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# **The Concentration Camps Inside the Nazi System of Incarceration and Genocide**

*Part 3: Creation of Ghettos and Expansion of Camps (1939-1942)*

This document contains historical images  
of the Holocaust and the concentration camps.

Please be advised that some of these pictures  
and descriptions are graphic  
and may be disturbing to viewers.



The Glubokoye, Belarus ghetto was established in November 1941, where approximately 6,000 Jews were forced to live. Children were frequently utilized for labor there.

Jewish children making boxes in the Glubokoye, Belarus ghetto. *Photo credit: USHMM #08059.*



The first Nazi ghetto was established in October 1939 in Piotrków Trybunalski, Poland.

Larger ghettos were later formed in the major European cities of Warsaw, Łódź, Kraków, Białystok, L'viv, Lublin, Vilna, Kovno, and Minsk, in addition to thousands of ghettos in smaller towns.

Abram Zarnowiecki, Rozia Zarnowiecki, Mania Freiberger, Moniek Freiberger, Rachel Zarnowiecki, and Chaim Zarnowiecki pose for a photograph in the Piotrków Trybunalski ghetto in 1940. All those pictured died in the Holocaust. *Photo credit: USHMM, courtesy of Rose Guterman Zar.*



Jews in the Kovno (Kaunas) ghetto in Lithuania are boarded onto trucks during a deportation action to a forced labor camp. *Photo credit: USHMM #81079.*

Dozens of ghettos and concentration camps were established in the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Kaiserwald concentration camp, near Riga, Latvia, had as many as 17 subcamps alone.

The survival rate for Jewish people living in Baltic states was very low—approximately 90% perished during the Holocaust.



The Neuengamme satellite camp, located near Hamburg, Germany, housed prisoners transferred from the nearby (and very large) Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

There, prisoners restored and expanded an old brick factory for use in Nazi war production.

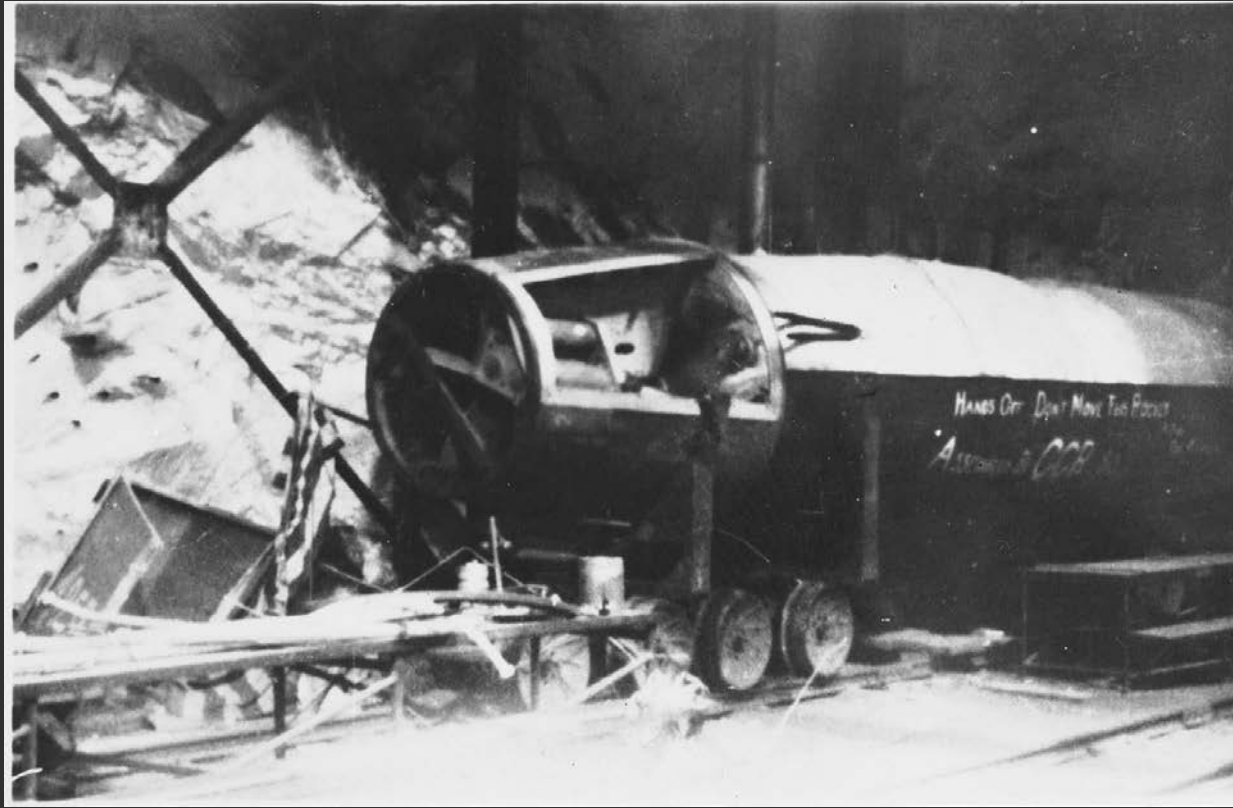
A view of the Neuengamme concentration camp, with the camp's brick factory on the left.  
*Photo credit: USHMM #06024.*



Neuengamme concentration camp was established in December 1938 as a subcamp of Sachsenhausen. However, by 1944 Neuengamme had 70 satellite camps of its own—including 24 designated for women.

In all, Neuengamme imprisoned 106,000 people—42,900 of which perished.

Prisoners digging a ditch at the Neuengamme concentration camp. *Photo credit: USHMM #06031.*



View of an subterranean rocket factory at Dora-Mittelbau. *Photo credit: USHMM #62980.*

Many prisoners in Dora-Mittelbau concentration camp in central Germany were forced to live underground for up to a year. One inside the factory tunnels, prisoners had insufficient air, food, light, and water, as well as high exposure to toxic chemicals.

Because of this harsh treatment, Dora-Mittelbau had the highest death rate among concentration camps in Germany.





Prisoners look out from their bunks inside a barracks in the Dachau concentration camp near Munich, Germany. *Photo credit: USHMM #75034.*

At Dachau and at most other concentration camps, typhus, a contagious and deadly bacterial infection, was ubiquitous.

Typhus killed approximately 150 prisoners each day at Dachau which had the highest infection rate of any concentration camp. During the final months before liberation, as many as 1,600 prisoners were housed in barracks built for 200.



Jews move their belongings into the Grodno, Belarus ghetto. *Photo credit: USHMM #50349.*

In November 1941, approximately 25,000 Jews were forced into two ghettos in Grodno, Belarus.

There, thousands died in mass shootings or in the gas chambers of several extermination camps, including Majdanek, Treblinka, and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

By July, 1944, when Grodno was liberated by Soviet troops, just 200 Jews were still alive.



In October 1944, more than 70,000 Jews of Budapest, Hungary were forced to live in a ghetto in the brickyards of the Óbuda section of the city.

Most of these Jews were deported to concentration camps by the Nazi-sympathetic Hungarian Arrow Cross Party.

Members of the Hungarian Arrow Cross Party escorting Jews during deportation in Budapest, Hungary. *Photo credit: Yad Vashem #101355.*



In Smolensk, Russia (then Soviet Union), many of the 14,812 Jews were able to evacuate before the Germans arrived in July 1941.

However, the approximately 2,000 Jews who remained were forced into a small ghetto of 70 houses surrounded by barbed wire. Dozens among the Jewish intelligentsia were murdered within a week.

On June 22, 1941, Nazi Germany launched a surprise attack against the Soviet Union, including seizing the town of Smolensk. *Photo credit: USHMM.*



Approximately 15,000 Spanish Republicans—known as “Red Spaniards”—were imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps. They fled to France after the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s and were taken into custody after the Nazi invasion and occupation of France in 1940.

Spaniards prepare to depart Rivesaltes concentration camp in southern France for an unknown destination. *Photo credit: USHMM #32276.*



A meeting of the Kovno (Kaunas), Lithuania Judenrat, 1943. *Photo credit: Yad Vashem #74G07.*

Jewish Councils, or “Judenrat,” were formed by the Nazis and were charged with administering and managing daily life in major ghettos.



There were two main types of ghettos: “closed ghettos” and “open ghettos.” Closed ghettos were cordoned off by walls or barbed wire fences. Open ghettos had no walls or fences, but had legal restrictions on entering and leaving.

View of a barbed-wire fence separating the closed Jewish ghetto in Kraków from the rest of the city. *Photo credit: USHMM and Instytut Pamięci Narodowej.*



Dit is een  
foto, zoals  
ik me zou  
wensen,  
altijd zo  
te zijn.  
Dan had

ik nog wel een kans  
om naar Hollywood te  
komen. Maar tegen-  
woordig zie ik er  
jammer genoeg meer-  
tal anders uit.

Anne Frank.

10 Oct. 1942  
Vrijdag.

Anne Frank's diary of life during World War II in Nazi-occupied Holland has been read by millions of people since its publication in 1947.

Anne Frank, who was Jewish, died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp February 1945. She likely died of typhoid disease shortly after being transferred from Auschwitz-Birkenau with her sister, Margot.

This excerpt from Anne Frank's diary is dated October 10, 1942, and reads: *"This is a photograph of me as I wish I looked all the time. Then I might still have a chance of getting to Hollywood. But now I am afraid I usually look quite different."*





Approximately 232,000 prisoners at Auschwitz-Birkenau were children. Of those, 93% were Jewish, while the rest were primarily Polish, Roma, or Soviet.

Liberated children leaving barracks at Auschwitz-Birkenau, January 1945. *Photo credit: USHMM #70262.*



Nutrition at concentration camps varied depending on local resources, but was uniformly awful. At Auschwitz-Birkenau, prisoners and forced laborers were typically served three “meals” a day: coffee in the morning, soup consisting of rotten ingredients during the day, and stale black bread (with occasional meat or cheese scraps) in the evening.

Liberated prisoners at Buchenwald eating a full meal served by United States Army cooks. *Photo credit: USHMM #12074.*



Concentration camp prisoners who were musicians were often forced to provide musical entertainment for Nazi officers and guards. Auschwitz-Birkenau had several of such orchestras, including one once comprised of 80 prisoner-musicians.

One of the numerous orchestras at Auschwitz-Birkenau performing for SS guards.  
*Photo credit: USHMM #81216.*



There were a small number of Black prisoners at Nazi concentration camps, though the exact total is unknown.

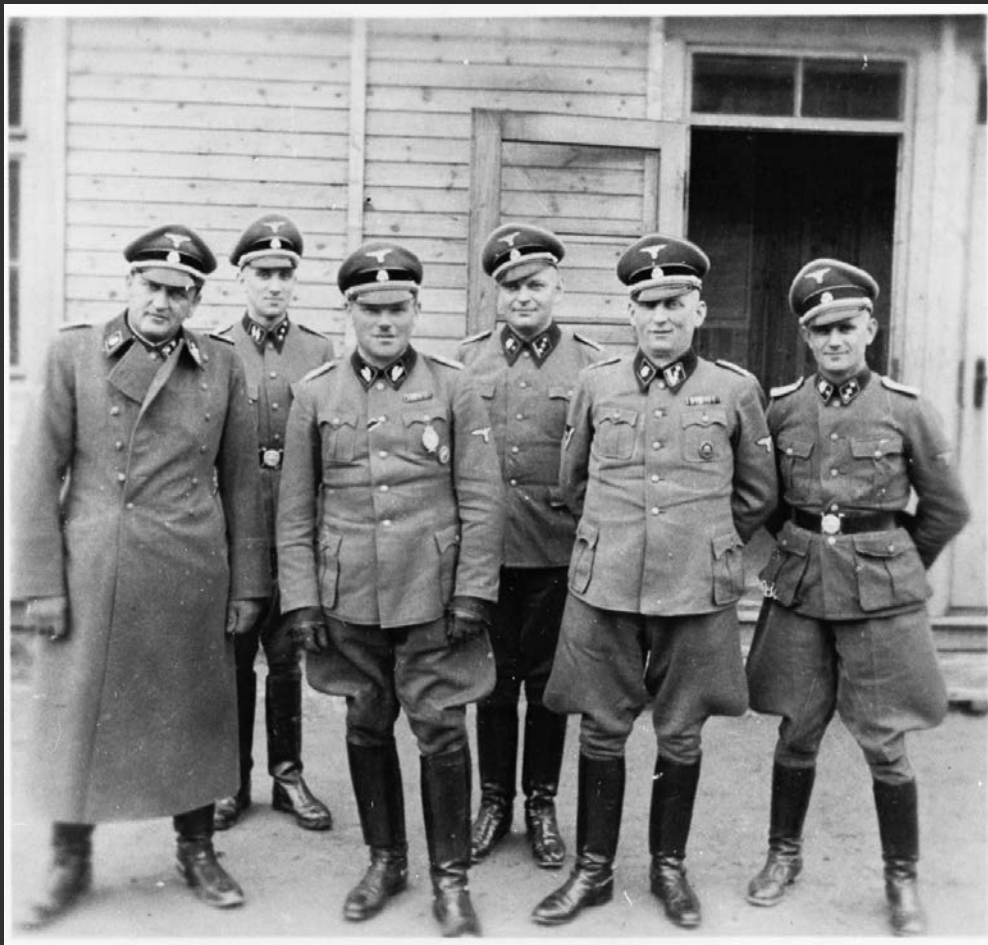
Jean Voste (right), one of the few black Nazi prisoners, at the Dachau camp. *Photo credit: USHMM #74095, courtesy of Frank Manucci.*



In several camps, prisoners received vouchers to buy supplies. Vouchers were only valid within the camp grounds in order to help stop the possibility of bribery with SS guards.



Westerbork transit camp voucher worth 100 cents. *Photo credit: USHMM accession #2016.184.827, courtesy of the Katz Family.*



Oberführer Hans Loritz, a KL commandant at Sachsenhausen concentration camp, started a bartering system where he would instruct Nazi SS officers to steal food from kitchens to barter with prisoners in exchange for prized personal belongings.

Hans Loritz (center left) with other SS guards during a visit to Gross-Rosen concentration camp. *Photo credit: USHMM #55778.*



Approximately 250,000 Roma (Gypsies) were killed throughout Nazi-occupied Europe. Roma were deemed as contradictory to the Aryan ideal.

Three Romani children in Warsaw, Poland during the Nazi occupation. *Photo credit: USHMM #07074.*



The Warsaw ghetto was the largest ghetto in Nazi-ruled Europe. At one time, it held 460,000 Jews in an area of 1.3 square miles, with an average of 9.2 people per room.

Jews move along a crowded street in the Warsaw ghetto. *Photo credit: USHMM #73012A.*





Jewish men and women from Vienna in crowded barracks in the Opole Lubelskie, Poland ghetto. *Photo credit: USHMM #45838.*

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) has catalogued approximately 42,500 Nazi ghettos and camps throughout Nazi-occupied Europe.



The Częstochowa ghetto in Nazi-occupied southern Poland contained approximately 48,000 Jews at its peak. 20,000 of them were Jews transported from nearby cities of Kraków, Łódź and Płock.

Jews walk along a snow-covered commercial street in the western part of the ghetto in Częstochowa, Poland. *Photo credit: USHMM #09799.*