

Liberation of Concentration Camps

Directions: Fill in the blanks

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Buchenwald	labor	concentration	American	
maltreatment		prisoners		underground
prevent	liberated	Nazi	Europe	

As Allied and Soviet troops moved across Europe against Nazi Germany in 1944 and 1945, they encountered _____ camps, mass graves, and other sites of Nazi crimes. The unspeakable conditions the liberators confronted shed light on the full scope of Nazi horrors. 2020 marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of _____ from Nazi concentration camps and the end of Nazi tyranny in_____.

US forces _____ the Buchenwald concentration camp near Weimar, Germany, on April 11, 1945. Earlier that day before the arrival of US troops, an _____ prisoner resistance organization seized control of Buchenwald to _____ atrocities by the retreating camp guards. When _____ forces arrived, they encountered more than 20,000 prisoners at _____. That April, US troops also liberated Dachau, Dora-Mittelbau, and Flossenbürg. They liberated Mauthausen in early May.

Liberators confronted unspeakable conditions in the _____ camps, where piles of corpses lay unburied. Only after the liberation of these camps was the full scope of Nazi horrors exposed to the world. The small percentage of inmates who survived resembled skeletons because of the demands of forced _____ and the lack of food, compounded by months and years of _____. Many were so weak that they could hardly move. Disease remained an ever-present danger, and many of the camps had to be burned down to prevent the spread of epidemics. Survivors of the camps faced a long and difficult road to recovery.

