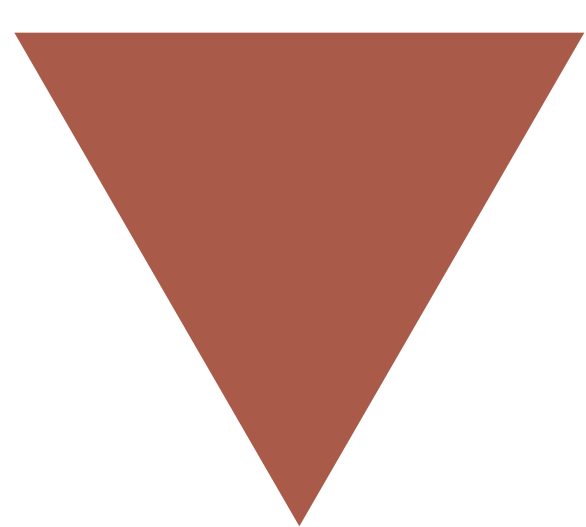


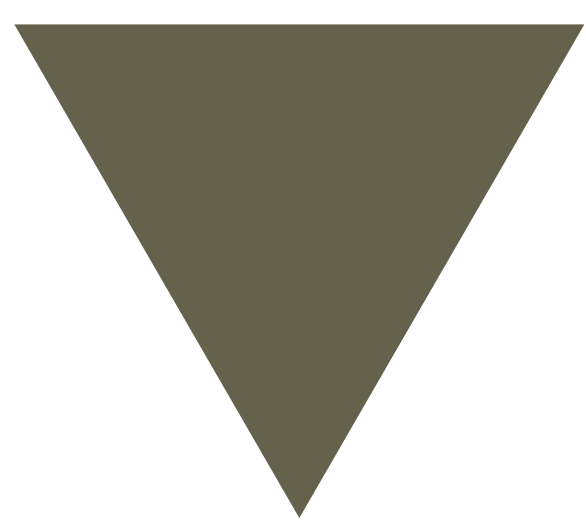
IDENTIFICATION BADGES IN THE HOLOCAUST

Beginning in 1937-1938, the SS created a system of marking prisoners in concentration camps. Sewn onto uniforms, the color-coded **triangle badges** identified the reason for an individual's incarceration, with some variation among camps.

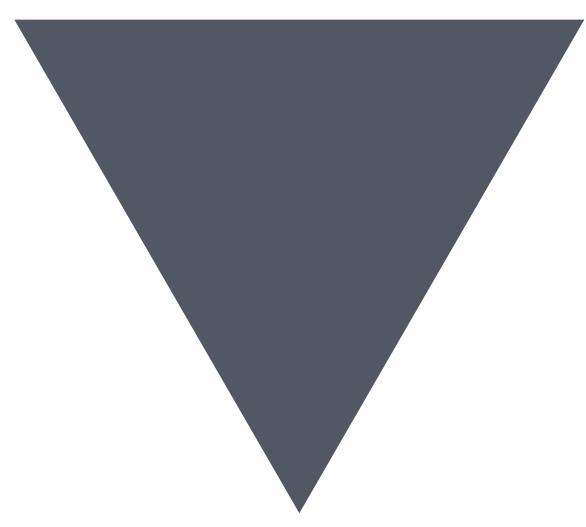
Nazi officials implemented the **Jewish star badge** to mark Jews between 1939 and 1945. They did so in a systematic manner, as a prelude to deporting Jews to ghettos and killing centers in German-occupied eastern Europe. The policy of forcing individuals to wear identifying badges was but one of many psychological tactics aimed at isolating and dehumanizing the Jews, directly marking them as being different from everyone else. It allowed for the facilitation of their separation from society. Those who refused to wear the badge risked severe punishment, including death. The design of the badge varied from region to region.



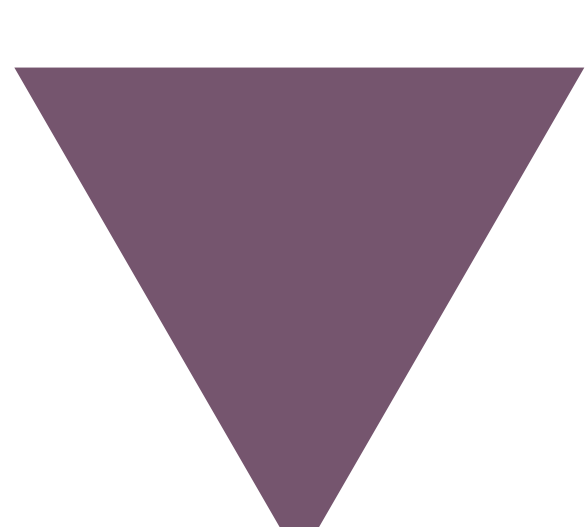
Red Triangle: Political prisoners: social democrats, socialists, trade unionists, communists and anarchists



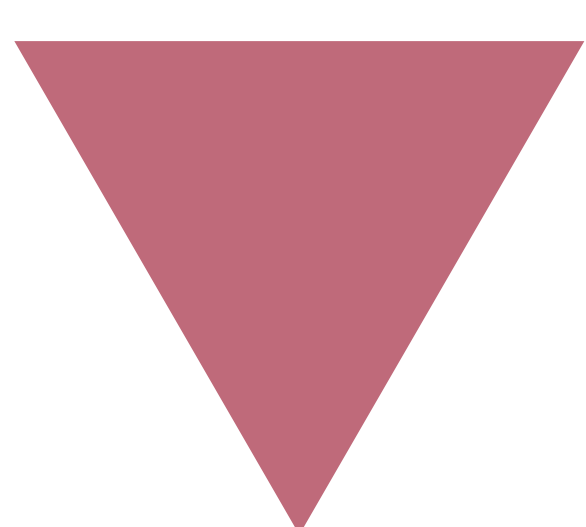
Green Triangle: "Professional criminals"



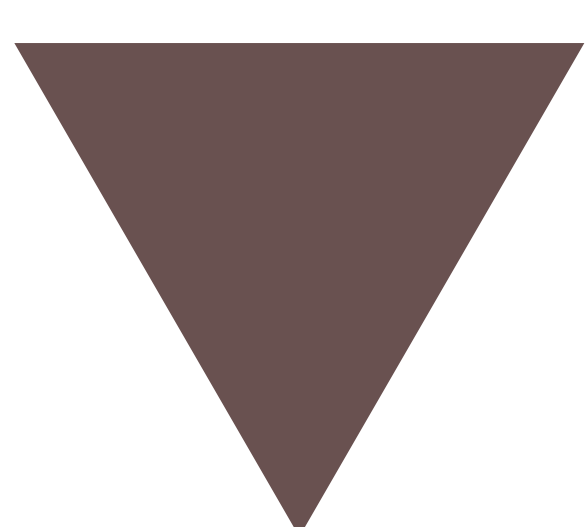
Blue Triangle: Foreign forced laborers and emigrants



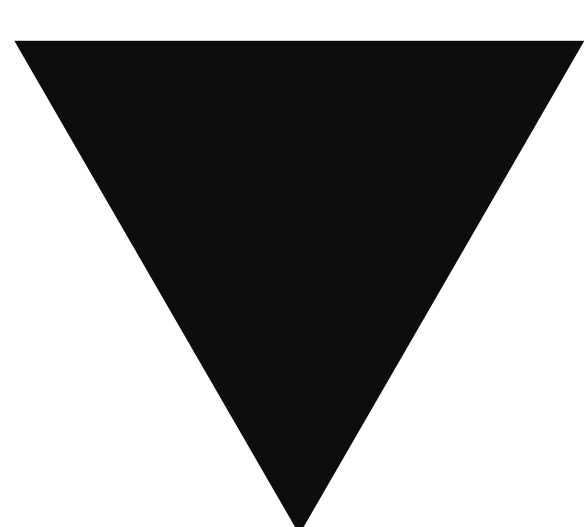
Purple Triangle: Primarily Jehovah's Witnesses, as well as members of other small pacifist religious groups.



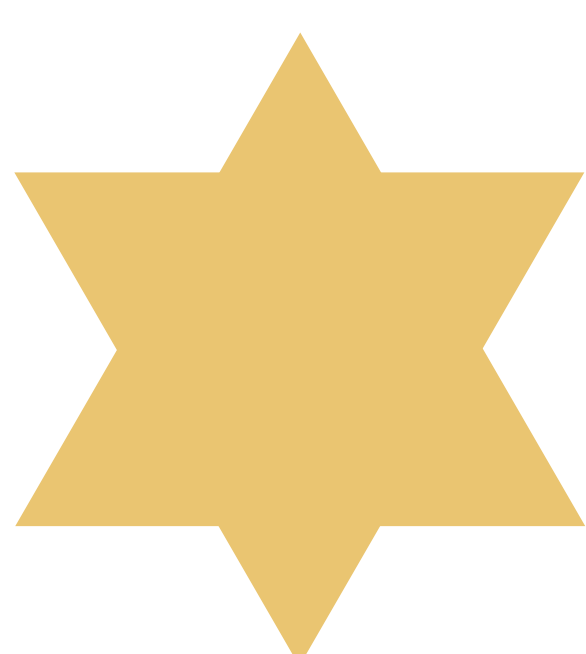
Pink Triangle: Primarily homosexual men, as well as sexual offenders including rapists and pedophiles



Brown Triangle: Romani (previously wore black triangle)



Black Triangle: "Asocials," which included: Roma and Sinti, mentally ill and mentally disabled, alcoholics and drug addicts, vagrants and beggars, pacifists, prostitutes, lesbian women.



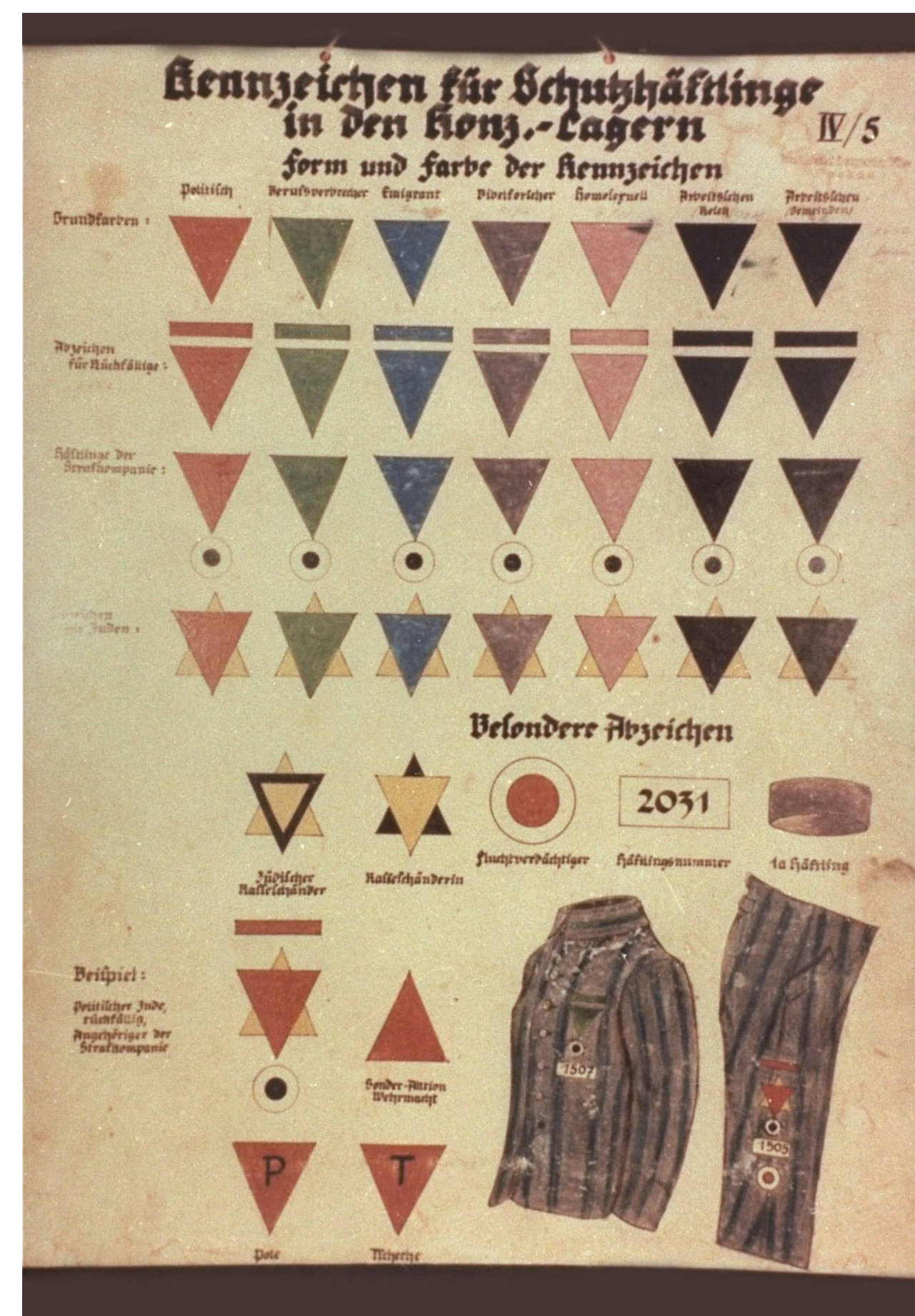
Yellow Star: Jewish

Variations:

Bar over triangle: "Second-timer" or a prisoner who had been released and was then arrested again for a second offense.

Black Circle under Triangle: Prisoners who were assigned to the penal colony. They were given the most difficult work assignments.

Double triangle: Yellow triangles with the regular triangle color placed on the top, forming a six-pointed star. These badges were worn by the Jews and showed their classification as political prisoners, criminals, foreign forced laborers, homosexuals or asocials. For example, a combination of a red triangle over a yellow triangle meant a Jewish political prisoner.



Prisoner Badges



Prisoners wearing triangle badges



Children wearing Jewish badges



Variations of Jewish Badges