

Dear colleagues,

we welcome you to the new newsletter of the project *#LastSeen. Pictures of Nazi deportations.*

## Pictures

### Siegburg

From 1939 onwards, the Jews of Siegburg were forced to live in the nearby camp in Much or in a forced residence at Brandstraße 42/44. From there, they were deported in three transports between June 14 and July 27, 1942, under the direction of the Cologne Gestapo.

The second transport took place on July 19, 1942, and was announced to the responsible district administrator five days in advance. At 8 a.m., 23 Siegburg residents were taken by truck from Brandstraße to the exhibition halls in Cologne-Deutz, which were used as an assembly camp. People from the Much camp and other locations were also deported on this transport to Cologne. From the exhibition halls, the Siegburg residents were deported together with other Jews from the Cologne administrative district on transport DA 219 to Minsk, where they were murdered.

On behalf of the head of the city archives, criminal secretary Franz Schneider took at least thirteen photos of the deportation of the Jews, which are preserved as original prints in 6.5 x 9.5 format in the city archives.



Photo Franz Schneider, Siegburg, July 19, 1942, courtesy of the Siegburg City Archives

One picture is of particular interest. It is the fourth photo in the series and shows a man leaning slightly over a suitcase with a bottle in his left hand – an ink bottle. Since dark letters can be seen on the suitcase, the man is probably marking it. Perhaps he is writing his name or the transport number - DA 219. In our digital image atlas, in collections and exhibitions, you can see many suitcases marked in this way, but never the moment of painting itself.



We would like to thank Jan Gerull and Jenny Ley from the Siegburg City Archives for their help in cataloguing the collection.

Open Image

# Alfred Gottwaldt - A Tribute

Alfred Gottwaldt died 10 years ago, on August 16, 2015. Through decades of careful work, the historian (and lawyer) significantly expanded our knowledge of the deportations and shaped our understanding of them.

His “annotated chronology” *Die ‘Judendeportationen’ aus dem Deutschen Reich 1941-1945* (The Deportations of Jews from the German Reich 1941-1945), co-authored with Diana Schulle and published by Marix-Verlag in Wiesbaden in 2005, is a regular starting point for our research when we compile image series for our picture atlas.

Gottwaldt also contributed to exhibition history. During the construction of the German Museum of Technology in Berlin between 1983 and 1987, the railway expert integrated the topic of the Holocaust and the decisive role of the German Reichsbahn in its logistics - the first museum ever to do so. He chose a closed freight car as a symbolic object, which was later adapted worldwide, for example by Yad Vashem in 1995. Gottwaldt was associated with the Jerusalem memorial as a consultant.

Today, the Museum of Technology is considering revising the exhibition, which would certainly have been in line with Gottwaldt's thinking. This is because the photos of deportations from the German Reich that we have collected and annotated in the #LastSeen picture atlas show almost exclusively third-class passenger cars - and thus also a deportation process that took place more clearly in the public eye than one would associate with a freight car.

Christoph Kreutzmüller & Lars Quadejacob



Picture: Christoph Kreutzmüller

## To come

### Online event series

Our fourth digital event series **starts in November** and will take place **every Monday at 4 p.m.** This time, we will focus on images beyond the context of the Holocaust. The series will center on the themes of power, violence, and war – and the question of how they shape photography and pictures.

Agata Pietrasik will kick off the series on **Monday, November 3**, with her lecture **“Dilemmas of Exhibiting: Displaying Atrocity Photography in the Early Postwar Period”** (in English).

We look forward to your participation!

[Register here](#)

We wish you a wonderful start to autumn!



**#LastSeen. Bilder der NS-  
Deportationen**

c/o Selma Stern Zentrum  
Habelschwerdter Allee 34A  
14195 Berlin

[lastseen@zedat.fu-berlin.de](mailto:lastseen@zedat.fu-berlin.de)

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