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# Bergen-Belsen concentration camp

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*This article is about the Nazi concentration camp. For the [Displaced Persons camp](#), see [Bergen-Belsen displaced persons camp](#). For the nearby village of Belsen, see [Belsen \(Bergen\)](#).*

*"Belsen" redirects here. For other uses, see [Belsen \(disambiguation\)](#).*

*Not to be confused with [Belzec extermination camp](#).*

**Bergen-Belsen** (or **Belsen**) was a [Nazi concentration camp](#) in what is today [Lower Saxony](#) in northwestern Germany, southwest of the town of [Bergen](#) near [Celle](#). Originally established as a [prisoner of war camp](#),<sup>[1]</sup> in 1943 parts of it became a concentration camp. Originally this was an "exchange camp", where [Jewish](#) hostages were held with the intention of exchanging them for German prisoners of war held overseas.<sup>[2]</sup> Eventually, the camp was expanded to accommodate Jews from other concentration camps.

Later still the name was applied to the [displaced persons camp](#) established nearby, but it is most commonly associated with the concentration camp. From 1941 to 1945 almost 20,000 [Russian prisoners of war](#) and a further 50,000 inmates died there,<sup>[3]</sup> with up to 35,000 of them dying of [typhus](#) in the first few months of 1945, shortly before and after the liberation.<sup>[4]</sup>

The camp was liberated on April 15, 1945 by the [British 11th Armoured Division](#).<sup>[5]</sup> They discovered around 53,000 prisoners inside, most of them half-starved and seriously ill,<sup>[4]</sup> and another 13,000 corpses lying around the camp unburied.<sup>[5]</sup> The horrors of the camp, documented on film and in pictures, made the name "Belsen" emblematic of Nazi crimes in general for public opinion in Western countries in the immediate post-1945 period.

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## Operation

### Prisoner of war camp

In 1935 the Wehrmacht began to build a large military complex close to the town of Bergen in what was then the [Province of Hanover](#).<sup>[1]</sup> This became the largest military training area in Germany of the time and was used for armoured vehicle training.<sup>[1]</sup> The barracks were finished in 1937. The camp has been in continuous operation since then and is today known as [Camp Hohne](#) or [Bergen-Hohne Training Area](#). It is used by the British Armed Forces.

The workers who constructed the original buildings were housed in camps near Fallingbostel and Bergen, the latter being the so-called Bergen-Belsen Army Construction Camp.<sup>[1]</sup> Once the military complex was completed in 1938/39, the workers' camp fell into disuse. However, after the attack on Poland in September 1939, the Wehrmacht began using the huts as a prisoner of war camp.

The camp of huts near Fallingbostel became known as [Stalag XI B](#) and was to become one of the Wehrmacht's largest POW camps, holding up to 95,000 prisoners from various countries.<sup>[6]</sup> In June 1940, Belgian and French POWs were housed in the former Bergen-Belsen construction workers' camp. This installation was significantly expanded from June 1941, once Germany prepared to invade the Soviet Union, becoming an independent camp known as [Stalag XI-C](#) (311). It was intended to hold up to 20,000 [Soviet](#) POWs and was one of three such camps in the area. The others were at [Oerbke](#) ([Stalag XI D](#) (321)) and [Wietzendorf](#) ([Stalag X D](#) (310)). By the end of March 1942, some 41,000 Soviet POWs had died in these three camps of starvation, exhaustion and disease. By the end of the war, the total number of dead had increased to 50,000.<sup>[6]</sup> When the POW camp in Bergen ceased operation in early 1945, as the Wehrmacht handed it over to the SS, the cemetery contained over 19,500 dead Soviet prisoners.

In the summer of 1943, [Stalag XI C](#) (311) was dissolved and Bergen-Belsen became a branch camp of [Stalag XI B](#). It served as the hospital for all Soviet POWs in the region until January 1945. Other inmates/patients were Italian military internees from August 1944 and, following the suppression of the [Warsaw Uprising](#) in October 1944, around 1,000 members of the [Polish Home Army](#) were imprisoned in a separate section of the POW camp.<sup>[6]</sup>

### Concentration camp

**Bergen-Belsen**  
Concentration camp



Memorial stone at the entrance to the historical camp area



Location of Bergen-Belsen in [Lower Saxony](#)

**Coordinates** 52°45′28″N 9°54′28″E﻿ / ﻿52.75778°N 9.90778°E﻿ / 52.75778; 9.90778

**Location** [Lower Saxony, Northern Germany](#)

**Operated by** [German Army](#), later *Schutzstaffel* (SS)

**Original use** Prisoner of war camp, later civilian internment camp

**Operational** 1940–1945

**Inmates** Jews, Poles, Russians, Dutch, Czechs, Germans, Austrians

**Killed** unknown (estimated at 50,000 or more in the concentration camp alone)

**Liberated by** [United Kingdom](#), April 15, 1945

**Website** [Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp Memorial Site](#)

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In April 1943, a part of the Bergen-Belsen camp was taken over by the SS Economic-Administration Main Office (SS Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt; WVHA). It thus became part of the **concentration camp** system, run by the SS **Schutzstaffel** but it was a special case.<sup>[7]</sup> Having initially been designated *Zivilinterniertenlager* ("civilian internment camp"), in June 1943 it was redesignated *Aufenthaltslager* ("holding camp"), since the **Geneva Conventions** stipulated that the former type of facility must be open to inspection by international committees.<sup>[8]</sup> This "holding camp" was for Jews who were intended to be exchanged for German civilians interned in other countries, or for hard currency.<sup>[9]</sup> The SS divided this camp into subsections for individual groups (the "Hungarian camp", the "special camp" for Polish Jews, the "neutrals camp" for citizens of neutral countries and the "Star camp" for **Dutch** Jews). Between the summer of 1943 and December 1944 at least 14,600 Jews, including 2,750 children and minors were transported to the Bergen-Belsen "holding" camp. Inmates were made to work, many of them in the "shoe commando" which salvaged usable pieces of leather from shoes collected and brought to the camp from all over Germany and occupied Europe. In general the prisoners of this part of the camp were treated less harshly than some other classes of Bergen-Belsen prisoner until fairly late in the war, due to their perceived potential exchange value.<sup>[9]</sup> However, only around 2,560 Jewish prisoners were ever actually released from Bergen-Belsen and allowed to leave Germany.<sup>[9]</sup>

In March 1944, part of the camp was redesignated as an *Erholungslager* ("recovery camp"),<sup>[10]</sup> where prisoners too sick to work were brought from other concentration camps. Supposedly, they were in Bergen-Belsen to recover and then to return to their original camps, and to resume work. However, a large number of them actually died of disease, starvation, exhaustion and lack of medical attention.<sup>[11]</sup>

In August 1944 a new section was created and this became the so-called "women's camp". By November 1944 this camp received around 9,000 women and young girls. Most of those who were able to work stayed only for a short while and were then sent on to other concentration camps or slave-labour camps. The first women interned here were Poles, arrested after the failed Warsaw Uprising. Others were Jewish women from Poland or Hungary, transferred from Auschwitz. Among those who never left Bergen-Belsen were **Margot** and **Anne Frank**, who died here in March 1945.<sup>[11]</sup>

In December 1944 SS-Hauptsturmführer **Josef Kramer**, previously at **Auschwitz-Birkenau**, became the new camp commander, replacing SS-Hauptsturmführer Adolf Haas, who had been commander since the spring of 1943.<sup>[7]</sup> In January 1945, the SS took over the POW hospital and increased the size of the concentration camp. As eastern concentration camps were evacuated before the advance of the Red Army, at least 85,000 people were transported in cattle cars or marched to Bergen-Belsen.<sup>[12]</sup> Before that the number of prisoners at Bergen-Belsen had been much smaller. In July 1944 there were just 7,300, by December 1944 the number had increased to 15,000 and by February 1945 it had risen to 22,000. However, it then soared to around 60,000 by April 15, 1945.<sup>[7]</sup> This overcrowding led to a vast increase in deaths from disease (particularly **typhus**, as well as tuberculosis, typhoid fever, and dysentery) and malnutrition in a camp originally designed to hold about 10,000 inmates. At this point also, the special status of the exchange prisoners no longer applied. All inmates were subject to starvation and epidemics.<sup>[12]</sup>

There were no **gas chambers** at Bergen-Belsen, since the mass executions took place in the camps further east. Nevertheless, an estimated 50,000 **Jews**, **Czechs**, **Poles**, anti-Nazi **Christians**, **homosexuals**, and **Roma** and **Sinti** (Gypsies) died in the camp.<sup>[7]</sup> Among them was Czech painter and writer **Josef Čapek** (est. April 1945).

After the war, there were allegations that the camp (or possibly a section of it), was "of a privileged nature", compared to others. A lawsuit filed by the Jewish community in **Thessaloniki** against 55 alleged collaborators claims that 53 of them were sent to Bergen-Belsen "as a special favor" granted by the Germans.<sup>[13]</sup>

## Liberation



When the British and Canadians advanced on Bergen-Belsen in 1945, the German army negotiated a truce and exclusion zone around the camp to prevent the spread of **typhus**. On April 11, 1945 Himmler agreed to have the camp handed over without a fight. SS guards ordered prisoners to bury some of the dead. The next day, Wehrmacht representatives approached the British and were brought to 8th Corps. At around 1 a.m. on April 13, an agreement was signed, designating an area of 48 square kilometers (19 square miles) around the camp as a neutral zone. Most of the SS were allowed to leave. Only a small number of SS men and women, including the camp commandant Kramer, remained to "uphold order inside the camp". The outside was guarded by Hungarian and regular German troops. Due to heavy fighting near

Winsen and Walle the British were unable to reach Bergen-Belsen on April 14, as originally planned. The camp was liberated on the afternoon of April 15, 1945.<sup>[14]</sup>

When British and Canadian troops finally entered they found thousands of unburied bodies and (including the satellite camps) at least 53,000 inmates<sup>[12]</sup> most acutely sick and starving. The scenes that greeted British troops were described by the **BBC's Richard Dimbleby**, who accompanied them:

“ ...Here over an acre of ground lay dead and dying people. You could not see which was which... The living lay with their heads against the corpses and around them moved the awful, ghostly procession of emaciated, aimless people, with nothing to do and with no hope of life, unable to move out of your way, unable to look at the terrible sights around them ... Babies had been born here, tiny wizened things that could not live ... A mother, driven mad, screamed at a British sentry to give her milk for her child, and thrust the tiny mite into his arms, then ran off, crying terribly. He



opened the bundle and found the baby had been dead for days.

This day at Belsen was the most horrible of my life.<sup>[15]</sup>

Initially lacking sufficient manpower, the British allowed the Hungarians to remain in charge and only commandant Kramer was arrested. This had tragic results, as SS guards and Hungarians subsequently shot and killed some of the starving prisoners who were trying to get their hands on food supplies from the store houses.<sup>[14]</sup> The British started to provide emergency medical care, clothing and food. After some difficulty such as the fact that departing German soldiers "had sabotaged the water supply in the barracks" <sup>[16]</sup> a water supply was reestablished. Immediately following the liberation, revenge killings took place in the satellite camp the SS had created in the area of the army barracks that later became Hohne-Camp. Around 15,000 prisoners from [Mittelbau-Dora](#) had been relocated there in early April. These prisoners were in much better physical condition than most of the others. Some of these men turned on those who had been their overseers at Mittelbau. About 170 of these "Kapos" were killed on April 15, 1945.<sup>[17]</sup>

Over the next days the surviving prisoners were deloused and moved to a nearby German [Panzer](#) army camp, which became the [Bergen-Belsen DP camp](#). Over a period of four weeks, almost 29,000 of the survivors were moved there. Before the handover, the SS had managed to destroy the camp's administrative files, thereby eradicating most written evidence.<sup>[12]</sup> The remaining SS personnel were now forced by armed Allied troops to bury the bodies in pits.<sup>[12]</sup>

Bergen-Belsen concentration camp was then burned to the ground by [flamethrowing "Bren gun" carriers](#) and [Churchill Crocodile](#) tanks because of the [typhus epidemic](#) and [louse](#) infestation.<sup>[18]</sup> As the concentration camp ceased to exist at this point, the name Belsen after this time refers to events at the [Bergen-Belsen DP camp](#).<sup>[14]</sup>

In spite of massive efforts to help the survivors with food and medical treatment, led by Brigadier [Glyn Hughes](#), Deputy Director of Medical Services of 2nd Army, about another 9,000 died in April, and by the end of June 1945 another 4,000 had died (after liberation a total of 13,994 people died).<sup>[8]</sup>

The British troops and medical staff tried these diets to feed the prisoners, in this order:<sup>[19]</sup>

- **Bully beef** from Army rations. Most of the prisoners' digestive systems were in too weak a state from long-term starvation to handle such food.
- **Skimmed milk**. The result was a bit better, but still far from acceptable.
- **Bengal Famine Mixture**. This is a rice-and-sugar-based mixture which had achieved good results after the [Bengal famine of 1943](#), but it proved less suitable to Europeans than to Bengalis because of the differences in the food to which they were accustomed. Adding the common ingredient [paprika](#) to the mixture made it more palatable to these Europeans and recovery started.

## Aftermath

### Legal prosecution

Many of the former [SS](#) staff who survived the [typhus](#) epidemic were tried by the British at the [Belsen Trial](#). Over the period in which Bergen-Belsen operated as a concentration camp, a total of at least 480 people had worked as guards or members of the commandant's staff, including around 45 women.<sup>[20]</sup> From September 17 to 17 November 1945 45 of those were tried by a military tribunal in Lüneburg. They included former commandant [Josef Kramer](#), 16 other SS male members, 16 female SS guards and 12 former kapos (one of whom became ill during the trial).<sup>[21]</sup> Among them were [Irma Grese](#), [Elisabeth Volkenrath](#), [Hertha Ehlert](#), Ilse Lothe, [Johanna Bormann](#) and [Fritz Klein](#). Many of the defendants were not just charged with crimes committed at Belsen but also earlier ones at Auschwitz. Their activities at other concentration camps such as [Mittelbau Dora](#), [Ravensbrück](#), [Neuengamme](#), the [Gross Rosen](#) subcamps at [Neusalz](#) and [Langenleuba](#), and the [Mittelbau-Dora](#) subcamp at [Gross Werther](#) were not subject of the trial. The trial was based on British military law and the charges were thus limited to war crimes.<sup>[21]</sup> Substantial media coverage of the trial provided the German and international public with detailed information on the mass killings at Belsen as well as on the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau.<sup>[21]</sup>

Eleven of the defendants were sentenced to death.<sup>[21]</sup> They included Josef Kramer, Elisabeth Volkenrath and Fritz Klein. The executions by hanging took place on December 13, 1945 in Hamelin.

<sup>[21]</sup> 14 defendants were acquitted (one was dropped from the trial due to illness). Of the remaining 19, one was sentenced to life in prison but he was executed for another crime. 18 were sentenced to prison for periods of one to 15 years. However, most of these sentences were subsequently reduced significantly on appeals or pleas for clemency.<sup>[21]</sup> By June 1955 the last of those sentenced in the Belsen trial had been released.<sup>[22]</sup> Only nine other members of the Belsen personnel were tried by later military tribunals in 1946 and 1948.<sup>[21]</sup>

Denazification courts were created by the Allies to try members of the SS and other Nazi organisations. Between 1947 and 1949 these courts initiated proceedings against at least 46 former SS staff at Belsen. Around half of these were discontinued, mostly because the defendants were considered to have been forced to join the SS.<sup>[23]</sup> Those who were sentenced received prison terms between four and 36 months or were fined. As the judges decided to count the time the defendants had spent in Allied internment towards the sentence, the terms were considered to have already been fully served.<sup>[24]</sup>

Only one trial was ever held by a German court for crimes committed at Belsen, at Jena in 1949, and the defendant was acquitted. More than 200 other SS members who were at Belsen have been known by name but never had to stand trial.<sup>[24]</sup> Moreover, no Wehrmacht soldier was ever put on trial for crimes committed against the inmates of the POW camps at Bergen-Belsen and in the region around it,<sup>[20]</sup> despite the fact that the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg had found in 1946 that the treatment of Soviet POWs by the Wehrmacht constituted a war crime.<sup>[23]</sup>

Some of the 60 tables, each staffed by two German doctors and two German nurses, at which the sick were washed and deloused, May 1–4, 1945



Dr. Fritz Klein stands amongst corpses in Mass Grave 3



A memorial stone erected near the ramps where prisoners for Belsen were unloaded from goods trains



Memorial for Margot and Anne Frank at the former Bergen-Belsen site.

## Memorial

The area of the former Bergen-Belsen camp fell into neglect after the burning of the buildings and the closure of the nearby displaced persons' camp in the summer of 1950. The area reverted to heath; few traces of the camp remained. However, as early as May 1945, the British had erected large signs at the former camp site. Former prisoners started to set up monuments.<sup>[25]</sup> A first wooden memorial was built by Jewish DPs in September 1945, followed by one made in stone, dedicated at the first anniversary of the liberation in 1946. On November 2, 1945, a large wooden cross was dedicated as a memorial to the murdered Polish prisoners. Also by the end of 1945 the Soviets had built a memorial at the entrance to the POW cemetery. A memorial to the Italian POWs followed in 1950, but was removed when the bodies were reinterred in a Hamburg cemetery.

The British military authorities ordered the construction of a permanent memorial in September 1945 after having been lambasted by the press for the desolate state of the camp.<sup>[26]</sup> In the summer of 1946, a commission presented the design plan, which included the obelisk and memorial walls. The memorial was finally inaugurated in a large ceremony in November 1952, with the participation of Germany's president **Theodor Heuss**, who called on the Germans never to forget what had happened at Belsen.<sup>[26]</sup>

However, for a long time remembering Bergen-Belsen was not a political priority. Periods of attention were followed by long phases of official neglect. For much of the 1950s, Belsen "was increasingly forgotten as a place of remembrance".<sup>[25]</sup> Only after 1957 large groups of young people visited the place where Anne Frank had died. Then after anti-Semitic graffiti was scrawled on the Cologne synagogue on Christmas 1959, German chancellor **Konrad Adenauer** followed a suggestion by **Nahum Goldmann**, president of the **World Jewish Congress**, and for the very first time visited the site of a former concentration camp. In a speech at the Bergen-Belsen memorial, Adenauer assured the Jews still living in Germany that they would have the same respect and security as everyone else.<sup>[27]</sup> Afterwards, the German public saw the Belsen memorial as a primarily Jewish place of remembrance. Nevertheless, the memorial was redesigned in 1960–61. In 1966, a document centre was opened which offered a permanent exhibition on the persecution of the Jews, with a focus on events in the nearby Netherlands – where Anne Frank and her family had been arrested in 1944. This was complemented by an overview of the history of the Bergen-Belsen camp. This was the first ever permanent exhibit anywhere in Germany on the topic of Nazi crimes.<sup>[27]</sup> However, there was still no scientific personnel at the site, with only a janitor as permanent staff. Memorial events were only organized by the survivors themselves.

In October 1979, the president of the **European Parliament Simone Veil**, who was herself a survivor of Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, came to the memorial for a speech which focused on the Nazi persecution of Roma and Sinti. This was the first time that an official event in Germany acknowledged this aspect of the Nazi era.

In 1985, international attention was focused on Bergen-Belsen when the camp was hastily included in **Ronald Reagan's** itinerary when he visited West Germany after a controversy about a visit to a cemetery where the interred included members of the **Waffen SS** (see **Bitburg**). Shortly before Reagan's visit on 5 May, there had been a large memorial event on occasion of the 40th anniversary of the camp's liberation, which had been attended by German president **Richard von Weizsäcker** and German chancellor **Helmut Kohl**.<sup>[28]</sup> In the aftermath of these events, the parliament of Lower Saxony decided to expand the exhibition center and to hire permanent scientific staff. In 1990, the permanent exhibition was replaced by a new version and a larger document building was opened.

Only in 2000 did the Federal government of Germany begin to financially support the memorial. Co-financed by the state of Lower Saxony, a complete redesign was planned which was intended to be more in line with contemporary thought on exhibition design.<sup>[29]</sup> On April 15, 2005, there was a ceremony, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the liberation and many ex-prisoners and ex-liberating troops attended.<sup>[30][31]</sup> In October 2007, the redesigned memorial site was opened, including a large new Documentation Centre and permanent exhibition on the edge of the newly redefined camp, whose structure and layout can now be traced. Since 2009, the memorial has been receiving funding from the Federal government on an ongoing basis.<sup>[32]</sup>

The site is open to the public and includes monuments to the dead, including a successor to the wooden cross of 1945, some individual memorial stones and a "House of Silence" for reflection. In addition to the Jewish, Polish and Dutch national memorials, in December 2012 a memorial to eight Turkish citizens who were killed at Belsen was dedicated.<sup>[33] [34]</sup>

## Personal accounts

- **Michael Bentine** wrote this on his encounter with Belsen:

*We were headed for an airstrip outside Celle, a small town, just past Hanover. We had barely cranked to a halt and started to set up the 'ops' tent, when the Typhoons thundered into the circuit and broke formation for their approach. As they landed on the hastily repaired strip – a 'Jock' [Scottish] doctor raced up to us in his jeep.*

*'Got any medical orderlies?' he shouted above the roar of the aircraft engines. 'Any K rations or vitaminised chocolate?'*

*'What's up?' I asked for I could see his face was grey with shock.*

*'Concentration camp up the road,' he said shakily, lighting a cigarette. 'It's dreadful – just dreadful.' He threw the cigarette away untouched. 'I've never seen anything so awful in my life. You just won't believe it 'til you see it – for God's sake come and help them!'*

*'What's it called?' I asked, reaching for the operations map to mark the concentration camp safely out of the danger area near the bomb line.*

*'Belsen,' he said, simply.*

*Millions of words have been written about these horror camps, many of them by inmates of those unbelievable places. I've tried, without success, to describe it from my own point of view, but the words won't come. To me Belsen was the ultimate blasphemy.*

*After VE. Day I flew up to Denmark with Kelly, a West Indian pilot who was a close friend. As we climbed over Belsen, we saw the flame-throwing Bren carriers trundling through the camp – burning it to the ground. Our light Bf 108 rocked in the superheated air, as we sped above the curling smoke, and Kelly had the last words on it.*

*'Thank Christ for that,' he said, fervently.*



One of several mass graves on the site of the former camp. The sign simply reads: *Here lie 5000 dead. April 1945.*



The Jewish Memorial at the site of the former camp, decorated with wreaths on Liberation Day, April 15, 2012.

And his words sounded like a benediction.<sup>[35]</sup>

- **Banksy's** internet-based **manifesto** contained an account by **Mervin Willett Gonin DSO** of the immediate aftermath to the liberation of Bergen-Belsen, including an extract from Gonin's diary sourced by the **Imperial War Museum**.<sup>[36]</sup>
- **Leonard Webb**, British veteran from the liberation of the camp.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>
- **Leslie Hardman**, **British Army Jewish Chaplain** and **Rabbi**, was the first Jewish Chaplain to enter the camp, two days after its liberation, and published his account in the collective book "*Belsen in history and memory*" [3] .
- *Memories of Anne Frank*, a book by Hannah Goslar
- In his book *From Belsen to Buckingham Palace* **Paul Oppenheimer** tells of the events leading up to the internment of his whole family at the camp and their incarceration there between February 1944 and April 1945, when he was aged 14 – 15.<sup>[3]</sup> Following publication of the book, Oppenheimer personally talked to many groups and schools about the events he witnessed. This work is now continued by his brother Rudi, who shared the experiences.
- **Anita Lasker-Wallfisch** describes life in Belsen, its liberation and her period in the **displaced persons camp** in her autobiography *Inherit the Truth* [4]

## Media

- *The Relief of Belsen* (2007 film)
- *Memorandum* (1965 film)

## See also

- **Holocaust Memorial Day**
- **Holocaust memorial landscapes in Germany**
- **List of Nazi-German concentration camps**

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- ↑ television program *The Relief Of Belsen*, **Channel 4** (UK commercial television), 9:00 p.m. to 11:05 p.m. on Monday October 15, 2007.
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- ↑ "*The Holocaust, Viewed Not From Then but From the Here and Now*", The New York Times, viewed January 22, 2009 [1]
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- ↑ Michael Bentine, *The Reluctant Jester* (Anstey, England: Ulverscroft, 1993), page 281.
- ↑ [2]

## External links

- **Bergen-Belsen Memorial**
- **The United States' Holocaust Memorial website on Belsen**

Vocal  
Sorry, your browser either has JavaScript disabled or does not have any supported player.  
You can [download the clip](#) or [download a player](#) to play the clip in your browser.  
  
BBC recording from April 20, 1945 of Jewish survivors of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp singing *Hatikvah*, today the national anthem of Israel, only five days after their liberation by Allied forces. (The words sung are from the original poem by Naftali Herz Imber.)

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- [Bergen-Belsen Death Camp](#) from Holocaust Survivors and Remembrance Project: "Forget You Not"
- [Film footage of Belsen concentration camp and its destruction](#)
- [BBC Journalist Richard Dimbleby's original Radio Report from April 15.](#)
- [Frontline "Memory of the Camps" \(includes footage of liberation of Belsen\)](#)
- [The Belsen Trial of Joseph Kramer and 44 Others \(full trial report\)](#)
- ["A Personal Account" by Leonard Berney, Lt-Col R.A. T.D.\(Rtd\)](#)
- [Filmed Lecture of First-hand Account of the Liberation of Belsen by Leonard Berney, Lt-Col R.A. T.D.\(Rtd\)](#)
- [Bergen Belsen History](#)
- [Bergen Belsen Pilgrimage](#)
- [Jewish Calendar and Prayers from Bergen-Belsen](#)

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	<b>Ghettos</b>	Białystok Budapest Kovno Kraków Łódź Lublin Lvov (Lwów) Minsk Riga Vilna Warsaw List of 267 Jewish ghettos in German-occupied Poland with number of prisoners and deportation route
	<b>Final Solution</b>	Wannsee Conference Operation Reinhard Holocaust trains Extermination camps
	<b>Einsatzgruppen</b>	Babi Yar Bydgoszcz Kamianets-Podilskyi Ninth Fort Piaśnica Ponary Rumbula Erntefest
	<b>Resistance</b>	Jewish partisans Ghetto uprisings (Warsaw · Białystok · Częstochowa)
	<b>End of World War II</b>	Death marches Wola Bricha Displaced persons Holocaust denial
<b>Other victims</b>	Romani people (Gypsies) Poles Soviet POWs Slavs in Eastern Europe Homosexuals People with disabilities Serbs Freemasons Jehovah's Witnesses	
<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Organizations</b>	Nazi Party Sturmabteilung (SA) Schutzstaffel (SS) Reichssicherheitshauptamt (RSHA) Verfügungstruppe (VT) Wehrmacht
	<b>Individuals</b>	Major perpetrators Nazi ideologues
	<b>Collaborators</b>	Ypatingasis būrys Lithuanian Security Police Rollkommando Hamann Arajs Kommando Ukrainian Auxiliary Police Trawnikijs Nederlandsche SS Special Brigades
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