

Context Clues: Card 7

The following vocabulary is intended to provide context for information that is presented in Card 7. Also included are links to closely related secondary source material, such as brief encyclopedia articles and maps.

Vocabulary

Brémond, Mr. [also Mr. Br.] Director of the children's colony at Les Caillols.

Colony In this case, a children's home.

Gestapo The German Secret State Police, which was under SS control. It was responsible for investigating political crimes and opposition activities.

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.¹

La Rouvière A children's colony located in the department of Bouches-du-Rhône in southern France.

Les Caillols \ lä kai- yo\ A children's colony located in the Les Caillols suburb of Marseille in the Bouches-du-Rhône department.

SS German abbreviation for *Schutzstaffel* (literally, protection squads), initially created to serve as bodyguards for Nazi leaders. It later took charge of political intelligence gathering, the German police, the concentration camps, and the systematic mass murder of Jews and other victims.¹

Waffen SS The combat arm of the SS, which eventually fielded more than 20 divisions, establishing a command and operations structure to rival the German Army.¹

¹**United States Holocaust Memorial Museum** <http://www.ushmm.org/>

Related Resources

1. "Camps in France, 1942, Gurs Indicated." Online Map. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: <http://www.ushmm.org/lcmedia/viewer/wlc/map.php?RefId=GUR72020>
2. "Gurs," *Holocaust Encyclopedia*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/article.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10005298>
3. "SS," *Holocaust Encyclopedia*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/article.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10007400>
4. "Waffen SS," *Holocaust Encyclopedia*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/article.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10007405>