

Josef Mengele

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Mengele as a Kid

- Joseph Mengele born in Gunzburg, Bavaria to Karl and Walburga Mengele on March 16, 1911. He had three siblings and he was the oldest. His father owned a plant which manufactured farm equipment.
- His mother was the problem. She would actually go to the plant and criticize the workers. As for her family, she forced them to be devout catholic and ruled with a strict and harsh hand.



Mengele's Schooling

- Despite his mother's obtrusive and harsh personality, Mengele was remembered as a pleasant kid in school.
- His father wanted him to go and work in the plant, but instead Mengele went to college at the University of Munich. He was interested in Philosophy and medicine.
- While in Munich, the place of the college, Mengele joined the "Stahlhelm or Steel helmets," an organization that had the same ideas as the Nazi Socialists.



The Stahlhelm

- The Stahlhelm is translated into the steel helmets. As they had the same views as the National socialists, the Stahlhelms were merged with the Nazi's in 1934. They did this because they were a smaller organization.
- Mengele joined the Stahlhelm in 1931, and when they were merged, he officially joined the Nazi Party. He was officially a member of the SA.
- Later, after he joined the SA, Mengele got a kidney ailment, and he had to retire from the SA. He then continued with his life and his work with human genetics.

Life After School and the SA

- Shortly after leaving the SA, Joseph Mengele received a PhD, and gained a position as a research assistant to Professor Otmar Freiherr Von Vershuer. He was working at the Third Reich Institute for Heredity at the University of Frankfurt.
- Mengele deeply admired Von Vershuer, so much that he did as much as he could to please him. He was a father figure to Mengele.
- During this time period he also married Irene Mengele, and they had a son. Then, in 1940, WWII started, and Mengele went to fight in the war. He got injured during the war and had to leave the fight permanently, after he joined the medical corps of Waffen SS's viking division in 1942.
- In 1943, Mengele was called to go to Auschwitz, as a researcher of human genetics

The Angel of Death



- This was the nickname of Josef Mengele. He was called that because of the work that he did at the Auschwitz concentration camp as a physician.
- He was not the head physician at the death camp. That title belonged to Dr. Eduard Wirths. Mengele was actually the head physician for the Gypsy section.
- Another reason that he was called the Angel of Death was because he would be waiting for the loads of people to come into Auschwitz, then he would be the judge of whether the people would be sent to be killed immediately or would be harbored in the camp.



The more we do to you, the less you seem to believe
we are doing it.

(Josef Mengele)

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Expiraments

Josef Mengele did a lot of expiraments, but he was mainly fascinated with twins. No matter what the expirament, it made the person suffer and would definately be considered torture. Many died because of these expiraments.

- Children would have thier eyes injected with chemicals in order to try to change their eye color
- Mengele would inject people with poison, to see what it would do to their body's.
- Put people into freezing water for extended amounts of time or outside in freezing temperatures with no clothes. Afterwards, they would try to warm their body's in different ways, in atempt to see what would work.
- He would infect people with Malaria, then try to find a vaccine.

Expiraments: Part Two



Some other expiraments that Mengele tried.

- Mengele would deliberately give a person a wound and then infect it with mustard gas, to find out the effects of mustard gas.
- People would be placed into low pressure chambers, then the conditions would be changed, so that Mengele could see how much the human endurance could take.
- Possibly the worst one of all, Mengele once tried to sew two siemese twins together from the side. The twins died of infection after the expirament.



Witnesses

“ After the first 150 injections I stopped counting...”

- Marc Berkowitz



“They gave me injections in the arm and the back, and x-rays. I’d be extremely sick for awile”

- Irene Hizme

“Mengele made several operation on Tibi. One surgery on his spine left him paralyzed. He could not walk anymore.”

- Moshe Offer

“Mengele ran a butcher shop - major surgery’s were performed without anesthesia”

- Alex Dekel

Josef Mengele and Twins

- Mengele had a wierd and creepy facination with twins, also most of his expiraments had to do with twins. Although, when he would first meet the twins he would act nice. Most of the younger twins who encountered Mengele thought of him as a father figure who gave them candy.
- He would often draw blood from the twins at first. It is reported that sometimes he would bleed the twins to death.
- There were 1500 sets of twins that Mengele expiramented on in the short time of two years, out of those 3000 human beings, only 200 survived.

What Became of Josef Mengele

- Before Mengele left the camp, he made sure to ship all of his records to Von Vershuer. He sent two full truck loads of notes, but one truck load was destroyed in a natural accident. We still do not know the full extent of his work.
- Joseph Mengele escaped Auschwitz dressed as a regular soldier, and went to the Gross- Rosen work camp. After that he left Gross a long time before it was liberated. He was then seen at Matthaussen, and captured as a prisoner of war.
- He was then released by the allies, who had no idea who he was at the time. By 1948, Mengele decided he needed to leave Germany. Almost no one knew where he was for a very long time.

The Mystery of Josef Mengele

- Josef Mengele escaped using the escape document give to people in the refugee camps by the red cross. He escaped to South America, as many Nazi criminals did.
- He divorced his former wife in 1948 and married his dead brothers wife. Mengele then proceeded to live out a normal life. He had a nine to five job and financial security. He was posed as a fairly normal man.
- Mengele did have to bounce around from country to country, because of all of the warrents out for his arrest. He was not found alive.
- Josef Mengele died in 1979, while swimming he had a heart attack. It wouldn't be until the mid 1980's that the world would find out that Mengele died.

Source Page

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