

## WESTERBORK

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Camp Westerbork in the Netherlands was set up in 1938 as a refugee camp for German and Austrian Jews fleeing the Third Reich. After Germany occupied the Netherlands in May 1940, Westerbork became a transit camp for Dutch Jews and Roma and Sinti being deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, Sobibór and other camps. In May 1944, 574 “caravan dwellers” were arrested and taken to Westerbork. They were examined and 245 whom the Nazis considered to be “Gypsies” were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Only thirty survived.

### Did you know

... that 64 of the Roma and Sinti inmates were saved from deportation by their Swiss or Italian passports?

... that 200 people were released because they were not considered Roma or Sinti but “travellers”?

### For you to do

Why do you think people holding Italian and Swiss passports were treated differently? Why do you think the Nazis released the “travellers” but deported the Roma and Sinti?

### The photo

A photograph of “Main Street” in Camp Westerbork - taken in 1944 by a Jewish prisoner on the orders of the camp commander, probably from the upper storey of the commander’s building.