

The Mauthausen Survivors Documentation Project - An overview

In 2002, the Austrian Ministry of the Interior, responsible for the Mauthausen Memorial site, commissioned an international project for the worldwide recording of interviews with survivors of the Mauthausen Concentration Camp and its satellite camps.

The Mauthausen Survivors Documentation Project intends to preserve the testimonies and memories of victims of Nazi persecution, as a reminder for future generations and as historic evidence. Furthermore, the recorded interviews and collected artifacts will become the core of a new educational and archival center at the Mauthausen Memorial. (www.mauthausen-memorial.at)

The project was coordinated and supervised by the "Documentation Archive of the Austrian Resistance," Vienna, and the "Institute of Conflict Research," Vienna. Professor Gerhard Botz, University of Vienna., is the scientific Director.

In 2003, the Mauthausen Survivors Documentation Project, conducted life history interviews with about 1000 survivors of the Mauthausen Concentration Camp. The diversity of the Mauthausen prisoner population, their nationalities, ages, categories, periods of imprisonment, and gender are reflected in the interviews conducted with survivors now living in Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the USA, and Ex-Yugoslavia.

The video and audio recordings of the interviews are collected in an electronic data base and will be kept in their entirety in the Mauthausen Archive of the Austrian Ministry of the Interior. The life story interviews with survivors have also become an integral part of the permanent exhibit at the Mauthausen Memorial Center.

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Near the “steps of death” at the former Mauthausen concentration camp:
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www.oralhistory-productions.org