under §175.



*Ewald Kentgens, Berlin*

In the exhibition section “Aftermath,” dates are given when the first memorials to the homosexual victims of Nazism were erected. Consider what those memorials reveal about public recognition of homosexuals as victims.

For further information about Karl Lange, see the Museum’s Web site, [www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org).

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UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM



## THE UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

is America's national

institution for the documentation, study, and interpretation of Holocaust history and serves as this country's memorial to the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust.

The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. 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.

The Museum's primary mission is to advance and disseminate knowledge about this unprecedented tragedy, to preserve the memory of those who suffered, and to encourage its visitors to reflect upon the moral and spiritual questions raised by the events of the Holocaust as well as their own responsibilities as citizens of a democracy.

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10  
YEARS

EDUCATION  
REMEMBRANCE  
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