

Answers: Liberation 75 Local Connections Activity 1

1. Soviet Union
2. Annex: to incorporate (a country or other territory) within the domain of a state

Anschluss: union, especially in reference to the forcible uniting of Germany and Austria in 1938

The Anschluss occurred starting on March 12, 1938. The next day Austria was incorporated into Germany. In April of that year a vote was held. However, the vote was manipulated and excluded Jews and Gypsies (Roma) from participating.

Protectorate: the relationship of superior authority assumed by one power or state over a dependent one

Nearly 119,00 (118,310) citizens of Czechoslovakia were counted as Jews, then living in Bohemia and Moravia. Just over 82,000 Jews (82,309) were deported from there during the Holocaust. Most of them died; approximately 71,000.

3. At that time, tanks and machine guns were life-saving tools and were considered more important to soldiers for their survival. In that respect, a soldier might consider “tanks and machine guns” the prettiest words since they could help him survive.
4. GI is a slang term with a long military history. According to <https://www.merriam-webster.com/> a GI was ‘an enlisted man in the army’.
5. 21 million
6. *Arbeit Macht Frei*: work sets you free.
It was a euphemism and meanspirited or sadistic phrase to suggest that they would be worked to death thereby gaining freedom through death.
7. The Survivors who were in the camps the longest, those who were starving to death, those who were overworked to the point of death, those who were targeted directly and were ultimately ‘supposed to die’ according to the Nazis. That typically meant Jewish Survivors.
8. *Les Francais Suivent Les Allies*: the French follows the Allies.

The main Allies were Great Britain, the United States, China, and the Soviet Union.

The Axis Powers included Germany, Italy, and Japan.

The French wanted to be on the side of ‘good’, wanted to support their rescuers, and despised everything in which the Axis believed.

9. “Every cheer had an echo in hearts too weak to shout aloud” means that everyone freed was so happy and joyous to be free. They could now experience liberty and freedom. However, some of the prisoners were weak from lack of food, physical exertion, and torment that they couldn’t muster the energy to cheer. But in their hearts, oh how they cheered!”