



A Holocaust Remembrance

6 June 2001

**Memorial Park
Columbia
South Carolina**

The following pages were taken from the commemorative booklet distributed at that ceremony, which took place at Memorial Park in Columbia, South Carolina.

Musical Prelude
The 282nd Army Victory Band
Fort Jackson

Presenting of the Colors
U.S. Army Color Guard
Fort Jackson

National Anthem
Dr. Donald Gray
Professor
School of Music
University of South Carolina

Invocation
Rabbi Sanford Marcus
Tree of Life Synagogue
Columbia, South Carolina

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Tree of Life Synagogue
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Welcome
Dr. Lilly Stern Filler
Chair
Holocaust Memorial Committee

The Honorable Robert D. Coble
Mayor
City of Columbia

Colonel Scott E. Nahrwold
Deputy Commander
Chief of Staff
Fort Jackson

Dr. Jerome D. Odom
Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs & Provost
University of South Carolina

Remarks
The Honorable James H. Hodges
Governor
State of South Carolina

Musical Interlude
The 282nd Army Victory Band
"Theme from Schindler's List"
Composer, John Williams

Reflections on D-Day
Chaplain (COL) Gilbert H. Pingel
Commandant
U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School
Fort Jackson

Liberator Statement
The Honorable John Drummond
President Pro Tempore Emeritus
South Carolina State Senate

Survivor Statement
Mrs. Felix Goldberg (Bluma)
Columbia, South Carolina

Dedication of Monument
Rabbi Philip Silverstein
Beth Shalom Synagogue
Columbia, South Carolina

The monument will be unveiled
by children and grandchildren of
survivors and liberators.

El Malei Rachamin
Rabbi Hesh Epstein
Chabad of South Carolina

Taps
The 282nd Army Victory Band
Fort Jackson

Retrieval of the Colors
U.S. Army Color Guard
Fort Jackson

Tell Them We Remember

HOW APPROPRIATE THAT WE GATHER TOGETHER
on this 57th anniversary of D-Day to memorialize the victims of the Holocaust and to honor its survivors and liberators. Through this magnificent new monument, the Columbia community can truly say, We Remember.

For 16 years, members of this community actively discussed the need to have a Holocaust monument in Columbia. Last year those talks of a monument became a focused project, as many individuals and groups came together, formed a committee, and brought forth a concerted effort to make the hope of a monument a reality. These committee members have given tirelessly of their hearts and souls during the Last 12 months.

Among our first priorities was the appointment of a subcommittee to develop a design that would memorialize the Holocaust victims, honor the South Carolina survivors and liberators, and create an educational monument that would teach and remind all South Carolinians about this dark period in our history. Working with the incredibly talented designer/artist Irwin Hyman, I believe we have accomplished these important goals.

This monument was made possible by the generosity and creativity of so many people and organizations. A donation from the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust, whose commitment to Holocaust recognition and education is unmistakable, gave us the exhilarating boost we needed to get the project started. Members of both the Jewish and the non-jewish communities were also decisively supportive.

Our partners in this project - the City of Columbia, Fort Jackson, and the University of South Carolina - offered their own unique contributions to this dedication. Mayor Coble and City Council unanimously approved our design and placement choice. Major General Barrett and Fort Jackson stepped forward unhesitatingly to become an integral part of this event. Dr. Palms and the University of South Carolina are the hosts of a special Holocaust exhibit and a lecture program at South Caroliniana Library. Thanks to the commitment and unwavering support of these partners, our dedication has truly become a community event.

To remember means to know. To know means to teach others. To teach others means to never forget. Let us honor all of those who experienced one of our history's worst examples of inhumanity. Let their actions, their sufferings, and their deaths be a lesson to us all.

TELL THEM WE REMEMBER.

Dr. Lilly Stern Filler

Chair, Holocaust Memorial Committee



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

Jim Hodges
GOVERNOR

Post Office Box 12048
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211

GREETINGS

On behalf of the State of South Carolina, I am pleased to offer my personal thanks and sincere congratulations to the members of the Columbia Holocaust Memorial Committee as you unveil and dedicate the Holocaust Memorial in Columbia's Memorial Park. Since the creation of this committee in 1984, you have worked diligently, tirelessly and devotedly to bring this important and meaningful project to fruition.

All South Carolinians owe a debt of gratitude to the survivors of the Holocaust who came to live among us. In addition to the many contributions they have made in our lives and communities throughout the state, they have also spoken to us of the unspeakable with a quiet dignity that reveals levels of human courage, endurance and honor few of us can even begin to imagine. As we listen today to the words of a survivor and a liberator, I hope you will pause with Rachel and me to give thanks to the countless others who had the strength of character and determination of spirit that has given rise to hope.

This memorial will be a tremendous addition to the City of Columbia and the Palmetto State. I am personally proud of the overwhelming interdenominational support by South Carolinians to ensure the success and completion of this project. As we work together for a world free of violence and racism, this memorial will serve as a fitting and constant reminder of the American values of goodwill and international friendship which guide our continued growth and prosperity.

The Columbia Holocaust Memorial has been designed for contemplation and reflection. It is my fervent hope and prayer that, as we honor the sacred memory of the six million innocent Holocaust victims, this memorial will stand as a constant reminder to all South Carolinians that we must strive to understand the worst of history and our personal impulses in an effort to overcome intolerance and inhumanity.

Jim Hodges



City of Columbia

A Proclamation

WHEREAS, June 6, 2001 marks the 57th anniversary of D-Day when the Allied Forces landed in Europe and subsequently completed the liberation of the concentration camps from the oppressive and deadly Nazi regime and put an end to World War II in Europe, thus ending the slaughter of European Jews and others, and

WHEREAS, European Jews came to Columbia, South Carolina to start anew in a safe place free from hatred and bigotry and where they settled and reared their families, and

WHEREAS, South Carolina soldiers who liberated the concentration and death camps returned home to resume their lives after fighting in one of the deadliest wars in history, and

WHEREAS, Americans must strive to remind future generations about the horror and tragedy of the Holocaust and of the dedication and commitment of the liberators.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert D. Coble, Mayor of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, do hereby proclaim this memorial, located here in Memorial Park as an

Official Site of Remembrance

I encourage all Columbians to pay tribute to this monument as an acknowledgment to those who fought for freedom and those who heroically survived, as well as those whose precious lives were lost in the Holocaust, and also hope that we as a community will strive to teach future generations about prejudice and hatred through tolerance and education so we will NEVER FORGET.



Robert D. Coble
Mayor



John M. Palms
President

The University of South Carolina is proud to partner in this truly historic occasion for Columbia and for the state as we honor those South Carolinians and their families who experienced the tragedies in Europe in the 1930s and 1940s. This memorial enables us to pay tribute to those who survived the horrors of the Holocaust and those who did not, and to thank the liberators who brought freedom to the camps. The monument embodies the legacy which these heroes have left for us: never forget the pain and cruelty that human beings can inflict, but always remember the courage and spirit that can lift us from even our most discouraging moments of frailty and inspire us to help and serve one another.

On behalf of the entire Carolina community, I congratulate those who have been so closely involved in the creation of the Holocaust Memorial. Your thoughtful efforts will ensure that the sacrifices of the victims, the survivors, and the liberators will be remembered.

Sincerely,

John M. Palms
John M. Palms




*Commander
United States Army Training Center & Fort Jackson
Fort Jackson, SC 29207*

June 6th, 1944 marked the start of a great crusade. D-Day was the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken, including over 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and 250,000 service men and women. Less than a year later, on May 8, 1945, the war in Europe was over. Over the course of that year the horrors of battle were matched only by the horrors found in places like Belsen and Buchenwald.

It is appropriate that on this 57th anniversary of the Allied Forces invasion onto the continent of Europe that we recognize the accomplishments of the liberators and memorialize the valor of the Holocaust survivors and victims. In doing so we recognize the values, courageous efforts and sacrifices of both those who fought heroically and those who suffered horrifically.

While we did not all share equally in this great tragedy, we can all commit ourselves unequivocally to its remembrance and the prevention of its recurrence.



Raymond D. Bartlett, Jr.
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

I sculpted my first Holocaust memorial over 35 years ago. It was cast in bronze. It measured 24" high by 20" wide. During the World's Fair held in New York, it was placed as the centerpiece surrounded by the letters of Anne Frank. There are now over 350 replicas of this sculpture around the world. It was the horror of this astounding evil which resulted in the deliberate destruction of 6,000,000 Jews for no other reason than that they were Jewish, that guided my hands in sculpting this memorial.

Since that time, in addition to hundreds of bronze, wood and stone sculptures, I have had eight commissions for Holocaust memorials in many materials. This Holocaust memorial is the largest I have ever designed and the fourth in granite.

I take pictures of my work. Gloria enjoys when I bring in the film for her to develop. Gloria is about 30 something years old. She loves to comment on my work. When she saw the last Holocaust memorial, which was dedicated in Boca Raton, Florida last March, she whistled and said:

"600,000 people died?"

"That's 6 million people, Gloria."

"6 million people? How did they die?"

"They were killed by the German Nazis during World War II."

"Why?" she asked. "Because they were Jewish."

"Just because they were Jewish?" she puzzled.

"Just because they were Jewish. No other reason, Gloria. The Nazis killed 40% of all the Jews in the world during World War II just because they were Jewish."

"Gee, that's something," she said.

"I never heard of that."

"You never heard of the Holocaust?"

"No, I didn't ever hear of that."



I left Gloria depressed and puzzled. Is it possible that pernicious evil which took the lives of 6,000,000 Jews will be forgotten? How could a reasonably educated person in her 30's not know of the Holocaust?

Has the number 6,000,000 just become a number without any specific meaning? Will anybody ever know that in camp, Lubin-Maidenek, the Nazis shot and killed 25,000 Jews in one day?

I want to convey the frightening reality of the number 6,000,000 when we dedicate my memorial. How can I personalize it for those who will stand in front of this granite reminder of the monumental, senseless destruction of human life?

Perhaps if one can imagine every man, woman and child in the entire state of South Carolina being murdered. Not one living being left in South Carolina. Not a sound but the retreating murderers on their way to North Carolina where they are going to kill 2,000,000 more to accomplish the total of 6,000,000. Think of the horror.

For the sake of those tortured, murdered souls whose only crime was being born Jewish we must never let the world forget.

And Gloria never heard of the Holocaust.

GLORIA

BY IRWIN HYMAN



זכור
6,000,000

THE UNITED STATES HAS A DEEP HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTION TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND TO THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE. WE REMEMBER THE VIOLENCE AND ATROCITIES OF THE HOLOCAUST AND THE DEATHS OF THE SIX MILLION JEWISH PEOPLE.

WE REMEMBER THE RESISTANCE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND THE HEROIC DEEDS OF THE RESISTANCE. WE REMEMBER THE SURVIVORS AND THE CHILDREN OF THE HOLOCAUST.

WE REMEMBER THE JEWISH PEOPLE WHO WERE DEPORTED TO CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND GASETTES. WE REMEMBER THE JEWISH PEOPLE WHO WERE KILLED IN THE HOLOCAUST.

WE REMEMBER THE JEWISH PEOPLE WHO WERE DEPORTED TO THE BIALYSTOK Ghetto. WE REMEMBER THE JEWISH PEOPLE WHO WERE KILLED IN THE HOLOCAUST.

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THE HOLOCAUST WAS A DARK CHAPTER IN HUMAN HISTORY. IT WAS A TRAGEDY THAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED. WE REMEMBER THE VIOLENCE AND ATROCITIES OF THE HOLOCAUST AND THE DEATHS OF THE SIX MILLION JEWISH PEOPLE.

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THE HOLOCAUST WAS THE CONSEQUENCE OF THE
HATRED AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND THE CHILDREN OF
THE HOLOCAUST.

T. Moffatt Burriss, Liberator

"We were prepared for everything, immune to shock, inured to horror ...these experiences, as grim as they were, didn't prepare us for what we found at Wobbelin, Germany at the concentration camp."

T. Moffatt Burriss, platoon leader and company commander for the 504th Parachut Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division, fought for two and a half years in Europe from Sicily, Anzio beachhead, Battle of the Bulge and into Germany before his unit liberated the concentration camp at Wobbelin, Germany. "I had never seen human beings look so tortured and grotesque...too weak to walk or talk."

Burriss, Anderson native, Presbyterian and Clemson graduate, has spent most of his life in Richland County in the construction business. He served in the House of Representatives from 1977 until 1991. Strike and Hold, published in 2000, is a memoir of his World War II experiences.

Jadzia Stern, Survivor

"I believe that faith is stronger than death, and I believe that we have a dream that is so powerful, that it is stronger than all of the ugliness that lies in anti-Semitic books and anti-life forces around us."

Jadzia Sklarz Stern was born in Wloszczowa, Poland and was the fourth of eight children, but only one of three children to survive the Holocaust. When the Nazis invaded her home in Bedzin, Poland, she was hidden in an attic trunk by her mother and given instructions, "You will survive this, you must." She was soon after deported to Auschwitz concentration camp and remained there from 1942 until 1945. After liberation, she was introduced to her husband Ben Stern while living in Germany. The couple immigrated to Columbia, South Carolina with their 18-month-old daughter Lilly in June of 1949. Jadzia became a devoted homemaker and a loving mother to three more children, Helena, Bill and Herb.

Jadzia was one of the first survivors to actively speak out to the public about the horrors and experiences of the Holocaust. She was invited to share her experiences at Columbia College, the University of South Carolina, Newberry College, as well as secondary and primary school and churches throughout the state. She enrolled as a student at The University of South Carolina and became a docent at the State Museum.

Although she cannot speak out any longer, her voice continues to resonate with the lesson:
NEVER FORGET.

Cela Miller, Survivor

"Do not take your families for granted; keep them close to you. No matter how we feel today, what we lived through can happen again. We must never forget."

Cela Tysezcgarten Miller was born in Pinzov, Poland on May 3, 1923. She was the second oldest of six children. Cela and her sister Bluma endured the concentration camps of Beren-Belson, Burgau and Kaufering. They were the only members of their family of eight to survive the Holocaust. Cela was to meet her husband-to-be, David Miller, at a displaced persons camp in Germany after the war. They would later immigrate to Columbia, South Carolina, with the help of a Hebrew Benevolent Society sponsorship. Her accomplishments in America were many. Besides being an incredibly devoted and caring wife and mother to two children, Rita and Henry, her intense stamina allowed her to be a successful business-woman. David and Cela would often take on the responsibility of speaking at local religious schools, high schools and colleges about their experiences as Holocaust Survivors. They both felt strongly of their privilege and obligation to transmit their story.

Cela passed away suddenly on March 19, 2000. She will be forever missed.

Felix Goldberg, Survivor

"I carry inside me a very unpretty past...what I experienced in my past, others should not experience in their future. Let us appreciate the freedom we have and guard it."

Felix Goldberg was born in Kalisz, Poland on January 2, 1917. He was a survivor of Auschwitz concentration camp. He immigrated to the United States in 1950 with his wife, Bluma, and their newborn son, Henry. In Columbia, another son Karl and a daughter Esther was born. Felix was a man with honest, solid values who earned the respect and admiration of everyone he met through his hard work and a sense of responsibility. He always had a mischievous twinkle in his eye and loved to make people laugh. Those who knew him agree he was constantly in motion, working hard and enjoying life in America to the fullest. "Life is great!" was his favorite thing to say.

Felix passed away on November 24, 2000 after a successful career in the ceramic tile industry.



South Carolina Holocaust Survivors

**"I believe in the sun,
even when it does not
shine.**

**I believe in love,
even when it is not
shown.**

**I believe in God,
even when he does
not speak."**

**- inscribed on a wall
by a Holocaust Victim**

Willy Moritz Adler	Rudy Herz
Felix K. Bauer	Gerald Jablon
Martha M. Bauer	Maria Goldblum Kahn
Ludwig Bamberger	Dientje Krant Kalisky
Thea Bamberger	Anna Bamberger Karesh
Peter T. Baumgarten	Jacques Kierbel
Naphtali Berger	Clara E. Kirshstein
Gertrude Bernstein	Yitzchok Dovid Koenig
Walter Bernstein	Chaja Kleinberger Koenig
Hershel Blass	Pincus Kolender
Frank Bruck	Renee Fox Kolender
Rita Peper Curtin	Max Krautler
Rita Deutz-Serphos	Marc M. Lichtman
Helene Diamant	Chil Charles Markowitz
Maurice Diamant	Gucia Markowitz
Adolfo Diamantstein	Sophie Weisz Miklos
Leo Diamantstein	Cela Tyszgarten Miller
Joe Engel	David Miller
Judith D. Evans	Natalia Goldblum Morrow
Michael Fox	Elvira R. Mullinax
Max Freilich	Lilli Peper
Henry H. Freudenberg	Henry Popowski
Margot Strauss Freudenberg	Paula K. Popowski
Rakhil Gelman	Katherine Goldstein Prevost
Charles Gilik	Friedel Ransenberg
Fanny Gindman	Barbara Werthamer
Max Gindman	Rosenberg
Bluma Tyshgarten Goldberg	Albert Rosenthal
Felix Goldberg	Lewis Laszlo Rosinger
Bernard Dov Goldberg	Hugo Schiller
Luba Sribman Goldberg	Vera Nathans Semel
Carl Goldberg	Fania Schmagina
Rose Mibab Goldberg	Philip Silverstein
Bert Gosschalk	Ben Sklarz
Doris Gosschalk	Leah Wajsfelner Starkman
David Grabin	Abraham Stern
Regina Greene	Ben Stern
Samuel Greene	Jadzia Sklarz Stern
Authur Gross	Francine F. Taylor
Thomas Grossman	Guta Blass Weintraub
Arthur Z. Gutman	Leon Weintraub
Max M. Heller	Herschel Weintraub
Trude S. Heller	Sigmund Wolfsohn
	Chaim Wolgroch
	Irene Engel Zryb

South Carolina Holocaust Liberators

Nathan Schaeffer	Charleston
Allen Wise	Saluda
Horace Berry	Inman
Henry S. Allen, Sr.	Columbia
J. Strom Thurmond	Aiken
Ethel Stafford	Mauldin
Alvin MacMillan	Myrtle Beach
Robert Jay	Greenwood
Earl Simmons	Greenwood
Richard Montgomery	Laurens
John Brown	Laurens
Leonard Vincent	Kershaw
Clyde Short	Fort Mill
James Brown	Columbia
William Smith	Goose Creek
Fred Ashley	York
Fred Hyatt	Spartanburg
Claude Hipp	Greenwood
Paul Pritcher	Eutawville
Robert Turner	Cayce
George L. Chassey	Columbia
John Drummond	Greenwood
Lon Redmon	Mt. Pleasant
John Young	Greenwood
W. Brockington	Greenwood
Lewis Hudson	Greenwood
Marvin Wishman	Greenville
Cecil Jones	Elgin
John Humphries	Greenwood
Joseph Pridgen	Honea Path
Eugene Knight	Columbia
Scott Hall	Charleston
J. Wardlaw Hammond	Spartanburg
Robert Coats	Georgetown
Eddie Rosenzweig	Columbia
Ross	Columbia
T. Moffatt Burriss	Columbia
Edward Y. Roper	Columbia
Carroll Lindler	Irmo
Carlton Stoudemayer	Johnston
Lewis Holmes, Jr.	Lexington
Tom "Hoss" Spears	Batsburg
Pinckney Ridgell	

"I have never felt able to describe my emotional reactions when I first came face to face with indisputable evidence of Nazi brutality and ruthless disregard of every shred of decency...

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

**- General Dwight D. Eisenhower
Supreme Commander
of the Allied Forces
in Europe, 1945**

The following materials were provided by the *Days of Remembrance*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C. in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary, 1995.

"Fifty Years Ago: Liberation. From Fear of Death to Fear of Life"

THE FIRST MONTH of 1945 marked the last desperate attempt by Nazi Germany to implement the "Final Solution."

By early January, it had become clear that Hitler's "thousand-year

Reich" was rapidly coming to an end. As Allied armies advanced and as the territory under the control of Greater Germany continued to contract, chaos reigned. Rails and highways were filled with retreating troops, relocating foreign workers and civilians fleeing from advancing armies. At the same time, tens of thousands of concentration camp prisoners were being forced to evacuate on foot or in open freight cars to camps located behind German lines in Austria, western Czechoslovakia and Germany. Meanwhile, American and British planes pounded German cities and strafed trains, trucks and columns of marching soldiers. Occasionally, concentration camp prisoners were accidentally hit when rail lines were bombed.

In compliance with a longstanding policy dating back to 1943, commanding that all evidence be erased of the systematic killing program known as the "Final Solution," the SS and police were determined to prevent the liberation of intact labor and concentration camps or of surviving prisoners. Thus sporadic murders of inmates and the burning of corpses continued inside the camps. As Allied forces drew near, massive numbers of prisoners were evacuated on death marches to camps still behind German lines. There was no set policy regarding inmates too sick to join the marches; such prisoners were, in some places, left behind to fend for themselves (e.g., Auschwitz); in other places, they were shot.

On the evening of January 17th, SS Commandant Richard Baer ordered the evacuation of the giant Auschwitz-Birkenau camp complex. Throughout the next day, large columns of prisoners were marched through bitter winter weather without heavy clothing, blankets or provisions. Some inmates were

forced to walk many miles to other camp sites; others to distant railroad junctions where they were loaded onto unheated or open freight cars for even longer journeys. Those too weak to maintain the pace were summarily shot.

On January 19th, the last transport left Auschwitz. Only the seriously ill remained. When the Soviet Army reached the camp site days later, they found 7,000 surviving inmates.

Auschwitz survivor, Founding Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council and Nobel Peace Laureate Elie Wiesel described his march out of the camp:

"An icy wind blew in violent gusts. But we marched without faltering. The SS made us increase our pace... We were no longer marching; we were running. Like automatons. The SS were running, too, their weapons in their hands. We looked as though we were fleeing before them. Pitch darkness. Every now and then, an explosion in the night. They had orders to fire on any who could not keep up. Their fingers on the triggers, they did not deprive themselves of this pleasure."

Such evacuations took place throughout Greater Germany. Those prisoners who survived to reach concentration camps in the West were confronted with conditions that, at best, were intolerable and, at worse, suggested "chamber houses of the living dead." Camps were vastly overcrowded, diseases rampant and sanitary facilities grossly inadequate. During the spring of 1945, thousands upon thousands of inmates died of starvation, exhaustion and disease, even in camps not originally intended for systematic killing.

Bergen-Belsen, Dachau, Buchenwald, Mauthausen and their many subcamps became receiving centers for hundreds of evacuation trains and death march survivors. As the Allied armies approached from the East and West, trains loaded with camp inmates and columns of marching prisoners crisscrossed the shrinking German Reich.

(Continued)

The following materials were provided by the *Days of Remembrance*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C. in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary, 1995.

Survival was the dream of all who awaited the arrival of the Allied forces. In the East, the Soviet Army, which in late 1944 had liberated the Majdanek killing center, encountered Auschwitz-Birkenau on January 27th. It was not until spring of 1945, however, that American, French and British Commonwealth forces overran inhabited Nazi concentration camps in the West.

On April 4th, the U.S. 4th Armored and 89th Infantry Divisions stumbled upon the slave labor camp at Ohrdruf, the first camp liberated by American forces. The war-toughened soldiers of all ranks were amazed and horrified at what they witnessed.

Generals Eisenhower, Bradley and Patton visited Ohrdruf a week after its liberation. The camp remained intact so that visitors could see for themselves what they might not otherwise believe. "The smell of death overwhelmed us even before we passed through the stockade," wrote Bradley five years later. "More than 3,200 naked, emaciated bodies had been flung into shallow graves. Others lay in the streets where they had fallen." Patton became physically ill, but Bradley and Eisenhower doggedly submitted themselves to the full tour and left the camp angry and shaken. Eisenhower ordered all soldiers in the area not in combat to see Ohrdruf. "We are told that the American soldier does not know what he is fighting for," he declared at the time. "Now, at least, he will know what he is fighting against."

In mid-April, Eisenhower sent photographs of some of the liberated camps to Prime Minister Winston Churchill. He also cabled General George C. Marshall, U.S. Army Chief of Staff:

"If you would see any advantage in asking about a dozen leaders of Congress and a dozen prominent editors to make a short visit to this theater..., I will arrange to have them conducted to one of these places where the evidence of bestiality and cruelty is so overpowering as to leave no doubt in their minds about the normal practices of the Germans in these camps. I am hopeful that some British individuals in similar categories will visit the northern area to witness similar evidence of atrocity."

The proposal was approved, and they came.

Edward R. Murrow of CBS reported by radio broadcast on April 15th from the liberated camp of Buchenwald. Many British and American newspapers printed his account verbatim.

On April 18th, a delegation of American radio commentators, including Lowell Thomas and Quincy Howe, also visited Buchenwald during their tour of the war fronts.

Ten members of the British Parliament inspected Buchenwald on April 21st. This inspection coincided with a trip by U.S. Representative Clare Booth Luce (R-CT), who was followed shortly by another ten members of the the U.S. Congress.

These visits set the tone for subsequent eyewitness accounts and photographs published by official delegations of American journalists, broadcasters and members of Congress in the weeks preceeding and following the end of the war in Europe [Victory in Europe (V-E Day), May 8, 1945].

Fred Friendly, noted journalist serving as a Master Sergeant in the Pacific Theater, was plucked from the Burma Road and literally dropped into Mauthausen as it was liberated in early May. He wrote about it for the army newspaper and in a letter to his mother:

"I saw emaciated bodies in piles like cords of wood. I saw the living skeletons, some of whom, regardless of our medical corps work, will die. I saw where they lived, I saw where the sick died, three and four in a bed, no toilets, no nothing. I saw the look in their eyes."

Captain J.D. Fletcher of the 71st Division Headquarters was startled by the reaction of survivors of Gurskirchen to their liberation:

"As we entered the camp, the living skeletons still able to walk crowded around us....Just the sight of an American brought cheers, groans and shrieks. People crowded around to touch an American, to touch the jeep, to kiss our arms -- perhaps just to make sure it was true."

The following materials were provided by the *Days of Remembrance*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C. in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary, 1995.

Throughout April and May, the Allies liberated camps at scores of other localities. In every camp, starvation and disease were prevalent. "How tragic it was that the great majority did not even realize that they were free," recalled Hadassah Rosensaft, a survivor of Bergen-Belsen who was liberated on April 15th by British forces. "They were unconscious or to sick to understand what was happening."

The western Allies freed well over half a million prisoners from major concentration and labor camps in Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia. Among the liberated were victims of Nazi racism, prisoners of war and political prisoners. One-third of the world's Jewry, who before 1939 had lived in what became German-controlled Europe, had been murdered. At most, 75,000 to 100,000 Jews were alive inside the western camps, and perhaps as many as 25,000 had survived in hiding.

The end of the war in Europe left millions of people without food, homes or families. While the Allies began the daunting task of repatriating the displaced, facilities were needed to care for Holocaust survivors and other displaced persons (DPs). Allied forces converted some concentration camps into displaced persons assembly centers, or "DP camps." By the fall of 1945, the western Allies had repatriated almost six million nationals, but one and a half million remained in the U.S. and British zones of occupation.

While the Allies were coping with the challenges of rebuilding the war-racked European nations, twenty two German Nazi leaders were tried before the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany, between October 1945 and November 1946. Never before had principal figures of an aggressor nation been prosecuted by a universally-recognized court of law. Reams of irrefutable testimony revealed the unprecedented war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated by the German Nazi regime. In addition to the proceedings at Nuremberg, many more war crimes trials were conducted by Allied military tribunals and by national courts in Germany and other countries where war crimes had been committed.

For Holocaust survivors, neither their recently acquired freedom nor the war crimes trials offered much consolation. As Hadassah Rosensaft said:

"For the greatest part of the liberated Jews...there was no ecstasy. We had lost our families, our homes. We had no place to go, nobody to hug, nobody was waiting for us anywhere. We had been liberated from death and the fear of death, but we were not free from the fear of life."

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Victory in Europe for the Allies, Liberation for Holocaust Survivors

FOLLOWING the successful Normandy invasion, Allied troops began offensives aimed at breaking German defenses along the West Wall, Hitler's prewar border fortifications. In an attempt to stop the allied advance toward

the Rhine, on December 16, 1944, Hitler launched an intensive counter-offensive in the Ardennes, now known as the Battle of the Bulge.

By late January 1945, the western Allies had destroyed Germany's strongest armored and infantry division and had begun to plow deep into the German heartland. In the East, the Soviet Army, advancing toward Berlin, discovered Auschwitz-Birkenau, the notorious killing center, but it was not until the spring that American, French and British Commonwealth forces witnessed firsthand the horrors of the concentration camps in the West that had not been abandoned earlier by the Nazis.

Flossenburg, Liberated on April 23, 1945

Flossenburg, a Nazi concentration camp located on the outskirts of Floss in the mountainous region of western Germany near the Czech border, was erected in May 1938 for protective-custody prisoners. The first inmates, German criminals, built the initial camp. By late summer of 1939, 3,000 prisoners were housed in a few crude barracks. On April 5, 1940, the first transport of foreigners arrived, among them Polish, Czech, Russian and German political prisoners. Although initially the camp housed only male prisoners, records show that females were imprisoned there in January 1943. Just prior to liberation, the Nazis forced approximately 15,000 camp prisoners, including children, to march to other camps behind German lines. The U.S. liberating troops found about 1,500 surviving inmates when they entered the camp.

The Ninetieth Infantry Division, the "Tough Ombres" or "Alamo" Division, was the first organized in August 1917 at Camp Travis, Texas. The Division saw European action in World War I. The "Tough

Ombres" were reactivated on March 25, 1942 and engaged in extensive combat on the Normandy beachhead. In the campaign for northern France, the Division pursued the retreating Germans toward the Reich. Their advance into the Saar region was temporarily stopped by the German Ardennes offensive in Belgium. However, by early February 1945, under the command of Major General Lowell W. Rooks, territory lost to the Germans was retaken and the drive into the German heartland went forward. In the latter weeks of March, the Division crossed the Rhine River. On April 23rd, under the command of Major General Herbert L. Earnest, the soldiers of the Ninetieth liberated Flossenburg concentration camp. At the end of the war, the Ninetieth Division was located in Czechoslovakia.

Landsberg, Liberated on April 27, 1945

Located some 50 miles southwest of Munich, Germany, Landsberg was a subcamp of Dachau. Its prisoners were used as laborers in the German armament industry during World War II. Ironically, Hitler had been imprisoned there in 1923, where he penned the bible of the National Socialist Revolution, *Mein Kampf*. At the camp's liberation in 1945, an American Army officer secured the plaque above the door of Hitler's former cell, which read: "here, a dishonorable system imprisoned Germany's greatest son from November 11, 1923, to December 20, 1924." (The plaque is currently on display in the Kentucky Military Museum, Frankfurt.) Following the end of the war in Europe, Landsberg was used to house Jewish displaced persons (DPs), one of the most populous DP camps in the American occupied zone.

The Tenth Armored Division, known as the "Tiger" Division, was activated on July 15, 1945 at Ft. Benning, Georgia. The Tenth first engaged in combat on November 1, 1944 at Mars-la-Tour, France, in support of the XX Corps, to contain enemy troops. By mid-November, the Division had crossed the Moselle and had driven to the Saar River. Under the command of Major General William H.H. Morris, Jr., the Tenth was ordered north in December to meet the German counteroffensive in the Ardennes. By late February 1945, the Division was once again taking part in clearing the Saar-Moselle triangle. Driving through Kaiserslautern, the "Tigers" advanced to the Rhine River, crossing Mannheim, and, turning south, captured Oehringen and Heilbronn. Continuing its offensive, the division crossed the

Danube Rive on April 23rd, and took Oberammergau two days later. On April 27th, the Tenth Armored Division ran across Landsberg subcamp.

The Twelfth Armored Division, the "Hellcats," was activated on September 15, 1942 at Camp Campbell, Kentucky. Commanded by Major General Roderick R. Allen, the Division landed at Le Havre, France, in mid-November 1944. The troops moved toward the Maginot Line in early December. In January 1945, the Twelfth rolled against the Rhine riverhead, but German defenders repulsed the Division's attacks. The German counter-attack failed. The "Hellcats" again attacked enemy troops south of the Colmar and joined forces with the French at Rouffach on February 5th, sealing the Colmar pocket and ending German resistance in the Vosges Mountains. In March, the Division cleared the Saar Palatine, crossing the Rhine River at Worms and capturing the city of Wurzburg. The "Hellcats" took Neustadt on April 13th and shifted toward Munich on April 17th. Elements of the Twelfth Division secured the bridge over the Danube at Dillingen. This bridge was a vital artery for Allied troops moving into southern Germany. The "Hellcats" spearheaded the Seventh Army's drive south, entering the subcamp of Landsberg on April 27th, and securing the area by April 29th.

The One Hundred and Third Infantry Division, or the "Cactus" Division, was first organized in 1921 in Denver, Colorado. In late 1942, it was activated at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana and saw its first European action in November 1944. The Division pushed through the Vosges Mountains to the Siegfried Line in December, where it assaulted the German outer defenses. During January 1945, the Division moved to positions along the Sauer River. In March, under the command of Major General Anthony C. McAuliffe, the One Hundred and Third took Muhlhausen and penetrated the defenses of the Siegfried Line. As German resistance disintegrated, the "Cactus" Division reached the Rhine Valley and engaged in mop-up operations. On April 20th, the Division once again took the offensive, pursuing a fleeing enemy through Stuttgart and Munsingen. They crossed the Danube near Ulm on April 26th and stumbled across the subcamp of Landsberg on April 27th.

Subcamps of Dachau, Liberated on April 28, 1945

Dachau Concentration Camp, Liberated on April 29, 1945

Erected in 1933 on the border of the town of Dachau near Munich, the Dachau concentration camp was the first durable Nazi concentration camp. It was used mainly to incarcerate German political prisoners until late 1938, when large numbers of Jews, Roman and Sinti Gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, and other supposed enemies of the state as well as "anti-social elements" were sent there. Himmler considered the camp a model for the concentration system. The organization and structure used in Nazi camps to bring punishment and death to millions of people -- incarceration, codes and policies, medical experimentation, and officer and guard training -- evolved from Dachau's operation. During the war, a gas chamber was built there but never used.

The Fourth Infantry Division, the "Ivy" Division, was first organized at Camp Greene, North Carolina, in December of 1917, and saw action in Europe in World War I. During the Second World War, it was reactivated at Ft. Benning, Georgia on June 3, 1940. The Eighth Infantry Regiment of the Fourth Division was one of the first Allied units to hit the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. The Division took part in the liberation of Paris and the Battle of the Bulge.

Commanded by Major General Harold W. Blakeley on December 16, 1944, the Fourth Division met the German winter offensive head-on in Luxembourg. From January through March of 1945, the Fourth repeatedly engaged the German forces. The "Ivy" troops crossed the Rhine River on March 29th at Worms. By early April, the Division had secured a bridgehead across the Main River at Ochsenfurt and had spread southeast into Bavaria. On April 28th, the Fourth Division discovered sub-camps of Dachau. At the end of the war in Europe, the "Ivy" Division was located at Berchtesgaden, Hitler's mountain retreat.

The Forty Second Infantry Division, known as the "Rainbow" Division, was first organized at Camp Mills, New York in August 1917 from National Guard units of twenty-six states and the District of

Columbia. During World War I, the Division saw combat action in France. It was reconstituted and activated at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma in 1943.

Led by Major General Harry J. Collins, the whole Division (parts of it had seen action in December 1944 as Task Force Linden in the Straasbourg area) entered combat on February 14, 1945, taking defensive positions near Haguenau in the Hardt Mountains. After a month, the Forty Second went on the offensive, breaking through the Siegfried Line in March and clearing Dahn and Busenberg. Moving across the Rhine River on March 31st, the Division captured Wertheim and Wurzburg in early April. Schweinfurt fell on April 12th, followed by Furth, adjacent to Nuremberg, on April 19th. The Forty Second captured Donauworth on the Danube River on April 25th. On April 29th, the "Rainbow" Division came across Dachau concentration camp.

The Forty Fifth Infantry Division, called the "Thunderbirds," was activated first in 1924 with recruits from Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma. The "Thunderbirds" were inducted into Federal service on September 16, 1940 at Oklahoma City.

The Division arrived in North Africa on June 22, 1943. Its first major amphibious operation began with the landing in Sicily on July 10th. The Division engaged in the four-day battle of Motta Hill ("Bloody Ridge"). It withdrew and landed again at Salerno on September 10, 1943, pushed to the Caolore Rive in early November, taking Venafro. The "Thunderbirds" inched forward into the mountains reaching S. Elia by early January 1944. The troops moved on to the Anzio beachhead on January 22nd and for four months stood its ground against enemy attacks. The "Thunderbirds" crossed the Tiber River on June 4th, and helped to outflank the city of Rome.

The "Thunderbirds" made their fourth assault landing on August 15, 1944 at St. Maxime in southern France. Throughout the fall, the Division pushed its way across France, cracking into the German defenses in the Maginot Line, under the command of Major General Robert T. Frederick. From January 2, 1945, the Division fought defensively along the German border. On March 17th, the Forty Fifth smashed at the Siegfried Line, taking Hamburg and crossing the Rhine River on March 26th. They con-

tinued to advance, crossing the Danube River on April 27th. The "Thunderbirds" encountered Dachau concentration camp on April 29th. The Division helped to capture Munich on April 30th, and, from the end of the war on May 8th through September, the "Thunderbirds" were stationed near Dachau.

The Twentieth Armored Division was activated on March 15, 1943 at Camp Campbell, Kentucky. The Division arrived at Le Havre, France, on February 16, 1945, under the command of Major General Orlando Ward. It moved through Belgium to Langendernbach, Germany on April 10th. At Marketbriet on April 20th, the Division was attached to the III Corps, but three days later, it was detached and reassigned to the XV Corps, Seventh Army at Wurzburg, Germany. Elements of the Division first saw action as Task Force Campbell when a false surrender by German troops resulted in fighting in Dorf on April 25th. Regrouping, the Division crossed the Danube on April 28th. Elements of the Twentieth seized the bridge over the Saar River at Schrobenthausen and secured crossings over the Ilm River. The Twentieth secured the town of Dachau on April 29th and continued on to attack enemy troops in Munich the same day. The city of Munich fell on April 30th. The Division crossed the Inn River at Wasseburg on May 3rd, and was moving toward Salzburg, Austria, when victory in Europe was declared on May 8, 1945.

Compiled from Division histories provided by the U.S. Army Center for Military History, Washington, D.C.

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The following Armored and Infantry Divisions have been certified by the U.S. Army Center for Military History as Liberators:

**LIBERATING
U.S. ARMY
DIVISIONS**

DIVISION	CAMP(S)	DATE
1st Infantry	Falkenau a.d. Eger (subcamp of Flossengurg)	May 7, 1945
2nd Infantry	Leipzig-Hasag (subcamp of Buchenwald)	April 14, 1945
2nd Infantry	Spergau	April 17, 1945
4th Infantry	Dachau subcamps	April 28-29, 1945
8th Infantry	Wobbelin (subcamp of Neuengamme)	May 3, 1945
42nd Infantry	Dachau	April 29, 1945
45th Infantry	Dachau	April 29, 1945
65th Infantry	Flossenburg	April 20, 1945
69th Infantry	Leipzig-Thekla N 42 (subcamp of Buchenwald)	April 19, 1945
71st Infantry	Gunsirichen (subcamp of Mauthausen)	May 4, 1945
80th Infantry	Buchenwald	April 12, 1945
80th Infantry	Ebensee (subcamp of Mauthausen)	May 4-5, 1945
83rd Infantry	Langenstein	April 11, 1945
84th Infantry	Hannover-Ahlem	April 10, 1945
84th Infantry	Salzwedel (subcamp of Neuengamme)	April 14, 1945
89th Infantry	Ohrdruf (subcamp of Buchenwald)	April 4, 1945
90th Infantry	Floreenburg	April 23, 1945
99th Infantry	Dachau subcamps (vicinity of Muhlendorf)	May 3-4, 1945
103rd Infantry	Landsberg (subcamp of Dachau)	April 27, 1945
104th Infantry	Dora-Mittelbau	April 11, 1945
3rd Armored	Dora-Mittelbau	April 11, 1945
4th Armored	Ohrdruf (subcamp of Buchenwald)	April 4, 1945
4th Armored	Buchenwald	April 11, 1945
6th Armored	Buchenwald	April 11, 1945
9th Armored	Falkenau a.d. Eger (subcamp of Flossenburg)	May 7, 1945
10th Armored	Landsberg (subcamp of Dachau)	April 27, 1945
11th Armored	Gusen (subcamp of Mauthausen)	May 5, 1945
11th Armored	Mauthausen	May 6, 1945
12th Armored	Landsberg (subcamp of Dachau)	April 27, 1945
14th Armored	Dachau subcamps at Ampfing and Muhlendorf	May 2-3, 1945
20th Armored	Dachau	April 29, 1945
82nd Airborne	Wobbelin (subcamps of Neuengamme)	May 3, 1945

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