

Chronology

- May 1939** The Ravensbrück concentration camp, which will become the largest women's camp in the German Reich, is opened.
- 1 September 1939** German troops invade Poland; beginning of the Second World War.
- From 1941** Special transports out of the so-called General Government, an area subjected to a separate, legally enshrined civil administration by the Nazi regime.
- December 1940** Dr Herta Oberheuser becomes a doctor at Ravensbrück concentration camp.
- From November 1941 to at least September 1943** At least 184, mostly young, Polish women, who had presumably been sentenced to death by special courts and deported from the General Government so that their labour could be exploited in the Ravensbrück camp, are summarily shot by the SS.
- March/April 1942** About 1,600 "selected" Ravensbrück inmates are gassed as part of the euthanasia killings (action 14f13) in the Bernburg Sanatorium and Mental Hospital, including 700 to 800 Jews.
- July 1942 to August 1943** Medical experiments on 74 Polish prisoners and 10 women of other nationalities. 17 of them die immediately after the operations; six of them are shot a short time later with as yet unhealed wounds.
- 1942 to September 1943** Polish women and girls imprisoned at the Ravensbrück concentration camp carry on an illegal correspondence with Polish prisoners of war and smuggle information on these crimes out of the camp.
- Autumn 1943** The last consignment of smuggled documents is buried in woodland near the Fünfeichen prisoner of war camp.
- 9 December 1946** The Nuremberg Doctors' Trial begins.
- 20 August 1947** The verdict is pronounced.
- 31 January 1951** Herta Oberheuser's successful appeal: her prison sentence is commuted to 10 years; on 5 April 1952 she is released early on ground of "exemplary behaviour".
- 1975** The glass jar of smuggled documents is dug up.