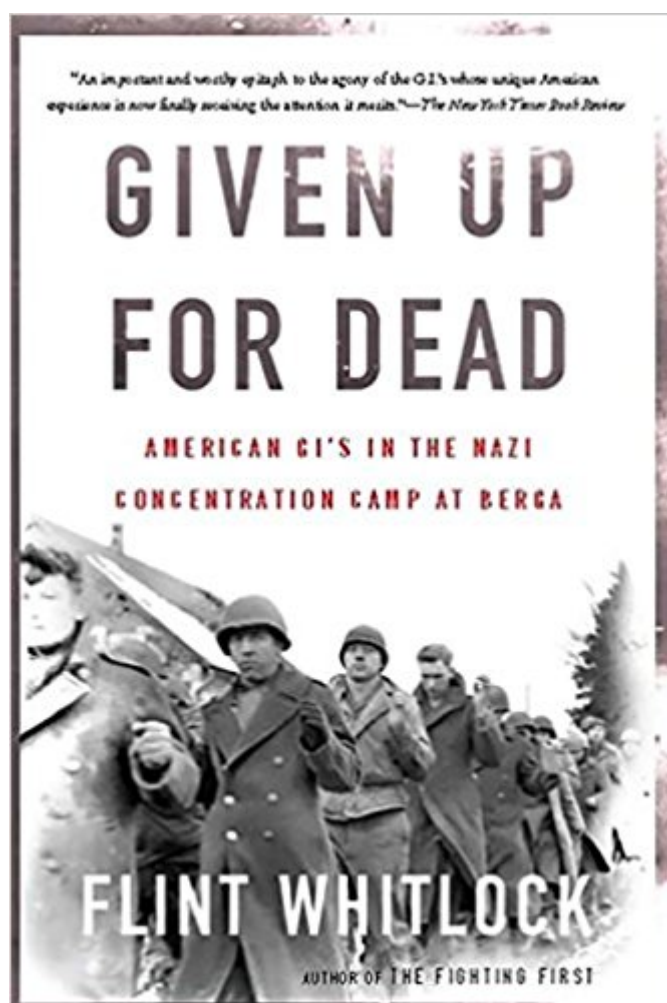


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# Given Up For Dead: American GIs In The Nazi Concentration Camp At Berga



## Synopsis

During World War II, prisoners of war were required by the Geneva Conventions to be treated according to established rules. But in late 1944, when a large number of Americans were captured or surrendered during the Battle of the Bulge and elsewhere, their captors had different plans. Those who were Jewish or from some other "undesirable" ethnic or religious group were separated from their fellow captives and sent to the brutal slave-labor camp at Berga. Until now, the story of what these men endured has been a well-guarded secret.

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## Customer Reviews

In December 1944, many American soldiers were captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Most prisoners were treated according to the rules established by the Geneva Convention, but 350 POWs who were Jewish or from other "undesirable" ethnic or religious groups (including Catholics) were sent to the slave-labor camp Berga, outside Bad Orb, Germany. They worked in the mines and surrounding forest; the camp was crawling with lice, there was very little food, they were beaten, and they suffered from mental cruelty. On April 3, 1945, the survivors were marched south toward Bavaria, and on April 22, American soldiers liberated them. Some of them had died "on the route to nowhere." After the war, the U.S. Army told some of them not to disclose any details of their captivity. Whitlock interviewed survivors, and his book, with 95 black-and-white photographs and 11 maps, chronicles their story for the first time. George CohenCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Pulitzer Prize-nominated author Flint Whitlock is a former U.S. Army officer who served on active duty from 1965 to 1970, including a tour in Vietnam. He has been a military historian since 1986 and is the author of *Soldiers on Skis*, *The Rock of Anzio*, and *The Fighting First*. He is a regular contributor to *World War II* magazine and *WW II History* magazine. He is the president of the newly formed Colorado Military History Museum, Inc. He lives in Denver, Colorado.

I was at Berga as a prisoner.. Most of his interviews were medics who didn't work nine hours a day in the mines. Berga was not listed as an American POW camp with the Red Cross. I personally was awarded \$83,000 From the German Government as a holocaust victim. Flint did a very good job. My buddy and I were on a grave digging detail burying our best friend and purposely made a wrong turn in a woods , when we were supposed to catch up with the rest of the group. We stayed with a German family for about 4 days. Untill the Americans arrived. We were in a village near Marktedwitz. On Map Quest we had walked 114 miles in 2 weeks. I was never weighed upon liberation but was hospitalized for 2 1/2 months.

This story left me in tears and with a heartfelt thank you to "America's Greatest Generation." For you see, not only do I love my country and support our military men and women, but I am a child of an American POW during World War II. I was born during the time my father was a POW in Oflag 64 in Poland. Growing up my father rarely mentioned his captivity in Oflag 64, but we all knew he had been a POW. My father came home and stayed in the Army and led a full and rich life until his death in 2013. "Given Up For Dead" author certainly had the worst of the worst; he and his fellow POWs are true American heroes and his story gave me an insight as to just what POWs endured to keep our Country free. I highly recommend this book .... it is a reminder that freedom is not free and a heavy and dear price is paid for the freedoms so many of us just take for granted. To all military men and women - past, present and future - our Country is great and free because of the brave. This story shadows so many things I know about my father's experiences ... even to the part of being marched out of Oflag 64 in advance of the arrival of Allied forces. Read this book and you will have an unwavering "thank you" and awe of our heroes.

A detailed book that is one of a very few that sheds light on the imprisonment and torture of American POWs at the hands of their Nazi captors.

A significant piece of history which is relatively unknown. Anyone interested in WWII should put this

book on their reading list. Unbelievable experiences our GI's went through which proves war is hell but prisoners of war go through more hell in this case. A real testament to our soldiers who went through so much horror during that period, and still do.

Excellent reading. A part of WWII we had almost forgotten. the pictures are haunting. Whitlock's writing pulls you right into the action. Deb Winkenwerder

This was an excellent book on an unknown Subject of WW2.

Excellent book--well written and an amazing story.

Good account of events. My dad survived this camp.

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