

TEACHING AID

THE ROUNDUP.



2009: Rose Bosch, a former investigative journalist, makes a movie about the massive round-up of Jews in Paris in July 1942, seen from the point of view of Joseph Weismann, who was ten years old at the time.

All the characters in the film are real.

All the events really took place.

With the participation and support of Serge Klarsfeld.

This information pack was produced by two history teachers, one of whom also teaches film studies, under the supervision of an inspector in history at the Paris Board of Education.

FROM EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS TO FILM: THREE CHARACTERS IN THE TUMULT OF HISTORY

INTERWEAVING DESTINIES

The Round-up builds on two and a half years of research and investigation: Rose Bosch gathered together written or filmed eye-witness accounts to develop the story and characters. With Serge Klarsfeld's help, she contacted three eye-witnesses who were still alive: Fernand Bodevin, one of the firefighters at the Winter Velodrome, Joseph Weismann and Anna Traube. She read the letters thrown onto the tracks by children being sent to Auschwitz and watched Eva Braun's "home movies". The events and anecdotes recounted in the film are all true, whether they are directly linked to the round-up and deportation of Jews or not. For example, Michel Muller's brother Jean really did leave him waiting outside his primary school, just as Nono has to wait for his brother

Simon in the film. Similarly, their sister, Annette Muller, received permission to go buy a comb and remembers seeing her mother on her knees begging policemen not to take her children. Eye-witness accounts also dictated certain directorial choices, such as the close-up of Nono's hand when he refuses to be shut into the cattle car at the end of the movie, which visually translates Annette Leiris Monod's description of "four tiny fingers" and Jacquot screaming "I want to get out!" The declared intention of "bringing these people back to life" underpinned the development of the characters, using the process of research and investigation to focus on "individual destinies". Rose Bosch uses fiction to do what only fiction can: show a reality that a documentary cannot capture. She does so by rooting her film in the reality of the eye-witness accounts she heard and read



Joseph Weismann was arrested with his whole family and escaped, at the age of 12, from the Beaune-La-Rolande camp with Joseph Kogan. In the film, he becomes Jo, a schoolboy from Montmartre forced to wear the yellow star.



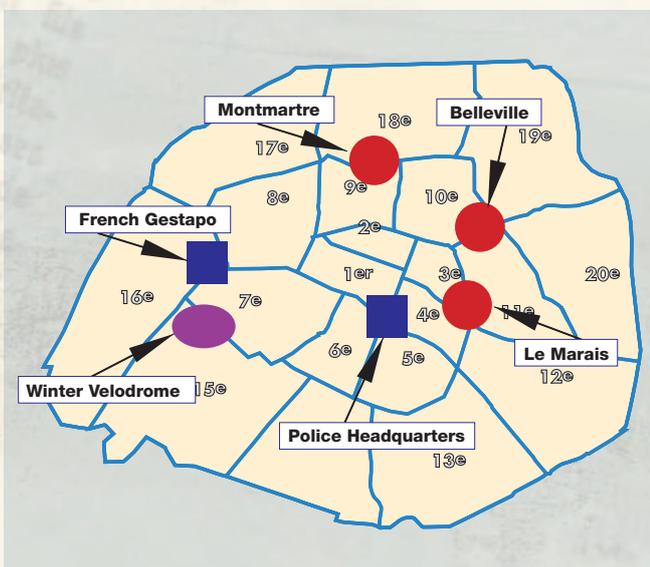
Annette Leiris Monod, recognized as "righteous among the nations", was a Red Cross social worker at the Winter Velodrome and several of the internment camps in France's Loiret region. In the film, she becomes the nurse Annette, who follows the children from Paris to Beaune-La-Rolande and grows attached to Nono just as the real-life Annette became attached to Jacquot, a child who arrived at the Winter Velodrome with a little girl he had just met who was too young to remember her family name. The character of Nono stemmed from Annette Monod's description of "my little protégé, Jacquot, who, when they put him on the train, screamed 'I want to get out!'"



Anna Traube, a rebel who refused to wear the yellow star, tried to save her family on the day of the round-up and later escaped from the Winter Velodrome. She is an important character in the movie.



THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN PARIS



PARISIAN JEWS IN 1939

In 1939, on the eve of World War Two, there were about 300,000 Jews in France, forming a sociologically and politically diverse community from many different origins, of whom 60% were French Jews (110,000 by birth, 70,000 naturalized) and 40% (roughly 120,000 people) were foreign Jews, mostly recent immigrants from central and eastern Europe. The core of France's Jewish community (200,000 people) was in Paris, living in neighbourhoods that reflected their social standing or geographical origins. The wealthiest lived in west Paris while recent arrivals from Poland, Hungary, Romania or Russia, moved into the Marais, the 11th arrondissement, Belleville and, to a slightly lesser degree, from the 1920s onwards, Montmartre and the 18th arrondissement.

SOCIAL DIVERSITY

Roughly three-quarters of French and foreign Jews were middle-class, ranging from wealthy upper middle-class to vulnerable lower middle-class: small businessmen, medical and legal professionals, civil servants, shopowners and craftsmen. But nearly 25,000 recent Jewish immigrants lived in poverty in Paris, and sometimes in abject poverty. Several thousand of them scraped a living as underpaid piece-workers in the textile, leather and furniture industries, often without working papers or union representation.

The wave of Jewish immigration in the 1920-30s included a relatively high number of political activists, divided unequally between Bundists, Communists and Zionists. The left-leaning working-classes were relatively apolitical, yet the cultural and sports wings of a wide range of associations and political organizations were very popular.

Although a large number of immigrants remained quite religious, the majority was drifting away from religion. Their Judaism was increasingly restricted to social and cultural outlets, such as the use of Yiddish. For native French Jews, however, religion remained an important part of their identity.



THE ROUND-UPS

SUMMER 1942

Round-ups of male Jews, demanded by the Germans and carried out with the full cooperation of the French police, had begun in May and August 1941, before the Nazis' decision in Autumn of that year to annihilate Europe's Jews. Under Adolf Eichmann, planning for the three Nazi-occupied western European nations (France, Belgium, Holland) began in June 1942. On June 15, after two convoys had already left France headed for Auschwitz, the quota for France for 1942 was fixed at 40,000 deportees.

Theodor Dannecker, Eichmann's representative in Paris,

led negotiations with René Bousquet, the French government's Secretary of Police. The Germans sought the collaboration of the French police in occupied France and the handing over by Vichy of Jews in the Free Zone. On July 2, they reached an agreement: 20,000 foreign Jews would be arrested in occupied France and 10,000 more in the Free Zone. In return, Vichy would be given complete control of French police forces. On July 3, Pétain and Laval, the prime minister, ratified the agreement. Laval stated that the government was unconcerned by Jewish children in occupied France and spontaneously offered to deport Jewish children whose parents were rounded up in the Free Zone.



THE WINTER VELODROME ROUND-UP

In Occupied France, the first arrests were made on July 13. In the Paris area, the Winter Velodrome round-up—codename Operation Spring Wind—was carried out by French police forces on July 16-17. 13,152 Jews, including 4,115 children, mostly born in France, were arrested in their homes using the file of Jews kept at Police HQ. Gendarmes, plain-clothes inspectors and police trainees, nearly 7,000 men in total, took part in the operation, which rounded up women and children for the first time. Single adults were sent to Drancy internment camp. The families—8,160 people—were held at the Winter Velodrome for 3-5 days, then transported to the camps in the Loiret region.



THE FILM

The director has chosen to use two different techniques. The "composed" scenes — daily life and inside the Winter Velodrome — are shot with the camera on a crane, dolly or tripod. The scenes of violence are shot with mobile cameras: the families' separation at the Beaune-La-Rolande camp is filmed with three cameras, one handheld and two steadicams. In the apartment building during the round-up, the cameraman and handheld camera are in the middle of the actors and extras, being jostled by them at the heart of the action.

THE WINTER VELODROME

REBUILDING THE WINTER VELODROME

Buildings of this type no longer exist in France or Europe, so the crew decided to rebuild a quarter of the velodrome using over 700 photos of sports meetings and political rallies. On set, the director

of photography reconstituted the very particular lighting of the Velodrome during the war, which was due to the glass roof 50 metres above the track being painted blue as an anti-air raid measure. In post-production, the 500 extras in the stands were digitally replicated to obtain wide shots showing the full velodrome with nearly 10,000 people inside.



THE WINTER VELODROME

During the round-ups from May 1941 onwards, the authorities requisitioned buildings with the capacity to hold the arrested Jews. These included barracks and gymnasiums. An important site in working-class culture, the Winter Velodrome was built in 1909 with a capacity of 17,000 spectators to hold cycle races and boxing matches. In 1941-2, collaborationist rallies were held there, and it was the logical choice in July 1942.

Conditions were appalling: nothing had been planned in terms of supplies or bedding and the sanitation facilities were soon unusable. Guarded by French police forces, the detainees—women and children mostly—were massed in the stands with no room to sit or lie down. The track area was reserved for the makeshift infirmary. Without healthcare or drinking water, in the stifling summer heat, the families breathed stagnant, dusty air, were subject to harsh lighting day and night, and deafened by constant announcements over the loudspeakers. They were exposed to the risk of epidemics, lack of privacy and violence. 5 people committed suicide. Outside help was strictly limited with only a few people able to assist them. Very few managed to escape. Starting on July 19, the families were transported by train to the Pithiviers and Beaune-La-Rolande internment camps.

After demolition in 1959, the site was used for memorial ceremonies, with a monument constructed on the Quai de la Seine, near Bir-Hakeim metro station. In 1992, François Mitterrand decided that July 16 would be a day of national remembrance.

THE LOIRET CAMPS

INTERNMENT CAMPS IN FRANCE

After the French defeat, internment camps that had been opened to accommodate 500,000 refugees fleeing Franco's Spain (Gurs, Rivesaltes, Le Vernet) were used by the Vichy government to intern political opponents, black marketeers and criminals. After the internment of foreign Jews became law in October 1940, nearly 50,000 were sent to these camps in the next few months. The number of children rose from 2,295 to 4,000 by January 1941.

The former POW camps in Pithiviers and Beaune-La-Rolande became internment camps for the 3,700 foreign Jews rounded up in Paris by French police on May 14, 1941. The Drancy internment camp on the outskirts of Paris was opened in August 1941 after a second round-up in the 11th arrondissement, which netted 4,230 male Jews. As a result of the major round-ups in the summer of 1942, the internment camps in the Occupied Zone received a huge influx of women and children, who could now be sent to Nazi concentration camps.



REBUILDING BEAUNE-LA-ROLANDE INTERNMENT CAMP

The crew used the few remaining images of the camp, made available by the Holocaust Memorial in Paris. Some of the photos show the families inside the camp—the wives and children of men rounded up in 1941 and interned in Pithiviers were allowed to visit for a picnic. The men were subsequently sent to Auschwitz before the Winter Velodrome round-up, in which their families were arrested.

CHILDREN IN THE INTERNMENT CAMPS

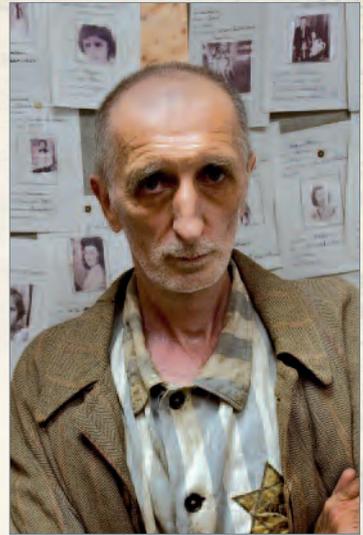
Between July 19-22, 1942, the families were transferred from the Winter Velodrome to the French-run internment camps in Pithiviers and Beaune-La-Rolande. The parents were sent to the concentration camps shortly afterwards, before the Germans had decided the fate of the children in the camps. Aged 2-15, the children were alone for several weeks. Disoriented by their parents' absence and living in barrack huts ill-suited to children, they experienced disastrous sanitary conditions. Eight children died in this period. On August 13, Eichmann's department informed the French authorities that the children must also be deported: they were transferred to Drancy and from there sent in convoys to Auschwitz. Eye-witness accounts of these events are extremely difficult to bear.



RETURN AND REMEMBRANCE

RETURN AND REMEMBRANCE

Around 2,500 French Jews, who survived the gas chambers and death marches from Auschwitz, were found in German concentration camps and repatriated to France at the end of the war. Most had been deported between 1943-44. Very few of those deported in 1942 survived. Almost all of them were taken to the Lutetia Hotel in the 7th arrondissement of Paris, where people gathered to wait for news of their family-members, pasting up photos and asking survivors for any news. After being registered at the Lutetia, the sickest were sent to hospital. The others returned home, but many were later referred to a sanatorium. The memory of the massive deportation of the Jews was overshadowed after the war by the policy of national reconciliation and focus on the deportation of Resistance fighters. Only in the late 1970s did the voice of survivors begin to be heard. In the late 1980s, school curriculums began to place greater emphasis on the Holocaust, but it was Jacques Chirac's speech, on July 16, 1995, on the day of commemoration of the Winter Velodrome round-up, which finally marked official recognition of France's part in the persecution of the Jews. It represented an important step in the inclusion of the victims in the national memory.



THE FATE OF THE CHILDREN DURING THE WAR

111,400 Jewish children were sent from France to the concentration camps, mostly Auschwitz. Very few came back. Serge Klarsfeld has so far identified only one child under 16 deported in 1942 who came back alive. Of the 4,115 children from the Winter Velodrome, none returned.

Thousands of Jewish children separated from their parents were hidden by families or institutions, often religious ones, often under false identities and sometimes in return for some kind of payment. The medal of the Righteous is awarded to people who did all they could to save children or whole families from persecution. There are 2,740 French "Righteous among the nations". Thousands of children never saw their parents again. Various Jewish organizations, especially the OSE (Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants) cared for them. Some were adopted, while others grew up in orphanages or made their way to Palestine and the future Jewish national home.

EXTRACT OF THE SPEECH GIVEN BY JACQUES CHIRAC ON 16 JULY 1995 AT THE CEREMONY COMMEMORATING THE JULY 16-17 1942 ROUND-UP)

"There are in the life of a nation times that wound the memory and the idea one has of one's country. It is difficult to talk about such time because one cannot always find the right words to describe the horror, to evoke the grief of those who endured tragedy, whose flesh and souls are forever marked by the recollection of those days of tears and shame. It is also difficult to talk about them because those dark hours sully forever our history, and are an insult to our past and traditions. Yes, French men and women and the French state assisted the occupying forces in their criminally insane undertaking. Fifty-three years ago, on July 16, 1942, 450 French policemen and gendarmes, commanded by their officers, responded to the Nazis' demands. On that day, in Paris and the surrounding region, nearly ten thousand Jewish men, women and children were arrested in their homes, at dawn, and horded into police stations.

Atrocious scenes took place: families torn apart, mothers separated from their children, old men—some of whom were veterans who spilled their blood for France in the Great War—were manhandled into buses and police vans. Some policemen closed their eyes, as escapes were made, but for all those arrested, so began the long, painful journey into hell. How many ever saw their home again? How many, at that moment, felt betrayed? How great was their distress? That day, France, the cradle of the Enlightenment and human rights, a safe haven for the oppressed, committed and unforgiveable sin. Breaking its word, it delivered those it should protect to their executioners. At the Winter Velodrome, the victims were left to wait several days in terrible conditions before being taken to one of the transit camps, Pithiviers or Beaune-La-Rolande, opened by the Vichy government. And yet, the horror was only just beginning."

THE ROUND-UP: A NEW ANGLE ON THE EVENTS OF JULY 1942

THE STORY

1942. Joseph is 11 years old.

On this June morning, he must go to school with a yellow star stitched to his chest.

He is greeted with sympathy from a local antique merchant. And taunts from the baker's wife.

Amidst kindness or contempt, Jo, his Jewish friends and their families make a fresh start to their lives in occupied Paris, on the hill in Montmartre where they have found refuge.

Or so they believe, until dawn on July 16, 1942, when their fragile happiness is shattered...

From the Winter Velodrome, crammed full of 13,000 rounded-up Jews, to the camp at Beaune la Rolande, from Vichy to the terrace of Hitler's Berghof, *The Round-Up* charts the real-life destiny of the victims and their persecutors.

Those who orchestrated it. Those whose trust was tragically misplaced.

Those who fled. Those who resisted.

All the characters in this film are real.

All the events, even the most extreme, really took place in that summer of 1942.

AN ORIGINAL VIEWPOINT

In the 1970s, the Winter Velodrome round-up featured in two films. Michel Mitrani's *Les Guichets du Louvre* took place in the streets of Paris patrolled by the police, while Joseph Losey's *Monsieur Klein* did not explicitly show the round-up. The 50th anniversary, in 1992, resulted in a surge of documentaries. In *Operation Spring Wind: The Winter Velodrome Round-Up*, Blanche Finger and William Karel interviewed children, such as Joseph Weismann, who had escaped arrest or deportation, as well as Dr Henri Russak and social worker Annette Monod. In *the Children of the*

Winter Velodrome, Pierre Oscar Lévy told the story of Michel and Annette Muller, who succeeded in getting out of Drancy. These films showed the round-up and life in the internment camps from the "outside", from the point of view of those who escaped: the round-up, the Winter Velodrome and the camps remain in the background, off camera, however powerful the eyewitness accounts may be. In *The Roundup*, Rose Bosch adopts the opposite perspective: the point of view is that of the children who never came back from the Winter Velodrome and Auschwitz. Those who escape disappear off screen. But Auschwitz remains beyond what can be depicted.

BRIEF TIMELINE OF THE PERSECUTION OF FRENCH JEWS

September 27, 1940: First German decree requiring Jews to register with the authorities

October 3, 1940: First Jewish Statute

May 14, 1941: Round-up in Paris's 11th arrondissement

June 2, 1941: Second Jewish Statute

August 20-21, 1941: Second major round-up in Paris

March 27, 1942: First convoy of Jews from France to the concentration camps

June 6, 1942: Enforcement of a German decree obliging all Jews over 6 to wear a yellow star

July 16-17, 1942: Winter Velodrome round-up

August 26, 1942: Round-up in the Free Zone

August 11, 1944: Final convoy leaves Lyon for Auschwitz

This document is a Parenthèse Cinéma initiative

Texts: Iannis Roder & Catherine Magistry under the supervision of Jean-Pierre Lauby - Photos: Bruno Calvo ©2010 Gaumont-Légende

With the support of the Ile de France

