

## May 20, 1940: NOTICE IN LA DÉPÊCHE NEWSPAPER

"To German Nationals and Foreigners of Undetermined but Previously of German Nationality"

P. 33 ENFANTS DÉPORTÉS, ENFANTS SAUVÉS: LES PETITS RÉFUGIÉS JUIFS DU GERS

### AVIS aux ressortissants allemands et étrangers de nationalité indéterminée mais d'origine allemande

Le général commandant la 17<sup>e</sup> région :

« Les ressortissants allemands et étrangers de nationalité indéterminée, mais d'origine allemande, résidant sur le territoire de la 17<sup>e</sup> région, appartenant au sexe masculin et âgés, à la date de ce jour, de plus de 17 ans et de moins de 56 ans, devront rejoindre le centre de rassemblement suivant : Stade toulousain, à Toulouse. »

» Ceux qui contreviendraient à cet ordre seront mis en état d'arrestation.

» Les étrangers visés ci-dessus pourront, à leurs frais, prendre le chemin de fer ou tout autre moyen de transport public pour rejoindre le centre de rassemblement assigné.

» Ils devront se munir de vivres pour trois jours et du matériel nécessaire pour leur alimentation (fourchette, cuiller, etc.). Y compris les vivres, ils ne devront pas avoir plus de 30 kilos de bagages.

» Les autorités civiles et militaires sont chargées de veiller à l'exécution de ces ordres. — Signé : Le général de division commandant la 17<sup>e</sup> région : Michel. »

### NOTICE

to German Nationals  
and Foreigners of Undetermined but  
previously of German Nationality

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The General Commanding the 17th Region:  
Germans and foreigners of undetermined nationality, but of German origin, residing on the territory of the 17<sup>th</sup> Region, of male sex, on this date being between the ages of 17 and 56, are to report to the following assembly center: Stade Toulousain in Toulouse.

Those failing to comply with this order will be placed under arrest.

The foreigners referred to above may, at their own expense, take the train or any other means of public transport to report to the specified assembly center.

They must bring three days' worth of food and the necessary eating utensils (fork, spoon, etc.). Their luggage must not weigh more than 30 kilos, food included.

The civil and military authorities are responsible for carrying out these orders. ---- Signed: The Division General in charge of the 17<sup>th</sup> Region: Michel.

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**CONTEXT:** *La Dépêche*, a French newspaper in the Gers Department where the town of Auch was located, posted a notice dated May 20, 1940, which predated the Vichy government. This notice was published days after the attack on Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg. The notice references “foreigners” and was not specifically anti-Jewish at this point. When [France](#) surrendered to Germany on June 22, 1940, the collaborationist Vichy government was formed in the south, the French “free” or “unoccupied zone,” led by aging Marshal Henri Philippe Pétain with Pierre Laval serving as acting chief of government. Peter, his mother, Agnes, and grandmother, Flora, were considered “foreigners” or “enemy aliens” because they, like thousands of others, had fled from Belgium.

Peter’s father, Ernst, who had been turned over to the French at the Belgian border, was at this time on his way to the camp at Saint-Cyprien.

Newspaper image and some context from *ENFANTS DÉPORTÉS, ENFANTS SAUVÉS: LES PETITS RÉFUGIÉS JUIFS DU GERS [DEPORTED CHILDREN, SAVED CHILDREN: THE YOUNG JEWISH REFUGEES IN GERS]* are excerpted with permission of author, Gisèle Polya-Somogyi. English translation and additional context courtesy of Peter Feigl.