

Novel: Research Project for Concentration Camps

Concentration camps were one of the biggest part of Nazi Germany's reign over it's controlling areas. It is estimated that close to 40,000 camps were created by the Germans across the territories it occupied (Poland, France, Russia, Serbia and Germany). The camps were created in 1933 and lasted until 1945. They were created to imprison and eliminate enemies of the state.

Even before the start of WWII and shortly after the camps were created, people of questionable political beliefs, religious designations, Gypsies, Roma, Mentally ill, deviants and Jews were the main targets for imprisonment in the concentration camps.

After Germany's annexation of Austria in 1938, the Nazi's rounded up all the Jewish citizens of Austria and Germany and sent them to Dachau, Buchenwald, and Sachsenhausen camps - all located in Germany. The most famous Concentration camps were Buchenwald, Dachau, and Sachsenhausen. The most famous Extermination camps were Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka. Near the end of WWII, German soldiers were ordered to murder all the prisoners in all of the camps as the allied forces approached.

When the Jews were taken to labor camps, they were kept there as prisoners for a very long time, enslaved to do hard labor such as building or repairing the camps. Several prisoners died of the hard labor, as the exhaustion from the manual strain was too great for even healthy individuals to cope with, let alone the underfed and poorly kept prisoners. Death camps, on the other hand, were places where there were gas chambers built to imitate showers, ensuring that anyone who went to "take a shower" would die a brutal agonizing death. In Auschwitz, the Birkenau killing centre was utilized to kill up to 6,000 Jews per day. However, not all prisoners were killed this way. Many Jews (men, women, and children alike) that were taken prisoner were shot upon arrival, and piled (with some organization) into pits in the ground. Many others died of tests on the body, or severe exhaustion from labor.

Living conditions were not exactly sanitary or even comfortable. Many camps housed almost two or three times the amount of prisoners that were initially supposed to be kept. Although the sanitary conditions were improved quite a bit after 1943, the lives of the prisoners were relatively miserable and monotonous.

Many Jews were used as medical test subjects, almost always without their consent. These experiments included putting prisoners into low-pressure chambers to test how safe it would be for Nazi pilots to parachute out of the sky, freezing prisoners to test effects of hypothermia, and using prisoners to discover methods to make seawater drinkable. Other experiments included testing how diseases affected individuals of different racial backgrounds. Many Jews eventually died due to the harshness of these attempted medical "advancements", and also from the unhygienic atmosphere. Others were shot or killed using gas chambers.

Although there were no official figures as to the exact number of people held in German Internment (Concentration) camps, estimated from the military and historians put the number of people imprisoned between 15 - 20 million. The number of people killed is estimated to be 11 million.

Once the Nazis opened forced labor camps after the invasion of Poland in 1939, they brought millions of jews into the concentration camps and most of the captured

Jews were killed by gas chambers. The Nazis of Germany and Jews of Germany's captured nations were involved.

One of the many ways to kill the prisoners in the concentration camps were gas chambers. Gas chambers were places used to kill numerous Jews. It would release poisonous gas to kill the people inside. Gas chambers would be blocked and barricaded to prevent gas from escaping the chambers. Nazis would have Jews that they didn't deem worthy of living to strip down naked and force the Jews into the gas chambers. Nazis would fill up the chambers with poisonous gases like Zyklon B. These gas chambers are held responsible for thousands of lives.

One of the other method was crematorium. It was an "oven" designed to burn live Jews. This term also made the word "crematoria" which was an "oven" designed to burn the corpses of Jews. The crematoriums and crematoria were kept at an extremely hot temperature to do so.

Lastly, it is important to distinguish the difference between Concentration camps and Extermination camps. Concentration camps were used for places of detention (imprisonment) and for slave labour exploitation. Extermination camps served as "death factories" which were used to kill and murder Jews - and other people. Popular methods of execution were poison gas, asphyxiation, hanging, and shooting.

