

Chapter 1 : Category: Buchenwald children - Wikimedia Commons

At the notorious Buchenwald concentration camp, communist prisoners organized resistance against the SS and even planned an uprising. They helped rescue a three-year-old Jewish boy, Stefan Jerzy Zweig, from certain death in the gas chambers.

Netanel Rabbi Yisrael Lau talks about the childhood he never had and 10 images engraved forever in his memory. When Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau shuts his eyes and recalls his childhood, his mind is crowded with images of trains, of boots pounding on pavement, of barking dogs. He hears children wailing, "Mamme! Suddenly a member of the Gestapo strides over to him and hits him hard on his back. My father reels forward from the blow, but straightens himself immediately. Then comes another blow, and another. My father makes a mighty effort not to lose his balance, to help the members of his kehillah, his community, keep up their courage. I see my father, with tremendous moral courage, keeping himself from falling, not begging for mercy, standing up straight in front of the Gestapo officer. This erases my feelings of helplessness. It makes no mention of his nearly five decades of the rabbinate and public service; rather it is a very personal Holocaust memoir, a tale of survival, escape, and starting a new life in Eretz Yisrael. Rav Lau begins to speak of his second Holocaust image: The Americans have arrived; Buchenwald is liberated. I was afraid when I saw them. I crept behind a pile of dead bodies and hid there, watching them warily. I saw him get out of a jeep and stand there, staring at the corpses. He has often told this story, how he thought he saw a pair of living eyes looking out from among the dead. It made his hair stand on end, but slowly and cautiously he made his way around the pile, and then, he clearly remembers coming face-to-face with me, an eight-year-old boy, wide-eyed with terror. So which one of us is older? In the long run, rather than turning him into a traumatized, fearful person, it increased his optimism. For example, I had a mortal fear of cameras. To see someone pointing something at me, squinting one eye, and taking aim " it terrified me. It took time for me to realize that no one was trying to kill me anymore. But once I understood that, I made a complete turnabout. It may be connected to the fact that I really had no childhood. I never had the chance to develop an ego at the usual age of two, three, four, five years. Sometime in the middle of the night, the doors opened. A beam of light showed two Gestapo men standing guard in the doorway, leaving a narrow passage between them. Whoever hears his name called is to get up immediately and go home. The German officer finished reading off the list. Our names had not been called. Meanwhile, the Germans had been counting the figures that passed between them, and they started shouting that one person was missing. She held the two of us close to her sides and, walking sideways as one body, we passed between the soldiers. My brother Shmuel was knocked back into the shul, and the doors were closed. But one of the soldiers sensed that there was too much movement in the doorway for one person. He spread his arms and brought them down hard. We fell into a puddle of rain that had collected in front of the entrance to the shul, but we were out. My mother tried to soothe me to sleep, but I never shut an eye. Some time later, I heard a scream out in the street. I stood on my bed and looked out of the window. A young woman with a baby in her arms was lying in a pool of blood; a Gestapo man was kicking her body from side to side, looking for jewelry. Silently, she put me back to bed. I remember how strange he looked without his beard. He had been trying to get Shmuel released. As soon as he had the watch in hand, the Nazi had turned his back on my father and laughed. Shmuel was sent to Treblinka that night. In my earliest memories, from the innocent days before war existed in my world, I would sit on his lap and play with his curly peyote sidecurls. The worry lines were clearly etched on his face. This image, and the heavy atmosphere of fear surrounding it, has remained a part of me to this day. At every special occasion, joyous or sad, I miss him. She knew they were a sure way to distract me and, most importantly, to stop my mouth when we had to be quiet. The entrance to our attic hiding-place was open, but by miracle, their attention was drawn to a pile of scrap wood on the floor. They jabbed their bayonets into the pile, thinking there might be Jews hiding there, and then they went away. I was in hiding with you and your mother in Piotrkow, and I stole an apple from you. My mother had brought a bag of apples when we went into hiding, and the bag was sitting open next to me. It was just at that moment that the Germans came to search for Jews, and poor Mottel was stuck with the piece of apple in

his mouth. The trains, the boots, and the dogs were all there. My brother Naftali, who was eighteen, had been put with a group of men, and I was with my mother. Women and children were being shoved into one freight car, men into another. He tried to hold me, to soothe me, but I refused to calm down. I remember how terribly cold I felt all over; that was the cold of November. Never in my short life had I cried like that, and never in all the long years since then. It took a long time until I understood that by pushing me away like that, my mother had saved my life. In my case, since I was already an orphan, my brother Naftali stood behind me. In the Piotrkow ghetto, I worked in the glass factory for eight hours a day nonstop, carrying huge bottles of drinking water for the workers in the factory, where the temperature was degrees. For a whole year I did this, in snow, in storms, in heat, carrying heavy bottles into that blazing hot room. And then I was only five and a half years old. But the fact is that the Nazi officer was convinced. The Almighty gave me confidence and put the right words into my mouth. Our mother had foreseen circumstances like these and provided us with two diamonds and a gold watch. A Jewish dentist had filled her tooth with a half-carat diamond, and she had sewn a two-carat stone into the lining of her coat. Those diamonds saved my life twice. As we were boarding the train, the Gestapo officer on duty noticed me clinging to my brother. He grabbed me by the scruff of my neck and flung me into a group of about fifty women and a few children, who were being packed into another car. That car was going to be detached from the train at a certain point and redirected to a different camp. The first time the train stopped, he sneaked out, slipped under the train, and crawled along the tracks to the next car. One of the women had sprinkled a few grains of sugar on the bread for me, and I was busy hunting down every last sugar grain. Then I heard my name. He pulled me down under the train with him, and we crawled along in the thick darkness to the seventh car, where Tulek had boarded. We were taken to a camp. The first thing we saw was a group of men in striped uniforms, shoveling snow. We asked them where we were; in reply, they drew their forefingers across their throats. A Czech doctor saved my life by injecting me with only a half-dose of the vaccination he gave to all the men. Through a series of miracles and with the help of many good people, I passed through all the selektzias. By , everybody knew what to expect from showerheads in a Nazi camp, and we prepared to die a miserable death. One of the men in our group suddenly fell down dead. But the showerheads were turned on, and ice cold water sprayed out. Naftali was number ; I was number . Then we entered Block . My brother had cautioned me not to say I was Jewish. One of the Russian prisoners, Fyodor, stole some potatoes and cooked up a soup for me, and he sewed an earmuff for me, too. Meanwhile, my brother was looking worse every time I saw him, but now I was in a position to do something for him sometimes, like smuggling him a slice of bread with margarine. But before the hoped-for liberation came about, the brothers, Tulek and Lulek, were separated. I see no way out of this Gehinnom. This is the end of the world. I just wanted to tell you: Only to Eretz Yisrael. We have an uncle there. He managed to jump out the window of the building he was brought to, but after five days he was caught and put on another train. This time he jumped out of the moving train, and came back to Buchenwald.

Chapter 2 : Mystery grows over the Jewish boy who survived Buchenwald | World news | The Guardian

Child Survivors of Buchenwald. Child survivors dressed in clothes made from German uniforms. Among the child survivors of the Buchenwald concentration camp, shown in the center of the photograph above, was four-year-old Josef Schleifstein.

Early life[edit] Koch was born in Dresden , Germany, the daughter of a factory foreman. She was known as a polite and happy child in her elementary school. At the age of 15, she entered an accountancy school. Later, she went to work as a bookkeeping clerk. In , she became a member of the rising Nazi Party. In she came to Buchenwald when her husband was made Commandant. In Karl Otto Koch was transferred to Lublin , where he helped establish the Majdanek concentration and extermination camp. Ilse Koch remained at Buchenwald until 24 August , when she and her husband were arrested on the orders of Josias von Waldeck-Pyrmont , SS and Police Leader for Weimar , who had supervisory authority over Buchenwald. The charges against the Kochs comprised private enrichment, embezzlement , and the murder of prisoners to prevent them from giving testimony. Her husband was found guilty and sentenced to death by an SS court in Munich , and was executed by firing squad on 5 April in the court of the camp he once commanded. She went to live with her surviving family in the town of Ludwigsburg , where she was arrested by U. First trial[edit] Ilse Koch at the U. She was charged with "participating in a criminal plan for aiding, abetting and participating in the murders at Buchenwald". Clay was the interim military governor of the American Zone in Germany, and he reduced the judgment to four years imprisonment on 8 June , after she had served two years of her sentence, on the grounds that "there was no convincing evidence that she had selected inmates for extermination in order to secure tattooed skins, or that she possessed any articles made of human skin". Jean Edward Smith reported in his biography Lucius D. An American Life that the general maintained that the leather lamp shades were really made out of goat skin. The book quotes a statement made by Clay years later: There was absolutely no evidence in the trial transcript, other than she was a rather loathsome creature, that would support the death sentence. I suppose I received more abuse for that than for anything else I did in Germany. Some reporter had called her the "Bitch of Buchenwald", had written that she had lamp shades made of human skin in her house. And that was introduced in court, where it was absolutely proven that the lampshades were made out of goatskin. In addition to that, her crimes were primarily against the German people; they were not war crimes against American or Allied prisoners Later she was tried by a German court for her crimes and sentenced to life imprisonment. But they had clear jurisdiction. Second trial[edit] Under the pressure of public opinion Koch was re-arrested in and tried before a West German court. The hearing opened on 27 November before the District Court at Augsburg and lasted seven weeks, during which witnesses were heard, including 50 for the defense. Koch collapsed and had to be carried from the court in late December , [15] and again on 11 January She was convicted of charges of incitement to murder, incitement to attempted murder and incitement to the crime of committing grievous bodily harm, and on 15 January was sentenced to life imprisonment and permanent forfeiture of civil rights. She later made several petitions for a pardon, all of which were rejected by the Bavarian Ministry of Justice. Koch protested her life sentence, to no avail, to the International Human Rights Commission.

Chapter 3 : Lulek: Child of Buchenwald

The Boys of Buchenwald is a documentary film produced by Paperny Films that examines how the child survivors of the Buchenwald concentration camp had to assimilate themselves back into normal society after having experienced the brutality of the Holocaust.

Child Survivors of Buchenwald Child survivors dressed in clothes made from German uniforms Among the child survivors of the Buchenwald concentration camp, shown in the center of the photograph above, was four-year-old Josef Schleifstein. The Communist prisoners, who were in charge of the day-to-day administration of the camp, made sure that the children were well cared for. Note the adult man in the back row wearing a beret to identify himself as a Communist. The children in the photo are wearing clothes made for them by the Americans out of German uniforms. As prisoners in the camp, they wore striped uniforms just like the other prisoners. The photo below shows Josef Schleifstein, posing in his camp uniform, a year after he was liberated. Josef Schleifstein, circa Photo Credit: He is sitting on the running board of a truck from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. His parents were Izrael and Esther Szlajfajtajn. The family was moved into the Sandomierz ghetto in June During this period, their son was placed in hiding in the area. Esther was sent to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Izrael and Janek were taken to Buchenwald where they arrived on January 20, Izrael concealed little Janek in a large sack in which he carried his leather-working tools. The SS guards came to treat Janek as a camp mascot, and even had him appear at roll calls wearing his child-sized striped uniform. Despite this special treatment, Janek remembered being lined-up for execution at one point and his father intervening at the last moment to save him. He also remembered being very sick during his imprisonment and living in a hospital for a time. Soon after their liberation in Buchenwald, Izrael and Janek were taken to Switzerland for medical treatment. Some months later, they were reunited with Esther in the town of Dachau, where they lived until emigrating to the U. Israel Meir Lau was an 8-year-old orphan when he was liberated from Buchenwald. Most of his family members had been gassed at Treblinka. Lau and his mother escaped deportation to the death camps, but were imprisoned in the Piortrkow ghetto until November when Lau and his brother Naftali were sent to the Czenstochov forced labor camp and then to the Buchenwald camp. After he was liberated, Lau emigrated to Israel on a ship with other orphaned refugee children. Lau served as the chief Ashkenazi rabbi of Israel from to He currently serves as the chief rabbi of Tel Aviv. After he was liberated from Buchenwald, Lau said his rescuer was a person named Fyodor from Rostow, who gave him ear warmers and treated him like a son in Block 8 where both were prisoners. Kenneth Waltzer, a professor at Michigan State University has identified this person as year-old Fyodor Michajlitschenko, who had been arrested by the Gestapo in Liberated orphans march out of the main gate of the Buchenwald camp Orphans leaving Buchenwald, April 27, In the photo above, some of the orphans at Buchenwald are shown leaving the camp. The gate house of the Buchenwald camp is in the background on the right. Most of the Buchenwald orphans were teenagers, and only 30 of them were under the age of Young survivors in the Buchenwald camp, May Teenagers who survived Buchenwald Young survivors leaving Buchenwald on a train Most of the children who were in the camp when it was liberated were orphans. Rabbi Schacter escorted the second transport to Switzerland. Elie Wiesel, the most famous survivor of the Buchenwald camp, was among the orphans who were sent to France. Wiesel has written many books, including "Night," a memoir about his ordeal in the Nazi camps. Among his many accomplishments, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The following words by Elie Wiesel are often quoted: Every Jew, somewhere in his being, should set apart a zone of hate - healthy, virile hate -- for what the German personifies and for what persists in the German. To do otherwise would be a betrayal of the dead.

Chapter 4 : Download [PDF] The Buchenwald Child Free Online | New Books in Politics

The Polish Jew Stefan Jerzy Zweig was one of just over children whom American forces liberated at Buchenwald concentration camp on 11 April

Morgen testified that he had personally arrested 5 concentration camp commandants and two were shot after being convicted. Morgen added that "Apart from the commandants, there were numerous other death sentences against Fuehrers and Unterfuehrers. He was an attorney who had specialized in international law before he became involved in criminal cases in the special SS court. On the witness stand in the Dachau courtroom, Morgen testified that he had been a judge in the German state court at Stettin. He said that he had been appointed in May by Prince zu Waldeck, whose district included Weimar and Buchenwald, to investigate Commandant Koch on charges of corruption. The investigation of Commandant Koch began as a result of reports that a certain prisoner had been shot while attempting to escape. In fact, this prisoner had been told to get water from a well some distance from the camp, and he was shot from behind. My office was called to investigate this charade. It turned out this prisoner had treated Koch for syphilis, and in order to keep his disease a secret Koch had this man eliminated. Koch was a born criminal. In his youth he started with thefts of postal banks. Then he and his brother were stool pigeons for the police. The whole family was criminal. One of his sons had to be punished in musical school for stealing radios. His second son was in an insane asylum. He was mad for power and took every occasion to get rich off of the prisoners. I am convinced he stole millions of marks from the camp. In his previous testimony as a defense witness at the Nuremberg IMT, Morgen said that he had lived at Buchenwald for 8 months and had visited the camp repeatedly and thoroughly, sometimes making surprise visits. In response to a question by the Nuremberg prosecutor on 7 August about whether he could have been deceived during his visits, Morgen testified as follows: As I have already pointed out, I was not a mere visitor to a concentration camp. I had settled down there for a long residence, I might almost say I established myself there. It is really impossible to be deceived for such a long time. In addition, the commissions from the Reich Department of Criminal Police worked under my instructions, and I placed them directly in the concentration camps themselves. I do not mean to say that, in spite of these very intensive efforts, I was able to learn of all the crimes, but I believe that there was no deception in regard to what I did learn. After the war, Dr. According to his testimony in Nuremberg, he was a prisoner in the bunker at Dachau where some of his cell mates included SS men who had been arrested by him when he had previously conducted numerous investigations into corruption and cruelty in the concentration camps. American military interrogators tried to get him to sign an affidavit, admitting that Frau Koch had ordered prisoners killed to make human lamp shades, but he refused, even after several beatings. He told historian John Toland after the war that he was threatened three times with being turned over to the Russians or the Poles, but he still refused. He was convinced that she was guilty of sadistic crimes, but the charges against her could not be proven. After the war Morgen was asked by an American official to testify that Frau Koch made lampshades from the skin of inmates. Morgen replied that, while she undoubtedly was guilty of many crimes, she was truly innocent of this charge. After personally investigating the matter, he had thrown it out of his own case. Even so, the American insisted that Morgen sign an affidavit that Frau Koch had made the lampshades. Anyone undaunted by Nazi threats was not likely to submit to those of a representative of the democracies. His refusal to lie was followed by a threat to turn him over to the Russians, who would surely beat him to death. Though he detested Frau Koch, nothing could induce him to bear false witness. Georg Konrad Morgen was far from being a Holocaust denier. After the war, he said in interviews that he believed that 6 million Jews had been killed by the Nazis. Yet nothing could make him say that Ilse Koch had ordered prisoners to be killed in order to make lamp shades out of their tattooed skin. The prosecution took the opportunity to prove their case when Morgan was cross-examined on the witness stand by Lt. Under cross-examination, Morgen testified that Ilse Koch loved to make obscene remarks to the prisoners, that she wore clothes deliberately chosen to incite them and that she had been responsible for having prisoners beaten because they had looked at her. Morgen said that he believed that prisoners had died as a result of these

beatings, although he had no proof of this. The prosecution tried to establish evidence of a common design of abuses and corruption at Buchenwald and Morgen admitted that there had been abuses at Buchenwald. Denson tried to lead the witness by asking if "Buchenwald was making criminals rather than correcting them," Morgen answered, "These were already the worst type of criminals. It was not possible to make these persons any worse. The photograph below shows the sign over the gate into Buchenwald. This sign faced the inside of the camp. Frau Koch already had a reputation for being promiscuous. According to Dachau court reporter, Joseph Halow, in his book "Innocent at Dachau," there were unverified rumors that Frau Koch had engaged in numerous affairs with SS officers, and even with some of the inmates, at the Buchenwald concentration camp. Halow also mentions that he was shocked to learn that Ilse Koch may have turned to other men because her husband was a "homosexual. Any crimes that she might have committed between and the end of came under the jurisdiction of the German courts. According to Halow, there was speculation among the court reporters that the father was Josef Kirschbaum, a Jewish interrogator who was one of the few men who had access to her prison cell. Their feelings may have been understandable, but it was unconscionable for American authorities to put men such as Harry Thon, Josef Kirschbaum, and Lt. William Perl in positions where they had their enemies at their mercy. Greene, published in They met in the kitchen by chance, and Ilse told him where she was being held. The officer dug a hole to her barracks, and when she finally walked up to the witness chair in the Buchenwald trial, she was visibly pregnant. The press had a field day. In his book, Greene did not give any hint about the identity of the father, nor did he give a source for this information about how Ilse had become pregnant. Buchenwald accused are brought from the barracks to the courtroom Frau Koch could hardly be blamed for seeking out other men as lovers, since her husband was notorious for his cruelty, according to The Buchenwald Report, written by officers from the American military after getting information from the former prisoners. As the camps became more brutal, Koch was promoted: Prisoners there were locked in the doghouses, chained by the neck, and forced to lap up their food from a bowl. Anyone failing to bark when Koch walked by received twenty-five lashes with a cane. Koch had one prisoner beaten senseless, then ordered guards to stop up his anus with hot asphalt and force him to drink castor oil.

Chapter 5 : The Boys of Buchenwald (TV Movie) - IMDb

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Chapter 6 : The Boys of Buchenwald - Wikipedia

Some of the child survivors of Buchenwald tell their stories, from their lives in the camp, their liberation, and their struggle for normalcy and emotional well-being.

Chapter 7 : The Buchenwald Child by Beatriz Cobos Lirola on Prezi

The Buchenwald Child: Truth, Fiction, and Propaganda by Bill Niven starting at \$ *The Buchenwald Child: Truth, Fiction, and Propaganda* has 2 available editions to buy at Alibris.

Chapter 8 : The Children of Buchenwald: Child Survivors and Their Post-War Lives by Judith Hemmendinger

Bill Niven, a professor of contemporary German history at Nottingham Trent University and the author of The Buchenwald Child, told the Observer: "He [Zweig] feels personally attacked, as if he was.

Chapter 9 : Ilse Koch became pregnant during her trial at Dachau

HD Historic Archival Stock Footage WII Buchenwald Concentration Camp - U.S. Soldiers and Tanks - Duration: Buyout

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