

**GEDÄCHTNIS  
BUCH** FÜR DIE  
HÄFTLINGE  
DES KZ **DACHAU**



**Remembrance Book for the Prisoners of Dachau  
Concentration Camp**

„NAMES INSTEAD OF NUMBERS“  
exhibition

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## INTRODUCTION

The Remembrance Book project was founded in 1999 with the help of a number of local organizations and has collated over 130 biographies in its short history, all of which have been written by volunteers. In 2008 the Remembrance Book project officially launched an accompanying traveling exhibition, *Names Instead of Numbers*. This exhibition summarizes the stories of some, whose biographies are included in the book, so that a wider audience can benefit from the work of the project.

The exhibition has been shown in a multitude of settings, including, but not limited to: schools, museums, churches, colleges and universities, study and cultural centers, and town halls. The exhibition is utilized most effectively when institutions organize accompanying events, using the exhibition as a focus for their attention. Below are five pictorial examples of ways in which the exhibition has been displayed and used in five different settings, in four different countries and with different audiences in mind. In a European setting, where the events have immediacy due to their location, the exhibition has been used to bring home to young people the intimate, personal nature of history. In the United States and Canada, the exhibit has been used to enlighten the public and to advance the important work of Holocaust and World War II studies. As we hope the name of the exhibit illustrates, the numbers eventually begin to lose their meaning; the names are far harder to forget.

This is by no means an exhaustive list, and there are plenty of other examples, such as film screenings and talks by survivors, that can also accompany an exhibition. However, the illustrations should help to serve as inspiration. If you would like further support or ideas, please feel free to contact us at [info@gedaechtnisbuch.de](mailto:info@gedaechtnisbuch.de) with a time convenient for us to call, or call us directly on Wednesday mornings between 8:00am and 11:00am (US – Eastern Standard time) at 0049-8131-996 880.

## LECTURE SERIES

### *University of Nottingham, UK*

The exhibition was displayed for just over two months in the Djanogly Arts Gallery Building at the University of Nottingham, UK. German History and Politics are areas of expertise for a number of academics at Nottingham, and several were happy to present short lectures on the theme of remembrance. An official opening took place on November 11, 2009 (Veterans Day), during which a former volunteer with the Remembrance Book spoke about his experience with the project. Three further lectures were delivered to capacity audiences before the exhibition moved to Liverpool, UK in mid-January.

*“The exhibition was a complete success. We combined the exhibition with a lecture series for the general public that dealt with the themes ‘The Third Reich’ and ‘Working with the Past’...Feedback from the visitors was overwhelmingly positive.”*

– Prof. Magnus Brechtken, University of Nottingham



*Visitors view just some of the biographies included in the exhibition*

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION I

### *Klagenfurt, Austria*

Between the August 23 and September 28, 2008 the exhibition was displayed at the Johanneskirche in Klagenfurt, Southern Austria. During its month-long display, the exhibition was used as the basis for a number of educational projects aimed at different age groups. A worksheet was produced for school children that attempted to help them understand the connections between modern life and the past, asking such questions as “Who was alive in 1938 in your family?” and “Which groups of residents in Klagenfurt would have been persecuted?”

A workshop was facilitated by a German historian in which participants explored how Klagenfurt is connected to Dachau Concentration Camp, as well as the involvement of the Protestant Church in National Socialism. The primary aim of the project has always been to help people understand the human tragedy of the Nazi era, and in Europe there are still strong emotional ties to the past.





*Information on the establishment of the project, as well as two banners with background information to Dachau Concentration Camp. The topic aims to include young people as much as possible; at the moment there are groups of German high school students writing biographies for extra curricular credit.*



*Interior of Johanneskirche, Klagenfurt with some of the biography banners*

## COMMEMORATION AND REMEMBRANCE BOOK

### *Dachau, Germany*

The exhibition was first displayed in late March 2008 at the Protestant Church of Reconciliation, the Protestant Memorial to the victims of National Socialism at Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site. The original folios of the Remembrance Book are kept in the Church's Reading Room and are available for all visitors to view. They are compiled in many different languages, including German, English, Russian, Ukrainian and Polish.

Every year on the March 22<sup>nd</sup> – the anniversary of the first prisoners arriving at KZ Dachau in 1933 – there is a ceremony in which new entries are officially entered into the Remembrance Book. The event is normally attended by local dignitaries, as well as local survivors of concentration camps who continue to value the work of the project.

Exhibiting organizations are warmly encouraged to get involved in the project as producers of a biography. This is a fantastic way of allowing young people to better understand the complex history of the Nazi persecutions, and also to learn more about peoples' lives before and after their internment.



*Display in the Reading Room of the Protestant Church of Reconciliation, Concentration Camp Memorial Site Dachau. Banners shown include four full biographies, two biography summaries and a concluding banner on the concept of remembrance.*



## COMMUNITY EDUCATION II

### *Westerburg, Germany*

People were interned in Dachau Concentration Camp from all over Germany and Europe, and many communities were affected by their loss. The Remembrance Book project has proven a good opportunity for towns and villages to consider the lives of those in their community who were prisoners of the Nazis. In Westerburg, Germany, an entire town came together to commemorate the life of one of their citizens who died in Dachau Concentration Camp.

In this case the exhibition itself was by no means the focal point but a means of putting into context the life of Albert Wengenroth, a Social Democrat politician from the town who died of typhoid in Dachau in February 1945. The former town archivist decided to research and write Wengenroth's biography for the Remembrance Book. Approximately eighty people came to the official opening of the exhibition with Wengenroth's documents in September 2009, and during its two-week display, over one-thousand people came to learn of one of their citizen's fate.

Thousands of survivors of the Nazi persecutions emigrated to the United States and Canada in the post war years, and perhaps some survivors decided to settle in your area. We would be happy to support you if your organization would like to write a biography of a local survivor. Such biographies can be written as individuals or as a group, and all age groups are encouraged to take part. The exhibition, as clearly evinced in Westerburg's case, can be an important learning experience for the entire community.



*An image of Albert Wengenroth by a memorial erected to the victims of Nazi persecution*

*Documents collated from a number of archives were on display for visitors to see.*



*Ms. Maria Meurer, who wrote the biography and undertook the research, talking to visitors.*



*The exhibition received over a thousand visitors during its two-week display, a significant number for a town of just a few thousand people.*



## COMMUNITY EDUCATION III

### *New York State Military History Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY, USA*

The exhibition's debut in North America was conducted with overwhelming success at the New York State Military History Museum and Veterans Research Center in Saratoga Springs, NY. The museum displayed the exhibition for two weeks and did an excellent job advertising the event in local newspapers and in the news before and after the exhibition. Further, the museum invited members of the United States' Army's 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry "Rainbow" Division, liberators of the Dachau Concentration Camp, to share their stories with the public on April 29, 2011, the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the camp. From there, the exhibit was successfully displayed in multiple other sites in the United States and is now touring in Canada.



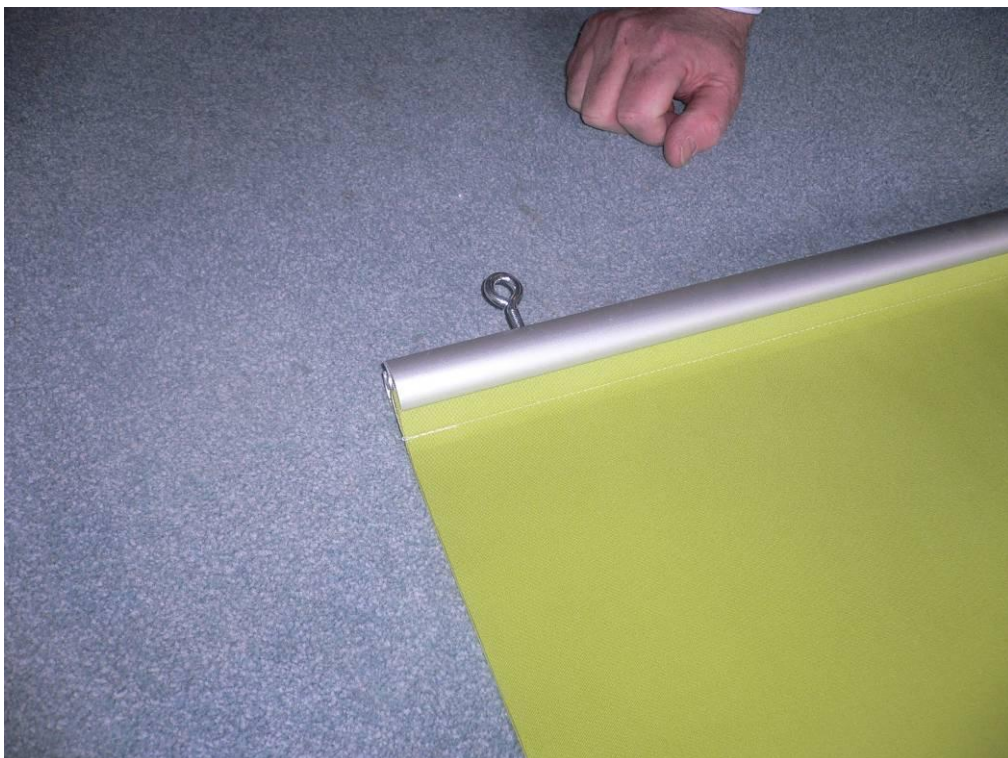
*The exhibition nicely displayed at the NYS Military History Museum.*

*WWII Rainbower Richard Marowitz tells his Rainbow story at the April 29 Dachau event hosted by the NYS Military History Museum*



## THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition is made up of lightweight synthetic banners, which are designed to hang down. Each banner comes with two hooks and two aluminium bars. The exhibition is light enough to be hung with simple yarn or twine.







*The exhibition can be hung in a number of ingenious ways. This example from Gießen, Germany, demonstrates one way of displaying the exhibition without hanging from the wall. Two banners have been tied to each other by their hooks and hung over a display board.*

## REMEMBRANCE BOOK SPONSORING BODY

### **Publisher of the International Traveling exhibition on behalf of the Remembrance Book Sponsoring Body:**

Dachauer Forum - Katholische Erwachsenenbildung e.V.  
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Representative, Board of Directors: Anton Jais

### **Sponsoring Body**

Dachauer Forum  
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Evangelische Versöhnungskirche in der  
KZ-Gedenkstätte Dachau



Förderverein für Internationale Ju-  
gendbegegnung und  
Gedenkstättenarbeit in Dachau e.V.



Katholische Seelsorge an der KZ-  
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## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- “Citizens Cultural Award 2010 of the Bavarian State Parliament”



- Winner of “Examples of Innovation” Award by “Land of Ideas 2010” Project, supported by the German Government



- “Active for Democracy and Tolerance” Award 2008



*Mrs Sabine Gerhardus, Remembrance Book Project Coordinator, receiving the Citizens Cultural Award at the Bavarian Parliament on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2010*