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This U.S. Army photo depicts Flossenbürg as it appeared immediately after its liberation by the US Army's 99th Infantry Division, during April of 1945.

As Bonhoeffer's body hung on a tree, American troops nearby already threatened the fatal blow to the Third Reich. As bodies burned in the [camp oven](#), Bonhoeffer's killers saw the coming end of their unchecked brutality.

They had one last monstrous act to supervise: They ordered Flossenburg prisoners to march south to [Dachau](#). Sick, emaciated and barely able to move, many people dropped dead on the journey.

Within days, Flossenburg was [liberated](#). Hitler was [dead](#) by his own hand in his heavily fortified bunker in Berlin. (Follow this link to the alleged current whereabouts of his remains.)

Within weeks the war in Europe was over.

American soldiers from the 97th Division of the U.S. 3rd Army (who discovered the Flossenburg camp and took pictures documenting what they had found, such as the [wall](#) where prisoners [were shot](#)) made the Germans who lived near [Flossenburg](#) see firsthand what their government had done.

General Patton issued orders requiring Germans to exhume and [bury bodies](#) of victims who had died during the Flossenburg death march. Since the troops also found bodies at the camp itself, [remaining prisoners](#) gathered wood for the crematory furnace to be used for the last time.

Records, which the liberators found at the camp, revealed the following facts:

- Eight hundred German SS troops supervised Flossenburg which was opened in 1939.
- Since that time 54,890 men and over 10,000 women [were held](#) prisoner.
- In the fourteen-month period preceding the death march (20 April, 1945), approximately 14,000 inmates had died from exhaustion, malnourishment, mistreatment and various diseases.
- The prisoners worked in stone quarries and a nearby Messerschmidt Airplane Factory.
- On 20 April 1945, 15,000 inmates (including children and elderly people) were marched away.
- Those who could not keep up with the march were killed by the wayside.
- About 2,000 were left when U.S. troops arrived at the camp.

Among those reported to have been in the camp were Kurt Von Schuschnig (former Chancellor of Austria), Leopold (King of the Belgians), Prince Albrecht of Austria and Hjalmar Schacht (Reich Minister of Finances).

Bonhoeffer's family (this link takes you to their [home](#) in Berlin) did not know he was dead. Not until they heard radio reports about a memorial service in London did they learn what had happened to him three months earlier.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/FINAL-MONSTROUS-ACTS-Agent-of-Grace>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

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Media Stream



Interior View of Concentration Camp Oven

Image online, courtesy the flossenburg.org website. Image 45677.

PD

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Interior-View-of-Concentration-Camp-Oven>



Dachau Camp - Map Locator

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Killing Wall at Flossenburg Concentration Camp

Image online, courtesy the flossenburg.org website. Image 45585.

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Clothes of Victims at Nazi Concentration Camp

Image online, courtesy the flossenburg.org website. Image 45591.

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Flossenburg Germany - Concentration Camp at War's End

Image online, courtesy the flossenburg.org website. Image 34964.

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Exhumation of Bodies at Nazi Concentration Camp

Image online, courtesy the flossenburg.org website. Image 46861.

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Final Use of Crematory Furnace at Flossenburg

Image online, courtesy the flossenburg.org website. Image 34959.

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Inside Flossenburg Camp

Image online, courtesy the flossenburg.org website. 34956.

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Flossenburg Crematorium, Exterior View

Image online, courtesy flossenburg.org website. Image 45676.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Flossenburg-Crematorium-Exterior-View>



Bonhoeffer's Family Home

Image online, courtesy the Bonhoeffer-Haus website.

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