

Exhibition period: January 30 — March 17, 2017

Exhibition **Suppressed Years Railway and National Socialism in Austria between 1938 and 1945**
The railway with its logistical capabilities made a horrific contribution to industrialised mass murder and the war of extermination. What happened back then was the cruellest form of abuse of the railway system imaginable. We have to accept this dark chapter as a part of our company history. We will learn from it for the future and commemorate its victims. Andreas Matthä, CEO ÖBB Holding AG

The railway was one of the most important pillars of the National Socialist regime. Without it as a means of transport, war logistics of the Deutsche Wehrmacht and mass transports to death camps would not have been manageable. Although the railway played a central role during the Nazi era, it had remained almost unexplored and blocked out in the historiography of the Austrian Federal Railways.

"Suppressed Years Railway and National Socialism in Austria between 1938 and 1945", demonstrate rare photographs, documentations and evidence from the historical archives of the Austrian Federal railway along side stories of survivors both Jewish and Austrian who lived to tell the story.

With this exhibition the Austrian Federal railway faces its own history in the years between 1938 and 1945. It focuses on the everyday work of the employees, their role as crowd followers, their resistance against the Nazi regime, which was much bigger among them than in the rest of Austria and the importance of the railway for the war industry. This exhibition also shows the dark sides of the Austrian railway's history: Aryanisation, emigration, deportation, special transports and forced labour are the focus of this exhibition.

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