

BUCHENWALD. During their first day of work 11 of them were murdered. Five months later only 300 of them were left. When anything displeasing to the Party happened outside the Camp a number of Poles were selected and publicly hanged. Once 25 of them died in this way at the same time.

In February 1941, 400 Dutch Jews arrived. They were taken to GUSEN near MAUTHAUSEN where all 400 were killed.

In the Summer of 1941 the doctor of the Camp, EISELE, murdered 104 prisoners with injections of Evipannatrium. He also used healthy specimen to practice vivisection.

According to the records of the political detachment under the officials SERNO and LECLAIR two groups of political and criminal prisoners were sent to SONNENSTEIN near PIRNA where they were killed by experiments with poison gas.

In March 1942, 4 groups of 90 Jews were sent to BERNBURG where they were under the supervision of Dr. EBERLE. All were killed. Only the ashes came back and were put into urns by a prisoner names MARKUR. After completing this job he was killed by SS Oberscharfuehrer PLEISSNER.

The killing of Russian PWs began in October 1941. About 6,000 to 7,000 were murdered in the horse stables. They were shot through the neck. Responsible among others were:

- SS Hauptscharfuehrer TAUFRAATSHOFER
- SS Oberscharfuehrer BERGER
- SS Hauptscharfuehrer BERGER
- SS Hauptscharfuehrer SCHAEFER
- SS Unterscharfuehrer KELZ
- SS Oberscharfuehrer Bruno MICHAEL

SS Standartenfuehrer and Commanding Officer of the Camp KOCH was responsible for all these crimes. He also caused tattooed men to be killed because his wife liked to use the skin as lamp shades. A number of these skins are still left at the Camp in a special building.

Since December 1941 prisoners were used constantly at the 'Fleckfieber Versuchsstation' (typhus experimental station) in block 46. The responsible officials were Dr. DING and Dr. HOVEN.

All prisoners who were no longer able to work due to the horrible 'living' conditions were sent to AUSCHWITZ where they were killed -- 100 at a time -- in gas chambers and then cremated. 5,000 were disposed of in such a manner within 3 days. During that time the chimney smoked 24 hours a day.

30,000 women were employed. If they became pregnant, aryan women were sent to RAVENSBRUCK to have their children while Jewish women were sent to AUSCHWITZ to be 'exterminated'.

After the evacuation of prisoners from COMPIEGNE, AUSCHWITZ and GROSS-ROSEN to BUCHENWALD the mortality rate increased tremendously. 470 of 5,000 prisoners in one detachment died on route. Of those from COMPIEGNE 100 prisoners were put naked into one RR car. Since they lacked air and water 63 of them died.

The bombing of the war plant at BUCHENWALD on 24 August 1944 was used as an excuse for the murder of the leader of the German Communist Party, THAELMANN. However, THAELMANN has never been in the Camp.

On 1 April 1945 there were 80,813 prisoners in the Camp, 34,000 of whom were employed outside in war plants. When the Allied Forces approached an attempt was made to evacuate all of them. On 3 April 1945 1,500 were taken supposedly to THERESIENSTADT; on 5 April 1945 3,105 Jews were taken away -- destination unknown; between 6 and 10 April 1945 22,080 PWs and prisoners of all Nations were sent to FLOSSENBURG and DACHAU.

After the SS guards had left about 20,000 prisoners remained. Among them are

S E C R E T

3,150 sick and 4,800 old people, invalids and children. Detached from the Camp in areas not yet occupied by Allied troops are the following detachments of prisoners:

Firma	Erla, Leipzig	:	1,465
"	Hasag, Leipzig, Taucha	:	543
"	Mansfeld, Wansleben and Rothenburg	:	1,461
"	Wernig Werke Wernigerode	:	502
"	Junkers factories at Schoenebeck Halberstadt Aschersleben Westeregeln Leopoldshall	:	2,500
"	Brabag, Troeglitiz	:	2,211
"	Hasag factories at Altenburg, Colditz, Meuslewitz, Leipzig	:	2,623
"	Floessberger Metallwerke	:	1,163
"	Leopard, Floemnitz	:	1,047
"	G. H. Reinhard, Sonneberg	:	468
"	Waggonfabrik Dessau	:	338
"	Bruns Apparatebau, Gandersheim	:	519
"	Malachyt B II, Halberstadt A 6	:	4,723
"	Wansleben A 6	:	570
"	Schwalbe, V, Verka	:	1,770

According to the records of the doctor of the Camp there were 32,705 deaths during its existence, among which are not listed the mass executions of PWs and the killings in the crematory area. In the latter charred skeletons can still be seen in the incinerators.

The following statistics are available:

	<u>Average Strength</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
January 1945	61,000	6,477
February 1945	62,000	5,614
March 1945	82,000	5,479
3-10 April 1945		915

This is the story as it was given to this team by a representative of the 'Prisoners Committee'. Many records were burnt by the SS before they left. Some documents are still available. Upon suggestion by this team 7 buildings were placed under guard and are off limits to all prisoners.

When the news of President Roosevelt's death became known in the Camp the prisoners organized a memorial service. Black flags fluttered over the grounds all day.

Some inmates have endured the horror of Concentration Camps for the past 12 years. The evidence that can be gathered from them concerning war criminals is immense. It seems beyond doubt that almost all political prisoners are bona fide friends of the Allies. But it should be borne in mind that the Nazis undoubtedly have agents among the inmates. These creatures will appear as ardent anti-Nazis and will be well informed as to conditions in the various camps -- especially as they had inside information. It is believed therefore that until the prisoners have been thoroughly screened and cleared, they should be compelled to stay within the confines of the Camp. That may appear harsh but only by enforcing rigid discipline even among our anti-Nazi Allies will we be able to keep under control a situation which may well cause difficulties if we are not prepared to cope with it.

Melch
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HQ XX CORPS
 MII Team No 439-G
 14 April 1945

Annex No 2 to G-2 Periodic Report No 248.

CONCENTRATION CAMP BUCHENWALD

The Concentration Camp 'BUCHENWALD' near WEIMAR was one of the largest and most infamous 'National Monuments' within the Reich which the Fuehrer and his German people have created for the 'greater glory' of the National Socialist state. After DACHAU near MUNICH and Oranienburg near BERLIN the name 'BUCHENWALD' calls to mind more terror, brutality and horror than any other place in the world. Many so-called 'atrocious stories' -- published in the U. S. press -- did not appear credible simply because people with a sane mind could not believe those reports to be true.

To-day it is realized that the most incredible accounts -- telling of starvation, murder, cremation and dissection -- were only a mild picture of the stark reality which grips anyone who enters the gates of a state sanctioned and government-controlled place of 'extermination' -- a German Concentration Camp. BUCHENWALD is only one member of the almost endless chain of Nazi crimes and depravities.

The following information was collected from available documents -- prior to the arrival of U. S. troops -- by a 'Committee of Prisoners'. The information appears to be substantially correct. However, it should be borne in mind that only a few cold and hard facts can be given here. It will have to remain for the historians to unearth the abhorrent and atrocious details. But the purely human background of suffering, anguish and despondency will probably never be told. It remained in the death-cells, incinerators and medical research laboratories of BUCHENWALD.

The Camp was created in July 1937. The first prisoners arrived in several groups from SACHSENBERG and LICHTENBURG. There were political and criminal prisoners. While the Camp was being erected and until March 1938 most causes for death were so-called 'attempted escapes'. During a wave of Gestapo terror in Germany in May and June 1938, the death rate of the Camp increased and, toward the end of the year, amounted to 10% of the inmates per month. When Von Rath was shot in PARIS 12,500 Jews were taken to BUCHENWALD. Due to the inhuman treatment 70 of them became insane the first night. Being without water and sanitary facilities several hundred died within a short time, primarily of typhus.

After the annexation of Austria the first non-German prisoners arrived. Among others the following prominent men were 'liquidated':

CERTES, son-in-law of MIKLAS, formerly President of Austria.
 WINTERSTEIN, Attorney General.
 TRUMMER, head of the state prison.
 STEIDLE, Consul General and head of the 'Heimwehr'.
 SECHINIE, head of the security service of SALZBURG.

Shortly after the occupation of Czechoslovakia the first Czechs arrived at the Camp.

When war broke out in September 1939, 2,500 Jews from Vienna, many of whom lived in 'Old Peoples Homes', arrived. They 'lived' in tents and were put under the command of SS-men BLANK and HINKELMANN. 2,900 more arrived the following month. The obvious intention was to exterminate them all.

In a special cage, 30 meters square, were the quarters of 104 Polish 'franc-tireurs'. Their ration consisted of 150 grams of bread and 1/2 liter of a watery soup per day. Within one month all but one died.

After the attempted assassination of HITLER in MUNICH 21 Jews were arbitrarily selected and shot. All Jews were kept in dark rooms for three days without any food. Several days later the entire Camp went without food for five days.

In August 1940, 1,100 Poles arrived and were put into a special enclosure at

Annex No 1 to G-2 Periodic Report No 248.

I. UNITS IN CONTACT

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Means</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
217 Hv Flak Bn	(K1278)	PWs	14 April	
8 Btry, 154 Flak Bn	(K0381)	PWs	14 April	Unit came from the STETTIN area one month ago with 5 - 128 mm Flak
3 Btry, 543 RR Flak Bn	(K0389)	PWs	14 April	Unit had orders to retreat to (K3391)
3 Btry, 307 Flak Bn)				
2 Btry, 535 RR Flak Bn)	(K0681) -			Unit had 5 - 128 mm
Hq Btry, 662 Hv Flak Bn)	(K0385)	PWs	14 April	Flak
Techn Bn 2)				
3 Co, NCO School ZEITZ	(K0080)	PWs	14 April	Unit has 7 companies with 40 men per co
Volkssturm Floha (vic CHEMNITZ)	(K0080)	PWs	14 April	30 men were sent to vic ZEITZ
Volkssturm Bn 281	(K0080)	PWs	14 April	Bn was formed at LEIPZIG 9 March. PW states Volkssturm Bns 267, 268, and 269 with 450 to 500 men each are in the LEIPZIG area.
Field RR Ers Bn 10-2)				
" " " " 53-3)				
" " " " 12-3)				
" " " " 56-1)				
" " " " 147-1)	East of			
" " " " ZEITZ)	(J8983)	PWs	14 April	
" " Marsch Co 45-1)				
" " Operating Co 145-2)				
" " " " 106-2)				
" " " " 141-2)				
" " " " 17-2)				
8 Volks Werfer Brig				
I Bn, 2 Hv Werfer Regt	(J9258)	PWs	13 April	
18 Pz Jaeg Ers Bn	(K1277)	PWs	14 April	
62 Armd RR Co	(K1277)	PWs	14 April	
24 Arty Ers Bn	(K2880)			

II. TACTICAL NOTES

1. 85 Inf Div according to PWs had been reorganizing at WILDFLECKEN. On 23 March division was supposed to go to DOEBERITZ (near BERLIN) to complete its reorganization to the Div 45 T/O. (Elm were committed vic MUEHLHAUSEN recently).

2. Pz ? Div Holstein is now believed to be a draft finding formation only.

3. Inf Div Grossadmiral Doenitz has been renamed 1 Marine Div. 2 Marine Div was identified SE of BREMEN according to 21 Army Group. Third U. S. Army comments that further commitment of Naval personnel as infantry, drawn from training units along the coast or performing patrol or coast guard duty along major rivers can reasonably be expected.

4. 5 Inf Div according to an OSS source of unknown reliability is believed to be reforming in the AUGSBURG (Y38) area as of early April.

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CURTIS *7/13/77*
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