

DÖW

Dokumentationsarchiv des
österreichischen
Widerstandes

Documentation Archive of the
Austrian Resistance

11. 02.1961

„The archive should first and foremost serve the education of young people concerning current historical events. They should get acquainted with the horrible consequences of the loss of freedom and Austrian independence as well as with the heroic fight of the members of the Austrian resistance. The archive shall remain its permanent documentation.“

25. 06.1963

Why so late?

Hostile political and social environment of Austria in the postwar years, which was still dominated by participants of World War II. and former Nazis.

Resistance was long regarded as an act of cowardice, treason and murder.

„Victim theory“

„Austria as the first Victim
of Nazi Agression“

the victim theory resulted in a suppression
of the fact of Austrian collaboration
concerning the atrocities of the National
Socialists

"Moscow Declaration,, 01. 11. 1943

the minister of foreign affairs of the

United Kingdom,
United States of America
Soviet Union

declared that:

"Austria [as] the first free country that should fall prey to the typical aggressive policy of Hitler [...] should be liberated from German rule"

„Victim theory“

Often referred to as the

„self-deception“

of the

Second Austrian Republic

(1945 -)

First Parliamentary Elections 1945

Austrian parties try to mobilise
former Nazi members
as voters.

Thus starts the process of

„De-Nazification“

„De-Nazification“

Large numbers of about 600.000 former Nazi members are „de-nazified“ and reintegrated into the existing political parties.

The beginning Cold War created a favourable climate for „De-Nazification“.

Austrian State Treaty 1955

Austria declares its neutrality
the occupying forces of the

United Kingdom,
United States of America
Soviet Union
France

leave Austria

Federation of Independents (*Verband der Unabhängigen*, VdU)

first center-right, German nationalist political party
founded in 1949 in the
US Occupation Zone in Salzburg

in 1956 the party is re-organised as the
Austrian Freedom Party
(Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs, FPÖ)

Alois Reinthaler (1956-1958, former SS-member)
Friedrich Peter (1958-1986, former SS-member)

Former members of the Austrian Resistance and exiled Austrians

Ludwig Jedlicka
August Maria Knoll
Paul Schärf
Ludwig Soswinski
Herbert Steiner



DÖW : 1010 Wien, Wipplingerstrasse 6-8

Herbert Steiner (1923 - 2001)



Co-founder, historian
and first director of
DÖW 1963-1983.



Taras Borodajkewycz (1902 – 1984)

Nazi-historian in Prague 1942 – 1945

1946 „De-Nazification“

professor of history 1946-1966 at the
Higher School for World Trade in Vienna
(=Vienna University of Economics)

Ernst Kirchweger (1898 – 1965)



Killed by right wing students during anti-Borodajkewycz demonstarations.



„DÖW“ - profile

In the first decades the work was mainly carried out by idealistic volunteers, many of whom were former victims of Fascism. Professional, younger staff came only later.

The archive mainly documents:

Anti-fascist resistance and persecution

Exile

Nazi crimes, in particular the Holocaust,

Nazi concentration camps,

Nazi criminal medical policies

The justice system in the Nazi era

The prosecution of Nazi criminals in the postwar era

Right-wing extremism since 1945,

Holocaust denial

Restitution and compensation for victims of Nazism after 1945

Austrians as victims of Stalinist persecution

DÖW – Public Foundation 1983

DÖW – Foundation established by

Austrian Federal Government
(financial contribution)

City of Vienna
(financial contribution)

DÖW – Association
(legal owner of the collection)

DÖW – Public Foundation 1983

250.000 files

42.000 photographs

50.000 books

350 journals

4.000 political posters

250 documented right-wing organisations

300 works of art

Austrian Resistance

Communist resistance groups

Social Democrat resistance groups

Monarchist resistance groups

Catholic resistance groups

Military resistance

Slovenian partisans

Austrian volunteers in the allied armies

Jura Soyfer (1912 – 1939)



Russian born
Austrian
playright and
writer, killed in
Dachau.

Walter Kämpf (1920-1943)



Publisher of illegal underground journals, communist activist, executed 1943.

Maria Restituta Kafka (1894 -1943)



Nurse and nun,
sentenced to death
for distributing an
anti-Nazi poem.
Canonised 1998.

Irma Trksak (*1917)



Student, member of a Czech resistance group in Vienna, survivor of Ravensbrück concentration camp.

Karl Biedermann (1890 – 1945)



Member of the military resistance group who tried to prevent the bombardment of Vienna in April 1945, hanged during the last days of the war.

Slovenian partisans 1943 - 1945



Five battalions of Slovenian partisans from Carinthia and Styria were fighting against the German Army on the side of the Yugoslav People's Army led by Tito.

Austrian Jews



65.000 Austrian Jews were murdered by the Nazi-regime, thousands managed to flee abroad After the war, very few survivors returned permanently to their Austrian home towns. A datebase of most Austrian victims is available at the [DÖW-hompage](#).

Austrian Roma



The largest Nazi-camp for Roma was actually in Austria, in Lackenbach.

90 % of all Austrian Roma and Sinti were murdered during the Holocaust. The first academic book about the persecution and murder of Roma and Sinti by the Nazis was actually published by the DÖW in 1966.

Selma Steinmetz (1907 - 1978)



DÖW – librarian,
member of the French
and Austrian
resistance, who in
1966 published the
first monograph about
the Nazi persecution
of Sinti and Roma

Victims of Stalinist Persecution



Thousands of Austrians lived in the Soviet Union. After the outbreak of the war against the Soviet Union many of them were suspected of treason, deported to camps in the Gulag or murdered. A database of 780 Austrian victims of the Stalinist purges can be found on the DÖW-hompage

Franz Josef Huber (1902 - 1975)



Chief of the Gestapo Main Quarters of Vienna, directly responsible for the murder and torture of tens of thousands of victims, after 1941 responsible for the mass deportation of Austrian Jews to extermination camps, 1949 sentenced to one year imprisonment and a fine of 500 German Marks.

The Waldheim Affair 1985



Former Secretary General of the United Nations, Kurt Waldheim, was elected Austrian president in 1986. During his campaign it became clear, that he had been a high ranking officer in the German Wehrmacht on the Balkans, a fact about which he repeatedly made incorrect statements.

Jörg Haider (1950 - 2008)



Leader of the FPÖ 1986 - 1999, he became an outspoken opponent of the DÖW and its director Wolfgang Neugebauer, who repeatedly accused him of trivialising the Holocaust and dubbed Jörg Haider a right wing extremist.

Right Wing Extremisms Research



The DÖW has been documenting the activities of neo-Nazis and right wing extremists since the 1960 s and has published a handbook about political activists and groups in this political camp.

Austrian Historians Commission (1998 – 2003)



Re-evaluation of all property confiscations in the period 1938 -1945 and of all restitution and compensation procedures after World War II.



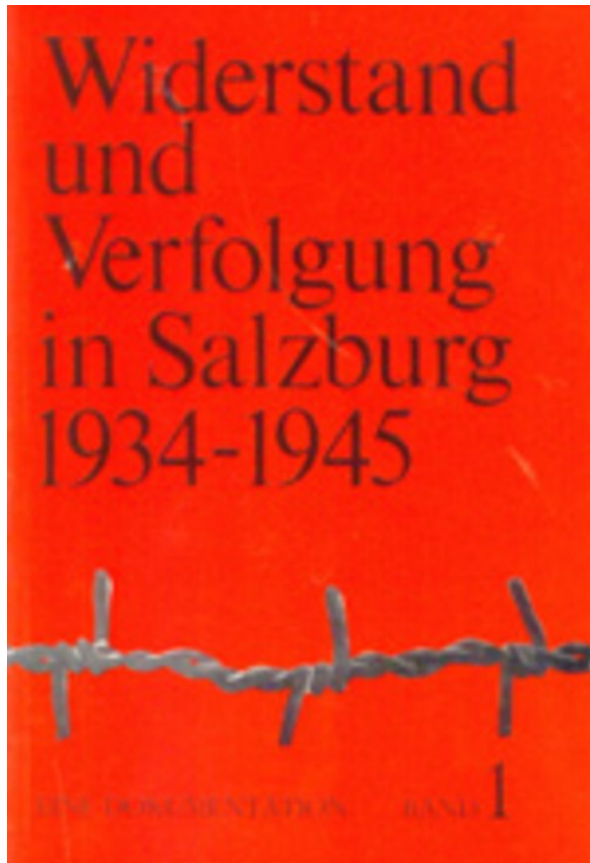
DÖW - data bases

The screenshot shows the homepage of the DÖW (Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes) website. At the top, there are navigation tabs: "ERINNERN", "ERFORSCHEN", and "ERKENNEN". Below these is a central banner with the heading "AKTUELL Opfer politischer Verfolgung 1938-1945" and the subtitle "Ergebnisse des Datenbankprojekts von DÖW und KvVI >>". The banner features a collage of black and white portraits of individuals. To the left of the banner is a vertical sidebar with various event listings, including "1938 Ausstellung", "März 1938 Flugblattsammlung", and "Gedankenkarte". Below the banner is a search section with two options: "Volltextsuche" (Full-text search) and "Opfersuche" (Victim search). The "Volltextsuche" section includes a search box and a "Suchen" button. The "Opfersuche" section includes input fields for "Vorname" (First name) and "Nachname" (Last name). On the right side of the page, there are two columns of text under the heading "Termine" (Events) and "Neues" (News). The "Termine" section lists several events, including "Erinnerungen - Lebensgeschichten von Überlebenden des Nationalsozialismus" and "Franz Pixner - ein vergessener Bildhauer". The "Neues" section includes "Rechtsextremismus in Österreich" and "Willy und Helga Verkauf-Verien Preise 2012 und 2013".

The DÖW has over the years created a unique name database concerning Austrian victims of Nazi-persecution, as well as of Austrian perpetrators. Several of these databases can be accessed via our homepage.

www.doew.at

DÖW publications



DÖW today



DÖW belongs to the five
MOST USED ARCHIVES
of Austria with

1.700 users per year

19 employees

8 conscientious objectors

35 interns

16 student guides

12 volunteers

Permanent DÖW Exhibitions



Exhibition on the Austrian Resistance at the site of the former Hotel Metropole

Exhibition of Austrian Resistance and persecution in the main building

Exhibition on child victims of Nazi medical experiments at the Otto Wager Hospital

Child Victims of Nazi Medical Experiments and Euthansia

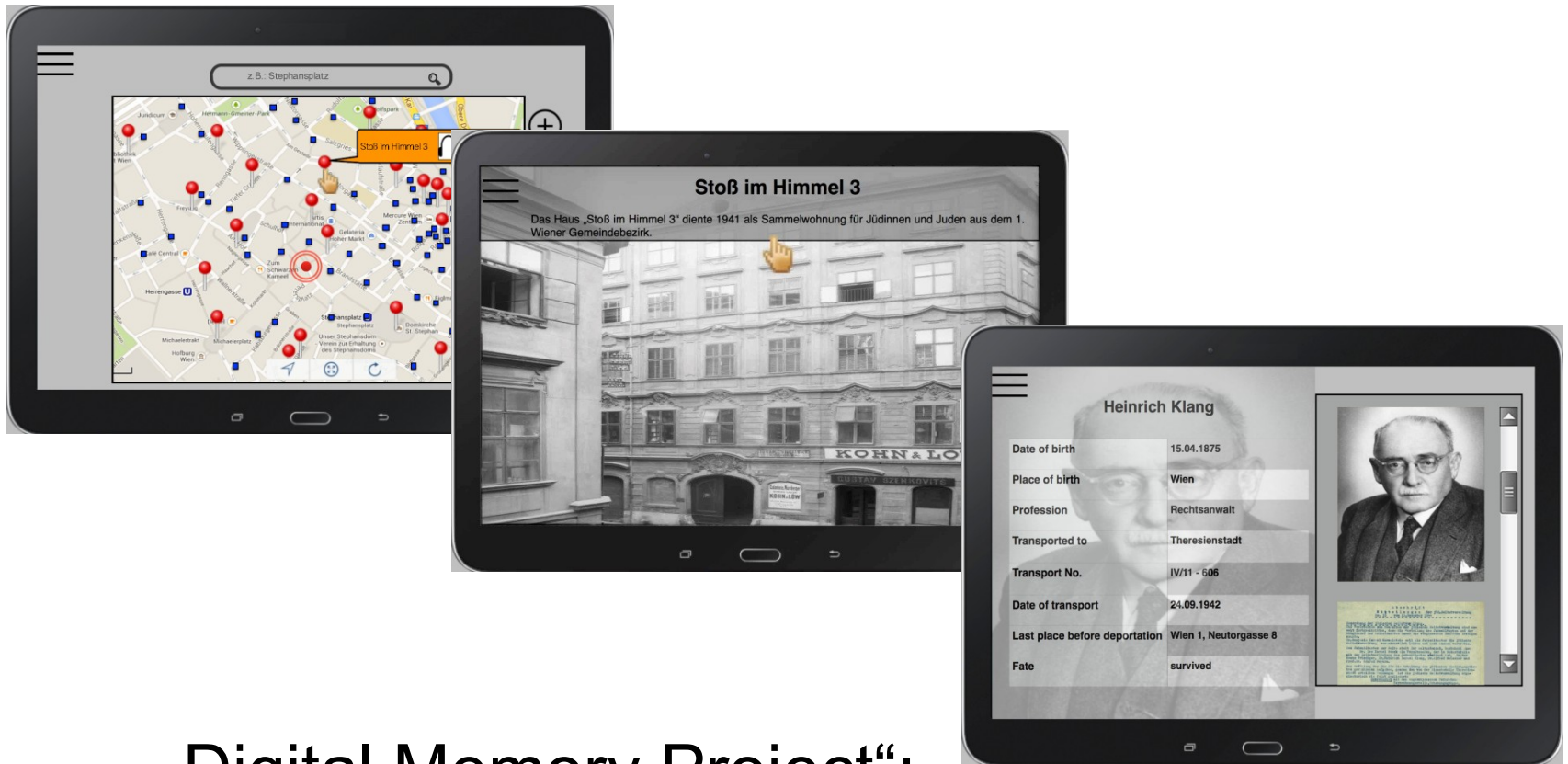


Between 1940 and 1945 over 800 handicapped or ill children died at the clinic „Am Steinhof“. In 2002 the remains of 600 children were put to rest in urns and an exhibition was installed to commemorate and document their fate.

Improvements and Problems

- Mauthausen
- VWI - Vienna Wiesenthal Institute
- Haus der Geschichte
- Haus der Geschichte Niederösterreichs
- erinnern.at

New Media - New Projects



„Digital Memory Project“:

App to make victim data accessible wherever you stand in the city!



Thank You!