

Edward R. Murrow: excerpt from his Report From Buchenwald

"They Died 900 a Day in 'the Best' Nazi Death Camp," PM, April 16, 1945.

Legendary CBS reporter Edward R. Murrow described the scene at Buchenwald when he entered the camp after liberation:

There surged around me an evil-smelling stink, men and boys reached out to touch me. They were in rags and the remnants of uniforms. Death already had marked many of them, but they were smiling with their eyes. I looked out over the mass of men to the green fields beyond, where well-fed Germans were ploughing....

[I] asked to see one of the barracks. It happened to be occupied by Czechoslovaks. When I entered, men crowded around, tried to lift me to their shoulders. They were too weak. Many of them could not get out of bed. I was told that this building had once stabled 80 horses. There were 1200 men in it, five to a bunk. The stink was beyond all description. . . .

In another part of the camp they showed me the children, hundreds of them. Some were only 6 years old. One rolled up his sleeves, showed me his number. It was tattooed on his arm. B-6030, it was. The others showed me their numbers. They will carry them till they die. An elderly man standing beside me said: "The children — enemies of the state!" I could see their ribs through their thin shirts....

We proceeded to the small courtyard. The wall adjoined what had been a stable or garage. We entered. It was floored with concrete. There were two rows of bodies stacked up like cordwood. They were thin and very white. Some of the bodies were terribly bruised; though there seemed to be little flesh to bruise. Some had been shot through the head, but they bled but little.

I arrived at the conclusion that all that was mortal of more than 500 men and boys lay there in two neat piles. There was a German trailer, which must have contained another 50, but it wasn't possible to count them. The clothing was piled in a heap against the wall. It appeared that most of the men and boys had died of starvation; they had not been executed. . . .

I pray you to believe what I have said about Buchenwald. I reported what I saw and heard, but only part of it. For most of it, I have no words.

If I have offended you by this rather mild account of Buchenwald, I'm not in the least sorry....



On 12 April 1945, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of The Allied Forces Europe, wrote the following words in a letter to George Marshall, his Chief of Staff - describing his first visit to one of the camps liberated by U.S. Forces:

"Things I saw beggar description. ... The visual evidence and verbal testimony of starvation, cruelty, and bestiality were so overpowering as to leave me a bit sick.

"In one room, where there were piled up twenty or thirty naked men killed by starvation, George Patton would not even enter. He said it would make him sick if he did so.

"I made the visit deliberately, in order to be in a position to give first hand evidence of these things if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations merely to 'propaganda.'"

John C. Stennis Space Center

20th ANNUAL OBSERVANCE

**HOLD OURS
DAYS OF
REMEMBRANCE**

NEUTRALITY HELPS THE
Opprobiate give
NEVER THE OPPRESSOR,
SILENCE ENCOURAGES
THE TORMENTOR,
NEVER THE
TORMENTED.

ELIE WIESEL



STORIES OF FREEDOM
what **you** do matters



Thursday April 8, 2010 11:00 Logtown Room

SSC 2010 Days of Remembrance Ceremony

- I. Opening Remarks
Steven Faber
Naval Oceanographic Office
- II. Invocation
Bill Fisher
Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command
- II. Reading
Rena L. Perwien
NASA John C. Stennis Space Center
"I Cannot Forget"
THE ACTION IN THE GHETTO OF ROHATYN,
MARCH 1942
by Alexander Kimel (Holocaust Survivor)
- III. Musical Interlude
Voices of Stennis
Stefan King, Director
- IV. Guest Speaker: **Mrs. Jeannine Burk**
- V. Closing Remarks
CAPT John Cousins, USN
Chief of Staff,
Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command
- VI. EEOAC Remarks
Bill Fisher
Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command



Mrs. Jeannine Burk was born in Brussels, Belgium in 1939. Despite the neutrality of Belgium, the Germans invaded and subjected the Belgium citizens to the spreading on Nazi policies, which discriminated and ultimately called for the removal of all non-Aryan citizens. This included Jews, Polish citizens, Sinti and Roma (Gypsies), Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, as well as the handicapped.

Following German invasion, Mrs. Burk spent two years as a "hidden child" under the care of a Christian woman. In 1944 at age 5, she experienced liberation by the allied forces. At age 12, she emigrated to the United States. For the past thirty-nine years Mrs. Burk has resided in the New Orleans area. She and her husband have six children and fourteen grandchildren.

Visit the United States Holocaust Museum web site at <http://www.ushmm.org/>

"We have - I would say, as very consistent National Socialists, taken the question of blood as our starting point. We were the first really to solve the problem of blood by action, and in this connection, by problem of blood, we of course do not mean antisemitism. Antisemitism is exactly the same as delousing. Getting rid of lice is not a question of ideology. It is a matter of cleanliness." *Speech by Reichsfuehrer-SS Himmler at Kharkow, April 1943. Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression - Washington, U.S Govt. Print. Off., 1946, Vol. IV, p. 572-574;*

"World Jewry will suffer a great catastrophe at the same time as Bolshevism. The Führer once more expressed his determination to clean up the Jews in Europe pitilessly. There must be no squeamish sentimentalism about it. The Jews have deserved the catastrophe that has now overtaken them. Their destruction will now go hand in hand with the destruction of our enemies. We must hasten this process with cold ruthlessness." *The Goebbels [Reich Propaganda Minister] Diaries, February 14 1942. The Goebbels Diaries 1942-1943 - L.P. Lochner, Doubleday & Co., 1948, p. 86;*

"We cannot change what happened anymore. The only thing we can do is to learn from the past and to realize what discrimination and persecution of innocent people means. I believe that it's everyone's responsibility to fight prejudice."
- *Otto Frank, the Father of Anne Frank. He survived the Holocaust.*

"In the name of justice and humanity let all freedom loving people rally to this righteous undertaking."
President Franklin D. Roosevelt calls for the rescue of the Jewish population in Hungary

Historian Richard C. Lukas (The Forgotten Holocaust) observed that "So many Poles were sent to concentration camps that virtually every Polish family had someone close to them who had been tortured or murdered there."

- Lech Walesa's father barely survived his interment in a Nazi prison camp, was released in bad health, and died eighteen months later.
- Movie director Roman Polanski's mother, part Christian, died in a gas chamber. (His Jewish father survived Mauthausen.)
- Most of the three million dead Christians, of course, were ordinary citizenry, not just "Polish intellectuals," "political dissidents," priests, etc., as the Polish dead are usually described by the media and by authors.

<http://www.holocaustforgotten.com/Lucaire.htm>

"Genocide of any fabric is the ultimate blasphemy to the image of godliness and must not be endured. By speaking out against genocide in the world, we give voice to the message of outrage from our murdered out of the ovens of Treblinka, Auschwitz and Dachau."
—Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis