



# KLAUS BARBIE

## Biography

*Biography written based on the research for the exhibition Klaus Barbie 1947-1982, une traque ["On the tracks of Klaus Barbie 1947-1982"] created by the Maison d'Izieu on the proposition of the Association des Fils et Filles des Déportés Juifs de Franc [Association of Sons and Daughters of Jewish Deportees from France] with the help of Serge Klarsfeld. The exhibition was presented at the Maison d'Izieu from 6th April to 12th October 1999.*

### NIKOLAUS (KLAUS) BARBIE

- 25th October 1913: Birth in Bad Godesberg.
- 1934: Abitur [general qualification for university entrance].
- 1st April 1933: Membership in the Hitler Youth.
- 25th September 1935: Membership in the SS. Moved to the SD (the secret service of the SS) in Berlin, then in Düsseldorf.
- 1st May 1937: Membership in the NSDAP, the Nazi party.
- 25th April 1940: Marriage with 23-year-old Regina Willms, who is a member of the NSDAP as well. They have two children, Ute and Klaus, born in 1941 and 1946.
- 20th April 1940: Appointed "SS junior storm leader" (SS-Untersturmführer).
- 25th May 1940: Member of the "Section for Jewish Affairs" of the SD in The Hague (Netherlands).
- 9th November 1940: Appointed «SS senior storm leader" (SS-Obersturmführer)
- 20th April 1941: Iron Cross 2nd Class
- 21st May 1942: Head of the Kommando in Gex (Ain) close to the Suisse border.
- November 1942: Appointed head of the section IV of the Gestapo (German secret police) for the Lyon region.
- May 1943: Appointed deputy to commander Werner Knab, head of the Nazi police of the Lyon region. He continues to lead the section IV of the Gestapo of Lyon at the same time.
- 21st June 1943: In Caluire Gestapo men lead by Barbie arrest Jean Moulin, representative in France of general Charles de Gaulle, and six other Résistance leaders.
- July 1943: Jean Moulin, who had been tortured on the orders of Klaus Barbie in Lyon and had been brought to Paris, dies of the effects of the torture in a train transferring him to Germany.
- 18th September 1943: Himmler, the Reichsführer-SS, expresses his gratitude to Barbie for "for special criminalistic achievements and tireless efforts in the fight against a resistance movement".
- 9th November 1943: Iron Cross 1st Class
- 1943-1944: Arrests, roundups, torture and executions are carried out under his orders in the regions of Lyon, Jura, Grenoble and Hautes-Alpes. He arrests and transfers 600 Jews in 1943 and 1500 in 1944.
- 6th April 1944: Barbie sends a telex to the Gestapo headquarter in Paris in which he reports about the roundup of 41 children and 10 adults (de facto 44 minors, 3 of which are adolescents and 7 adults) in Izieu.
- 11th August 1944: One of the last deportation convoys leaving France departs from Lyon with resistant fighters and Jews.



*Klaus Barbie's Bolivian identity card on the name of Klaus Altmann, coll. Serge Klarsfeld.*

After the Nazis' defeat Barbie managed to get hired by the American secret services in Germany. In the context of the Cold War he interrogated defectors from the East and carried out missions in the GDR, the communist part of Germany.

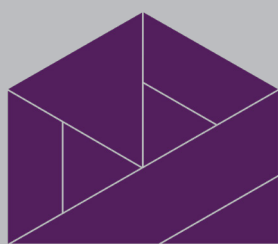
The United States allowed him to leave for South America in 1951, despite requests from France, where he had been sentenced twice in absentia. From Argentina he went to Bolivia, where, under the pseudonym of Klaus Altmann, he worked for the secret service of the Bolivian army during a period of successive coups and dictatorships.

As a shady businessman he ran the Transmaritima Boliviana company in a country that has no coastline.

In 1971 Beate Klarsfeld located him in Peru. He then took refuge once again in Bolivia where his extradition to France was refused until the fall of dictator Hugo Banzer in the autumn of 1982. Extradited in February 1983 to French Guiana, he was immediately arrested and brought back to France.

On 11th May 1987 his trial for crimes against humanity opened in Lyon, before the Rhône Assize Court. On 4th July he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

He died of cancer in the Saint-Joseph prison in Lyon on September 25th 1991.



MÉMORIAL DES ENFANTS JUIFS EXTERMINÉS

MAISON  
D'IZIEU

[www.memorializieu.eu](http://www.memorializieu.eu)

Maison d'Izieu, mémorial des enfants juifs exterminés  
70 route de Lambraz – 01300 Izieu  
Phone : +33 (0)4 79 87 21 05