J2 HRASTINA (HR)



On 24 April 1945, just a few days before the end of the war, members of a retreating German SS unit caught 43 German Sinti who had fled to Croatia and were hiding in a village near Zagreb. Some of them were tortured and all 43 of them - men, women and children - were then killed and burned in a barn. One of the victims was Max Bamberger (see page A2).

1910 1951

1935

Did you know

... that many Sinti and Roma tried to escape across borders into safe countries like Switzerland but were usually refused entry, as were many Jewish and political fugitives? One of the fugitives turned away by the Swiss authorities was the famous jazz guitarist Django Reinhardt.

Your task

What can you fi nd out about the Swiss border guard Paul Grüninger, who helped many refugees to cross into Switzerland? Where would you go if you had to fl ee your country? How would you do it?

About the photo

The Sinto Max Bamberger in a photograph taken in 1935. Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, Heidelberg, Germany

https://www.romasintigenocide.eu/en/j