

Forced tours of camps

[Germans (including children) forced to look at dead bodies in camps, mostly Buchenwald where they had to walk 4 miles. The question here is why didn't the Russians open Auschwitz for the world to see the alleged horrors of the 'gas chambers'? In Buchenwald there didn't seem to be that many bodies around, just some stacked up for the crematorium that they put on a trailer.]



10 June. German civilians listen to their Burgomeister, Karl Schmidt, a former inmate of Buchenwald camp, as he speaks at the graves of 56 prisoners of Buchenwald who were executed by their Nazi guards when they fell out on a march of 1,400 men east from Buchenwald to escape the advancing Americans. The civilians of the town of Saalberg, Germany, were forced to give the bodies a decent burial in a central section of the town.



17 May 1945. German women of Namerding ordered by Military Government with Third Army to view bodies of 800 murdered Russians, Czechs and French who were inmates of Flossenbergr prison camp. Bodies were exhumed by townspeople of Namerding from stream bank and reburied.



Men at left are Nazi soldiers freed from P.w. Enclosure and ordered to stand at attention for 30 minutes when they walked at viewing.



17 May. The sign reads: "Here lie 800 murdered bodies killed by the Nazis of Namering, Germany in april 1945". German civilians of town read sign during visit to see bodies of exhumed victims on order of Military Government of U.S. Third Army.



17 May. German men and women of Namering dig new graves for the bodies of 800 murdered Russians, Czechs and French whose bodies were found near stream bank outside town. Nazis are charged with the mass murder of the victims, former inmates in the Flossenbergl concentration camp.



17 May. German lad among children ordered by U.S. Military Government with Third Army to view bodies of 800 murdered Russians, Czechs and French who were inmates of Flossenbergl concentration camp. Bodies were exhumed by townspeople of Nasmering from stream bank and reburied.



17 May. German child with women gazes at body of one of the 800 murdered Russians, Poles and Czechs whose bodies were exhumed near Namering on order of Military Government of U.S. Third Army. Victims were formerly held in Flossenberg concentration camp.



Citizens of Weimar assemble at the main station for the tour of Buchenwald Concentration Camp ordered by the Americans.

Walter Chichersky, U.S. Signal Corps, April 16, 1945

National Archives, Washington



Citizens of Weimar in the incineration room of the crematorium.

Walter Chichersky, U.S. Signal Corps, April 16, 1945

National Archives, Washington



Members of the American Congress tour the crematorium.

Louis Nemeth, U.S. Signal Corps, April 24, 1945

National Archives, Washington



Citizens of Weimar in the courtyard of the crematorium. This photo appeared three days later in the London Times. It was the first photo of the liberated Buchenwald Concentration Camp to be published.

Walter Chichersky, U.S. Signal Corps, April 16, 1945

National Archives, Washington

The trailer of bodies



U.S. soldiers and liberated inmates in the courtyard of the crematorium. In the background: the camp fence, the bear pit and the administration building of the SS garrison.

Ardean R. Miller, U.S. Signal Corps, April 18, 1945



The lorry trailer is standing in the bright sunlight, in contrast to the citizens of Weimar, who are in the shade. In front of them a soldier of the U.S. Army.

Margaret Bourke-White, war correspondent, April 16, 1945

Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images, München



John C. Kunkel and Leonard Hall (fr. l.), two members of the U.S. Congress, standing in the courtyard of the crematorium in front of the corpse lorry.

Byron H. Rollins, war correspondent, April 21, 1945

Bettmann/Corbis, Düsseldorf



Citizens of Weimar in the courtyard of the crematorium. This photo appeared three days later in the London Times. It was the first photo of the liberated Buchenwald Concentration Camp to be published.

Walter Chichersky, U.S. Signal Corps, April 16, 1945

National Archives, Washington



[Life magazine](#) photographer Margaret Bourke-White prepares to take a photograph of a wagon piled with corpses in the newly liberated Buchenwald concentration camp.

Lieutenant Colonel Parke O. Yingst was born in Hummelstown, PA in 1908. In 1930 he graduated from the Colorado School of Mines and joined the Army Corps of Engineers as a reservist. He subsequently went to work in Venezuela. During this period, his reserve commission expired. After returning to the United States in 1940, Yingst applied for recommissioning so that he could join the fight against Hitler. In 1942 he was ordered to active duty as a First Lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers. On April 4, 1944 he was promoted to Major, and in July, he assumed command of the 281st Engineer Combat Battalion. In April 1945 Yingst was present at the liberation of the Ohrdruf and Buchenwald concentration camps. He was eventually promoted to Lieutenant Colonel prior to his separation from the army for medical reasons.

Photographed by Colonel Parke O. Yingst. Buchenwald, [Thuringia] Germany, April 1945. [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#).



Bodies piled up outside the crematorium



Close-up view of a lorry trailer loaded with the corpses of dead inmates, in the courtyard of the crematorium.

Margaret Bourke-White, war correspondent, April 16, 1945

Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images, München