

Holocaust Memorial Day

Yesterday was Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom Ha'Shoah).

For those who wonder how much the West knew of the Holocaust while it was going on, have a look at [this footage](#) (RealPlayer required) at the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#), of protests in New York in March 1943, and at the links [here](#):

After word reached America of the Nazi killing of European Jewry, pressure mounted on the Roosevelt administration to help European Jews. To spur action, playwright Ben Hecht prepared a memorial to the Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, "We Will Never Die." The pageant, sponsored by the Zionist Revisionist Bergson Group, was part of a mass demonstration at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Later seen in other U.S. cities, the show was part of the Bergson Group's effort to pressure Washington to act decisively to rescue Europe's remaining Jews.

However, interference with the Holocaust was **contrary to Allied policy**:

By the spring of 1944, the Allies knew of the gassings at [Auschwitz-Birkenau](#). Jewish leaders pleaded unsuccessfully with the U.S. government to bomb the gas chambers and railways leading to the camp. From August 20 to September 13, 1944, the U.S. Air Force bombed the Auschwitz-Monowitz industrial complex, less than five miles from the gas chambers in Birkenau. However, the U.S. maintained its policy of non-involvement in rescue, and bombed neither the gas chambers nor the railways used to transport prisoners.

For those who can't view the video, here's the transcript:

The pageant "We Will Never Die" is New York's Jewish protest against Nazi massacres. In Lublin, five hundred of our women and children were led to the market place and stood against the vegetable stalls we knew so well. Here the Germans turned machine guns on us and killed us all. Remember us. [Narrator:] And a great dramatic

appeal is made as Paul Muni tells of Nazi crimes against

helpless people. [Muni:] There are four million Jews surviving in Europe. The Germans have promised to deliver to the world by the end of the year, a Christmas package of four million dead Jews. And this is not a Jewish problem. It is a problem that belongs to humanity and it is a challenge to the soul of man.

March, 1943.

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Celebrity does good

Paul Muni Hollywood actor! <http://movies.yahoo.com/shop?d=hc&id=1800018166&cf=awards&intl=us>.

Was that the last time a Hollywood celebrity ever demonstrated on the side of good?

by a reader on Wed, 04/30/2003 - 01:38 | [reply](#)