

# NAZI PERSECUTION OF HOMOSEXUALS 1933–1945

## ONE PERSON'S STORY



USHMM

**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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**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.



**United States Holocaust Memorial Museum**

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