I1 AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU (PL)



On 16 December 1942, Heinrich Himmler ordered that all “Gypsies” still living in the German Reich must be deported to Auschwitz. This Auschwitz Decree marked the final phase of a plan for the extermination of the “Gypsies”. For the German, Austrian and Czech Roma and Sinti, mass deportation to AuschwitzBirkenau began in April 1943. More than 20,000 Roma and Sinti were crammed into 32 wooden huts in the “Gypsy family camp” at Auschwitz. By July 1944 about 70 per cent of them were dead. Those still able to work were transferred to other concentration camps. While those who were still able to work were transferred to other concentration camps, more than 3,000 prisoners were gassed on the night of 2 August 1944.

Did you know

... that the inmates of the “Gypsy” camp staged a revolt? In May 1944, when some were to be selected for gassing, the Roma and Sinti drove the SS guards out of the “Gypsy” camp with sticks and stones.

Your task

There is a register of deaths for Auschwitz listing the names of the Roma and Sinti murdered there. Go to the website of the Auschwitz Memorial Site and find out more.

About the photo

Inside a hut - clothes were spread out to dry overnight with the help of the stove in the middle of the picture. This is the only known photograph of the “Gypsy” camp in Auschwitz-Birkenau. German Federal Archives, Koblenz, Germany.

https://www.romasintigenocide.eu/en/i

1910 1951

1943-44