

ALAN ZIMM
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Alan Zinn gives a detailed description of his time in Dora concentration camp where he was sent from Buchenwald in January 1945 and from where he was liberated March 29. He described the barracks were up on a mountain and they had to climb into barracks. Soldiers with dogs and bayonets all around. They assembled on the Appelplatz; he told Germans he was a tailor and was assigned to an underground rocket factory. It was in a very long, camouflaged factory tunnel. He and 200 other prisoners operated a machine with many steps he had to learn. If there were too many mistakes, the prisoner was hanged. There was a quota of 20 a day; Zinn made more and was given an extra loaf of bread a week which he things saved his life. He was there 4 months and never saw light of day. There were about 35,000 prisoners there including about 10,000 Russian prisoners of war. He describes a time on Feb 2 when 2 people escaped and prisoners were made to stand out in freezing temperatures and finally they hung 10 Russians while the band played music. In March, almost 200 workers accused of sabotage were hung and all made to see.

Zinn described seeing American planes at end of March going to bomb Nordhausen, a town nearby. After 6 days on a train, he arrived in Bergen-Belsen where he heard guards debating whether to surrender to Allies; some French and Belgian war prisoners helped give them potatoes and turnips along the way. He describes how Russian POWs set up a tribunal in the camp after liberation and executed about 50 SS guards. They also went into nearby villages and got food.

There were about 200 Jews out of 35,000 prisoners in Bergen-Belsen. There was a gun battle; SS put on white armbands. Camps were guarded by Hungarian SS. After liberation the prisoners were deloused and given ID cards. Many died from typhus and other diseases. He stayed until June 8 when he went back to Lodz and registered. He met his wife there. She had survived living as Polish Catholic and her two sisters also survived. They were afraid of staying in Poland because of pogroms - especially in Kielce. He and wife and her sisters went to the DP camp in Landsburg, where he found his brother Solomon alive. He travelled back and forth from Poland to Germany several times. He was married by a rabbi from Ulm in the town of Salgau which had only synagogue with bell. A first cousin of Albert Einstein came to the wedding. At some point he and wife came to US.

Mr. Zinn also stated that he found out in June 1941 what the Germans were doing with Jews in Chelmno. A friend's brother was a truck driver and described how Jews were put in vans and gassed with carbon monoxide. The Jews were made to pay 4 marks to pay for the gas! Zinn went to people in Lodz ghetto to tell them about this, but they told him to be quiet. About 380,000 Jews were killed this way.