

CANADA RESPONDS TO THE HOLOCAUST, 1944-45

TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Canada Responds to the Holocaust, 1944-45 explores interactions between Canadians in Europe and survivors of the Holocaust at the close of the Second World War. It follows members of the Canadian military — soldiers, chaplains, official photographers and war artists — who fought with the Allied forces in Europe, as well as journalists and aid workers, as they encountered and struggled to respond to evidence of Nazi atrocities.

The exhibition begins with a focus on Jewish life in Europe and the rise of Nazism. It then explains the efforts of the Canadian troops as part of the Allied campaigns as they advanced through Europe from Italy in the south, and France in the west, and then liberated Northern France, Belgium, and the Netherlands, freeing those suffering in villages and concentration and transit camps, such as Westerbork and Bergen-Belsen. The last panels of the exhibition provide answers to the questions of how the Holocaust was perceived in the Canadian Press and what the attitude was towards European Jewish refugees to immigrate to Canada.

A particular emphasis of the exhibition lies on the liberation of the concentration camps and the interactions between the liberators and the survivors of Hitler's genocide. Complex emotions and circumstances arose that characterized the immediate post-war period, as survivors had to come to terms with their loss and with the need to plan for their futures.

A number of questions are brought into focus: How did the Canadian military react upon meeting survivors emerging from hiding? What were the soldiers' reactions to the Nazi camps? How did the survivors feel after "liberation"? What were the responses of the relief workers and of the international aid agencies when encountering the survivors? How did those charged with documenting events respond to the challenge of representing what they witnessed for their own time and for posterity?

Illustrating maps, documents, photographs, letters, testimonies, and war art, *Canada Responds to the Holocaust, 1944-45* provides insight into the complex responses to the Holocaust and the challenges of the time, offering opportunities to engage with the varied experiences and perspectives of Canadians and Holocaust survivors.

This original exhibition, produced by the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, has been researched and written by Dr. Richard Menkis and Ronnie Tessler, with the Bergen-Belsen panels by Dr. Mark Celinscak.



TO BOOK THIS EXHIBIT

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PRODUCTION, DISPLAY AND SUPPORTING MATERIALS

- This traveling exhibition is provided to your organization in form of an easy to print high-resolution digital file, accompanied with printing instructions.
- It can be printed at your local printing house.
- The panels are sequential. An exhibition guide will be provided explaining the set-up of the exhibition.
- The panels are in English, and historic text is in Dutch, Hebrew, and English.
- The panels are suitable to display in locations including schools, universities, community centres and libraries.
- A resource for teachers and educators is available [here](#). The Teachers' Guide *Canada Responds to the Holocaust, 1944-45* supports further learning and includes pre- and post-exhibition visit activities, discussion questions, student readings, primary documents, glossaries, timelines and recommended resources.
- Recommended for students of grades 8-12, post-secondary students and adults.

SPACE REQUIREMENTS

- There are 44 separate panels each measuring 30 x 48 inches. There is also one smaller credit panel measuring 26 x 30 inches.
- The panels should be printed on 0.25 inch/6 millimeter foamcore and mounted directly to the wall or placed on easels.
- The exhibition measures approximately 126 linear feet in total.
- The exhibition also includes four scrapbooks, measuring 12.5 x 8.75 inches, to be suspended near their corresponding panels.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- We ask to only produce one copy of the exhibition.
- Production should be according to the specific technical instructions.
- All exhibitions panels should be displayed, including the credits panel.
- The digital files are for the sole purpose of producing exhibition panels. All files must be deleted afterwards.
- No other use of the digital files is permitted, for instance for posters, flyers or catalogues.
- The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre (VHEC) should be credited in any publicity and acknowledged in any programming related to the travel exhibition.

RENTAL COSTS

- While there is no charge for displaying this exhibition, the VHEC kindly requests that exhibitors make a donation to the VHEC to help fund future development of important traveling exhibitions.
- The suggested minimum donation is \$100 per month of displaying the exhibition.
- A Canadian Tax Receipt will be issued for all donations.