



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. Plaszow 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.

