

OVERVIEW OF AUSCHWITZ AND CEHEI GHETTO

Sources:
Candles Holocaust Museum and Education Center
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
The Northern Transylvania Holocaust Memorial
Museum
Wollheim Memorial

AUSCHWITZ

- Three main camps
 - Auschwitz I, II (Auschwitz-Birkenau), and III (Auschwitz-Monowitz Buna)
- Auschwitz was about the size of 6,000 football fields.
- Number of victims – best estimate
 - Jews (1,095,000 deported to Auschwitz, of whom 960,000 died)
 - Poles (140,000 – 150,000 deported, 74,000 died)
 - Roma (23,000 deported, 21,000 died)
 - Soviet prisoners of war (15,000 deported and died)
 - Other nationalities (25,000 deported, 10,000 – 15,000 died)

AUSCHWITZ I

Three purposes

- Incarcerate enemies of the Nazis
- Available supply of forced labor
- Eliminate small groups as designated by the SS



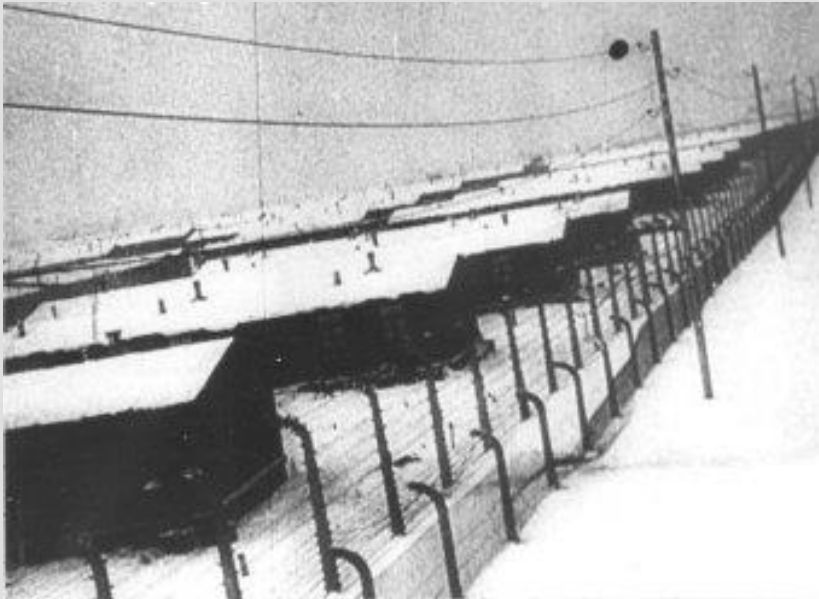
Auschwitz I – 15.44 square miles

AUSCHWITZ II - BIRKENAU

- Largest total prisoner population
- Home of the “killing center”
- Four large crematorium created and used from 1943-1944
 - Disrobing area
 - Gas chamber
 - Crematorium ovens



AUSCHWITZ – MONOWITZ (BUNA)



- Established in 1942
 - Prisoners to work at Buna Synthetic Rubber plant
 - 25,000-30,000 prisoners – most died
 - Camp evacuated with the rest of Auschwitz on January 18, 1945
 - Liberated by the Russians on January 27, 1945

CEHEI



Site of the Cehei Ghetto

- Located in the Klein Brick factory outside Șimleu Silvaniei
- Housed about 8,500 Jews
- Deportation of Jews from ghetto between May 31 and June 6, 1944 in 3 transports

CEHEI GHETTO - IN EVA'S WORDS

- We were forced from our home in March 1944 and taken to the Cehei (pronounced Chā hāy) regional ghetto. It was located at the old Klein Brick Factory, and we were forced to make a tent from a blanket we had carried with us because there was no more room inside the factory building. My mother was still weak from typhus, so my sister Edit took charge of us. It was a truly miserable and wretched place. The ground was very swampy and muddy, as the Berretyo River ran through it.
- The Hungarian in charge of the ghetto, Krasznai, was sadistic. He would wait for us to make our tent and then force us to tear it down and move it to the opposite side of the area, making fun of and mocking us the entire time. He would taunt us, saying, "Look at the Children of Israel living in tents like in the days of Moses." Humiliation and dehumanization was his goal.
- One day, my father was taken away, and he returned with burned fingernails and toenails. He had been badly beaten and tortured in an attempt to find out where he had hidden his valuables.