

## Context Clues: Card 4

The following vocabulary is intended to provide context for information that is presented in Card 4. Also included are links to closely related secondary source material, such as brief encyclopedia articles and maps.

### Vocabulary

**Arbitrary** Unsupported, determined by chance.

**Auschwitz** The largest Nazi concentration camp complex, located 37 miles west of Krakow, Poland. The Auschwitz main camp (Auschwitz I) was established in 1940. In 1942, a killing center was established at Auschwitz-Birkenau (Auschwitz II).<sup>2</sup>

**Camp du Le Vernet** A French internment camp that during WWII became a transit camp where Jews were detained or held captive until they were deported to Auschwitz.

**Certificate of Death** Permanent legal record of the fact of death, usually includes the date, circumstances, and/or cause of death.

**Convoy** A form of transportation; in this case, a train.

**Convoy 28** This particular train left the station at Drancy on September 4, 1942 at 8:55 AM, carrying 1,000 Jews toward Auschwitz. Upon arrival at the camp, on September 6, 16 men and 38 women were kept alive and the rest, including Peter's parents, were immediately gassed.<sup>1</sup>

**Drancy** The Drancy camp, named after the northeastern suburb of Paris in which it was located, was established by the Germans in August 1941 as an internment camp for foreign Jews in France; it later became the major transit camp for the deportations of Jews from France.<sup>2</sup>

**Gurs Camp [Camp de Gurs]** Gurs, located in the department of Pyrénées-Atlantiques about fifty miles from the Spanish border, was originally a detention camp in southern France for political refugees after the Spanish Civil War. In early 1940, French officials began detaining German Jewish refugees as "enemy aliens." Peter, along with his mother and grandmother, were detained in Gurs from May to July 1940 after fleeing Belgium and then Paris. Vichy authorities closed the Gurs camp in November 1943. Almost 22,000 prisoners had passed through Gurs, of whom over 18,000 were Jewish.<sup>2</sup>

**Klarsfelds** Serge Klarsfeld and his wife, Beate, published among other books, *The Memorial to Jews Deported from France, 1942-1944*, which included 76,000 names of Auschwitz-bound Jews, listed by train convoy and identified by last name, first name, date of birth, place of birth, and nationality.<sup>1</sup>

**Transit Camp** A collection center for prisoners, most often Jews, bound for death or labor camps.

**Vichy France Government** Set up in the unoccupied zone of France, the Vichy regime cooperated with the Germans by enacting the *Statut des Juifs* (Jewish Law), which defined Jews by race and restricted their rights. Vichy authorities also actively collaborated and even took initiatives by establishing internment camps in southern France, arresting foreign Jews and French Jews, and aiding in the deportation of Jews (mostly foreign Jews residing in France) to killing centers in German-occupied Poland.<sup>2</sup>

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### Vocabulary (cont'd)

**Vichy Police** The entire French police force, about 100,000 police officers, acted under the authority of the Vichy government. In the fall of 1941 a special police section was established to deal with Jewish matters. It was supervised by the Vichy government's Office for Jewish Affairs.<sup>3</sup>

**Zones, Occupied/Unoccupied** After the German army invaded France in May 1940, in June the French surrendered and signed an armistice with the Nazis. France was then divided in two: northern France (the occupied zone) was put under German control, while southern France (the unoccupied zone) was put under the control of a new French government that was established in the town of Vichy. In November 1942 German and Italian forces took over the Vichy zone.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**Klarsfeld Foundation Website** <http://www.klarsfeldfoundation.org/>

<sup>2</sup>**United States Holocaust Memorial Museum** <http://www.ushmm.org/>

<sup>3</sup>**Yad Vashem** <http://www.yadvashem.org/>

### Related Resources

1. "Camps in France, 1942." **Online Map. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum:** [http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/media\\_nm.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10005429&MediaId=365](http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/media_nm.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10005429&MediaId=365)
2. "Drancy," *Holocaust Encyclopedia*, **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum:** <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/article.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10005215>
3. "French Police," **Shoah Resource Center, Yad Vashem:** [http://www1.yadvashem.org/odot\\_pdf/Microsoft%20Word%20-%205866.pdf](http://www1.yadvashem.org/odot_pdf/Microsoft%20Word%20-%205866.pdf)