

Guide to Collection & Finding Aid

Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies (archival collection)

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I. Collection Summary

Title: Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies

Collection date(s): 2008-2017 [bulk: 2010-2014]

Extent and Forms of Material: Audio-visual recordings c. 500 hours

Language(s): German; French; English; Dutch; Spanish; Guarani.

Creator: Luke Holland (ZEF Productions Ltd.)

Abstract: Between 2008 and 2017, Luke Holland (1948-2020) interviewed 274 men and women born between 1905 and 1934 from a range of countries, especially Germany and Austria, about their memories of, and involvement in, the ‘Third Reich’, the Second World War, and the Holocaust.

Content and Scope: This collection contains 295 interviews, mostly video recordings, conducted by Luke Holland and his associates between 2008 and 2017 with 274 men and women about the ‘Third Reich’, the Second World War, and the Holocaust.

Provenance: *Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies* is an archival project initiated and directed by Luke Holland (ZEF Productions Ltd) in association with University College London (UCL), the Wiener Holocaust Library, the Institut National de l’Audiovisuel (France) and Founding Partners, Pears Foundation.

UCL purchased an access copy of the collection in 2015 to prepare the collection for use in research and education. Its copy is held by UCL Digital Collections, Wilkins Building, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, United Kingdom. <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/library/digital-collections>. Digital Curation Manager: [Steve Wright](#). The collection was appraised, catalogued, and indexed at UCL by Stefanie Rauch in consultation with Matt Mahon and Tom Meehan 2016-17, and in cooperation with the Institut National de l’Audiovisuel (INA).

INA, a French public institution in charge of the conservation and enhancement of audio-visual archives and the production of documentary works, has contributed to the indexation and description of the interviews conducted by ZEF Productions. Access to the access copy and associated metadata is provided through INA’s professional video platform inamediapro.com.

The Wiener Holocaust Library had a long-standing relationship with Luke Holland. The Library financially assisted in the making of the first set of recordings and Luke Holland and the Library’s previous director, Ben Barkow, were good friends. As a result, ZEF Productions offered free access of the interviews to readers at the Wiener Holocaust Library while the Wiener Holocaust Library promised in exchange to offer a free-to-all access point in its Reading Room.

II. Information for users of the collection

Conditions Governing Access: Access to the collection is controlled, conditional on the signature of a User Declaration, and restricted. Terms and Conditions for Access and Use apply. Select interviews remain closed until further notice.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: The entire collection is protected by copyright and the personal rights of the interviewees, the interviewers, ZEF Productions and the Operator (INA / UCL / Wiener Holocaust Library). The metadata of the collection as well as the corresponding software are protected by the copyright of the Operator. Within the framework of the intended use of the collection, students and scholars may only use the collection for research, education, and memorial purposes. In accordance with and within the limits and the framework of Copyright the GDPR, citations are permitted in independent works. The source is to be cited with every citation. Researchers are not permitted to make copies or recordings. Any requests for reproduction of audio-visual material in publications or documentaries must be directed to ZEF Productions Ltd.

Physical Access: Researchers can access the collection at the INA, UCL (UCL staff and students only), and the Wiener Holocaust Library’s facilities through a dedicated space on the INA’s professional video platform.

Preferred Citation: Title and date of item, identifier, *Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies*. Creator: Luke Holland (ZEF Productions Ltd.). *Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies* is an archival project initiated and directed by Luke Holland (ZEF Productions Ltd) in association with University College London (UCL), the Wiener Holocaust Library, the Institut National de l’Audiovisuel (France) and Founding Partners, Pears Foundation. Interview accessed through a dedicated space on the INA’s professional video platform inamediapro.com at the INA / UCL / Wiener Holocaust Library [delete as appropriate].

III. About the collection

Overview

Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies is an archival project initiated and directed by Luke Holland (ZEF Productions Ltd) in association with University College London (UCL), the Wiener Holocaust Library, the Institut National de l'Audiovisuel (France) and Founding Partners, Pears Foundation.

Luke Holland passed away on 10 June 2020. He was a documentary filmmaker, whose work includes the 5-part BBC Storyville series *A Very English Village* (2005), and the films *I Was a Slave Labourer* (1999), *More Than a Life* (2002), and *Good Morning Mr Hitler* (1993). His mother was a Jewish refugee from Vienna. He spent his childhood in the 1950s in the Bruderhof, a German-speaking Christian community in Paraguay.¹ In 2020, Holland's film *Final Account*, in large parts based on interviews in the *Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies* collection, premiered at Venice Film Festival and was released in the US in spring 2021.

Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies is a major oral history collection. Created between 2008 and 2017 by Luke Holland, *Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies* comprises of 295 filmed interviews, around 500 hours, with 274 elderly men (150) and women (124) born between 1905 and 1934. The interviewees are mainly Germans and Austrians, who occupied a large range of positions on a wide spectrum of complicity in the so-called Third Reich.

The collection's individual and group interviews allow unique insight into recollections of everyday life in Nazi Germany and Austria, and post-war reflections on responsibility, complicity, and justice, of ordinary people who were implicated in, or on the periphery of, war and genocide. The diverse collection includes testimonies by former members of the SS and Wehrmacht, secretaries in National Socialist and military organisations, alongside farm workers and homemakers.

On the whole, these men and women do not represent the type of 'ordinary perpetrators' intensely studied in the perpetrator research of the last twenty years, i.e. those who were actively and *evidently* (as established through legal investigations and trials) engaged in ordering, organising, or carrying out mass killings (such as former members of SS Einsatzgruppen or reserve police battalions). They fall into a much more contentious grey area of wider complicity and perpetration.

Collection strengths

- **Membership in National Socialist (NS) youth organisations:** the collection is particularly rich in detailed descriptions and evaluations of membership in NS youth organisations. This includes details on how and why people joined and why some did not; opportunities arising from the membership; conflicts with parents; political education and pre-military training; leisure activities; recitals of songs; and negative and positive reflections on Deutsches Jungvolk (DJ), Hitler Youth (HJ), League of German Girls (BDM), and BDM Glaube und Schönheit.
- **Education:** The majority of interviewees were still children or adolescents in the 1930s. The interviews include in-depth conversations about education in Germany before and after 1933, and in Austria before and after 1938, including the influence of teachers who were members of the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP), the treatment of Jewish teachers and classmates, and the introduction of the Hitler salute and National Socialist songs. Of particular interest here are four interviews with former Napola pupils.
- **Self-justifications and introspection:** the collection includes testimonies in which narrators critically reflect on their complicity in the 'Third Reich' in as much as others who reject personal responsibility and maintain pride in their membership in Wehrmacht or the

¹ UK Jewish Film, 'Board members: Luke Holland', <http://ukjewishfilm.org/people/luke-holland/> [Accessed 4 October 2021].

Schutzstaffel (SS). The interviews allow privileged insights into the narrators' systems of values, ethics and morality, conceptions of justice and agency, and how they construct their identities and sense of self.

- **Anti-Semitism:** The interviews contain evidence of anti-Semitic attitudes; and recollections of anti-Semitic incidents, enacted through others or themselves, including the boycott of Jewish businesses, 'Night of Broken Glass', and deportations; Jewish/non-Jewish relations before and after 1933; 'Aryanisation'; propaganda and political education.
- **Military and NS organisations:** the interviews include detailed accounts of Reich Labour Service (RAD), conscription, military training, experiences at the front, military hospitals, as part of the occupation forces in different parts of Europe, prisoners of war (POWs), and the end of the war. The narratives are told from a wide range of perspectives, including general infantry, cavalry, medics, and officers, from Wehrmacht, air force, navy, Organisation Todt, Storm Troopers (SA), SS, Waffen-SS, Volkssturm, and military police.
- **War crimes & atrocities:** dozens of interviews contain references to war crimes, atrocities, and other acts of violence towards civilians in occupied territories, Jews, 'partisans', and Soviet POWs, and as part of the 'Euthanasia' programme.
- **Austria:** *Final Account – Third Reich Testimonies* includes a significant number of interviews with Austrians. Altogether 61 Austrian men and women were interviewed for the collection, with a focus on the 'Anschluss', people living in vicinity of the Gusen concentration camp, and attitudes towards Franz Jägerstätter, an Austrian conscientious objector.
- **Women:** a further highlight of the collection is the diversity of the backgrounds and occupations of the women who were interviewed, ranging from homemakers and domestic workers, to students, civil servants, and secretaries in non-military and military/NS organisations. Among them are former secretaries in SS departments, teachers, an SS family's nanny, the Goebbels family cook and home economist, and the daughter of a convicted war criminal.
- **Historical revisionism and Holocaust denial:** More than thirty interviewees engage in historical revisionism (e.g. claiming that the Allies committed atrocities just as bad as the Nazis, or that the number of Jews killed in the Holocaust is much lower than 6 million), and around a dozen in outright Holocaust denial.
- The collection contains 28 interviews conducted in **Paraguay** and (to a lesser extent) **Argentina**. The vast majority of the 31 persons interviewed in this context were either born in Paraguay or Argentina or moved there as children, and spent the war years there. The conversations focus on the interviewees' German identity, attitudes towards Nazi Germany and the war, and local Hitler Youth and BDM groups.
- **Collaboration:** the collection also includes interviews with persons from France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Slovakia, and Ukraine, allowing for an exploration of the complex motivations for involvement and collaboration of people in Nazi-occupied territories, and their post-war reflections on their past behaviours and attitudes. The collection further includes interviews with ethnic Germans from the former Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, Latvia, Ukraine, Romania, and Poland, and former members of the volunteer División Azul from Spain.

Using the collection

Health warning, responsible use, and limitations

There are serious and justified concerns about collecting and providing access to this type of material, particularly as it has the potential of reaching not only scholars, but also students and members of the public with a lesser knowledge of the peculiar nature of oral histories and the history of the Holocaust. At worst, such accounts could provide a platform for historical revisionism and even denial; give people opportunity to portray themselves in a positive light, reproducing their justification and exculpation

strategies; elicit undue empathy and sympathy; and privilege perpetrator voices over survivor voices, even give them the last word.

The interviews may be offensive and insulting, particularly to survivors and their descendants. While graphic descriptions of violence are relatively rare, they do occur and may trigger traumatic memories. The widespread lack of remorse and empathy with the victims may cause offence and be upsetting for anyone looking for answers, recognition, and acknowledgement. We recommend viewing the interviews with caution and to be mindful of the fact that many interviewees seek to rationalise, justify, minimise or deny their own involvement, however peripheral or close, in the Holocaust and other crimes of the ‘Third Reich’.

The majority of the German and Austrian persons interviewed for *Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies* were born c. 1918 – 1927. That means that they do not constitute the ‘front generation’ born out of the First World War. In other words, they are not of the generation that conceived of, initiated, and organised war and genocide in the 1930s and 1940s. In the German context, the ‘front generation’ of the First World War ‘led the Third Reich’. The first ‘war-youth generation’ (1900-1914) and the first ‘Hitler Youth’ generation (1915-1924) ‘carried’ the ‘Third Reich’ because they had the ‘greatest enthusiasm for and active participation in the Nazi project’.² The persons interviewed for *Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies* are of no particular prominence, and represent the ‘ordinary’ spectrum of Germans and Austrians, who were not persecuted by the National Socialist regime, but who were part of the racially defined ethnic community, or ‘Volksgemeinschaft’, participating in a variety of ways, ranging from the mundane to morally ambiguous to criminal. Such participation extends from e.g. ceasing social relations to Jewish friends and acquaintances, benefitting from ‘Aryanised’ property, and witnessing maltreatment of forced labourers, to administrative support for the ‘resettlement’ of ethnic Germans to occupied territories, overseeing export and import of goods to and from occupied territories, and regulating the traffic to aid the deportation of Jews.

Questions around the responsibility of the wider German population in war and genocide have a long and contentious history, which is reflected in the terminology to describe it. After the war, the Allies separated Germans and Austrians into different categories of culpability, the lowest of which was that of the ‘Mitläufer’, ‘follower’ or ‘fellow traveller’, defined as someone who participated in the regime, but without conviction and in minor roles.³ The notion of the ‘Mitläufer’ has since become to be used far more widely, including for people who did not undergo the de-Nazification process and were classified as such, as a means of excuse and exculpation. More recently, in the German public sphere, those who cannot clearly be termed perpetrators or even beneficiaries, are referred to as ‘Zeitzeugen’, ‘contemporary witnesses’, implying passivity and lack of involvement. In the Anglo-American context, the term ‘witness’ is widely deployed to encompass varying groups, including at times victims and survivors, and anyone else bar *bona fide* perpetrators. The ill-defined latter group is, in the Anglo-American discourse and following Raul Hilberg’s influential work, more likely to be called ‘bystanders’, a term which can denote individuals removed from the events or indifferent to them, or nations and organisations which ‘stood by’ to the Holocaust despite receiving ample information about the unfolding genocide from continental Europe. As a matter of fact, the term ‘bystander’ is not used as such in the German context, where the translation of ‘bystander’ might be ‘Zuschauer’, which in turn

² Mary Fulbrook, *Dissonant Lives: Generations and violence through the German dictatorships* (Oxford: OUP, 2011), 12.

³ The categories of culpability are: major offenders (Hauptschuldige); offenders: activists, militants, profiteers (Belastete: Aktivisten, Militaristen, Nutznießer); lesser offenders (Minderbelastete); followers (Mitläufer); and persons exonerated (Entlastete). See e.g. Lutz Niethammer, *Die Mitläuferfabrik. Die Entnazifizierung am Beispiel Bayerns* (Bonn: Dietz, 1982); Annette Weinke, *Die Verfolgung von NS-Tätern im geteilten Deutschland. Vergangenheitsbewältigungen 1949–1969 oder: eine deutsch-deutsche Beziehungsgeschichte im Kalten Krieg* (Paderborn: Schöningh, 2002).

translates back as ‘onlooker’, and which already has very different connotations. Other German terminology used by oral historians circumventing these debates includes that of the ‘Erlebnisgeneration’, the generation that ‘experienced’ the Third Reich, or ‘non-persecuted Germans’, with both variants again implying a degree of passivity.⁴

The persons interviewed by Luke Holland often speak with surprising candour about the Nazi past, including persecution and atrocities, which they witnessed, knew about, or were implicated in. Users of this collection may be surprised by such frankness. Luke Holland’s often very direct and occasionally leading questions may have played their part in eliciting such responses. The wider societal context also needs to be considered. Few of those who evidently pulled the trigger and shot Jews and ‘partisans’ were prosecuted, let alone convicted and sentenced (and of those, few ever served the full sentence). Those who witnessed, watched, and played more peripheral roles thus hardly had to fear any legal repercussions after the war. The Allied ‘de-Nazification’ process failed to pursue them (and many more) when practical and ideological considerations amid the impending Cold War soon took precedence over bringing all of those implicated in the National Socialist regime and its crimes to justice. While representing a landmark event, even the trial and conviction of John Demjanuk for accessory to murder would not have necessarily altered the relative sense of security most elderly Germans would have felt. Demjanuk’s conviction specifically rested on his service as a guard in an extermination camp (Sobibor). The 16-month trial – which was widely publicised in Germany and abroad – closed in March 2011, followed by other investigations and trials. At this point, we can only speculate on the impact of this trial and its media representations on the interviews in the *Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies* collection.

Moreover, as with any historical source, the specific properties of oral history constrain the type of research question one can reasonably hope to answer based on the material alone. Those seeking to explore behaviours, motivations, and knowledge of Germans and Austrians, and others, *during* the ‘Third Reich’ may therefore be disappointed by *Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies*. The interviews, conducted many decades after the end of the Second World War with elderly individuals who have reached the end of their lives (and many of whom have passed away since), cannot tell us ‘how it really was’, but rather how people look back at the past and how they re-evaluate it in light and service of the present. This is not to say that nothing in their accounts is ‘true’, and that we should not seek to corroborate events, dates, and other facts, perhaps even learn about hitherto unknown incidents. We must take caution, however, not to take their narratives at face value, no matter how plausible, probable, vivid, or seemingly self-damaging they may be.⁵ As James Young reminds us, memory has an agenda, as it is ‘never shaped in a vacuum; the motives of memory are never pure.’⁶

⁴ See e.g. Raul Hilberg, *Perpetrators Victims Bystanders: The Jewish Catastrophe 1933-1945* (New York: HarperCollins, 1992); Martin Sabrow und Norbert Frei (eds), *Die Geburt des Zeitzeugen nach 1945* (Göttingen: Wallstein, 2012); Ulrich Lamparter, Silke Wiegand-Greife and Dorothee Wierling, *Zeitzeugen des Hamburger Feuersturms 1943 und ihre Familien. Forschungsprojekt zur Weitergabe von Kriegserfahrungen* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2013). An oral history project conducted on behalf of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum under direction of Alexander von Plato at the Institute for History and Biography was called ‘Projekt Erlebnisgeneration’. Other interviews in the collections are characterised as referring to ‘non-persecuted Germans’.

⁵ Christopher Browning addressed some of the difficulties in using perpetrator ego-documents such as diaries, memoirs, interviews and interrogations by setting out guidelines for using perpetrator and survivor testimonies. He sets out four tests to be applied to perpetrator testimony, using the case of Adolf Eichmann, namely possibility, probability, vividness, and self-interest. Christopher Browning, *Collected Memories: Holocaust History and Postwar Testimony* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2003).

⁶ James E. Young, *The Texture of Memory: Holocaust Memorials and Meaning* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1993), 2. For a more general introduction and overview to memory studies, see e.g. Susannah Radstone and Bill Schwarz (eds), *Memory: Histories, Theories, Debates* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2010).

By its very nature, memory is fluid and fragile. Social desirability also plays an important role, particularly with regards to a highly politicised, sensitive, and charged topic such as the Holocaust and the ‘Third Reich’, i.e. what interviewees believe is expected of them, and responding accordingly. Interviewees will select and structure what they believe to be of interest to the interviewer, while adopting or avoiding what they hold to be acceptable discourses and tropes, or transgressions. The old age and sometimes ill health of the interviewees poses an additional challenge: how can we know who was fit to be interviewed, whether they may have shown signs of confusion or even dementia? Educational differences also need to be considered when assessing the narratives, along with any language barriers between interviewer and interviewee. The question of research ethics extends to potential legal or social implications resulting from the interview and using it in research. Finally, we may also want to examine the interviewer’s agenda, background, and interview style, and impact on the interview dynamics.

These valid concerns, warnings, and limitations notwithstanding, *Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies* can shed new light on questions of self-representation, post-conflict justice, and the legacies of war and genocide. In conjunction with other archival materials, the collection may further serve to open new avenues of research.

Terms and conditions of access and use

Use of the Collection

Within the framework of the intended use of the collection, researchers may use the collection for research, education, and memorial purposes. Access to the collection through a dedicated space on the INA’s professional video platform inamediapro.com is controlled and restricted.

Prospective users are mandated to sign a User Declaration. The entire collection is protected by copyright and the personal rights of the interviewees, the interviewers, ZEF Productions Ltd. and the Operator.

Liability

The user becomes the data controller. The user guarantees that those collection materials used will only be employed within the scope of these Terms of Use and in line with data protection laws (GDPR). All provisions must be adhered to in avoiding cases of misuse of the collection materials by third parties. In the case of misuse, the user will inform the Operator immediately and will support him/her in the case of court or out-of-court enforcement of his/her rights, provide necessary information as well as any documents or the like.

Exclusion of Liability

Claims for damages against the Operator independent of the legal basis are excluded. The Operator is not liable for the statements made in the interviews.

Data Protection

Personal data are collected in the application process for the use of the collection. This data is exclusively used for internal purposes and will not be disclosed to any third parties without the explicit consent of the user. With the use of the collection, the user authorizes the Operator to process, store, evaluate and use the data obtained in connection with the use of the collection in compliance with the data protection laws. The user has a right to obtain information as well as a right to correction, barring and deletion of his/her saved data. To exercise these rights or for any question about this processing, the user can contact our data protection officer or the department responsible for exercising these rights:

UCL: Data Protection Officer, University College London, Legal Services, 6th Floor, Bidborough House, London, WC1H 9BF, +44 (0)20 7679 2000, data-protection@ucl.ac.uk

INA: Data Protection Officer, Legal Department, National Audiovisual Institute located 4 avenue de l'Europe 94366 Bry-sur-Marne Cedex, dpdina@ina.fr

Wiener Holocaust Library: 29 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DP, info@wienerholocaustlibrary.org

Applicable Law and Final Provisions

UK or French law applies depending on the location of the consultation. Place of fulfilment and exclusive place of jurisdiction is, as far as this is legally authorised, London / Paris. The Operator reserves the right to change or amend these Terms of Use and these changes will become effective in the future.

Notes on indexing and cataloguing

Catalogue & index terms: The catalogue includes index terms and summaries of the interviews, which will enable researchers to identify interviews and groups of interviews that are pertinent to their research.

The catalogue can be explored by category (index terms), and by keyword to search both index terms and the summaries.

For the index terms, the catalogue has adopted the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's practice and split them into corporate (e.g. Waffen-SS), geographic (e.g. Berlin), and topical (e.g. Holocaust denial) terms. In accordance with UCL Library Service practice, index terms are largely taken from the Library of Congress (LoC) Classifications Web. All terms commonly refer to the person who is speaking but may also include family members and spouses referred to in the interview.

Using the LoC Classifications Web has its pitfalls as it limits the index terms that can be used, some of which are also contentious. In a few cases, new terms were introduced. The contentious index term 'Holocaust, Jewish' was not used, particularly as the entire collection addresses the Holocaust. Instead, 'Jews—Persecutions' is used when specific incidents of persecution of Jews are referred to in interviews. The LoC term 'Kristallnacht, 1938' is used as an index term to denote the anti-Jewish pogroms and related events of November 1938 in Germany and Austria. The index term 'Holocaust denial' denotes both historical revisionism and outright Holocaust denial.

The corporate terms include National Socialist and military organisations, companies, ghettos, and concentration camps.

Geographic terms have the added difficulty that borders have changed multiple times in the 20th century and especially in the period under discussion here. In the interview summaries, all effort was therefore made to include both the 'historic' name and the current name of a town, city or region. As the index terms are taken from the LoC Classifications Web, they tend to reflect the current name. In addition, whenever interviewees speak of Russia, caution is advised. Frequently, they might actually be referring to Belarus or Ukraine or other countries, which are often lumped together as 'Russia', or 'Eastern front', the latter of which was of course shifting over the course of the war.

Whether an interviewee is male or female is indicated by the interview identifier, with M indicating male and F indicating female (e.g. 004M or 012F). For data protection reasons, only initials and year of birth are provided in the catalogue summaries. Wherever interviewees were born in villages or smaller towns, the wider district or region is named in the summaries to preserve the individuals' anonymity on the catalogue. For the same reasons, details about other relevant sources, such as the title of a person's memoir or interviews they may have given in other contexts, or textual archival records relating to them, have not been supplied as part of the catalogue information.

Synopses: In addition to the online catalogue and this finding aid & collection aid, segmented synopses are available for each interview. The English-language synopses provide a thorough, if not verbatim, account of interview content and themes. They allow mapping natural language to concepts: for example, an interviewee may talk at length about the persecution of Jews, yet never mention the words ‘Jew’ or ‘deportation’ (using the terminology of the time rather than later concepts). The conceptual links are intended to enhance user experience and widen access to this resource, and improve accessibility for researchers unable to sift through hundreds of hours of interviews. The key benefit will be for researchers and students with some command of German, for users with special needs (e.g. hearing or visual impairments), and for users not familiar with the regional dialects spoken in some interviews. The synopses further support research that is not primarily language-based, by describing interview segments in which respondents present private photo albums, documents, and artefacts such as medals to the camera. They can also enable researchers without the relevant foreign language skills to use the English-language synopses to identify interviews that cover topics, people or places of particular interest to them, in order then to target their own resources to the translation of selected interview segments.

The synopses were created by adapting the guidance on the segmentation of interviews provided by the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky.⁷ We created level two indexes containing partial transcript, title, subjects, keywords, and a brief synopsis. In due course, timestamps may be added to the synopses:

- **Partial transcript:** The partial transcript is used to convey the verbatim transcription of the recorded segment to create an orientation point for the user of the oral history index. The partial transcript consists of the first 140 or so characters of the segment, or as appropriate, in the original language of the interview.
- **Segment title:** These are descriptive titles that act as chapter titles for the interview. The titles act as a table of contents, offering the user a quick glimpse of the interview to understand the essence of the content of a segment and of the overall interview.
- **Subjects:** Subjects represent over-arching themes, corporate, geographic, or topical terms.
- **Keywords:** The keywords field contains descriptive terms that represent the content of each segment. Unlike the subject field, keywords are specific and local terms that effectively communicate the content of the segment.
- **Segment synopsis:** The segment synopsis is designed to contain a descriptive statement about the segment. Synopses are used to further clarify what the segment is about and are particularly useful to express topics that are too complex to be conveyed by keywords alone.
- **Additional information:** This section may contain information about e.g. disruptions, tape changes, photos, historical context, visual information, third parties, or notes about the interaction between interviewer and interviewee.

While every effort has been made to create standardised synopses, they were prepared by a group of indexers who each put their individual stamp on the synopses. The Synopses, its titles, subjects, and keywords, by necessity reflect current trends in research and wider discourse. The synopses are designed to improve discoverability, but they are not a substitute for listening to and viewing the interviews. This work was part of the wider impact and public engagement activities of the project

⁷ Doug Boyd, Danielle Gabbard, Sara Price, and Alana Boltz. “Indexing Interviews in OHMS: An Overview,” in *Oral History in the Digital Age*, edited by Doug Boyd, Steve Cohen, Brad Rakerd, and Dean Rehberger (Washington, D.C.: Institute of Museum and Library Services, 2014), <http://ohda.matrix.msu.edu/2014/11/indexing-interviews-in-ohms/>

Compromised Identities? Reflections on Perpetration and Complicity under Nazism, funded by a major AHRC research grant (AH/R00126X/1).

Transcripts: INA have prepared full transcripts of a select number of interviews. These will be available to users.

Research context

Oral histories constitute a specific type of self-representation, or ‘ego-document’.⁸ Ego-documents from the side of the perpetrators, e.g. letters, diaries, and memoirs, play an important role in Holocaust research seeking to explain motivations, mentalities, attitudes and actions of Nazi perpetrators, facilitators, and collaborators, and the legacies of war and genocide. Current scholarship using such ego-documents broadly falls into three categories. Scholars such as Mary Fulbrook, Nicholas Stargardt, Sönke Neitzel, and Peter Longerich draw extensively on contemporary ego-documents such as letters and diaries, along with *Meldungen aus dem Reich* and other sources such as secret wire tapings of German POWs in Allied captivity. These studies explore mentalities, what Germans at the time knew and could know about the Holocaust, their complicity in National Socialist violent crimes, and how they experienced National Socialism and the war.⁹ Work by Christopher Browning, Daniel Goldhagen, and Stefan Kühl draws extensively on post-war ego-documents resulting from trial investigations and court proceedings. These works tend to reconstruct past events and actions, deduce attitudes and motivations, or analyse wider structures based on these sources. Some scholars utilise other post-war accounts, such as oral history, qualitative interviews, and quantitative surveys, to answer the question of what Germans knew about the Holocaust.¹⁰ A third type of research specifically deals with self-representations, everyday history, the transmission of memories, and the relationship between official discourse and private memories. It includes the seminal works of Lutz Niethammer, Alexander von

⁸ On Oral History and studies on survivor testimonies, see esp. Alessandro Portelli, *The Death of Luigi Trastulli and other Stories: Form and Meaning in Oral History* (New York: State University of New York Press, 1991); Elizabeth Tonkin, *Narrating Our Pasts: The social construction of oral history* (Cambridge: CUP, 1992); Henry Greenspan, *On Listening to Holocaust Survivors: Recounting and Life History* (Westport, Connecticut, and London: Praeger, 1998); Paul Thomson, *The Voice of the Past: Oral History* (3rd ed., Oxford: OUP, 2000); Jürgen Matthäus (ed.) with a foreword by Mark Roseman, *Approaching an Auschwitz Survivor: Holocaust Testimony and Its Transformations* (Oxford: OUP, 2009); Jan Taubitz, *Holocaust Oral History und das lange Ende der Zeugenschaft* (Göttingen: Wallstein, 2016); Alexander Freund, ‘“Confessing Animals”: Towards a Longue Durée History of the Oral History Interview’, *The Oral History Review* 41, no. 1 (2014), 1-26.

⁹ Mary Fulbrook, *Dissonant Lives: Generations and violence through the German dictatorships* (Oxford: OUP, 2011); Nicholas Stargardt, *The German War: A Nation Under Arms, 1939-45* (London: Bodley Head, 2015); Sönke Neitzel and Harald Welzer, *Soldaten: On Fighting, Killing and Dying: The Secret World War II Transcripts of German POWs* (New York: Knopf, 2012); Peter Longerich, *‘Davon haben wir nichts gewusst!’: Die Deutschen und die Judenverfolgung 1933-1945* (Munich: Siedler, 2006); Otto D. Kulka and Eberhard Jäckel (eds.), *Die Juden in den geheimen NS-Stimmungsberichten 1933-1945* (Düsseldorf: Droste, 2004); Bernward Dörner, *Die Deutschen und der Holocaust: Was niemand wissen wollte, aber jeder wissen konnte* (Berlin: Propyläen, 2007); David Bankier, *Die öffentliche Meinung im Hitler-Staat. Die ‘Endlösung’ und die Deutschen: Eine Berichtigung* (Berlin: Arno Spitz, 1995).

¹⁰ Christopher R. Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (New York: Aaron Asher/HarperCollins, 1992); Daniel Jonah Goldhagen. *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1996); Stefan Kühl, *Ganz normale Organisationen: Zur Soziologie des Holocaust* (Berlin: Suhrkamp, 2014); Christina Ullrich, *‘Ich fühl’ mich nicht als Mörder’: Die Integration von NS-Tätern in die Nachkriegsgesellschaft* (Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 2011). For surveys, qualitative and quantitative studies, see John M. Steiner und Jochen Fahrenberg, ‘Autoritäre Einstellung und Statusmerkmale von Ehemaligen Angehörigen der Waffen-SS und SS und der Wehrmacht: Eine erweiterte Reanalyse der 1970 publizierten Untersuchung’, *Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie* 52, no. 2 (2000), 329–348; Eric A. Johnson and Karl-Heinz Reuband, *What We Knew: Terror, Mass Murder, and Everyday Life in Nazi Germany: An Oral History* (Cambridge, MA: Basic Books, 2005).

Plato, Dan Bar-On, and Harald Welzer.¹¹ The most comprehensive research into the generation of ‘perpetrators’ and ‘bystanders’ and their children and grandchildren has been conducted by Gabriele Rosenthal, who identified key narrative strategies (de-politicisation) in interviews with non-Jewish Germans, along with different ‘repair-strategies’ employed by different generations to exonerate members of their families from any involvement in Nazi crimes.¹² The research into inter-generational memory transmission undertaken by Welzer, Sabine Moller, and Karoline Tschuggnall revealed a wide gap between cognitive and emotional ways of understanding among the grandchildren generation, whose subject knowledge about the Third Reich is disconnected from their own grandparents’ lives.

The collection’s focus on ‘ordinary men and women’ places it within the context of debates that started with the ‘intentionalist’ versus ‘structuralist’ approach to interpreting the Holocaust (i.e. whether it was Hitler’s plan all along to exterminate the Jews or whether it was a piece-meal process in which local initiatives played a key role). The ways in which front-line killers, local functionaries, and ordinary soldiers were implicated in the Holocaust have been explored in a number of key studies.¹³ The participation of wider parts of the German population continues to divide expert (and public) opinion. Research has focussed on the questions of public opinion and how much ordinary Germans knew about the Holocaust and other Nazi crimes, or the extent to which Germans consented to Nazi rule as they benefitted from it in various ways or agreed with some or all of its ideological goals, or were coerced in the face of Nazi terror. The most influential strand of research in recent years has focused on the National Socialist notion of the ‘Volksgemeinschaft’, a racially defined and delineated community, yet without achieving consensus as to the extent to which this was propaganda, a top-down process, a ‘promise’ for ‘mobilisation’, or whether the concept indeed permeated the consciousness of ordinary

¹¹ Lutz Niethammer, ed., “*Die Jahre weiss man nicht, wo man die heute hinsetzen soll.*” *Faschismus-Erfahrungen im Ruhrgebiet*. Lebensgeschichte und Sozialkultur im Ruhrgebiet, Vol. I (Berlin-Bonn: Dietz, 1983); “*Hinterher weiss man, dass es richtig war, dass es schief gegangen ist.*” *Nachkriegserfahrungen im Ruhrgebiet*. Lebensgeschichte und Sozialkultur im Ruhrgebiet, Vol. II (Berlin-Bonn: Dietz, 1983); Lutz Niethammer and Alexander von Plato, eds., “*Wir kriegen jetzt andere Zeiten.*” *Auf der Suche nach der Erfahrung des Volkes in nachfaschistischen Landern*. Lebensgeschichte und Sozialkultur im Ruhrgebiet, Vol. III (Berlin-Bonn: Dietz, 1984); Alexander von Plato, ‘*Der Verlierer geht nicht leer aus.*’ *Betriebsräte geben zu Protokoll* (Berlin-Bonn: Dietz, 1984); Michelle Mouton and Helena Pohlandt-McCormick, ‘Boundary Crossings: Oral History of Nazi Germany and Apartheid South Africa: A Comparative Perspective’, *History Workshop Journal* 48 (Autumn, 1999), 41-63; Katharina von Kellenbach, *The Mark of Cain: Guilt and Denial in the Post-War Lives of Nazi Perpetrators* (Oxford: OUP, 2013); Dorothee Wierling, ‘Zeitgeschichte ohne Zeitzeugen: vom kommunikativen zum kulturellen Gedächtnis - drei Geschichten und zwölf Thesen’, *BIOS - Zeitschrift für Biographieforschung, Oral History und Lebensverlaufsanalysen* 21, no. 1 (2008), 28-36; Dan Bar-On, *Legacy of Silence: Encounters with Children of the Third Reich* (Cambridge: CUP, 1989); Harald Welzer, Sabine Moller, and Karoline Tschuggnall, ‘*Opa war kein Nazi*’: *Nationalsozialismus und Holocaust im Familiengedächtnis* (Frankfurt am Main: Fischer, 2002).

¹² Gabriele Rosenthal, ‘... *Wenn alles in Scherben faellt...*’: *Von Leben und Sinnwelt der Kriegsgeneration. Typen biographischer Wandlungen* (Opladen: Leske + Budrich, 1987); Gabriele Rosenthal (ed.), ‘*Als der Krieg kam, hatte ich mit Hitler nichts mehr zu tun*’: *Zur Gegenwärtigkeit des ‘Dritten Reiches’ in Biographien* (Opladen: Leske + Budrich, 1990); Gabriele Rosenthal (ed.), *Der Holocaust im Leben von drei Generationen: Familien von Überlebenden der Shoah und von Nazi-Tätern* (Giessen: Psychosozial-Verlag, 1997).

¹³ See e.g. Peter Longerich, ‘Tendenzen und Perspektiven der Täterforschung’, in Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte: Beilage zur Wochenzeitung Das Parlament (23 March 2007) [translation by the author], <http://www.bpb.de/apuz/30537/tendenzen-und-perspektiven-der-taeterforschung-essay> [25 October 2017]; see also Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*; Christian Gerlach, *Kalkulierte Morde: Die deutsche Wirtschafts- und Vernichtungspolitik in Weißrußland 1941 bis 1944* (Hamburg: Hamburger Edition, 2000); Dieter Pohl, *Die Herrschaft der Wehrmacht: Deutsche Militärbesatzung und einheimische Bevölkerung in der Sowjetunion 1941-1944* (Frankfurt/Main: Fischer, 2011).

Germans.¹⁴ In genocide studies, recent research has been analysing genocide through a focus on social processes rather than fixed identities of perpetrators, bystanders, or collaborators.¹⁵

With regards to the prosecution of Nazi crimes, despite some key trials, the overwhelming picture is one where the vast majority of perpetrators were never brought to justice. By the end of the 1940s, both Allied trials and the prosecution of Nazi crimes in Austria, Germany, and other European countries began to slow down. This shared feature aside, the prosecution of Nazi crimes differed widely in East and West Germany, Austria, the Soviet Union, and other West European countries, e.g. in terms of legal systems and interpretation of the law, how many trials were held, the types of crimes which were investigated and prosecuted, and differences in sentencing. Considerable differences exist also in relation to the wider history of negotiating, confronting, and remembering the Holocaust and its legacies in different countries.¹⁶

Significance

Oral testimonies of Holocaust survivors, which number in the tens of thousands and which are accessible through major research institutions and archives (e.g. USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive, Yale Fortunoff Archive), have received much scholarly attention in the past two decades which has led to original and sophisticated research. The picture is very different for oral history sources that relate to the ‘perpetrator side’. Usually conducted as part of isolated, small-scale academic research projects, or documentary films, interviews with former ‘perpetrators, collaborators and bystanders’ are often widely dispersed, difficult to locate, and not always open for further research and secondary analysis. Taken together, their number is unlikely to exceed several thousand. Despite the field of Holocaust Studies’ increasing emphasis on ordinary men and women, the voices of those once

¹⁴ Detlef Schmiechen-Ackermann (ed.), “*Volksgemeinschaft*”: *Mythos, wirkungsmächtige soziale Verheißung oder soziale Realität im 'Dritten Reich'?: Propaganda und Selbstmobilisierung im NS-Staat* (Paderborn: Ferdinand Schöningh, 2012); Martina Steber and Bernhard Gotto (eds), *Visions of Community in Nazi Germany: Social Engineering and Private Lives* (Oxford: OUP, 2014); Michael Wildt, *Volksgemeinschaft und Selbstermächtigung: Gewalt gegen Juden in der deutschen Provinz 1919 bis 1939* (Hamburg: Hamburger Edition, 2007); Michael Wildt, *Hitler's Volksgemeinschaft and the Dynamics of Racial Exclusion: Violence against Jews in Provincial Germany, 1919-1939* (New York: Berghahn, 2011); Frank Bajohr and Michael Wildt (eds), *Volksgemeinschaft: Neue Forschungen zur Gesellschaft des Nationalsozialismus* (Frankfurt am Main: Fischer, 2009). For a critique, see also Jill Stephenson, Review of Martina Steber and Bernhard Gotto (eds), *Visions of Community in Nazi Germany: Social Engineering and Private Lives* (Oxford: OUP, 2014), in *Francia-Recensio: 19./20. Jahrhundert – Époque contemporaine* 3 (2015).

¹⁵ Lee Ann Fujii, *Killing Neighbors: Webs of Violence in Rwanda* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2009), 11-14, 188; Adam Jones (ed.), *New Directions in Genocide Research* (London: Routledge, 2012); S. Straus, *The Order of Genocide: Race, Power, and War in Rwanda* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006).

¹⁶ E.g. Mary Fulbrook, *Reckonings: Legacies of Nazi Persecution and the Quest for Justice* (Oxford: OUP, 2018); Devin O. Pendas, 'Seeking justice, finding law: Nazi trials in postwar Europe', *Journal of Modern History* 81, no. 2 (2009), 347-368; Michael J. Bazyler and Frank M. Tuerkheimer, *Forgotten Trials of the Holocaust* (New York: NYU Press, 2014); Richard Plavnieks, *Nazi Collaborators on Trial during the Cold War: Viktors Arājs and the Latvian Auxiliary Security Police* (London: Palgrave, 2017); Thomas Albrich, Winfried R. Garscha, and Martin F. Polaschek (eds), *Holocaust und Kriegsverbrechen vor Gericht: Der Fall Österreich* (Innsbruck: Studienverlag, 2006); Anton Pelinka and Erika Weinzierl (eds): *Das große Tabu: Österreichs Umgang mit seiner Vergangenheit* (Second Edition, Vienna: Verlag Österreich, 1997); Dan Diner, 'Restitution and Memory: The Holocaust in European Political Cultures', *New German Critique* 90 (2003), 36-44; Małgorzata Pakier and Bo Stråth (eds), *A European Memory?: Contested Histories and Politics of Remembrance* (New York and Oxford: Berghahn, 2012); Alejandro Baer and Natan Sznaider, *Memory and Forgetting in the Post-Holocaust Era: The Ethics of Never Again* (London and New York: Routledge, 2016); Rebecca Clifford, *Commemorating the Holocaust: The Dilemmas of Remembrance in France and Italy* (Oxford: OUP, 2013); Jeffrey Herf, *Divided Memory: Nazi Past in the Two Germanys* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1997); Ludvine Broch, *Ordinary Workers, Vichy and the Holocaust: French Railwaymen and the Second World War* (Cambridge: CUP, 2016).

implicated in a system of state-ordained and sanctioned collective violence are still largely absent from the discourse.

Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies is one of a limited number of collections world-wide that relate specifically to perpetration and complicity, and as such is of international significance.

The collection is of relevance to scholars, students, and pedagogues with an interest in the Holocaust, the Second World War, European and specifically German and Austrian history, genocide studies, anti-Semitism, military history, the history of emotions and mentalities, gender studies, oral history, memory studies, media and film studies, law studies, and qualitative research.

Below is an overview of the most important repositories holding related collections and a note on documentaries. This overview is by no means exhaustive. Additionally, many interviews conducted for research projects or documentaries remain part of closed or private archives.¹⁷

1. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM)

1.1. Oral history interviews of the Germany Documentation Project

This collection comprises of 108 interviews with predominantly male ‘witnesses, collaborators, and perpetrators in Holocaust-related events in Germany’ conducted since the late 1990s. They were, for the most part, collected under direction of Alexander von Plato at the Institute for History and Biography at FernUniversität Hagen, and Wendy Lower, respectively. Most of the interviews can be freely streamed online.

More than half of the interviews are audio-only. Most of these were conducted from 2004-2005 by the Institute for History and Biography at FernUniversität Hagen. At least six of this group of interviews are with people who were persecuted as Jews under Nazi racial laws. Most of the remainder of the collection are video interviews conducted between 2010 and 2012 by or under direction of Wendy Lower. They include Germans who were involved in war crimes prosecutions and investigations or research after the war, or Germans who talk about their parents’ involvement. Noticeably, most of them are born in the 1930s and were too young to have played an active role in the Third Reich. Having witnessed death marches is a recurring feature of many interviews. These interviews also include survivors of Nazi persecution.

The interviews are part of a larger collection effort by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Oral History Branch beginning in 1998 under direction of Nathan Beyrak, and funded through a grant from Jeff and Toby Herr, to collect interviews, more than 1,600 (available online), with witnesses, collaborators and perpetrators from Lithuania, Belarus, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Bosnia, Hungary, Russia, Poland, Greece, Latvia, Romania, Slovenia, France, Italy (South Tyrol), Austria, Macedonia, Moldova, Estonia, Slovakia, Croatia, and Serbia.

1.2. Yahad-In Unum oral history collection

Yahad-in Unum donated this collection to USHMM in 2009. Yahad-In Unum is a Christian organization founded and directed by Father Desbois, Braman Endowed Professor of the Practice of the Forensic Study of the Holocaust at Georgetown University’s Center for Jewish Civilization. As per USHMM, Yahad-In Unum have interviewed close to 4,500 ‘eye-witnesses’ to the ‘Holocaust by bullets’ in Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Poland, Republic of Macedonia and Moldova, Lithuania, and

¹⁷ These include: Two social psychology studies (the first by Gabriele Rosenthal, the second under direction of Harald Welzer) collected interviews with three generations of German families (38 and 48 families, respectively). In their research on how much Germans knew about the Holocaust at the time, Eric Johnson and Karl-Heinz Reuband conducted interviews with close to 200 people and questionnaires with 3000 people.

Romania. USHMM provides on-site access to over 1,300 of these interviews conducted in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus.

1.3. Claude Lanzmann Shoah Collection

USHMM provides online access to outtakes from interviews with survivors, perpetrators and bystanders conducted by documentary filmmaker Claude Lanzmann for his 1985 documentary *Shoah*.¹⁸

1.4. Other collections and items at USHMM

USHMM is home to the John M. Steiner collection, c.60 interviews with former members of the SS and Wehrmacht, conducted by Steiner between 1975 and 1990. In addition, the data gathered by Steiner in 431 questionnaires can be ordered through the *Leibniz-Zentrum für Psychologische Information und Dokumentation (ZPID) Forschungsdatenzentrum für die Psychologie*. The latter study explored authoritarian attitudes and social status of former members of the Waffen-SS and Wehrmacht.

USHMM further provides online access to interviews conducted for documentaries, including a 1983 documentary about Oskar Schindler and *The World at War*, which USHMM purchased from the Imperial War Museum London. They include interviews with Ruth Goeth nee Kalder, Amon Goeth's mistress and later wife; Karl Wolff, a high-ranking member of the SS and convicted war criminal, and Richard Böck, SS-Unterscharführer at Auschwitz.

2. Institute for History and Biography, FernUniversität Hagen, Germany

This major research archive houses thousands of oral history interviews (many of them with full transcripts) collected since the 1980s as part of the archive 'German memory' (*Deutsches Gedächtnis*), many hundreds of them with non-Jewish German 'eye-witnesses', e.g. under direction of Lutz Niethammer and Alexander von Plato, along with autobiographical texts (memoirs, biographies, diaries, letters).

The largest of the collections results from the project 'Lebensgeschichte und Sozialkultur im Ruhrgebiet 1930-1960' (LUSIR), which was conducted under direction of Lutz Niethammer from 1980-1982. The interviews focus on the experiences and meaning of, and reflection on, fascism as precursor of post-war history. Ulrich Herbert, Dorothee Wierling, and Alexander von Plato were involved in this project, which resulted in several hundred life history interviews with people from industry/economy, and the middle and working class of the Ruhrgebiet, particularly with former employee council members and refugees. The results of the project were published in three volumes.¹⁹ The project and the methodology developed for it were very influential for oral history in Germany. The subsequent project, 'Einsetzung und Einpassung neuer Eliten in NRW nach 1945', expanded LUSIR's focus on ordinary people's experiences to include the West German elites with regards to change and continuities after 1945. The researchers interviewed publicists, entrepreneurs, and politically active women from parties, associations, and trade unions. For the third major project, 'Die volkseigene Erfahrung', conducted in 1987 in the GDR, researchers interviewed 160 men and women, who had grown up during the Kaiserreich and Weimar Republic and lived through National Socialism and the Second World War, and who carried the establishment of the GDR.

The archive also houses many smaller oral history projects. One of them is the post-unification project 'Sicherheitstrauma in der SBZ/DDR', which includes pertinent interviews with people who, as former

¹⁸ The Shoah Outtakes have recently been explored in Erin McGlothlin, Brad Prager, and Markus Zisselsberger (eds), *The Construction of Testimony: Claude Lanzmann's Shoah and Its Outtakes* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2020).

¹⁹ Niethammer "Die Jahre weiss man nicht, wo man die heute hinsetzen soll."; Niethammer, "Hinterher weiss man, dass es richtig war, dass es schief gegangen ist."; Niethammer and von Plato, "Wir kriegen jetzt andere Zeiten."

active National Socialists, were interned between 1945-1950 by the Soviets. For the project ‘Erforschung und Visualisierung der Geschichte des Ortes Jamlitz’, people who experienced the town’s various types of camps, either as residents in the town or as inmates, were interviewed. Of note is a set of interviews with witnesses to the bombing of Dresden.

For the aforementioned interviews conducted on commission for USHMM between 2004 and 2005, the interviewers found that it proved difficult to locate ‘perpetrators’ and thus characterise the collection as one including witnesses and bystanders or fellow travellers.

The Institute has been working with Center for Digital Systems at the Free University of Berlin to make some of the interviews accessible [online](#).

3. Other

The [Österreichische Mediathek](#) in Vienna provides access to hundreds of interviews conducted as part of [Projekt MenschenLeben](#).

The [Oral History Archiv](#) at the University of Graz, Austria, is home to around 2,500 interviews, some of which concern the Second World War.

In Germany, Stiftung Haus Deutsche Geschichte’s portal [Zeitzeugenportal](#) provides online access to short extracts from oral histories from ‘contemporary witnesses’ covering World War I to the present, incorporating interviews created for ZDF documentaries.

Eberhard Fechner’s interviews conducted for his documentary about the Düsseldorf Majdanek Trial, *Der Prozess* (West Germany, NDR, 1984), are housed at the [Akademie der Künste](#), where audio files and transcripts can be accessed.

4. Documentaries

We can distinguish between documentaries which focus solely or predominantly on eye-witness testimonies or narratives from the ‘perpetrator side’, and more traditional historical documentaries that feature ‘talking heads’ from among victims, witnesses, perpetrators, and experts, in addition to showing archive footage.

Examples for the first type are Claude Lanzmann’s influential *Shoah* (1985), which eschewed historical footage, the aforementioned *Der Prozess* (1984), Ruth Beckermann’s *Jenseits des Krieges* (*East of War*, 1995), for which she interviewed Austrian visitors to the Crimes of the Wehrmacht exhibition, filming their responses and discussions, or the more recent *Ein deutsches Leben* (*A German Life*, 2016) about the secretary of Joseph Goebbels. We could also include documentaries about other genocides and instances of mass violence, such as Joshua Oppenheimer’s *The Act of Killing* (2012), a rather more experimental film about the men who were among the front-line killers in Indonesia’s war against Communists.

In 1978, filmmaker Ebbo Demant interviewed three former guards at Auschwitz, Oswald Kaduk, Josef Erber, and Josef Klehr, who had been convicted in the Auschwitz Trial in the early 1960s, for his documentary *Lagerstraße Auschwitz* (SWF, 1979). In 1999 Demant created a new documentary from these interviews, broadcast by ARD under the title *Drei deutsche Mörder: Aufzeichnungen über die Banalität des Bösen* (~ ‘Three German murderers: notes on the banality of evil’). Rex Bloomstein’s *KZ* (2006), a feature-length ‘post-modern’ documentary about Mauthausen, foregoes archival footage, instead concentrating on the present. It features tour guides who lead groups of pupils through the memorial site, and elderly residents recall the Nazi past and their own entanglement.

For the second type, we can think of *The World at War* (Thames Television, 1973-74), for which numerous interviews were conducted with people on all sides of the spectrum, including the side of the

perpetrators, *The Nazis: A Warning from History* (1997), *Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution* (2005), or Guido Knopp's popular, yet contentious documentaries for the German public broadcaster ZDF. Knopp is one of the most prolific documentary makers. His films about Nazi Germany for the ZDF Contemporary History Department include *Hitler's Children* (2000); *Hitler's Women* (2001); *The SS: A Warning from History* (2002); *Stalingrad* (2003); and *The Wehrmacht* (2007), among many others.

Of note is Walter Manoschek's *...dann bin ich ja ein Mörder!* (2012) (~ '... but that would make me a murderer!') about former SS junior squad leader Adolf Storms and Hitler Youth leaders who were involved in the killing of sixty Hungarian Jewish forced labourers in Deutsch-Schützen in Austria. In 2008, Manoschek interviews Storms multiple times, collecting 15 hours of interview material, along with interviews with Jewish survivors, and two former SS-Führer, who stood trial for aiding and abetting murder in 1946 for their role in the massacre, and who were sentenced to two years in prison. Storms maintains that he cannot remember any details about the fateful days in late March 1945. Notably, Manoschek alerted German prosecutors to the case when he located Storms, who indicted Storms in 2009. He died aged 90 in June 2010, shortly before trial proceedings could commence.

The BBC's 2009 three-part documentary series *The Last Nazis* tells the story of 'Operation Last Chance', the last-ditched effort to track down and bring to justice the last surviving Nazi perpetrators; the attempt of Charlie Russell and Izzy Charman to gain access to Nazi war criminals; and the history of Lebensborn, the 'Germanisation' of Polish children, and their post-war lives. Part one does not actually feature any 'last Nazis'. In part two, Russell and Charman speak (rather haphazardly) to 96-year-old Croatian Dr Georg Aschner (Milivoj Ašner) (1913-2011) in Austria, who avoids trial due to alleged senility; 94-year-old Hungarian Sándor Képiró (1914-2011); Josef Scheungraber (1918-2015); and his nephew, who helped identify his uncle and to bring him in front of a court. The persons interviewed in part three were born in the latter years of the Third Reich. Among them are victims of 'Germanisation', i.e. children who were stolen from their Eastern European parents.

Somewhat similar to part three of *The Last Nazis*, documentaries such as Malte Ludin's *2 or 3 Things I Know About Him* (2005), James Moll's *Inheritance* (2006) (*My Father was a Nazi Commandant* (TV title) / *Der Mördervater*), or David Evans's *My Nazi Legacy* (2015) are about the (grand-) children of Nazi perpetrators, and sometimes also the children and grandchildren of victims and survivors, seeking to come to terms with, or being confronted with, their own family's Nazi legacy.

This list is by no means exhaustive, but indicative of different types of documentaries featuring oral narratives. As with other private archives, the raw interview footage collected for documentaries is seldom open for further research.

Creating the Collection: 2008-2017

Funding

Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies was funded through donations, foundations, and other institutions. Among the funders are Pears Foundation and the Institut National de l'Audiovisuel (INA).

Recruitment

The persons interviewed by Luke Holland include both 'seasoned' speakers (some of whom give talks in schools or published books) and others, who may have talked about the past only rarely, if at all. He recruited them through local contacts; the *Zeitzeugenbörsen*²⁰; word-of-mouth; in care homes and senior residences; and by approaching people in the street. The project was conceived of as an archive project

²⁰ *Zeitzeugenbörsen* are charities, usually organised on a local level, which host and/or arrange talks by so-called 'Zeitzeugen' or 'contemporary witnesses', about the past to younger generations.

for the purposes of research, education, and memory, and with a view towards creating a documentary from the material in future (the feature-length film *Final Account* premiered in 2020).

Participant information and research ethics

Luke Holland informed persons that he was interested in the period of the Third Reich as well as before, and that the video recording would form part of an archive to be used for research, education, and memory. The majority of them either signed a ‘release form’ or signalled explicit verbal permission on camera. They were aware that they were filmed and recorded on questions relating to the ‘Third Reich’, in particular. Unlike academic researchers, private researchers and documentary filmmakers do not need to obtain research ethics clearance but will be conscious of questions around copyright and permissions.

Interview style and mise-en-scène

The collection is marked by a distinct style of interviewing and dynamics between interviewer and interviewee, especially in the case of the interviews conducted by Luke Holland himself. His interview style can be described as oscillating between building rapport and asking, often repeatedly, challenging questions. Luke Holland is not a historian or oral historian, but an inquisitive documentary filmmaker, whose questions are at times leading and suggestive, and who examines his interests.

The interviews are ‘shot’ in a particular way as regards to seating arrangements, lighting, camera angles, close-ups, etc. Wherever Luke Holland conducted an interview alone or with an associate, he also operated the camera. Associates conducting interviews on his behalf were instructed how to operate the camera. There are frequent tape changes, either when a tape was full, or the lighting had to be changed, or if the interviewee(s) needed to go to the bathroom or for any other interruptions.

Around two thirds of the interviews were conducted at interviewees’ own homes, usually inside in the living room, dining room or kitchen, or outside in the garden or on the patio. The remainder were conducted in care homes/senior residences, mostly in private rooms, but occasionally also in communal spaces (esp. for group interviews). A handful of interviews were conducted in other private and public places, including cafes, museums, and offices.

Language barriers and opportunities

Luke Holland speaks German almost without an accent as he learned the language as a child in a German-speaking colony in Paraguay. His vocabulary is limited, however, and he is not familiar with some of the regional dialects of Austria, in particular. As a result, there are frequent misunderstandings regarding terminology and expressions, which raises the question of whether either side always fully understands the questions or answers. Added to this is the fact that interviewer and interviewees were not socialised in the same environment. At the same time, interviewees also often seem to be less guarded and more lenient, open, or patient because of the language and socio-cultural barrier and any presumptions that might bring with it.

Interview structure

The overall focus of the interviews on the part of the interviewer is on Nazi violence, especially the persecution of Jews. The interviews vary considerably in length (between 30 minutes and several hours; on average one and a half to two hours) and style. They loosely follow a general structure: Introduction; Life history (esp. pre-1933); Follow-up questions & specific subjects (esp. 1933-1945); Abstract questions.

Introduction. The interviewer informs the interviewees of the purpose of the interview and the project, and subsequently asks them to introduce themselves by name, DOB and place of birth.

Life history. After the introduction, interviewees are asked to talk about their childhood, family life, their parents' occupation, etc. In this part, interviewees can speak most freely about what they consider important without (too many) interruptions. The duration of this part varies depending on the narrator and when the interviewer decides to take them back, or move on to a particular topic. Many here give an overview of their entire lives, though the focus for the interviewer are the years prior to 1933.

Follow-up questions & specific subjects. The interviewer usually asks questions about education; any changes in life/education after 1933 (1938 in the case of Austrians and Sudeten Germans; 1940 in the case of French interviewees, etc.); membership in Jungvolk, HJ, BDM; work/employment; personal contact or relations with Jews; memories of 'Kristallnacht' and their responses to it; anti-Semitism; attitudes towards Hitler; Reich Labour Service (RAD); military (conscripted/volunteered; training; locations; political indoctrination; SS or regular army; contact with Soviet POWs and the civilian population; their own POW experiences); what their parents, siblings or spouses did during the war; their knowledge of crimes against civilians, POWs, Jews, partisans, and Euthanasia programme; if they lived close to a concentration camp: what they knew about the camp and what was happening inside, whether they had any contact with the prisoners, whether locals and guards had any contact with each other (similar in the case of interviewees who lived close to a site of the 'Euthanasia' programme); when they first heard about the mass murder of the Jews and what their reaction was to it; and when they first acknowledged that the NS regime was criminal. The post-war years are covered to a lesser extent. The interviewer might ask interviewees whether they ever talked to their children about the 'Third Reich' or whether their children showed much interest in the topic.

Abstract questions. In what is usually the last part of the interview, the interviewer asks more abstract and hypothetical questions not necessarily directly related to people's own lives and experiences, such as what they think about guilt and responsibility, whether they have any lessons to pass on to younger generations, and who they think is a perpetrator. Another question is whether they know how many Jews were murdered and whether they accept this figure; and whether they think this could have happened anywhere, or whether there is something specific about the Germans or the German character that made the genocide possible.

In many cases, interviewees show the interviewer photos and photo albums covering the years 1933-1945 and before, along with medals, documents, and books or memoirs they may have authored.

Demographic information

General: The collection comprises of 295 individual and group interviews with 274 named persons. 27 of them were interviewed more than once.

Interview date(s): The interviews were conducted between 2008 and 2017, predominantly 2010-2014.

Interviewer: Most interviews were conducted by Luke Holland alone or with the help of associates, including researchers or interpreters: Alice Gastine, Caroline Goldie, Iris Wachsmuth, and Victoire Oberkamp. Cornelia Reetz conducted fifteen interviews on behalf of Luke Holland.

Language: German is the predominant language in 263 interviews; French in nineteen interviews; Dutch in six interviews; English in four; Spanish in two. Out of the 295 interviews, in 52 interviews two (42) or three (10) languages are spoken, including German, English, Dutch, French, Spanish, and Guarani.

Gender: 150 men and 124 women.

Nationality/country of origin²¹:

²¹ Nationality and country of origin are not always straightforward to establish.

Nationality/Country of origin	Number of interviewees	Male	Female
Germany (including East Prussia, Pomerania, and Silesia)	138	80	58
Austria	61	28	33
France (including Alsace)	23	10	13
Netherlands	6	4	2
Paraguay	18	9	9
Romania	4	3	1
Czechoslovakia	10	5	5
Argentina	3	3	-
Spain	3	2	1
Ukraine	2	2	-
Latvia	1	-	1
Belgium	2	2	-
Yugoslavia	1	-	1
Poland	1	1	-
Brazil	1	1	-

Age range: The persons interviewed for *Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies* were born between 1905 and 1934, the bulk between c. 1918 and 1927. The youngest person to be interviewed was 84 and the oldest 106 years of age at the time of interview.²²

The German interviewees were born between 1906 and 1933 (exact DOB unknown in four cases). Around three quarters were born 1918-1927. Less than a dozen are of the first ‘war-youth’ generation (1900-1914); 65 per cent are of the first ‘Hitler Youth’ generation (1915-1924); and just under 30 per cent are of the second ‘war-youth’ generation (1925-1933).

The relationship between generation and involvement in the ‘Third Reich’ has yet to be evaluated for countries other than Germany. Austrian interviewees were born between 1905 and 1931. More than eighty per cent of them were born 1916-1926; more than sixty per cent between 1920 and 1925. French interviewees were born between 1905 and 1930 (DOB unknown in one case). Around seventy per cent were born between 1920 and 1928. The Dutch interviewees were born between 1920 and 1929.

Other demographic details could not be recorded consistently across the interviews, as not all interviewees disclosed or were asked for this information. The following therefore only serves to indicate the wide range of backgrounds of interviewees.

Education: At least 45 of the German and Austrian men attended the *Gymnasium* and received the *Abitur* (or equivalent). At least 26 of them went on to study at university. At least five of these hold doctorates (two of them *habilitiert*). Among the women, at least 34 went to a *Höhere Schule*, *Lyzeum* or *Gymnasium*. Of these, at least 20 received the *Abitur* (or equivalent). At least eleven of them went on to study, of whom at least four hold a doctorate (one of them *habilitiert*).

Occupations and military service, 1933-1945: We find a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds, including farmers, working class, middle class, and the nobility. Pre-war occupations included blue- and white-collar employment, farming, and civil service. Most of the German, ethnic German, and Austrian (and some of the French, Dutch, Belgian and Ukrainian) men interviewed for *Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies* served in either Wehrmacht, Waffen-SS, SS, air force (Luftwaffe), navy (Kriegsmarine), or Volkssturm, in various capacities and across different, and often multiple, theatres

²² One couple was born after 1945; exact dates unknown.

of war. Most served on the Eastern Front, but many also on the Western Front and indeed both; fewer served in Italy, Scandinavia, Yugoslavia, Greece, North Africa, or at sea (North Sea, Baltic, North Atlantic). There were some exceptions where interviewees were too young or exempt for other reasons. Among the women, we find a wide variety of pre-war and wartime occupations, ranging from homemakers and domestic workers, to students, nurses, civil servants, as employees in the service and media industries, and as secretaries or in other capacities in non-military, military, and NS organisations.

Sample topics

Select interviews could form the starting point for pursuing new research avenues. These include former Wehrmacht soldiers or members of the SS enlisting in the French Foreign Legion (146M); RAD involvement in the attack on the Soviet Union (076M); the export of NS organisations and education outside of Germany between 1933 and 1939, and their development during the war (NSDAP/AO) (131MF; 116FM); the performing arts esp. dance in Nazi Germany (221F); or civilian jobs in concentration camps (058M; 202M).

Below are groupings of interviews that are particularly rich for exploring specific topics:

SS & Waffen-SS:

001M	004M	013M	014M	026M	032M
036M	037M2	044M	053M	057M	070M
071M	092M	099M	105M	120MF	134M
150M	151M	153M	160M	213M	231M
247M	248M	249M	250M		

Wehrmacht unit working with SS/Waffen-SS:

097M	101M2				
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Relatives/spouses in SS/Waffen-SS:

068F	121F	143M			
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Close (working, personal) relationship or proximity to members of the SS, or potential / convicted war criminals:

005F	012F	012F2	049F	086F	091F
199F	219FM				

División Azul

251M	252M				
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Historical revisionism and Holocaust denial:

002M	012F	012F2	024M	032M	059M
084M	092M	112F	113M	114M	116FM
118M	138F	151M	182M	183MF	184M

189M	190M	194F	229F	248M	
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Medical personnel (including army medical privates), Euthanasia programme & hereditary health:

012F	012F2	017F	051M	073M	076M
195F2	198M	206M	206MF	213M	218F
219FM					

Jewish neighbours, classmates, friends, and townspeople or other persecuted persons (who are mentioned by name in the interviews):

006M	011F	015M	018MF	019M	021M
023F	025M	031M	033F	034F2	038M
044M	045M	049F	058M	059M	060M
063F	065F	066M	067F	072M	073M
077M	079F	080M	083MF	087F	091F
102F	105M	126F	127F	136F4	145F
152F	157F	158F	163F	164M	166M
168F	169F	182M	187M	191F	193M
196F	197M	200M	203M	206M	207M
208F	209M	212F	213M	216M	217M
218FM	220M	221F	222F	223F	241F
242F	246MF				

Examples of social exclusion of Jews:

085F	157F	162F	206M	206MF	164M
208F					

Female secretaries and office personnel in non-military and military or NS organisations:

012F	012F2	034F2	079F	124F2	145F
154F	158F	169F	199F	223F	244F

Atrocities and war crimes: Many interviews address violence and atrocities, some of which may constitute war crimes. In their narratives, speakers represent themselves variably or concurrently as implicated in the violence e.g. in anti-partisan warfare; as witnesses e.g. to hangings of partisans or maltreatment of prisoners; as having gained knowledge about such incidents through someone they trust, such as family members or more senior people in the army; or as having refused to participate in a violent incident.

Atrocities and war crimes (speaker implicated):

003M	007M	014M	015M	032M	039M
045M	051M	061M	092M	101M2	121F
123M	130M	135M	158F	197M	198M
203M					

Atrocities and war crimes (speaker as witness):

058M	076M	086F	087F	091F	097M
100M	150M	155M	158F	176F	197M
200M	202M	205F			

Atrocities and war crimes (speaker acquired knowledge through a trusted source):

006M	017M	027M	073M	104M	126F
133F	141F	155M	159M	197M	200M
212F	232F	242F			

Atrocities and war crimes (speaker refused to participate):

042M	062M	197M			
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Residence in close proximity to concentration camp or T4/'Euthanasia' site:

008F	009F	011F	020F	048M	051M
058M	065F	067M	082F	083MF	086F
088F	089F	090F5M	091F	097F	100M
122M	125F	135M	155M	169F	172M
173F	175F	176F	178M	179M	202M
203M	204F	205F	219FM	226F	233M
234M	235F	236F	237F2		

Family members imprisoned in concentration camp or killed in T4/'Euthanasia' site:

072M	097M	098M2F	106M	163F	169F
170M	246MF				

Private photos and photo albums, documents, medals, etc.:

001M	004M	008F	009F	010F	020F
023F	025M	027M	049F	051M	067F
068F	079F	084M	130M	132M	134M
136F4	138F	140F	146M	147M	159M
162F	171M	178M	193M	203M	213M
215F	219FM	221F	225F	242F	247M
248M	250M	251M			

Memoirs, autobiographies, and books published/written by:

001M	003M	006M	014M	029M	035F
040M	041M	053M	060M	071M	073M
081F	105M	117M	155M	162F	164M
201M	205F	250M			

Contact via Zeitzeugenbörse/acts as Zeitzeuge (contemporary witness):

011F	013M	153M	154F	159M	165M
166M	167M	168F	169F	209M	

Cultural sphere (music, dance, theatre, film):

052F	069M	081F	106M	144M	151M
216M	220M	221F			

Interviewees as POWs in Britain:

007M	021M	038M	077M	096M	148M
151M					

Interviewees as POWs in USA:

096M	097M	098M2F	130M	201M	217M
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False identities/papers:

010F	160M	188M	250M		
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Paraguay and Argentina: The collection contains a considerable number (28 interviews/31 interviewees) of interviews conducted with (ethnic) Germans in Paraguay and (to a lesser extent) Argentina. Most people Luke Holland interviewed in Paraguay and Argentina were either already born in Paraguay/Argentina, or had moved there as children, and spent the war years there. The interviews focus on interviewees' German identity, attitudes towards Nazi Germany and the war, and local Hitler Youth and BDM groups. There is a high rate of Holocaust denial and historical revisionism among these interviewees.

Born in Paraguay/moved there as children:

107F	108F	109F	110F	112F	116FM
180M	181F	182M	183MF	184M	185MF
186M	187M	189M			

Born in Argentina/moved there as children:

118M	191F	192M	193M	194F	
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Moved to Argentina after 1945:

117M	188M	195F2	196F		
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Moved to Paraguay as a teenager or young adult 1930s onwards:

113M	114M	155F			
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Born in Argentina but served in Wehrmacht during WWII:

190M					
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IV. Inventory

Identifier	Reference	Date	Interview location (Country)
FA 001M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20081007_001M	2008-10-07	Germany
FA 002M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20081030_002M	2008-10-30	Austria
FA 003M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20081031_003M	2008-10-31	Switzerland
FA 004M (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20081104_004M	2008-11-04	Germany
FA 004M (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20121219_004M	2012-12-19	Germany
FA 005F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20090326_005F	2009-03-26	Austria
FA 006M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20090326_006M	2009-03-26	Austria
FA 007M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20090602_007M	2009-06-02	England
FA 008F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20090721_008F	2009-07-21	Germany
FA 009F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20090721_009F	2009-07-21	Germany
FA 010F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20090723_010F	2009-07-23	Germany
FA 011F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20090724_011F	2009-07-24	Germany
FA 012F (interview 1 of 11)*	FA_20090726_012F	2009-07-26	Germany
FA 012F (interview 2 of 11)	FA_20090727_012F	2009-07-27	Germany
FA 012F (interview 3 of 11)	FA_20090814_012F	2009-08-14	Germany
FA 012F (interview 4 of 11)	FA_20090907_012F	2009-09-07	Germany
FA 012F (interview 5 of 11)	FA_20090909_012F	2009-09-09	Germany
FA 012F (interview 6 of 11)	FA_20091214_012F	2009-12-14	Germany
FA 012F (interview 7 of 11)	FA_20100211_012F	2010-02-11	Germany
FA 012F (interview 8 of 11)	FA_20100215_012F	2010-02-15	Germany
FA 012F (interview 9 of 11)	FA_20100621_012F	2010-06-21	Germany
FA 012F (interview 10 of 11)	FA_20101202_012F	2010-12-02	Germany
FA 012F (interview 11 of 11)	FA_20110506_012F	2011-05-06	Germany
FA 012F2 (interview 1 of 3)	FA_20090819_012F2	2009-08-19	Germany
FA 012F2 (interview 2 of 3)	FA_20100620_012F2	2010-06-20	Germany
FA 012F2 (interview 3 of 3)	FA_20101203_012F2	2010-12-03	Germany
FA 013M (interview 1 of 3)	FA_20090727_013M	2009-07-27	Germany
FA 013M (interview 2 of 3)	FA_20110507_013M	2011-05-07	Germany
FA 013M (interview 3 of 3)	FA_20110509_013M	2011-05-09	Germany
FA 014M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20090821_014M	2009-08-21	Germany
FA 015M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20091216_015M	2009-12-16	Germany
FA 016F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100212_016F	2010-02-12	Germany
FA 017F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100215_017F	2010-02-15	Germany
FA 018MF (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100310_018MF	2010-03-10	Germany
FA 019M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100310_019M	2010-03-10	Germany
FA 020F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100311_020F	2010-03-11	Germany
FA 021M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100312_021M	2010-03-12	Germany
FA 022M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100312_022M	2010-03-12	Germany
FA 023F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100312_023F	2010-03-12	Germany
FA 024M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100315_024M	2010-03-15	Germany
FA 025M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100315_025M	2010-03-15	Germany
FA 026M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100316_026M	2010-03-16	Germany
FA 027M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100316_027M	2010-03-16	Germany

FA 028MF (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100317_028MF	2010-03-17	Germany
FA 029M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100318_029M	2010-03-18	Germany
FA 030F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100411_030F	2010-04-11	Austria
FA 031M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100411_031M	2010-04-11	Austria
FA 032M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100412_032M	2010-04-12	Austria
FA 033F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100413_033F	2010-04-13	Austria
FA 034F2 (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100414_034F2	2010-04-14	Austria
FA 035F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100414_035F	2010-04-14	Austria
FA 036M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100415_036M	2010-04-15	Austria
FA 037M2 (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100611_037M2	2010-06-11	Romania
FA 038M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100713_038M	2010-07-13	Germany
FA 039M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100716_039M	2010-07-16	Germany
FA 040M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100719_040M	2010-07-19	Germany
FA 041M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100720_041M	2010-07-20	Germany
FA 042M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100721_042M	2010-07-21	Germany
FA 043F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100721_043F	2010-07-21	Germany
FA 044M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100722_044M	2010-07-22	Germany
FA 045M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100722_045M	2010-07-22	Germany
FA 046M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100723_046M	2010-07-23	Germany
FA 047M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20100723_047M	2010-07-23	Germany
FA 048M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20101030_048M	2010-10-30	Germany
FA 049F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20101031_049F	2010-10-31	Germany
FA 050M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20101102_050M	2010-11-02	Germany
FA 051M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20101103_051M	2010-11-03	Germany
FA 052F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20101107_052F	2010-11-07	Germany
FA 053M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20101129_053M	2010-11-29	Germany
FA 054M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20101130_054M	2010-11-30	Germany
FA 055M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20101217_055M	2010-12-17	France
FA 056F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20101223_056F	2010-12-23	Netherlands
FA 057M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110112_057M	2011-01-12	Austria
FA 058M (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20110113_058M	2011-01-13	Austria
FA 058M (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20110914_058M	2011-09-14	Austria
FA 059M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110114_059M	2011-01-14	Germany
FA 060M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110115_060M	2011-01-15	Austria
FA 061M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110115_061M	2011-01-15	Austria
FA 062M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110118_062M	2011-01-18	Austria
FA 063F (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20110118_063F	2011-01-18	Austria
FA 063F (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20110313_063F	2011-03-13	Austria
FA 064M (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20110119_064M	2011-01-19	Austria
FA 064M (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20110329_064M	2011-03-29	Austria
FA 065F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110120_065F	2011-01-20	Austria
FA 066M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110120_066M	2011-01-20	Austria
FA 067F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110121_067F	2011-01-21	Austria
FA 068F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110210_068F	2011-02-10	Netherlands
FA 069M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110211_069M	2011-02-11	Netherlands
FA 070M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110212_070M	2011-02-12	Netherlands

FA 071M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110215_071M	2011-02-15	Netherlands
FA 072M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110217_072M	2011-02-17	Germany
FA 073M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110218_073M	2011-02-18	Germany
FA 074F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110222_074F	2011-02-22	Germany
FA 075F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110223_075F	2011-02-23	Germany
FA 076M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110223_076M	2011-02-23	Germany
FA 077M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110224_077M	2011-02-24	Germany
FA 078M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110224_078M	2011-02-24	Germany
FA 079F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110225_079F	2011-02-25	Germany
FA 080M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110225_080M	2011-02-25	Germany
FA 081F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110313_081F	2011-03-13	Austria
FA 082F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110317_082F	2011-03-17	Austria
FA 083MF (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110317_083MF	2011-03-17	Austria
FA 084M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110318_084M	2011-03-18	Austria
FA 085F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110319_085F	2011-03-19	Austria
FA 086F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110319_086F	2011-03-19	Austria
FA 087F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110321_087F	2011-03-21	Austria
FA 088F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110322_088F	2011-03-22	Austria
FA 089F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110322_089F	2011-03-22	Austria
FA 090F5M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110325_090F5M	2011-03-25	Austria
FA 091F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110329_091F	2011-03-29	Germany
FA 092M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110329_092M	2011-03-29	Germany
FA 093M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110422_093M	2011-04-22	Netherlands
FA 094M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110508_094M	2011-05-08	Germany
FA 095M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110510_095M	2011-05-10	Germany
FA 096M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110511_096M	2011-05-11	Germany
FA 097M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110512_097M	2011-05-12	Germany
FA 098M2F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110512_098M2F	2011-05-12	Germany
FA 099M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110513_099M	2011-05-13	Germany
FA 100M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110513_100M	2011-05-13	Germany
FA 101M2 (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110516_101M2	2011-05-16	Germany
FA 102F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110517_102F	2011-05-17	Germany
FA 103M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110519_103M	2011-05-19	Germany
FA 104M (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20110620_104M	2011-06-20	Germany
FA 104M (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20110621_104M	2011-06-21	Germany
FA 105M (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20110622_105M	2011-06-22	Germany
FA 105M (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20110623_105M	2011-06-23	Germany
FA 106M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110625_106M	2011-06-25	Germany
FA 107F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110730_107F	2011-07-30	Paraguay
FA 108F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110730_108F	2011-07-30	Paraguay
FA 109F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110803_109F	2011-08-03	Paraguay
FA 110F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110803_110F	2011-08-03	Paraguay
FA 111F3 (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110803_111F3	2011-08-03	Paraguay
FA 112F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110803_112F	2011-08-03	Paraguay
FA 113M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110805_113M	2011-08-05	Paraguay
FA 114M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110808_114M	2011-08-08	Paraguay

FA 115F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110808_115F	2011-08-08	Paraguay
FA 116FM (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110808_116FM	2011-08-08	Paraguay
FA 117M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110810_117M	2011-08-10	Argentina
FA 118M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110810_118M	2011-08-10	Argentina
FA 119M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110917_119M	2011-09-17	Austria
FA 120MF (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20110918_120MF	2011-09-18	Austria
FA 120MF (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20111004_120MF	2011-10-04	Austria
FA 121F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110929_121F	2011-09-29	Austria
FA 122M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20110930_122M	2011-09-30	Austria
FA 123M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20111001_123M	2011-10-01	Austria
FA 124F2 (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20111003_124F2	2011-10-03	Austria
FA 125F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20111003_125F	2011-10-03	Austria
FA 126F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20111007_126F	2011-10-07	Austria
FA 127F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20111013_127F	2011-10-13	Austria
FA 128M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20111015_128M	2011-10-15	Austria
FA 129F4 (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20111017_129F4	2011-10-17	Austria
FA 130M (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20111018_130M	2011-10-18	Austria
FA 130M (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20131106_130M	2013-11-06	Austria
FA 131MF (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20111110_131MF	2011-11-10	Germany
FA 132M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20111112_132M	2011-11-12	Germany
FA 133F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20111115_133F	2011-11-15	Germany
FA 134M (interview 1 of 3)	FA_20111117_134M	2011-11-17	Germany
FA 134M (interview 2 of 3)	FA_20120625_134M	2012-06-25	Germany
FA 134M (interview 3 of 3)	FA_20120701_134M	2012-07-01	Germany
FA 135M (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20111208_135M	2011-12-08	Germany
FA 135M (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20111211_135M	2011-12-11	Germany
FA 136F4 (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20111209_136F4	2011-12-09	Germany
FA 137F4 (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20111210_137F4	2011-12-10	Germany
FA 138F (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20120221_138F	2012-02-21	Austria
FA 138F (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20120222_138F	2012-02-22	Austria
FA 139MF (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120223_139MF	2012-02-23	Austria
FA 140F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120225_140F	2012-02-25	Austria
FA 141F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120229_141F	2012-02-29	Austria
FA 142M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120229_142M	2012-02-29	Austria
FA 143M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120301_143M	2012-03-01	Austria
FA 144M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120302_144M	2012-03-02	Austria
FA 145F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120303_145F	2012-03-03	Austria
FA 146M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120305_146M	2012-03-05	Austria
FA 147M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120306_147M	2012-03-06	Austria
FA 148M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120307_148M	2012-03-07	Austria
FA 149M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120308_149M	2012-03-08	Austria
FA 150M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120525_150M	2012-05-25	England
FA 151m (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20120623_151M	2012-06-23	Germany
FA 151M (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20120624_151M	2012-06-24	Germany
FA 152F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120627_152F	2012-06-27	Germany
FA 153M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120628_153M	2012-06-28	Germany

FA 154F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120630_154F	2012-06-30	Germany
FA 155M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120702_155M	2012-07-02	Germany
FA 156M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120703_156M	2012-07-03	Germany
FA 157F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120704_157F	2012-07-04	Germany
FA 158F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120705_158F	2012-07-05	Germany
FA 159M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120706_159M	2012-07-06	Germany
FA 160M (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20120717_160M	2012-07-17	Belgium
FA 160M (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20120719_160M	2012-07-19	Belgium
FA 161FM (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120731_161FM	2012-07-31	Lanzarote (Spain)
FA 162F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120802_162F	2012-08-02	Lanzarote (Spain)
FA 163F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120817_163F	2012-08-17	Germany
FA 164M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120818_164M	2012-08-18	Germany
FA 165M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120819_165M	2012-08-19	Germany
FA 166M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120820_166M	2012-08-20	Germany
FA 167F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120821_167F	2012-08-21	Germany
FA 168F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120822_168F	2012-08-22	Germany
FA 169F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120825_169F	2012-08-25	Germany
FA 170M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120826_170M	2012-08-26	Germany
FA 171M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120827_171M	2012-08-27	Germany
FA 172M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120829_172M	2012-08-29	Germany
FA 173F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120829_173F	2012-08-29	Germany
FA 174M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120916_174M	2012-09-16	Alsace (France)
FA 175F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120917_175F	2012-09-17	Alsace (France)
FA 176F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120918_176F	2012-09-18	Alsace (France)
FA 177F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120919_177F	2012-09-19	Alsace (France)
FA 178M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120920_178M	2012-09-20	Alsace (France)
FA 179M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20120921_179M	2012-09-21	Alsace (France)
FA 180M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121031_180M	2012-10-31	Paraguay
FA 181F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121101_181F	2012-11-01	Paraguay
FA 182M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121104_182M	2012-11-04	Paraguay
FA 183MF (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121106_183MF	2012-11-06	Paraguay
FA 184M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121106_184M	2012-11-06	Paraguay
FA 185MF (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121106_185MF	2012-11-06	Paraguay
FA 186M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121107_186M	2012-11-07	Paraguay
FA 187M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121108_187M	2012-11-08	Paraguay
FA 188M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121110_188M	2012-11-10	Argentina
FA 189M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121111_189M	2012-11-11	Argentina
FA 190M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121112_190M	2012-11-12	Argentina
FA 191F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121113_191F	2012-11-13	Argentina
FA 192M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121114_192M	2012-11-14	Argentina
FA 193M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121117_193M	2012-11-17	Argentina
FA 194F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121117_194F	2012-11-17	Argentina
FA 195F2 (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121117_195F2	2012-11-17	Argentina
FA 196F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121117_196F	2012-11-17	Argentina
FA 197M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121126_197M	2012-11-26	Germany
FA 198M (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20121215_198M	2012-12-15	Germany

FA 198M (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20130808_198M	2013-08-08	Germany
FA 199F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121215_199F	2012-12-15	Germany
FA 200M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121217_200M	2012-12-17	Germany
FA 201M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20121218_201M	2012-12-18	Germany
FA 202M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130123_202M	2013-01-23	Alsace (France)
FA 203M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130124_203M	2013-01-24	Alsace (France)
FA 204F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130125_204F	2013-01-25	Alsace (France)
FA 205F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130126_205F	2013-01-26	Alsace (France)
FA 206M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130131_206M	2013-01-31	Germany
FA 207MF (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130317_206MF	2013-03-17	Germany
FA 207M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130216_207M	2013-02-16	Germany
FA 208F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130216_208F	2013-02-16	Germany
FA 209M (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20130218_209M	2013-02-18	Germany
FA 209M (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20130315_209M	2013-03-15	Germany
FA 210M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130302_210M	2013-03-02	France
FA 211F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130316_211F	2013-03-16	Germany
FA 212F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130318_212F	2013-03-18	Germany
FA 213M (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20130320_213M	2013-03-20	Germany
FA 213M (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20130321_213M	2013-03-21	Germany
FA 214F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130416_214F2	2013-04-16	France
FA 214F2 (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130410_214F2	2013-04-10	France
FA 215F (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20130415_215F	2013-04-15	France
FA 215F (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20130418_215F	2013-04-18	France
FA 216M (interview 1 of 4)	FA_20130807_216M	2013-08-07	Germany
FA 216M (interview 2 of 4)	FA_20130809_216M	2013-08-09	Germany
FA 216M (interview 3 of 4)	FA_20130814_216M	2013-08-14	Germany
FA 216M (interview 4 of 4)	FA_20131212_216M	2013-12-12	Germany
FA 217M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130810_217M	2013-08-10	Germany
FA 218F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130812_218F	2013-08-12	Germany
FA 219FM (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130812_219FM	2013-08-12	Germany
FA 220M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130813_220M	2013-08-13	Germany
FA 221F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20130814_221F	2013-09-30	Spain
FA 222F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20131002_222F	2013-10-02	Spain
FA 223F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20131004_223F	2013-10-04	Spain
FA 224F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20131005_224F	2013-10-05	Spain
FA 225F (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20131018_225F	2013-10-18	France
FA 225F (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20131219_225F	2013-10-19	France
FA 226F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20131019_226F	2013-10-19	France
FA 227F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20131209_227F	2013-12-09	Germany
FA 228F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20131209_228F	2013-12-09	Germany
FA 229F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20131210_229F	2013-12-10	Germany
FA 230F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20131210_230F	2013-12-10	Germany
FA 231M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20131211_231M	2013-12-11	Germany
FA 232F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20131211_232F	2013-12-11	Germany
FA 233M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20140130_233M	2014-01-30	France
FA 234M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20140203_234M	2014-02-03	France

FA 235F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20140206_235F	2014-02-06	France
FA 236F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20140206_236F	2014-02-06	France
FA 237F2 (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20140206_237F2	2014-02-06	France
FA 238F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20140207_238F	2014-02-07	France
FA 239F2 (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20140305_239F2	2014-03-05	Austria
FA 240F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20140307_240F	2014-03-07	Austria
FA 241F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20140307_241F	2014-03-07	Austria
FA 242F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20140311_242F	2014-03-11	Austria
FA 243M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20140312_243M	2014-03-12	Austria
FA 244F (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20140313_244F	2014-03-13	Austria
FA 245MF2 (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20140314_245MF2	2014-03-14	Austria
FA 246MF (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20140521_246MF	2014-05-21	Germany
FA 247M (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20141105_247M	2014-11-05	Austria
FA 247M (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20141106_247M	2014-11-06	Austria
FA 248M (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20141108_248M	2014-11-08	France
FA 248M (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20141109_248M	2014-11-09	France
FA 249M (interview 1 of 2)*	FA_20151030_249M	2015-01-03	United States
FA 249M (interview 2 of 2)*	FA_20160215_249M	2016-02-12	United States
FA 250M (interview 1 of 2)	FA_20160526_250M	2016-05-26	Belgium
FA 250M (interview 2 of 2)	FA_20160527_250M	2016-05-27	Belgium
FA 251M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20170919_251M	2017-09-19	Spain
FA 252M (interview 1 of 1)	FA_20170920_252M	2017-09-20	Spain

* Interviews with an asterisk (*) are held for preservation only.

V. Glossary & Abbreviations

Abitur	High school diploma
Anschluss	Annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany in March 1938
Aryanisation	Forced expulsion and expropriation of Jews
BDM Glaube und Schönheit	BDM sub-organisation Faith and Beauty
Bund Deutscher Mädel (BDM)	League of German Girls,
Deutsches Jungvolk (DJ)	Section of Hitler Youth for boys aged 9-14
División Azul	Blue Division: unit of Spanish volunteers and conscripts serving in the German army on the Eastern front during the Second World War
Euthanasia	Euphemistic term for programme of murder of mentally and physically disabled people in Germany and occupied territories. Also referred to as 'T4 programme'.
Gymnasium	Grammar school/secondary school
Habilitation	Academic qualification and prerequisite to a professorship based on independent scholarship in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland
Hitlerjugend (HJ)	Hitler Youth
Höhere Schule	College
Kriegsmarine	German navy
Kristallnacht	Night of Broken Glass: organised programme of violence and destruction directed against Jews and their property in November 1938
Luftwaffe	German air force
Lyzeum	Secondary school for girls
Nationalpolitische Erziehungsanstalten (Napola)	National Political Institutes of Education: secondary boarding schools in Nazi Germany
Nationalsozialismus (NS)	National Socialism
Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (NSDAP)	National Socialist German Workers' Party
Organisation Todt	Civil and military engineering group in Nazi Germany which used forced labour
POW	Prisoner of war
Reicharbeitsdienst (RAD)	Reich Labour Service
Schutzstaffel (SS)	Paramilitary organisation initially subordinate to SA and from 1934 to Adolf Hitler
SS Einsatzgruppen	SS paramilitary death squads
Sturmabteilung (SA)	Storm troopers: paramilitary wing of NSDAP
Volkssturm	National militia of males aged 16-60 established in Nazi Germany from September 1944
Waffen-SS	Armed wing of the SS
Wehrmacht	Armed forces in Nazi Germany

