

HENRY WERMUTH

- EASY TO READ LIFE STORY



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

Key words



Jews: People who follow the religion of Judaism.

The Nazi party: The group who were in power in Germany from 1933 – 1945, led by Adolf Hitler.

Star of David: A six-pointed star, which is a symbol of Judaism



Death camp: Places specifically designed by the Nazis with equipment to kill large numbers of people.

Auschwitz-Birkenau: The largest Nazi death camp.

The Holocaust: The attempt by the Nazis to kill all the Jews in Europe.

Henry Wermuth was born in 1923 in Germany. He lived with his parents, Bernhard and Ida and sister, Hanna. Henry and his family were **Jews**. Henry was proud to be German.

In 1933, **the Nazi party** came to power in Germany, led by a man called Adolf Hitler. Soldiers marched through the streets singing about killing Jews. Henry could not believe his country had voted for these people.

One night, Henry's family were woken up by the Nazis. They were forced to leave their home and sent by train back to Poland, where Henry's parents were from.

In 1939 the Nazis started World War Two by invading Poland. They forced Jewish people to wear a white armband with a blue **Star of David** and to clear streets of snow and ice.

The family heard rumours that the Nazis were killing Jewish people. Henry used cardboard to make a hiding place for Ida and Hanna in a tiny loft room.

Henry and Bernhard were forced to go and work for the Nazis. They were worried soldiers would come and take away all the Jewish people. Just before they left, Henry said to his mother: 'Promise me you will go into the secret place'.

A week later, Henry and Bernhard returned home and found photographs of Ida and Hanna in the hiding place. On the back of each picture was a goodbye message.

The Nazis had taken Ida and Hanna, along with all the Jewish people in the town, to a **death camp**, where they were murdered.

In 1942, Henry heard rumours that Hitler would be travelling by train near where he was working. Even though it was very dangerous, Henry felt he had to do something.

Henry made his way through the forest to the railway line, avoiding the guards. He blocked the train track with stones and large pieces of wood.

The following morning, Henry waited for the sound of a crash, but it never came. He never found out what had happened.

Soon after, Henry and Bernhard were sent to a series of Nazi camps, ending up at **Auschwitz-Birkenau**. It was hard to stay alive in Auschwitz. They were given tiny amounts of bread and thin soup. People were starving to death.

In January 1945 the soldiers took all the prisoners out of Auschwitz. Henry and Bernhard were moved from camp to camp.

One morning, the man in charge of their group hit Bernhard in the head and he died. It was 11 days before the war ended.

The Nazis killed Bernhard, Hanna and Ida, as part of **the Holocaust**. By the end of the war, they had killed six million Jews.

When Henry was finally rescued from the Nazis, he was very sick. He had to try and rebuild his life with no friends or family.

Henry came to Britain. He became a successful businessman, married, and had a family.

In 1995 he was awarded a medal for his attempt to kill Hitler. He has written a book about his life.

Find out more...

The Holocaust: hmd.org.uk/holocaust

Other resources for educators: hmd.org.uk/educators

HENRY WERMUTH - HANES BYWYD HAWDD I'W DDARLLEN



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH
DIWRNOD COFIO'R
HOLOCOST

Geiriau allweddol



Iddewon: Pobl sy'n dilyn crefydd Iddewiaeth.

Y Blaid Natsïaidd: Y grŵp a oedd mewn grym yn yr Almaen o 1933 – 1945, dan arweiniad Adolf Hitler.

Seren Dafydd: Seren chwe phwynt sy'n symbol o Iddewiaeth



Gwersyll lladd: Lleoedd a gafodd eu creu'n arbennig gan y Natsïaid gydag offer i ladd llawer iawn o bobl.

Auschwitz-Birkenau: Gwersyll lladd mwyaf y Natsïaid.

Yr Holocost: Ymgais y Natsïaid i ladd pob Iddew yn Ewrop.

Ganwyd Henry Wermuth ym 1923 yn yr Almaen. Roedd yn byw gyda'i rieni, Bernhard ac Ida, a'i chwaer, Hanna. Roedd Henry a'i deulu'n **Iddewon**. Roedd Henry'n Almaenwr balch.

Ym 1933, daeth **y blaid Natsïaidd** i rym yn yr Almaen, dan arweiniad dyn o'r enw Adolf Hitler. Byddai milwyr yn gorymdeithio ar hyd y strydoedd yn canu am lofruddio Iddewon. Doedd Henry ddim yn gallu credu bod ei wlad wedi pleidleisio i'r bobl hyn.

Un noson, cafodd teulu Henry eu dihuno gan y Natsïaid. Fe gawson nhw eu gorfodi i adael eu cartref a'u hanfon ar y trê'n yn ôl i Wlad Pwyl, o lle'r oedd rhieni Henry yn hanu.

Ym 1939 dechreuodd y Natsïaid yr Ail Ryfel Byd drwy ymosod ar Wlad Pwyl. Fe orfodon nhw Iddewon i wisgo band gwyn gyda **Seren Dafydd** las arni ar eu braich a chlirio eira ac iâ oddi ar y strydoedd.

Clywodd y teulu sôn fod y Natsïaid yn lladd Iddewon. Defnyddiodd Henry gardbord i wneud cuddfan fach ar gyfer Ida a Hanna mewn ystafell fach fach yn y llofft.

Cafodd Henry a Bernhard eu gorfodi i weithio i'r Natsïaid. Roedden nhw'n poeni y byddai'r milwyr yn dod ac yn mynd â'r Iddewon i gyd. Wrth iddyn nhw adael, dywedodd Henry wrth ei fam am addo mynd i'r man cuddio.

Wythnos yn ddiweddarach, dychwelodd Henry a Bernhard adref a dod o hyd i ffotograffau o Ida a Hanna yn y man cuddio. Ar gefn pob llun roedd neges ffarwel.

Roedd y Natsïaid wedi mynd ag Ida a Hanna, ynghyd â holl Iddewon y dref, i **wersyll lladd**, lle cawsant eu llofruddio.

Ym 1942, clywodd Henry sïon y byddai Hitler yn teithio ar drên yn agos i'r man lle'r oedd yn gweithio. Er gwaetha'r perygl enbyd, roedd Henry'n teimlo bod rhaid iddo wneud rhywbeth.

Aeth Henry drwy'r goedwig at y rheilffordd, gan osgoi'r gardiau. Defnyddiodd gerrig a darnau mawr o bren i rwystro'r lein.

Drannoeth, arhosodd Henry am sŵn y trên yn taro'r rhwystr ond yn ofer. Ddaeth e byth i wybod beth ddigwyddodd.

Yn fuan wedyn, cafodd Henry a Bernhard eu hanfon i sawl un o wersylloedd y Natsïaid, gan gyrraedd **Auschwitz-Birkenau** yn y diwedd. Roedd hi'n anodd aros yn fyw yn Auschwitz. Roedden nhw'n cael darnau bach iawn o fara a chawl dyfrllyd. Roedd pobl yn marw o newyn.

Ym mis Ionawr 1945, aeth y milwyr â'r carcharorion i gyd allan o Auschwitz. Cafodd Henry a Bernhard eu symud o un gwersyll i'r llall.

Un bore, fe wnaeth y dyn a oedd yn gyfrifol am eu grŵp daro Bernhard ar ei ben a bu farw. Digwyddodd hyn 11 diwrnod cyn i'r rhyfel ddod i ben.

Fe laddodd y Natsïaid Bernhard, Hanna ac Ida, fel rhan o'r **Holocaust**. Erbyn diwedd y rhyfel, roedden nhw wedi lladd chwe miliwn o Iddewon.

Pan gafodd Henry ei achub o ddwylo'r Natsïaid yn y pen draw, roedd e'n sâl iawn. Roedd rhaid iddo ddechrau ei fywyd o'r newydd heb ffrindiau na theulu.

Daeth Henry i Brydain. Daeth yn ddyn busnes llwyddiannus, priodi, a chael teulu.

Ym 1995, cyflwynwyd medal iddo am ei ymgais i ladd Hitler. Mae wedi ysgrifennu llyfr am ei fywyd.

Am fwy o wybodaeth...

Yr Holocaust: hmd.org.uk/holocaust

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Dysgu gwersi o'r gorffennol er mwyn creu dyfodol gwell a mwy Diogel