

BUCHENWALD

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By 1938 hundreds of German Sinti and Roma had already been deported to Buchenwald concentration camp near the city of Weimar. In 1939, 600 Austrian Sinti and Roma arrived from Dachau, including many teenagers. In 1940, 500 of the surviving Roma and Sinti were transferred to Mauthausen concentration camp. When the Auschwitz extermination camp was abandoned in the summer of 1944, another 1,800 Roma and Sinti men arrived in Buchenwald, but 200 of them were returned to Auschwitz for extermination in September. About 1,000 Roma and Sinti women evacuated from Auschwitz were sent to the Buchenwald sub-camps at Altenburg, Schlieben and Leipzig-Taucha. Few of them survived the inhuman conditions in the arms factories there.

Did you know

... that Buchenwald concentration camp had 129 sub-camps?

... that at the end of the war, the surviving prisoners were forced by their guards to join “death marches” to other concentration camps? Prisoners who were too weak to go on were shot on the spot. Thousands were killed only days before the end of the war.

For you to do

Find out where similar “death marches” took place in the last months of the Second World War. Find out whether there are any mass graves in your area. If so, who was buried there and why?

The photo

Buchenwald concentration camp after liberation. Buchenwald and Mittelbau-Dora Memorials Foundation, Weimar, Germany.