



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

*Part 4D: Extermination Camps*

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.



In 1942, the Nazis discovered that using the insecticide Zyklon B was more effective for murdering mass numbers of prisoners than other poisons or gases, such as carbon monoxide.

Zyklon B was first experimented on Soviet POWs. It subsequently became the preferred poison in most Nazi extermination camps during World War II.

Two canisters of Zyklon B found in the Dachau concentration camp and clearly marked as poison with a skull and crossbones. *Photo credit: USHMM #75047.*



At Majdanek extermination camp, women, children, and elderly prisoners were usually considered unfit for forced labor by Nazi guards. Upon arrival to the camp, these prisoners were immediately murdered in gas chambers.

A warehouse filled with canisters of Zyklon B (poison gas pellets) at the Majdanek extermination camp in Nazi-occupied Poland. *Photo credit: USHMM #50575.*



The Reinhard and Chelmno extermination camps used carbon monoxide from engine exhaust to murder their victims, while Auschwitz-Birkenau used prussic acid from a cyanide-based pesticide (Zyklon B).

An emaciated Jewish man in the Łódź ghetto awaits deportation to the Chelmno death camp. *Photo credit: USHMM #37344.*



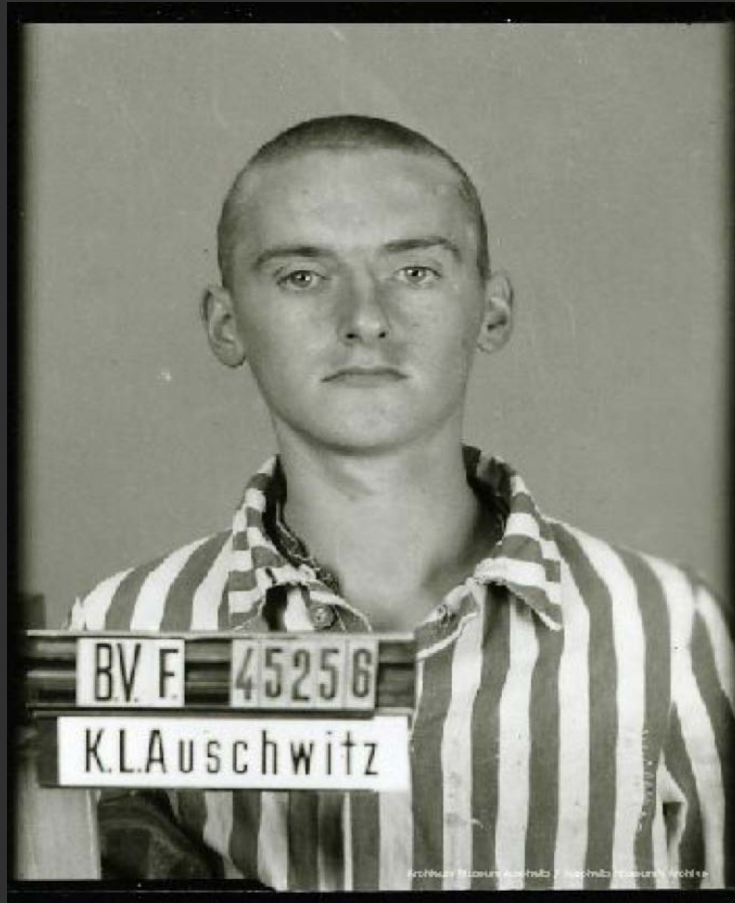
Jewish prisoners underwent a selection process after arriving in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Physically fit or technically skilled prisoners were taken for forced labor, while the rest were sent to the gas chambers.

Jewish brothers from Ukraine await selection on the ramp at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Pictured are Israel and Zelig Jacob, ages nine and eleven. They were gassed shortly after arrival. *Photo credit: USHMM #77218.*



Jewish women and children from Ukraine await selection on the ramp at Auschwitz-Birkenau. *Photo credit: USHMM #77255.*

Women and children made up a disproportionate number of Jews sent to immediate death at the extermination camps, as Jewish men had better chances of being selected for work.



Fernand Blanchard was a French prisoner at Auschwitz. He was born on December 31, 1923, in Paris, France. Fernand was imprisoned for what the Nazis considered “forbidden acts” and perished in the camp on August 28, 1942.





Sites of Nazi concentration camps.

approximately 2,700,000 of 6,000,000 Jews that were killed during the Holocaust were murdered in Nazi extermination camps.

Map of the major Nazi concentration and extermination camps. *Photo credit: USHMM #55041.*



Alfred Lurie, born on February 2, 1881 and worked as a salesman in Breźnica, Poland. Alfred was a Jewish prisoner at Auschwitz-Birkenau, where he perished on December 12, 1941.

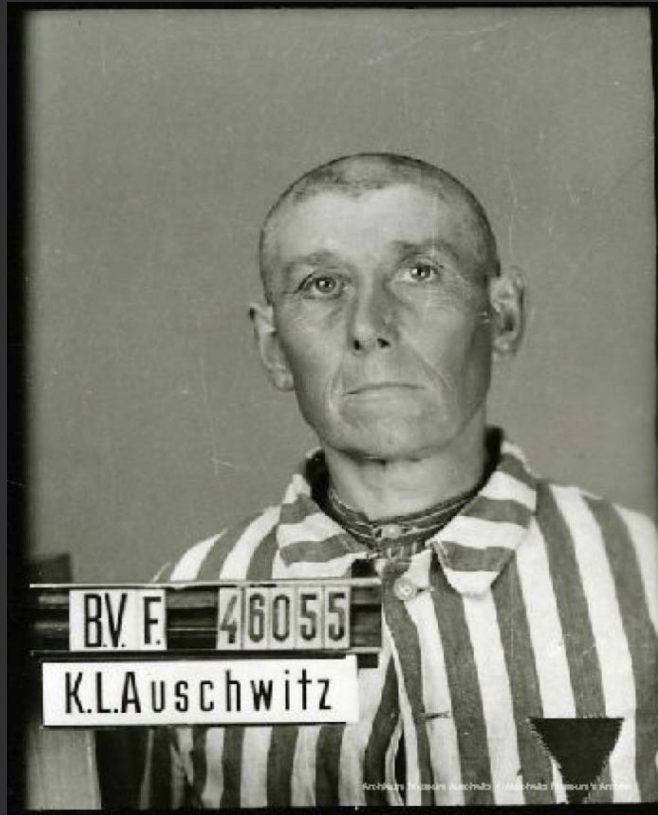
*Photo credit: Archive of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.*



The survival rate of Western European Jews deported to Nazi death camps was extremely low.

Jewish men had a higher rate of survival (4.3%) compared to women (2.7%).

A Jewish woman walks towards the gas chambers with three young children and a baby in her arms, after going through the selection process on the ramp at Auschwitz-Birkenau.  
*Photo credit: USHMM 77217.*



Robert Riche was born on October 21, 1893, in Saint Mards-en-Othe, France. He was imprisoned for what the Nazis considered “forbidden acts.”

Robert perished in Auschwitz-Birkenau on August 25, 1942.



Michael Kurschat was born on February 12, 1880, in Brücken, Germany and was imprisoned at Auschwitz-Birkenau for “Asocial” acts. Michael perished in the camp on October 29, 1941.

*Photo Credit: Archive of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.*



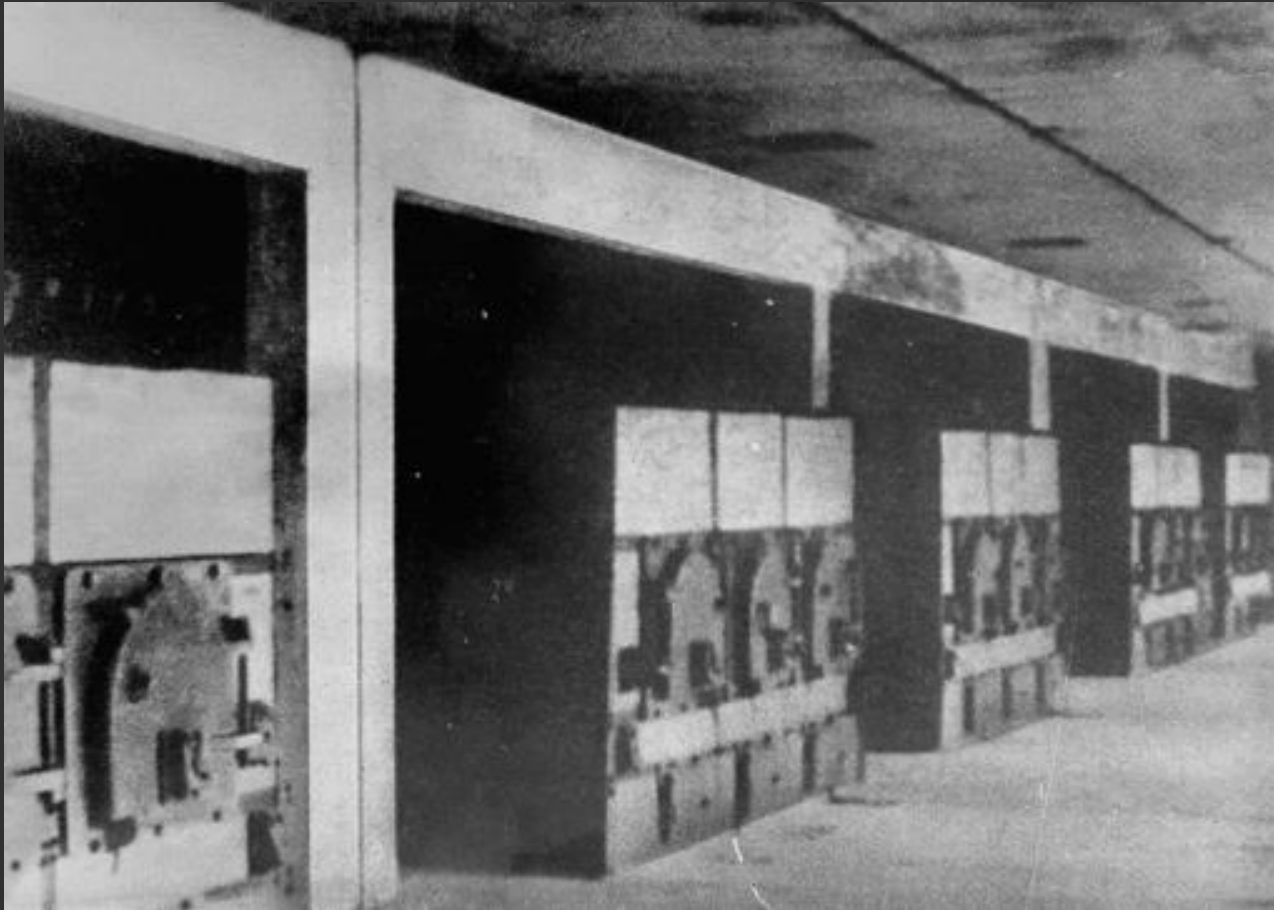
1,500,000 Jewish  
people were killed  
in a 100-day period  
in 1942.

Urns for the ashes of cremated prisoners in a storeroom under the crematoria at Dachau. *Photo credit: USHMM #48479.*



Andreas Simonenko was an “Asocial” prisoner at Auschwitz-Birkenau. The “R” on his booking tag indicates that he was a Soviet prisoner. Andreas perished in the camp on August 23, 1943.

*Photo credit: Archive of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.*



Auschwitz-Birkenau had 52 cremation ovens by mid-1943, capable of cremating 4,756 corpses per day.

A row of ovens in one of the crematoria at Auschwitz-Birkenau. *Photo credit: USHMM #19444.*





Chashkiel Brand was a Jewish prisoner at Auschwitz-Birkenau. He was born on July 18, 1902 and was murdered in the camp on June 21, 1942.



Jewish prisoners await selection on the ramp at Auschwitz-Birkenau. *Photo credit: USHMM #77225.*

In a span of 56 days (May 15-July 9, 1944), more than 434,000 Hungarian Jews were crowded onto 147 trains and sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Approximately 320,000 of these prisoners were gassed upon arrival in the camp.



Ernst Doering was designated as an “Asocial” prisoner at Auschwitz-Birkenau. He was born on August 11, 1898, in Königsberg, Prussia (now Kaliningrad, Russia). Ernst perished in the camp on September 7, 1942.