

# Searching for Clues: New Questions from Later Generations

What happened to my (grand)parents under the Nazis?  
Does my mother have a grave? Who were my biological parents?  
These and similar questions still reach the *Arolsen Archives* today. Relatives of former Nazi victims from around the globe are curious, as many survivors never spoke to their families about their fate, or only talked about their experiences after they were quite old. To answer these questions, research is conducted in the archive, and today relatives also receive copies of any documents found. In the case of missing persons, other offices are also contacted, and to this day families are still being reunited.



Lucy Stoxen with her husband and children at the ITS, Bad Arolsen, July 23, 2018

Lucy Stoxen's mother was born in 1944 in the Theresienstadt ghetto. Most members of her Jewish family were deported to Auschwitz or Sobibor and murdered. Her mother survived and emigrated to Australia. Lucy Stoxen is researching her family history so that she can tell her children more about it.



**Alexandr Afanasjew with his Daughter and Granddaughter in Bad Arolsen, May 8, 2017**

Alexandr Afanasjew was captured by the Germans as a prisoner of war in 1944 and later imprisoned in a concentration camp. He and his daughter spent years searching for proof, after former Soviet POWs could receive a small compensation payment from the German government in May 2015. He used the money to publish his autobiography, *Alone Against Germany*.



**Zaneta Kargól-Ożyńska Carrying out Research with her Husband and Daughter, Bad Arolsen, August 3, 2016**

Her grandfather Julian Banaś never returned home from forced labor. In Bad Arolsen, the family learned that he was murdered in the summer of 1942, and that his grave and a "Stolperstein" are in Schwerte, where he had performed forced labor. In 2016 the family visited Schwerte and placed a candle on the grave of Julian Banaś.

**pourrait être utiles au traitement de votre demande** pont à vélo en allant au travail, elle a été enfermée à dachau, aischach et à stadelheim. Elle a subi des atrocités et elle a été libérée en août 1944. Moi sa fille, je voudrais qu'elle soit reconnue et avoir les documents avant qu'elle uisse cette terre. C'est le plus beau cadeau que nous pouvons lui faire et être réconcilié avec son pays

**Motif de la demande pour la personne susmentionnée** Renseignements pour membres de la famille sur la documentation relative à l'incarcération/ l'emploi/ le travail forcé/ le séjour ou le séjour en camp DP après 1945. Je souhaite obtenir des précisions sur la persécution nazie d'un parent proche pendant la guerre et son sort dans l'après-guerre immédiat. J'effectue cette recherche par intérêt personnel pour ma famille et son histoire.

**Le membre de ma famille en question a survécu à la persécution nazie?** Le membre de ma famille en question a survécu à la persécution nazie et est encore en vie.

**Veuillez indiquer, s.v.p. son adresse actuelle. Cette personne est-elle informée de votre requête auprès de l'ITS (oui/non)** OUI, elle est informée, c'est à sa demande, elle est très âgée, 92 ans. Je suis sa fille. Voici son adresse: scharf anna 6 rue des officiers 67800 BISCHHEIM

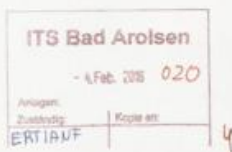
**Connaissances actuelles** Je viens juste de commencer mes recherches

## Email (Poststelle)

Von: ITS Arolsen [email@its-arolsen.org]  
 Gewendet: Mittwoch, 3. Februar 2016 16:23  
 An: Email (Poststelle)  
 Betreff: Humanitärer Antrag [20160203162328] Person 1 (1)

Folgende Formelardaten wurden gesendet:

**Prénom(s)** rachel  
**Nom** scharf  
**Nom et numéro de la voie** [redacted]  
**Code postal** 67100  
**Commune** strasbourg  
**Pays** france  
**Téléphone** [redacted]  
**Adresse électronique** [redacted]  
**Réponse de l'ITS** par voie électronique (transmission sans cryptage)  
 Je certifie sur l'honneur que toutes les indications ont été fournies en toute bonne foi.



## Personne 1

**Prénom(s)** anna  
**Nom** scharf  
**Sexe** féminin  
**Situation familiale pendant la guerre** célibataire  
**Nom de naissance** connu  
**Nom de naissance** scharf  
**Nom de substitution éventuel** inconnu  
**Date de naissance** 29 novembre 1923  
**Lieu de naissance / région, département** landshut bayern  
**Nationalité (pendant la guerre)** allemande  
**Religion** catholique  
**Nom et prénom du père** scharf joseph  
**Nom de jeune fille et prénom de la mère** schuster anna  
**Quel est votre lien de parenté ou quelle est votre relation avec la personne sur laquelle vous souhaitez obtenir des informations** Je suis sa fille.  
**Informations supplémentaires** Ma mère a été prisonnière politique. Elle a été arrêtée le 13 avril 1942 sur le

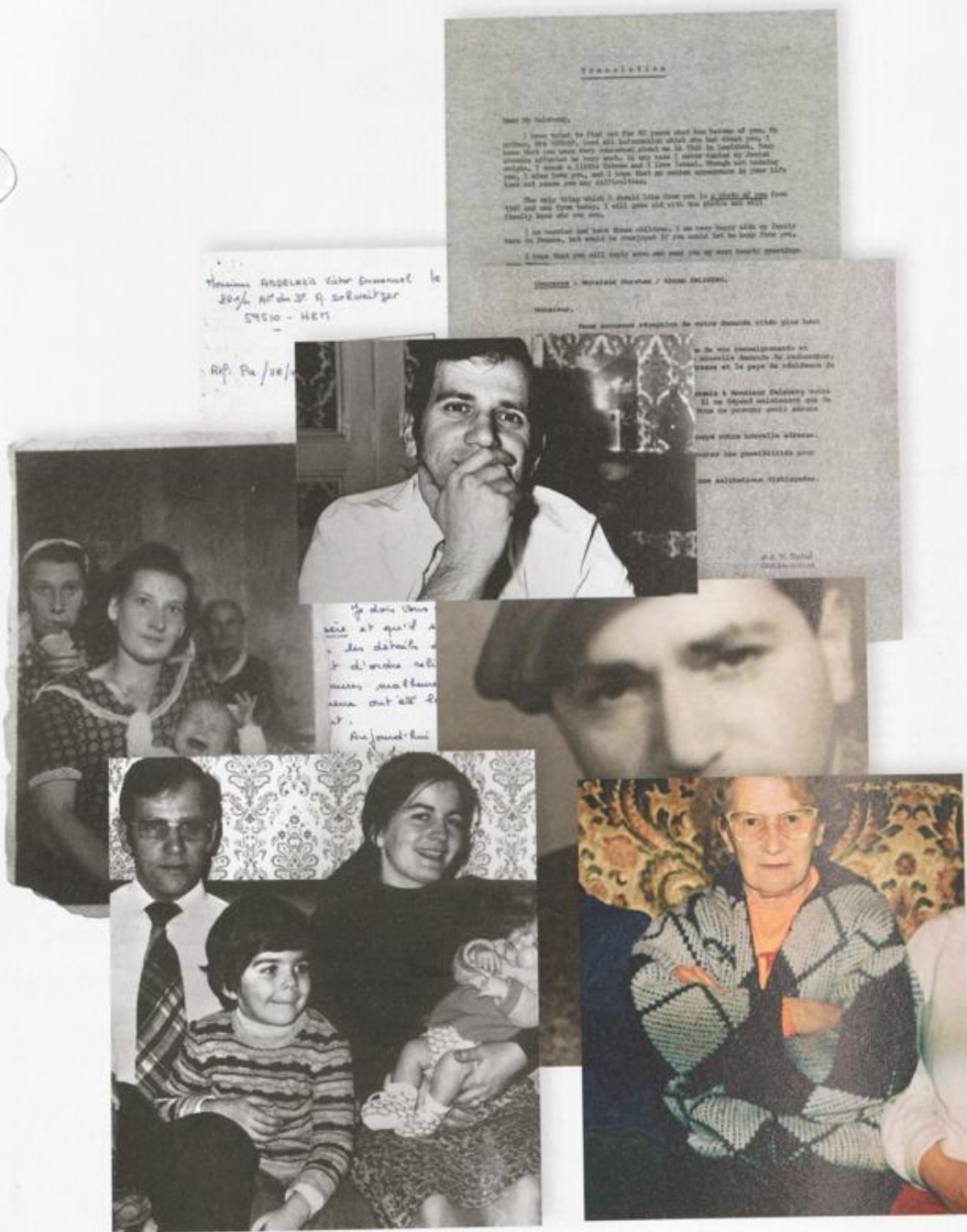
**Zuname:** Scharf  
**Vorname:** Anna  
**Mädchen-/Tarnname:**  
**geboren am:** 29.11.23  
**Geburtsort:** Landshut  
**Nationalität:** -  
**Häftlingsnummer:** -  
**Fundort:** PP Mü-Stadelh 2498/47

### Inquiry from Rachel Scharf for her Mother Anna Scharf at the ITS, February 3, 2016

Since 2016 the ITS has accepted inquiries through an online form. Rachel Scharf wanted to use this option to confirm her mother's path of persecution. The Munich District Court had sentenced Anna Scharf in 1942 to two years in jail because she had had contact with French prisoners of war, which was forbidden.

### Reference Card for Anna Scharf from the Central Name Index, 1993

This card indicates that information about Anna Scharf's imprisonment can be found in the prisoner register of the Munich-Stadelheim jail in the *Arolsen Archives*. Originals and copies of such documents from other prisons are stored in the archival collection labeled *Group PP: Prisons and Persecution*.



### Years Later: An Old Case is Solved

Archive documents verified the imprisonment of Anna Scharf. ITS staff also found a tracing case from the 1980s that was closely linked to the history of the Scharf family. Only now, after Rachel Scharf had submitted her inquiry in 2016, was it possible to solve the case.

# Video Station

## Excerpts

*“ I want to know about everything, ... I want to hold the documents in my hands. ”*

*Rachel Scharf*

*“ I knew my father suffered because he never knew his biological father, and I also knew that he had started research when I was still a child. ”*

*Etienne Scharf*

*“ And today we are so happy that we’ve found him and were able to achieve his goal in the end. Achieving the goal of his research gave us a great feeling of joy and peace, inner peace. ”*

*Etienne Scharf*

### **Rachel and Etienne Scharf Talk about Researching their Family History, 2017**

The ITS was able to confirm Anna Scharf's imprisonment and close an open tracing case at the same time: Emmanuel Scharf, Anna Scharf's first son, unsuccessfully searched for his father his whole life. An inquiry from his sister Rachel Scharf got the search going again. Etienne Scharf, the son of Emmanuel Scharf, was then able to complete the search and meet his grandfather.

# Anna Scharf

1923 - 2017

When documents from the ITS provided important proof in 2016, the Munich District Court lifted Anna Scharf's 1942 conviction. Because she had had forbidden contact with prisoners of war, the 19-year-old had been held in the Aichach women's prison. After the war, Anna Scharf met Abraham Zalcborg, a Polish Jew who had survived the atrocities of Auschwitz. One year later they had a son, Emmanuel. But the couple then separated, and Zalcborg emigrated to Israel. Anna Scharf moved to France in 1949 and started a family. She began telling her children about her imprisonment early on.



**Anna Scharf in her Home, Strasbourg,  
August 17, 2017**

Anna Scharf loved to play German folk songs on the piano and harmonica. But she could no longer imagine living in Germany on account of her time spent in a women's prison there. She died in Strasbourg in 2017, surrounded by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



**Anna Scharf with her Son Emmanuel, Lyon, circa 1955**

Emmanuel knew that his father was a Polish Holocaust survivor. From the 1970s he had tried in vain to find him. Emmanuel died in 1995. His sister Rachel submitted an inquiry to the ITS in 2016, which made it possible for his son Etienne to end the search successfully in 2017 and visit his grandfather in the USA.



**Anna Scharf's Children: Rachel, Fayçal, Farid and  
Yamina, Lille, 1969**

Anna Scharf married in France and had four more children. She started talking about her persecution early on. Anna Scharf was deeply affected by her traumatic experiences. She was a strict mother and did not develop an affectionate relationship with her children until she was very old.