

Survivors

Overcoming a brutal existence and starting a new life

*"I believe in the sun, even when it does not shine.
I believe in love, even when it is not shown.
I believe in God, even when he does not speak."*

Inscribed on a wall by a Holocaust victim.

It is estimated that **6 million Jews** from throughout Europe **died in the Nazi Holocaust** from 1933 to 1945.

A total of almost 12 million people were murdered by the Nazis. This would equal almost 3 times the current population of South Carolina.



In spite of the brutal, systematic policies of the Nazis, some victims of this persecution survived. Estimates of between **75,000** and **100,000** Jewish prisoners survived inside the concentration camps, liberated by the Western Allies in the spring of 1945. Another 25,000 survived by hiding from Nazi police in the forests and basements across the continent.



Map of Europe indicating the number of Jewish deaths.

There is no way to establish an accurate figure for the total number of Jews murdered in the Holocaust. The Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal in 1945, estimated that 5,700,000 Jews had been killed by Nazis, representing two-thirds of the pre-war European Jewish population.

Sketch of children who survived Dachau.



Despite all they had witnessed and endured, the survivors of the Holocaust rebuilt their lives to reach new heights of accomplishment in different parts of the world. After months, sometimes years, in displacement camps, most emigrated from Europe; some to the newly formed state of Israel (1948), while others left to start new lives in North America, South America and Australia.

Thousands of survivors found their way to the United States, and at least 87 made their new homes in South Carolina. Many became productive members of society in many different professions, and served as leaders of their new communities.

Sketch of liberated men who survived Dachau.

