

## Project Deliverable

### Holocaust Background

#### **Text**

How is it possible that a man with such hateful, devastating intentions can gain as much power as Adolf Hitler did before and during World War II? It is a common belief that in order for people to follow a hateful leader, they must themselves be hateful people. However, it has been shown that that it not necessarily true and this is how Hitler was able to gain his power. In further research, it is understood that people did not necessarily agree with his anti-Semitism beliefs but rather agreed with his other beliefs and ignored his extreme anti-Semitism. [1]

Despite losing a Presidential election in 1932, through this process, Hitler began to make a name for himself and gained political attention. However, it wasn't until he was appointed chancellor months later that he was able to start his rise to power. Even though Hitler freely expressed his strong distaste toward the Jews, it was his "powerful leadership, the promise of a reborn Germany, the interests of the common people, and above all, strong anti-Marxism" that made his leadership attractive to the German population. [1]

In 1933, when Hitler was elected, there were only half a million Jews in all of Germany. This means that they accounted for less than one percent of the German population. Despite such a low population, the Jews heightened their visibility by high concentrations in certain cities and overrepresentation in certain businesses. "German Jews enjoyed freedom of religion and legal equality, including the right to vote. In contrast, Jews in Russia and Eastern Europe were still fleeing pogroms. That, in fact, is why there were so many foreign Jews in Germany." We can see that through their high visibility in certain areas despite their little population and their fair treatment compared to other countries, the general public was more accepting of Jews and had lower levels of anti-Semitism than assumed. [1]

After Hitler gained full dictatorship in 1934, Nazi movements became more threatening. This eventually led to the start of the social isolation of the Jews. In April of 1939, a law was passed making it illegal for Jews and non-Jews to live in the same blocks. The ghettos where the Jews lived were a result the living arrangements the Jews had to abide to. Eventually, they were taken from their homes and local cities and deported to concentration camps.[2] The approval and initial construction of Auschwitz began in April of 1940. 300 local Polish Jews, the first prisoners, arrived soon and began working to finish the rest of the camps construction. "On June 14, 1940, Auschwitz received the first transport of 728 Polish political prisoners. More than 7,800 prisoners were registered in Auschwitz by the end of the year." [3]

After the first set of prisoners, in a span of five years, approximately an additional 405,000 prisoners from different countries in Europe, including men, women and children, arrived at the camp. Auschwitz obtained a 49% mortality rate for inmates which was undoubtedly higher than other populated concentration camps.[3] In 1943, Josef Mengele came to Auschwitz. Mengele was a German physician who, throughout the course of his time at Auschwitz, conducted several different scientific experiments. His most notable interests were on twins, fertility and reproduction. Because of his need for specific subjects for his experiments, he played a large role in determining who was able-bodied enough to work, who would be used for his experiments, and who would be sent directly to gas chambers. [4]

Those who were moved to Auschwitz and other concentration camps were stripped of their freedom and basic human rights. The inmates were used as slaves, given very limited access to basic human necessities such as food and clothing, and were dehumanized and tortured. Those who escaped the immediate death of gas chambers and had hope for eventual liberation often didn't live long enough to be freed in 1945. The deprivation of nutrition and protection resulted in many deaths from causes such as hunger, dehydration, disease, exhaustion, abuse from guards, from Mengele's experiments and many other extreme experiences. [3]

#### **Literature Cited**

[1]

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Fleming, K. E. "AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU." *Greece--a Jewish History*, Princeton University Press, 2008, pp. 147–165. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt4cg985.12](http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt4cg985.12).

## Images:

### Movement During the Holocaust



### Adolf Hitler in His Rise to Power





Barbed Wire Fences Used to Try and Keep the Inmates from Escaping



Main Gate Leading to Auschwitz



## Harsh Movement and Regulation in the Jewish Ghettos



Josef Mengele's Signature *Josef Mengele*

## German Civilians Being Forced by US Troops to Walk by the Starved Bodies of 30 Jewish Women



### Picture Information

Header Photo: Auschwitz I concentration camp in 2004. Author Unknown. CC BY-SA 3.0.

Photos in Order of Appearance: Adolf Hitler. Heinrich Hoffman. CC BY-SA 3.0 DE.

Barbed wire near by the entrance of Auschwitz I. Pimke. CC BY 2.5 PL.

Close-up of the main gate with the inscription *Arbeit macht Frei*. Darwinek. CC BY-SA 3.0.

Forcibly pulled out of dug-outs. Author Unknown. CC BY-SA 3.0.

Josef Mengele Signature. Josef Mengele. CC BY-SA 3.0.  
Volary Dead Jews. US Army Signal Corps. CC BY-SA 3.0.

## Josef Mengele

### Text

It can be argued that Josef Mengele is one of the most evil humans of all time. Nicknamed the “Angel of Death” Mengele earned his nickname through the horrid experimentation that he performed on Jewish twins in Auschwitz during the Holocaust. [1]

At the University of Frankfurt’s Institute of Hereditary Biology and Race Research, Mengele was studying under the direction of one of Germany’s top geneticists: Dr. Otmar von Verschuer. [1] He became von Verschuer’s first assistant, and the two worked on a variety of projects even after Mengele received his degree in 1938. von Verschuer had a very strong interest in twins, and he studied them to examine certain hereditary phenomena. [2]

After Mengele graduated from medical school the two mainly worked together in racial courts, which were created under the Nuremberg race laws. These laws required that civilians underwent medical examinations to evaluate racial and hereditary characteristics to identify civilians who were Jewish. von Verschuer and Mengele were considered “racial experts” and distinguished jews vs. non-jews based off of hereditary and physical features. [2]

After volunteering to be in the Nazi army (Schutzstaffel) for a few years, Mengele sustained a war injury, and he could no longer fight in the army. He then took a post in the women’s section of Auschwitz; a decision which ultimately lead to immeasurable pain, anguish, and death for the hundreds of twin subjects experimented on by Mengele and the thousands that were sent by him to the gas chambers. [2]

In 1943 Mengele acted as the chief physician the women’s section of the Auschwitz concentration camp. His job duties were twofold: to select prisoners to be put to death in the gas chambers, and to perform medical experimentation on twin subjects. Unlike many doctors working for the SS at the time, separate accounts have stated that Mengele appeared to enjoy the act of delegating prisoners to the gas chambers. He consistently met and exceeded his quota for sending prisoners to their death. Many prisoners were mystified by Mengele, as he would act incredibly kind and friendly with the children, only to later experiment and sometimes even murder them. [1]

Mengele’s lab in the Auschwitz Birkenau camp was fitted with modern equipment. Inmate professionals who were forced to help him with his studies. It was in this lab that Mengele performed his bizarre experiments, hoping that his studies could one day yield enlightening information on human hereditary processes as well as the secret to promoting certain inheritable features of the Aryan race. [1]



The reason Mengele was so interested in working with twins was because one twin could be used as a control, while the other could be subject to the experimentation. The experimentation often resulted in the death of the prisoner who underwent the procedures. When this happened, the control twin was also killed via lethal injection so Mengele could compare biopsies to see the results of the experimentation. [1] Procedures included injections of various chemicals, substances, and toxins into prisoners, as well as injections of dye into eyes, blood transfusions between twins, and in some cases, amputation and experimental surgery. [1] [2] In addition, there were an estimated 75 subjects exposed to increasing voltage shocks to determine if there was a limit of human endurance. Mengele even went as far as forcing male and female twins to copulate to determine if they would have twin offspring. Arguably the worst experiment that Mengele ever performed was a documented case where two fraternal twin children had their backs and wrists surgically grafted together in an attempt to create conjoined twins. [3]

Once Mengele was done analyzing the results of his experimentation, he would send his results to von Verschuer, as he was overseeing the project. Additionally, Mengele would sometimes send samples such as human eyes, human heads, and blood samples to von Verschuer for further analysis. [2]

In 1945, the war was coming to a close and Mengele knew that for Germany the war was lost. His dreams of being a hero in the academic community were crushed. This prompted him to flee days before his camp was liberated. He escaped to South America, where he lived as a fugitive and a war criminal. He drowned in 1979, suffering from a stroke as he was swimming in the Atlantic Ocean in Brazil, where he was buried under a false name. It wasn't until his body was exhumed in 1985 and identified that anyone had any closure of the death of the so called "Angel of Death". [1]

The freedom of the prisoners of Auschwitz was clearly quite diminished, seeing as they were forced to live in a camp where they received inadequate amounts of food and intolerable living conditions. That being said, Mengele's twin studies took this lack of freedom one step further, by removing the prisoner's consent to medical procedure. This concept of unethical medical treatment is part of a host of unjust medical procedures which lead to the creation of the "Nuremberg Code". Researchers and doctors around the world are bound by this code, which necessitates multiple stipulations. Some of these stipulations include consent from the individual, beneficence to humanity, and an avoidance of unnecessary suffering along with other guidelines to keep scientific participants safe from harm. [4]

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Code, Nuremberg. "The Nuremberg Code." *Trials of war criminals before the Nuremberg military tribunals under control council law 10* (1949): 181-182.

## Images

Black and White Portrait of Josef Mengele







Otmar Freiherr von Verschuer with female twins and calipers

Archiv zur Geschichte der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Berlin-Dahlem. Noncommercial, educational use only.



Train Tracks leading to the entrance gate of Auschwitz

Block 10, where Mengele's lab was located in Auschwitz



A crowd of prisoners are on the Birkenau ramp as the guards make selections for the gas chambers





A chart showing the Nuremberg Laws

### **Photos in Order of Appearance:**

Author unknown, WP Josef Mengele 1956.jpg, [Public Domain]

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Otmar Freiherr von Verschuer with female twins and calipers, CC BY-NC-ND

Jared Polin, Auschwitz Birkenau Gate, CC BY-NC-SA

Author unknown, Selection Birkenau ramp [Public Domain]

Ben, Block 10, CC BY-ND

Alexander Voronzow, Child survivors of Auschwitz [Public Domain]

Author Unknown, Nuremberg laws, [Public Domain]

Isabella Leitner

### **Text**

Isabella Leitner experienced many terrors during her time under the control of the Nazi's. One of the most powerful and restrictive people she came across was Dr. Josef Mengele, who played a large role in Leitner's life even though their contact was minimal. Immediately upon reaching Auschwitz, Mengele was responsible for the deaths of Leitner's mother and one of her sisters[1]. That experience planted a seed of terror in Leitner and her siblings that were lucky enough to survive the initial selection.

Moreover, Mengele used this fear to gain absolute control over all of the prisoners. Specifically, Leitner recalls how "everyone was afraid of Dr. Mengele"[2]. She also remembers avoiding Mengele's selections by running to different blocks every time he would come near. Unfortunately, Mengele also made selections during roll call which made it impossible to escape. The girls had to make themselves appear especially healthy by any means necessary to avoid being sent to die by Mengele. Another shocking experience occurred when Mengele fired at Leitner and her sisters with his gun, but luckily, he missed his shot. Experiences like these were common during her time in Auschwitz.

It is clear that Mengele had a strong grip on all of the prisoners. This demonstrates how he was able to annihilate any remaining sense of freedom that the prisoners had. For Leitner, the fear incited in her by Mengele made her feel trapped which explains her frequent attempts to flee from Mengele, even though each day she would have to return to her block and the process

would repeat. This cyclical process of repeatedly fleeing from Mengele highlights the true state of all the prisoners at Auschwitz—trapped with no hope of escaping.

The following interactive map shows Leitner's travels from her birth in 1924 to her immigration to the United States in 1945.

### **StoryMap Screencast (Captions)**

Alright now we will start Isabella Leitner's journey during the Holocaust.

#### Leitner's Early Life

Leitner was born on May 28, 1924 in the town of Kisvarda, Hungary. She lived in a small Jewish community as World War II was just getting underway. Her father emigrated to the United States out of fear of anti-Jewish violence. In mid-March, Germany invaded Budapest and demanded that all Jews identify themselves. Soon after the Star of David was required as a symbol of identification in their town.

#### Jews Deported to Nearby Ghetto

Rifle-Carrying soldiers ordered all Jewish families to pack and be ready to go in only ten minutes. Upon arriving in the designated area, a rundown location designated to be a Jewish ghetto, the confused families were packed into a shelter. There were approximately 30 to 40 people housed in a place which had previously held three or four.

#### Leitner and her Family Deported to Auschwitz

On May 28, 1944, Leitner, her family, and other Jews in her community were deported to Auschwitz. The voyage lasted three days in a crowded cattle car with no food or water. Leitner witnessed multiple deaths on this brutal journey. And now I'll be reading the transcript of a video which has some accounts of the traveling. We are tightly packed in the ghetto, but that must be a fine way to live in comparison to deportation. Did God take leave of his senses? Something terrible is coming or is it only me? Am I mad? That there are seven of us in nine feet of space. Let them put 14 together, 28. We will sleep on top of each other. We will get up at 3, not 4. Standing in line for 10 hours, anything, anything, just let our family stay together.

#### The "Selection"

After exiting the cattle cars everyone was to line up immediately or else they would be beaten. Each person would approach Dr. Josef Mengele and he would point his thumb to the left or right indicating whether the individual was to be killed in the gas chambers or to be spared, at least



temporarily. Mengele sent Leitner's mother and one of her sisters named Portyo to be killed. Leitner and her remaining three siblings were kept alive.

### Transferred to Birnbaumel

After surviving a brutal six months in Auschwitz, Leihntner and her sisters were transported to a labour camp called Birnbaumel. While there they were forced to create traps for Russian tanks by digging holes into the freezing ground. Leitner did as little work as possible because she did not want to help the Nazi cause.

And now I will read the transcripts of another video which gives some audio describing the situation.

In that forest, the fire of resistance kept my frozen body alive. My mother had told me not to aid any enemy. In that forest in Birnbaumel, in December, I remembered her, I honored her, and kept myself alive. The other inmates shoveled diligently, as if they were building a castle for themselves, claiming that only by working very hard could they keep a semblance of warmth. Through, yet it was not. I begged some of them to sabotage the work, to pick up their shovels only when the Germans left a fire to make their rounds. They didn't, or couldn't listen, while I could listen only to my inner voices. The infallible truth my mother had taught me. I was a one-woman sabotage team. As soon as the Germans walked away I would put down my shovel and stop digging. Digging to me symbolized digging my own grave. In reality, that was what it was.

### Leitner's Escape

In January, 1944, the prisoners at Birnbaumel were forced to begin a three-week death march to another camp called Bergen Belsen. Luckily on the third day a massive blizzard struck and Leitner was able to escape with two of her sisters. Her third sister Cipi was unfortunately unable to escape. She would later die at Bergen Belsen.

### Leitner's Rescue

The same day Leitner was able to escape, she was freed by the Russian Army which came to the village of Jagadscultz where she was hiding in. Not too long after, they were sent on a two-week train ride to the city of Odessa which is located near the Black Sea in Ukraine.

### Leitner makes it to the United States

Leitner was able to board the SS Brand Whitlock in April, 1945 which brought her and her two sisters to the United States. With some help from a Jewish-American judge, they were able to locate their father and settled in his home in Brooklyn. Leitner and her sisters were the first Auschwitz survivors to arrive in the United States.

Alright, and that concludes the journey of the Leitner sisters.

### **Information in Text and Map Citations:**

[1] "Isabella Leitner." *UXL Biographies*, UXL, 2011. *Student Resources in Context*, [link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/EJ2108101364/SUIC?u=sain38295&xid=42c982c1](http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/EJ2108101364/SUIC?u=sain38295&xid=42c982c1). Accessed 7 Nov. 2017.

[2] "Leitner, Isabella." *Prejudice in the Modern World Reference Library*, vol. 4: Primary Sources, UXL, 2007, pp. 141-154. *World History in Context*, <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX2831400095/WHIC?u=butleru&xid=d476d951>. Accessed 22 Oct. 2017.

### **Images**



Caption: A common sign around Auschwitz warning those who were trapped of the danger associated with an attempt to escape

Citation: Double Electrified Fence by Jorge Láscar CC BY



Caption: A collection of the suitcases brought by families who were unaware of the true purpose of Auschwitz

Citation: Suitcases of Auschwitz detainees by Oleg Yunakov CC BY SA

## Kriegel Twins

### Text from website:

#### Photo one:

These young and innocent children were some of the twins that Josef Mengele had tested in his medical experiments. They were lucky enough to have survived them, as hundreds of twins were killed during the studies. This picture depicts the liberation by Soviet soldiers in Auschwitz in January 1945.

#### Photo two:

Vera described what it was like being ripped away from her village and thrown onto a train that was so tightly packed, that "the dead were standing" (Kriegel). This picture displays the dead bodies that were packed into the trains, along with the living that were being sent to camp.

### Text from Storymap:

**Mengele's Origin:** Mengele was an assistant to a famous researcher who studied twins at the institute for Heredity Biology in Frankfurt. Before beginning his work at Auschwitz he was stationed here, in Frankfurt.

**Mengele's Travel to Auschwitz:** He left Frankfurt and began his work and experiments when arriving at Auschwitz in May of 1943. He believed he had his best chance to thrive at this concentration camp due to the "unlimited supply of twins to study". Due to it being such a horrific and terrifying place at the time, Mengele was not worrying of the thought of getting in trouble for his experiments; as there were far worse things happening there at the time.

**Origin of Vera and Olga Kriegel:** As their whereabouts were somewhat unknown when they were taken, Vera and Olga moved around the Czech Republic with their mother as young children. They are Jewish twins who are originally from Czechoslovakia.

**Path to Auschwitz for Vera and Olga Kriegel:** Displays the transport that took place when Mengele ripped them from their friends and family to experiment on them at Auschwitz.

**Auschwitz, the concentration camp:** A famous, but Nazi, "scientist" who was stationed at Auschwitz known as Dr. Josef Mengele took Vera and Olga from their village. They were "transported in cattle cars which were so tightly packed that the dead were still standing", Vera said in an interview with BBC news. The weak were sent straight to the gas chambers and, those who were physically fit, were sent off to work. Though, Mengele and his assistants were there for a particular reasons and it was to experiment on sets of twins.

Mengele's experimented in a multitude of ways.

- His first experiment was keeping twins in small, wooden cages and injecting his subjects with mysterious fluids in their backs. She believes it was an attempt to change her eye color (Kriegel). Vera remembers walking into his lab saying, "She was looking at a whole wall of human eyes. A wall of blue eyes, brown eyes, green eyes. These eyes they were staring at her like a collection of butterflies and she fell down on the floor" (Kriegel).
- Second Experiment: pair of Vera and Olga and more than 100 other twins were given injections of bacteria that causes Norm disease – an infection of genitals or the mouth. Some twins died to these injections.

The long travel to safety: The camp was finally liberated by the Soviet soldiers! At last, Vera, Olga, and their mother emigrated to safety. After years and years of Vera and Olga going through horrific experiments they are finally able to live in peace. It was a long travel, around 1,500 miles, but it was totally worth it.

**Safe at last:** Vera, Olga, and their mother attempted to escape one time before but there were quickly captured by the Nazi soldiers and returned back to the camps. They were violently beaten and thrown back into the barracks (Vera Kriegel, BBC News). Once, the Soviets started to move into the region, Nazi soldiers began to flee from the camp. On January 26th, Vera remembered, "the guards were in a big panic... they poured petrol over the barracks and tried to destroy all the evidence" (Vera Kriegel). Finally, the camp was liberated by Soviet soldiers with many Jews and twins, such as Vera and Olga, still alive. Years of going through harsh

experiments and treatment were finally over for Vera and Olga, then they were able to safely emigrate to Israel with their mother. Seventy years later, Vera still lives in Israel, while her mother passed of old age. Vera specifically remembers the true horrors of the experiments and life at the camp, and she still has nightmares up to this day (Vera Kriegel interview). No matter what, Vera and many other Holocaust survivors, will never forget what they went through; the images, pains, and loss. (Vera Kriegel).



#### **IMAGES (Storymap):**

This image shows the type of transportation, the Nazi train, that Vera and Olga were taken in while going to Auschwitz.



This image was taken while Vera was giving an interview for BBC.

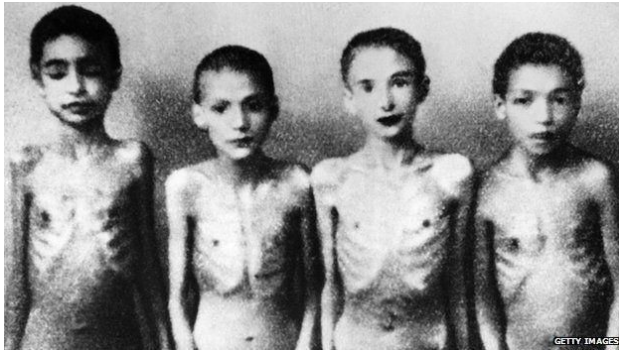


This depicts all of the Jews that, unfortunately, were thrown into close-quarter train cars.



This image was taken when the camp was finally liberated by the Soviet soldiers





This image was taken of the twin subjects by Mengele and his men.

### IMAGES (Weebly):

Photo taken by James E. Myers - U.S Army Signal Corps



This picture depicts all of the dead bodies that were thrown out of the train cars beforehand.



This is a photo taken of the infamous Dr. Josef Mengele.



Photo taken by Alexander Voronzow and others in his group, ordered by Mikhael Oschurkow, head of the photography unit that reported to Dr. Josef Mengele.

**Sources:**

Photo of Josef Mengele: Author unknown, WP Josef Mengele 1956.jpg, [Public Domain] via Wikimedia Commons

Photo of train: Ben Brooksbank [CC BY-SA 2.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons

Photo of Jews being loaded on train: Author unknown, Deportation to Treblinka from ghetto, [Public Domain]

Photo of the dead outside of train: By an unknown journalist (Cartea Neagră) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Photo of kids being liberated: Author unknown, Prisoners Liberation Dachau, [Public Domain]

Photo of the twins who were visibly dealing with malnutrition: By Alexander Voronzow and others in his group, ordered by Mikhael Oschurkow, head of the photography unit [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Unkown. "Josef Mengele." *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, [www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007060](http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007060)

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## **EVA AND MIRIAM MOZES**

At just 10 years old, Jewish-Romanian twins Eva and Miriam were stripped of their freedoms by the Nazi's and forced into an internment camp. While at Auschwitz, they were put through torturous medical experiments by Dr. Mengele. Their journey to find freedom and happiness was complicated and vast.

Today, as the only surviving twin of the Mozes family, Eva preaches the power of forgiveness. She forgives all those who inflicted pain and horrific treatment of her and her family. She does this so that she can live her life without anger or pain. She states in her documentary, "I know it's some kind of a fantasy that I could, with my little idea of forgiveness, somehow help heal the world." She continues, "if I help heal one single person, I'm already happy."



Miriam & Eva Mozes  
1949

By Camila Meneses Castro, Miriam and Eva Mozes, CC BY-SA via Wikimedia Commons



Author unknown [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons



By Oregon State University (Eva Mozes Kor) [CC BY-SA 2.0  
(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons

Story Map:

Slide 1: EVA KOR'S CHILDHOOD

**Born in a small village named Kortz, in Transylvania, Romania, Eva Mozes (married name: Kor) was one of four daughters to her farmer father and stay-at-home mother. The**

**Mozes' where the only Jews living in the peaceful town of only about one hundred families in the 1930's, according to Kor.**

**Slide 2: THE GHETTO**

**Located in an old brick factory, the family was forced to make a tent out of a blanket in the muddy outside area of the building since the inside was already at full capacity. Eva describes the leader of the camp, known as "Krasznai", as "sadistic", forcing them to tear down their tents often and frequently beating and burning their father.**

**Slide 3:AUSCHWITZ STAGE 1**

**Eva tells the story of her arrival in Birkenau: "people were crying out and searching for one another in the confusion. Nazis were screaming at us in German. Vicious dogs were barking. I remember hearing gunshots. If I knew one thing, it was that I'd never seen anything like this place in my entire life. I will never forget the smell in the air".**

**Slide 4: AUSCHWITZ STAGE 2: A MENGELE TWIN**

**Kor noticed early on the doctors desperation to keep the twins alive for Dr. Mengele's experiments, and witnessed his rage when a twin would pass on due to living conditions. She described him as "cold and cynical". The doctor was the only person keeping Eva and Miriam alive, she soon realized, and for that her relationship with the evil doctor remained complex.**

**Slide 5: LIBERATION FROM AUSCHWITZ**

**Eva and her twin were imprisoned by the Nazi's and Dr. Mengele for nine months. On January 27th, 1945, Eva says she and her fellow prisoners were given freedom by the the Russian Army. Met with candy and hugs from the soviet soldiers, Eva and her sister were finally free. After their release, Eva and Meriam gathered their few belongings and left in search of a new home.**

**Slide 6:FIRST TASTE OF FREEDOM**

**After their release, Eva recalls being placed in an orphanage in Katowice, Poland where they experienced luxurious accommodations compared to the camp. They soon found a friend from what seemed to be a past life to what they were then living. She took custody of the girls and brought them to three refugee camps until the twins were placed on a train back to their home in Portz, Transylvania.**

#### Slide 7:LIFE IN ISRAEL

**Life in Israel for Eva and Meriam proved to be the first comfortable step in their new lives. At just 16 years old, they had experienced so much but were able to stick together and even attend agricultural school.**

**In her most in depth interview, Eva recalls, "Miriam and I joined the Israeli Army in 1952; military service is a mandatory part of citizenship in Israel. Miriam studied and became a lieutenant and a registered nurse, and I reached the rank of sergeant major as a draftsman."**

**Eva and Miriam lived successful and happy lives in Israel, and in 1960 Eva met an American tourist with a story very similar to hers; he would soon become her husband.**

#### Slide 8:EVA'S FINAL MOVE

**Eva's final step in achieving her freedom was moving with her new husband, Michael Kor, to Terra Haute, Indiana. It was here in America where Eva found happiness and freedom. She raised a family with her husband, and over time began to reflect on her experiences during the holocaust.**

**After so much tragedy and pain, Eva eventually realized that to truly heal she needed to forgive. As one of the first holocaust survivors to do so, Eva officially forgave Dr. Mengele and all of the soldiers that stripped away her freedoms and tortured her for months. She continues to live happily, today in 2017, still preaching forgiveness to everyone she meets, in Terra Haute, Indiana.**

**Documentary: <https://www.thestoryofeva.com/about-eva/>**