

A r o l s e n
A r c h i v e s

International Center
on Nazi Persecution

The Arolsen Archives: organization, history and projects

Contents

1 The Arolsen Archives

Organization

History

2 Mission and Goals

Preservation

Access

Visibility

- #StolenMemory
- #everynamecounts

1

The Arolsen Archives

About the Arolsen Archives

- International center on Nazi persecution located in Germany
- The world's most comprehensive archive on the victims and survivors of National Socialism
- An important and unique source of knowledge
- About half a million users worldwide



»This is my
father's only memorial.
There are no others, not
even a marked
grave with his remains
in a cemetery.«

Thomas Buergenthal, Survivor



History of the Institution



Spring 1945:

Millions of victims of Nazi persecution were missing or on the run after the end of war.

Survivors of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, April 1945

The International Tracing Service (ITS) was established by the Allies in 1948 as a central search and information center.




17.5 Million Names - Documents of the Arolsen Archives



- Concentration Camp Inmates
- Forced Laborers and POWs
- Displaced Persons
- Tracing

More than 8 Million documents concerning forced labour

Zivilarbeiter(in) aus Russland		Ausweis-Nr. K211399	
Name (bei Frauen auch Geburtsname): Z i b k o w a			
Vorname: Maria			
Geburtsdag und -ort: ? ? 1918 zu Butirki, Gebiet Kursk			
Beruf: früherer Maschinistin jetziger Landarbeiter			
Familienstand: verheiratet		Zahl der Kinder:	
Religion: Pravoslavnaja		Fingerabdrücke (Zeigefinger)	
Heimatort (Distrikt bzw. Bezirk, Kreis, Ort, Straße, Nr.): Schachta 3, Gebiet Dombas		links	rechts
Besondere Kennzeichen: keine			
A 203 (1.42) Reichsdruckerei, Berlin		Din 476 A 4	

Over 2 million documents concerning DPs as well as over 3 million tracing and documentation request

DUPLICATE *Leop. C. Auerh.* No. **818791**
UNITED NATIONS DISPLACED PERSON/REFUGEE
IDENTITY CARD
For resident of International Refugee
Organization (IRO) Assembly Center

Name (Familie) **SOKOLOVA** Vorname **Natalie** Date of Birth **1 Jan. 01**
Geburtsdatum

Height **163** Weight **60** Hair **black** Eyes **green**
Größe Cm. Gewicht Kgs. Haar Augen


Nationality **Stateless** Sex **F**
Nationalität Geschlecht

Natalie Sokolova
Holder's Signature / Inhabers Unterschrift

Earl Dinwiddie
Validating Officer / Ausstellungsbehörde

Identifying Marks
Besondere Merkmale

Earl Dinwiddie 1st Lt. Inf.
D-Trp. 51st Cn. Sgan.



Fingerprints
Fingerabdrücke

Right Index
R. Zeigefinger

Left Index
L. Zeigefinger

AM - R 36 Feb. 48.
Official Stamp / Amtlicher Stempel

Date
Datum

»May these archives, that will help to furnish relief for the victims and their families, serve as a warning to future generations that never again must such horror afflict humanity.«

Quote from the “deed of purpose” in three languages, embedded on 20 August 1952 in one of the walls of the main building of the ITS at the topping-out ceremony.

2

Mission and Goals

Vision:

“Everyone matters.”

Mission:

“Based on our unique collection on the victims of Nazi persecution, we honor their legacy by engaging with today’s society to preserve historical truth and stand up for respect, diversity, and democracy.”

Positioning Statement of the International Commission

»The organization is a leading international center on Nazi persecution

... for professionals, relatives and audiences interested in the subject
... because the UNESCO-protected archives are a unique source of knowledge for our current society«



Our Online Archive

27

million documents published

26

million names searchable

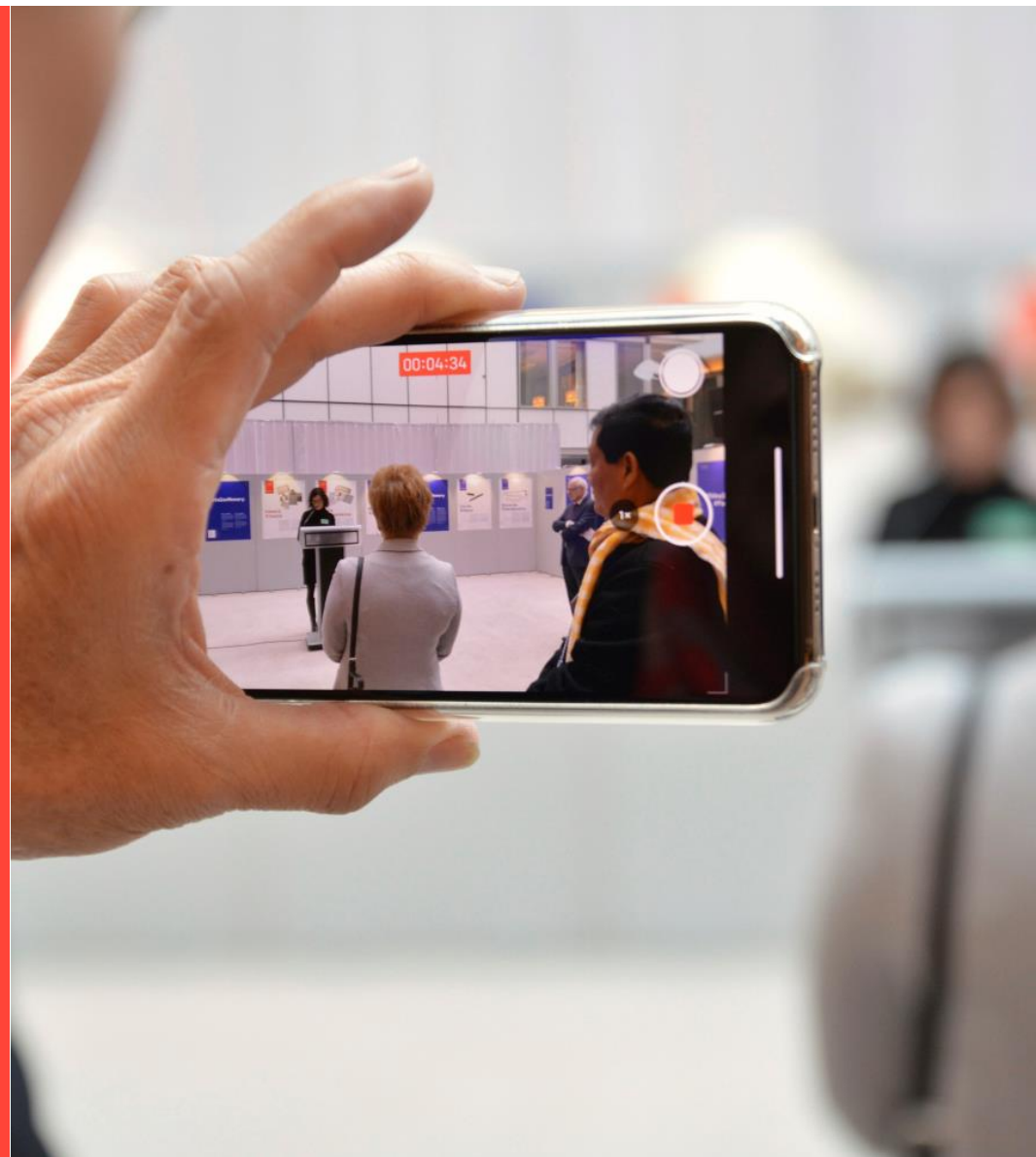
0,9

million users in 2020

»I am still thrilled and moved by the documentation that I have found in just a few minutes... I feel that the direct approach to the online archive gives us, the children and grandchildren of the survivors, an unprecedented path to what was left of their lives... It's a telescope pointed 3,000 miles and 75 years away, and it's so important that we look through it.«

Assaf Elrom, attorney, New York

Visibility



#StolenMemory



Engelmar Unzeitig

Ο πατέρας Engelmar Unzeitig – ο οποίος είχε βαπτιστεί Hubert Unzeitig κατά τη γέννησή του – πέθανε από τύφο στο στρατόπεδο συγκέντρωσης του Dachau τον Μάρτιο του 1945 έχοντας προηγουμένως φροντίσει ο ίδιος άρρωστους συντρόφους του. Τα ποκιά ρολόγι και τα δύο μετάλλια είναι από τις λίγες καταλοίπους προσωπικά αντικείμενα που διασώθηκαν από αυτό το στρατόπεδο. Οι Ναζί είχαν συλλάβει τον κληρικό τον Απρίλιο του 1941 επειδή μίλησε δημοσίως υπέρ των διωκόμενων Εβραίων και των έγκαιρα στο Dachau τον επόμενο Ιούνιο. Τον Ιούνιο του 2016, δύο κρείς από το θρησκευτικό τάγμα των Μαρτιανήλων του Würzburg στο οποίο ανήκε παρέλαβαν τα προσωπικά αντικείμενα του πατέρα Engelmar Unzeitig.

Father Engelmar Unzeitig – who had been christened Hubert Unzeitig at birth – died of typhus in the Dachau concentration camp in March 1945 after nursing sick fellow inmates. His pocket watch and two medallions are among the few hundred personal effects that survived from that camp. The Nazis had arrested the cleric in April 1941 for speaking out publicly in support of persecuted Jews, and deported him to Dachau the following June. In June 2016, two fellow brothers from the religious order of the Mariannhill Missionaries of Würzburg received the Father's personal belongings.



Neonella Doboitschina

Αναζητούμε συγγενείς της Neonella Doboitschina από τη Ρωσία, η οποία γεννήθηκε στις 11 Οκτωβρίου 1923. Στην ηλικία των 20, συνελήφθη από τη Γκεστάπο. Ήταν μία από τις πολλές γυναίκες εθελούσες καταναγκασμένες εργάστρες που μετακλήθηκαν να εργαστούν επίσημα για να συλλέγουν την πολεμική μηχανή του. Οι λίγες πληροφορίες που ήταν διαθέσιμες περιελάμβαναν: Στις 6 Μαΐου 1944, η Neonella έπεσε τη νύχτα φορτωμένη στο στρατόπεδο συγκέντρωσης γυναικών Ravensbrück. Απελευθέρωσε η μεταφορά της στα Ηνωμένα Έθνη στις 31 Αυγούστου 1944. Έλασε απεικόνιση ή πύλη της. Οι φωτογραφίες της που βρέθηκαν με προσόντα επιφύλαξης περιλαμβάνουν τα συνηθισμένα πράγματα που είχαν πριν τη σύλληψή της. Οι φίλοι της τη φώναζαν Nelly.

We are looking for relatives of Neonella Doboitschina of Russia, born on October 11, 1923. At the age of twenty, she came to the attention of the Gestapo. She was one of the many female forced laborers the Nazi regime exploited to keep the war economy going. The grounds for their arrest were usually minor offenses, including contact to Germans. On May 6, 1944, the Gestapo deported the young student to the Ravensbrück women's concentration camp. The transport to Neuengamme followed on August 31, 1944. It is not known what happened to her after that. The photos with dedications show memories of happy times. Her friends called her Nelly.

#StolenMemory Ready-to-Print-Exhibitions

- Since 2018: 12 exhibitions have been shown in 8 countries
- Exhibitions in 2021: among others at Auschwitz Memorial, Memorial Moscow, Sevilla, Murcia
- Online exhibition developed in partnership with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum



#StolenMemory - Traveling Exhibition

- In 2021 two exhibition containers will be on the road in Germany and next year in neighboring countries
- Focus on returning the personal items of victims of the Nazis to their families
- Animated films and web stories on <https://stolenmemory.org/>
- Educational materials support the work of teachers



#everynamecounts

The Arolsen Archives are building a digital monument to the victims of Nazi persecution with the help of thousands of volunteers who are digitizing their names and their life stories.

Now and for future generations.

Häftlings-Personal-Karte

Fam.-Name: Goldstein Überstellt
Vorname: Max am: 18.05.1894 an KL:
Geb. am: 18.05.1894 in Buchhambühl
Stand: Land an KL:
Wohnort: Land an KL:
Strasse: Land an KL:
Relig.: Evangelisch an KL:
Wohnort: Land an KL:
Eingewiesen am: 1944
durch: Land
in KL: Land
Grund: Land
Vorstrafen: Land

Größe: 175 cm
Gestalt: Land
Augen: Land
Häutfarbe: Land
Haare: Land
Sprache: Land

Strafen im Lager:
An:
An:
An:

Sicherheit b. Einsatz:
I. T. S. FOTO No. 10.12
Körperliche Verfassung: 40.889
I. T. S. FOTO Nr. 22a

An Initiative of
the Arolsen Archives

KL 5 X 43 - 50000

#everynamecounts - Building a digital monument

- Remembering the victims of National Socialism is important. Because their stories show us what discrimination, racism and antisemitism lead to.
- The motives for persecution enforced by the Nazis are still prevalent. We hope that many tens of thousands of people from all over the world will join #everynamecounts and take a stand – for respect, diversity, and solidarity.



#everynamecounts – Crowdsourcing project

Anyone can help
to enter data from the
scanned documents

The image shows a crowdsourcing interface for data entry. On the left, a scanned document is displayed with handwritten text: "MAUTHAUSEN", "80154 P.S.V. DR.", "Engelmann", "Josef", "14. 3. 91", and "Moos 401 - Kr. Constanz". On the right, a form is shown with the following fields and buttons:

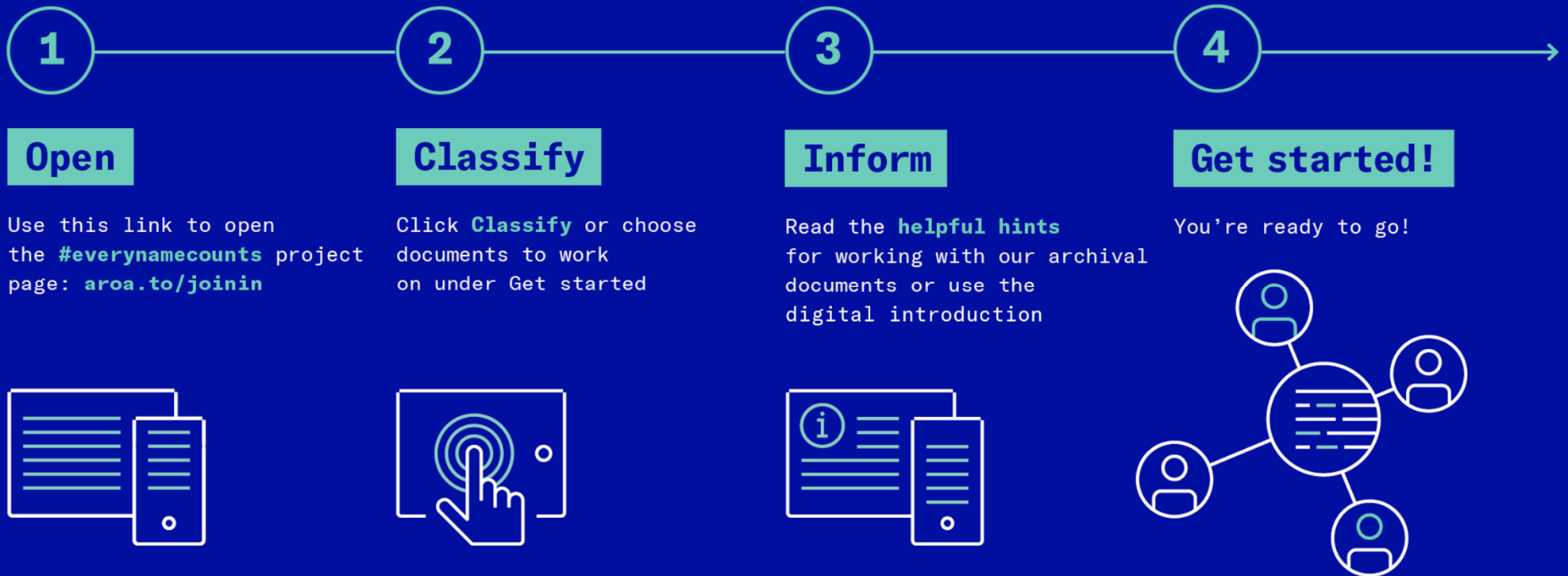
- AUFGABE** / **TUTORIAL** (tabs)
- Geburtsort**:
- BRAUCHST DU HILFE?** (button)
- Letzte Adresse**:
- BRAUCHST DU HILFE?** (button)
- Letzte Adresse - Straße**:
- BRAUCHST DU HILFE?** (button)
- Letzte Adresse - Kreis**:
- BRAUCHST DU HILFE?** (button)
- Zurück** (button) / **Weiter →** (button)

»Every name is a pebble to make a memorial. Every name deserves a kind, sorrowful thought.«

A quote from one of our volunteers

4 steps, 5 minutes

Let's get started!



Milestones of #everynamecounts (as of February 2021)

17,300

Registered volunteers

3.5

Million documents have already been indexed

91,000

Messages have been exchanged within the community

#everynamcounts – media installation



Photo: Arolsen Arch



Photo: Arolsen Archi

A r o l s e n
A r c h i v e s

International Center
on Nazi Persecution