Maria's parents lived in Szentes, a town in southeastern Hungary, located 30 miles from the city of Szeged. Her mother, Barbara, was born in the neighboring town of Hodmezovasarhely, but moved to Szentes when she married. Maria's father was a dentist.

1933-39: Maria was born in 1932. In 1937 her mother took in a young Austrian woman who lived with the family and helped Maria learn German.

1940-44: In March 1944 German troops occupied Hungary. Members of the Hungarian fascist party, Arrow Cross, confiscated Maria's grandparents' store. She and her parents, grandparents, uncle and aunt and their families were among thousands of Jews from towns around Szeged who were deported to a makeshift ghetto in Szeged's Rokus sports field and brickyards. The Nemeths were deported from Szeged to Austria, via the Strasshof concentration camp, to a labor camp in the small farming village of Goestling an der Ybbs.

Maria and her family were among 80 Jews in the camp who were machine-gunned to death by retreating SS soldiers just days before U.S. forces reached the area. Maria was 13.
Zuzana was the youngest of three children born to Hungarian-speaking Jewish parents in the city of Kosice. She was the baby of the family, and they called her Zuzi. Her father was a tailor whose workshop was in the Gruenbergers' apartment.

1933-39: In November 1938, when Zuzana was 5, Hungarian troops marched into Kosice and made it a part of Hungary. The Hungarians changed the name of the city to Kassa. The Hungarian government was friendly to Nazi Germany and introduced anti-Jewish laws in Kosice.

1940-44: In 1941, one year after Zuzana began school, the Hungarians moved the Gruenbergers and other Jewish families to camps in other parts of Hungary. The Gruenbergers were released the following spring and returned to Kosice, but Zuzana's brother and father were taken soon after for slave labor. In 1944 Kosice's 12,000 Jews, including Zuzana, her mother and sister, were rounded up by Hungarians who were cooperating with the Germans. They were sent to a brickyard at the city's edge and put on trains headed for Auschwitz.

Zuzana and her mother were gassed immediately on arriving in Auschwitz in May 1944. Zuzana was 11 years old.
Nadine was the daughter of immigrant Jewish parents. Her Russian-born mother settled in France following the Russian Revolution of 1917. Nadine was born in Boulogne-Billancourt, a city on the outskirts of Paris known for its automobile factories. She was fluent in Russian and French.

1933-39: Nadine attended elementary school in Paris. Her mother, Ludmilla, taught piano, and her Russian grandmother, Rosalia, lived with them. After France declared war on Germany in September 1939, Nadine's mother moved the family to Saint-Marc-sur-Mer, a small village on the Brittany coast, hoping it would be safer. There, Nadine resumed her schooling.

1940-42: Victorious German troops reached Saint-Marc-sur-Mer in June 1940. After France surrendered to Germany, the Germans remained in Brittany. Nadine and her mother moved to the nearby city of Nantes. But local French officials frequently cooperated with the occupying Germans to help enforce anti-Jewish laws. In 1942 Nadine and her mother were arrested by French police. Nadine was separated from her mother and deported to the Drancy transit camp east of Paris.

Twelve-year-old Nadine was deported to Auschwitz on September 23, 1942. She was gassed shortly after arriving.
As a boy, Pavol lived with his parents in the city of Martin in Slovakia. His father taught at the local agricultural college. The Kovacs, who were non-practicing Jews, were among the few Jewish residents in the town.

1933-39: When he was born, almost nine months before the outbreak of World War II, his parents decided to have "Roman Catholic" listed under the entry for religion in his birth certificate. They took this step to protect him, despite the fact that for generations Jews in their region had enjoyed freedom and equality.

1940-44: For him, a small child, life in Martin was quiet. German soldiers never occupied the town. As a professor of agriculture in the local college, his father was treated as a very important man. He was so highly respected that the entire Kovac family, including his mother's parents, did not have to wear the yellow Star of David like the other Jews. Only in August 1944, when the Germans began fighting Slovak rebels [Slovak National Uprising], did they go into hiding.

Maria was born to a poor family in the industrial town of Jaworzno, not far from Krakow, in southwestern Poland. Both of Maria's parents worked. Like her parents, Maria was baptized in the Roman Catholic faith.

1933-39: She took care of the house when her parents were working. She was 11 years old when the Germans invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. German troops reached Jaworzno that same month. Jaworzno was in an area of Poland that became formally annexed to Germany.

1940-44: The Germans arrested her when she was 14 for using black-market ration cards to get food, which they said she then sold at "profiteering prices." She was deported to Auschwitz, and put in the "Bunker of Death," which was near the wall where prisoners from her Bunker 11 were executed every day. For some reason, instead of being shot she was transferred to a slave-labor camp for children in Lodz's Jewish ghetto. Her parents, meanwhile, were notified that she had been executed, and her father died of a heart attack from the shock.

Emaciated from typhus, scurvy and malnutrition, 16-year-old Maria was released from the camp on November 9, 1944, towards the end of the war. She returned to Jaworzno.
Tomas' parents were Jewish. His father, Robert Kulka, was a businessman from the Moravian town of Olomouc. His mother, Elsa Skutezka, was a milliner from Brno, the capital of Moravia. The couple was well-educated and spoke both Czech and German. They married in 1933 and settled in Robert's hometown of Olomouc.

1933-39: Tomas was born a year and a day after his parents were married. When Tomas was 3, his grandfather passed away and the Kulkas moved to Brno, which was his mother's hometown. On March 15, 1939, a few weeks before Tomas' fifth birthday, the Germans occupied Bohemia and Moravia, including Brno.

1940-42: On January 2, 1940, Tomas and his parents and grandmother were evicted from their house by the Germans. Hoping to save the family business, Tomas' father decided to remain in Brno. Because Tomas was Jewish, he was not allowed to begin school. A year later, Tomas's parents were forced to sell the business to a German for a mere 200 Czechoslovak crowns, or less than $10. On March 31, 1942, the Kulkas were deported to the Theresienstadt ghetto in western Czechoslovakia.

On May 9, 1942, Tomas was deported to the Sobibor extermination camp where he was gassed. He was 7 years old.
Bertha was the second of three daughters born to Yiddish-speaking Jewish parents in a village in Czechoslovakia's easternmost province. Soon after Bertha was born, her parents moved the family to Liege, an industrial, largely Catholic city in Belgium that had many immigrants from eastern Europe.

1933-39: Bertha's parents sent her to a local elementary school, where most of her friends were Catholic. At school, Bertha spoke French. At home, she spoke Yiddish. Sometimes her parents spoke Hungarian to each other, a language they had learned while growing up. Bertha's mother, who was religious, made sure that Bertha also studied Hebrew.

1940-44: Bertha was 11 when the Germans occupied Liege. Two years later, the Adlers, along with all the Jews, were ordered to register and Bertha and her sisters were forced out of school. Some Catholic friends helped the Adlers obtain false papers and rented them a house in a nearby village. There, Bertha's father fell ill one Friday and went to the hospital. Bertha promised to visit him on Sunday to bring him shaving cream. That Sunday, the family was awakened at 5 a.m. by the Gestapo. They had been discovered.

Fifteen-year-old Bertha was deported to Auschwitz on May 19, 1944. She was gassed there two days later.
Thomas' father, Heinz, was a German-Jewish refugee who had married Henriette De Leeuw, a Dutch-Jewish woman. Frightened by the Nazi dictatorship and the murder of Heinz’s uncle in a concentration camp, they emigrated to the Netherlands when Henriette was nine months pregnant with Thomas' older brother. They settled in Amsterdam.

1933-39: Thomas, also known as Tommy, was born 18 months after his older brother, Jan-Peter. In 1939 the parents and brother of Tommy's father joined them in the Netherlands as refugees from Germany. Tommy and Jan-Peter grew up speaking Dutch as their native language, and they often spent time at their mother's family home in the country.

1940-44: The Germans occupied Amsterdam in May 1940. Despite the German occupation, 4-year-old Tommy did not feel much change in his day-to-day life. When he was 6 the Germans sent his grandmother to a camp called Westerbork. Six months later, Tommy and his family were sent to the same camp, where Tommy celebrated his seventh birthday. That winter the Pfeffers were sent to a faraway ghetto called Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia, where Tommy felt cold, scared and hungry.

On May 18, 1944, Tommy was deported with his family to Auschwitz. He was gassed on July 11, 1944. Tommy was 7 years old.
Judith was the older of two children born to Jewish parents in the town of Kiskunfelegyhaza in southeastern Hungary. Her mother, Anna, and her mother's sister, Kornelia, were close in age and had a contest to see who would be the first to have a baby. Judith's Aunt Kornelia won the contest and cousin Maria was born in December 1931, just three weeks before Judith.

1933-39: Judith's father had a prosperous wholesale business that sold goose meat, down, feathers and quilts. In 1939, the same year that Judith began attending school, the Hungarian government enacted a new law that decreed Jews were not entitled to the same rights as other Hungarians.

1940-44: In November 1940 Hungary became an ally of Nazi Germany. More laws were passed to restrict the rights of Hungary's Jews. Judith, who was a good student and wrote articles for a weekly children's newspaper, was forced out of public school. In March 1944 the Germans occupied Hungary. That April, Kiskunfelegyhaza's 700 Jews were moved into a ghetto set up by Hungarian officials. Two months later, all 700 were transported to Kecskemét, a deportation center for Jews in southern Hungary.

Between June 25 and 28, 1944, Judith and her family were deported to Auschwitz, where Judith was gassed upon arrival. She was 12 years old.
The only child of a cosmopolitan Hungarian Jewish couple, Eva grew up in a city on the border between Romania and Hungary. Nearly one-fifth of the city’s population was Jewish. Eva was a small child when her parents, Agi and Bela, divorced, and she went to live with her grandparents.

1933-39: After the divorce, Eva saw little of her mother, who remarried and moved to Budapest. She also rarely saw her father, who lived on the other side of the city. Eva lived with her grandmother and grandfather near the pharmacy that they owned. An Austrian governess helped care for her.

1940-44: When the Germans reached Budapest on March 19, 1944, Eva and her grandfather took a walk in Oradea's Bishop's Park but did not see any German soldiers. Six weeks later, the Germans arrived in Oradea, ordering Eva and her grandparents to pack and move to the ghetto. They waited three days until they were taken by truck to 20 Szacsat Street. Their new home was stripped of furniture and packed with families. Rules were posted on every house; to disobey meant death. On May 29, 1944, they heard they would be "resettled in the East."

In June 1944 Eva was deported to Auschwitz. She died there four months later on October 17, 1944. She was 13 years old.
Ossi was the youngest of six children born to Roman Catholic Gypsies who traveled in a family wagon. Their caravan spent winters in Vienna, Austria's capital, and summers in the Austrian countryside. The Stojkas belonged to a tribe of Gypsies called the Lowara Roma, who made their living as itinerant horse traders. Ossi's ancestors had lived in Austria for more than 200 years.

1933-39: Ossi was 2 years old when Germany annexed Austria in March 1938. The Stojka family wagon was parked for the winter in a Vienna campground when the Germans marched in. They ordered the Gypsies to stay put. The Stojkas had to convert their wagon into a wooden house and had to adjust to staying in one place.

1940-44: Gypsies were forced to register as members of a different "race." When Ossi was 5, the Germans took away his father. Next, they took his sister, Kathi. Finally, Ossi and the rest of his family were deported to a Nazi camp in Birkenau for Gypsies. There was very little to eat, mostly turnips. Little Ossi fell ill with typhus, and was taken to the barracks for sick prisoners. The infirmary was often referred to by prisoners as the "antechamber of the crematoria."

Ossi was given no medical treatment in the infirmary, and died of typhus and malnutrition. He was 7 years old.
Israel was born to a religious Jewish family living in the town of Slonim. He was called Yisroel by his Yiddish-speaking parents. Israel's father, Lazar Milkow, was a baker who supported his family on a meager income.

1937-39: Israel's grandparents and many of his mother's relatives lived in a nearby village called Kaslovchina. Each summer one of the Milkow boys was invited to stay in Kaslovchina with their Uncle Herschel who worked as a farmer and horse trader. In September 1939 Slonim became part of the Soviet Union. Even though the government changed, the Milkows' daily life continued much as before.

1940-44: In the summer of 1941, 4-year-old Israel was enjoying his turn visiting Uncle Herschel in Kaslovchina when the Germans attacked the Soviet Union. It was too dangerous to bring Israel back to Slonim, so Herschel took Israel with him when he led his family across the Soviet Union to safety in the city of Samarkand, in Uzbekistan. They lived in a hut with no running water. Malaria and typhus spread; within a year both Uncle Herschel and his wife died, and Israel was placed in an orphanage.

After the war, Israel was returned to Poland, and after many travels ended up in Rome. He was located by American relatives in 1949, and emigrated to the United States in 1950.
NELLY ADLER
Born Liege, Belgium
February 28, 1930

Nelly was the youngest of three daughters born to Jewish parents in Liege, a French-speaking industrial city in eastern Belgium. Her Yiddish-speaking parents had moved there from Czechoslovakia a year before Nelly was born. The Adlers were one of only a few Jewish families in the largely Catholic city. Nelly grew up speaking French with her friends at school.

1933-39: The Adler’s apartment was above a cafe and across the street from a Catholic church. Her parents ran a successful tailoring business from their home. Nelly attended public school and had many Catholic girlfriends. Her religious mother made sure that she and her sisters also studied Hebrew.

1940-44: Nelly was 10 when the Germans occupied her city. Two years later, because they were Jews, Nelly and her sisters were forced out of school. Some Catholic friends helped the Adlers obtain false papers and rented them a house in a nearby village. One Sunday, two days after her ill father had checked into the hospital, the Gestapo came to Nelly's house at 5 a.m. They had heard there was a family of Jews there. They demanded to know where Nelly’s father was--she told them the truth, but the Gestapo slapped her for lying.

Everyone in the house was arrested and deported. Nelly was gassed in Auschwitz on May 21, 1944. She was 14 years old.
Judith was the younger of two children born to religious, middle-class Jewish parents. Judith's mother, Clara, was Sephardic, a descendant of Jews who had been expelled from Spain in 1492. Her father, Lodewijk, was a traveling representative for a firm based in Amsterdam. The family lived in an apartment in a new section of Amsterdam on the southern outskirts.

1933-39: Judith attended grade school with her cousin Hetty who was the same age. Judith loved to study. Her mother taught piano to students who came to the house for lessons. Judith loved to play the piano, too. Her family celebrated the Jewish holidays, and like most Dutch families, they exchanged gifts every December 6 on Saint Nicholas Day.

1940-43: After the Germans occupied Amsterdam, they enforced new laws that forbade Jews to enter libraries and museums, or even to use street cars. Then they ordered Jews to wear an identifying yellow badge, and would not allow Jewish children to attend public schools. One by one Judith's relatives disappeared, picked up by the Germans. Then Judith, her mother and brother were arrested in a roundup by the Germans who came while Judith's father was away at work on a night shift.

Judith was deported to the Westerbork transit camp. From there she was sent to an extermination camp in Poland. She was 13 years old when she died.
Blimcia's parents were religious Jews. Her father, Shaya David, and her mother, Malcia Saleschtz, had settled in Kolbuszowa, where Blimcia's mother had been raised. There, Malcia's father bought the newlyweds a home and started his new son-in-law in the wholesale flour business.

1933-39: Blimcia was born in 1938, and was raised among many aunts, uncles and cousins. Around Blimcia's first birthday, Germany invaded Poland and soon reached Kolbuszowa. Polish soldiers on horses tried to fight against the German army, but they were no match for tanks. After a short battle, there were many dead horses in the streets. Blimcia's town came under German rule.

1940-42: The children in town feared Hafenbier, the vicious German police commander who was posted in Kolbuszowa. Hafenbier terrorized and killed many of the town's Jews. Blimcia often played a game in which her 3-year-old cousin Henoch would portray Hafenbier, asking her and their friends, "Are you a Jew?" "Yes," they would answer. "If you are a Jew," mimicked Henoch, "you are dead." With his rifle fashioned from wood, Henoch would "shoot" Blimcia and the others. They would fall over, pretending they had been killed.

Blimcia and her family were deported to the Rzeszow ghetto on June 25, 1942, and then to the Belzec extermination camp on July 7 where they were gassed. Blimcia was 3 and a half years old.
Manon's Christian parents lived in Paris. Roger Marliac, her father, originally from a wealthy family, supported his family by selling produce at small marketplaces. Margarit, her mother (called Maguy by her friends), had a university degree in science. The family lived in a large apartment in a fashionable neighborhood near the Eiffel Tower.

1933-39: Manon, the Marliacs' second child, was born in 1937. She was 2 years old when her father was drafted into the French army as the country mobilized for a possible invasion by Germany. Her mother, left with three children, poor health and no means of support, took a job in an airplane factory.

1940-44: France fell to Germany in June 1940. Manon arrived with a truckload of children in the town of Savigny-en-Veron in late 1942. She had been told that her father was a prisoner and that her mother had been killed in a bombing raid. Sometimes the Germans would search Savigny-en-Veron, and a man whom Manon called "Cousin Tain-Tain" would take her to the woods to hide. Manon would cry, but Cousin Tain-Tain would distract her by having her search for pheasants in the brush.

Manon survived the war but was never reunited with her parents. Some 50 years later she learned that her parents had also survived and that her mother had been a resistance fighter.
Jan-Peter's father, Heinz, was a German-Jewish refugee who married Henriette De Leeuw, a Dutch-Jewish woman. Frightened by the Nazi dictatorship and the murder of Heinz's uncle in a concentration camp, they emigrated to the Netherlands when Henriette was nine months pregnant. They settled in Amsterdam.

1933-39: Jan-Peter was born soon after his parents arrived in the Netherlands. He was 18 months old when Tommy, his baby brother, was born. In 1939 the parents and brother of Jan-Peter's father joined them in the Netherlands as refugees from Germany. Jan-Peter and Tommy grew up speaking Dutch as their native language, and they often spent time at their mother's family home in the country.

1940-44: The Germans occupied Amsterdam in May 1940. Despite the German occupation, 6-year-old Jan-Peter did not feel much change in his day-to-day life. Then just after his ninth birthday, the Germans sent his grandmother to a camp called Westerbork. Six months later, Jan-Peter and his family were sent to the same camp, but his grandmother was no longer there. During the winter, the Pfeffers were sent to a faraway ghetto called Theresienstadt where Jan-Peter felt cold, scared, and hungry.

On May 18, 1944, Jan-Peter was deported with his family to Auschwitz. He was gassed on July 11, 1944. Jan-Peter was 10 years old.
Under the rule of Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss, who came to power in 1932, Jews in Austria enjoyed relative freedom and equality. For that reason, Doriane’s Polish-born parents settled in Vienna, where her father ran a thriving branch of the family’s multinational optical frames business.

1933-39: She was born in Vienna just two years before the Germans annexed Austria in 1938. Her family fled to the Netherlands soon after the annexation. Unlike many Austrian Jews, they went south to Maastricht on the Belgian border; Maastricht was the site of the Dutch branch of the Kurz Brothers’ optical frames business. There, she attended nursery school.

1940-45: In 1940 they moved to Amsterdam, but the city soon fell under German occupation. With her father already in Auschwitz, her mother, brother Freddie and her ended up in Bergen-Belsen in 1944. Freddie and Doriane would remain in the barracks when the adults were marched to work. They started the day by watching the carts, drawn by inmates that came every morning to collect the dead bodies. The rest of the day they spent speaking about food, slicing their bread rations so they could last longer, and picking the lice out of each other’s hair.

In June 1945 Doriane was one of many inmates evacuated from the camp on cattle trains and then freed by Soviet troops. A year later, she settled in the United States.
Henry's Jewish parents lived in a Polish town in which their families had lived for 150 years. The Jewish community enjoyed good relations with their Polish neighbors; the local Polish population refused to cooperate when the government encouraged a boycott of Jewish businesses during a wave of antisemitism that swept Poland in the mid-1930s.

1933-39: In the years before he was born, his father owned an iron and coal factory. The Germans occupied Wierzbnik on September 5, 1939. While some Jews fled, most, including his parents, remained.

1940-44: The Nazis established a ghetto in May 1940. He was born there eight months later. In 1942 his father, learning the ghetto was to be emptied, arranged for Henry to be hidden in a Catholic convent in Cracow. Perhaps because the convent was bombed, he was put out on the street--I was 3. A woman picked him up and took him to an attic above a candy store. It was dark and he was alone. The only person he ever saw was this woman who fed him and taught him to make the sign of the cross. Henry didn't know his own name or why he was in an attic.

Henry was discovered by a Jewish social worker and taken to Israel. He was reunited with his father eight years later, and settled in Ecuador. In 1980 he moved to the United States.
Monique's Jewish parents met in Paris. Her father had emigrated there from Russia to study engineering, and her mother had come from Poland as a young child. Monique's father did not have enough money to finish university, so he went to work as an upholsterer. He also shared a small business which sold his hand-tooled leather purses.

1933-39: Monique's mother was 20 when she gave birth to Monique in 1937. Two years later, Parisians were threatened by the possibility of bombing by the Germans, and French authorities suggested that all mothers with young children leave the city. With the help of the authorities, Monique and her mother fled to the town of St. Laurent de Neste in the Pyrenees. Monique's father soon joined them.

1940-44: When she was 5, Monique was hidden with other children at the home of a family in the Pyrenees. The family would punish the children by not giving them food. Monique was sometimes so hungry that she would dig outside for roots in the ground to eat. Monique knew she was being hidden with the family because conditions were dangerous, but she missed her parents very much. One day, sensing that Monique was not well, her mother came and took her.

Monique and her family survived the war with the help of many people in St. Laurent de Neste. In 1950 the Jacksons emigrated to the United States.
Henoch's religious Jewish parents married in 1937. His father, Moishe Kornfeld, and his mother, Liba Saleschutz, had settled in Kolbuszowa, where Henoch's mother was raised. There, Liba's father bought the newlyweds a home and started his new son-in-law in the wholesale textile business.

1938-39: Henoch was born in late 1938, and was raised among many aunts, uncles and cousins. Around Henoch's first birthday, Germany invaded Poland and soon reached Kolbuszowa. Polish soldiers on horses tried to fight against the German army, but they were no match for tanks. After a short battle, there were many dead horses in the streets. Henoch's town came under German rule.

1940-42: Everyone in town, including the children, knew of Hafenbier, the vicious German police commander with the face of a bulldog who was posted in Kolbuszowa. Hafenbier terrorized and killed many of the town's Jews. Henoch often played a game with the other children in town in which he would portray Hafenbier, saying to his friends, "If you are a Jew, you are dead." Then, with a rifle made from a piece of wood, Henoch would "shoot" his playmates. They, in turn, would fall over, pretending they had been killed.

Henoch and his family were deported to the Rzeszow ghetto on June 25, 1942, and then to the Belzec extermination camp on July 7 where they were gassed. Henoch was 3 and a half years old.
The youngest of eight children, Helen was born and raised in a religious Jewish family living in a town in northeastern Hungary. She was the "baby" of the family and the focus of everyone's hopes and affection. Although her Hebrew name was Hannah, her family called her by her nickname, Potyo, which meant "the dear little one."

1933-39: Helen liked school, but was afraid because some of the kids and teachers hated Jews. There was talk that there might be a war. Her mother wanted them to leave Hungary before things got worse, but her father, who had been to America before, was reluctant to take the family there because he thought it was not religious enough. But he finally gave in and managed to return to New York, where he tried to get them immigration papers.

1940-44: The immigration papers arrived too late; Hungary was at war with America. Helen began to suffer from nightmares. Following an absence due to illness, Helen was forbidden to return to school because she was Jewish. Later, Hungarian police forced the Katzes to move into Kisvarda's ghetto. On May 28, 1944, they were ordered to be ready to travel at 4 a.m. Helen stayed close to her mother as they boarded a cattle car. It was dark inside and she huddled next to her.

Helen was killed upon arrival at Auschwitz on May 31, 1944. She was 13 years old.
Gabriele was the only child of Jewish parents living in the German capital of Berlin. Her grandfather owned a pharmacy and a pharmaceuticals factory, where Gabriele's father also made his living.

1933-39: In 1938 the Nazis forced her grandfather to sell his factory and pharmacy for very little money to an "Aryan" German. After that, her father decided they should move to Amsterdam where it was safer for Jews. She was 5 years old and wanted to stay in Berlin. She didn't understand why she had to leave her toys and friends. In Amsterdam she had to learn a whole new language when she began elementary school, but she soon began to make new friends there.

1940-44: In May 1940 Germany invaded the Netherlands. She remembered being frightened seeing the German troops march into the city. When she went to school she had to wear a yellow Jewish star, and she couldn't play with her Christian friends anymore. When she was 9, her family was deported to a camp in the eastern Netherlands called Westerbork. There, during the day while her parents worked, she learned to steal things to barter for food. A year later they were sent to the Theresienstadt ghetto. In the ghetto she was hungry all the time.

Twelve-year-old Gabriele and her parents were liberated from Theresienstadt in May 1945. That June, the Silten family returned to Amsterdam, where they resettled.
The youngest of seven children, Moishe was raised in a Yiddish-speaking, religious Jewish home in Sokolow Podlaski, a manufacturing town in central Poland with a large Jewish population of some 5,000. Moishe's parents ran a grain business. Moishe attended a Jewish school and began public school in Sokolow Podlaski in 1933.

1933-39: Summer vacation had just finished and 13-year-old Moishe was about to begin another year at elementary school when the Germans invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. German aircraft bombed Sokolow Podlaski's market and other civilian targets before German troops entered the town on September 20. Three days later, they set fire to the main synagogue. Later, the Germans confiscated the family's grain business.

1940-42: Over the next two years, the Germans imposed restrictions on the Jews, eventually ordering them to wear an identifying Jewish star on their clothing. On September 28, 1941, the Germans set up a ghetto and concentrated all of the town's Jews there. About a year later, on the most solemn holiday of the Jewish religion, the Day of Atonement, the Germans began to round up the people in the ghetto. Those who resisted or tried to hide were shot. Moishe, his mother and sister were herded onto the boxcar of a train.

On September 22, 1942, Moishe and his family were deported to the Treblinka extermination camp. He was gassed there shortly after arriving. He was 16 years old.
Zigmond's parents were Czechoslovakian Jews who had emigrated to Belgium. His mother, Rivka, was a shirtmaker. She had come to Belgium as a young woman to find a steady job, following her older brother, Jermie, who had moved his family to Liege several years earlier. In Liege, Rivka met and married Otto Adler, a businessman. The couple looked forward to raising a family.

1933-39: Zigmond was born to the Adlers in 1936, but his mother died one year later. His father remarried, but the marriage didn't last. Zigmond's father then married for a third time, and soon Zigmond had a new half-sister and a stable family life. As a boy, Zigmond often visited his Uncle Jermie's family, who lived just a few blocks away.

1940-44: Zigmond was 3 when the Germans occupied Belgium. Two years later, the Germans deported his father for forced labor. After that, Zigmond's stepmother left Liege, giving Zigmond to Uncle Jermie and Aunt Chaje. When the Nazis began rounding up Jews in Liege, some of Uncle Jermie's Catholic friends helped them get false papers that hid their Jewish identity and rented them a house in a nearby village. Two years later, early one Sunday morning, the Gestapo came to the house. They suspected Jews were living there.

Zigmond, his aunt and two cousins were sent to the Mechelen internment camp, and then to Auschwitz, where 7-year-old Zigmond was gassed on May 21, 1944.
Urszula was one of four children born to Franciszek and Jadwiga Kaczmarek, who lived in the industrial city of Poznan in western Poland. The family lived at 11 Smolnej Street. Like their parents, the Kaczmarek children were baptized in the Roman Catholic faith.

1933-39: As one of the older children in the family, Urszula helped her mother with the housework. She was 10 years old when the Germans **invaded Poland** on Friday, September 1, 1939. German planes bombed Poznan that same day, and German troops entered the city nine days later. Poznan was in an area of Poland that became formally annexed to Germany [a result of the **German-Soviet Pact**]. The city was renamed Posen at the end of the month.

1940-43: After the city was occupied, Urszula’s parents were among the many citizens put to work as conscript **labor** for the Nazis. Urszula was left to take care of her younger brother and sister. One day in late 1942, while playing by the house, they were rounded up during a random "street sweep" by the Nazis. That winter, Urszula was deported to a forced-labor camp for children located within **Lodz’s Jewish ghetto**. When she became ill, the guards dragged her into the snow, poured cold water on her, and left her outside.

On May 9, 1943, Urszula died of pneumonia. She was 13 years old. The camp records listed her cause of death as a heart attack.
Joseph was born in Bitterfeld, Germany, to Gypsy parents. For reasons unknown, he was raised in an orphanage for the first one-and-a-half years of his life. At the time of Joseph's birth, some 26,000 Gypsies--members of either the Sinti or Roma tribes--lived in Germany. Though most were German citizens, they were often discriminated against by other Germans and subjected to harassment.

1933-39: At age one-and-a-half, Joseph was taken into foster care by a family living in Halle, a city some 20 miles from Bitterfeld. That same year, the Nazi party came to power. When Joseph was in school, he was often made the scapegoat for pranks in the classroom and beaten for "misbehaving." He was also taunted with insults like "bastard" and "mulatto" by classmates who were members of the Hitler Youth movement.

1940-44: When Joseph was 12 he was taken from his classroom by two strangers who said he had "appendicitis" and needed immediate surgery. He protested, but was beaten and forcefully taken into surgery where he was sterilized, a procedure legalized by a Nazi law allowing the forced sterilization of "asocials," a category that included Gypsies. After his recovery, Joseph was to be deported to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, but his foster father managed to have him smuggled from the hospital and hidden.

Joseph survived the remainder of the war by hiding for five months in a garden shed.
Paula was raised in a religious Jewish family in Kielce, a city in the southeast of Poland. Her family lived in a modern two-story apartment complex. Paula's father owned the only trucking company in the district. Her older brother, Herman, attended religious school, while Paula attended public kindergarten in the morning and religious school in the afternoon.

1933-39: Paula's school uniform was a navy blazer with a white blouse and pleated skirt. At age 9, she did the "Krakowiak" dance at school. Boys flirted with her when her overprotective brother was not around. Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. Paula's father did not wait for German troops to reach Kielce. He loaded one of his trucks, and the family fled east to the town of Tuchin, 30 miles from the Soviet border.

1940-44: Paula's mother, returning to Kielce for supplies, was stranded when the border dividing Poland closed. German forces occupied Tuchin on July 4, 1941. Hearing that Jews nearby had been massacred, the family built a bunker under the wooden floor of the textile factory where they worked. They knew that the pits the Germans and Ukrainians were digging were intended for them. At dawn on September 24, 1942, police moved into the ghetto. People set fires everywhere. In the chaos, Paula and her father ran to the bunker.

The bunker was discovered by the Germans, and Paula and her father were shot. She was 14 years old.
Franco was born to a Jewish family living in the northern Italian city of Bologna. Even though a fascist leader, Benito Mussolini, came to power in Italy in 1922, Bologna's Jews continued to live in safety. Like many Italian Jews, Franco's family was well integrated in Italian society. Franco attended public elementary school.

1933-39: When Franco was 7, Mussolini enforced "racial" laws against the Jews: Franco was expelled from school, and went instead to a Jewish school hastily organized in makeshift quarters in one of Bologna's synagogues. Franco could not understand why he had to leave his friends just because he was Jewish. His father died in 1939, and he moved with his mother and older brother, Lelio, to Turin, where he began religious school.

1940-44: Mussolini was overthrown in July 1943. Two months later, German forces occupied Italy, and gained control of the north, the part where Franco's family and most of Italy's Jews lived. The Italians had been protecting the Jews, but now Germany controlled Italy. The Cesana family went into hiding in the mountains. To evade the Germans, they moved from hut to hut. Lelio joined the Justice and Liberty partisan group. Though only 12, Franco joined as well, proud that so many Jews were fighting in the Italian resistance.

Franco was shot by Germans while on a scouting mission in the mountains. His body was returned to his mother on his 13th birthday. He was Italy's youngest partisan.
Susanne was the younger of two daughters born to Jewish parents in the German capital of Berlin. Her father was a successful lawyer. Known affectionately as Sanne, Susanne liked to play with her sister on the veranda of her home and enjoyed visiting the Berlin Zoo and park with her family.

1933-39: After the Nazis came to power in January 1933, it became illegal for Jewish lawyers to have non-Jewish clients. When Susanne was 4, her father's law practice closed down and the Ledermanns moved to the Netherlands. Susanne began attending school in Amsterdam when she was 6. She was a good student, and she quickly made friends in the neighborhood. Some of her friends were also Jewish refugees from Germany.

1940-44: On May 14, 1940, Susanne heard the roar of German planes bombing Rotterdam 35 miles away. Amsterdam was soon occupied by the Germans. When Susanne was 13, the Germans forced the Jews out of public schools and Susanne enrolled in a Jewish school. By June 1942 the Germans were deporting Jews, ostensibly to work camps in the "East." Susanne's father, who worked as a translator for the Jewish council, believed that the family would not be harmed as long as they obeyed the law and followed German instructions.

On June 20, 1943, Susanne and her parents were deported to the Westerbork camp in Holland. In 1944 they were sent to Auschwitz, where Susanne perished. She was 15 years old.
Celia was the youngest of three daughters born to Jewish parents living in Stanislav [Stanislawow], Poland. Her father was an ardent Zionist, and dreamed of moving his family to Palestine to help build a Jewish homeland. Celia and her sisters attended private Hebrew primary and secondary schools to help prepare them for their eventual emigration to Palestine.

1933-39: Celia's oldest sister, Pepka, left for Palestine one week after the Germans invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. Pepka's departure was timely; Stanislav was occupied by the Soviets in mid-September. Celia grew closer to her other sister, Amalie, who was starting college. Amalie helped Celia with her homework and helped her to understand the events taking place. Celia hoped that soon all the family would be in Palestine.

1940-41: The Germans occupied Stanislav on July 26, 1941. Jews over age 12 were forced to wear white armbands with a blue Jewish star. The Jews were told to report to the Jewish community center for work assignments. Celia and her sister were given pails and scrub brushes and assigned to clean at the Gestapo headquarters. From the window of the building Celia could see Jews being held in the courtyard, crying for help. One day, unable to bear their suffering, Celia tossed them her lunch of bread and cheese.

A German soldier spotted Celia as she threw the food to the imprisoned Jews. She was detained, beaten and later executed. Celia was 17 years old.
Arlette's Russian-Jewish mother and Romanian-Jewish father had studied medicine together in Paris. After finishing medical school, they married and decided to set up practice in Broncourt, a farming village of 300 inhabitants in northern France.

1933-39: My father was an old-fashioned doctor who made housecalls, by bicycle at first, then on a motorcycle, and finally, in a car. His patients looked forward to seeing him and held him in high esteem, always offering him coffee and schnapps. Even after I was born in 1937 my mother continued attending to patients in the home office that she and my father had set up. By then, my maternal grandparents were living with us and they helped take care of me.

1940-44: I was almost 3 when the Germans occupied our village. German soldiers took over the brick house adjoining ours. We shared a backyard and sometimes I played with the soldiers. On Sundays, I went to church so they wouldn't suspect that we were Jewish. I liked being Catholic--I felt safe knowing that Jesus loved little children and took care of them. One day, though, I crossed myself at home in front of my mother. She was upset, but I didn't understand why. It was very confusing.

After the war, the Waldmanns moved to Paris. For 10-year-old Arlette it was hard when her family resumed practicing their faith. It took years for her to accept her identity as a Jew.
Max's parents, Taube and Itzik, first met as children in 1925. Taube was the daughter of a tailor who hired apprentices in his shop, and Itzik was one such apprentice. The Jewish youngsters fell in love and dreamed of getting married even though Taube's family frowned upon the match.

1933-39: In 1938 Taube and Itzik married. The couple lived in an apartment on 49 Zeromskiego Street in Radom, where Itzik opened a women's tailor shop. Max was born in July 1939. He had curly hair and blue eyes like his father. Two months after he was born, Germany invaded Poland. The Germans occupied Radom and evicted all the Jews from Zeromskiego Street. The Rosenblats had to leave everything, even Max's baby carriage.

1940-42: Radom's Jewish Council assigned the Rosenblats to a shack, which was enclosed in a Jewish ghetto in April 1941. Max slept in a homemade bed of straw. He had no toys and little food. In August 1942, when Max was 3, the Germans began rounding up and deporting all the Jews in Radom's two ghettos who could not work for them. Max's father tried to hide his family in his shop, but they were caught in a roundup and Max and his mother were taken away. They were marched to the railroad and herded into a boxcar.

In August 1942 Max and his mother were deported to the Treblinka extermination camp, where they were gassed upon arrival. Max was 3 years old.
Genya and her brother, Nahum, were raised by Jewish parents in Lodz, Poland's second-largest city and an industrial center. Before the war, one-third of Lodz's inhabitants were Jewish. Genya’s parents placed emphasis on their children's education.

1933-39: In 1939, when she was 9, the Germans occupied Lodz. After that, it was forbidden for "Jews, Gypsies and dogs" to be in public places. Since Jews weren’t allowed to go to school, her parents arranged to tutor her secretly at home, but she couldn’t keep her mind on her books. One day, the Germans took Genya’s grandfather outside and ordered him to do exercises. He couldn’t do them, so the Germans took a match and burned off his beard.

1940-45: They fled to Warsaw. Later, she escaped through the ghetto’s sewage pipes to a family who hid her. But they were abusive, so she returned to her parents. In 1941 her father was sent to a labor camp for men. Since her mother had disappeared, she dressed as a boy and went with him. In the camp, while the men worked, Genya hid in the bed, holding her breath as officers searched for stragglers. Under the covers, she would break up her bread ration into meals. She hid this way for weeks until women were brought to the camp.

In 1946, when she was 16, Genya emigrated to Palestine with a group of orphans from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Her father joined her a year later.
The fourth of five children, Esther was born to Jewish parents living 35 miles east of Warsaw in the small predominantly Jewish town of Kaluszyn. Esther's mother and grandmother ran a newspaper kiosk in the town, and her father worked as a clerk at the town hall.

1933-39: Next year would have been my last year at school, but I won't be able to graduate. War has broken out between Poland and Germany, so the schools have closed. A big battle took place here in Kaluszyn. The town was heavily shelled and many houses, including our building, were destroyed. My parents have decided to move to Minsk Mazowiecki, 10 miles away, where my father has relatives. We'll have to live with them for a while.

1940-44: When we first moved in with my relatives, it wasn't so bad. But now the rooms are so crowded that my grandmother, who came with us, has decided to return to Kaluszyn to live with my Aunt Raizel. The Nazis have forced more than 5,000 Jews in Minsk Mazowiecki to live in one small area of the town. There aren't enough houses for everyone, so families are doubling up. Typhus, carried by lice, has started to spread, and my mother is always worrying that we'll come down with the fever.

In 1942, 15-year-old Esther and her family fled to Kaluszyn to escape deportation. Soon after, however, the Jews in Kaluszyn were deported to the Treblinka extermination camp.
Vienna, home to some 175,000 Jews before World War II, was a major center of European Jewry. Vienna was also the intellectual heart of the Palestine resettlement movement. Most of the city's Jews lived in two large districts on the east side of the Danube Canal. Renee's father owned a prosperous men's clothing store in the city.

1933-39: German forces occupied Austria in March 1938. Anti-Jewish measures were quickly imposed. Renee’s father was prohibited from doing business and his store was seized. He left for America in early 1939 with the intention of having her mother and her join him there. But in the interim, the situation for Jews worsened and Renee and her mother were forced to flee to Belgium to escape deportation. She was 2 years old.

1940-44: Her mother gave her to a man from the "underground." It was because she was Jewish, he said. She was taken to some nuns who renamed her Suzanne LeDent. At the convent's school she played only rarely with the other children, because they might have asked her too many questions. She learned to pray using a string of beads called a rosary, and won medals for memorizing Catholic prayers. In 1943, when the Germans learned the nuns had been hiding Jews, she was moved first to a family and then to a Protestant reform school near Brussels.

After the war, Renee was reunited with her mother who had survived Auschwitz. Five years later they emigrated to the United States.
Both of Selma's Jewish parents, Daniel Schwarzwald and Laura Litwak, had been raised in the industrial city of Lvov. As many different nationalities lived in Lvov, Selma's mother and father could speak many languages—Polish, Russian, German and Yiddish. In running his successful lumber business, Daniel also occasionally used English.

1933-39: Her parents married in April 1935 and Selma was born two years later. Her father was afraid that there might be a war and wanted to move the family to safety in Britain. But her mother didn't want to abandon her parents. In September 1939, when Selma was 2 years old, the Germans invaded Poland from the west while the Soviets invaded from the east. Lvov fell under Soviet control.

1940-44: In 1941 the Germans occupied Lvov. On the day of Selma's fifth birthday, her father disappeared. Her and her mother moved to a small town called Busko-Zdroj. Her mother told her that her name was Zofia Tymejko, that they were Catholic, and warned Selma: "Never tell anyone we're from Lvov, never talk to strangers." They became practicing Catholics. One day at school, her teacher said Germans and Jews were bad—the Germans because they killed Poles, the Jews because they killed Jesus. I asked Mother; she said she knew some Jews and that they weren't all bad.

After the war ended, Selma and her mother emigrated to England. There, Selma learned that she was Jewish. She eventually became a doctor, and settled in America in 1963.
Simone was born in the Alsatian village of Husseren-Wesserling. In 1933 when she was three, her parents moved to the nearby city of Mulhouse. There, her father worked in a printing factory. Her parents were Jehovah's Witnesses and instilled in her the teachings of the faith. Above all, she was taught the importance of placing obedience to God before allegiance to any earthly authority.

1933-39: Simone grew up in a home full of love. Her parents would read the Bible to her. Her life included music, art, knitting and good food. She loved her dog and playing outdoors. They had a garden near the house and she enjoyed hiking and cycling in their beautiful countryside. In 1936 she began public school, studying in both French and German. During those years she learned a lot.

1940-44: The Germans occupied their region in 1940. A year later, she was expelled from school for refusing to say "Heil Hitler" and was interrogated by the Gestapo. When she was 12, the courts ordered that she be taken away from her parents--the Nazis claimed she was being corrupted by Jehovah's Witness teachings. In June 1943 she was sent to a children's reeducation center in Constance, Germany. Her aunt was allowed to visit her nine times in two years: she smuggled illegal literature from Mulhouse. Her love for Jehovah sustained her.

Simone was liberated by the French army in April 1945. She was reunited with her parents and returned to school in France.
Hetty was the only child of a middle-class secular Jewish family. Hetty's parents were Sephardic, the descendants of Jews who had been expelled from Spain in 1492. The family lived in an apartment above her father's clothing business. Hetty's grandparents and other relatives lived nearby.

1933-39: Hetty enjoyed growing up in the Netherlands. Her Jewish neighborhood was in the older part of Amsterdam, in the city center. When she was 6 years old, she began attending a public school. Everywhere in Amsterdam there were bicycles, canals and old buildings. Every summer her parents rented either a room or a house at the beach. They would spend about a month there, and her friends and relatives would visit them.

1940-44: Just after her tenth birthday, the Germans attacked and occupied the Netherlands. One by one her relatives disappeared, picked up by the Germans. Even her closest friend, Judith, was sent away. Fearing they might be next, they left their home [and she separated from her parents to hide]. The Dutch underground placed her with a Protestant family in the south, who fed and hid her. In September 1944 there was fighting nearby. German soldiers moved into their house. Then the Germans ordered the townspeople to leave. Rather than go, they all hid in the basement of a bombed-out house.

Several days later, Hetty and the family were discovered by American soldiers and freed. It was December 1944. She later married, and in 1962 she emigrated to the United States.
Jacob was the eldest of three sons born to religious Jewish parents in the city of Krakow. His father was a flour merchant. The Wassermans spent summer vacations near Proszowice at a farm owned by their grandfather, who also ran a flour mill.

1933-39: In March 1939, at the age of 13, Jacob celebrated his bar-mitzvah. That summer, him and his family vacationed as usual at his grandfather's farm. They returned to a nightmare. Krakow had been occupied by the Germans on September 6. Jews were not allowed to walk on the sidewalks, to ride streetcars, or even to own radios. They were even afraid to walk in the streets because Jews were often kidnapped and beaten.

1940-45: In 1940, Jacob and his family retreated to the farm. Early one Saturday, the Jews in the area were rounded up. They were being marched into Proszowice when a Polish policeman--two dead bodies next to him--motioned to Jacob demanding why he hadn't greeted him "Good morning." As he came closer he loaded his gun and pointed it at Jacob. But as he passed, he bashed Jacob with the barrel, smashing his nose and jaw. He broke away and lost himself in the column of people; the policeman shot someone else instead. Four days later he and his father were deported to the Prokocim camp.

Jacob spent the rest of the war in labor camps. In 1947 he attempted to emigrate illegally to Palestine, but was detained in Cyprus by the British. He settled in Israel in 1948.
Hela Pinsker and Elimelech Riemer were married in 1928. Two years later the Jewish couple’s only child, Edith, was born. The Riemers lived in a comfortable apartment in Berlin, in a building that also housed offices of the Communist Party of Germany.

1933-39: Hitler banned the Communists, so their offices in Edith’s building were shut down. When these offices were later broken into, the Gestapo blamed it on "the Jews." Though her family wasn't involved, they said that if the culprit was not found within 72 hours, her and her family would be punished. Her father quickly sent her and her mother to Poland, where her parents were born. They left Berlin with only a little cash from the bank, and her father joined them later.

1940-45: In 1942 Edith’s mother was killed in Poland by the Germans. Edith was smuggled to the Tarnow ghetto to live with an aunt. From Tarnow she was deported to Auschwitz, and was lined up to be gassed. The entrance to the gas chambers had double doors, and as they were being pushed in, she hid, curled up in a ball between the two doors. The German in charge of closing the outside door found and beat her. But since the chamber's interior door was already sealed, it was too late to put her in the gas chamber.

Edith was assigned to forced labor. In 1945 she was liberated at the Bergen-Belsen camp. The next year she emigrated to Palestine, where she was later reunited with her father.
Benjamin and his younger brother Zigmush were born to Jewish parents in the industrial city of Lodz. Lodz was Poland's second biggest city before the war, and one-third of its inhabitants were Jewish. Benjamin's father, Moshe, owned a candle factory, and his mother, Brona, was a nurse.

1933-39: In 1939, as he began the third grade, the Germans occupied Lodz. Jews were forbidden to ride buses, and were ordered to wear yellow stars. Because the Germans sometimes grabbed Jews off the streets for forced labor, his father wouldn't leave the house. Benjamin became their family's "messenger," running errands along with their housekeeper's son. He and Benjamin had lived in different worlds before the war--now they were together every day.

1940-44: When the Lodz ghetto was sealed in April 1940, Benjamin managed to smuggle all he could from his old house into their new quarters in the ghetto. Then in 1944, when Benjamin was 14, his family was rounded up and loaded onto cattle cars on one of the last transports from the ghetto. One of the first in his car, he saw a message scrawled in blood on the wall: "We have arrived in Auschwitz and here they finish us off!" The message was hidden when the car filled up, but now he no longer had any doubts about their destination.

Benjamin was deported to Auschwitz, and later to a forced-labor camp in Hanover, Germany. After the war, at age 16, he emigrated to Palestine with a group of orphans.
Inge was the only child of Berthold and Regina Auerbacher, religious Jews living in Kippenheim, a village in southwestern Germany near the Black Forest. Her father was a textile merchant. The family lived in a large house with 17 rooms and had servants to help with the housework.

1933-39: On November 10, 1938, hoodlums threw rocks and broke all the windows of Inge’s home. That same day police arrested her father and grandfather. Inge, her mother, and her grandmother managed to hide in a shed until it was quiet. When they came out, the town's Jewish men had been taken to the Dachau concentration camp. Her father and grandfather were allowed to return home a few weeks later, but that May her grandfather died of a heart attack.

1940-45: When Inge was 7, she was deported with her parents to the Theresienstadt ghetto in Czechoslovakia. When we arrived, everything was taken from her, except for the clothes they wore and her doll, Marlene. Conditions in the camp were harsh. Potatoes were as valuable as diamonds. She was hungry, scared and sick most of the time. For her eighth birthday, her parents gave her a tiny potato cake with a hint of sugar; for her ninth birthday, an outfit sewn from rags for her doll; and for her tenth birthday, a poem written by her mother.

On May 8, 1945, Inge and her parents were liberated from the Theresienstadt ghetto where they had spent nearly three years. They emigrated to the United States in May 1946.
The younger of two sisters, Lidia was born to Jewish parents living in Sarospatak, a small town in northeastern Hungary. Lidia's parents owned a successful dry goods business. At the time, ready-made clothes were still rare in the countryside. Townspeople and local farmers would purchase fabric at the Lebowitz store and then take it to their tailor or seamstress to be sewn into clothes.

1933-39: Lidia was 2 when her Aunt Sadie, who had emigrated to the United States many years earlier, came to visit with her two children, Arthur and Lillian. All the cousins had a good time playing together on their grandparents' farm. On the trip over from America, Lidia's aunt's ship had docked in Hamburg, Germany, and Aunt Sadie had seen Nazis marching in the streets. Aunt Sadie was worried about what could happen to her family in Sarospatak.

1940-44: In 1944 German forces occupied Hungary. A month after the invasion, Hungarian gendarmes, acting under Nazi orders, evicted Lidia and her parents from their home. The Lebowitzes spent three days crowded into the local synagogue with hundreds of other Jewish citizens. Then they were all transferred to the nearby town of Satoraljaujhely, where some 15,000 Jews were squeezed into a ghetto set up in the gypsy section of town. The ghetto residents had a hard time getting enough food to eat.

The ghetto was liquidated in May and June of 1944. All the Jews were deported in sealed freight cars to Auschwitz. Lidia and her parents were never heard from again.
Robert was raised by Hungarian-speaking parents in Kosice, a town in eastern Slovakia with a sizable Jewish community of 7,000. The Grubers were a traditional Jewish family and they observed the Jewish Sabbath, dietary laws, and holidays. Robert’s father owned a small jewelry shop.

1933-39: When Robert was 5, Kosice was taken over by the Hungarians, who were lead by a dictator named Horthy. Robert stood on the main street with his parents, watching the soldiers march into town in a victory parade. They were lead by Horthy himself on a white horse. Just days later, non-Hungarian Jews were given 48 hours to leave the region. Robert’s family fled to the town of Michalovce where several of their relatives lived.

1940-44: By winter 1944 they had moved again, to a town in western Slovakia. The house that they lived in had a trap door leading to a hiding space, where they hid once the Germans started rounding up Jews. After the Germans began deporting Slovakian civilians as forced laborers, a neighbor came to them one day demanding that he wanted to hide in their space so they should get out. He threatened to tell on them if they didn't leave. Robert’s parents retorted that if they were forced to leave and were rounded up by the Germans, that they would inform on HIM. He left.

The Grubers stayed in the hiding place for nine months, until the Soviets bombed the area. In March 1945, when Robert was 12, he and his family were liberated by the Soviets.
Alice grew up in a Jewish family in Sarvar, Hungary, near the Austrian border. She had two younger brothers and an older sister. Her father worked for the family's carpet weaving and import/export business and was often away, traveling to their Budapest office. Alice's grandfather was a community leader and president of one of Sarvar's synagogues.

1933-39: Alice had a very special relationship with her grandfather. She admired him. People knew that they could always come to him for help of any kind. He often invited Jewish orphans to our home for meals. Every Sabbath their home was open to guests who came to study holy texts together. Alice loved to listen to the wonderful stories that her Grandfather told, and he asked her to be his scribe and write those stories down.

1940-44: In April 1944, when Alice was 15 years old, the Germans invaded Sarvar and a ghetto was set up. Two months later, she was deported to Auschwitz with her mother, sister, and brothers. On arrival she was sent to a camp with children aged 15 and under. Alice searched all over for her sister Edith, and when she located her she sent a message. Miraculously, Edith switched places with someone in my camp. Every Friday night, the Sabbath, they would pray where they could assemble secretly--the latrine. Other children joined them for these prayers.

Two days after liberation, Alice's sister was taken to a Red Cross Hospital. Alice never saw her again. After the war, Alice emigrated to the United States and became an artist.
Ceija was the fifth of six children born to Roman Catholic Gypsy parents. The Stojka's family wagon traveled with a caravan that spent winters in the Austrian capital of Vienna and summers in the Austrian countryside. The Stojkas belonged to a tribe of Gypsies called the Lowara Roma, who made their living as itinerant horse traders.

1933-39: Ceija grew up used to freedom, travel and hard work. Once, her father made her a skirt out of some material from a broken sunshade. She was 5 years old and their wagon was parked for the winter in a Vienna campground, when Germany annexed Austria in March 1938. The Germans ordered them to stay put. Her parents had to convert our wagon into a wooden house, and they had to learn how to cook with an oven instead of on an open fire.

1940-44: Gypsies were forced to register as members of another "race." Their campground was fenced off and placed under police guard. Ceija was 8 when the Germans took her father away; a few months later, her mother received his ashes in a box. Next, the Germans took her sister, Kathi. Finally, they deported all of them to a Nazi camp for Gypsies in Birkenau. They lived in the shadows of a smoking crematorium, and they called the path in front of their barracks the "highway to hell" because it led to the gas chambers.

Ceija was subsequently freed in the Bergen-Belsen camp in 1945. After the war, she documented and published Lowara Gypsy songs about the Holocaust.
Judith was one of three children born to a Yiddish-speaking Jewish family living on a farm near the Lithuanian town of Jonava. Judith's mother had an extensive Jewish education and taught her daughters at home. Her son, Abe, attended a Jewish religious school in Jonava. Judith's father worked in the logging industry.

1933-39: In the fall of 1938, six months after her father died, Judith and her mother moved to Kovno, the capital of Lithuania. She was 9 years old. Kovno at that time had a large Jewish community--approximately one third of the capital's total population. Judith’s mother worked as a seamstress, and they moved to Kovno so that she could find work and so that they could be closer to her older brother and sister who were already working there.

1940-45: The Soviet Union occupied Lithuania in 1940; Germany invaded a year later. In 1943, when Judith was 14, her family was deported to the Stutthof concentration camp. On arrival they were forced to stand at attention; a heavyset female guard walked by with a whip, saying, "No one leaves alive. You're all doomed." Then they were taken to be examined. A woman in line in front of Judith had some teeth ripped out and blood flowed from her mouth. When her turn came a guard put her hand inside her clothes, searching for hidden valuables.

Judith and her sister escaped during a forced march out of Stutthof in the winter of 1944. Later, posing as Christians, they escaped to Denmark where they were liberated in 1945.
The younger of two girls, Lore was born to Jewish parents in a village close to the Belgian border. The Heumanns lived above their general store. Across the street lived Lore's grandfather, who kept horses and cows in his large barn. When Lore was a year old, her family moved to the city of Lippstadt. The Lippe River flowed beyond the large garden in back of their house.

1933-39: When Lore was 6, her family moved to the nearby city of Bielefeld, where she entered public school. A year later, she and her older sister, Margot, were expelled from school. One day they were suddenly kicked out of class. Not understanding why, they stood outside, crying. Then they walked home. After this, their parents sent them to a Jewish school where they had teachers who also had been kicked out of the schools by the Nazis.

1940-44: A few months after Lore turned 11, she was deported with her family to the Theresienstadt ghetto in Czechoslovakia. When the Heumanns arrived at the station, they were met by Lore's thin and sickly-looking grandmother, who had been deported there some six months earlier. She told them that Lore's grandfather had died a few weeks earlier from starvation. In the ghetto Lore attended the classes clandestinely organized by Jewish teachers, but she found it hard to concentrate because she was almost always hungry.

Thirteen-year-old Lore was deported with her family to Auschwitz in May 1944. She and her parents are believed to have perished there. Her sister, Margot, survived the war.
Shulim was the oldest of three children born to religious Jewish parents living in Kolbuszowa, a town in south central Poland. His father owned a wholesale general store in town, and was known in the region for his impressive strength. Shulim's mother tended to the house and cared for him, his brother, Shlomo, and his sister, Rozia.

1933-39: When Shulim was 9, the Germans invaded Poland. Polish soldiers on horses tried to fight against the German army, but they were no match against the tanks. After the short battle, there were many dead horses in the streets. Shulim's father and his uncle Naftali were forced to help bury the horses. The Germans ordered that Jewish children could not go to school anymore. Shulim stayed at home with his mother, brother and sister.

1940-42: In July 1941 the Germans forced all the Jews of Kolbuszowa to live in one small section of town. Two of Shulim's grandparents, an uncle and two aunts moved in with his family, making their apartment very crowded. Shulim's twelfth birthday was a milestone--he now had to wear an armband with a Star of David like the other men. He felt proud, and asked his uncle Naftali to take a picture of him wearing the armband. Shulim was assigned to work details with the other men. He cleared snow and repaired the roads.

Shulim was deported to the Rzeszow ghetto on June 25, 1942, and then to the Belzec camp in July. There, Shulim was gassed with his mother, brother and sister. He was 12 years old.
Herman was the fourth of eight children born to a religious Jewish family in the small town of Sirma, located near the city of Sevlus. The Kleins had a small plot of land, which they farmed, and they also ran a shoe shop. At age four Herman began attending religious school. When he started public elementary school, he continued his religious lessons in the afternoons.

1933-39: In March 1939, the region of Czechoslovakia in which he lived was annexed to Hungary. His teacher at school was replaced by a Hungarian and Hungarian became the official language. Except for the Jews, all the students joined the pro-Nazi youth group "Levente." While the group marched and trained in military drills with wooden guns, Herman would get sent outside to clean the yard.

1940-45: When he was 16 his family was deported to Auschwitz. Separated from his mother and sisters, Herman was placed in an all-male barracks. One day, a neighbor from his hometown and Herman were looking across the barbed-wire fence. Herman asked him, "What are all those white trees thrown on top of one another?" "They're not trees," he said, "they're people. Don't you see the crematorium? Can't you smell the people burning?" After a week in Auschwitz, his father, brother and Herman were deported to a labor camp built in the ruins of the Warsaw ghetto.

In 1944 Herman was deported from Warsaw to the Kaufering labor camp. He was transferred in an open wagon to the Dachau camp only hours before it was liberated by U.S. troops.
The younger of two children, Irene was born to Jewish parents in the industrial city of Mannheim. Her father, a wounded German army veteran of World War I, was an interior decorator. Her mother was a housewife. When the Nazis came to power in 1933, Irene's older brother, Berthold, was attending public school. Three-year-old Irene was at home with her mother.

1933-39: Celebrating Jewish holidays with all of her aunts and uncles was really nice. One of her favorite places was the zoo; Irene especially liked the monkeys. When the Nazis forced Jewish children out of public school, she began attending a Jewish school. She was "a daddy's girl," and her father would take her home from school on his bike. After the Nazis burned our school, Irene’s older brother left for safety in Britain—Irene was too young to go with him.

1940-44: In 1940, when she was 10, her family was sent to Gurs and then Rivesaltes, terrible camps in southern France. The food was awful. The Jewish Children's Aid Society took Irene away and placed her in a Catholic convent along with 13 other Jewish girls. Irene Freund became Irene Fanchet and studied under Sister Theresa. One day, the SS came to the convent looking for hidden German-Jewish children. One of the girls, who was fluent in French, did the talking for them.

Thirteen-year-old Irene was freed by Allied troops in July 1944. After being transferred to several children's homes in France, she emigrated to the United States in 1947.
Berta was the youngest of three girls born to a Jewish family in Minsk, the capital of Belorussia. Before World War II, more than a third of the city was Jewish. Berta’s father worked in a state-owned factory building furniture, an occupation in which several of his relatives also made a living.

1933-39: Berta and her family lived on Novomesnitskaya Street in central Minsk, only a few blocks from the Svisloch River. Her older sister, Dora, loved to swim there in the summer. By the time Berta was in the fourth grade, there were many Polish refugees in her city. Germany and the USSR had divided Poland, and Poles were fleeing eastward. Many stayed in Minsk because it was still close to “home,” being only about 20 miles from the Polish-Soviet border.

1940-44: Berta was 12 when the Germans reached Minsk in 1941 and set up a ghetto. A year later, trying to escape a roundup, her and her mother hid in a warehouse. When they were discovered by a German guard, Berta was so scared that she began talking gibberish and started to run—the guard followed me. As Berta fled she slammed into another woman who appeared out of nowhere. Just then the guard fired his gun. Berta and the woman fell and Berta was sure she’d been hit. But she stood up and found that she wasn't wounded. The other woman lay motionless. Berta was taken to be executed....

Berta was taken to be executed but managed to get away. Later, she escaped from the ghetto and joined the Soviet partisans. She was liberated by the Red Army in July 1944.
ANDRAS MUHLRAD  
Born Ujpest, Hungary  
July 27, 1930

The second of two children, Andras was born to Jewish parents living in a suburb of Budapest. His father was a pharmacist. The Muhlrad family lived in a large house with Andras' grandfather and aunts. As a toddler, Andras often played with his older sister, Eva, and their cousins in the big yard behind their home.

1933-39: Andras was 4 when his family moved to their own apartment. It was 1936 when he began primary school and Hitler had already been in power in Nazi Germany for three years. At night his father would turn on the radio to listen to news of the Third Reich. All this still seemed far away from Hungary. The young boy concentrated on earning good grades. He knew only a few top Jewish students were admitted to the public high school every year.

1940-44: Four months before Andras turned 14, the Germans invaded Hungary. Soon after, the Muhlrad family had to leave their apartment and move in with the family of Andras' friend Yannos, whose building had been marked with a Star of David. At first, living together was tolerable, but conditions became increasingly more crowded until there were 25 in the apartment. The residents were allowed to leave the building for errands a few hours a day. Then one day a gendarme took up guard in front of the entrance. The residents spent three days trapped inside fearing what would happen next.

Andras and his family were among the 435,000 Hungarian Jews deported to Auschwitz in the early summer of 1944. Andras was later moved to a camp in Bavaria, where he perished.
In 1933, just after Hitler and the Nazi Party **came to power**, Thomas's Jewish parents moved from Germany to Czechoslovakia. Thomas's father had worked as a banker in Germany, and then bought a small hotel in the Slovakian town of Lubochna. Many of his father's friends in Germany came to Czechoslovakia to escape the Nazi government's unfair policies and stayed at the hotel.

1933-39: Slovak soldiers who had sided with Hitler took over their hotel in late 1938. They fled to Zilina, a nearby city, and lived there until after Thomas turned 5. Then, his father took us across the border into Poland. On September 1, 1939, they boarded a train heading for a boat that would take them to England. But the German army **invaded Poland** that day, and their train was bombed. They joined other refugees, and walked north to Kielce.

1940-45: In Kielce they were put into a ghetto and then a labor camp. In 1944 Thomas was deported to **Auschwitz** with his parents. It was now January 1945, and the advancing Soviet army forced the Germans to evacuate. They were **marched out**—children at the front. Day one was a 10-hour march and tiring; they began to lag. Stragglers were shot, so two boys and Thomas devised a way to rest as we walked: They would run to the front of the column, then walk slowly or stop until the rear of the column reached them. Then, they would run ahead again. This was dangerous, however.

Thomas was one of only three children to survive the three-day death march. He was deported to **Sachsenhausen**, where he was **liberated** by Soviet troops in April 1945.
Often known as Sanyi, Sandor was born to religious Jewish parents in a small city in Transylvania, a province that had been ruled by Hungary until 1918. During the 1930s his home city was renamed I.G. Duca in honor of a slain Romanian leader. The fourth of six children, Sandor was also known by his Hebrew name, Yitzhak. The Brauns knew Yiddish, Hungarian, Romanian and Hebrew.

1933-39: Before his fourth birthday, a babysitter took Sandor on an outing into the forest. When she fell asleep Sandor wandered away. Some roaming gypsies found and took care of him. Sandor loved their music; he wanted a violin of his own. Three days later they returned him to his distraught parents. For his next birthday he was given a small violin and began music lessons. He practiced whenever he could. Sandor’s mother said he practiced too much.

1940-45: Deported by the Germans in May 1944 [to Auschwitz and then to Kochendorf], Sandor eventually ended up in Dachau, where an SS guard, promising extra food, entered his barracks with a violin, asking if anyone could play. Three of them volunteered. The first played well, but their work boss smashed his skull with an iron pipe. The second, too scared to play, was kicked to death. Then the violin was handed to Sandor. He paused as the work boss gripped his iron pipe. Without thinking, Sandor played the "Blue Danube"; this pleased the SS guard. Sandor got the extra ration.

On April 29, 1945, Sandor was liberated in Dachau by American troops. In 1950 he emigrated to the United States, where he became a composer and a professional violinist.
An only child, Freya was born to Jewish parents who lived in a small German town in the Rhine River valley. The Langs owned a successful dry goods business. At this time ready-made clothes were still rare in the countryside. Townspeople and local farmers would purchase fabric at the Lang's store and then take it to their tailor or seamstress to be sewn into a garment.

1933-39: When she was growing up, the Nazi party was in power. Many Jews left Germany--Grandmother Lang and one of her uncles sailed for America. But her father didn't want to leave his business. He opened a new store in Mannheim, where they moved. On November 10, 1938, the Nazis rampaged, wrecking Jewish stores and arresting Jews [Kristallnacht, The Night of Broken Glass]. They padlocked her father's store and took him to the Dachau concentration camp. He was released in 1939.

1940-44: When Freya was 6 years old, her family was sent to a detention camp in France. An aid society managed to get her out and she was hidden with a French farm family--the Didiers. For safety, she was taught to be a "Catholic." When her classmates made their first communion, she wanted to also because everyone wore such a pretty white dress. But Madame Didier said no. She didn't say Freya was Jewish, just that she should "wait for your parents so they could be there." How Freya cried. After all, she no longer realized that she was Jewish.

In 1946 Freya was reunited with her father. She learned that days after she had been taken from the camp, her mother had been sent to Auschwitz, where she perished.
Gisella lived with her parents, grandparents, uncle, and older sister, Inge, in Lechenich, a small village outside of Cologne. The Bergs were an observant Jewish family. Gisella's grandfather was the president of the local synagogue association and her uncle was the cantor. Her father, Josef was a respected cattle dealer, who had many business and personal contacts with their Jewish and non-Jewish neighbors.

1933–39: Gisella was born several months after the Nazis came to power. Her parents feared for her safety and did not permit her to play on the street with other children. On November 9, 1938, the Nazis carried out a nationwide pogrom against Germany's Jews, known as Kristallnacht ("The Night of Broken Glass"). Alerted to the danger by a family friend, the Bergs fled to Cologne. That night, local Nazis ransacked their home in Lechenich, damaging or destroying many of the family's possessions. In May 1939, the Bergs left for Kenya.

1940–45: In Kenya, then part of British East Africa, the family lived on a farm in the highlands, raising cattle and pyrethrum—a flowering plant used to make insecticide. From her home, Gisella could see the distant peaks of Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Kenya as well as many exotic animals. The Bergs, like other former German citizens, found themselves classified by the British as "enemy aliens" during World War II. They faced certain restrictions, but Gisella and Inge were able to continue their education.

In 1947, the Bergs came to the United States, and eventually purchased a chicken farm and dairy business in Vineland, New Jersey. Gisella completed her high school education and graduated from a business college. In 1957, she married Kurt Pauly, a fellow refugee from Nazi Germany.
Jakob was one of seven boys in a religious Jewish family. They lived in a town 50 miles west of Warsaw called Gabin, where Jakob's father worked as a cap maker. Gabin had one of Poland's oldest synagogues, built of wood in 1710. Like most of Gabin's Jews, Jakob's family lived close to the synagogue. The family of nine occupied a one-room apartment on the top floor of a three-story building.

1933-39: On September 1, 1939, just a few months before Jacob turned 10, the Germans started a war with Poland. After they reached their town, they doused the synagogue and surrounding homes with gasoline and set them on fire. All the Jewish men were rounded up in the marketplace and held there while their synagogue and homes burned to the ground. Jacob's house had also been doused with gasoline, but the fire didn't reach it.

1940-45: At age 12, Jacob was put in a group of men to be sent to labor camps. More than a year later, they were shipped to Auschwitz. The day after they arrived, Jacob and his brother Chaim were lined up with kids and old people. Jacob asked a prisoner what was going to happen to them. He pointed to the chimneys. "Tomorrow the smoke will be from you." He said if they could get a number tattooed on their arms, they would be put to work instead of being killed. They sneaked to the latrine, then escaped through a back door and lined up with the men getting tatoos.

After 17 months in Auschwitz, Jakob was force-marched to camps in Germany. Liberated in April 1945 near Austria, he emigrated to the United States at the age of 16.
Elzbieta grew up in Iwonicz, a resort town in southwestern Poland noted for its mineral water. Her father, Edmund, was a respected physician and Helena, her mother, had studied pharmacology. At home, they spoke Polish and were among the few Jewish families who lived in Iwonicz.

1933–39: When German troops invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, Elzbieta's father was drafted into the Polish army. Seventeen days later, the Soviet army drove in from the east and Edmund was captured. He was transported to a camp for Polish prisoners of war in Novosibirsk (Siberia), where he served as a physician. In November 1939, Elzbieta and her mother went to Tarnow, where her maternal grandmother lived. There they were subjected to a growing number of Nazi anti-Jewish measures, such as forced labor. Helena worked as an assistant pharmacist for the Germans.

1940–45: In June 1942, some 3,500 Jews, including Elzbieta's grandmother, were deported to the Belzec killing center. Realizing the danger, Helena purchased “Aryan” papers for Elzbieta and herself and escaped to Milanowek, a town near Warsaw. There they lived with a Polish family. Four-year-old Elzbieta was given the name, Barbara Stachura, and raised as a Catholic. After the destruction of the Warsaw ghetto, German authorities intensified their efforts to find Jews in hiding. Helena worried that they would be discovered and sometimes kept her daughter from school or hid her in the basement.

In January 1945, Soviet troops occupied Milanowek. In May, Elzbieta's mother bribed a Russian soldier to smuggle them in shipping crates across the border to Czechoslovakia. From there, the two went to Austria and then Germany, where they learned that Edmund had survived and was in Italy with the Polish army. In 1951 Elzbieta and her family came to the United States.