



Children and Youth as Victims of the Nazi Crimes

Seventy years ago, the National Socialists came to power in Germany. During their rule, which lasted until 1945, they persecuted and terrorized human beings because of their origin, religion or physical or mental handicap. The National Socialists attacked many countries in Europe, occupied them and murdered many millions, including six million Jews from across Europe. On this web site, we wish to remember five young people who became victims of Nazi terror.

**Marie Šupiková,
née Doležalová,
from the Czech village of Lidice
born 1932**





Marie Šupiková

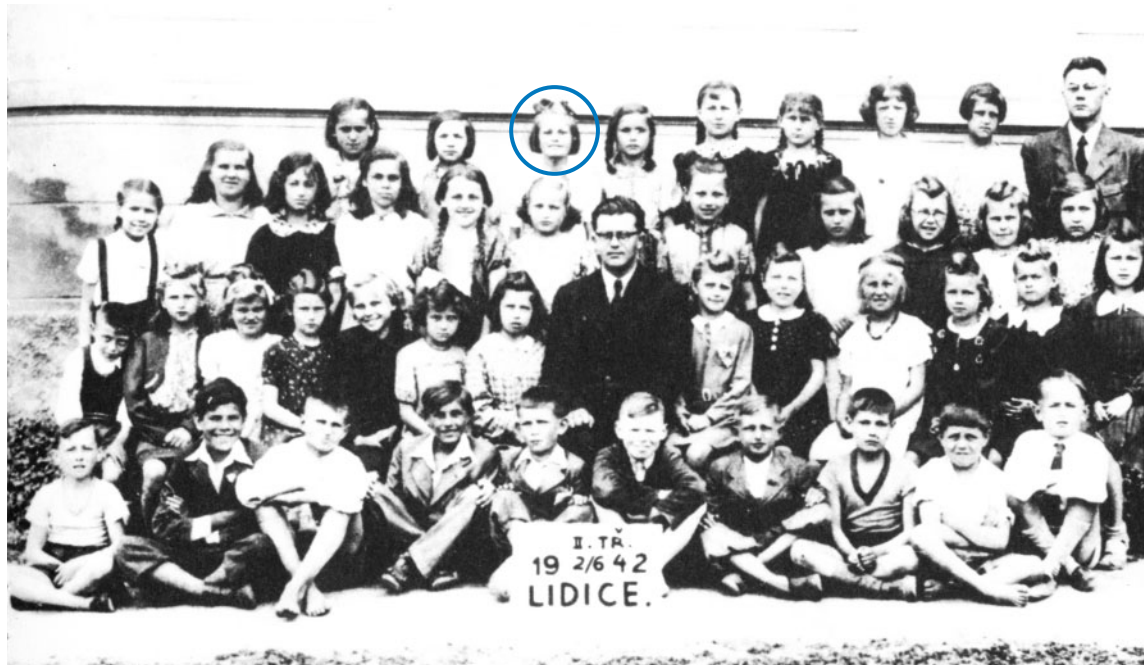


Photo of Marie's school class, taken on June 2, 1942 shortly before the destruction of Lidice.

Source: Lidice Memorial

Marie was born on August 22, 1932 in the Czech village of Lidice¹. When she was ten years old, German soldiers and units of the SS² and Gestapo³ destroyed her village, acting on direct orders from Adolf Hitler. The destruction of the village was a reprisal for the assassination of the influential Nazi leader Reinhard Heydrich⁴. The Gestapo suspected residents of Lidice of being involved in the assassination. The Germans then murdered all the men in the village, including Marie's father. Marie, her mother and grandfather were taken along with all the other women and children to a sports hall in the nearby city of Kladno. There the children were forcibly separated from their mothers. Marie was transported along with the 87 children from Lidice to a camp near Łódź⁵. Her mother and grandmother were sent with the other women from the village to the Ravensbrück⁶ concentration camp.



Marie Šupiková

Umschreiberkontrollstelle Litzmannstadt, den 20. Juni 4
VIII/26 L. KR./SN.Tgl.-Nr. 6146/42

Geheime Staatspolizei — Staatspolizeistelle Litzmannstadt
Nachrichten-Übermittlung

Aufgenommen		Form für Eingangsprotokoll	Befinden	
Zeit	Tag Monat Jahr		Zeit	Tag Monat Jahr
von	durch		am	
N.-Ü. Nr. 6144		Telegramm — Funkspruch — Fernschreiben Fernspruch	Verdachtsprotokoll	

Fernschreiben **GEHEIM!**

An das
Reichssicherheitshauptamt
- III B 4 -
s.Hd. - Standartenführer Dr. Ehlich
Berlin
Prinz-Albrecht-Straße 6

Betr.: Überstellung von 88 tschechischen Kindern.
VORGEH. Ohne.

Am 13.6.1942 sind durch die bekannte Aktion 88 elternlos gewordene tschechische Kinder aus der Gemeinde Liditz in Litzmannstadt eingetroffen. Angemeldet war dieser Transport vom Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD, Prag. -Das PS war gezeichnet von H-Obersturmbannführer Fisoner. Nachdem bisher eine weitere Verfügung über den Verbleib dieser Kinder nicht erfolgt ist, bitte ich um entsprechende Anordnung. Ich habe IV B 4 von der Überstellung dieser Kinder in Kenntnis gesetzt in der Annahme, daß dieselben für eine Sonderbehandlung vorgesehen sind. In der Zwischenzeit hat RuS 7 rückdeutschungsfähige Kinder herausgenommen.

(Kruney)
-Obersturmbannführer

When the children from Lidice arrived in Łódź, the German occupiers selected seven children whom they considered to be »capable of being re-Germanified«⁷, as can be seen in the document here. Marie was among these seven. The Nazis considered children »capable of being re-Germanified« who had, for example, blue eyes and blond hair. The children were then put up for adoption and placed with German families. Marie was taken in by the family Schiller in (Pol. Poznań), then located in the German Reich. Her new name was Ingeborg Schiller. She was allowed to speak only German and had to remain silent about her origin. After the war, the Committee »Victims of Fascism« launched a search operation for the children from Lidice. Marie contacted them and a short time thereafter returned to her homeland.

A letter from the Gestapo Litzmannstadt (the Nazi name for Łódź) provides evidence that 88 children were transported from Lidice. It has still not been established what the fate was of the other 81 children who, as noted here, were to be subjected to »special treatment«. The Nazis used the expression »special treatment« (Sonderbehandlung) as a code word for murder. It is likely these children were murdered a short time later in Chelmno.

Source: Lidice Memorial



Marie Šupiková

Translation of the Gestapoletter:

Central Office for Relocation
VIII/2b L.: Kr./En.Tgb. – Nr. 61/6/42

Litzmannstadt, June 22 42

Secret State Police – State Police Office Litzmannstadt
Transmission of Information

Transmission of Info No. 6144

Telegram
CONFIDENTIAL!

To
Reich Security Central Office
– III B 4 –
for: Standartenführer Dr. Ehrlich

Berlin
Prinz-Albrecht-Straße 8

Re: transfer of 88 Czech children
Ref.: none

On June 13, 1942, 88 orphaned Czech children from Liditz arrived in Litzmannstadt as a result of the operation familiar to us. This transport was announced by the Commander of the Security Police and Security Service, Prague. The telegram was signed by SS-Obersturmbannführer Fischer. Since there has been no further instruction regarding the placement of these children, I hereby request a corresponding order. I have notified IV B 4 about the transfer of these children, assuming that they are scheduled for special treatment. In the meanwhile, 7 children suitable for re-Germanification have been removed from the group.

[signed]
(Krumey)
Obersturmbannführer

Umsiedlerzentrale
VIII/2b L.: Kr./En.Tgb. – Nr. 61/6/42 Litzmannstadt, den 22. Juni 42

Geheime Staatspolizei — Staatspolizeistelle Litzmannstadt
Nachrichten-Übermittlung

Aufgenommen		Name des Eingegangenen	Befinden	
Zeit	Tag Monat Jahr		Zeit	Tag Monat Jahr
von	durch		am	durch
			Verdächtigengruppe	
N.-Ü. Nr. 6144		Telegramm — Funkspruch — Fernschreiben Fernspruch		

Fernschreiben **GEHEIM!**

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(Krumey)
Obersturmbannführer



Marie Šupiková



August 1946: Marie is reunited with her gravely ill mother for the first time after the war in a hospital in Prague.

Source: Lidice Memorial

When Marie was reunited with her mother in a Prague hospital, they were no longer able to communicate, because during her stay with the family Schiller, Marie had forgotten her native language Czech. Her gravely ill mother passed away four months after their reunion. Marie then lived with her aunt, who had lost her husband and three children as a result of the Nazi reprisal in Lidice.



Marie Šupiková



Marie being sworn in before the Nuremberg Military Tribunal, 1947.

Source: Lidice Memorial

After the war, Marie gave testimony in 1947 as a witness before the Nuremberg Tribunal⁸, providing evidence about the crimes in Lidice. In 1948, the Czechoslovak government established a new village of Lidice at the same spot. As a survivor of the massacre, Marie was given a house in the village. She married and established her own family. She still lives in Lidice and supports the work of the Lidice Memorial⁹ as a contemporary who lived through the destruction.



»Germanification«

Once the Germans had occupied western Czechoslovakia, the Czech civilian population came under a German regime of oppression. Czechs were regarded in National Socialist¹⁰ ideology as »inferior« human beings. Only a portion of the Czech population, which the Nazis believed had »Germanic blood«, was to be re-educated as Germans (so-called Germanification⁷). Children in particular were selected by the Nazis for this purpose, because it was easiest to find a German family which might take them in. In the process, these children lost their own parents and siblings. This rupture also meant the loss of their native language and culture, because they were forced from this point on to deny their origin, and were permitted to speak nothing but German. They were sent all alone to a completely strange and foreign country, the German Reich. Only few of them were ever reunited with their parents after the war.



Glossary 1



The village of Lidice before the destruction.

1 Lidice

A village located west of Prague in the present-day Czech Republic, during WWII in the so-called Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. In 1942, after the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, the village was destroyed on direct orders from Adolf Hitler. All male inhabitants over the age of 15 were shot, the women were sent to concentration camps and the children transported to German-occupied Poland. Seven children were torn from their parents and placed in German families. The fate of 81 children is today still shrouded in darkness.



The destruction of the village in 1942.



After the destruction.



The new village of Lidice after reconstruction in 1948.

Source: Lidice Memorial



Glossary 2

2 SS

Abbreviation for »Schutzstaffel« (Protective Echelon), established in 1925 as Hitler's »Bodyguard«. In 1929 it developed into the elite unit of the Nazi Party, and in 1934 became an independent organization in the NSDAP. Step by step it was fused with the state police, had responsibility for the internal securing and maintenance of power, as well as direction and guarding in the concentration camps. After 1939 it played a decisive role in the planning and implementation of policies of occupation and murder.

3 Secret State Police (Gestapo, Geheime Staatspolizei)

Established in 1933, placed in 1934 under Heinrich Himmler, Reichsführer-SS and Chief of the German Police. It was used to persecute political opponents. Without a court proceeding, the Gestapo handed down penalties, sentencing persons to imprisonment in jails and concentration camps; it murdered political prisoners, foreign forced laborers, and POWs. The Gestapo was directly implicated in the mass murder of the European Jews.

4 Heydrich, Reinhard (1904-1942)

Born in 1904 in Halle, he joined the NSDAP and SS in 1931. In 1939 he was appointed head of the Reich Central Security Office (RSHA), and named in 1941 Deputy Protector of Bohemia and Moravia. Heydrich played a key role in organizing the mass murder of the Jews. He died on June 4, 1942 as the result of an assassination attempt by the Czech resistance on May 27, 1942. In reprisal the Germans destroyed the village of Lidice.

5 Łódź

City in Poland, under German occupation 1939–1945 renamed Litzmannstadt. In 1940, a ghetto was set up where Jews were compelled to do forced labor. At the end of 1941, 5,000 Sinti and Roma from Burgenland in Austria were also deported to the city. Between January 1942 and July 1944, some 80,000 persons were deported from Łódź to the death camp Chelmno, where they were murdered by poison gas. The ghetto was dissolved in 1944 and its remaining residents were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

6 Ravensbrück Concentration Camp

Established in 1939 north of Berlin, principally for female inmates. Originally designed with a capacity for 15,000 prisoners, at times it housed more than 120,000 women and children from 23 countries, including women from Lidice, who were exploited as forced laborers for the German war industry. The camp was liberated in April 1945 by the Red Army.



Glossary 3

7 Germanification (»capable of being re-Germanified«, rückdeutschungsfähig)

A Nazi code word for the expulsion of Slavs from the occupied territories, where »ethnic Germans« (Volksdeutsche) were to be resettled. Likewise a concept for Heinrich Himmler's racist policy of the »Germanifying« (Eindeutschung) of children from the occupied territories by placing them with German families. The Nazis suspected that blond and blue-eyed children had »Germanic blood«.

8 Nuremberg Military Tribunal

International Military Tribunal of the Victors in WWII, the United States, England, the Soviet Union and France, against the main German war criminals, held 1945 – 1946 in Nuremberg. Numerous additional court proceedings and trials took place dealing with Nazi crimes.

10 National Socialism

Political movement, founded in 1920 as the Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (NSDAP, the National Socialist German Workers' Party). From 1921 on led by Adolf Hitler. In 1933, it took over the reins of state power in the German Reich. In 1945, with the end of the war, the party was dissolved. National Socialism propagated an open hatred of the Jews, fought against the democratic state and persecuted those with opposing political convictions, such as Communists. The world view of the National Socialists was characterized by the theory of a superior stronger (so-called Aryan) »race«, to which other weaker and inferior races were subordinate. When the party took over power, this axiom became a guiding criterion for state policy. The concept of »race« is pseudo-scientific. In fact, there are no human races, but only different nationalities, religious and linguistic affiliations.



9 Lidice Memorial








The Lidice Memorial, created by the sculptors Marie Uchytílová and Juri Vaclav Hampl.

Source: Lidice Memorial






Literature / Films / Links





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-  Prinz, Friedrich (Hrsg.): **Deutsche Geschichte im Osten Europas. Böhmen und Mähren**, Berlin 1995.
-  Schicha, Kerstin, und Frank Metzger: **Die Kinder von Lidice**. In: TRIBÜNE, 34. Jg., Heft 134, 2. Quartal 1995.
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Films

-  »**Die Kinder von Lidice**« (29 Min) Dokumentation, Deutschland ZDF 1999; von Manfred Kosmann und Bohumil Neumann über die Forschungsarbeit von Frank Metzger und Kerstin Schicha.
-  »**Lidice – ein Dorf in Böhmen. Rekonstruktion eines Verbrechens**« (29 Min); Schulfernsehsendung des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Deutschland 1987.
-  »**Die Kinder von Himmlerstadt**« (30 Min) Dokumentation, Deutschland 1983 (Regie: Elke Jonigkeit); Der Film erzählt über die Germanisierungspolitik der SS im Distrikt Lublin und das Schicksal der Kinder aus dem Gebiet Zamosc (Polen). Erhältlich über Landeszentralen für politische Bildung.

Links

-  <http://www.lidice-memorial.cz>
-  <http://www.lernen-aus-der-geschichte.de>
-  <http://www.erinnern-online.de>
-  <http://www.step21.de>



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