

Days of Remembrance Facts of the Day



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Report No. 12-16

Days of Remembrance 2016 Facts of the Day

Date	Fact	Source
1	The 2016 Days of Remembrance are May 1st - May 8th, and the DEOMI created theme for the 2016 observance is <i>Learning from the Holocaust: Acts of Courage</i> .	https://www.deomi.org/
2	The Holocaust was the persecution and murder of over 6 million men, women, and children by the Nazi regime in the 1930's and 40's. The Nazis believed the German race to be superior, and declared the Jews an inferior threat.	http://www.ushmm.org/
3	The Israeli Parliament established Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Hashoah), to be observed on the 27th day of Nisan of the Hebrew calendar. The Hebrew calendar is a lunar calendar, so the date changes each year. In 2016, Yom Hashoah falls on May 5th. Observances and remembrance activities occur throughout the week of remembrance, which runs from the Sunday before Holocaust Remembrance Day through the following Sunday.	http://www.ushmm.org/
4	The word <i>Holocaust</i> comes from Greek origins and means “ <i>sacrifice by fire</i> ,” or “ <i>a thing wholly burnt</i> .”	http://www.ushmm.org/
5	It is estimated that close to 5,000 mentally or physically disabled young patients living in institutionalized settings were murdered in the German Euthanasia Program. Starting in October 1939, public health authorities began to persuade parents of children with disabilities to admit their kids to select pediatric clinics throughout Germany and Austria. While there, the patients were murdered by medication overdoses or starvation at the hands of specially recruited medical staff.	http://www.ushmm.org/
6	In 1933, the Jewish population in Europe stood at about 9.5 million, which represented over 60 percent of the world's Jewish population at the time. By 1945, nearly 2 of every 3 European Jews were killed as a result of the Holocaust.	http://www.ushmm.org/

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7	<p>Oskar Schindler was an ethnic German who joined the Nazi party in 1939. He moved to Poland after the German invasion and became wealthy through his army contacts and cheap labor from the Jewish ghetto. After witnessing the atrocities committed against Jews in the ghetto, he started housing his workers and other Jews in barracks at his factory. He created a fake munitions factory and placed the Jews on “<i>Schindler’s List</i>” to protect them from the Nazis.</p>	<p><i>http://www.ushmm.org/information/exhibitions/online-features/special-focus/oskar-schindler</i></p>
8	<p>Emilie Schindler was essential to her husband Oskar’s efforts to protect Jews during the Holocaust. Once while Oskar was away, she encountered Nazis taking 250 Jews to a death camp. She convinced them that the Jews were needed at the factory. They were near starvation, and 13 had died. She worked tirelessly rehabilitating them, and all but three recovered. Survivors of the Schindler barracks saw her as a mother figure who did everything she could to protect and provide for them.</p>	<p><i>http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/emilieschindler.html</i></p>
9	<p>Concentration camps were created to serve as detention centers to imprison and eliminate what the Nazis called “<i>enemies of the state.</i>” They earned the name concentration camps because of the physical concentration of prisoners in one location.</p>	<p><i>http://www.ushmm.org/</i></p>
10	<p>In the fall of 1943, martial law was imposed on Denmark by German authorities in response to a few acts of resistance. Later in the year, a German businessman warned Danish authorities of an impending plan to deport all the Danish Jews while they were operating under martial law. Over the course of the following nights, 7,200 of the 7,800 Danish Jews were helped into hiding and ferried to Sweden in small fishing boats.</p>	<p><i>http://www.ushmm.org/</i></p>
11	<p>Between 1940 and September 1944, inhabitants of the small French village of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon and surrounding towns provided shelter for an estimated 5,000 people fleeing German authorities; 3,000-3,500 of whom were Jews. Residents of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon offered refuge in private homes, farms, and schools, and even forged I.D. cards and helped victims cross into Switzerland.</p>	<p><i>http://www.ushmm.org/</i></p>

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12	<p><i>“Nobody asked who was Jewish and who was not. Nobody asked where you were from. Nobody asked who your father was or if you could pay. They just accepted each of us, taking us in with warmth, sheltering children, often without their parents—children who cried in the night from nightmares.”</i> —Elizabeth Koenig-Kaufman, a former child refugee in Le Chambon-sur-Lignon</p>	<p align="center">http://www.ushmm.org/</p>
13	<p>In 2015, Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds was recognized posthumously by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations. In 1945, Edmonds selflessly protected Jewish POWs under his command when he stood up to the German commander in charge of the camp. When the commander demanded that the Jewish prisoners step forward to be separated and prepared for transport out of the camp, Edmonds replied, <i>“We are all Jews.”</i> After being threatened with a gun to his head, the U.S. soldier answered, <i>“If you shoot, you’ll have to shoot us all.”</i></p>	<p align="center">http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/12/02/458166709/u-s-soldier-posthumously-honored-for-protecting-jewish-pows-in-1945</p>
14	<p>On January 22, 1944, President Roosevelt issued an executive order that established the War Refugee Board—an initiative tasked with rescuing <i>“the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war .”</i> In the end, the War Refugee Board helped to save the lives of about 200,000 Jews.</p>	<p align="center">http://isurvived.org/Frameset4References/-Wallenberg.html</p>
15	<p>In June of 1944, 32-year-old businessman Raoul Wallenberg volunteered to go to Budapest to aid in the effort to save Hungarian Jews. Once there, he became a representative of the newly established War Refugee Board. He made countless sacrifices for the victims of Nazi violence, including convincing the Swedish government to issue passports to over 20,000 Hungarian Jews, sheltering upwards of 13,000 Jews in buildings over which he flew the Swedish flag, and carrying food and medical supplies to Jews on marches. One account states that Wallenberg stood in front of Hungarian fascists attempting to seize Jews housed under the Swedish flag and shouted, <i>“This is Swedish territory...if you want to take them, you’ll have to shoot me first .”</i></p>	<p align="center">http://isurvived.org/Frameset4References/-Wallenberg.html</p>

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16	Sofia Kritikou sheltered the Kazanskys—a Jewish family—in her home in Athens, Greece for the duration of the war. When the Kazansky family first came to stay with the hard working single mother, she wasn't aware that they were Jewish. Even after discovering the truth, she didn't expel the parents and their three children from her home, despite the steep consequence for hiding Jews.	http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/righteous-women/kritikou.asp
17	Anton Sukhinski's reputation before World War II was not accurate to the valor of his true character. In June of 1943, Sukhinski offered protection to the Zeiger family and three young women. He hid them in his back yard cellar and provided for their basic needs as well as he could. Even after neighbors blackmailed him and fire fights ensued, taking the life of one of the young women in the cellar, Sukhinski's offer stood for the frightened family. He continued to keep them safe and alive for nine months until the liberation.	http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/righteous/stories/sukhinski.asp
18	At the start of World War II, Irena Sendler was a 29-year-old social worker in Warsaw. When the Warsaw ghetto was sealed off in 1940, close to 400,000 people had been driven inside the ghetto walls. As expected by the Nazis, poor hygiene and overcrowded conditions caused high death rates among those contained. Sendler requested a permit to enter the ghetto under the guise of inspecting sanitation conditions and made connections necessary to smuggle Jews out and into hiding. Three years later, Sendler smuggled children into orphanages and institutes for abandoned children throughout Poland. The exact number of lives she is responsible for saving is unknown.	http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/righteous-women/sendler.asp
19	When the deportation of Slovakian Jews began in September of 1944, Anna Igumnova took responsibility for her Jewish colleague, Alice Winter and her daughter Erika. Igumnova found a room at an abandoned hotel with a sunken bathtub for Alice and Erika to hide in during the day, and brought them food and books every night. When the time was right, she took the chance and moved Erika to the mountains, where a family agreed to house her for a fee. Igumnova traveled to the mountains every other week to pay the family in exchange for the child's safety. In April 1945, Alice was reunited with Erika and the rest of her family, and continued to keep in touch with the woman who saved her life until the late 1980's.	http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/righteous-women/igumnova.asp

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20	<p>Maximilian Kolbe, a Catholic priest, was arrested by the German Gestapo in 1941 for hiding upwards of 2,000 Jews from Nazi persecution at his friary in Poland. He was sent to Auschwitz concentration camp. After a man from Kolbe's barracks went missing, 10 men were chosen to be sent to Block 13, a dark room where prisoners were confined to starve to death. One of the men selected, Franciszek Gajowniczek, cried out about his wife and children. Kolbe stepped in and volunteered to take his place. While in confinement, Kolbe led the fading men in songs and prayer, and after three weeks of starvation and dehydration, Kolbe was murdered with an injection of carbolic acid. His bravery was honored on October 10, 1982, when Pope John Paul II canonized him—in the presence of Franciszek Gajowniczek.</p>	<p>http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/Kolbe.html</p>
21	<p>When Switzerland closed its borders to Jewish refugees, Paul Grüninger, who was in charge of the Swiss border police in an area on the Swiss-Austrian border, falsified documents to allow 3,600 Jews to enter and stay in Switzerland. Though he was convicted of breach of duty and left destitute, he never regretted his actions. He said, <i>“My personal well-being, measured against the cruel fate of these thousands, was so insignificant and unimportant that I never even took it into consideration .”</i></p>	<p>http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/righteous/gruninger.asp</p>
22	<p>Dr. Eugene Lazowski is a little-known guardian of over 8,000 people in the Rozwadow ghetto and surrounding areas during the Holocaust. As a young doctor, he worked for the Polish Red Cross and frequently risked death in order to help his Jewish neighbors. Along with a fellow Polish colleague, Stanislaw Matulewicz, Lazowski discovered that injecting individuals with a vaccine containing the dead epidemic Typhus would have them test positive for the disease without displaying any of the associated symptoms. Lazowski injected thousands of residents of the Rozwadow ghetto, causing the Nazis to refuse deportation to death camps and issue a quarantine of the area. They assumed the infected would perish from widespread epidemic. The good doctor's clever actions earned him the nickname, <i>“the Polish Schindler.”</i></p>	<p>http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/lazowskibio.html</p>

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23	<p>Countess Maria von Maltzan was born into a wealthy family in Germany in 1909. After joining some of the initial resistance movements against the Nazi party, she frequently took Jews into her own home and fed and protected them—right under the noses of the Gestapo. Over the course of the war, von Maltzan provided a haven for more than 60 Jews and arranged for their escape to safety. She took many risks, and was prepared to pay the ultimate price to save Jews from persecution.</p>	<p>http://www.auschwitz.dk/maltzan.htm</p>
24	<p>In December 1938, Nicholas Winton was a 29-year-old London stockbroker. Over the next year he would become a hero, responsible for saving the lives of hundreds of Jewish children. At the time, countries willing to take in the endangered children (Britain and Sweden) didn't have formal organizations established to care for them once they arrived. Winton took the burden on his own shoulders and with the help of a few dedicated friends, he raised money, organized transport, and found stable foster homes for 669 children. Those that lived through the Holocaust because of his selfless actions call themselves <i>Winton's children</i>.</p>	<p>http://www.powerofgood.net/story.php</p>
25	<p>For over two years, Meip Gies helped to hide the Frank family and four others from Nazi prosecution. After the family was discovered and arrested on August 4, 1944, Miep found the cloth-bound diary kept by the youngest Frank daughter, Anne. Without the actions of Miep and her family, <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>—one of the most-read books in the world—would not exist.</p>	<p>http://www.miepgies.dk/</p>
26	<p>Before his arrest for trying to save three Jewish boys by disguising them as students, French priest and boarding school director Lucien Bunel said, <i>“I am told that since I am responsible for all the children at the Petit College, I do not have the right to expose myself to possible arrest by the Germans. But do you not think that if that happened and if, per chance, I should be killed, I would not thereby bequeath to my students an example worth far more than all the teaching I could give?”</i></p>	<p>http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/righteous/bunel.asp</p>

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27	<p><i>"... We remember all whose lives were lost or forever altered by the Holocaust. And we are challenged to think about what might motivate us to respond to warning signs of genocide today. History teaches us that genocide can be prevented if enough people care enough to act. Our choices in response to hatred truly do matter, and together we can help fulfill the promise of Never Again ."</i> — U.S. Holocaust Museum</p>	<p align="center"><i>http://www.ushmm.org/</i></p>
28	<p>Known as quite possibly the only person to ever volunteer for imprisonment at a concentration camp, Witold Pilecki willingly spent two and a half years in Auschwitz as a secret agent of a resistance group. He infiltrated the camp in order to organize resistance and send information about the horrors behind the barbed wire. He built a functional radio transmitter from scraps around the camp and used it to tell the world about the gas chambers and mass graves. In 1943, when he began to suspect the Nazis knew of his actions, Pilecki escaped the camp and worked to personally convince Allied powers of the Nazi's plans.</p>	<p align="center"><i>http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/Witold_Pilecki.html</i></p>
29	<p>More than six decades after the Holocaust, the horrors of Bosnia, Rwanda, Darfur, Syria, and al-Nusra are sobering reminders that preventing future genocides and mass atrocities remains an enormous challenge. Yet genocide is not the inevitable result of ancient hatreds or irrational leaders. As we learn more from past genocides about the risk factors, warning signs, and triggering events of these crimes, we are also learning that they can be averted and that genocide can be prevented.</p>	<p align="center"><i>http://www.ushmm.org/</i></p>
30	<p><i>"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest."</i> — Elie Wiesel</p>	<p align="center"><i>http://www.ushmm.org/</i></p>