



Name of Camp: Auschwitz-Birkenau

Location of the Camp: Poland (Southern)

Brief Description of the Camp:

Auschwitz-Birkenau served as a prison camp, extermination camp and slave labor camp. It was the largest concentration camp and was widely considered to be the most lethal of all the camps. It was located in Southern Poland, in a portion of the country that was annexed by Germany at the beginning of World War II. Heinrich Himmler (chief of the SS) ordered the establishment of this camp, of which there were three. Auschwitz I was the main camp and was reserved throughout history for political prisoners; mainly Germans and Poles. The conditions in the camp were terrible. Many of the prisoners were subjected to cruel experiments and torture. The camp was dirty and filled with disease. There was little food and cramped living conditions. The guards were very, very harsh and inhumane. Auschwitz II or Birkenau was intended for Russian POWs to be used for slave labor.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp? How many people perished at the Camp?

In total, about 17 thousand people were imprisoned at Camp I at one time - approximately ten thousand Jews, four thousand Poles, and three thousand people from other different ethnic groups. Auschwitz-Birkenau was made up of three main camps. Within those three main camps, it is estimated that between 1.3 and 1.6 million people were murdered. That number is likely higher, as a result of deaths attributed to illness, exhaustion, famine, cold, despair, etc.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

April 27, 1940 – Camp I opened. January 27, 1945 – approximately 7,500 sick or starving remaining prisoners were found by Soviet troops.

When was the Camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?

The camp was liberated on January 27, 1945 by Soviet troops.

Other interesting facts:

- Auschwitz I was initially built for Polish political prisoners in June 1940.
- Auschwitz I was the largest camp of the system of camps.
- Auschwitz-Birkenau was a death, concentration, and labor camp.
- Auschwitz-Birkenau was made up of 3 main camps and about 40 sub-camps.
- About 200,000 inmates survived across the 3 main camps.
- More people died in Auschwitz than that of the British and American losses of WWII combined.



Name of Execution Site: Babi Yar

Location of Execution Site: Babi Yar was a ravine located two miles away from Kiev, Ukraine. A ravine is a gorge or a narrow valley with steep sides. The ravine provided a “natural coffin” that the German’s used to bury the bodies.

Brief description of the Execution Site :

Babi Yar was an execution site, not a camp. Under the command of one of the cruelest Nazi murderers, Reinhard Heydrich, the Einsatzgruppe were ordered to execute Jews, political criminals, Polish government officials and gypsies. These people were gathered by the Einsatzgruppe, a group of Nazi killers and taken to a ravine, shot and buried. Jews were ordered to report to Dorogozhitshaya Street next to a Jewish cemetery with all of their belongings at 7:00 am on Monday, September 29. If they did not appear they were to be “punished by death.” After their arrival, the Jews were taken to the ravine where they were stripped and murdered. The ravine was 150 meters long, 30 meters wide and 15 meters deep.

How many people perished at the Execution Site?

Over 34,000 Jews were killed at Babi Yar in only two days. The total number of people killed including the Jews at Babi Yar was approximately 100,000.

What were the dates that the Execution Site was in existence?

The executions began on Monday September 29, 1941 and lasted until Tuesday September 30, 1941. After those two days, Babi Yar served as an execution site for gypsies and criminals for several months.

Who Discovered the Execution Site?

In August 1943, the Red Army or the Soviet Union Army was approaching Babi Yar. In order to remove the evidence of Babi Yar’s existence, Nazi officers rushed to Babi Yar and forced prisoners to dig up the bodies of those who were killed. After they dug up the bodies, the Nazis piled them and burnt them. The workers who dug up the bodies were then killed.

Other interesting facts:

- The Jews were stripped and beaten at the ravine and then ordered to lie faced down. German Nazis then took machine guns and shot them one by one. The next rounds of Jews to be terminated were forced to lie on top of dead corpses. This cycle continued for two days.



Name of Camp: Belzec

Location of Camp: Belzec was a small town located in southeastern Poland between the cities of Zamosc and Lvov (L'viv).

Brief description of the Camp:

Belzec started out as a labor camp and headquarters of the group of labor camps along the Bug River. It became a killing center using carbon monoxide gas.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp? How many people perished at the Camp?

Once the camp became a killing center, everyone was killed except for a few that were selected to be workers. The Germans killed approximately 434,500 Jews and an undetermined number of Poles and Roma (Gypsies). Jewish forced laborers who dismantled Belzec killing center were either shot at Belzec or sent to Sobibor, also a killing center, to be gassed.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

In 1940, Belzec was a labor camp and headquarters for a group of labor camps along the Bug River. In November 1941 construction began on the killing center.

Operations began March 1942 and stopped in December 1942. The camp was dismantled by Jewish forced laborers in June 1943.

When was the Camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?

The camp was not liberated, but dismantled under German authority. Soviet forces overran the region in July 1944.

Other interesting facts:

- The location of the camp was picked due to its proximity to two railroad lines that connected predominantly the Jewish population centers.
- The Germans had trees planted around the perimeter and tree limbs woven into the barbed wire fences to disguise the camp from those passing by.
- After the camp was dismantled, the Germans built a house, plowed over the site, and planted trees and crops to disguise the area as a farm. A former auxiliary police guard at the camp farmed the land.

Name of camp: Bergen-Belsen

Location of camp: Lower Saxony, Northern Germany

Brief description about the Camp:

Bergen-Belsen was one of the holding camps in the Holocaust and was a prisoner of war camp that was designed to hold 10,000 people. It was moved to over 70,000 because of the evacuation of Auschwitz. This camp was divided into three sections: Hungarian camp, Neutrals camp and Star camp. Even though there was no gas chamber and it was not a genocide camp, many people died there because of starvation, diseases and lack of medical attention with all of the crowded space.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp?

Approximately 70,000 were imprisoned at the camp.

How many people perished at the Camp?

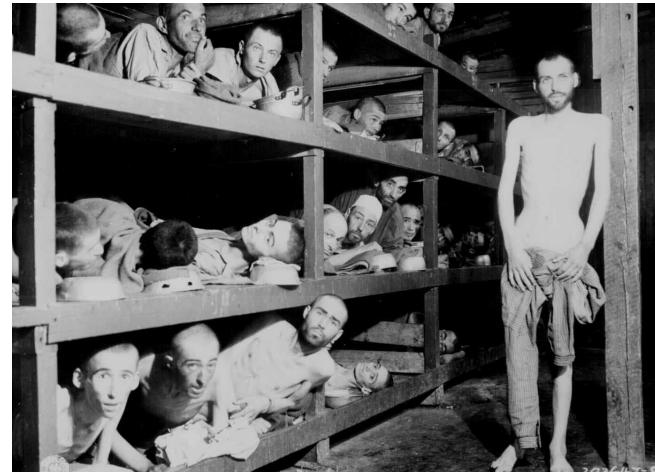
More than 35,000 died at the camp.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence? 1943-1945

When was the Camp liberated? April 15, 1945.

Who liberated the Camp? British and Canadian troops





Name of Camp: Buchenwald

Location of Camp: Ettersberg, Germany

Brief description of the Camp:

The site on which Buchenwald stood was a forest.

In July of 1937, the SS cleared the forest and built a new concentration camp in its place.

The purpose of the camp was to combat political opponents, persecute Jews, Sinti and Roma, and many more people.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp? How many people perished at the Camp?

Approximately 250,000 people were imprisoned in Buchenwald and more than 56,000 people died there.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence? 1937 - 1945

When was the Camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?

The camp was liberated in 1945 by the Americans.

Other interesting facts:

- Buchenwald was one of the largest concentration camps established within the old German borders of 1937.
- Buchenwald administrated at least 88 sub-camps located across Germany.



Name of Camp: Chelmno

Location of Camp: Poland

Brief description of the Camp:

Chelmno was a Nazi German extermination camp. The camp consisted of two parts: one section contained administration, barracks and storage for plundered goods; another section was an execution, burial and cremation site. It operated 3 gas vans used for carbon monoxide gassing.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp?

Chelmno was an extermination camp; everyone perished.

How many people perished at the Camp?

It was here that the first mass killings of Jews by gas took place as part of the “Final Solution.” 152,000 to 180,000 Jews are confirmed to have been murdered there. Yet, other sources estimate 320,000 people murdered.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

December 1941 through April 1943 and then from June 1944 - January 1945.

When was the Camp liberated?

January 1945

Other interesting facts:

- The camp was closed when the killings were moved to Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- The first commandant was Herbert Lange.

Name of Camp: Dachau

Location of Camp: Dachau is 10 miles northwest of Munich, Upper Bavaria, South Germany.

Brief description of the Camp: In March 1933, shortly after Adolf Hitler was appointed Reich Chancellor, Dachau opened to hold political prisoners. It would serve as a model for all later concentration camps and as a “school of violence” for the training of SS (Schutzstaffel) concentration camp guards. Dachau remained in operation for the entire period of the third Reich. It also served as a central camp for Christian religious prisoners. At least 3,000 religious deacons, priests and bishops were imprisoned there.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp? How many people perished at the Camp?

In the twelve years of its existence, over 200,000 persons from all over Europe were imprisoned there and in the numerous subsidiary camps. In total, over 40,000 people were murdered there.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

Dachau opened on March 22, 1933 and it operated until April 29, 1945 when it was liberated by American troops.

When was the Camp liberated? April 29, 1945.

Who liberated the Camp? American troops liberated the survivors.

Other interesting facts:

- Dachau was the first concentration camp in Nazi Germany.
- It is located on the grounds of an abandoned munitions factory near the medieval town of Dachau.
- The area in Dachau included other SS facilities beside the concentration camp – it held a leading school for economics and civil service as well as a medical school for the SS.
- In the postwar years, it held SS soldiers awaiting trial.
- After 1948, it held ethnic Germans who had been expelled from Eastern Europe and were awaiting resettlement.
- It was used for a time as a United States military base during the occupation.
- It was finally closed for use in 1960.
- Dachau was the only concentration camp mentioned in the movie Judgment at Nuremberg.





Name of Camp: Dora-Mittelbau

Location of Camp:

Dora-Mittelbau is located in central Germany, near the southern Harz Mountains.

Brief description of the Camp:

The Dora-Mittelbau camp was originally a sub-camp of Buchenwald. In October 1944, Dora-Mittelbau became an independent concentration camp with more than 30 sub-camps of its own. Allied air raids on industrial complexes in Germany necessitated the construction of underground production facilities. Concentration camp prisoners dug huge tunnels into the surrounding mountains to house the production and storage areas. In 1943, prisoners at Dora-Mittelbau began construction of large underground factories and development facilities for the V-2 missile program and other experimental weapons. These weapons were called Weapons of Retaliation. Prisoners lived inside the tunnels with no fresh air, inadequate food and water, and terrible unsanitary conditions. In 1944, above-ground barracks were built for prisoners.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp? How many people perished at the Camp?

During the years 1943-1945, approximately 60,000 people were incarcerated there. Between 17,000 - 20,000 people died there.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

Prisoners from Buchenwald were sent to Dora-Mittelbau in 1943, to begin the construction of a large underground industrial complex. In October 1944, Dora-Mittelbau became an independent concentration camp with more than 30 sub-camps of its own. The Nazis began emptying the camp on April 1, 1945, with the majority of prisoners transferred to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Thousands were murdered on route.

When was the Camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?

The camp was liberated on April 9, 1945 by the Third Armored Division (United States).

Interesting facts:

- A strong underground movement functioned in Dora-Mittelbau and was responsible for sabotaging production in the weapons factories and thus disturbed the Nazi war effort.
- Over 200 prisoners were publicly executed for taking part in the sabotage.



Name of Camp: Flossenbürg

Location of Camp: Less than ten miles northeast of Weiden, near the Czech border.

Brief description of the Camp:

Flossenbürg was a work camp where prisoners worked in a granite quarry, armaments factory, and aircraft factories. It was the fourth concentration camp established in Germany.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp? How many people perished at the Camp?

Nearly 97,000 prisoners, approximately 85% male, passed through the Flossenbürg system between 1938 and 1945. The camp held between 5,000 and 18,000 prisoners at one time. It is estimated that 30,000 prisoners died in Flossenbürg and its sub-camps or on the evacuation routes at the end of the war. Near the end of the war, the SS began the forced evacuation with prisoners from Buchenwald on foot and by train to Dachau.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

Flossenbürg was established on May 3, 1938. The initial prisoners were criminals and people labeled by the Nazi's as "asocial." The first non-German prisoners arrived in April of 1940. These were Polish political prisoners and Soviet prisoners of war. The camp was considered a "Hard Regime" concentration camp.

When was the Camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?

During late April 1945, the SS organizes a forced evacuation. On April 23, 1945, US forces liberated Flossenbürg.

Other interesting facts:

- This location was due to its proximity to a nearby stone quarry owned by the SS German Earth and Stone Works.
- The prisoners also worked at the quarry, an SS owned weaving workshop and a factory which produced parts for the ME-109 fighter plane.



Name of Camp: Gross-Rosen

Location of Camp:

The camp is located nearby and named for the village of Gross-Rosen, which is now called Rogoznica. The village is approximately 40 miles southwest of Wroclaw in present day western Poland.

Brief description of the Camp:

The prisoners were primarily forced laborers in the construction of the camp and in the nearby SS owned granite quarry. The prisoners were also forced to work in armament production.

How many people were imprisoned at this Camp?

As of January 1, 1945, the Gross-Rosen complex held approximately 76,000 prisoners. Nearly 26,000 of these were women; most of them Jews. This was one of the largest groups of female prisoners in the entire concentration camp system.

How many people perished at this Camp?

It is estimated that 120,000 prisoners passed through Gross-Rosen. Approximately 40,000 died either in this camp or during the evacuation of the camp.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

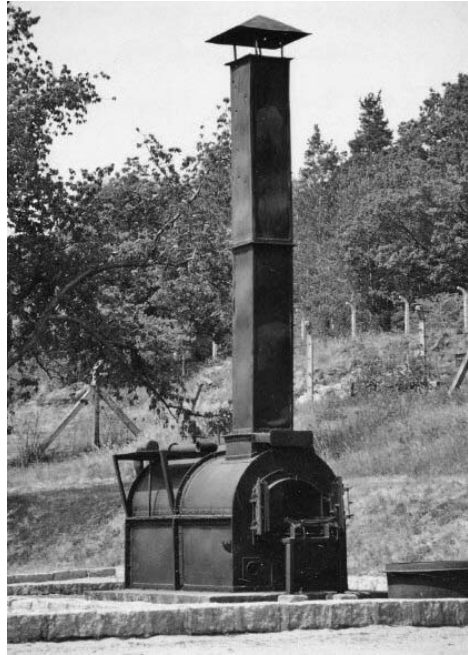
This camp was originally established in 1940 as a sub-camp of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. As Soviet forces approached in January, 1945, the Germans began to evacuate the Gross-Rosen complex. Around 40,000 prisoners, half being Jews, were forced on death marches.

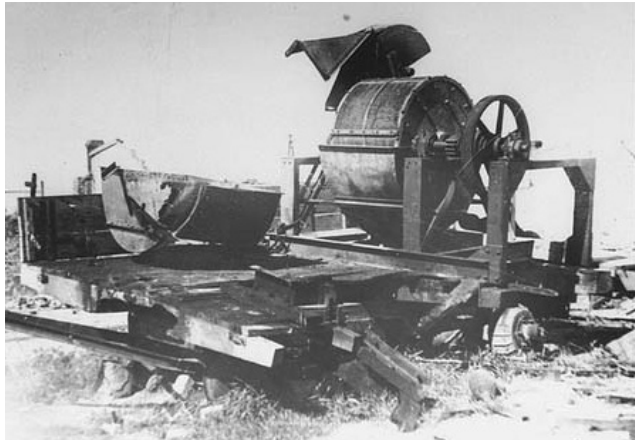
When was the camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?

Soviet forces liberated the main Gross-Rosen camp on February 13, 1945.

Other interesting facts:

- Most of the Jewish prisoners that were deported to Gross-Rosen were from Poland. After March 1944, they came from Hungary and western and southern Europe.
- Many of the prisoners were forced to work for companies such as Krupp & Daimler Benz.
- One of the better known sub-camps of Gross- Rosen was Bruennlitz, a subcamp established in an empty textile factory through the efforts of Oskar Schindler. At this camp the prisoners, working as laborers, were able to survive the war due to the efforts of Oskar Schindler.





Name of Camp: Janowska

Location of Camp:

Northeast suburbs of Lvov, Poland (now Ukraine)

Brief description of the Camp:

In September 1941, the Germans set up a factory that became part of a network of factories known as the German Armament Works in which Jews were used as forced laborers. In October 1941, the Germans established Janowska as a camp to house the forced laborers.

Janowska was also a transit camp during the mass deportations of Polish Jews to the killing centers in 1942. Jews underwent a selection process in Janowska. Those classified as fit to work remained at Janowska. The majority, rejected as unfit for work, were deported to Belzec and killed or were shot at the Piaski ravine, just north of the camp. In the summer and fall of 1942, thousands of Jews (mainly from the Lvov ghetto) were deported to Janowska and killed.

The manner of torture employed in the killing of Jews at Janowska ranged from freezing them in barrels of water left out on a winter's night, to slashing and hanging them upside down on a cross, bleeding to death. One account describes an SS officer using toddlers as airborne targets, as in skeet shooting, for the amusement of his wife and daughter.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp? How many people perished at the Camp?

These numbers are vague due to the activity of the camp. Thousands were imprisoned and 10,000 or more perished.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

September, 1941 – November 1943

When was the Camp liberated?

The camp was liberated July 26, 1944, though research uses the word “liquidated,” as opposed to “liberated,” using the following description: The evacuation of the Janowska camp began in November 1943. As the Germans attempted to destroy the traces of mass murder they forced the prisoners to open the mass graves and burn the bodies. On November 19, 1943, these prisoners staged an uprising and a mass escape attempt. A few succeeded in escaping, but most were recaptured and killed. The SS staff and their local auxiliaries murdered at least 6,000 surviving Jews from various forced-labor camps in Galicia when the Janowska camp was liquidated in November 1943.

Who liberated the Camp?

The Red Army

Other interesting facts:

- In the warped and macabre spirit of the monstrous officers in charge of Janowska prisoners in the Janowska concentration camp orchestra performed as workers were taken to and from forced labor.
- A bone-crushing machine was used to grind human bones in order to obtain fertilizer in the camp.



Name of Camp: Kaiserwald

Location of Camp:

Near a village outside Riga in Latvia

Brief description of the Camp:

Kaiserwald was a concentration camp that initially held several hundred convicts from Germany. The camp commandant was an SS Obersturmführer named Zauer.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp?

There were approximately 12,000 inmates in the camp and its subsidiaries.

How many people perished at the Camp?

Thousands of Jews who were unfit for work - the ill, the frail and the young were put to death. All Jews who had ever been convicted of any offense, no matter how minor, were also executed, as were all Jews under 18 or over 30.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

Kaiserwald was built in March 1943.

When was the Camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?

The camp was liberated by the Red Army on October 13, 1944

Other interesting facts:

- Ultimately, all Jews living on Latvian soil were incarcerated there.
- The inmates were put to work by large German companies, notably Allgemeine Elektricitäts-Gesellschaft, which used a large number of female slaves from Kaiserwald in the production of electrical goods.
- Other prisoners worked in other factories, mines and farms as well as inside the camp.





Name of Camp: Majdanek

Location of Camp: Lublin, Poland

Brief Description of Camp:

Construction of Majdanek began on October 1, 1941 by Jews and Russian prisoners of war. It started as an intermittent processing center, but was turned into a death camp in 1942. The camp's city location made it possible to receive smuggled packages from the surrounding city. Majdanek was in a major urban area. It was in an area of rolling terrain and could be seen from all sides. People driving past the camp, while it was in operation, had an unobstructed view, being able to see the tall brick chimney of the crematorium wafting smoke, and the gas chamber building which was very close to the street.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp? How many people perished at the Camp?

The camp's capacity was 50,000 people, but many more were imprisoned. Approximately 150,000 people were actually imprisoned at Majdanek and approximately 80,000 were gassed.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

The camp was in operation from July 1941 to July 1944.

When was the Camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?

On July 24, 1944, Soviet forces reached the camp and liberated it. After the liberation, most of the prisoners were evacuated to other camps. The transport of the Jews was in connection with Action Reinhard whose aim was mass extermination of the Jews and plunder of their property.

Other Interesting Facts:

The camp was located 4km from the center on Lublin, Poland. Soviet POWs slept outside while building the camp.



Name of Camp: Mauthausen-Gusen

Location of Camp:

Near the villages of Mauthausen and Gusen in upper Austria.

Brief Description of the Camp:

Mauthausen began as a labor camp for the educated upper class. The Mauthausen camp, also known as “The Mother Camp,” was the central camp for the SS and was in operation from 1938 to May 1945. Mauthausen became one of the first massive concentration camps in Nazi-controlled Europe. The camp was labeled “Grade III” which means that it was one of the cruelest camps for the “Incorrigible Political Enemies of the Reich.” It was referred to as “*Knochenmühle*” meaning “bone-grinder.” The prisoners were subject to hard labor and due to the harsh treatment and conditions many of them died. Mauthausen had about 50 sub-camps throughout Austria and southern Germany. The main complex is now a museum and some of the sub-camps were turned into memorials.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp? How many people perished at the Camp?

It is estimated that about 192,000 prisoners passed through Mauthausen. At least 9,500 died there. The prisoners were killed by being forced to take freezing showers and being left outside in the cold for days, mass shootings, medical experiments, injections of phenol, drowning, starvation and the biggest killer - labor accidents in quarries.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

Mauthausen was built in 1938. In 1945, the camp was dismantled by the Germans using a Jewish labor force

When was the Camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?

The camp was not liberated, rather dismantled by a Jewish labor force under command of the Germans in 1945.

Other interesting facts:

- The camp was originally built to house the prisoners who would be forced to work in the quarries of the newly established German Earth and Stone Works Inc.
- Mauthausen was one of the first massive concentration camps.





Name of Camp: Natzweiler-Struthof

Location of Camp:

The camp was located near the town of Natzweile, in the province, Alsace in Eastern France.

Brief description of the Camp:

Natzweiler-Struthof was a small camp built by the Germans to support the “Night and Fog” (Nacht und Nebel) operation which was a German attempt to subdue resistance in western Europe. Suspected rebels were arrested and imprisoned at Natzweiler-Struthof. They presumably disappeared into the “Night and Fog.”

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp?

The camp held an estimated 52,000 prisoners.

How many people perished at the Camp?

Over 17,000 perished at the camp prior to September 1944.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

1941 to 1944

When was the Camp liberated?

The camp was liberated in September, 1944.

Who liberated the Camp?

The camp was not liberated. The prisoners were sent on a “death march” to Dachau in September 1944.

Other interesting facts:

- Construction workers building the camp slept in the nearby former Hotel Struthof, hence the name Natzweiler-Struthof.
- Prisoners worked in nearby granite quarries, in construction projects and in the maintenance of the camp.
- The bodies of over 80 Jewish prisoners gassed at Natzweiler-Struthof were sent to the Strasbourg University Institute of Anatomy where anatomist Dr. August Hirt amassed a large collection of Jewish skeletons in order to establish Jewish “racial inferiority.”

Name of Camp: Neuengamme

Location of Camp: On the Elbe River near Hamburg, Germany.

Brief description of the Camp:

Neuengamme was built in December 1938 and served as a place of transfer from the Sachsenhausen camp until June 4, 1940. At which point prisoners worked to construct brick buildings along the Elbe River, even mining clay for the bricks.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp? How many people perished at the Camp?

The estimated number of prisoners was 106,000. More than half perished there.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

Although Neuengamme was built in 1938, it became a more major camp in 1940. The camp was in full operation until its liberation by the British Army in May 1945.

When was the Camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?

Neuengamme was liberated in May 1945 by the British Army. However, prior to its liberation, many prisoners were sent on death marches or transferred to camps such as Auschwitz and Majdanek, likely to limit the number of people that were liberated.

Other interesting facts:

- In the last weeks of the war, Neuengamme was evacuated and so began one of the worst death marches.
- Neuengamme was a center for experimental medical research, particularly dealing with tuberculosis. The majority of this experimentation, including surgeries, was performed on children between the ages of six and twelve.





Oskar Schindler



Name of Camp: Plasznow

Location of Camp: Poland

Brief description of the Camp:

Plaszow, designed to be a work camp, was surrounded by an electrified barbed-wired fence and was divided into several sections. The camp had barracks for German personnel, factories, warehouses, a men's camp, a women's camp and a "labor education camp" for Polish workers who violated labor discipline.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp?

The number of inmates held in Plaszow varied over the years. Prior to the liquidation of the Krakow Ghetto, it had approximately 2,000 inmates. In March 1943, the average barracks contained 150 people in an area of about 80 square meters. By the second half of 1943, its population had risen to 12,000, and by May - June 1944, the number of prisoners had increased to approximately 24,000, including 6,000 - 8,000 Jews from Hungary. Plaszow also contained German criminals who were employed on various camp duties. The number of these permanent prisoners, who were given individual numbers, was estimated at 24,000, with an unknown number of temporary prisoners.

How many people perished at the Camp?

Approx. 8,000 people are estimated to have been murdered at three killing sites within the camp.

When was the Camp liberated?

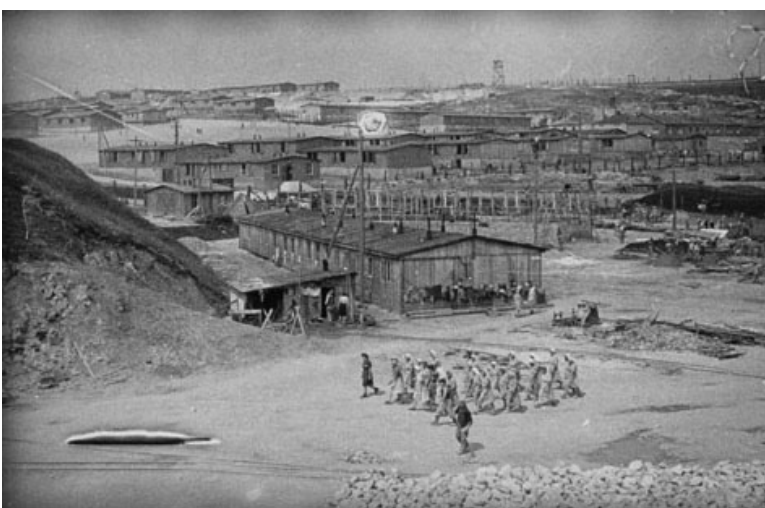
The camp was not liberated. As Russian forces advanced further and further westward, the Germans began a systematic evacuation. The last prisoners were transferred to Germany in January 1945.

Other interesting facts:

- If it were not for Stephen Spielberg's movie, Schindler's List, the story of the Nazi concentration camp at Plaszow, located in the Podgorze district 10 kilometers outside the city center of Krakow, might never have become known to the average American. Plasznow was originally designed to be a work camp.

The German industrialist Oskar Schindler, established an enamelware factory in Krakow, adjacent to Plaszow. He attempted to protect his Jewish workers, some 900 people, from abuse in Plaszow, and from deportation to extermination camps. When he moved the factory and his Jewish work force to the Sudetenland (an area formerly in Czechoslovakia) in 1944, he prevented the deportation of more than 1,000 Jews.

- At Himmler's instigation, a series of special units, known jointly as Unit 10051, were forced to dig up putrefied corpses of those killed, to burn them, and scatter the ashes. In total 9,000 bodies were exhumed.





Name of camp: Ravensbruck

Location of Camp:

Located alongside Lake Schwedt, about 50 miles north of Berlin.

Brief description of the Camp:

It was a concentration camp for women. The women did hard labor or were part of medical experiments. The prisoners were mostly German, Jewish, Jehovah's Witnesses, Gypsies, Poles, Russians, and Ukrainians. The prisoners were organized into categories, each with a distinctive color-coded triangle to denote nationality. A high wall with electrified barbed wire enclosed the women in the camp. Beginning in 1942, medical experiments were performed on the inmates; some women were infected with gas gangrene, while others were forced to receive bone transplants and amputations.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp? How many people perished at the Camp?

It is said that about 106,000 women passed through the camp during its existence. There were 34 satellite camps that many women were sent to. Approximately 50,000 perished by slave labor, harsh living conditions, and by the gas chamber.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

May 15, 1939 - April 30, 1945.

When was the Camp liberated?

The camp was liberated on April 29th and 30th, 1945.

Who liberated the Camp?

The Soviets liberated the camp and found approximately 3,500 very ill prisoners there.

Other interesting facts:

- Count Folke Bernadotte, vice president of the Swedish Red Cross, convinced Himmler to allow the International Red Cross to rescue some prisoners from Ravensbrück and other camps and bring them to Sweden. The Swedish Red Cross was first allowed to rescue Scandinavians on March 5, 1945, followed by women from France, Poland and the Benelux countries.



Name of Camp: Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg

Location of Camp:

Oranienburg is a town 35 km from the center of Berlin.

Brief description of the Camp:

This camp was built by inmates from another camp called Esterwegen. Many people died in the process of building the camp because of lack of food and water. Oranienburg and Sachsenhausen joined together to become one camp. In September of 1938, almost 1,000 Jewish people were transferred to this camp. A year later, many communists, social democrats and former union leaders were arrested and also sent to this camp.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp? How many people perished at the Camp?

The number of people imprisoned was not recorded. Many people died due to the lack of medical treatment, and food. Others died from shootings or hangings. There were gas chambers built later but the number of people killed in them was not recorded. It is believed that between 30,000 - 35,000 people were killed.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

September 1938 until April 22nd, 1945 when the 47th Soviet Army liberated the camp.

When was the Camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?

On April 22nd, 1945, the 47th Soviet Army liberated the camp.

Other interesting facts:

- The prisoners were refused medical aid.
- A building called “Station Z” was built in order to execute more prisoners.



Name of Camp: Sobibor

Location of Camp: Sobibor was a small town in Poland. It was isolated from other society and close to a train.

Brief description of the Camp:

This camp was a death camp that constantly brought people into to be killed. Other prisoners worked in a number of different jobs that included making clothes, shoes, cleaning cars and others. Some prisoners were responsible for sorting through the belongings of prisoners who were killed and cleaning up after their deaths.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp? How many people perished at the Camp?

Approximately 250,000 Jews were killed at this camp. The people who were unable to work were sent to carbon monoxide gas chambers that were disguised as shower rooms. The total number of people in the camp is unknown.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

This camp was built in the spring of 1942. The gas chambers were put into use starting in May of that same year. In 1943, the prisoners revolted and most of the prisoners were killed; some escaped. There are no records of new prisoners brought in after the revolt, but a guard stayed at the camp until the end of 1944.

When was the Camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?

Camp was not liberated but was slowly closed after a prisoner revolt. The Resistance movement was led by Leon Feldhendler, who was killed. Approximately three hundred Jews escaped, but dozens were killed in mine fields around the camp and dozens more hunted down over subsequent days.

Other interesting facts:

- Since escape from a Nazi concentration camp was a rare occurrence, many people question that the camp ever existed.
- Yoram Haimi, an Israeli archaeologist, uncovered jewelry, keys, teeth and other items that helped identify some of Sobibor's nameless victims. Haimi's major breakthrough was the mapping that uncovered what the Germans called "The Road to Heaven," a path which the prisoners marched naked to gas chambers.



Name of Camp: Stutthof

Location of Camp: Stutthof was located 22 miles from Danzig/Dansk Poland.

Brief description of the Camp:

Stutthof was the first concentration camp created by the Nazis outside of Germany (September 2, 1939). After being in existence for two weeks, more than 6,000 prisoners were executed by the SS soldiers. About 70% of prisoners in the camp were Jewish. It was primarily a forced labor camp. However, in 1942 the Nazis began to build a “new” camp there, adding a crematory and a gas chamber. Since the gas chamber could only handle about 150 people at a time, they used mobile wagons as gas chambers.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp? How many people perished at the Camp?

Approximately 127,000 people were deported there and held. More than 85,000 perished.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence? September 2, 1939 until May 10, 1945.

When was the Camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?

It was the last concentration camp liberated by the Russian Army on May 10, 1945.

Other interesting facts:

- One of the worst crimes committed by the Nazis was at Stutthof. Professor Rudolf Spanner, an SS officer, owned a small soap factory and invented a process to produce soap from human fat. Horrifically, it was called R.J.S. “Reines Judische Fett” – which means Pure Jewish Fat. Hundreds of Jewish people were executed for this production of soap and after the war, he was not arrested, but died of natural causes in 1960.
- Focke-Wulf – a German manufacturer of civil and military aircraft built a factory near Stutthof and many prisoners worked there.
- Stutthof was called the “old camp.” It served mainly for the extermination of the most aware and patriotic Poles.
- Stutthof became an international camp with prisoners that were Poles, Jews, Russians, Ukrainians, Germans, Austrians, English, Italians and Hungarians.



Name of Camp: Theresienstadt

Location of Camp: NW Czechoslovakia

Brief description of the Camp:

In WWII the town served as a ghetto to which the Nazis expelled at least 140,000 Jews, mostly from the “Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia,” but also from Central and Western Europe. The ghetto was controlled by the *Zentralamt für die Regelung der Judenfrage in Böhmen und Mähren* (Central Office for the Settlement of the Jewish question in Bohemia and Moravia) which was under the jurisdiction of the RSHA (Reich Security Main Office). .

Theresienstadt was named “The small fortress near the ghetto” and was used as an internment camp for political prisoners. Czech gendarmes served as ghetto guards. Theresienstadt was first mentioned in a Nazi document on October 10, 1941. The plan was to concentrate there most of the Jews from the “Protectorate”, Germany and other western European countries, particularly prominent persons, old people or those who had served in the German Army during WWI. The Jews would be transferred from Theresienstadt gradually to the death camps of Aktion Reinhard and Auschwitz. Theresienstadt also served to camouflage the extermination of the Jews from world opinion by presenting it as a model Jewish settlement.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp? How many people perished at the Camp?

Approximately 140,000 Jews were deported to Theresienstadt. Of these, an estimated 33,000 died there and an estimated 88,000 were deported to the extermination camps. At the time of liberation, 19,000 were still alive, or had been transferred to neutral countries. Only about 3,000 of those Jews deported to the extermination camps survived (mainly Auschwitz).

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence? The “camp-ghetto” existed for three and a half years: November 24, 1941 - May 9, 1945.

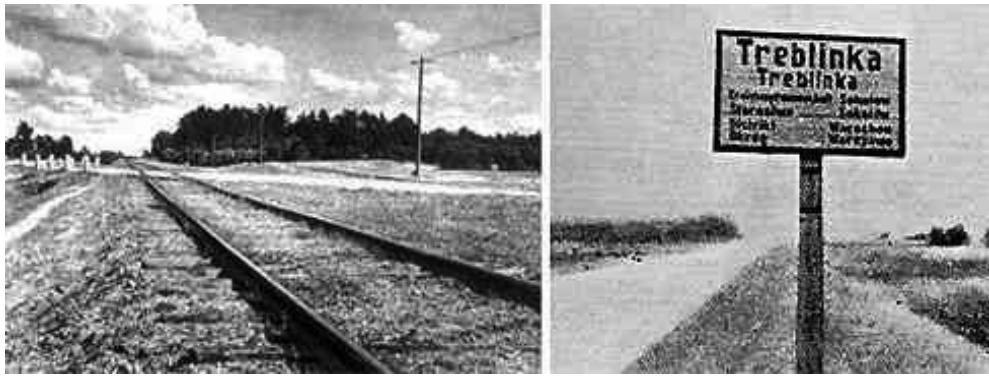
When was the Camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?

After again visiting the camp on April 6 and April 21, 1945, the International Red Cross took over its administration on May 2, 1945. The SS fled on May 5 and 6. Scattered German military and SS units continued to fight Soviet forces in the vicinity of the camp-ghetto, which became part of the battlefield on May 8. Soviet troops entered the camp on May 9 and assumed responsibility for its prisoners the next day. By the end of August 1945, most of the former prisoners had left the camp, to be replaced by ethnic Germans arrested by the Czech and Soviet authorities.

Other interesting facts:

- Despite the terrible living conditions and the constant threat of deportation, Theresienstadt had a highly developed cultural life. Outstanding Jewish artists, mainly from Czechoslovakia, Austria and Germany, created drawings and paintings; some of them clandestine depictions of the ghetto’s harsh reality. Writers, professors, musicians and actors gave lectures, concerts and theater performances. The ghetto maintained a lending library of 60,000 volumes.
- Fifteen thousand children passed through Theresienstadt. Although forbidden to do so, they attended school. They painted pictures, wrote poetry and otherwise tried to maintain a vestige of a normal life. Approximately 90 percent of these children perished in death camps.
- The Red Cross was allowed to visit Theresienstadt once during the war. During that visit, certain inmates were dressed up and told to stand in strategic places. The shops were filled to capacity with candy and pastries that the inmates had not seen during their time in Theresienstadt. Thus, the Red Cross concluded that Jews were being treated humanely.





Name of Camp: Treblinka

Location of Camp: Treblinka was located in Kosów Lacki, Poland

Brief description of the Camp:

Treblinka was started by the SS and was separated into two groups: Treblinka 1 and Treblinka 2. Treblinka 1 was just for holding prisoners, and Treblinka 2 was used purely for extermination.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp?

How many people perished at the Camp?

Treblinka 1 had the capacity to hold 1,000–2,000 prisoners, most of whom worked 12- to 14-hour shifts. Between July 22, 1942, – October 1943, approximately 20,000 victims were held in Treblinka 1. About half of them died of hunger, disease, or exhaustion. Sources vary, but no less than 1,200,000 people died at Treblinka.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

July 22, 1942 – October 1943

When was the Camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?

Treblinka was liberated by the Soviet Union on October 19, 1943.

Other interesting facts:

- Before Treblinka was liberated, Nazi soldiers destroyed any evidence of the crimes committed within its fences.
- In 2012, forensic archaeologists uncovered previously hidden mass graves at the site that now helps prove its time as an extermination camp.



Name of Camp: Warsaw Ghetto

Location of Camp: Warsaw, Poland.

Brief Description of the Camp:

The Warsaw Ghetto was the largest of all the Jewish ghettos in Nazi-occupied Europe during World War II. All of the Jews in Warsaw and its suburbs were forced into the ghetto and were cut off from the rest of the world by a 9 foot wall. The prisoners of the Warsaw ghetto were sent to extermination camps, the most common one being Treblinka. Inside of the walls there was starvation, mass shootings, and forced labor. There were schools, hospitals and businesses in the ghetto. There was an uprising in the ghetto that began on January 18, 1943.

How Many People Were Imprisoned in the Camp? How Many People Perished in the Camp?

It is estimated that there were at least 400,000 people imprisoned in the Warsaw Ghetto. These people were all packed into an area of about 1.3 square miles. Between starvation, mass shootings, disease and deportations to extermination camps, over 300,000 of the ghetto's prisoners died.

What Were the Dates that the Camp was in Existence?

The construction of the ghetto wall began on April 1, 1940. The destruction of the ghetto began on January 18, 1943 and ended on April 19, 1943.

When Was the Camp Liberated? Who Liberated the Camp?

The Warsaw Ghetto uprising began on January 18, 1943 when Germans entered the camp to round up Jews for further deportations to extermination camps. The Jews in the Ghetto resisted. Within hours, over 600 Jews were shot and over 5,000 were rounded up. Over the next two months, Jews and Germans fought in the Ghetto and had small "battles." The final battle began on the eve of Passover: April 19, 1943. Thousands of Germans entered the camp and under the command of Jurgen Stroop, systematically blew up ghetto buildings, block-by-block, rounding up or murdering anyone they could capture.

Other Interesting Facts:

- The children of the Warsaw Ghetto would often sneak into the "Aryan" section of the area and would bring back food and supplies.
- There were underground or secret factories to produce goods sold by children who exited the camp and sold or traded them for food or other goods.



Name of Camp: Westerbork

Location of Camp: Hooghalen, Netherlands

Brief description of the Camp:

This camp was a “transit” camp. It functioned as a location to assemble Roma and Dutch Jews for transport to other concentration camps.

How many people were imprisoned at the Camp? How many people perished at the Camp?

Because the population was being deported constantly, the estimated number of people was 100,000. Fewer than 5,000 people survived after being transported from this camp.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence? 1939-1945

When was the Camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?

It was liberated by the Canadian 2nd Infantry Division on April 12, 1945.

Other interesting facts:

- Anne Frank was shipped here and stayed at this camp for about a month before she was shipped away on the first train of the last three ever deported before the camp’s liberation.
- Every Monday night for nearly three years, approximately 1,000 Jews were deported to death camps throughout Poland.
- Westerbork was a strange place. There was a school, a hair dresser, an orchestra and even a restaurant. If a prisoner had money, it was possible for them to buy goods that were impossible to find elsewhere in Holland at this time.
- The most tragic aspect about this camp was that transport selections were made by Jewish security service. The Nazi’s gave orders and the Jewish governing body had to send their own to meet their death.

