

## The Red Cross and the Holocaust

Was the International Committee of the Red Cross aware of the appalling sufferings of the victims of the concentration camps? How much did it know about the deportation and extermination of the Jews in Europe? Did it try to protect the persecuted Jews? In what ways could it have helped them, given the neutrality which was the basis of its foundation? These questions have remained unanswered for more than fifty years and have sparked off bitter debates. Jean-Claude Favez here presents a startling new assessment, thanks to his unrivalled access to the archives of the Red Cross. This magisterial work, the fruit of many years of research, includes much hitherto unpublished archive material, as well as a chronology, biographical notes, and a statement by the current leaders of the Red Cross. Anyone interested in the complexity and tragedy of the Holocaust will find this compelling reading.

JEAN-CLAUDE FAVEZ was formerly Rector of the University of Geneva.

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-41587-3 - The Red Cross and the Holocaust  
Jean-Claude Favez  
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Jean-Claude Favez

*Edited and translated by*

John and Beryl Fletcher



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## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521415873](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521415873)

Originally published in French as *Une mission impossible?*

by Editions Payot Lausanne 1988

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First published in English by Cambridge University Press 1999 as

*The Red Cross and the Holocaust*

English translation © Maison des Sciences de l'Homme and

Cambridge University Press 1999

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Favez, Jean-Claude.

[*Une mission impossible?* French]

The Red Cross and the Holocaust / by Jean-Claude Favez; edited and translated by John and Beryl Fletcher.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 41587 x (hb)

1. Holocaust, Jewish (1939–1945).
2. WorldWar, 1939–1945 – Jews – Rescue.
3. International Committee of the Red Cross.

I. Title.

D804.6.F38 1999

362.87'81'08992404–dc21 99–11233 CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-41587-3 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

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‘La question israélite sur le continent européen appartient strictement, selon l’avis des gouvernements intéressés, au domaine de la politique intérieure. . . ?’  
(Note from the ICRC to the British Foreign Office, 5 April 1943)

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## Author's preface to the English-language edition: A past that returns to haunt us

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### **New thinking about the Shoah**

If all history is contemporary history, the reader needs to know before even opening this book that the English-language version presented here is being published some ten years after it appeared in French, so that with the exception of a few titles added to the bibliography and the abridgement or dropping of some chapters, the text remains essentially that of 1988.

During the last few years, historical research on the Shoah has dug ever deeper and spread ever further. New documents, new questions and new debates have led to the publication of thousands of books and articles, and have resulted in fresh light being shed on such notorious disputes as the rather pointless one in my view between functionalists and intentionalists. Studied above all in its Jewish context, the Shoah now occupies a central position in the history of World War II, to such an extent that people have come to speak, as Renée Poznanski does, of a veritable revenge of historiography over history. According to Omar Bartov, an authority on the involvement of the state police and the Wehrmacht in the massacres in the East, today's specialists concentrate *inter alia* upon eyewitness accounts, memoirs and different forms of literary representation.

### **Swiss neutrality under the spotlight**

It is important to bear this in mind even if the subject of this book is the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and its work during World War II on behalf of deportees and concentration camp detainees, since historiography has evolved in relation to this topic as well, particularly in the last three years with the problems over escheated deposits, Nazi gold and refugees denied entry that the collective memory of the Swiss nation has suddenly had to confront. These issues are not in themselves new, and the recent discoveries relate to facts

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already familiar to specialists, so why has it taken fifty years for the comforting certainties of the received interpretation of Swiss neutrality to be brought into doubt? The question transcends traditional considerations about generational conflict or the role of the media; the truth is that we are still none too clear about what has happened in the last three years, except that it will offer historians in the future a worthy topic for investigation. What is certain is that the controversy surrounding attacks by foreigners has for the first time since 1945 involved all shades of opinion and called into question not only individual memory of the official line, but the way very many Swiss people have tended to view themselves and their past: it has taken the form of a crisis of national identity which will, I believe, leave deep scars.

In spite of difficulties of access to public archives until the 1970s and the almost total closure until a few months ago of company files, including those of the ICRC (itself a private institution), it would be inaccurate to claim that Swiss historians had not done their work properly, but it is true to say that most of them did it without casting doubt on the received interpretation consistent with patriotism in time of war. From that viewpoint the questions that could have been asked, about such matters as the stamping of passports of German Jews in 1938 with a distinctive mark to keep track of those seeking asylum in Switzerland, or the limits of neutrality in the case of Franco-Swiss military collaboration revealed in the documents uncovered at La Charité-sur-Loire, lost some of their explosive potential, and the administrative investigations undertaken at the request of the Swiss authorities by historians and legal experts to provide answers and furnish rebuttals, like the Ludwig report on refugee policy or Professor Bonjour's history of Swiss neutrality in World War II, represented at once an advance in understanding and a balanced justification of the past, so that the first real break occurred in 1983 with the publication of the *New History of Switzerland and the Swiss* by a team of young historians concerned less with flouting taboos and undermining myths from William Tell to General Guisan (the army commander from 1939 to 1945) than with making available to a wider public the most recent advances in historical scholarship; even so, the controversy they aroused remained limited in scope and hardly on the scale that might have been expected from the work's bestseller status.

Since the 1930s the emergence of totalitarian regimes and the increasing threat of war gave rise among many Swiss people to the knee-jerk reaction of clinging to the most traditional values of the past: not only armed neutrality but the particular characteristics of Switzerland in general were going to safeguard the country's independence. This image

of a homogeneous, exclusive national community shifted unbrokenly from World War II to the Cold War, justifying a foreign policy rooted in the principle of participating but not belonging that enabled Switzerland to enjoy the fruits of economic growth without compromising her sovereignty. Neutrality was thus the lodestar of government action and the ICRC, the Don Suisse and humanitarian action the price of her abstention from world affairs. The deaf ear turned by the authorities and by Swiss banks in the 1960s to the pleas of Holocaust victims which we now find so shocking was not merely the expression of selfishness – an attitude that was far from being the exclusive preserve of the twenty-three cantons, after all – it was the incarnation of the *Sonderfall Schweiz*, of the isolationist statute justifying the missions of good offices and humanitarian aid accepted by authorities and citizens alike.

I must, however, correct the perfunctory and unfair impression which may have been given by what I have just said with regard to all those who went to the assistance of people in need by reminding the reader that throughout the twentieth century intellectuals, artists, churchmen and churchwomen have denounced such exploitation of solidarity and challenged the prevailing order and the historiography which legitimised it. In the 1960s the rise of the consumer society led to a growing malaise that inspired many essays, pamphlets and articles, and more recently two events have helped give a collective dimension to such criticism and doubts: the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the narrowness of the vote by which in 1992 the Swiss people rejected the treaty on the European Economic Area. The dismantling of the Wall was the final nail in the coffin of wartime patriotism, and their unwillingness to accept even a limited form of union with Europe has left the Swiss helplessly isolated and turned in upon themselves: the subtle blend of conservatism and modernism that since the eighteenth century had constituted the bedrock of the identity of the Swiss Confederation failed to withstand the shock of this retreat into the past; the manner in which the nation perceived itself was shaken to its foundations and history, no longer able to offer any firm bearings or clear certainties, lost all meaning. Conditions were therefore ripe in 1995 for the question of Swiss attitudes during World War II to become the subject of doubt and controversy.

### **The ICRC confronts its past**

Much of what I have been saying applies equally to the ICRC, as I hope the reader will agree, since one of the leading themes in this book is precisely that the ICRC was operating during World War II in a context marked by the humanitarian work of the Confederation and by the

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defence of Swiss neutrality. The state's presence manifested itself in several ways. In the political domain, that is in the deployment of ways and means, the obvious though relatively infrequent case was direct intervention. I set out in a later chapter the circumstances surrounding the ICRC's decision in October 1942 not to launch a public appeal denouncing human rights violations; other less obtrusive instances could be cited, so habitual was the Confederation's historic and pragmatic inclination to ask the international Red Cross to serve the nation's neutrality, the ICRC contributing thereby to the achievement of its own aims and to the reinforcement of its authority and effectiveness, including with regard to the federal government.

The Swiss presence was a fact of life at both the individual and the institutional level. The patriotism of national defence, for example, formed part of the ideological environment from which the Red Cross could not entirely escape, despite the universal character of its religious and political neutrality and of the criteria it invoked in the fulfilment of its mission.

But what was taken for granted by the World War II generation could and did later become the subject of questions, doubts and objections. The ICRC and the Swiss Confederation were sharply criticised for what they failed to do on behalf of the victims of that conflict. Then attention turned to other matters. In opening its World War II archives to historians the ICRC decided, as did the Confederation, to go back over that past in order to explain itself, this time to new generations and in a different context. The publication of this book in French in the late 1980s marked a first step in this revisitation of history. The recent opening of the archives represents a further progression in the continuing search for truth. Now people can assess for themselves the extent to which the efforts currently being made by Switzerland to dispel the shadows of the past will foster a truer understanding of the work of the international Red Cross during World War II.

Jean-Claude Favez  
September 1998

## Acknowledgements

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A number of people have helped us in the work of editing and translating this book. The author, Professor Jean-Claude Favez, has been unstinting in his encouragement and has answered our questions with unfailing courtesy and promptness. Richard Fisher of Cambridge University Press has been patient and supportive in ways that few translators are privileged to enjoy. We are deeply grateful to both of them, as we are to Frances Nugent for the care and attention she brought to the task of copy-editing the typescript. Our daughter Harriet generously gave of her time to assist us with the translation of the chapter on Slovakia and the first part of the chapter on Romania, and large sections of the manuscript were typed with speedy efficiency by our son Hilary. We wish to acknowledge too a grant from the School of Modern Languages and European Studies at the University of East Anglia which helped us materially to expedite the completion of this book, the expert work of Dr Jean Boase-Beier in translating the German documents in the Appendix, the ready willingness of other colleagues in the University to give us the benefit of their specialised knowledge of the field, and the eagerness of final year French honours students in the Advanced Translation seminar to offer suggestions, several of which are incorporated in the chapter on France.

The documents in the Appendix (apart from document II which is reproduced here in the original English) were translated from German by Jean Boase-Beier.

John Fletcher  
Beryl S. Fletcher

## Chronology

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*This chronology is restricted in the main to events discussed in the book, with issues concerning the Red Cross in the left-hand column and other important dates on the right*

### 1933–1938

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|   | 30 January 1933 Hitler becomes Chancellor in Germany   |
|   | 28 February 1933 The decree on the protection of the German state and people lifts the constitutional guarantee on fundamental liberties |
|   | 20 March 1933 Dachau opened  |
|   | 1 April 1933 Boycott of Jewish shops, doctors, lawyers, etc.   |
| 18 May 1933 First discussion in the ICRC about growing political violence in Germany                    |  |
| November 1933 ICRC–DRK accord on the routing of individual enquiries about concentration camp detainees | 1933–35 In a series of laws and decrees Jews are excluded from German public service and society   |
| 1 May 1935 Boissier memorandum on political detainees   |  |
|   | 15 September 1935 Nuremberg laws for the protection of German blood and honour and on Reich citizenship                                  |

## Chronology

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19–27 October 1935 Carl J.  
 Burckhardt visits Lichtenburg,  
 Esterwegen and Dachau

9–15 May 1936 Burckhardt's  
 official visit to Germany

13 March 1938 Austria annexed  
 by the Reich

July 1938 Evian conference on  
 German Jewish refugees.  
 Intergovernmental Committee for  
 Refugees set up

19 August 1938 Guillaume Favre  
 visits Dachau

9–10 November 1938  
 Kristallnacht. Jews excluded from  
 economic life

19 November 1938 French  
 démarche to the ICRC

24 November 1938 Red Cross  
 League enquiry on Jewish refugees

28 December 1938 ICRC approach  
 to the DRK on behalf of political  
 and racial detainees

30 December 1938 ICRC enquiry  
 to national Red Cross societies on  
 the needs of countries accepting  
 Jewish refugees

**1939**

9 January 1939 The DRK  
 rejects the ICRC's démarche of  
 28 December 1938

24 January 1939 Heydrich heads  
 the Jewish Emigration Office

17 May 1939 the British White  
 Paper limits the number of Jewish

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- emigrants to the Palestine  
Mandate to 75,000 up to the end  
of March 1944
- 4 July 1939 RVJD set up
- 1 September 1939 Launch of  
euthanasia programme for mental  
patients (suspended on 24 August  
1941)
- Outbreak of war in Europe
- 2 September 1939 The ICRC  
presents its action programme and  
offers its services to the countries  
at war
- 9 September 1939 Memorandum  
to the belligerents reminding them  
of the need to respect human  
rights, protect civilians and outlaw  
certain forms of warfare
- 27 September 1939 RSHA set up  
under SS control
- 2 October 1939 The ICRC refines  
its proposals of 9 September  
concerning civilians: to apply the  
Tokyo project or grant civilians  
*de facto* POW status
- 7 October 1939 Himmler put in  
charge of racial reorganisation in  
the East as *Reichskommissar* for the  
strengthening of the German race
- October–November 1939 Marcel  
Junod's second mission to  
Germany and occupied Poland
- October 1939 Beginning of  
deportations to Poland. Jewish  
reserve set up in the Lublin  
district, a policy abandoned in  
March 1940
- 22 December 1939 The DRK  
confirms that the ICRC can send  
parcels to the concentration camps



**1940**

12 March, 12 May 1940 Appeals  
 for the protection of civilian  
 populations

March 1940 Burckhardt mission  
 to Berlin

17 August 1940 Eric Descoedres  
 and Roland Marti visit Buchenwald

13 September 1940 Deportations  
 from Vienna, Mährisch-Ostrau,  
 Teschen and Stettin

3 October 1940 'Statut des Juifs'  
 promulgated by the Vichy regime  
 in France

November 1940 Setting up of the  
 CMS by the ICRC and Red Cross  
 League  
 Alec Cramer visits refugee camps in  
 southern France

November 1940 Construction of  
 Warsaw ghetto

**1941**

2 January 1941 Concentration  
 camps and internees divided into  
 three categories according to the  
 seriousness of the sentence

29 March 1941 Vichy sets up the  
 'Commissariat aux questions  
 juives'

22 June 1941 Germany attacks the  
 Soviet Union. The  
 'Einsatzkommandos' go into  
 action

23 June 1941 The ICRC offers its  
 services to the belligerents in the  
 East; the USSR does not respond

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- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Summer 1941 Greek population aid activities launched</p>   | <p>31 July 1941 Goering's written order entrusting Heydrich with overall responsibility for the solution of the Jewish problem</p>   |
| <p>20 August 1941 The DRK informs the ICRC of the suspension of all concentration camp enquiries</p>  | <p>August 1941 Massacre of the Galician Jews settled in Hungary</p>  |
| <p>August 1941 Burckhardt in Berlin</p>   | <p>27 August 1941 Members of the resistance in the Eastern territories and communists ordered to be deported to the concentration camps</p>  |
| <p>16 September 1941 Coordinating Commission examines the plight of Franco-Spanish POWs deported to Mauthausen; the issue is raised with Hartmann</p>   | <p>September 1941 First gassing by Zyklon B of invalids and Soviet POWs at Auschwitz I</p>   |
| <p>October–November 1941 The ICRC cannot decide whether or not to intervene over the execution of hostages in France</p>  | <p>Mid-October 1941 German Jews deported to Lodz</p>   |
| <p>December 1941 The ICRC fails to persuade the British to lift the blockade to allow supplies into the Polish camps and ghettos<br/>The war spreads to the Pacific; the ICRC offers its services and organises its delegations in Asia</p> | <p>22–24 October 1941 Execution of ninety-eight hostages in France. RSHA bans Jewish emigration from Europe</p> <p>Autumn 1941 Deportation and massacre of Romanian Jews in Transnistria</p> <p>December 1941 Chelmno extermination camp opened (gassing with lorries)</p> |

7 December 1941 *Nacht und Nebel*  
 decree

## 1942

20 January 1942 Wannsee  
 conference and the ‘Final Solution  
 of the Jewish problem’

January 1942 Massacre of Jews  
 and Serbs at Novi-Sad

March–April 1942 Rohmer mission  
 for the CMS in Hungary, Romania  
 and Slovakia

16 March 1942 Suzanne Ferrière  
 reminds Hartmann of the ICRC’s  
 questions following the DRK’s  
 20 August 1941 letter

16 March 1942 Concentration  
 camps placed under SS economic  
 control

17 March 1942 Beginning of the  
 Reinhardt operation. Belzec,  
 Sobibor, Maidanek and Treblinka  
 brought into service in turn to  
 wipe out the Eastern ghettos

27 March 1942 First trainload of  
 deportees from Compiègne to  
 Auschwitz

30 March 1942 Barbey letter to  
 Marti (démarche requesting  
 permission to send help to the  
 Compiègne internees)

March–June 1942 Slovak Jews  
 deported to Auschwitz

15 April 1942 Setting up under  
 ICRC auspices of the Fondation  
 pour l’organisation des transports  
 de la CR

16 April 1942 Gallopin note to  
 Marti (démarche seeking to ascertain  
 the final destination of deportees to  
 the East)

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29 April, 1 May 1942 In response to the démarche of 16 March 1942, the DRK announces it can no longer furnish information about non-Aryan detainees

15 May 1942 ICRC leaders meet in top-level session

20 May 1942 Roland Marti told to relaunch the 16 April 1942 démarche

1 June 1942 Burckhardt writes to Grawitz about the Dutch hostages

9 June 1942 The Slovak Red Cross asks the ICRC to intervene

2 July 1942 Dannecker–Bousquet agreement on the deportation of French Jews

16–17 July 1942 The big ‘Vél d’hiv’ round-up in Paris

22 July 1942 Deportations from the Warsaw ghetto begin. Auschwitz becomes the main extermination camp

10 August 1942 Memorandum to the USSR to try and get negotiations restarted

Early August 1942 Schulte’s information reaches Riegner

13–18 August 1942 Marti mission in the General-Government

20 August 1942 The DRK announces the suspension of all concentration camp enquiries

24 August 1942 The German consulate in Geneva is handed the four Engelbrechten notes dealing *inter alia* with the Dutch hostages and the Franco-Spanish inmates in Mauthausen.

## Chronology

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- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>26 August 1942 Max von Wyss arrives in Cracow for the CMS</p>  | <p>26 August 1942 Big round-up of Jews in the French unoccupied zone</p>   |
| <p>3 September 1942 The ICRC replies to the Slovak Red Cross that there is nothing it can do and Jacques Chenevière writes to the French Foreign Ministry about their deportees</p> |  |
| <p>September 1942 Hartmann visits Geneva</p>  | <p>September 1942 The German Justice Ministry hands over to the SS for extermination as and when it sees fit all 'Eastern' detainees sentenced to more than three years and even German nationals condemned to serve more than eight years in a concentration camp</p> |
| <p>21 September 1942 Burckhardt asks to see Himmler on behalf of a deportee, Countess Lanskoranska</p>  |  |
| <p>23 September 1942 Roland Marti asked to intervene on behalf of the Belgian hostages and deportees</p>  |  |
| <p>24 September 1942 Démarche (via a note to Marti) on behalf of deported and interned aliens</p>   |  |
| <p>9 October 1942 During the Dieppe Raid 'handcuffs crisis' the ICRC reiterates the need for all concerned to respect the Conventions</p>   |  |
| <p>14 October 1942 An ICRC plenary session drops the idea of a public appeal against human rights abuses</p>  |  |
| <p>22 October 1942 The ICRC again reminds people of the need to respect the Conventions</p>   |  |

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29 October 1942 Himmler gives the go-ahead again to parcels to certain categories of deportees

7 November 1942 Conversation between Burckhardt and Paul C. Squire

11 November 1942 The Wehrmacht occupies the whole of France

17 December 1942 Allied appeal against the massacre of Jews

30 December 1942 The Coordinating Commission drops the 24 September 1942 démarche and resolves instead to try sending aid direct to the deportees

**1943**

18 January, 30 January 1943 Note to Marti and letter from Huber in this vein

27 January 1943 Without questioning agreed action priorities the Coordinating Commission resolves to take on board the question of Jews held in their own country

2 February 1943 German defeat at Stalingrad

15 February 1943 In its reply the German Foreign Ministry expresses strong reservations about the direct aid démarche

March 1943 Julius Schmidlin in Zagreb

## Chronology

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- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>22 March–4 April 1943 Max von Wyss's visit to the General-Government</p>   | <p>March–May 1943 Salonika's Jews deported</p>   |
| <p>5 April 1943 ICRC note to the British Foreign Office about boat emigration</p>   | <p>19 April–16 May 1943 Warsaw ghetto uprising</p>   |
| <p>May–June 1943 Fifty parcels sent to concentration camps<br/>Edouard Chapuisat and David de Traz visit Central and Eastern Europe</p> | <p>June 1943 Hartmann visits Theresienstadt</p>  |
| <p>24 July 1943 ICRC appeal to the belligerents about methods of war</p>  |  |
| <p>12 August–15 September 1943 Roland Marti's visit to Norway</p>   |  |
| <p>23 August 1943 Appeal on behalf of POWs' and civilian internees' human rights</p>  | <p>August 1943 Treblinka uprising</p>  |
| <p>October 1943 Jean de Bavier appointed delegate in Budapest</p>   | <p>October 1943 Sobibor uprising</p>   |
| <p>November 1943 Karl Kolb appointed delegate in Budapest where he joined de Steiger</p>  | <p>19 October 1943 Reinhardt operation ends and Sobibor, Belzec and Treblinka put out of service</p> |
| <p>November 1943 Burckhardt in Berlin</p>   |  |
| <p>11–21 December 1943 Karl Kolb visits Transnistria</p>  |  |

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Late December 1943 René Henry  
 is sent to Sofia

30 December 1943 ICRC public  
 appeal to the belligerents about  
 reprisals and the increasing savagery  
 of methods of war

**1944**

22 January 1944 WRB set up

9 February 1944 Letter from Max  
 Huber to Mihaï Antonescu

15 February 1944 Memorandum  
 about the repatriation or  
 hospitalisation in a neutral country  
 of sick and wounded POWs

February 1944 Burckhardt's  
 intervention with Hartmann on  
 behalf of the Vittel internees  
 holding South American passports

15 March 1944 Special Aid  
 Division set up

15–19 March 1944 The  
 Wehrmacht intervenes in  
 Hungary

2 May 1944 The WRB's démarche  
 to the ICRC to ask Berlin to  
 recognise the Jews as civilian  
 internees

Mid-May 1944 Frédéric Born  
 arrives in Budapest

6 June 1944 D-Day: the Allies  
 land in Normandy

23 June 1944 Maurice Rossel visits  
 Theresienstadt

5 July 1944 Bureau decision to  
 intervene in Hungary

7 July 1944 Horthy suspends the  
 deportation of Jews from Hungary



- 12 July 1944 New instructions from the Federal Police Division about the admission of refugees to Switzerland
- Mid-July 1944 Julius Schmidlin visits three Croatian concentration camps
- 20–21 July 1944 Robert Schirmer gives Horthy Huber's message
- 26 July 1944 Burckhardt plan for Hungary
- 3 August 1944 The ICRC authorises the Romanian Red Cross to use its flag for boat emigration
- 15 August 1944 Last trainload of deportees leaves France
- 17 August 1944 Appeal for humanitarian law to apply to partisans
- 22 August 1944 318 Belsen prisoners arrive in Switzerland
- 25 August 1944 Paris liberated
- 20 September 1944 Bureau decision to make a démarche on behalf of deportees
- 25 September 1944 General instructions to delegates modified
- 2 October 1944 Huber's letter to Ribbentrop about deportees  
 Huber's note on the notion of civilian internees
- 15 October 1944 The Arrow-Crosses seize power in Hungary
- Late October 1944 Georges Dunand arrives in Bratislava

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- |   |  |
|---|--|
|   | 25 November 1944 Himmler suspends exterminations at Auschwitz    |
| 10 December 1944 The ICRC awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for the second time | Early December 1944 1,352 Jews from Belsen arrive in Switzerland |
| 15 December 1944 Huber's appeal to Mgr. Tiso                                |  |
| December 1944 Hans Bon in Italy Sub-delegation set up in Vienna             |  |

**1945**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| January 1945 The Berlin delegation in negotiations with the SS leadership  |   |
| 1 February 1945 The German Foreign Ministry replies to the note of 2 October 1944  |   |
| 2 February 1945 Himmler's letter to Burckhardt   |   |
|  | 8 February 1945 J.-M. Musy arrives in Switzerland with 1,200 Jews from Theresienstadt |
| 15 February 1945 The ICRC announces that it is undertaking a revision of the Conventions and drawing up new texts on humanitarian law<br>The ICRC replies to the Reich's note of 1 February 1945 |   |
| 2 March 1945 The Germans agree to the exchange of French, Belgian and Dutch civilians, women, children and old men   |   |
| 12 March 1945 Burckhardt–Kaltenbrunner meeting on the Arlberg road   |   |

## Chronology

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5–11 April 1945 Three hundred Ravensbrück women exchanged by Switzerland

6 April 1945 Otto Lehner and Paul Dunant at Theresienstadt

15 April 1945 Belsen liberated

20–21 April 1945 Willy Pfister and Albert de Cocatrix witness the evacuation of Oranienburg and Ravensbrück

22 April 1945 Innsbruck meeting between Hans Bachmann, Hans Mayer and Ernst Kaltenbrunner

24–26 April 1945 Second trainload of repatriated prisoners from Mauthausen

26 April 1945 Robert Hort and Raymond Moynier at Türckheim

27 April 1945 Louis Haefliger enters Mauthausen  
 Démarche by Riegner and Red Cross societies to the ICRC about Jewish POWs

28 April 1945 Victor Maurer at Dachau

2 May 1945 Paul Dunant takes up residence at Theresienstadt

5 May 1945 Mauthausen liberated

8 May 1945 Germany surrenders unconditionally

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978-0-521-41587-3 - The Red Cross and the Holocaust  
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## Abbreviations

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The following abbreviations are used in the text and in the notes:

AA	Auswärtiges Amt (German Foreign Ministry)
ACPG	Agence centrale de renseignements des prisonniers de guerre (Central Agency for Prisoners of War)
AG	ICRC Archives, Geneva
AWJC	Archives of the World Jewish Congress, Geneva Office
BA	Bundsarchiv, Koblenz (German federal archive)
CCC	Colis aux camps de concentration (Concentration Camp Parcels Scheme)
CI or CICR	Comité international de la Croix-Rouge (ICRC)
CID	Civils internés divers (MCI, Miscellaneous Civilian Internees, ICRC service)
CIMADE	Comité inter-mouvements auprès des évacués (inter-movement evacuees committee)
CMS	Commission mixte de secours du CICR et de la LSCR (Joint Aid Commission of the ICRC and the Red Cross League)
CPI	Civilian Prisoners and Internees (PIC)
CR	Croix-Rouge (Red Cross)
CRF	Croix-Rouge française (French Red Cross)
DAS	Division d'assistance spéciale (Special Aid Division, ICRC service)
Delasem	Italian Jewish communities aid committee
DIE	Division des intérêts étrangers (Foreign Interests Division of the DPF)
DPF	Département politique fédéral (Swiss Federal Political Department)
DRK	Deutsches Rotes Kreuz (German Red Cross)
DZAP	Deutsches Zentralarchiv, Potsdam (German central archive)
FA	Swiss Federal Archives, Berne

## xxx Abbreviations

HIJEFS	Schweizerischer Hilfsverein für jüdische Flüchtlinge im Ausland (Swiss Aid Committee for Jewish Refugees Abroad)
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IfZ	Institut für Zeitgeschichte (Munich Contemporary History Institute)
IMPA	Immigration en Palestine (Palestine Immigration Service, ICRC)
IMS	International Migration Service
Joint	American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
JUS	Jüdische Unterstützungsstelle (Jewish Assistance Office)
KL or KZ	Konzentrationslager (concentration camp)
LSCR	Ligue des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge (Red Cross League)
MCI	Miscellaneous Civilian Internees (CID)
NA	National Archives, Washington
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
<i>NN</i>	<i>Nacht und Nebel</i> (Night and Fog)
NS	Nationalsozialistisch (Nazi)
NSDAP	Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (Nazi party)
OKH	Oberkommando des Heeres (German army High Command)
OKW	Oberkommando der Wehrmacht (German armed forces High Command)
OSE	Œuvre de secours aux enfants (children's aid charity)
PIC	Prisonniers et internés civils (CPI, commission of the ICRC)
PMS	Personal Message Scheme (Service)
POW	Prisoner of war
PRO	Public Record Office, Kew
PVB	Procès-verbaux du Bureau du CICR (ICRC Bureau minutes)
PVCC	Procès-verbaux de la Commission centrale, puis de coordination, du CICR (ICRC Central Committee, later Coordinating Committee, minutes)
PVCICR	Procès-verbaux du CICR (ICRC minutes)
PVDAS	Procès-verbaux de la DAS (Special Aid Division minutes)
PVPIC	Procès-verbaux de la PIC (CPI minutes)
PVSvCi	Procès-verbaux des Services civils de l'Agence centrale des prisonniers de guerre (ACPG civilian services minutes)
RC	Red Cross