

# BEŁŻEC

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The first Roma and Sinti were deported to Poland in April 1940; 2,500 German Sinti and Roma were sent to camps in Polish towns such as Bełżec, Krychów and Siedlce. The inmates of the Bełżec Camp were made to do construction work along the border with the Soviet Union. The labour camp was closed again in the same year. Many of the Sinti managed to escape and tried to survive in the forests, but they were recaptured by German police and army units. Most of the German Sinti and Roma deported to Poland were killed in the following years. In 1942 and 1943, the SS operated a big extermination camp in Bełżec as part of Operation Reinhardt.

## Did you know

... that for Operation Reinhardt, the SS established three big extermination camps in Bełżec, Sobibór and Treblinka, where 2.4 million Jews and 50,000 Roma and Sinti were killed between 1942 and 1943?

... that the German authorities referred to the deportations to concentration and extermination camps as “resettlement”?

## For you to do

Why do you think the Nazis used euphemisms like “resettlement” and “final solution”? Can you think of any other examples?

## The photo

Deported Roma in the camp at Bełżec in 1940. They had to build the huts for the camp over the summer. German Federal Archives Koblenz, Germany.