



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.

