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The Concentration Camps Inside the Nazi System of Incarceration and Genocide

Part 4C: Medical Experiments

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.



Nazi physician Sigmund Rascher was one of the first doctors to conduct cruel, lethal experiments on camp prisoners and was infamously known for his air pressure cabin experiments. Rascher was highly favored by Heinrich Himmler, who enthusiastically supported Rascher's experiments with an additional request that he got to witness them.

Prisoner reacting to changing air pressure in an atmospheric chamber in an experiment conducted by Dr. Rascher. *Photo credit: USHMM #78627.*



Medical experiments conducted on prisoners in concentration camps were usually to gather information that would help the Nazi war effort.

This prisoner at the Dachau concentration camp medical facility is shown undergoing hypothermia testing for which he was immersed into frigid water for long periods of time.

Photo credit: USHMM and Bildarchiv Preussischer Kulturebesitz.



Nazi-appointed German doctors (also known as SS doctors) sterilized approximately 400,000 “unfit” patients in their quest to subjugate and exterminate “inferior” people.

Dr. Waldemar Hoven, lead physician at the Buchenwald concentration camp, stands trial for the crimes he was charged with under his medical supervision at the camp. *Photo credit: USHMM #43034.*



Nazi physician Robert Ritter conducted unethical, pseudoscience experiments that examined if Roma were more prone to committing crimes than other ethnicities.

Dr. Robert Ritter taking blood samples from a Roma woman for an unethical experiment.
Photo credit: USHMM, courtesy of Galerie Bilderwelt.



Nazi experiments led to the death, disfigurement, and traumatization of thousands of concentration camp prisoners.

A disfigured leg of a survivor from Ravensbrück.
Photo credit: USHMM.



The infamous Nazi doctor, Josef Mengele, performed hundreds of experiments on children in Auschwitz-Birkenau. His tests included sewing twins together to create conjoined twins, as well as infecting one with a disease and transfusing their blood to the other. He also injected chemicals into eyes to change their color.

Josef Mengele (center), flanked by Richard Baer (left) and Rudolf Höss (right). *Photo credit: USHMM , courtesy of Karl Höcker.*