

# The Holocaust Children Who Did Not Grow Up

By RALPH BLUMENTHAL

It might be a large family album or a school yearbook: snapshots of children, 2,500 of them, in sailor suits and holiday frocks, posing at the beach, in backyards and on playgrounds with parents, brothers and sisters and chums. Clearly, they do not know what awaits them.

But the viewer knows.

The fleeting images of happy days are all that remain of the children, French Jews who were rounded up with their families by the French and German authorities from 1942 to 1944 and deported to Auschwitz and other German killing centers. Now, in an exhaustive feat of research presented as a memorial, their photographs and retrievable biographies, along with a comprehensive history of the death transports, have been assembled in a 1,902-page volume thicker than the Manhattan white pages, "French Children of the Holocaust," published last month by New York University Press.

The cover shows the identity card, stamped "Juive" for Jew, of 7-year-old Anny-Yolande Horowitz, sent to Auschwitz on Sept. 11, 1942.

"Here each child has a story, where he was arrested and what camp he was sent to," said the author, Serge Klarsfeld, himself a childhood survivor of the Nazi occupation and a Paris lawyer who has spent his life documenting French and German war crimes in World War II. But he said: "This is not a book against the killers. This is a book in favor of the victims."

The book, which Mr. Klarsfeld has called "the children's collective gravestones," was published in France two years ago, but since then, he said in an interview, he has added more than 1,000 newly identified photos, and 100 more have turned up since the English edition came out. As it is, he says, the book is far from complete. In all, records show that 11,402 children were deported, of whom perhaps 300 survived. "I would have wanted a book of 11,000 pages, of 11,000 faces," he said.

The pictures are unremarkable — which is, of course, the secret of their power. Some of the children wear Jewish star patches as if that were nothing unusual. Others are saluting in Scout uniforms, holding schoolbooks, petting dogs, being wheeled in baby carriages. Most captions are brief and straightforward.

Albert Kaczka, posing in a Fauntleroy suit and white knee socks, was 9, it says, when he was arrested in 1942 with his parents and taken to the Velodrome d'Hiver, an indoor bicycle arena converted into a detention area in Paris. Records show the family was separated. The father was deported to Auschwitz

## A book documents a horror unrevealed by unknowing little faces.

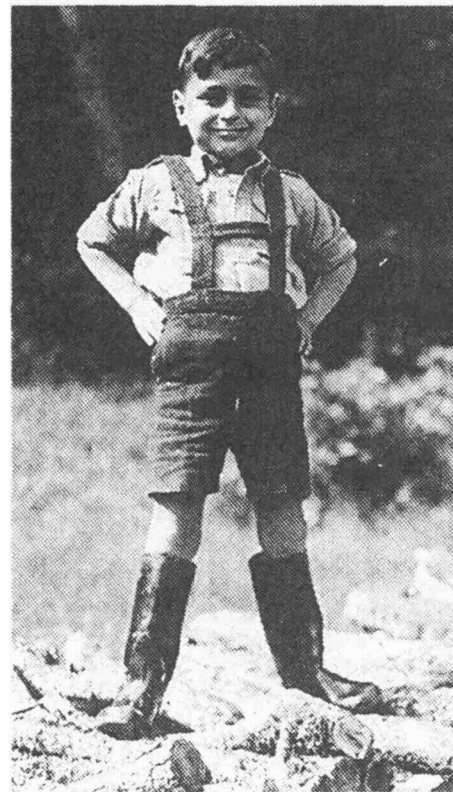
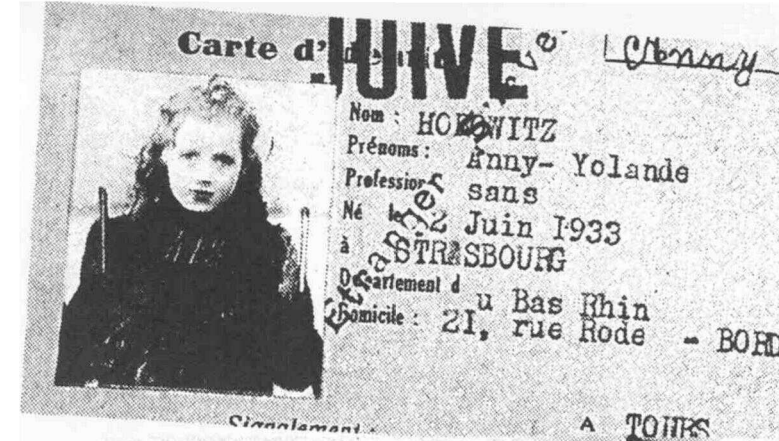
on July 31, the mother three days later. Albert went on Aug. 31.

"Adele and Paulette Nitka were born in Paris, where they lived at 102 Rue Oberkampf (11th Arrondissement)," the book says, below a photo of two little girls sitting on a bench with a stuffed bear. "Adele was 9 years old and Paulette, 2. They were deported on Convoy 22 of Aug. 21, 1942."

That train of 17 cars from Drancy, a collection camp on the northeast outskirts of Paris, to Auschwitz in Poland had the largest percentage of children — 614 of the 1,000

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They all went to death camps: Clockwise from the far upper right, Anny-Yolande Horowitz, age 7; Paulette Nitka, 2, and her sister Adele, 9; Georges Halpern, 8, and Albert Kaczka, 9.



Photographs from "French Children of the Holocaust"

