

NICK WHITE
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Nick White was with the 6th corps, part of 7th Army, when they overran Dachau after dawn on April 29, 1945. His colleague, Englehardt (from Detroit), who was a photographer and took lots of pictures. He saw a moat in the camp filled with dead SS soldiers killed by American infantry which had been in the camp before White.

The inmates overran them, hugging and yelling. He and a friend started giving out caramels and K-rations, but almost started a riot and retreated. He describes the barracks as about 100 ft by 25 ft with shelves of wood and no blankets, ventilation or sanitary facilities. Some of the prisoners just stared expressionless and White. Wondered if they ever recovered from this treatment. He also spoke of a German dog standing near his dead SS owner who was also not reacting to anything around him.

White describes a large room that led from the gas chambers where several thousand bodies were stacked up. He describes a fat SS camp commander who had been killed and tossed on top of all the other bodies. There was a horrible odor. He says there were about 33,000 prisoners and about 500 a day were dying. Outside an electrically charged fence with open gate they found 39 boxcars filled with corpses that had been there several days. Some were dead and had been gunned down by Germans when Americans were approaching. He watched as they ate from the garbage dump. He said the bodies were still being burned even after the SS had gone.

He expressed his incomprehension of the inhumanity and had not imagined what horror they found.