

0. HITLER'S HORRORS WORSEN - Story Preface

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Hitler charged Heinrich Himmler with carrying out the "Final Solution" - the Nazis' plan to rid Germany of all Jews and other political undesirables. A master of terror, Himmler was more than adept at carrying out his assignment. The "Final Solution," in part, included concentration camps that practiced genocide on a daily basis.

Unspeakable horrors occurred in concentration camps. Some were nothing more than places of execution where innocent people were exterminated because of race or political status. At other camps prisoners performed backbreaking work - slave labor - and even those camps had crematoria.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was now a political undesirable. Initially sent to Buchenwald, a German death camp northeast of Frankfurt, Bonhoeffer was soon transferred south to Flossenburg, the concentration camp nearest Nuremberg. Flossenburg inmates either toiled in a nearby Messerschmidt plane factory or labored at a stone quarry.

Crammed inside flimsy barracks, as many as 1,500 people tried to live with some shred of dignity. Nearly 4,000 people had to use the same outside latrine. Most did not feel the heat of the single stove located at the end of each building.

Eight hundred S.S. troops ran Flossenburg. Camp officials piled into supply rooms the clothing of prisoners who could not survive the harsh conditions.

Like most concentration camps, Flossenburg had a crematorium and a courtyard where prisoners were shot. It also had a working gas chamber. In the last 14 months of its operation, about 14,000 people died at Flossenburg.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/HITLER-S-HORRORS-WORSEN-Bonhoeffer-Martyr-of-Faith>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/HITLER-S-HORRORS-WORSEN-Bonhoeffer-Martyr-of-Faith>

Concentration Camps and Killing Centers



Concentration Camps

Image online courtesy the Think Quest website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Concentration-Camps>



Death Camp Ovens

Image online, courtesy the German Federal Archives.

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German Death Camp

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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Map Depicting Location of Buchenwald

Image online, courtesy the Holocaust Center of Buffalo website.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Depicting-Location-of-Buchenwald>