

Diana Nyad's Holocaust Survivor Tale

Nyad tells the story of meeting a Holocaust survivor who, beginning when she was three, underwent horrific sexual abuse at a Nazi concentration camp. According to Dr. Barbara Distel, former director of the [Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site](#), Nyad fabricated the whole thing.

In most of the stories Nyad invents, details she changes from version to version reveal the falsehood. This story is different; it's the details that *don't* change that betray Nyad's fraud:

1. The survivor's tattoo

Nyad always identifies the woman as a survivor by the tattoo she ostensibly received at Dachau — or Treblinka in some versions. But the Nazis [only tattooed people at Auschwitz](#).

2. The survivor's gender

The Nazis imprisoned many women and children, but none for longer than a few months at Dachau until late in the war. However, Nyad says this woman arrived at Dachau when she was three and remained there until the site was liberated 2½ years later.

3. The train from Krakow to Dachau

In two versions, Nyad says the survivor went from Krakow to Dachau around the time the Nazis liquidated the Krakow ghetto. For geographic reasons, when the Nazis emptied the ghetto, [they sent people to Auschwitz-Birkenau and Plaskow](#), not Dachau.

Nyad *does* change some details from version to version:

Nyad met the woman after she (Nyad)

- spoke at the University of New Mexico
- spoke at the University of Arizona
- gave a corporate talk
- gave a presentation “somewhere”

Until she was three, the woman lived with her family in

- Germany
- Poland
- Krakow, Poland
- unspecified

She was deported to

- Treblinka
- Dachau
- a “death camp”

The camp was liberated by

- the Allies
- the Resistance

She went to live with

- a French family
- distant cousins
- cousins in Paris
- family in Paris

Please see [“The Survivor”](#) for details.

NOTE: Diana appears to have stopped telling her survivor story in 2018. However, by 2020, she had begun telling another Holocaust-related tale: [“My Mother’s Journey to Freedom.”](#)

Briefly, the Nazis enter the Paris apartment of Atherton and Ingeborg Curtis, Nyad’s great aunt and uncle, and find they’ve been harboring “Jews, artists and homosexuals . . . in their garden basement.” The Nazis send everyone to a concentration camp, where Atherton and Ingeborg later die.

But that’s not true. They both died of natural causes at home.

For details — and for more proof that Diana concocted the entire tale — see [“Diana Fabricates Another Holocaust Story, This Time About Her Own Family.”](#)

(Form No. 102—AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE)
(Corrected May, 1932)

Consult Sections 386 and 411 and Notes of the Consular Regulations

REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN
AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE

Paris, France, December 27, 1943
(Place and date)

Name in full: Atherton CURTIS Age: 80
(As exactly as can be ascertained)

Native or naturalized: Native - born Brooklyn, New York, August 3, 1863

Date of death: October Eight 7.00 a.m. 1943
(Month) (Day) (Hour) (Year)

Place of death: 17 rue Notre-Dame-des-Champs, Paris, France
(Number and street) (City) (Country)

Cause of death: Old age

Disposition of the remains: Cremated and ashes deposited in Urn #15,612 at the Columbarium of the Cemetery of Père Lachaise, Paris, France.

Local law as to disinterment remains:

Disposition of the effects: Will deposited with Maître Couturier, Notaire, 20 boulevard Malesherbes, Paris. Executor under the will: Madame Marguerite PRASSINOS, 126 boulevard Haussmann, Paris, France.

Person or official responsible for custody of effects and accounting therefor: As above

Accompanied by relatives or friends as follows:

NAME	ADDRESS	RELATIONSHIP
Madame Marguerite Prassinios	126 boulevard Haussmann Paris, France	Friend

Address of relatives (so far as known):

NAME	ADDRESS	RELATIONSHIP
1. Miss Lucy Winslow CURTIS	c/o Perkins & Butler	Niece
2. Mrs. Yvonne W. UNDERHILL	38 Park Row, New York City	Niece
3. Mr. Frank A. BUTLER	"	Lawyer

Notification sent to:

This information and data concerning an inventory of the effects, accounts, etc., have been placed under File 330 in the correspondence of this office.

Remarks: Mr. Atherton Curtis était titulaire du passeport # 5499, délivré par le Consulat Général des Etats-Unis à Paris le 21 février 1941. This passport is transmitted herewith together with a French death bulletin.

In charge of American interests, Swiss Consulate, Paris, France

No fee prescribed.
(To be sent in duplicate to the Department of State. To be forwarded in triplicate when decedent is a pensioner, Veterans Bureau beneficiary, or an American-citizen woman)

(SEAL)

(To be sent in duplicate to the Department of State. To be forwarded in triplicate when decedent is a pensioner, Veterans Bureau beneficiary, or an American-citizen woman)

NYC

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Consult Sections 386 and 411 and Notes of the Consular Regulations

REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN
AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE

Paris, France, December 27, 1943
(Place and date)

Name in full: Ingeborg CURTIS Age: 73
(As exactly as can be ascertained)

Native or naturalized: American by marriage - born Copenhagen, Denmark, Nov. 17, 1870

Date of death: October Tenth 1.00 p.m. 1943
(Month) (Day) (Hour) (Year)

Place of death: 17 rue Notre-Dame-des-Champs, Paris, France
(Number and street) (City) (Country)

Cause of death: Heart trouble

Disposition of the remains: Cremated and ashes deposited in Urn # 13,611 at the Columbarium of the Père Lachaise Cemetery, Paris, France.

Local law as to disinterment remains:

Disposition of the effects: Will deposited with Maître Couturier, Notaire, 20 boulevard Malesherbes, Paris. Executor under the will: Madame Marguerite PRASSINOS, 126 boulevard Haussmann, Paris, France.

Person or official responsible for custody of effects and accounting therefor: as above

Accompanied by relatives or friends as follows:

NAME	ADDRESS	RELATIONSHIP
Madame Marguerite Prassinios	126 boulevard Haussmann Paris, France.	Friend

Address of relatives (so far as known):

NAME	ADDRESS	RELATIONSHIP
1. Miss Lucy Winslow CURTIS	c/o Perkins & Butler	Niece
2. Mrs. Yvonne W. UNDERHILL	38 Park Row, New York City	Niece
3. Mr. Frank A. BUTLER	"	Lawyer

Notification sent to:

This information and data concerning an inventory of the effects, accounts, etc., have been placed under File 330 in the correspondence of this office.

Remarks: Mrs. Ingeborg Curtis was the holder of Service passport #3500, issued by the American Consulate General, Paris, France, February 21, 1941, which is transmitted herewith, together with a French death bulletin.

In charge of American interests, Swiss Consulate, Paris, France

No fee prescribed.
(To be sent in duplicate to the Department of State. To be forwarded in triplicate when decedent is a pensioner, Veterans Bureau beneficiary, or an American-citizen woman)

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last updated 19 February 2024