



Ebensee concentration camp

ETERNAL ECHOES

Teach and Learn About the Holocaust

Ebensee concentration camp, a sub-camp to Mauthausen



Ebensee Concentration Camp.

In January 1945, Soviet troops approached the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and extermination camp. The camp management then decided that as many prisoners as possible would be moved to other camps. Max Safir was one of the prisoners who was forced out on a so-called death march against the Mauthausen camp in Austria. There he was registered and given prisoner number 121333. Very soon, however, he was taken to Ebensee, a sub-camp to Mauthausen.



The construction of Ebensee, a labor camp under the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria.

The Ebensee concentration camp was erected as a labour camp subordinate to the Mauthausen concentration camp. The first inmates arrived in Ebensee on 18 November 1943. Until the time when the construction of the first barracks was finished, the prisoners had to stay in a storehouse of the weaving mill. To cover up the existence of the camp, SS officers used the code names *Kalk* (limestone), *Kalksteinbergwerk* (limestone mine), *Solvay* and *Zement* (cement).

Ebensee concentration camp



One of the underground tunnels in Ebensee.

Those parts of the tunnels, however, that had already been finished were used for fuel production (Tunnel A) and the manufacturing of motor parts for tanks and lorries of the *Steyr-Daimler-Puch Werke* and the *Nibelungen Werke* (Tunnel B). The production of fuel from crude oil started within the framework of the Geilenberg programme on 4 February 1945.

In all, camp inmates built 7.6 kilometres of underground facilities within about 16 months.

The camp inmates



The gate to Mauthausen concentration camp.

The main purpose of Ebensee was to provide slave labour for the construction of the enormous underground tunnels, which were to be used for research purposes and the development of the A9/A10 *Interkontinentalrakete* (intercontinental rocket). The original plan had to be given up as other productions of military importance were assigned a higher priority.

Apart from a few exceptions, all prisoners were registered in the Mauthausen concentration camp and then transported to the subordinate camp in Ebensee. According to the camp registers, 27,278 male prisoners were incarcerated in the Ebensee camp between 18 November 1943 and 6 May 1945. About 1,500 camp inmates were transferred from Ebensee to other subcamps, e.g. to Redl-Zipf (code name *Schlier*) or Wels and after several months brought back to Ebensee; as a result these prisoners were registered in the camp records a second time.

Ebensee concentration camp



Map showing when major concentration camps were liberated.

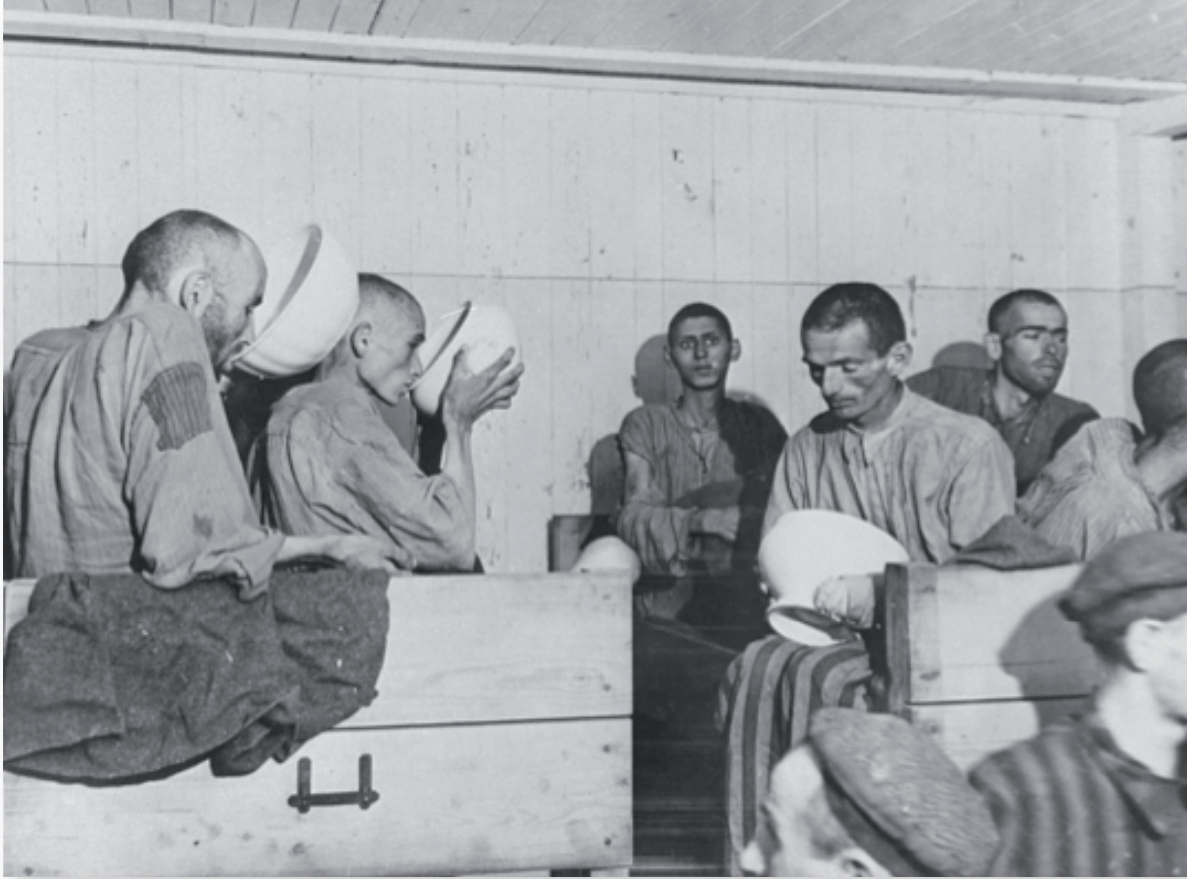
From January 1945 onwards, transports with masses of prisoners arrived from evacuated concentration camps and led to an unbearable situation and the complete breakdown of supply. On 23 April 1945, the number of inmates in the Ebensee camp reached its peak with 18,509 prisoners. Members of the SS command tried to bring about the death of the new arrivals most of whom were of Jewish origin and therefore to minimise the number of camp inmates.

The camp inmates belonged to more than 20 different national groups. Prisoners from Poland, Russia, Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece and Czechoslovakia constituted the largest national groups in the Ebensee concentration camp. The Jewish prisoners who had been deported to Ebensee from a number of different countries accounted for some 30 percent of the inmates. The living and working conditions of the camp inmates were dominated by their ethnic origin and the categorisation according to the criteria of Nazi race ideology. Soviet and Polish workers were treated worse than others, Roma, Sinti and Jews ranked lowest in the strict racial hierarchy. Moreover, in many cases the Jewish camp inmates reached Ebensee completely exhausted after several days of walking or travelling in open cattle cars and therefore had only a small chance of survival. 2,059 Jewish prisoners arrived in Ebensee with one of the most notorious transports from Wolfsberg, a subcamp of Groß-Rosen, on 3 March 1945. On the order of the camp commander Anton Ganz, they had to stay outside the protective barracks in snowfall and cold weather for nearly two days. Hundreds of prisoners died of the consequences of the transport or these gruesome first days in the camp.

With one of the last transports, members of the *Fälscherkommando* (counterfeit unit) of the counterfeit operation *Aktion Bernhard* were transferred from the subcamp in Redl-Zipf (code name *Schlier*) to Ebensee.

Ebensee concentration camp

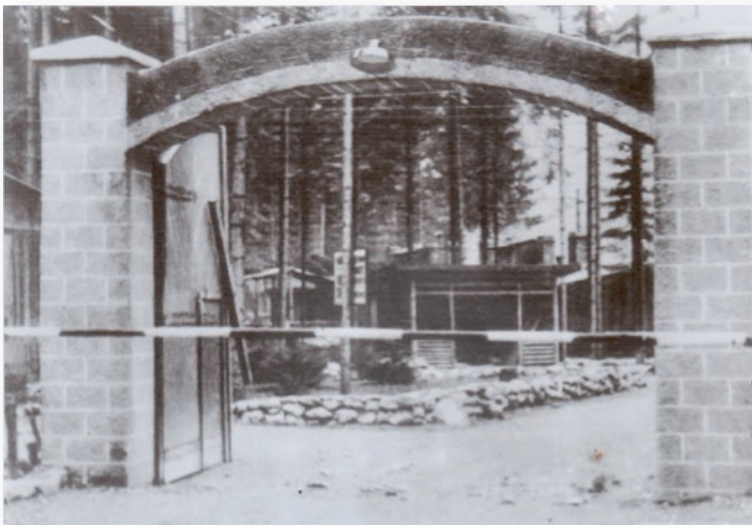
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Survivors in the hospital barracks for Jewish prisoners in Ebensee.

On 6 May 1945, the 3rd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron of the US army liberated the Ebensee concentration camp. Despite medical aid provided by field hospitals and supply by the UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration), about 750 camp inmates died in the wake of the camp's liberation.

Source: Mapion.net



The main gate to the Ebensee concentration camp, May 1945.

From July 1945 to January 1946, the US army used the former concentration camp to incarcerate German SS members of the *Panzerdivision Hohenstauffen*, later on, it served as a DP (displaced persons) camp.

Building works for the erection of apartment buildings, which still exist on the former campsite, started in 1949.

The camp cemetery

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum



The Crematorium in Ebensee.

Approximately 8,600 prisoners died in Ebensee camp during and as a consequence of their imprisonment (until 30.6.1945). In the beginning, the SS transported the corpses to the main camp in Mauthausen for cremation. Numerous prisoners who were unable to work or had fallen ill were also transferred back to Mauthausen and are likely to have died there. From the end of July 1944, the corpses were burned in the Ebensee camp's crematorium. In March and April 1945, the SS erected two mass graves because of the high death rate.

Source: Wikimapia.org



Memorial to the names of all the prisoners killed in the Ebensee concentration camp.

The Italian Hilda Lepetit had the first memorial built above one of the graves in 1948. The Upper Austrian provincial government around the Lepetit memorial in 1952 established the current camp cemetery.

About 3,600 concentration camp victims are buried in the mass and single graves.

Since 2011 all victims of Ebensee camp are mentioned by name on a long wall formed by 152 glass panels.

Ebensee concentration camp

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

56. strona.					
3423.	Grosman Aron	120816	2. 3.13	Starachowice	Jude.P.
3424.	Grünwald Aron	120820	26. 1.11	Zarki	"
3425.	Grynspan Leon	120826	24.12.21	Krakow	"
3426.	Hoppe Abram Isak	120875	9.12.22	Tomaszow Maz	"
3427.	Horowicz Mojsees	120877	8.02	Kozienice	"
3428.	Hubert Aleksander	120879	9. 5.28	Lodz	"
3429.	Indelwicz Simon	120923	18.12.10	Lomza	"
3430.	Kelbarm Szymon	120948	15.11.07	Zuromin	"
3431.	Klajmann Luzer	120957	27. 5.09	Plonsk	"
3432.	Kozlenicki Majer	120992	6. 6.26	Lodz	"
3433.	Krömer Jozef	121001	25. 2.13	Krakow	"
3434.	Kukawka Jakub	121004	29. 1.11	Bialystok	"
3435.	Landwirth Jozef	121016	25. 4.20	Krakow	"
3436.	Laska Lajb	121036	11. 6.11	Radom	"
3437.	Maranowicz Abraham	121088	16. 3.95	Kuczbork	"
3438.	Mathis rawel	121099	15. 7.07	Nilvange	"
3439.	Maueia Abram	121101	28.11.14	Starachowice	"
3440.	Moneta Mordka	121127	12.11.23	Skala	"
3441.	Monowicz Dawid	121128	26. 6.18	Szczekociny	"
3442.	Mossak Uszer	121133	14. 5.04	Plonsk	"
3443.	Nowak Bronislaw	121160	7. 7.79	Iskrzyzna	"
3444.	Ochman Jakub	121163	27.12.16	Pruzany	"
3445.	Olaszewski Jerzy	121165	13. 6.21	Okuniew	Soh.P.
3446.	Ostrowski Fryc	121169	13. 3.24	Essen	Jude.P.
3447.	Palnic Szlama	121173	10. 6.23	Grodno	"
3448.	Piaszkowski Moszek	121187	7. 10.12	Belchatow	"
3449.	Piskorski Ludwik	121189	25. 8.84	Enichow	Soh.P.
3450.	Popowski Czeslaw	121193	19. 7.08	Siedlce	"
3451.	Pulka Haim	121197	11.11.06	Skalniierz	Jude.P.
3452.	Rosenwurz Eljasz	121236	22. 9. 00	Warszawa	"
3453.	Roth Izrael	121240	28. 1.12	Tarnow	"
3454.	Rosenwasser Isak	121250	15. 5.02	Lodz	"
3455.	Sitowski Mojsees	121291	25. 8.95	Grodno	"
3456.	Slinkowski Jozef	121294	6.12.90	Lodz	"
3457.	Spira Szyja	121305	2. 7.24	Zdunska Wola	"
3458.	Sylberfenig Abram	121315	11. 4.05	Bendeberg	"
3459.	Szow Stanislaw	121321	8. 4.88	Rawa Maz.	Soh.P.
3460.	Sziro Beniamin	121323	2. 8.27	Warszawa	Jude.P.
3461.	Szwarcbrat Jozef	121330	10.10.11	Pruzany	"
3462.	Schafir Manes	121333	.25	Kielce	"
3463.	Steinberger Juda	121367	12. 1.24	Bochnia	"
3464.	Toporek Moniek	121391	1.10.17	Lask	"
3465.	Turner Aleksander	121400	26. 4.02	Zawiercie	"
3466.	Turner Haim	121401	27. 7.04	Warthenau	"
3467.	Weisebör Leon	121449	19. 8.27	Boryslaw	"
3468.	Welner Jozef	121461	3. 4.23	Soanowice	"
3469.	Wellner Dawid	121462	9. 1.10	Chrzanow	"
3470.	Werochajzer Michal	121465	25. 5.15	Trojec	"
3471.	Wrabel Izrael	121481	16.12.08	Gabin	"
3472.	Zeleg Abraham	121488	25.11.14	Milawa	"
3473.	Zieleniecki Isak Lazer	121492	16. 5.23	Pruzany	"
3474.	Zollmann Markus	121494	16. 2.07	Krenau	"
3475.	Zysman Szmul	121498	17.10.13	Warszawa	"
3476.	Zysman Gelbart	121499	14. 6.92	Zloczow	"
3477.	Zytberger Aron	121500	12.12.14	Kikol	"
3478.	Abramowicz Chaskiel	121501	10.10.07	Lodz	"
3479.	Achmann Rubin	121502	.07	Sereczow	"
3480.	Birenbaum Szmul	121527	17. 4.03	Radom	"
3481.	Birenbaum Wiktor	121528	3. 1.13	Zelow	"
3482.	Blaustejn Isak	121531	8.11.22	Lodz	"

List of detainees released in Ebensee for ID card issuance.

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During the liberation of the Ebensee camp, a list of the prisoners who survived was drawn up. In the list, you will find Schafer, Manes, (Max original name) prisoner number 3462. In the column after the name is his registration number 121333, which he received on arrival at Mauthausen. Then it is empty for birthday and month because Max does not know exactly what date he was born and so the year of birth .25 Kielce. Max was born in the small town of Bodzentyn, which belongs to the Kiel region.

In the last column, it is noted which category the prisoner belonged to, for example, SCH.P., which means Schutzhaft Polnisch, i.e. Polish prisoner. In Max's case, it says Jude.P. thus Jewish Pole.

When the American troops took over the camp on May 6, Max weighed 24 kilos and says that he had lost the will to live. But Max survived and came after a few years to settle in Sweden.

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Prisoners in Ebensee liberated in May 1945. Max Safir can be seen on the far right of the picture.

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Text: Dr. Wolfgang Quatember, KZ-Gedenkstätte und Zeitgeschichte Museum Ebensee

Translation and adaption: Jessica Carleson och Lena Jersenius

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Safir, M. och E. Wymark (2012). *Bäste herrn, låt mig få leva: En överlevnadsberättelse av Max Safir*. Stockholm: Förlaget XP Media.