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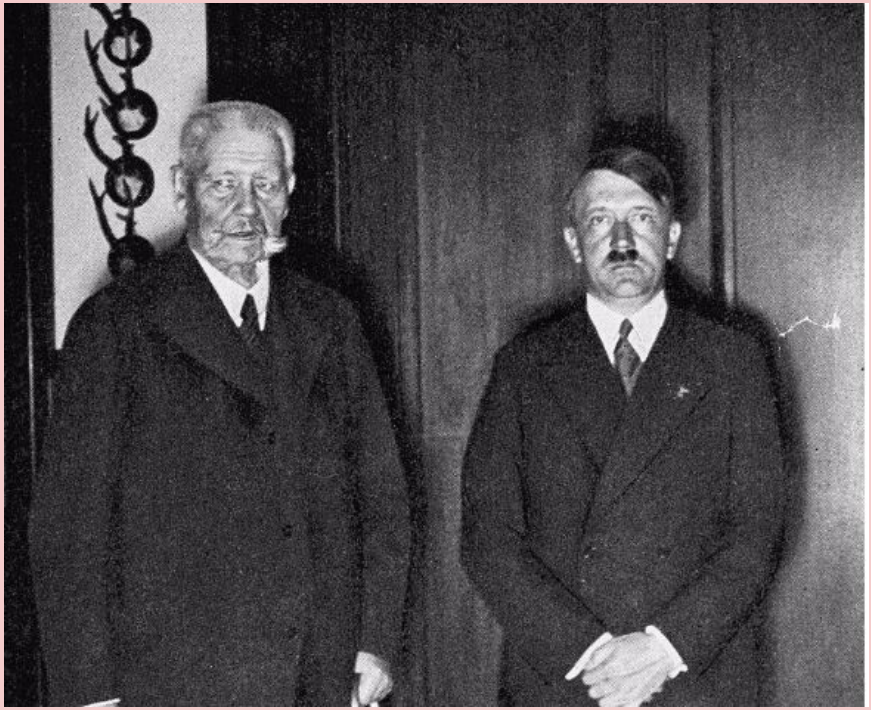
ELIE WIESEL

ELIE WIESEL BORN

- Elie Wiesel was born to a religious Jewish family in the town of Sighet, which was in the Transylvanian region of Romania.
- Wiesel had two older sisters and one younger sister.
- This postcard shows the main market square in Sighet before World War II.

SEPTEMBER 30, 1928

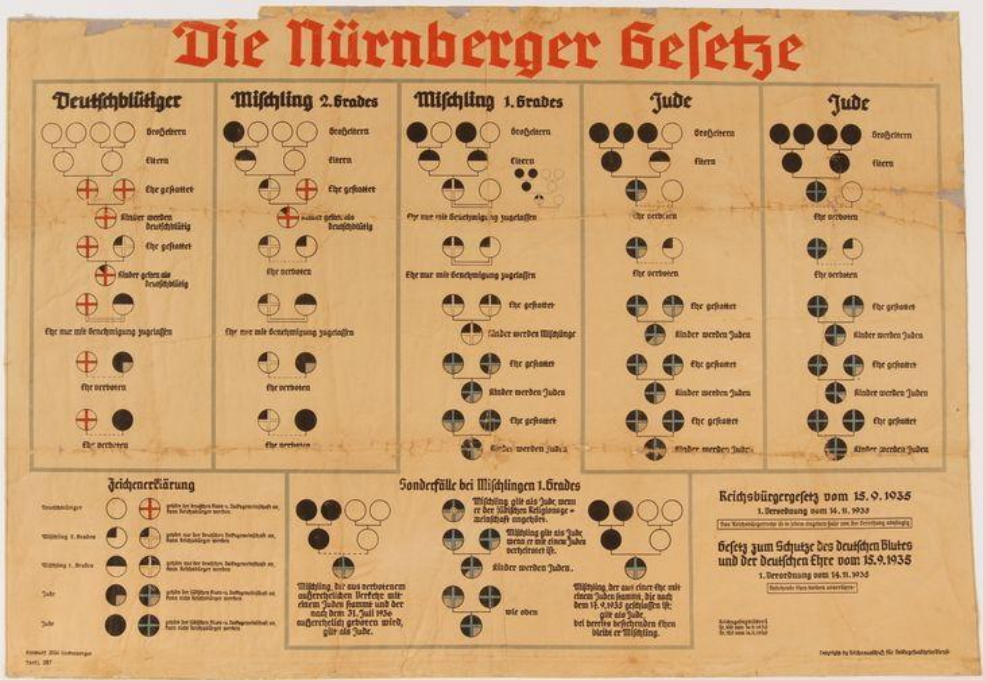
ADOLF HITLER APPOINTED CHANCELLOR OF GERMANY



- German president Paul von Hindenburg appointed Adolf Hitler, the head of the National Socialist German Workers' (Nazi) Party, to be chancellor of Germany.
- In the spring of 1933, Nazi Party supporters attacked Jews on the streets of Germany, boycotted Jewish-owned stores, and burned books.
- The Wiesel family lived hundreds of miles away and was not affected by the early Nazi persecution of German Jews.

JANUARY 30, 1933

REICH CITIZENSHIP LAW



- The Nuremberg Race Laws set a legal definition for which people the German government considered to be "Jewish."
- Under the law, German Jews lost their citizenship and were also forbidden from entering into relationships with non-Jews.
- This chart helped explain the law to Germans.
- Sighet was not part of Germany, so the Wiesel family was not affected by these laws.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1935

KRISTALLNACHT ATTACKS

- Nazi supporters launched a coordinated and violent attack against Jews in the areas controlled by Germany.
- They burned hundreds of synagogues, destroyed stores and homes owned by Jewish families, and arrested 30,000 Jewish men and boys who were then imprisoned in concentration camps.
- Sighet was not controlled by Germany at this time, and Elie Wiesel was not affected by these attacks.

NOVEMBER 9–10, 1938

ANTISEMITISM IN ROMANIA

- Romanian authorities pursued a harsh policy of antisemitism, encouraged by members of the fascist Iron Guard movement, who wanted to expel Jews from Romania.

- As a child, Elie Wiesel witnessed Jews being attacked on the streets and saw antisemitic graffiti on buildings. Even though Wiesel was not living under Nazi control, he still experienced antisemitism.

- This is a photo of Vicky Hershkovits, who lived with her family in Bixad, Romania, 40 miles from Wiesel's hometown of Sighet. In the late 1930s, her father's bus company was taken away because he was Jewish.

1938–39

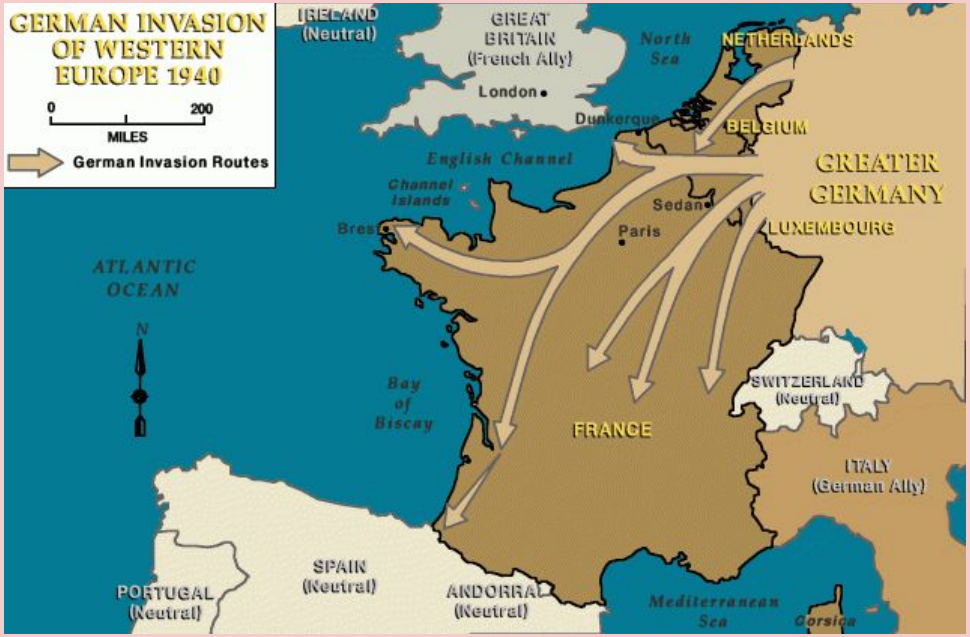
GERMANY INVADES POLAND

- Nazi Germany invaded Poland. Great Britain and France, which had an alliance with Poland, declared war on Germany. World War II officially began.

- Elie Wiesel later wrote, “We were at war, but I did not feel threatened. For me life went on as before.”

SEPTEMBER 1, 1939

GERMANY INVADES WESTERN EUROPE



- The German military invaded and occupied the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg. They also invaded France, dividing it into Nazi-occupied and Nazi-aligned zones.
- Thousands of “foreign” Jews were rounded up and sent to concentration camps in southern France.

MAY 10, 1940

FIRST PRISONERS ARRIVE AT AUSCHWITZ

- The *SS* opened a large concentration camp called "Auschwitz" near the town of Oświęcim in Nazi-occupied Poland.
- The first prisoners of Auschwitz were German and Polish men (both Christian and Jewish). Most of them were imprisoned as political opponents of the Nazis.
- This mugshot shows 18-year-old Zbigniew Matys, a Polish prisoner. He was prisoner number 71.

JUNE 14, 1940

SIGHET GIVEN TO HUNGARY

Indianapolis Star, courtesy newspapers.com

- Nazi Germany forced Romania to give up territory. Transylvania, including the area of Sighet--where the Wiesel family lived--was granted to Hungary.
- Hungarian race laws, passed between 1938 and 1941, classified the Wiesel family as Jewish and took away many of their rights.
- This map appeared in American newspapers.

AUGUST 30, 1940

HUNGARY JOINS THE AXIS

- Hungary joined the Axis powers, a group of countries aligned with Nazi Germany.
- Thousands of Jewish men in Hungarian territory (which by then included Sighet, where the Wiesels lived) were forced to join labor battalions doing war-related construction. Many, including most of the men in this picture, died.

NOVEMBER 20, 1940

GERMANY INVADES THE SOVIET UNION

- Breaking an August 1939 non-aggression pact, Nazi Germany launched a surprise invasion of the Soviet Union and the areas occupied by the Soviet Union (including Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia). Hungarian troops aided in the invasion.

- Mobile killing squads (*Einsatzgruppen*) followed behind the German lines, murdering Jews and other victims by shooting them and gassing them in gas vans. Approximately two million Jews died this way.

JUNE 22, 1941

“FOREIGN” JEWS DEPORTED FROM HUNGARY

- Hungarian authorities rounded up and deported approximately 30,000 “foreign” Jews who could not prove Hungarian citizenship.
- In late August 1941, *Einsatzgruppen* units murdered most of these Jews in Kamenets-Podolsk, a city in western Ukraine. This photograph shows Jews at the killing site.
- Only a few escaped, including a man Wiesel called “Moshe the Beadle,” who returned to Sighet and warned the Jews living there of the massacres.

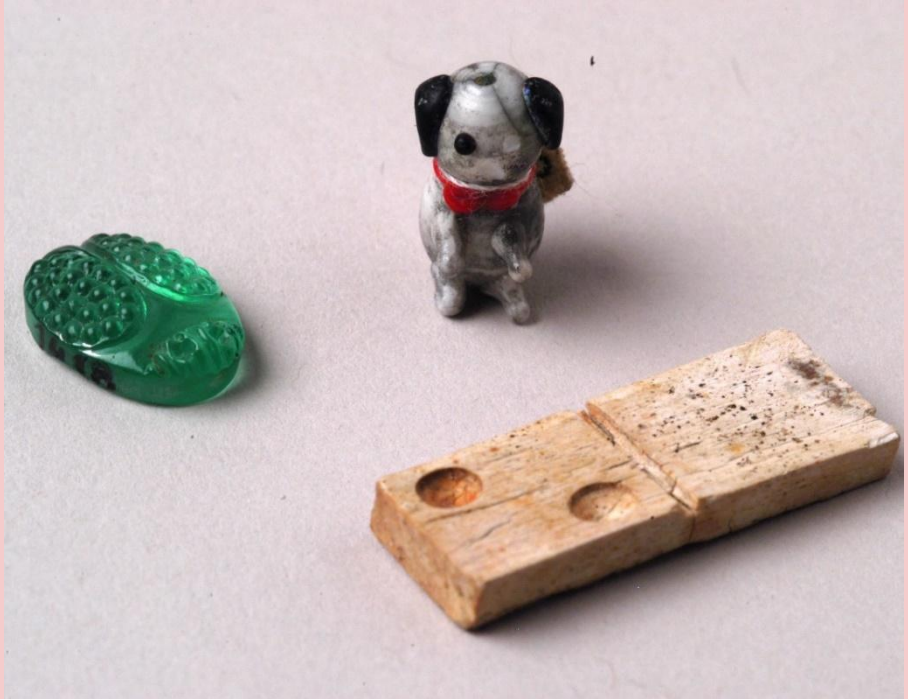
JULY–AUGUST 1941

UNITED STATES ENTERS WORLD WAR II

- The Japanese military launched a surprise attack on the US Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- The United States declared war on Japan.
- On December 11, Nazi Germany declared war on the United States.
- The United States officially entered World War II and joined the Allies.

DECEMBER 7, 1941

MASS MURDER BEGINS AT CHEŁMNO



- The *SS* and Nazi police authorities opened the Chelmno killing center to murder Jews, Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, and Roma in Nazi-occupied Poland.
- Chełmno was the first stationary facility where the Nazis used poison gas for mass murder. At least 172,000 people were murdered at Chełmno.
- These toys were excavated from the grounds of Chełmno.

DECEMBER 8, 1941

WANNSEE CONFERENCE

- German government officials and Nazi Party officials held a conference at the Wannsee Villa in a suburb of Berlin. They discussed the logistics of the "Final Solution."
- The "Final Solution" was a code name for the mass murder of European Jews.
- The mass murder of Jews had already begun by the time the conference took place. At the Wannsee conference, the Nazis discussed how to coordinate the expansion of the killing.

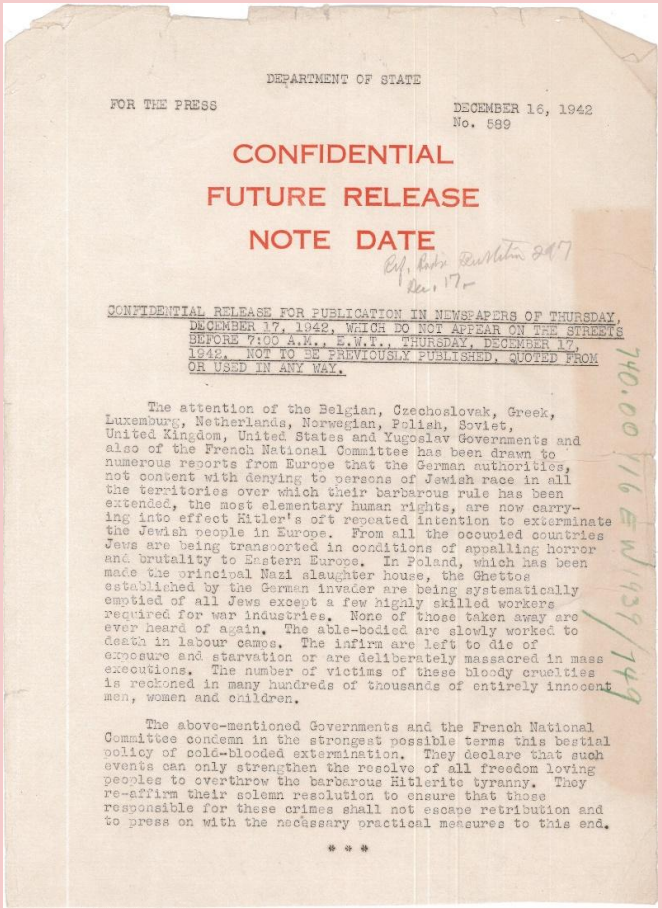
JANUARY 20, 1942

OPERATION REINHARD BEGINS

- "Operation Reinhard" was the code name for the plan to murder approximately two million Jews in the *Generalgouvernment,* or German-occupied Poland.
- They opened three killing centers: Treblinka, Belzec, and Sobibor. At least 1.5 million Jews were murdered in these centers. The Belzec killing center began gassings on this day.

MARCH 17, 1942

ALLIES CONDEMN MASS MURDER



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FOR THE PRESS

DECEMBER 16, 1942
No. 589

CONFIDENTIAL
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Dec. 17

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The attention of the Belgian, Czechoslovak, Greek, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norwegian, Polish, Soviet, United Kingdom, United States and Yugoslav Governments and also of the French National Committee has been drawn to numerous reports from Europe that the German authorities, not content with denying to persons of Jewish race in all the territories over which their barbarous rule has been extended, the most elementary human rights, are now carrying into effect Hitler's oft repeated intention to exterminate the Jewish people in Europe. From all the occupied countries Jews are being transported in conditions of appalling horror and brutality to Eastern Europe. In Poland, which has been made the principal Nazi slaughter house, the Ghettos established by the German invader are being systematically emptied of all Jews except a few highly skilled workers required for war industries. None of those taken away are ever heard of again. The able-bodied are slowly worked to death in labour camps. The infirm are left to die of exposure and starvation or are deliberately massacred in mass executions. The number of victims of these bloody cruelties is reckoned in many hundreds of thousands of entirely innocent men, women and children.

The above-mentioned Governments and the French National Committee condemn in the strongest possible terms this bestial policy of cold-blooded extermination. They declare that such events can only strengthen the resolve of all freedom loving peoples to overthrow the barbarous Hitlerite tyranny. They re-affirm their solemn resolution to ensure that those responsible for these crimes shall not escape retribution and to press on with the necessary practical measures to this end.

* * *

- News of the "Final Solution" was reported in American newspapers in late November 1942.
- The United States, Great Britain, Soviet Union, and other Allied governments issued a declaration condemning the Nazi policy of "cold-blooded extermination" and promised to punish the perpetrators after the war.

DECEMBER 17, 1942

GERMANS DEFEATED AT STALINGRAD

- The German military surrendered after battling for seven months to capture the Soviet city of Stalingrad (now Volgograd).
- The Soviet victory at the battle of Stalingrad marked a turning point in World War II. Soviet forces began to push the German military back.

FEBRUARY 2, 1943

WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING BEGINS

- In summer 1942, Nazi authorities deported approximately 300,000 Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto and murdered them in the Treblinka killing center.
- When German troops entered the ghetto to deport the remaining Jews, armed Jewish resistance fighters attacked. The Nazis greatly outnumbered them.
- Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto fought for nearly a month using makeshift weapons before they were defeated by the Nazis.

APRIL 19, 1943

SOBIBOR UPRISING

- Prisoners at the Sobibor killing center launched an uprising, killing a dozen German and Ukrainian guards.
- Three hundred prisoners escaped the camp; 58 of them, including these men, survived the Holocaust.
- Nazi officials closed Sobibor, the final "Operation Reinhard" camp to close.

OCTOBER 14, 1943

FDR CREATES WAR REFUGEE BOARD

- In response to pressure from Congress, from the public, and from inside the government, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created a new government agency, the War Refugee Board, to try to rescue European Jews.
- This agency streamlined humanitarian aid, helped Jews escape Nazi territory, and saved tens of thousands of lives.
- Yet by the time the War Refugee Board was created, approximately 5 million Jews had already been murdered.

JANUARY 22, 1944

GERMANY OCCUPIES HUNGARY

Keep It Flying

The Owensboro Messenger

THE WEATHER

KENTUCKY: Fair and warmer Tuesday; Wednesday cloudy and somewhat warmer with occasional rain.

SEVENTIETH YEAR No. 69 Business Office Phone 100 OWENSBORO, KY., TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 1944 Editorial Room Phone 201 TEN PAGES

GERMAN ARMY TAKES OVER HUNGARY

5-SHIP JAPANESE CONVOY IS WIPED OUT BY AMERICAN PLANES

2 VESSELS LOADED WITH TROOPS ARE SUNK OFF WEWAK

Attack Demonstrates Allies Control Air and Sea Lanes.

By MURLIN SPENCER

Allied Headquarters, Southwest Pacific, (AP)—More than 100 American bombers and attack planes sank a five-ship Japanese convoy, including two vessels loaded with troops, off Wewak, enemy base in New Guinea, Gen. Douglas MacArthur

U. S. Planes Fly Throu Pea Soup Clouds To Attack Fra furt Area

By W. W. HERCHER.

London, (AP)—Fighter-escorted U. S. Flying Fortresses and Liberators, thundering through pea soup clouds, bombed military targets in the Frankfurt area Monday in the major operation of a day which saw between 1,600 and 2,100 British-based Allied planes of all types in the air against the Germans.

The formation which made the 400-mile trip to Frankfurt was described in a U. S. Army communique as "medium sized." It consisted of between 250 to 500 bombers escorted by even stronger formations of Thunderbolts, Lightnings and Mustangs of the U. S. Eighth and Ninth Air Forces.

Six American bombers and eight fighters failed to return, the war bulletin said, while the escorting fighters brought down four of the German planes of the few encountered in the dense clouds.

The formation flew in weather so bad that the crews of the bombers sometimes could not see the ships flying beside them. Driving unerringly to the targets the bombers again used instruments to drop their loads through the clouds.

The Frankfurt radio network broadcast warnings Monday night that Allied aircraft were crossing Southern Belgium toward Frankfurt, indicating that RAF bombers were bound for the Reich.

While the Fortresses and Liberators were conducting this scientific bombing in this, the sixth day of a shattering aerial offensive, a much stronger force of lighter planes—American Marauders and Thunderbolts and British Bostons, Mitchells, Mosquitos, Typhoons and Spitfires—

Standard Printing Co. News Pict. Dept. 20-25 Fleet St. (2)

the Nazis' Atlantic Wall to slightly deeper in France ather.

of the lighter planes operate under a tight umbrella of New Zealand and Belgian-piloted Spitfires.

In Monday's steady sequence of coordinated blows an estimated load of over 1,200 U. S. tons of bombs was dropped, bringing the total delivered by both Britain and Italy-based Allied planes since last Wednesday to probably well in excess of 21,000 tons.

The heaviest attack was staged by some 250 to 500 Fortresses and Liberators, escorted by even stronger formations of Thunderbolts, Lightnings and Mustangs, which hit Southwest Germany. Crewmen said

(Continued on Page 2, Column 4)

RUSSIAN FORCES CAPTURE NAZI BASE ON DNIESTER

Reds Hurl Aside Two Rumanian Divisions Aiding German Troops

By TOM YARBROUGH

London, (AP)—Russian troops have captured the east bank German base and rail junction of Mogilev-Podolski on the Dniester river and hurled aside two Rumanian divisions trying to bar the Soviet surge into pre-war Rumania, a Moscow com-

Nazi Occupation Of Hungary Follows Rejection of Demands

By EDWIN SHANKE

Stockholm, (AP)—Hungarian Regent Nicholas Horthy, Foreign Minister Jeno Von Ghyczy and the chief of the Army's general staff, Gen. Franz Szombathelyi, are apparently Hitler's prisoners as the result of the German occupation of Hungary, Stockholm sources said Monday night.

A Hungarian said they were summoned to Hitler's headquarters Friday and, so far as I know here, they have not returned to Budapest.

This source said new German demands were presented to them and Nazi occupation followed when they were refused.

Hungarians here said Hitler undoubtedly tried to force Hungary into "participation in the war without reservations." In other words, the Germans wanted Hungary to send more troops to the active fronts now that the Russians are driving through the country by rail to Balkan fronts.

As a result of Hitler's summoning and apparent detainment of the Hungarian leaders, the country was virtually without direction. The Hungarian premier, Nicholas Kallay, was said to have refused to go to Hitler's headquarters.

A source with close Balkan connections reported that ten days ago it was known in Budapest that the Germans had concentrated numbers of troops on the old Austrian border, but the Hungarians took this simply as a German attempt to exercise pressure on the coming negotiations.

At about the same time one of Heinrich Himmler's chief lieutenants arrived in Budapest and conferred with Hungarian police and other authorities, he said.

Some time between late Sunday night and Monday morning German

NAZIS OVERCOME LIGHT RESISTANCE TO SEIZE COUNTRY

Government Officials Held; Other Satellites Face Similar Fate.

By RICHARD R. KASISCHKE.

London, (AP)—German invasion troops have occupied Hungary in militant preparation for a last ditch stand against the Red Army in the hills and plains of that reluctant ally, dispatches from neutral capitals declared Monday night.

Owensboro (KY) *Messenger*, courtesy newspapers.com

- Nazi Germany invaded and occupied Hungary to prevent the country from leaving the Axis and joining the Allies.
- The Wiesel family was under Nazi control for the first time.

MARCH 19, 1944

SIGHET GHETTOS CREATED

- At least 14,000 Jews living in Sighet and the surrounding villages were crowded into two ghettos.
- Because the Wiesels' house was located within the area designated for one of the ghettos, the family was able to stay in their home.
- This photograph shows one of the ghettos in Sighet in summer 1944.

APRIL 18–20, 1944

HUNGARIAN DEPORTATIONS TO AUSCHWITZ BEGIN

- Nazi authorities and Hungarian police began deporting Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau, a camp in German-occupied Poland that included both a killing center and forced-labor factories.

- Hungary had the largest Jewish population remaining in Europe. Between May and July 1944, more than 440,000 Hungarian Jews arrived at Auschwitz. This photograph taken by the *SS* shows a transport arriving in late May 1944.

MAY 15, 1944

SIGHET JEWISH COMMUNITY DEPORTED TO AUSCHWITZ

- Nazi authorities and Hungarian police deported Jews living in the Sighet ghetto by train to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The trip lasted several days.

- At Auschwitz, *SS* officers separated men and women. Elie Wiesel and his father, Shlomo, were selected to work. Wiesel's older sisters, Hilda and Beatrice, were also selected for forced labor. The *SS* murdered Wiesel's mother, Sarah, and younger sister, Tzipora, in the gas chambers.

MAY 17–22, 1944

ELIE WIESEL GIVEN TATTOO

- Soon after arriving in Auschwitz, Elie Wiesel received a tattoo on his left arm, marking him as prisoner A-7713.
- The Auschwitz-Birkenau camp was the only location where prisoners received tattoos. At other camps, prisoners were assigned numbers but were not tattooed with these numbers.
- In this postwar photograph, two Auschwitz survivors show their tattoos.

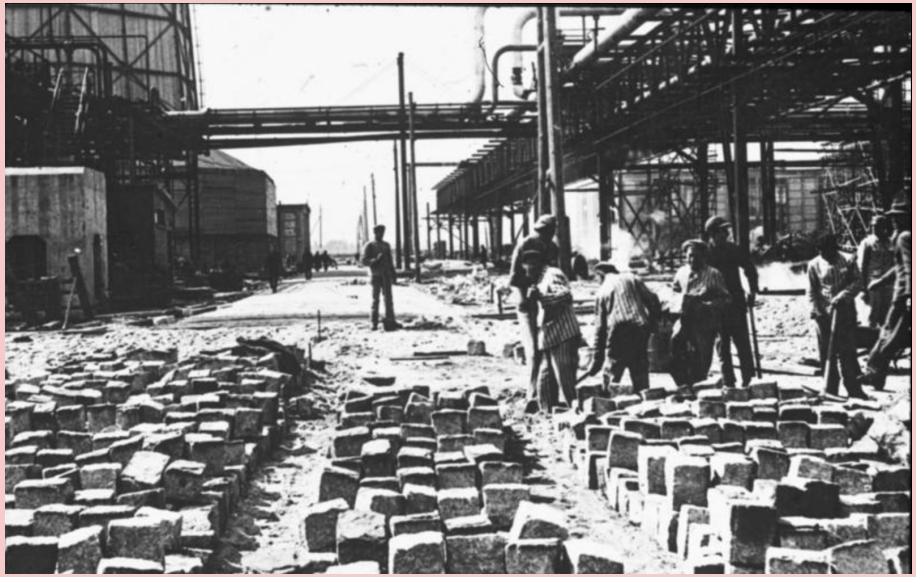
MAY 24, 1944

D-DAY INVASION

- American, British, and Canadian naval and air forces invaded the beaches of Normandy, France.
- The opening of the long-awaited “second front” put tremendous military pressure on Nazi Germany and gave a psychological boost to the Allies.

JUNE 6, 1944

ELIE WIESEL SENT TO BUNA



- *SS*-officers sent Elie Wiesel and his father, Shlomo, to the Auschwitz III-Monowitz camp (also called "Buna"), a forced-labor facility several miles from the main Auschwitz camp. I.G. Farben, a major German corporation, used prisoner labor at their *Buna Werke* factory there, tasking them with making synthetic rubber (Buna).

- There they were forced to work in jobs that were often physically demanding with very little food. *SS* officers also conducted frequent "selections," sending prisoners who could no longer work to the gas chambers.

MID-JUNE 1944

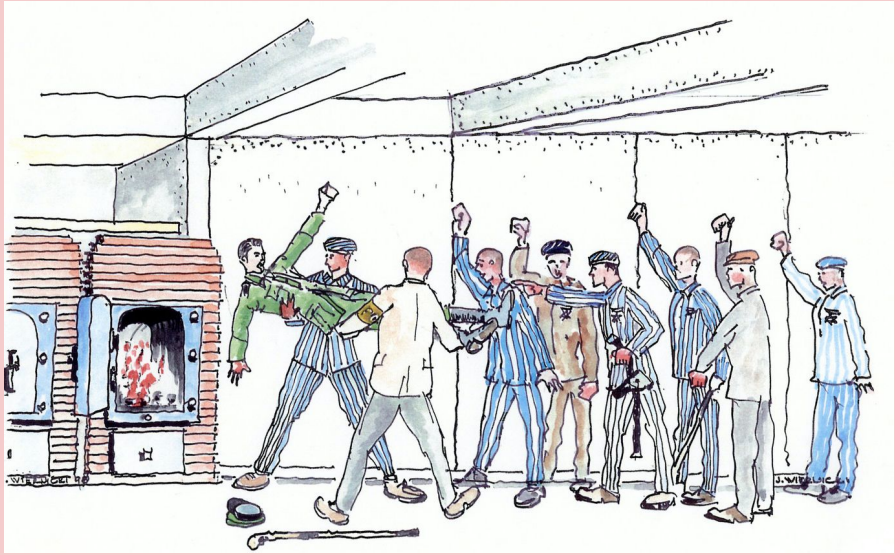
US AIR FORCES BOMB BUNA

- American bomber planes attacked the forced-labor factories at Buna, where the *SS* was attempting to create synthetic oil and rubber for the German war effort. This is a US aerial reconnaissance photo of Buna.

- Wiesel wrote, “We were not afraid. And yet, if a bomb had fallen on the blocks, it would have claimed hundreds of inmates’ lives. But we no longer feared death, in any event not this particular death. Every bomb that hit filled us with joy, gave us renewed confidence.”

SEPTEMBER 13, 1944

SONDERKOMMANDO UPRISING



- Members of the special command (*Sonderkommando*) in Birkenau, Jewish prisoners forced to work in the gas chambers and crematoria, launched an uprising. They managed to blow up one of the crematoria and kill several *SS* guards.
- The revolt was quickly defeated, and *SS* officers murdered the participants, as well as four female prisoners who had smuggled gunpowder to them.
- John Wiernicki, a Polish non-Jewish Auschwitz survivor, painted this depiction of the uprising in 1998.

OCTOBER 7, 1944

AUSCHWITZ REPORT IN US NEWSPAPERS

WORLD'S WORST HORROR STORY

Germans Slaughter Innocent Millions

(Special From N. Y. Herald Tribune)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—The War Refugee Board, in what was regarded as the most shocking document ever issued by a United States government agency, made public Saturday an official report on German atrocities that have caused the deaths of "millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe."

The "revolting and diabolical" German atrocities at two camps that were virtually slaughterhouses were described as a "campaign of terror and brutality which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated and is

The Miami (FL) *News*, courtesy newspapers.com

- American newspapers nationwide published articles about Auschwitz-Birkenau, like this *Miami News* article. The articles included graphic details of the process of the arrival, selection, and gassing of prisoners.
- The information stemmed from a report written by two prisoners who had escaped Auschwitz in April 1944.
- In response, the *Washington Post* printed an editorial titled "Genocide." It was the first time this new word was used in an American paper.

NOVEMBER 26, 1944

AUSCHWITZ EVACUATED

© Fritz Bauer Institute (APMO Collection / Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum)

- With Soviet troops approaching Auschwitz, the *SS* evacuated more than 60,000 prisoners, including Elie and Shlomo Wiesel, on foot in the freezing cold and in open train cars.
- Nine days later, Elie and Shlomo Wiesel arrived at the Buchenwald concentration camp in the middle of Germany.

JANUARY 18, 1945

SOVIET TROOPS LIBERATE AUSCHWITZ

- Soviet troops liberated Auschwitz and found 6,000 sick and starving prisoners, including children, who had been left behind.
- Auschwitz was the last operating Nazi killing center.

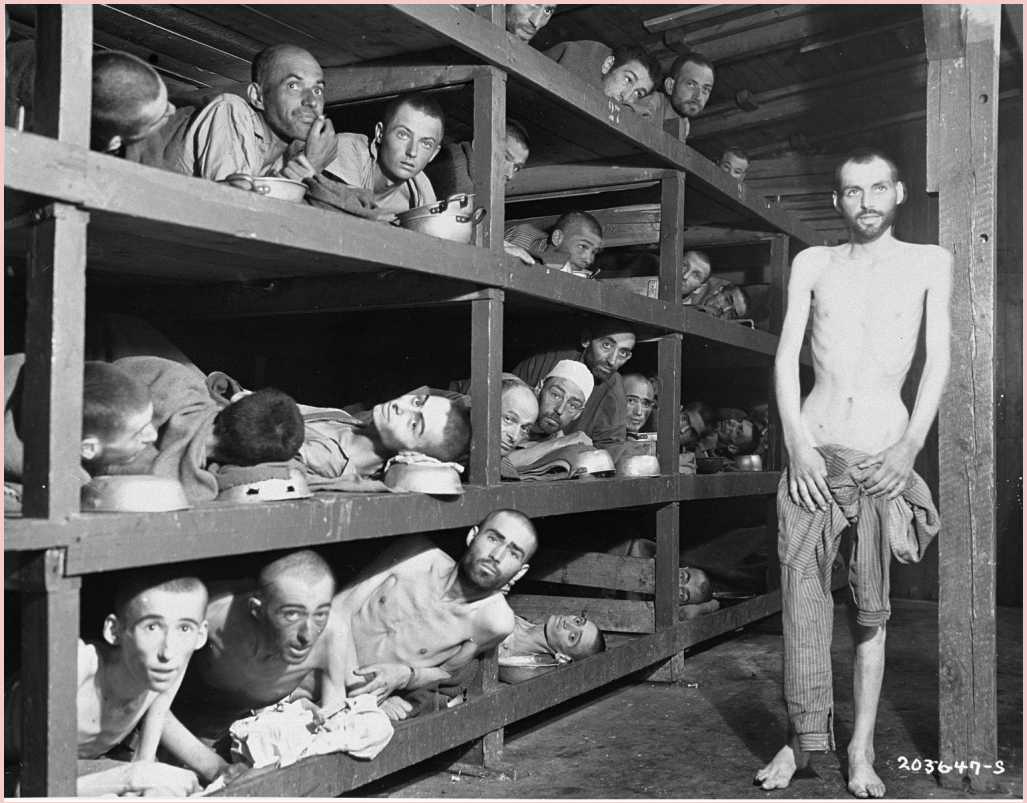
JANUARY 27, 1945

SHLOMO WIESEL DIED

- Shlomo Wiesel died in the middle of the night at the Buchenwald concentration camp.
- Elie Wiesel later wrote, “I woke up at dawn on January 29. On my father's cot there lay another sick person. They must have taken him away before daybreak and taken him to the crematorium. Perhaps he was still breathing....No prayers were said over his tomb. No candle lit in his memory. His last word had been my name. He had called out to me and I had not answered.”

JANUARY 28 or 29, 1945

BUCHENWALD LIBERATED



- American troops liberated the Buchenwald concentration camp near Weimar, Germany.
- US military photographers captured a photograph of Elie Wiesel in his barrack (he is seventh from the left on the middle bunk). He was 16 years old when he was liberated.

APRIL 11, 1945

GERMAN FORCES SURRENDER

- German officials unconditionally surrendered.
- The next day (May 8), as the war in Europe formally ended, the Allies celebrated “V-E Day” (Victory in Europe).
- Japan surrendered in August 1945, officially ending World War II.

MAY 7, 1945

ELIE WIESEL
SENT TO CHILDREN'S HOMES

- The *OSE*, a Jewish organization which aided children, took 427 child survivors from Buchenwald, including Elie Wiesel, to France.

- Wiesel lived in children's homes in Ecouis and in Ambloy with other religiously observant teenage boys. There, they received medical care, counseling, and schooling. He is seen in profile in the back of this photograph.

JUNE 2, 1945

ELIE WIESEL REUNITES WITH HIS OLDER SISTERS

- Hilda Wiesel, who survived the Holocaust and was recovering in Paris, saw a photograph of her younger brother, Elie, in a newspaper.
- He traveled to Paris and they reunited. Several months later, they discovered that their sister Beatrice had also survived.
- Wiesel can be seen in the back of this photograph, taken around this time.

SUMMER 1945

ELIE WIESEL IN PARIS

- Elie Wiesel continued his religious study, working with tutors while living near Paris at several different homes for young adults who had survived the Holocaust. In 1948, Elie Wiesel also began studying at the Sorbonne, a prestigious college in Paris.
- He also began working as a journalist for a Yiddish newspaper, reporting news of the Arab-Israeli War of 1948 (sometimes called Israel's war of independence).
- This photograph shows Jewish displaced persons in Paris in 1947.

1945-1948

STATE OF ISRAEL DECLARED

Jews Create New State of Israel In Holy Land as British Quit Mandate; Truman Promptly Recognizes Nation

Speed of American Recognition of Israel Surprises World

PRESIDENT ACTS WITHIN MINUTES

Zionists Elated, United Nations in Turmoil, Arabs Stunned

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

Washington, May 14 (AP)—President Truman, in a move that surprised the world, tonight recognized the new Jewish State of Israel in Palestine a few minutes after it was proclaimed.

The news caused intense elation among the Zionists, stunned the Arabs and threw the United Nations into turmoil.

The action placed the great weight of American prestige behind the claim of the Jews to govern the homeland they have carved out for themselves in the Holy Land.

In 42 fateful words, Mr. Truman proclaimed:

"This government has been informed that a Jewish State has

EMBATTLED BIRTH FOR JEWISH STATE

TURKEY
HATYA
Alen
Euphrates R.
CYPRUS
LATAKIA
SYRIA
Hama
Homs
Meyadine
Tripoli
Mediterranean Sea
LEBANON
Oil Pipe Line
Damascus
IRAQ
HAIFA
Dan
JEBEL ED DRUZ
PALESTINE
TEL AVIV
JAFFA
Amman
Oil Pipe Line
Port Said
Kelar Etzion
Jerusalem
Syrian Desert
SINAI PENINSULA
TRANS-JORDAN
CAIRO
Suez
EGYPT
Aqaba
SAUDI ARABIA
Nile R.
Gulf of Suez
Gulf of Aqaba
EGYPT
0 100
STATUTE MILES

Haganah reported Syrian forces across border in North and Egyptian forces probing in South (black arrows) of Palestine. Troops of Lebanon, Iraq and Trans-Jordan (open arrows) were reported in readiness. Meanwhile, Jews proclaimed the State of Israel, first Hebrew nation in 2,000 years, as the British formally quit Palestine.

New-Born Jewish State Faces Immediate Test of Arab War

ARAB NATIONS, EGYPT READY TO HURL TROOPS AT FRONTIERS

Leaders of New Israel Prepared to Meet Bloodiest Assaults

BULLETIN

Tel Aviv, Israel, Saturday, May 15 (AP) — Air raiders bombed this all-Jewish city at about dawn today.

First reports said there were "some casualties" near the power and light station.

Tel Aviv was under complete blackout all night but no sirens were sounded during the raid. Civil guards were alerted and 15 to 20 ships in the port area moved out to sea.

The number and identification of the raiding planes was not immediately announced.

The planes swooped over Tel Aviv little more than 12 hours after Jewish leaders proclaimed the existence of a new Hebrew state of Israel.

Some bombs fell in the vicinity of the power station along the Yarkum River near Tel Aviv.

Tel Aviv, Israel, Saturday, May 15 (AP)—Britain surrendered her 25-year-old mandate over Palestine at midnight and one minute later

Wilkes-Barre (PA) *Record*, courtesy newspapers.com

- Jews in the British Mandate in Palestine declared independence and established the state of Israel.

MAY 14, 1948

UNITED NATIONS REFUGEE CONVENTION

- The United Nations adopted the Convention Related to the Status of Refugees, which defined the rights and responsibilities of refugees and host countries under international law. The United States did not sign the 1951 Refugee Convention.

1951

ELIE WIESEL WORKS AS A JOURNALIST

- Elie Wiesel, based in Paris, traveled the world as a journalist, including trips to Israel, India, Brazil, and the United States.

1949-1955

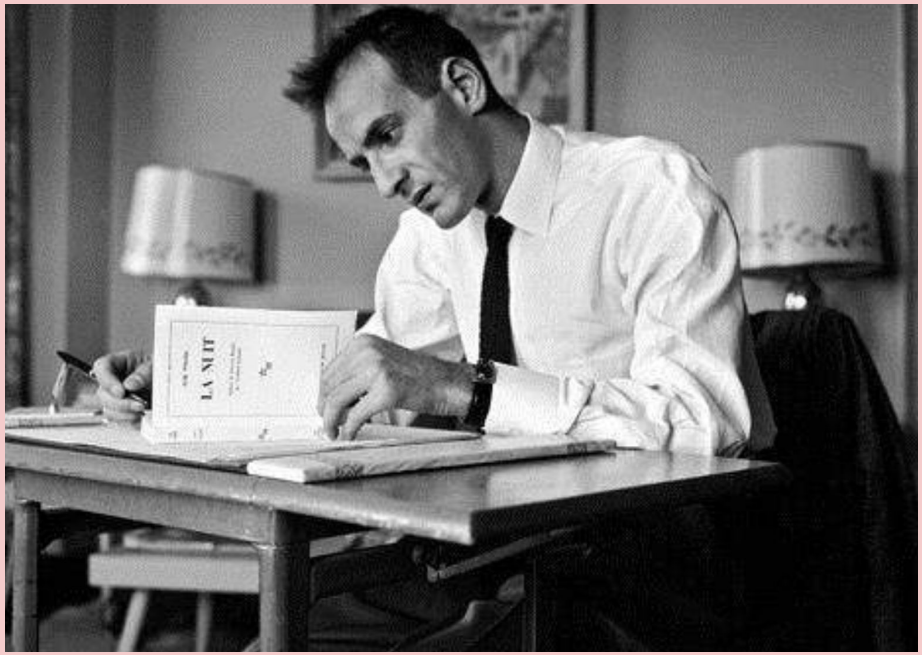
ELIE WIESEL WRITES *AND THE WORLD REMAINED SILENT*

courtesy of The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity

- Elie Wiesel finished his Holocaust memoir, *Un di velt hot gesvign* (*And the World Remained Silent*), which he wrote in Yiddish.
- The book was published in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in December 1955. Soon after the book came out, Wiesel moved to the United States.

1955

NIGHT IS PUBLISHED

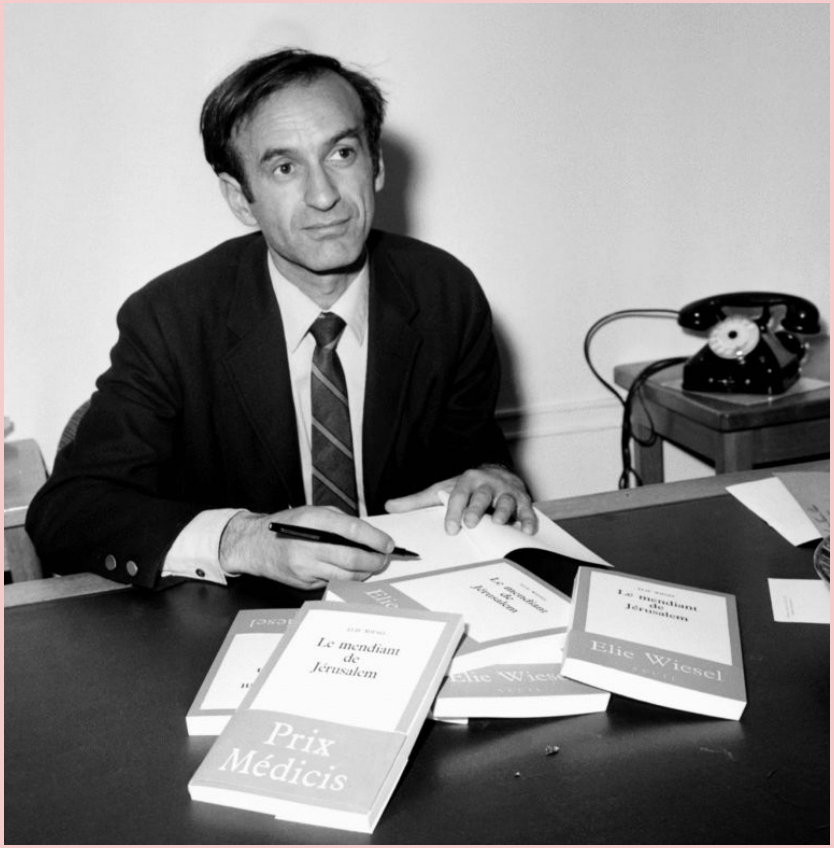


courtesy of The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity

- In 1957, *La Nuit*, an edited version of *And the World Remained Silent*, was published in France.
- On September 15, 1960, *Night* was published in English. A "New York Times" review called it a "remarkable close-up of one boy's tragedy."

1957–1960

DAWN IS PUBLISHED



courtesy of The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity

- Wiesel's novel, *Dawn*, was published in English.
- In his lifetime, Wiesel published more than 40 novels, books of essays, plays, and memoirs, most focusing on Judaism and religious mysticism.

1961

ELIE WIESEL BECOMES A PROFESSOR

The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity

- From 1972 to 1976, Elie Wiesel served as a professor of Judaic Studies at the City University of New York.
- In 1976, Wiesel was appointed Andrew Mellon Professor of the Humanities at Boston University, where he taught classes devoted to broad philosophical or literary themes and classes devoted to specific religious texts.
- He taught at Boston University until his death in 2016.

1972

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE HOLOCAUST CREATED

- President Jimmy Carter created a President's Commission on the Holocaust.
- He appointed Elie Wiesel chairman of the commission, which made recommendations for how the United States should commemorate the Holocaust. One of the commission's recommendations was the creation of a national museum.

NOVEMBER 1, 1978

WIESEL SERVES AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

- Elie Wiesel served as the founding chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, which oversaw the planning and creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

- This photograph shows Wiesel at the 1985 groundbreaking ceremony for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

1980–1986

WIESEL AWARDED CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

courtesy of The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity

- President Ronald Reagan awarded Elie Wiesel the Congressional Gold Medal of Achievement.
- At the ceremony, Wiesel criticized Reagan for an upcoming trip to Germany, where the president planned to lay a wreath at a cemetery in Bitburg, where 49 *SS* officers are buried.

APRIL 19, 1985

WIESEL AWARDED NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Inge Gjellesvik/AFP/Getty Images

- Elie Wiesel was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
- The Nobel Committee called Wiesel "a messenger to mankind … of peace, atonement, and human dignity."
- This photo shows Wiesel with his teenage son, Elisha, and a member of the Nobel Committee.

OCTOBER 14, 1986

WIESEL TESTIFIES AT KLAUS BARBIE TRIAL

- Elie Wiesel testified at the trial of Klaus Barbie, a former *SS* officer nicknamed the "Butcher of Lyon."
- Wiesel said, "No justice is possible for the dead. … Memory. It is about doing justice to memory."
- This is a courtroom sketch of Wiesel created during the trial.

JUNE 2, 1987

OPENING OF THE UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

- The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum officially opened.
- At the dedication ceremony, Wiesel turned to President Bill Clinton and urged him to do something about the ongoing violence in Bosnia.
- Wiesel is in the front row, second from the right, in this photo taken at the ceremony.

APRIL 22, 1993

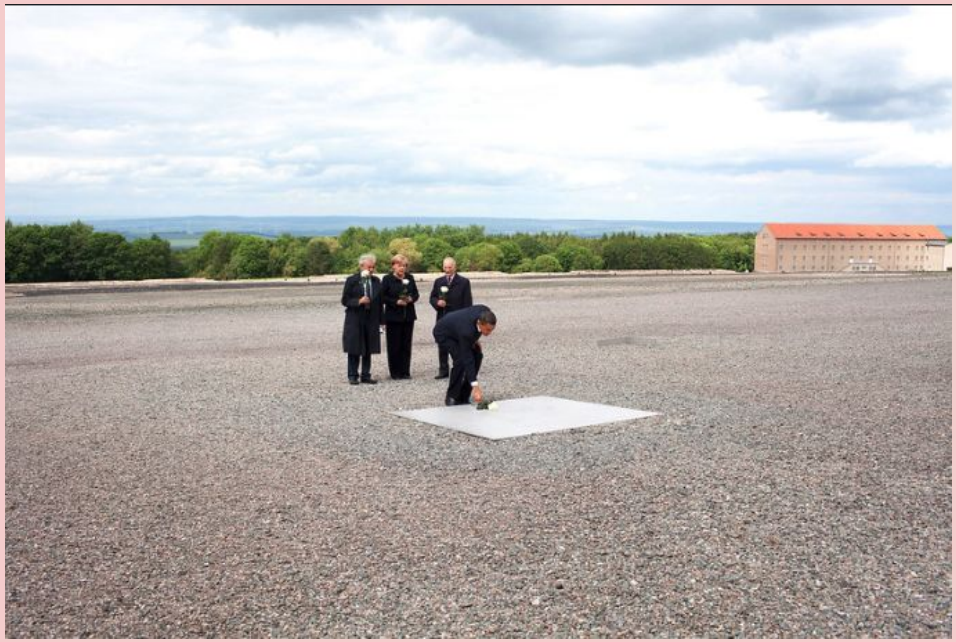
WIESEL VISITS AUSCHWITZ WITH OPRAH WINFREY

Harpo Productions

- Oprah Winfrey dedicated an episode of her television show, *Oprah*, to discussing *Night*, which she had chosen as a book club selection.
- The episode included an interview between Winfrey and Elie Wiesel, which was filmed on a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau.
-
- Schools throughout the United States watched this episode.

MAY 24, 2006

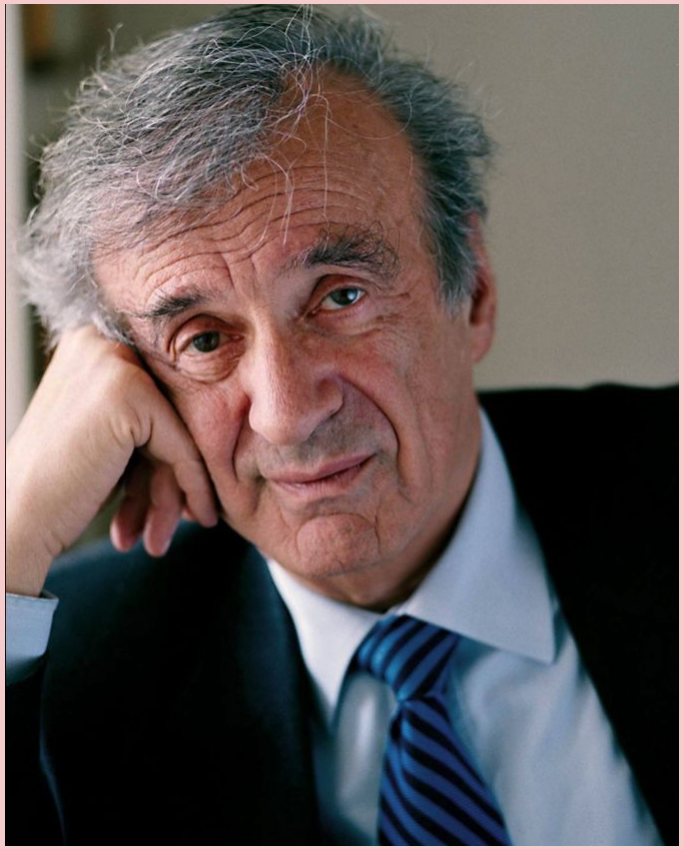
WIESEL VISITS BUCHENWALD WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA



- Elie Wiesel accompanied President Barack Obama on a visit to the Buchenwald concentration camp.
- Wiesel called the trip “a way of coming and visiting my father’s grave.”

JUNE 5, 2009

ELIE WIESEL DIES



courtesy of The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity

- Elie Wiesel died in New York City at age 87.

JULY 2, 2016