

Decency

MARKO - FEINGOLD - STEG

EXHIBITION



What is decent and what is not?

During National Socialism, many people behaved indifferently towards the suffering of others. Some avoided Jews and other persecuted people, some spied on them, stole from them, betrayed them, and thus delivered them to their deaths.

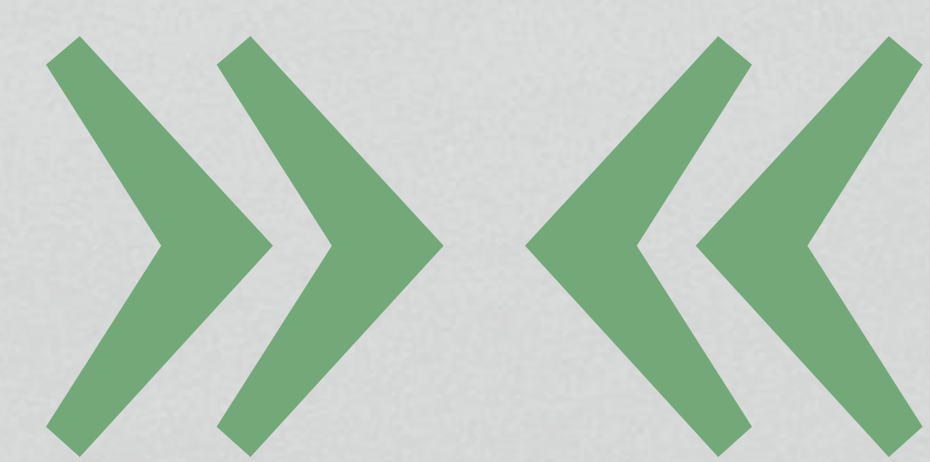
After liberation, they often justified their actions by saying that they had always 'behaved decently'. Eighty years after the end of the war, we understand 'decency' to mean the exact opposite: people who showed compassion towards those who were persecuted, who helped them, and risked a great deal in doing so.

Marko Feingold (1913–2019) was President of the Jewish Community of Salzburg for decades.

As a survivor of several concentration camps, he remained an important voice of remembrance and admonition until the end. After his death, the Salzburg City Council decided to rename Makartsteg Bridge to Marko-Feingold-Steg (Marko Feingold Bridge).



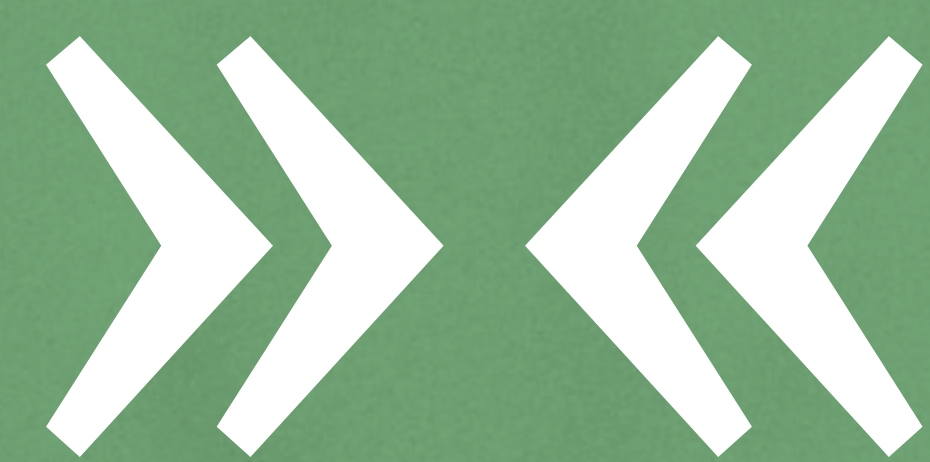
A JEWISH GIRL HIDDEN IN AMSTERDAM



When the German Wehrmacht occupied the Netherlands in 1940, those who had fled there became the target of the SS. Twelve-year-old Hedy Schorstein from Vienna was hidden by Dirk and Marringje Alberts. Hedy's mother had also gone into hiding, but was betrayed and deported. Hedy (Edna Harel) remained close to the Alberts family throughout her life.



SHELTERING PRIEST

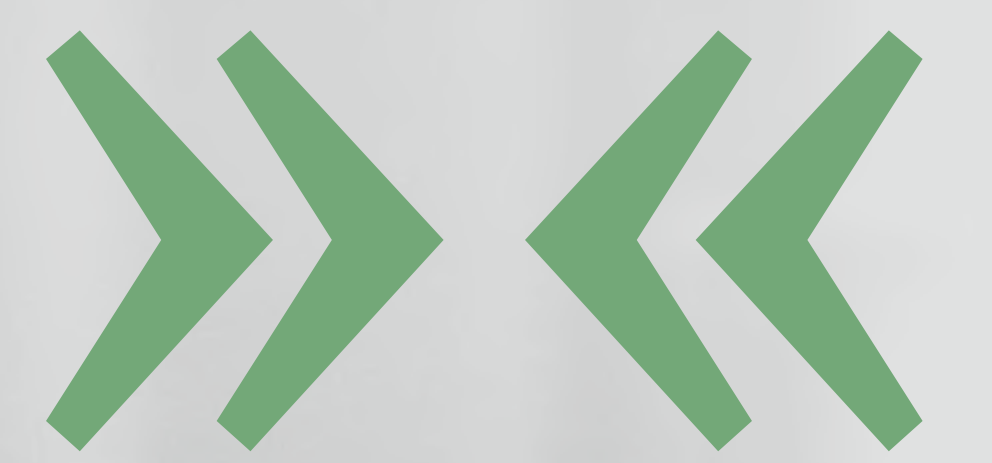


Born in St. Veit im Pongau in 1902, Father Balthasar Linsinger was a staunch Catholic. He offered to help the family of painter Eduard Bäumer if danger threatened: 'Then come to me, all of you.'

In 1944, the time had come. Valerie Bäumer, who was Jewish, and her three children Angelica, Bettina and Michael went into hiding at the rectory in Großarl with Father Linsinger under false identities.



ESCAPE ASSISTANCE



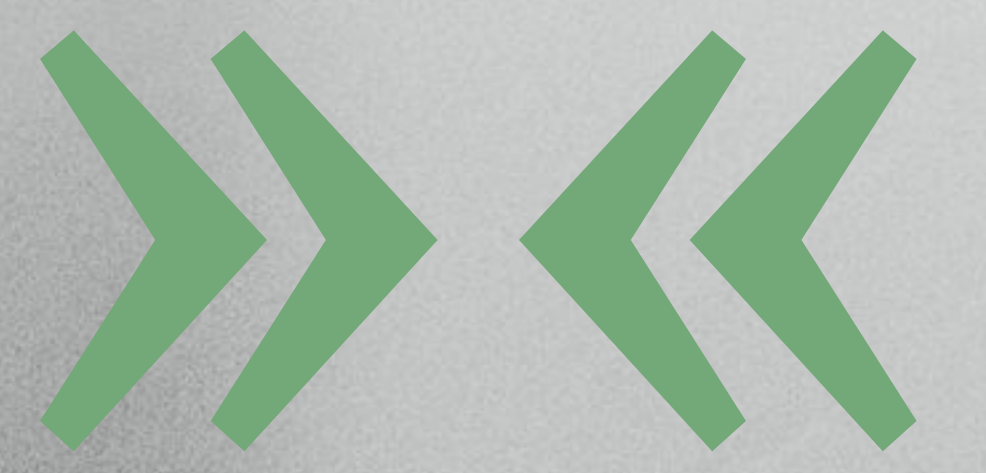
During the Second World War, many refugees ended up in the unoccupied part of France. Raids and hunts for non-Jewish and Jewish refugees nevertheless took place. In Banyuls-sur-Mer on the French-Spanish border, Lisa and Hans Fittko helped those who had to cross the mountainous border without valid papers, including many intellectuals and artists, beginning in September 1940.

LIFESAVING CHINESE STAMPS



Despite his humble, rural origins, Ho Feng Shan enjoyed a meteoric diplomatic career. Chinese consul in Vienna from 1937, he issued documents to thousands of Viennese Jews to help them flee after the “Anschluss”. After the embassy closed, he rented a flat for this purpose and, against the wishes of his superiors, continued his work until he was recalled from Vienna in 1940.

AT THE LAST MINUTE



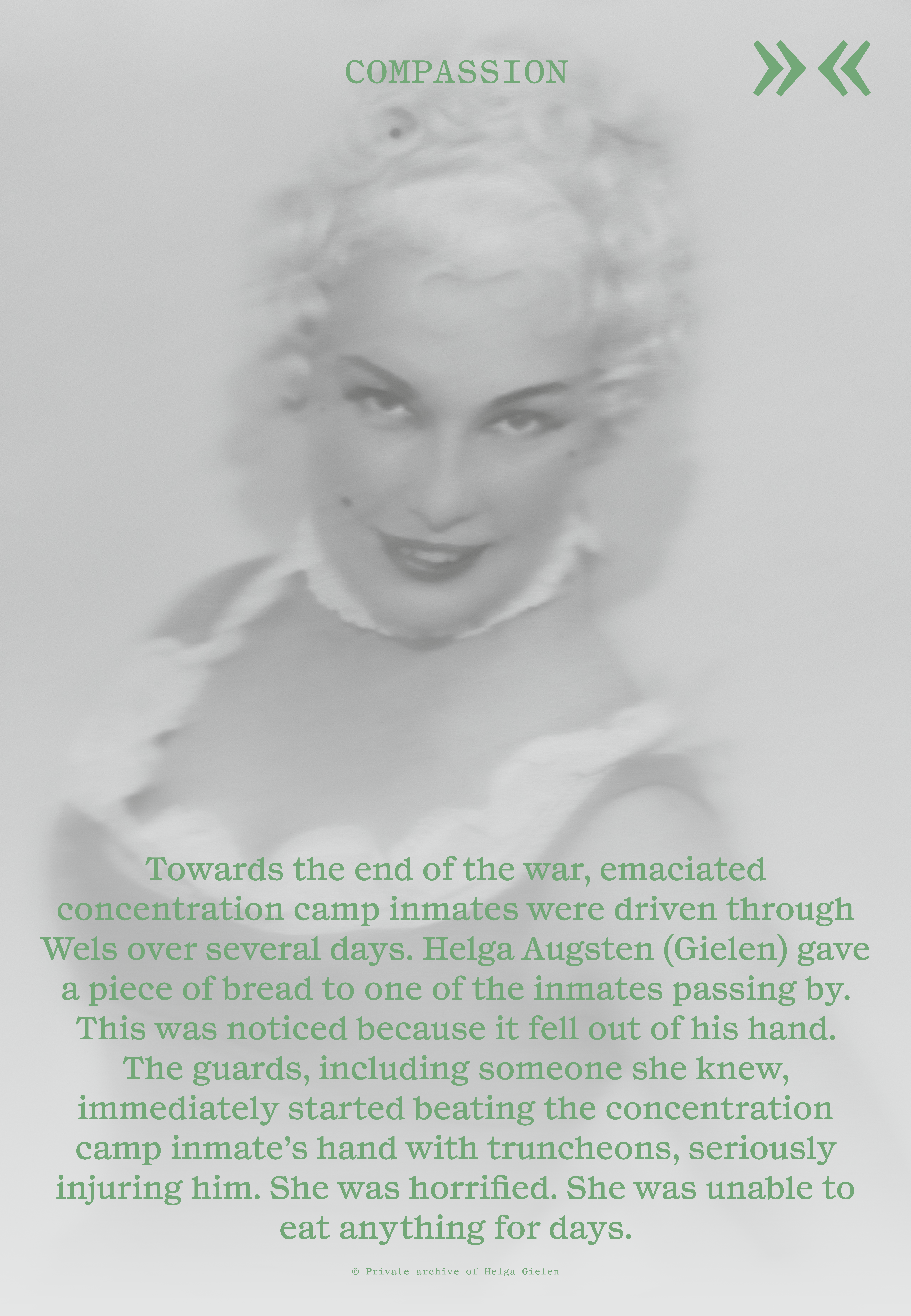
Esther Feinkoch managed to escape from Mauthausen concentration camp in the final weeks of the war. The then 18-year-old knocked on the door of Maria and Johann Schatz's farmhouse in Gilhof. Johann Schatz took her in his arms and carried her upstairs, where Esther, completely exhausted, lived out the end of the war in safety. Esther's son, Arie Zychlinski, set out to find her rescuers after her death.



SILENT RESISTANCE IN THE LUNGAU REGION

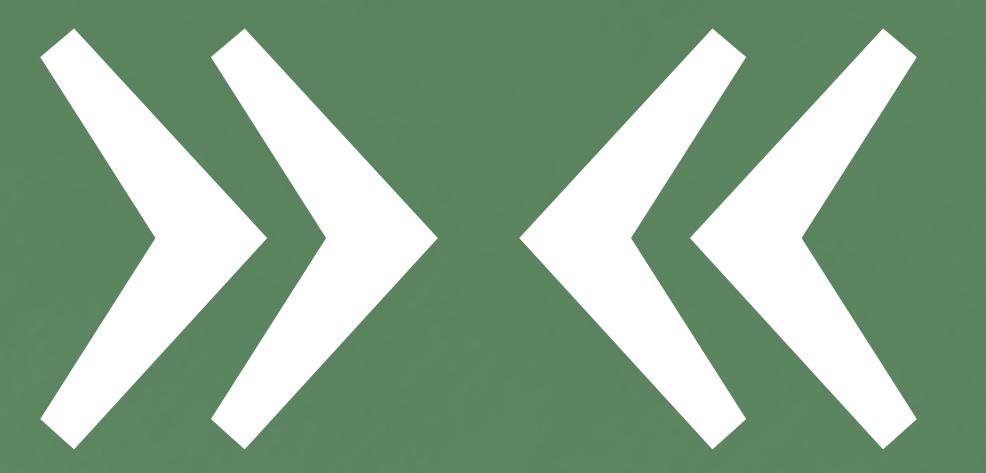


After the death of her non-Jewish husband in 1941, Katharina Freifrau von Künßberg, as a Jew, was left defenceless against the life-threatening policies of the Nazis. She was able to hide out with Jolánta Szápáry at Finstergrün Castle in Ramingstein and in a nearby alpine hut. 'I did meet some good people who risked their own lives to help me'.



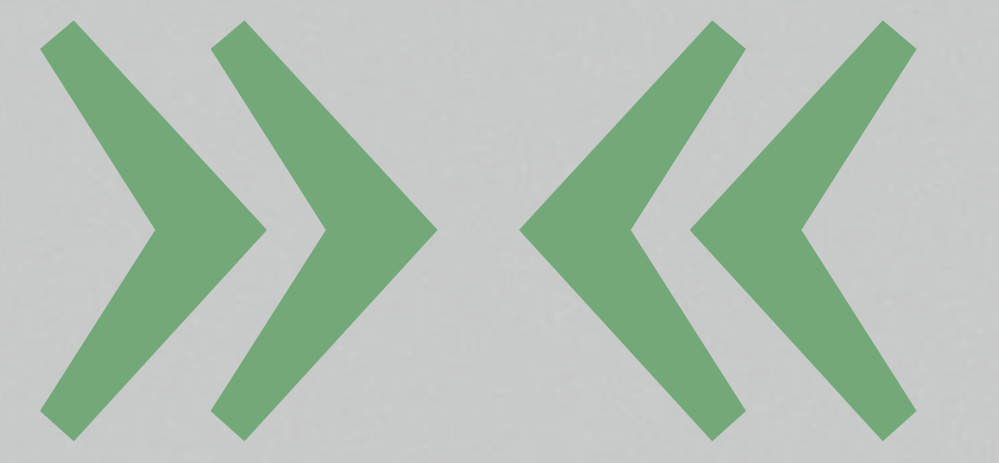
Towards the end of the war, emaciated concentration camp inmates were driven through Wels over several days. Helga Augsten (Gielen) gave a piece of bread to one of the inmates passing by. This was noticed because it fell out of his hand. The guards, including someone she knew, immediately started beating the concentration camp inmate's hand with truncheons, seriously injuring him. She was horrified. She was unable to eat anything for days.

DISOBEDIENCE IN AUSCHWITZ



Maria Stromberger, a nurse from Carinthia, worked in the SS infirmary at Auschwitz concentration camp. She provided prisoners with medicine and food. She smuggled mail for the resistance group inside the camp and brought weapons and ammunition into the camp. Honoured in Poland after the war, she was initially even arrested in Austria and then ignored for a long time.

RACING RESCUER




The Italian cyclist Gino Bartali, multiple winner of the Giro d'Italia, was a member of an underground movement that helped persecuted Jews after the German occupation of Italy. He hid a family from the German and Italian fascists and smuggled forged documents across the country under the guise of cycling training.

THE IRANIAN 'SCHINDLER'



At the time of the occupation of France by German troops in June 1940, 36-year-old Abdol-Hossein Sardari, born in Tehran, was head of the consular service at the Iranian Embassy in Paris. He used a ruse to protect Iranian and Central Asian Jews in France from Nazi persecution. He saved around 3,000 lives.

IRRECONCILABLE:
INTELLIGENCE, DECENCY
& NAZISM

A black and white photograph of a man, Gerhard Bronner, sitting at a piano. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. His hands are on the piano keys. A small object, possibly a candle or incense burner, is on the piano top to the left, with a wisp of smoke rising from it. The background is dark and out of focus.

‘You can be intelligent and a Nazi,
but then you aren’t decent.
You can be decent and a Nazi,
but then you aren’t intelligent.
And you can be decent and intelligent,
but then you aren’t a Nazi’

(Cabaret artist Gerhard Bronner [1922–2007] at the
memorial ceremony for the liberation of Gunskirchen
subcamp in 2005)