

The Jewish Women Of Ravensbruck Concentration Camp

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ravensbrück was the only major nazi concentration camp for women located about fifty miles north of berlin the camp was the site of murder by slave labor torture starvation shooting lethal injection medical experimentation and gassing while this camp was designed to hold 5 000 women the actual figure was six times this number between 1939 and 1945 132 000 women from twenty three countries were imprisoned in ravensbrück including political prisoners jehovah s witnesses asocials including gypsies prostitutes and lesbians criminals and jewish women who made up about 20 percent of the population only 15 000 survived drawing upon more than sixty narratives and interviews of survivors in the united states israel and europe as well as unpublished testimonies documents and photographs from private archives rochelle saidel provides a vivid collective and individual portrait of ravensbrück s jewish women prisoners she worked for over twenty years to track down these women

whose poignant testimonies deserve to be shared with a wider audience and future generations their memoirs provide new perspectives and information about satellite camps there were about 70 slave labor sub camps here is the story of real daily camp life with the women's thoughts about food friendships fear of rape and sexual abuse hygiene issues punishment work and resistance saidel includes accounts of the women's treatment their daily struggles to survive their hopes and fears their friendships their survival strategies and the aftermath on april 30 1945 the soviet army liberated ravenbrück they found only 3 000 extremely ill women in the camp because the nazis had sent other remaining women on a death march the jewish women of ravenbrück concentration camp reclaims the lost voices of the victims and restores the personal accounts of the survivors

a masterly and moving account of the most horrific hidden atrocity of world war ii ravenbrück the only nazi concentration camp built for women on a sunny morning in may 1939 a phalanx of 867 women housewives doctors opera singers politicians prostitutes was marched through the woods fifty miles north of berlin driven on past a shining lake then herded in through giant gates whipping and kicking them were scores of german women guards their destination was ravenbrück a concentration camp designed specifically for women by heinrich himmler prime architect of the holocaust by the end of the war 130 000 women from more than twenty different european countries had been imprisoned there among the prominent names were geneviève de gaulle general de gaulle's niece and gemma la guardia gluck sister of the wartime mayor of new york only a small number of these women were jewish ravenbrück was largely a place for the nazis to eliminate other inferior beings social outcasts gypsies political enemies foreign resisters the sick the disabled and the mad over six years the prisoners endured beatings torture slave labor starvation and random execution in the final months of the war ravenbrück became an extermination camp estimates of the final death toll by april 1945 have ranged from 30 000 to 90 000 for decades the story of

ravensbrück was hidden behind the iron curtain and today it is still little known using testimony unearthed since the end of the cold war and interviews with survivors who have never talked before sarah helm has ventured into the heart of the camp demonstrating for the reader in riveting detail how easily and quickly the unthinkable horror evolved far more than a catalog of atrocities however ravensbrück is also a compelling account of what one survivor called the heroism superhuman tenacity and exceptional willpower to survive for every prisoner whose strength failed another found the will to resist through acts of self sacrifice and friendship as well as sabotage protest and escape while the core of this book is told from inside the camp the story also sheds new light on the evolution of the wider genocide the impotence of the world to respond and himmler s final attempt to seek a separate peace with the allies using the women of ravensbrück as a bargaining chip chilling inspiring and deeply unsettling ravensbrück is a groundbreaking work of historical investigation with rare clarity it reminds us of the capacity of humankind both for bestial cruelty and for courage against all odds

an eyewitness account of the only all women s concentration camp in the third reich

presents a case study of the ravensbruck concentration camp the only nazi camp in germany specifically designed for women it successfully blends the larger history of nazi germany with the women s experiences interspersing the text with illustrations done mostly by camp inmates

from august 1942 to april 1945 siemens halske ag maintained its own so called production facility adjacent to the ravensbrück women s concentration camp where up to 2 300 female prisoners were deployed in forced labor this volume contains excerpts from letters witness statements arrest reports diaries compensation claims autobiographies and interviews from ravensbrück

survivors who were forced to work in the armaments factory the texts shed light on the system of forced labor in the context of the concentration camp questions of discouragement and hope as well as the women's will for self assertion and resistance

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the french mother teresa tells for the first time of her experience in the concentration camp at ravensbruck reviving a poignant reminder of the holocaust that must never be forgotten

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created by the center for advanced holocaust studies at the united states holocaust memorial museum the monumental 7 volume encyclopaedia that the present work inaugurates will make available in one place for the first time detailed information about the universe of camps sub camps and ghettos established and operated by the nazis altogether some 20 000 sites from norway to north africa and from france to russia this volume covers three groups of camps the early camps established in the first year of hitler s rule the major concentration camps with their constellations of sub camps that operated under the control of the ss business administration main office and youth camps overview essays precede entries on individual camps and sub camps each entry provides basic information about the purpose of the site the prisoners guards working and living conditions and key events in its history material drawn from personal testimonies helps convey the character of each site while source citations for each entry provide a path to additional information

in 1939 countess karolina lanckoronska professor and wealthy landowner joined the polish underground was arrested sentenced to death and was held in ravenbruck concentration camp there she taught art history to other women who like her might be dead in a few days this inspiring and beautifully written memoir records a neglected side of world war ii the mass murder of poles the serial horrors inflicted by both russians and nazis and the immense courage of those who resisted

the first book in english to specifically address the sexual violation of jewish women during the holocaust

this award winning set features balanced authoritative summaries of the range of topics related to the holocaust

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