Twitter Thread by Auschwitz Memorial

Auschwitz Memorial
@AuschwitzMuseum

Before the 76th anniversary of the liberation of #Auschwitz we bring together the most important facts about the last stage of the operation of this German Nazi camp. See the rest of this [THREAD] below. 1/11 #Auschwitz76



At the beginning of 1945, there were around 67,000 prisoners in the Auschwitz camp system. On 12 January 1945, the Soviets started their offensive. In mid-January head of the SS in the region, Ernst Schmauser gave the order to evacuate Auschwitz. 2/11

The final evacuation began on 17 January 1945. Around 58,000 prisoners were evacuated from the Auschwitz camp system. Columns of prisoners were leaving the camps and subcamps between 17 and 21 January. 3/11

On January 20 the SS blew up the buildings of gas chambers II (■) and III. On January 25/26 SS units entered the camp to destroy the last one - gas chamber and crematorium V. 4/11



Some 9,000 prisoners were left by the SS in the camps. The last SS guards left the camp most probably on January 21, but there were still some SS and Wehrmacht units coming in and out. 5/11

Between January 21-27 the prisoners started searching for food and clothes on their own. Many lost their lives, either shot dead by patrolling SS guards or as a result of gorging themselves on food their feeble bodies were no longer able to digest. 6/11

Apart from the sick & weak, there was a small group of prisoners in the camp who were relatively fit as they hid during the evacuation. Some of them tried instill some order and organisation in the existing chaos. 7/11

Often risking their lives, the strongest inmates brought food items from the warehouses, collected water from the melted snow or fire-fighting water storage tanks and also cooked meals on stoves that they had found in the hospital blocks. 8/11

Auschwitz camp was liberated on 27 January by the Soviet army. On Saturday before noon, first Soviet soldiers entered Auschwitz III-Monowitz. Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau were liberated around 3 pm. Around 7,500 prisoners were there. 9/11

Learn more about the evacuation and liberation of Auschwitz: https://t.co/hyEaUWEVbu

Other online lesson: https://t.co/5GqOAoIj0q

INTRODUCTION

EVACUATION AND LIQUIDATION OF THE CAMP

THE FINAL DAYS OF THE CAMP

LIBERATION

THE FIRST DOCUMENTATION OF THE CRIMES

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMING ABOUT THE FATE OF FORMER PRISONERS

HELP PROVIDED BY THE INHABITANTS OF OŚWIĘCIM,

some 70 km away from Auschwitz (Oświęcim), the SS authorities decided to evacuate the camp. From 17 to 21 January SS guards led some 56,000 prisoners out of the camps and sub-camps, forcing them to march dozens of kilometres in severe winter conditions. The main march routes led to Wodzisław Śląski and Gliwice, where the prisoners were transported by train to other concentration camps from. However, some of the prisoners were forced to march all the way to the destination camp. For example, over 3,000 prisoners from the Neu-Dachs sub-camp (in Jaworzno) were forced to cover the distance of 250 km on foot to Gross-Rosen concentration camp in Lower Silesia. Only around 2,200 prisoners were transported by trains all the way. This was the case of the prisoners of Laurahütte and Eintrachthütte sub-camps, transported to Mauthausen concentration camp on 23 and 24 January.



On January 27 we will commemorate #Auschwitz76. This year the event will be held online. We will also broadcast it live on our Twitter account. See details: https://t.co/8nv6LGr6yw



76. ROCZNICA
WYZWOLENIA AUSCHWITZ

76th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ