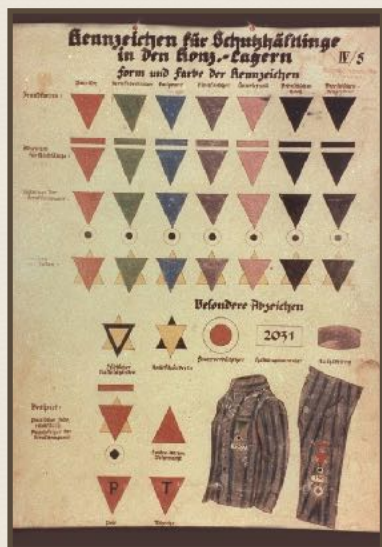


A chart of prisoner markings used in German concentration camps. Dachau, Germany, ca. 1938–1942.

Beginning in 1937–1938, the SS created a system of marking prisoners in concentration camps. Sewn onto uniforms, the color-coded badges identified the reason for an individual's incarceration, with some variation among camps. The Nazis used this chart illustrating prisoner markings in the Dachau concentration camp.

Jews incarcerated in camps were marked with two yellow triangles forming a Star of David. Made of fabric, these were sewn onto camp clothing. Other categories of prisoners were identified by the red triangle (political prisoners), green (criminals), black (asocials), brown (Sinti-Roma, originally black), pink (homosexuals), among others.



Deportations of Jews from the Netherlands to German-occupied Poland and Germany began on June 15, 1942 and ended on September 13, 1944. Ultimately some 101,000 Jews were deported in 98 transports from Westerbork to Auschwitz (57,800; 65 transports), Sobibor (34,313; 19 transports), Bergen-Belsen (3,724; 8 transports) and Theresienstadt (4,466; 6 transports), where most of them were murdered, according to <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/the-netherlands>.

Johann Baptist Albin Rauter (1895–1949) was a high-ranking Austrian-born SS (Schutzstaffel, or Protection Squads) functionary and war criminal during the Nazi era, according to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanns_Albin_Rauter. He was the highest SS and Police Leader in the occupied Netherlands and therefore the leading security and police officer there during the period of 1940–1945.

Rauter sent progress letters to Himmler informing him that "In all of Holland some 120,000 Jews are being readied for departure. These "departures" that Rauter spoke of were the deportations of Dutch Jews to concentration and extermination camps.

The de Levie family, like most Jewish people in the Netherlands, were force into concentration and extermination camps in Poland, including the Jewish girl who was born in Shakopee.

Simon de Levie, Sophia's youngest brother, died on September 30, 1942 at Auschwitz Concentration Camp. Sophia de Levie died on January 21, 1943 at age 23 years old. She died at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp in Oświęcim, Powiat oświęcimski, Małopolskie, Poland. On the same day, her older brother, who was born in Iowa, David de Levie, died at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

Sophia's father, Samuel Benjamin de Levie, died at the Sobibór Concentration Camp on May 28, 1943 in Sobibór, Lubelskie, Poland. Sophia's sister, Helena Lena de Levie, died on June 4, 1943 at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, and another sister, Ettie, or Stella, died there on June 4, 1943. And the final sister, Mary, who was born in Iowa, died on January 28, 1944, also at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp in Oświęcim, Powiat oświęcimski, Małopolskie, Poland.

And so Samuel Benjamin de Levie, and his six children all died in the Holocaust, including the one child who was born in Shakopee, Minnesota, Sophia de Levie.



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Sophia de Levie 1919-1943



The Auschwitz camp complex was essential to carrying out the Nazi plan for the Final Solution, according to <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/auschwitz>. Auschwitz left its mark as one of the most infamous camps of the Holocaust. Located in German-occupied Poland, Auschwitz consisted of three camps including a killing center. More than 1.1 million people died at Auschwitz, including nearly one million Jews.

Sophia and her three sisters and two brothers all died at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp.



On left is the view of the Sobibor camp gate in the spring of 1943. Jews deported to the Sobibor killing center were driven through the gate into the camp on foot, by truck or horse-drawn cart. The train track led through a separate entrance to the right onto the site. Pine branches were braided into the fence to make it difficult to see in from the outside. *US Holocaust Memorial Museum collection, gift of Bildungswerk Stanislaw-Hant.* Sophia's father, Benjamin de Levie was killed at the Sobibor Concentration Camp in Sobibór, Powiat włodawski, Lubelskie, Poland.

Sophia de Levie was born on May 17, 1919 in Shakopee, Minnesota.

Sophia's father was Samuel Benjamin de Levie (1879-1943) and her mother was Frouwkje Frieda Simons de Levie (1883-1957.)

Sophia de Levie's grandfather was Nochum de Levie (1841-1891); her great grandfather was Benjamin Nochums de Levi (1810-1889); Sophia's great great grandfather was Nochem Benjamins de Levie (1780-1836); her great great great grandfather was Benjamins Heiman de Levie (1744-1828); and Sophia's great great great great grandfather was Heiman Meyer Heinemann de Levie (1703-1782.)

Sophia de Levie's parents, Samuel and Frieda lived in Oude Pekela, Pekela Municipality, Gröningen, Netherlands. Gröningen is the northeasternmost province of the Netherlands. It borders on Friesland to the west, Drenthe to the south, the German state of Lower Saxony to the east, and the Wadden Sea to the north. It was a farming area.

After Samuel and Frieda married on March 2, 1904 in Sappemeer, Hoogezand-Sappemeer, Groningen, Netherlands, they moved to Oude Pekela, Pekela Municipality, Gröningen, Netherlands. Gröningen, where their first two girls, Ettie, or Stella, and Helena Lena de Levie were born. Then their first son, Nathan, was born on May 21, 1909, but died on December 30, 1909.

Two years later, Samuel and Frieda, along with Stella and Lena, moved to America.

The family moved to Marion Township, in Linn County, Iowa. The U.S. Census said that the area was agricultural, just like the area in Gröningen, the Netherlands, with about 725 people there. During the time in Iowa, Samuel and Frieda had two more children, Mary, who was born on December 1, 1913, and David, who was born on October 27, 1915.

Not long after, the family moved to Shakopee, Minnesota. And on May 17, 1919, Sophie de Levie was born. The U.S. Census for Shakopee, Minnesota in 1920, which had 1,988 people, lists the family, including Benjamin, Sophie's father, was 40 years old and a livestock broker; Frieda, his wife, who was 37 years old; Stella, who was 13; Lena, who was 11 years old, and both born in the Netherlands, and Mary, age 6, who was born in Iowa, and David, age 3 years old, who also was born in Iowa. And finally, the U.S. Census noted Sophia de Levie, who was 8 months old, and who was born in Shakopee. The family was Jewish.

About a year later, the family moved back to the Netherlands. Maybe the family missed the relatives who lived there. Or maybe they found that the United States was not that welcoming for them. Or it could be many other reasons. But it was clear that on May 11, 1921, a son, Simon de Levie, was born in Hoogeveen, Hoogeveen, Drenthe, Netherlands.

The family lived in the Netherlands without many

problems until Adolf Hitler (1889- 1945) an Austrian-born German politician rose to power as the leader of the Nazi Party, where he became the Führer in 1934. During his dictatorship, he initiated World War II in Europe by invading Poland on 1939. He was closely involved in military operations throughout the war and was central to the perpetration of the Holocaust: the genocide of about six million Jews and millions of other victims. The Netherlands entered World War II on May 10, 1940, when invading German forces quickly overran the country.

After the German occupation of the Netherlands in 1940, it became a transit camp for Jews who were being deported to the Nazi concentration camps in Middle and Eastern Europe, and later to extermination camps.

The Holocaust in the Netherlands was part of the European-wide Holocaust organized by Nazi Germany and took place in the German-occupied Netherlands. In 1939, there were some 140,000 Dutch Jews living in the Netherlands, among them some 24,000 to 25,000 German-Jewish refugees who had fled from Germany in the 1930s. Some 75% of the Dutch-Jewish population was murdered in the Holocaust, according to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Holocaust_in_the_Netherlands.

Deportations of Jews from the Netherlands to German-occupied Poland and Germany began on June 15, 1942 and ended on September 13, 1944. Ultimately some 101,000 Jews were deported in 98 transports from Westerbork to Auschwitz (57,800; 65 transports), Sobibor (34,313; 19 transports), Bergen-Belsen (3,724; 8 transports) and Theresienstadt (4,466; 6 transports), where most of them were murdered, according to <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/the-netherlands>.