Life after Survival



Survivors with a nurse on the crossing to Sweden, probably taken in May 1945. Foto: unbekannt. (SRK)

Survivors experienced their liberation from the concentration camps in different ways. Many of them were in poor health due to the conditions of their imprisonment and had to be treated in hospitals.

Those who had been deported to Germany were classified as "Displaced Persons" and put up in special camps before they could be repatriated. But not all of them wanted to go back: many survivors wanted to emigrate to the USA or to Palestine, and some even wanted to remain in Germany.

Both in Germany and in their native countries, former political prisoners formed associations of concentration camp survivors or victims of Nazi persecution and demanded compensation.