

Dear readers and colleagues,

We are pleased to welcome you to the final newsletter of the project *#LastSeen. Images of Nazi Deportations* this year.

WissKom Award

#LastSeen has been honored with the WissKom Award 2025. The prize is jointly awarded by the communications associations BdKom, DPRG, GPRA, and BV_HKOM and recognizes outstanding science communication in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

The jury particularly highlighted the project's innovative approach, which enables people from diverse backgrounds to engage in research themselves. They also emphasized how LastSeen "allows historical sources to speak for themselves," opening up new ways of accessing the history of Nazi deportations. Project director Dr. Alina Bothe underscored the importance of knowledge transfer and the public accessibility of historical research in a democratic society.



The jury of the 2025 WissKom Award together with Dr. Alina Bothe and Dr. Christoph Kreutzmüller, as well as Annika Middeldorf and Constanze Kaul from the FU communications team.

Image credit: Photo by Phil Dera for DIE ZEIT

Looking Back

Hamburg

On 25 October 1941, more than 1,000 Jewish men, women, and children were deported from Hamburg to the Litzmannstadt Ghetto. Until recently, no images of this deportation were known. In October 2025, LastSeen published three photographs of the deportation in the image atlas. They had previously been catalogued at the USHMM as photos of victims of Allied air raids. After an intensive validation process involving numerous colleagues, this interpretation could be refuted.

The discovery attracted significant media attention. To mark the 84th anniversary of the deportation, Alina Bothe, together with her cooperation partners Kristina Vagt and Johanna Schmied from the Foundation of Hamburg Memorials and Learning Centres, as well as historian and former Chief of Police Wolfgang Kopitzsch, presented the photographs on 4 November in Hamburg. The images are on view at the Stadthaus History Site in Hamburg until 6 January 2026 and are also available digitally in the image atlas.

[Open Images](#)

Online Event Series

Our digital lecture series on power, violence, and war concluded on 24 November with Anette Vowinckel's talk *Depicting War: Photographers and Photographs of the U.S. Army Signal Corps (1941–1945)*. Each event was joined by about 40 participants – an impressive indicator of the strong interest in our topics.

The series offered a wide-ranging perspective: from the first exhibitions on Nazi occupation in Europe, to the photographic work of Gerda Taro, to practices of colonial visual history, and finally to the remarkable work of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, whose more than 700 photographers produced over half a million images.

Follow our updates to stay informed about the next series!

Workshop in Kaunas

In November, LastSeen co-organized the international workshop *“Aspects of the Holocaust in Visual History: Visual History of Jewish Life and the Holocaust in Eastern Europe.”*

The event was hosted by the Fort IX Memorial in Kaunas and the Lithuanian branch of the German Historical Institute Warsaw. Among the speakers were researchers, memorial site staff, and relatives of

deported individuals, who shared their personal perspectives with the audience. Representing LastSeen, Alina Bothe opened the workshop with a talk about the project and key insights from our research to date. In her presentation, Lisa Paduch discussed the interconnected deportation photographs from East Westphalia to Riga, whose dates of origin will mark their anniversary in the coming days. The well-known [photo series documenting the deportation from Munich to Kaunas](#) was presented by former project member Malte Grünkorn (University of Flensburg).

Thanks to the carefully curated program, the two workshop days fostered lively and inspiring exchange.



Alina Bothe during her online lecture in Kaunas. Photo: Lisa Paduch.

Workshops and Lectures

In recent weeks, project director Alina Bothe had the opportunity to present LastSeen in various lectures: at a workshop organized by Dieter Pohl, Anna Schober, and Alexandra Pulvermacher at the University of Klagenfurt; during the presentation of the Hamburg deportation photographs at the Stadthaus History Site in Hamburg; at a conference hosted by the Braunschweig City Archive; digitally in Kaunas; as part of a roundtable organized by the Holocaust Education Foundation; and within the accompanying program of an exhibition at the Bielefeld City Archive.

Images

There are three separate photo series documenting the first large-scale deportation of Jewish people from East Westphalia. They were taken between 10 and 13 December 1941 in [Coesfeld](#), [Stadtlohn](#), and [Bielefeld](#), and show different stages of the deportation process – from the gathering of people in their hometowns, through their fatal confinement in the collection camps, to their final transport on trains of the Deutsche Reichsbahn. Remarkably, in both Coesfeld and Stadtlohn, the deportees were forced to pose for group photographs – of those depicted, only one person from each town survived the Holocaust.

To come

Exhibition Opening

Festgehalten. Verschleppt aus Deutschland 1938-1945 (Documented. Deported from Germany 1938-1945) – the new, compact, multi-modal travelling exhibition by LastSeen will premiere in **Munich on 19 January 2026**. Further information will be provided shortly. Additional venues are planned thereafter. If you are interested, please feel free to contact us.

We wish you a joyful and relaxing holiday season and a happy start to 2026!

The #LastSeen Team

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