

Historical Analysis: Packet #6

In *Unspoken*, Noam and Jonah undertake historical research to solve the mystery surrounding the early life of Heinrich, Noam's grandfather. Now, you'll get to use your historian skills to analyze documents and then present your findings to your colleagues.

Your theme is the **memorialization of the Nazis' LGBTQ+ victims**. Below you'll find photographs of multiple memorials for your review.

As a first step, watch "[Pink Triangle Memories](#)" as preliminary research to gather background information. Then, together with your partner or small group, analyze the memorial photographs by answering the discussion questions. You'll then present your findings to your class.

Pink Triangle

Buttons and Flyers

Discussion Questions for Source Analysis:

1. What do you think the design of each of the memorials is meant to provoke in visitors?
2. Are there any trends across the different memorials? What can we learn from some of the similarities and differences of the memorials?
3. What can visitors learn from the inscriptions on each of the memorials? According to the inscriptions, who were the victims?
4. Is there anything we can learn or deduce from *when* these memorials were dedicated?
5. Who dedicated each of these memorials? What can that teach us?
6. Which is your favorite? Why?



Location:

Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site (Dachau, Germany)

Date Dedicated:

First applied to dedicate it in 1985; denied until 1995

Inscription:

Beaten to Death, Silenced to Death. To the homosexual victims of Nazism. From the Munich Homosexual Initiative, 1985



Location:

Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial Site (Hamburg, Germany)

Date Dedicated:

1985

Inscription:

To the homosexual victims of Nazism 1985



Location:

Nollendorf Plaza (Berlin, Germany)

Date Dedicated:

1989

Inscription:

Beaten to Death, Silenced to Death.
To the homosexual victims of Nazism.

Plaque:

The “pink triangle” was the symbol with which the Nazis degradingly labeled the homosexuals in the concentration camps.

Beginning in January 1933, almost all of the homosexual bars located around Nollendorf Plaza were closed down by the Nazis or raided to create “pink lists,” (homosexual files).



Location:

Frankfurt, Germany

Date Dedicated:

1994

Inscription:

Homosexual men and women were persecuted and murdered during the Nazi regime. These crimes were later denied and the dead were silenced. The survivors were despised and condemned. We remember so that we can always be aware that men who love men and women who love women can be persecuted again.

- Frankfurt, December 1994



Location:

Government District. Berlin, Germany

Date Dedicated:

2008

Inscription:

There is no inscription on the monument itself, but a nearby sign has extensive text (in German and English) on the history of the Nazi persecution of gay men and lesbians.



Within the window in the memorial, a continuous video loop shows two men kissing. Every two years, the video is swapped to one that shows two women kissing.



The memorial to gay victims is located across the street from Germany's national memorial to the Jews murdered during the Holocaust (pictured left).



Location:

Ravensbrück Concentration Camp Memorial Site (outside Berlin, Germany)

Date Dedicated:

Temporarily since 2015; permanently placed in 2022

Inscription:

In memory for all lesbian women & girls in the women's concentration camp Ravensbrück & Uckermark. Lesbian women were considered "abnormal" and were persecuted and murdered for being "antisocial," rebellious, crazy, & for other reasons.



Report Out

After analyzing evidence, historians must communicate their findings. You'll do so in two ways:

First, with your partner or small group, write up a brief paragraph describing the memorials. Then read or present your paragraph to your classmates. As you're writing your paragraph, think about: what do you want your classmates to know about these memorials specifically, and what overall lessons did you learn that you would like to teach your classmates?

Second, communicating your findings can be tricky, especially when there are gaps in the information. Documents rarely tell us a complete story. Write a few sentences identifying what information you would like to know but that these items don't tell you. How might you find that information? Where would you look?