

Basic Detail Report



Untitled, from the portfolio, Holocaust Archives, International Tracing Service, Bad Arolsen, Germany

Date
2007

Primary Maker
Richard Ehrlich

Medium
Epson inkjet print on Epson UltraSmooth paper

Description

Buchenwald Death Book This open Totenbuch, or death book, is among the ledgers used to record inmate deaths at the Buchenwald concentration camp. Depending on the size of the book, 20 to 30 deaths were entered per page. The Nazis meticulously recorded each death with the first and last name of the victim, place of residence, and the time and cause of death. The most frequent causes of death, as documented in the death books, were cardiac and circulatory failure, general physical decline, intestinal inflammation, and tuberculosis. These causes of death indicate that prisoners were abused and overworked until they died from diseases that would not have been fatal with proper care. Buchenwald, however, was not a death camp. Prisoners included members of the French Resistance and other political offenders, homosexuals, VIPs, and resisters from the German military. They were kept alive as long as they were productive.

Dimensions

Sheet: 16 × 20 inches (40.6 × 50.8 cm)