

HOW THE NAZIS TRIED TO COVER UP THEIR CRIMES AT AUSCHWITZ

"WORK WILL SET YOU FREE"



THE HISTORY CHANNEL

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Gates to Auschwitz

Auschwitz, the largest and deadliest camp in the Nazi concentration and death camp system, was located in and around the small town of Oswiecim, Poland (37 miles west of Krakow). The complex consisted of three large camps and 45 smaller sub-camps.

In the winter of 1945, the Nazis tried to destroy the evidence of the Holocaust.

It was a frigid day in occupied Poland, and for all Shmuel Beller knew, it could be his last. As Russian forces advanced toward Auschwitz, Beller and other prisoners had been told by their captors that they had to leave the death camp. So he ran into one of the storage facilities and rifled through a pile of clothing—the belongings of some of the 6,000 Jews gassed each day at the camp. Finally, he found what he was looking for a pair of leather shoes.

Beller was one of 60,000 prisoners who were forced on what is now known as the death march of Auschwitz—part of the Nazis' mad scramble to escape Allied forces in January 1945. As Russian and American forces closed in, the Nazis attempted to dismantle the camps and hide their crimes. But nothing could obliterate the dark truth of the death camp where they'd murdered 1.1 million people.



The Railway entrance to Auschwitz

Over the weeks that ensued, most of the remaining inmates of Auschwitz, the largest of the Nazis' more than 400,000 camps and incarceration facilities, were marched to other camps near and far, walking tens and sometimes even hundreds of miles. Along the way, Beller saw Nazi guards murder prisoners who tried to escape and shoot those who lagged—including women and children so exhausted from starvation and the brutal conditions they could no longer go on.

As he marched on, his feet protected by the shoes he'd grabbed before leaving Auschwitz, he saw ordinary Germans standing along the road, watching the prisoners go by. "We walked through fields of ice, snow, and blizzards," Beller later recalled as part of the Shoah Foundation oral history program devoted to preserving testimony of Holocaust victims. "Unbelievable."

The last days of Auschwitz, which was opened by the Nazis in Oswiecim, Poland, in 1940, were marked by chaos, cowardice, and an attempt to destroy what was once one of Nazi Germany's most efficient tools in the quest to eradicate European Jews. By late 1944, as the Allied forces of World War II wrested much of occupied Europe out of Nazi hands, it had become clear that the Nazi military—once a mighty force that had invaded and occupied most of Europe after Hitler's rise to power in 1933—was headed toward a spectacular defeat.

As the government and military began to collapse within Germany, Nazi officials in both Germany and occupied Poland began to think about their endgame. In November 1944, Heinrich Himmler, head of the SS and one of the architects of the Holocaust, issued an abrupt order to destroy the gas chambers at Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest of Auschwitz's main camps. Historians disagree on why he issued the command, which was in direct opposition to a previous order by Adolf Hitler to destroy the remaining Jews in Europe.



Some of the few surviving prisoners of Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland, in 1945

Officials at the camp obeyed Himmler. In late 1944, they dismantled part of the gas chambers, forcing, eyewitnesses would later recall, the Sonderkommando—a group of mostly Jewish prisoners who were made to run the gas chambers—to dismantle the structures piece by piece. Then, as the Russians closed in that January, the remaining buildings were destroyed, blown up completely using dynamite. However, the ruins remained.

Then, the marches began. The remaining prisoners deemed healthy enough to march were told to assemble into columns and leave Auschwitz. About 7,000 were left behind as 60,000 marched. Nazi guards led them through the forests and fields of southern Poland on their way to Germany. The Germans called the march an "evacuation"; prisoners immediately dubbed it the "death march."

The trek was brutal. Those who couldn't keep up were shot or beaten by frustrated guards, and the cold, starvation, and disease exacted a terrible toll on prisoners. "Anyone who dared even to bend over—who stopped even for a moment—was shot," recalled Iba Mann, who was 19 at the time.



The Nazis' goal wasn't only to destroy evidence of the camp: They had plans to force the prisoners to serve as slave laborers for the Reich. Some prisoners were stuffed into train cars to complete their journey to Germany; others escaped into the sub-zero temperatures.

The only people left behind in the camp were people deemed unfit for labor—those who were too ill or weak.

An SS order came down to murder any prisoners who were left, and the SS killed about 700 prisoners in response. However, order at the camp was breaking down. SS officers began escaping themselves, and the strict hierarchy that had kept prisoners in line disappeared. Those officers who stayed burned documents in a last-ditch attempt to hide their crimes. Meanwhile, the prisoners who remained huddled in hospital beds and bunks and waited. A few others escaped as the remaining guards fled.



A 15-year-old boy who survived

Then, on January 27, 1945, the Red Army reached the camp. Inside, they found prisoners covered in excrement and starving to death, children who had been used for medical experiments, and other shocking evidence of the Nazis' crimes. At Birkenau, the guards had failed to destroy some of the storerooms where prisoners' stolen belongings were stored before being transported back to the Reich.

Among the remaining items were 7.7 tons of human hair, 370,000 men's suits, and 837,000 women's coats and dresses.

Only 7,000 prisoners remained at the camp upon liberation, and the Red Army immediately began to help feed and care for them. Half of the surviving prisoners died of starvation, disease, and exhaustion shortly after liberation; the others slowly recovered and began their lives as displaced persons.

Though the Russians had just come across the Holocaust's deadliest camp, the liberation of Auschwitz didn't even make front-page news. A communiqué published in the New York Times on January 28, 1945, doesn't even mention the camp, just the city; on February 3, the paper devoted two paragraphs to the "murder factory" at Oswiecim but gave few details. As World War II raced to its end, few people could even grasp the horror that was found in the camps.

Only after the true scope of the Holocaust's horrors was known did the world begin to react to what had happened at Auschwitz. Though the Nazis fled and tried to cover up their deeds, making it impossible to ever know the complete history of their crimes, the voices of the victims and survivors live on through their testimony. All in all, 6 million Jews perished in the Holocaust. Today, a museum and memorial at Auschwitz preserve the remnants of the Nazis' crimes—a reminder of the many who were killed and a testament to those who survived.



The Museum and the Memorial

THE MUSEUM COLLECTION INCLUDES:

About 39,978 pairs of shoes

About 3,800 suitcases, 2100 of which 2,100 bear the names of the owners

Over 12,000 cooking utensils

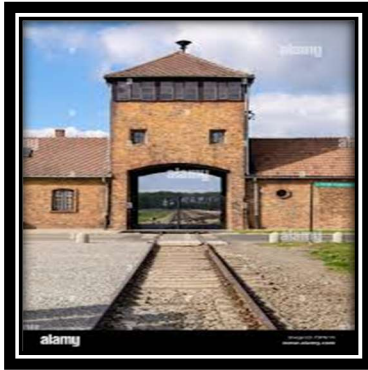
470 prostheses and orthoses

390 striped garments

246 tallis

About 4,100 works of art, of which about 2,000 were painted by the prisoners

AUSCHWITZ IN PICTURES



Coming In
Train entrance to Auschwitz bears no sign



Looking Out



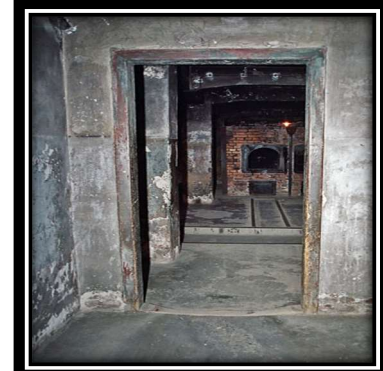
Entrance-The sign above the
gate was stolen in 2009



Bathroom



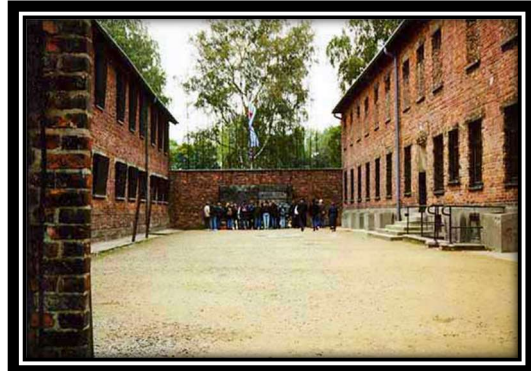
The original door to the Gas Chamber



Looking down the hall at an oven



Urns were used to store ashes in the Nazi Camps



The Black Wall at Auschwitz IS used for executions



President George W. Bush in the oven room at Auschwitz



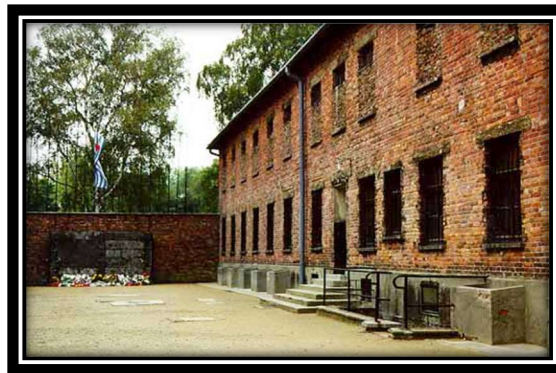
The Black Wall at Auschwitz is a reconstruction



May/June 1944, with the gate in the background.
"Selection" of Hungarian Jews for work or the
 gas chamber



The trolleys used to load bodies into the ovens



Block 11 with bars on windows and upper windows bricked up.
Punishments & Executions Bldg.



THE INFAMOUS BLOCK 10 @ AUSCHWITZ



WORKPLACE OF DR JOSEF MENGELE

"THE ANGEL OF DEATH"

Block 10 was the medical experimentation block in Auschwitz where Josef Mengele reigned. Mengele often inspected and selected new arrivals at Auschwitz, determining who was fit for work and who was to be killed immediately. He always searched for twins and people with abnormalities such as dwarfs for his experiments on humans. Mengele's experiments included attempts to change eye color by injecting chemicals into children's eyes, various amputations of limbs, and other surgeries but his favorites were experiments on twin children.

After an experiment was over, the twins were usually killed and their bodies dissected.

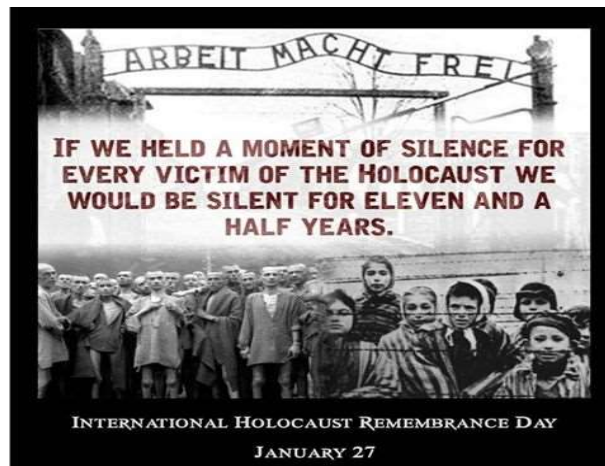
In January of 1945, Auschwitz was abandoned by the SS and Mengele went to Gross Rosen concentration camp, again working as a camp physician. When Gross Rosen was abandoned he worked in other concentration camps for a short time, then joined a medical unit of the Wehrmacht and was taken prisoner by the Americans.

He was not detected as the "Angel of Death" of Auschwitz and under a fake name, he managed to escape to South America where he died as a free man in 1979.



BLOCK 10

Strictly off-limits to all but a few. Notice the windows which are all covered



PERTINENT VIDEO'S

DRONE COVERAGE OF AUCHWITZ 6+ MINUTES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V76jjzo-U4E>

AUSCHWITZ TOUR 7+MINUTES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fH8dGQ2jP5k>

THIS IS THE END OF THIS ARTICLE

NOTE !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! **PROCEED WITH CAUTION !!!!!!!!!!!** **NOTE**
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The three pictures shown below are actual pictures taken by Allied Troops when they liberated the Nazi Camp and they are very graphic and alarming.

REAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY ALLIED TROOPS UPON LIBERATION

THESE ARE VERY GRAPHIC PICTURES – PROCEED WITH CAUTION



Cremation furnaces in the German concentration camp of Birkenau-Auschwitz were reached by troops of the IV Army. Birkenau, **February 1945** (Photo by Mondadori via Getty Images)

CREMATORIUM WITH HUMAN REMAINS



Bones of anti-Nazi German women still lie in the crematoriums in the German concentration camp at Weimar, Germany, liberated by the 3rd U.S. Army. Prisoners of all nationalities were tortured and killed. **April 14, 1945.** (Photo by © CORBIS/Corbis via Getty Images)



SKELETONS AND CREMATION OVENS AT NAZI HORROR CAMP

(Original Caption) Pitiful skeletons of victims lie in the foreground before the well-built cremation ovens in which the Nazis burned to ashes the bodies of the thousands upon thousands of victims of their tortures at the ill-famed "Camp of Annihilation" in suburban Maidanek at Lublin, Poland.

DISCLAIMER

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