

Answers to unit 5 questions (The Rescuers)

Website 1

#1. What options would you have if you were going to keep a Jew on your property?

You had lots of options. You could dig a bunker under your house, or you could hide them in your attic. Another choice was to have them live with you and say they are your non-Jew relatives. Sometimes you needed to get creative. You could hide them at a cemetery on your property or in a forest.

...In the rural areas in Eastern Europe hideouts or bunkers, as they were called, were dug under houses, cowsheds and barns, where the Jews would be concealed from sight ... Sometimes the hiding Jews were presented as non-Jews, as relatives or adopted children. Jews were also hidden in apartments in cities, and children were placed in convents with the nuns concealing their true identity. In Western Europe Jews were mostly hidden in houses, farms or convents... - from the article

#2. What countries were ideal for smuggling Jews into?

Switzerland, because it was neutral. Italian controlled regions were also a good choice because there were no deportations. Hungary worked until Germany invaded in 1944

...cross borders into unoccupied countries or into areas where the persecution was less intense, such as neutral Switzerland, Italian-controlled regions where there were no deportations, and Hungary before the German occupation in March 1944... - from the article

#3. What were some of the consequences if you were caught helping Jews?

You could be treated just like a Jew and go to the concentration camps. There was also the possibility of being executed. Some also went after their family after the rescuer was caught. There was always a constant fear of being caught.

...The price that rescuers had to pay for their action differed from one country to another. In Eastern Europe, the Germans executed not only the people who sheltered Jews, but their entire family as well. Notices warning the population against helping the Jews were posted everywhere. In general, punishment was less severe in Western Europe, although there too the consequences could be formidable and some of the Righteous Among the Nations were incarcerated in camps and murdered... - from the article

Website 2

#1. Approximately how many Jews were there in Denmark? How many of those were evacuated on the night of October 1st?

There was a total of 7,800 Jews in Denmark. 7,200 of them went into hiding the night of October 1st.

...a rescue operation, in which Danish fishermen clandestinely ferried some 7,200 Jews (of the country's total Jewish population of 7,800)... - from the article

#2. Why do you think Raoul Wallenberg, Carl Lutz, and Giorgio Perlasca were able to help so many Jews?

Two were diplomats and one acted as a diplomat. They went in under their nation's "protection", so they could not be harmed. Then they gave out certificates of protection to those being persecuted so that they were safe from most trouble.

...In Budapest, the capital of German-occupied Hungary, Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg (who was also an agent of the US War Refugee Board), Swiss diplomat Carl Lutz, and Italian citizen Giorgio Perlasca (posing as a Spanish diplomat), provided tens of thousands of Jews in 1944 with certification that they were under the "protection" of neutral powers. These certifications exempted the bearers from most anti-Jewish measures decreed by the Hungarian government, including deportation to the Greater German Reich... - from the article