

### Heitmeyer's Victims

It goes without saying that the Holocaust was a time of great pain and suffering for all who can remember it and all who have heard the stories of survivors. Everyone knows the numbers; 6 million Jews killed, 1.5 million of them being children. All of these people have stories they never got to tell. It's up to us to tell their stories for them.

Jacqueline Morgenstern was deported from her home in France in 1944 and taken to Auschwitz. Jacqueline and her mother, Suzanne, were forced to work in the concentration camp. However, Suzanne was soon killed in the gas chamber. Jacqueline was then chosen to be one of twenty boys and girls sent to Neuengamme to be experimented on by Dr. Heitmeyer. He removed the children's lymph glands and injected live tuberculosis viruses into their systems, causing them to become seriously ill. Days before the war ended in Europe, it was decided that the children must be killed in an effort to conceal the program from the quickly approaching Allied forces. They were taken to the basement of a satellite camp where they were injected with morphine and hanged from hooks on the ceiling by SS untersturmführer Frahm. He later recalled that not a single child cried ("Jacqueline Morgenstern (1932 - 1945) - Find A Grave Memorial").

In a world where life expectancy is 81 years old, dying before you even reach your teens is next to unimaginable. Never mind being tortured for who you are and what you believe. This girl had to face things that we could never even imagine. Today, kids are concerned about how many likes or followers they have on Instagram and other social media sites. Jacqueline and millions of other children during the Holocaust had to worry about the Germans invading their countries and deporting them and their families to a concentration camp where they would either

be worked to death or killed in the gas chambers. They didn't get the luxury of living in a safe country in a relatively peaceful time.

Today, we must remember them, whether they survived or, in Jacqueline's case, did not. Their stories help preserve the memories of those whose stories aren't being told, those who are only nameless faces in the spiral of time. For, if they are forgotten, the history of the Holocaust becomes just another wave of terror in the past, taught to children in school as facts and numbers. But these people, they were more than numbers. They deserve the respect they were not allowed in their final days. They are our past, and to honor their memories, we must never forget their stories.