



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.