# Mystery of the Lost German Girl endures nearly 80 years after 1945 footage



The mystery of the so-called 'Lost German Girl', whose identity and fate have intrigued historians and internet sleuths alike, continues to capture public interest nearly 20 years after her first appearance in video footage. The images, recorded on May 7, 1945, document the chaotic aftermath of Germany's surrender to the Allies in Czechoslovakia.

The footage was taken by US Army Captain Oren W. Haglund while he was stationed near Pilsen, approximately 50 miles from Prague. In the chaotic scenes depicted, German troops, including young soldiers, are seen mingling under the watch of American guards. They are juxtaposed against grim pictures of violence and suffering, with many dead or severely wounded scattered across the landscape. However, it is the sight of a young woman, later dubbed the 'Lost German Girl', that has sparked ongoing fascination and speculation.

The woman is depicted in a tattered uniform, her face swollen as a result of a severe beating. She appears distraught, clutching what seems to be a pack of cards, and at times, she manages to offer a slight smile despite her evident distress. As the camera focuses on her, she brushes her matted hair aside, revealing the extent of her bruising. Witness accounts and the footage itself raise questions regarding her role in the war; some speculate she may have been part of the SS, while others suggest she was an innocent victim caught in the violent upheaval of the time.

Over the years, various theories have emerged regarding her identity. Some have pointed to a woman named Lore or Lara Bauer, purportedly a helper for the Luftwaffe born in 1921, although no concrete evidence has surfaced to confirm this claim. German blogger Carlos Xander has dedicated significant effort to uncovering the truth behind the identity of the 'Lost German Girl', tracing her possible origins and documenting his efforts on a blog dedicated to the mystery. His research includes an array of speculation, such as accounts linking her to a family and claims about her life after the war.

Historically, the period following Germany's surrender was marked by rampant violence, particularly against women. The advancing Russian forces are well-documented as having perpetrated widespread sexual violence. Historian Philip Kaplan notes that many German women were separated from men during their captivity and subjected to horrific acts of violence and rape at the hands of soldiers. This context raises dire questions about the fate of the 'Lost German Girl' and highlights the grim reality faced by many women in post-war Europe.

Despite the captivating humanity captured in the footage, the identity of the 'Lost German Girl' remains elusive. The mystery continues to resonate, drawing attention from various artists and historians alike, underscoring the lasting scars left by war. As the search for answers persists, the individual story behind her image remains a poignant reminder of the complexities of human experiences during turbulent times.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://lostgermangirl.blogspot.com/2020/10/german-girl-on-may-8-1945-young-woman.html> - This blog post provides detailed information about the 'Lost German Girl,' including the date and location of the footage, as well as the circumstances surrounding her appearance in the video.
* <https://allnewspress.com/lost-german-girl-1945-the-net-is-struggling-with-the-mystery-surrounding-this-woman/> - This article discusses various theories about the identity of the 'Lost German Girl,' including the possibility that she was named Lara or Lore Bauer, and examines the challenges in verifying these claims.
* <https://www.military.com/video/operations-and-strategy/second-world-war/lost-german-girl/3814042227001> - This video features the footage of the 'Lost German Girl' filmed by U.S. Army Captain Oren W. Haglund in Czechoslovakia during April/May 1945, providing visual context to the article's description.
* <https://forum.axishistory.com/viewtopic.php?f=77&start=2595&t=145596> - This forum thread includes discussions about the 'Lost German Girl,' including user-generated content and analyses of the footage and its historical context.
* <https://www.ushmm.org/collections/search/catalog/irn1000001> - The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's catalog entry for the original footage of the 'Lost German Girl,' providing archival information and context about the video.
* <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/philipp-kaplan> - An article about historian Philip Kaplan, who has written about the experiences of German women during and after World War II, including the widespread sexual violence they faced.
* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14682143/Mystery-lost-German-girl-1945-nazis.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data