

Nazi Ghetto's, Concentration and Death Camps

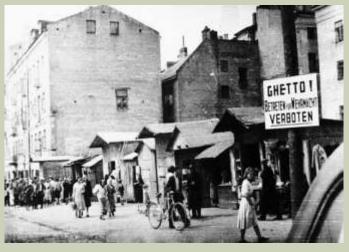
Before Adolf Hitler enacted the "Final Solution" during World War II the Nazis created Ghettos in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus.





The Jews were herded into these small areas and denied adequate food and medicines...beginning in late 1941 on the Jews were transported from these ghettos to death camps.





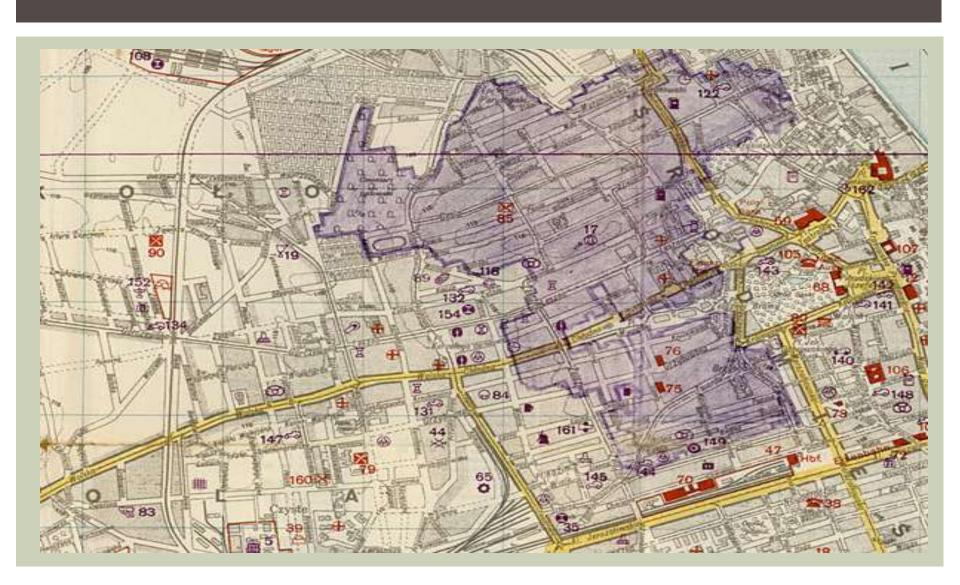




All in all there were over 40,000 Ghetto's established through Nazi occupied Europe.

- Warsaw is the Polish City where Nazi Germany established one of the largest "Ghettos" in recorded history.
 - The Warsaw Ghetto was established on October 16, 1940.
 - The Nazi's ordered Jews in Warsaw and its suburbs rounded up and herded into the Ghetto, at this time, the population in the Ghetto was estimated to be 600,000 people.



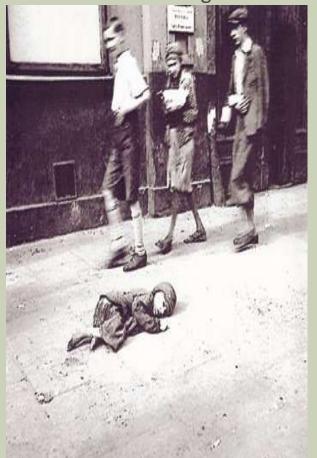


The purpose of the ghetto was to contain Jews before they were sent to death camps or concentration camps.



Ultimately to be kept away from German society

Through 1942 most of the 600,000 Jewish ghetto residents died...





Some of disease, starvation or beatings but most were send to the infamous Death Camps

On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. The Polish army was defeated within weeks of the invasion.





From East Prussia and Germany in the north and Silesia and Slovakia in the south, German units, with more than 2,000 tanks and over 1,000 planes, broke through Polish defenses along the border and advanced on Warsaw in a massive encirclement attack.



After heavy shelling and bombing, Warsaw surrendered to the Germans on September 27, 1939.





Polish infantry during the Nazi invasion and Polish 7TP light tanks in formation during the first days of the 1939 defense.





Polish P-11 fighter.

A sixteen by sixteen block area of the city was turned into an enormous poverty stricken ghetto.



There were no walls at this time however residence was mandatory.









The Jews were only allowed to bring minor possessions and supplies.



Clothes, small items, and suitcases were allowed in the Ghetto...visible jewelry was confiscated or stolen at the gate.







The Ghetto was set up in a poor section of Warsaw where mainly Non-Jewish Poles lived.





The poor Polish citizens who lived in the Ghetto location were ordered out and allowed to take wealthy Jewish homes and businesses.



The walling off of the Warsaw Ghetto.







Same wall today...left as a memorial to those who died during the occupation of Warsaw

The conditions in the Warsaw Ghetto were near unbearable for the 600,00 Jews.



There were no supplies, possessions or services of any kind.

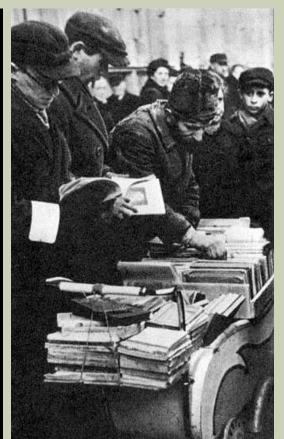
The housing situation was appalling with up to seven families living per room.



All buildings and apartments were infested with rodents and insects.

Ration books or cards were used, but many people suffered from hunger, starvation, and malnourishment.

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Remember Jewish run stores were illegal so there was no place to buy items. (Ration card allowed resident to 300 calories a day.)





Children climbing the walls to smuggle food into the Warsaw Ghetto.



Jews worked dreadful hours in factories that produced munitions and artillery for the war.



Jews in the Ghetto suffered unbelievable cruelties from the Nazi officers



Nazi's forced elderly men to wash the street with soap and water while they watched.







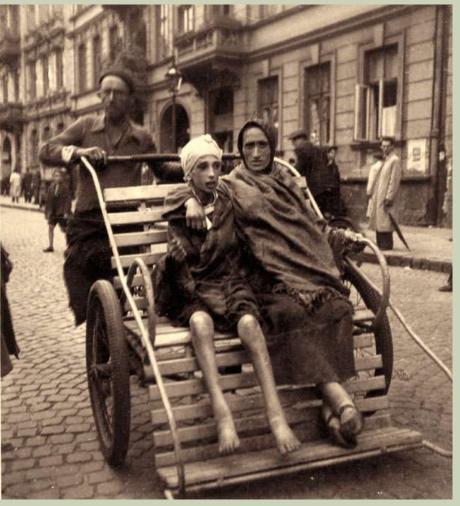












By April of 1943 there were only 60,000 Jews left in the ghetto.



These were the lucky ones who were "spared" from the "death camps"

They understood that sooner or later the Nazi's would ship them off to a death camp.



They experienced a spout of courage and organized an uprising against the ghetto's Nazi officials.





On April 19, 1943, the unarmed and untrained Jews attacked the Nazi officers

Battles raged from street to street, window to window, building to building



Remarkably the Jews held off the Germans for three weeks















In the end the Nazi forces slaughtered the rebels and killed most of the 60,000 Jews remaining in the Ghettos









There were two kinds of Nazi camps:



Concentration Camps (18 Big Camps 20,000 in total) Death Camps (6)

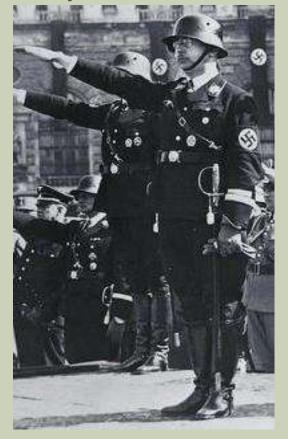
Concentration Camps were established 1933, and were savage punishment camps for Communists, Social Democrats, liberals and various other opponents of the Nazi Party.



These early Concentration Camps were usually held in basements and storefronts (Dachau camp)

They were then consolidated into large scale camps that were hidden from the public eye eventually, operated and controlled by the S.S.

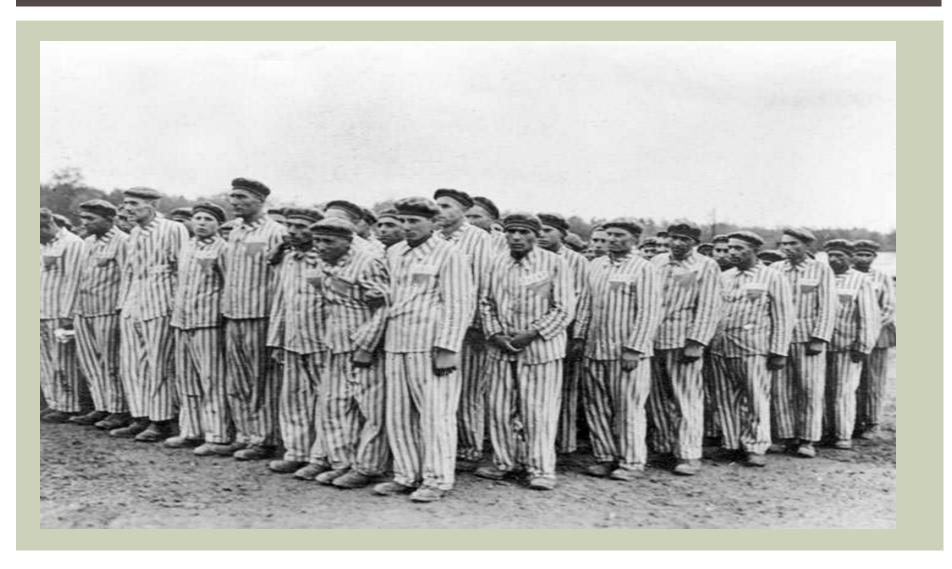




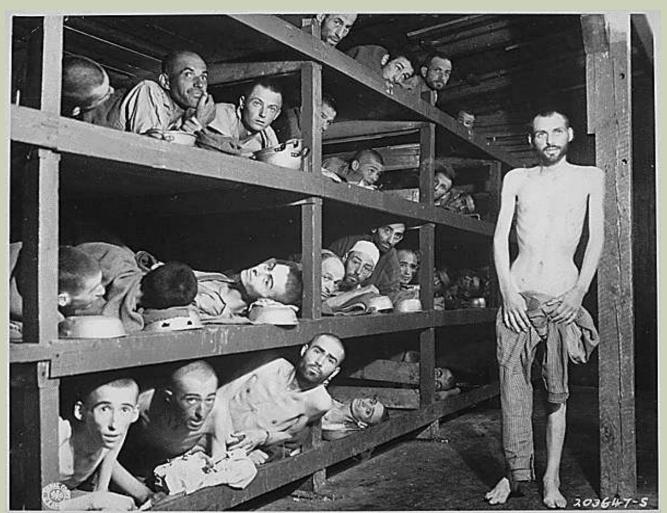
Jews were not sent there till 1938 for being an enemy of the Nazi Reich.

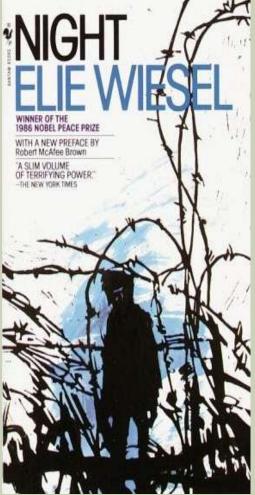


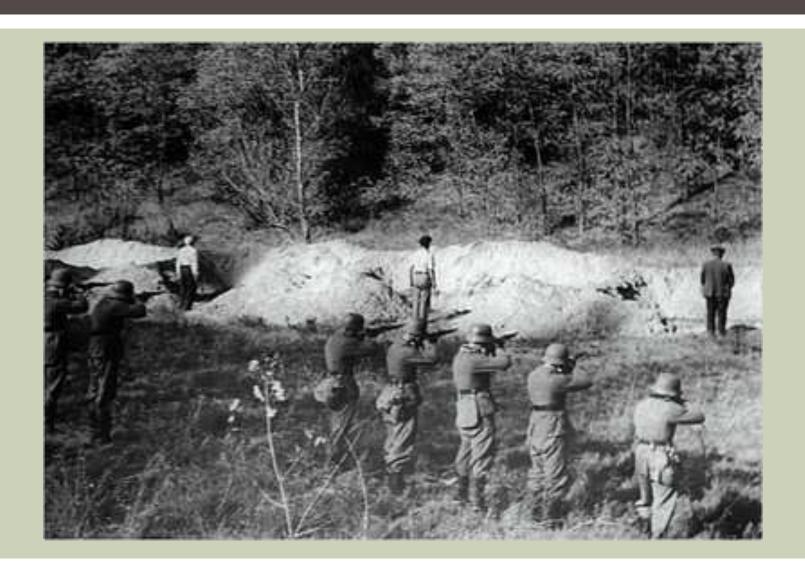
A concentration camp is a place where Jewish and other "impure" people were taken to work, if they were physically fit enough (Slave Labor)















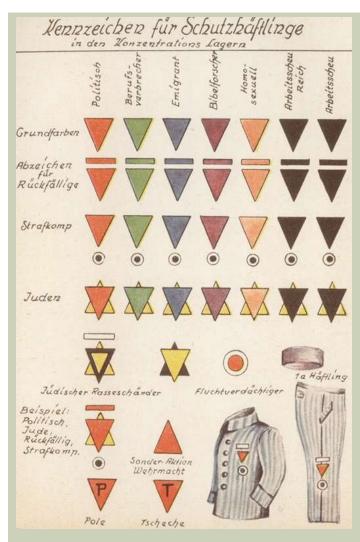


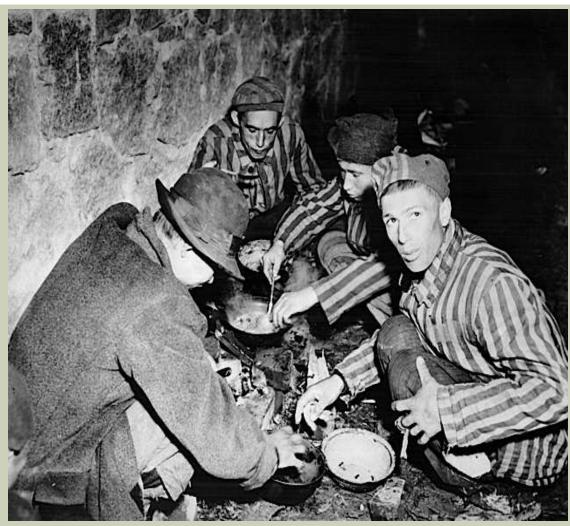






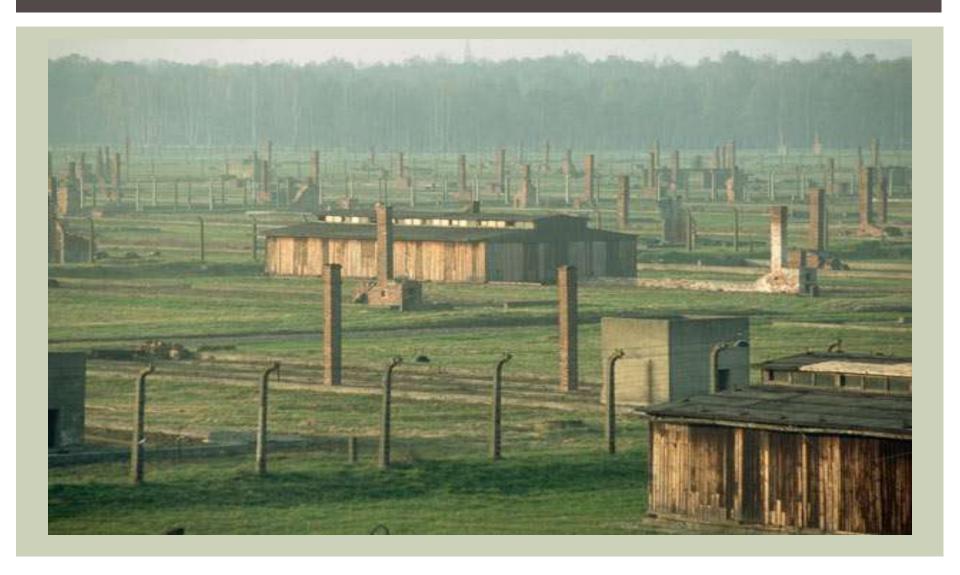


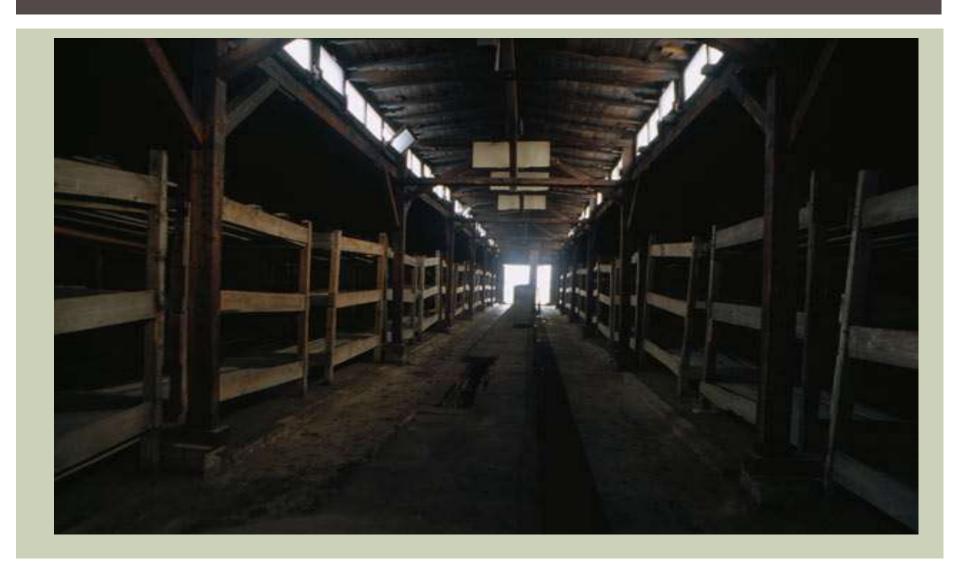












It is also important to distinguish between **Concentration Camps** and **Extermination Camps**.







The Extermination Camps began in late 1941 and were intended solely for the purpose of genocide.

The **Death Camps** were used to exterminate Jews, Roma "Gypsies" and other "Undesirables"



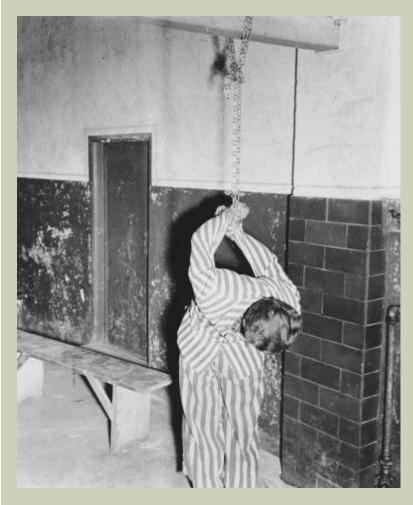


They were also used for slave labor and excessive medical experiments...remember death camps were only found in Poland

Starvation and disease usually caused a huge loss of life in all **Death** and **Concentration Camps**



Rape, torture, beatings, humiliations, experiments and neglect were institutionalized in all camps.



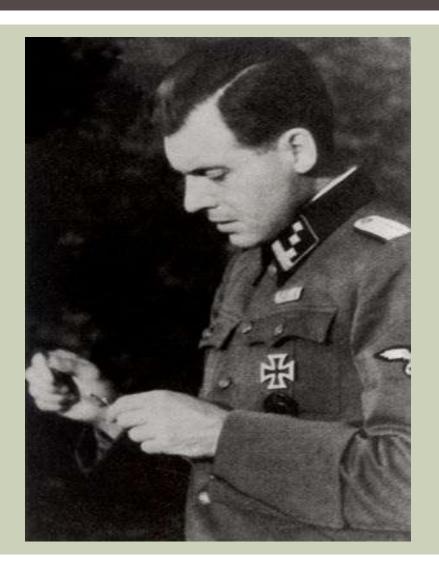












Josef Mengele was a German SS officer and a physician in the Nazi Death Camp Auschwitz.

Mengele initially gained notoriety for being one of the SS physicians who supervised the selection of arriving transports of "undesirable" prisoners, determining who was to be killed and who was to become a forced laborer.

Mengele was far more infamous, however, for performing ghastly human experiments on camp inmates, for which Mengele was called the "Angel of Death".





Mengele used Auschwitz as an opportunity to continue his research on heredity, using inmates for human experimentation...he was particularly interested in identical twins.



Mengele's experiments included attempts to take one twin's eyeballs and attach them to the back of the other twin's head, changing eye color by injecting chemicals into children's eyes, various amputations of limbs, and other brutal surgeries.

DEATH CAMPS







DEATH CAMPS





DEATH CAMPS



Of the 6 million Jews exterminated in the death camps, most were killed in **Treblinka** and **Auschwitz** (Killing up to 20,000 people each day)



Jewish leaders located in Nazi created Ghettos were forced to select people for deportation (Judenrat)



These people were then packed into cattle trucks which were completely unsanitary, with no food, water or bathrooms.



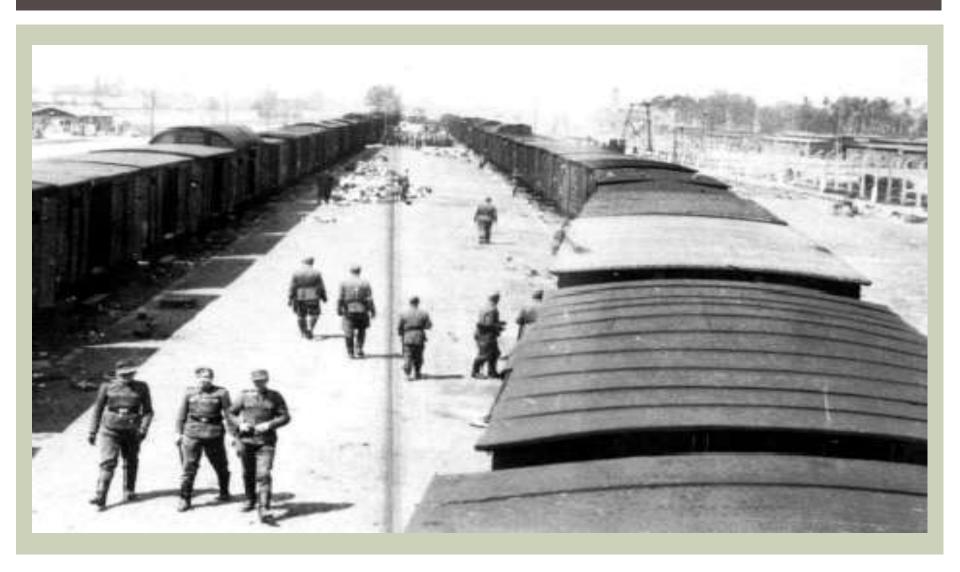














Once the Jews arrived at one of the six death camps they were then offloaded and "selection" took place.

Nazi officials separated these people into groups



Those who would live to work and those who would die



Women and children were in most cases chosen to die, women in particular would have terrible experiences...



The Jews were stripped of their possessions, tattooed and given camp uniforms.





The tattoos were simply a way to keep track of inmates of the death camps ...it was cheaper, easier and more efficient to put the numbers directly on the inmates' skin than to distribute id cards or to stencil them on clothing.





Teeth were removed for gold filings and hair was shaved for stuffing mattresses



A few of the thousands of wedding rings the Germans removed from Holocaust Victims to salvage the gold.





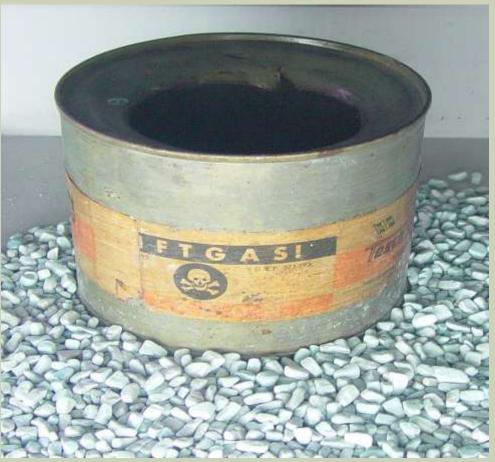


The condemned were taken to the "showers" in which they would suffer a painful death from Zyklon B Gas

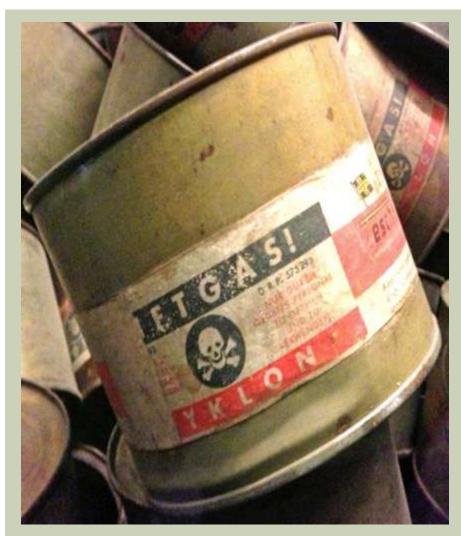


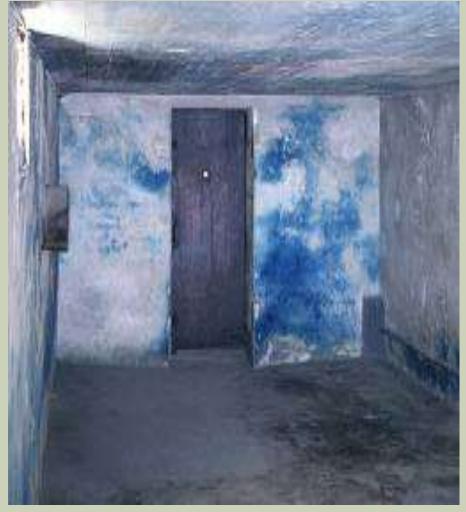






Zyklon B Gas was pesticide that was used to kill small mammals, birds, insects and other nuisances





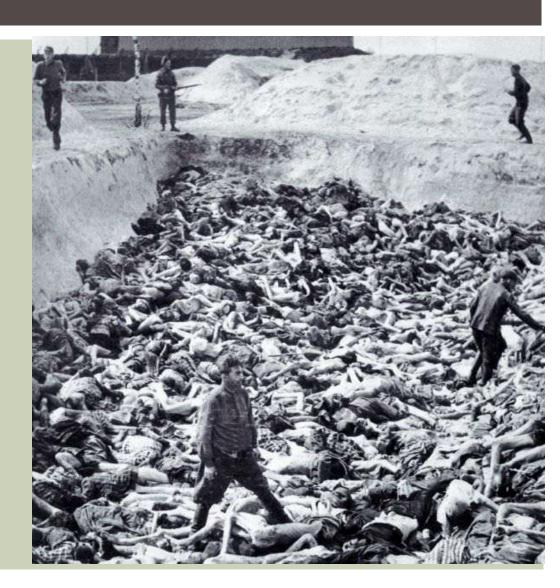


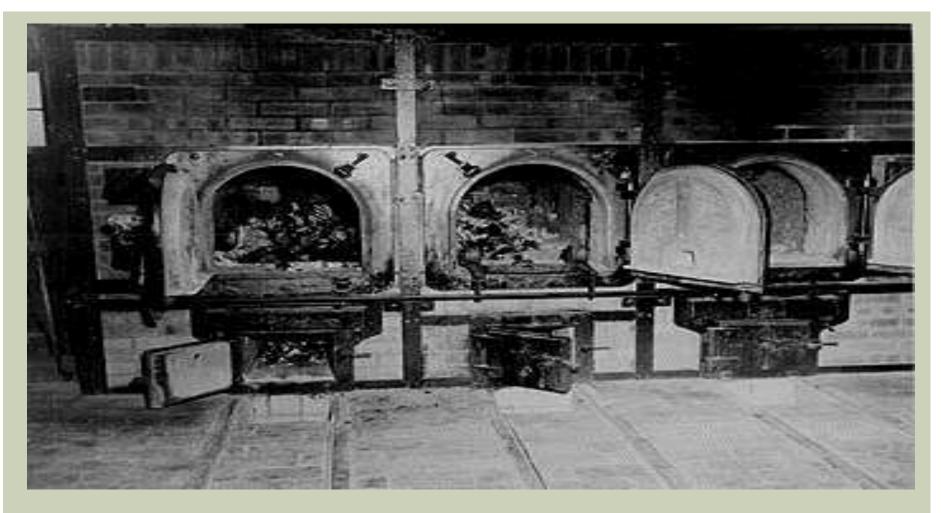
As many as 2,000 people were crammed into a single gas chamber "shower"



Close-up shows fingernail scratches on the gas chamber wall

Following death, Jewish workers had to pull the bodies apart





They were then incinerated in special ovens called Crematoria







The 504th were the first American soldiers to witness the devastation of the Nazi Camps





The troopers were horrified and shocked by what they found at Wobblein Camp where prisoners were neglected and starved to death.





The soldiers of the 504th made the people of Ludwigslust Germany inspect the horrors of Wobbelin and what Hitler had done in their name.







Later under American supervision, these same citizens where forced to bury the victims

Holocaust Deaths: Although the exact figure will never be known, here are the best estimates are a 11-17 million dead range with 6 million of being Jewish (close to two thirds of Europe's Jewish population).



In this number is also the Roma Gypsies, Homosexuals, enemies of Nazi Germany, Communist, Jehovah Witnesses, mental and physically handicapped and other political enemies.

Neo-Nazism consists of post-World War II social or political movements seeking to revive Nazism.





■ The term neo-Nazism can also refer to the ideology of these movements.

Neo-Nazism borrows elements from Nazi doctrine, including militant nationalism, racism, xenophobia (prejudice), homophobia, and anti-Semitism.







Holocaust denial is a common feature, as is incorporation of Nazi symbols and admiration of Adolf Hitler.

Neo-Nazi activity appears to be a global phenomenon, with organized representation in many countries, as well as international networks.





Many Nazi related symbols are banned in European countries in an effort to curtail neo-Nazism.

The Golden Dawn is a far-right political party in Greece, led by Nikolaos Michaloliakos.



Scholars and media have described it as Neo-Nazi and fascist, though the group rejects these labels.

The Golden Dawn have also made use of Nazi symbolism, and have praised figures of Nazi Germany in the past.







According to academic sources, the group is racist and xenophobic, while the party's leader has openly identified it as nationalist and racist.

■ The party ran a campaign during the Greek national elections of 2012 based on concerns for unemployment, strictness and the economy, as well as infectious anti-immigration rhetoric, which gained a large increase in support from the Greek electorate.





It received 7% of the popular vote, enough for the party to enter the Hellenic Parliament for the first time with 21 seats...following a second election in June, this was reduced to 18 seats.

■ World War II Casualties: About 70 million people were killed during the war, 61 million were on the Allied side and 11 million were on the Axis side.



For Germany the overall total is given as just under 7.4 million, The United States suffered 500,000 casualties.