

This week in Holocaust History May 31 - June 6

1933

June 1, 1933

Germany's Law for the Encouragement of Marriage took effect, providing for 1000 Reichsmarks to be loaned, interest free, to all German Aryan newlyweds, on condition that the wife quit employment or remain unemployed. After encouraging women to vacate jobs in favor of men, the law was amended to encourage the growth of the Aryan population, with the debt to be reduced 25% each time a child was born. In the first four years of the program, 700,000 couples took out the loans

June 2, 1933

Bernhard Rust, Minister of Science, Art, and Education for Prussia, ordered that Jews be banned from youth, welfare and gymnastic organizations and that they be denied access to athletic facilities. At the start of 1933, there had been 40,000 German Jews in sports clubs, including 250 Jewish sports organizations. By 1935, there were none.

1934

June 4, 1934

Mobs in Germany smashed the windows of the American-owned Woolworth department stores in reprisal for American boycotting of German goods. The Hitlerites believed that the Woolworth brothers were Jewish. Yet, they were in fact, Methodist.

1936

June 4, 1936

In Mińsk Mazowiecki, Poland, a total of 50 Jews were reported wounded after several days of antisemitic rioting. The violence stemmed from an alleged incident on May 31 when a Jew reportedly killed a Polish sergeant in a drunken brawl. A synagogue and many Jewish homes and shops were set ablaze during the riots.

1938

June 3, 1938

The Nazis pass a law legalizing art robbery of "Entartete Art" (Degenerate Art), which set the stage for many Jews to be robbed of their art collections.

1939

June 2, 1939

Refused permission to disembark its passengers, the MS *St. Louis* left Havana, eventually to return to Europe.

1940

June 6, 1940

A memorandum created in the German Foreign Office proposed several measures for solving the "Jewish question", including mass deportations to the French colony of Madagascar.

1941

May 31, 1941

Expropriation of Jewish property began in Belgium.

1943

June 2, 1943

Liquidation of the Lwów Ghetto, located in German-occupied Poland, was completed, with the last surviving Jewish residents deported to the nearby Janowska concentration camp. At one time, there had been 160,000 Jews in Lwów which the Germans had renamed Lemberg. Nearly all of the former dwellers would be killed by November.

1944

June 6, 1944

D-Day: Operation Overlord commenced with the crossing of nearly 160,000 Allied troops over the English Channel to land on the beaches of Normandy, France.

1962

May 31, 1962

The hanging of Adolf Eichmann, 56, German Nazi and SS-Lieutenant Colonel and one of the major organizers of the Holocaust, began at 11:58 pm local time "on an improvised scaffold in a third story storeroom" at the Ramleh prison near Tel Aviv. Eichmann, who had been captured in Argentina by agents of Israel's Mossad on March 21, 1960, and then taken to Israel for his role in the extermination of 6,000,000 European Jews, would become the first person to be legally executed in the history of modern Israel. The body was cremated soon afterward and Eichmann's ashes scattered into the Mediterranean Sea.