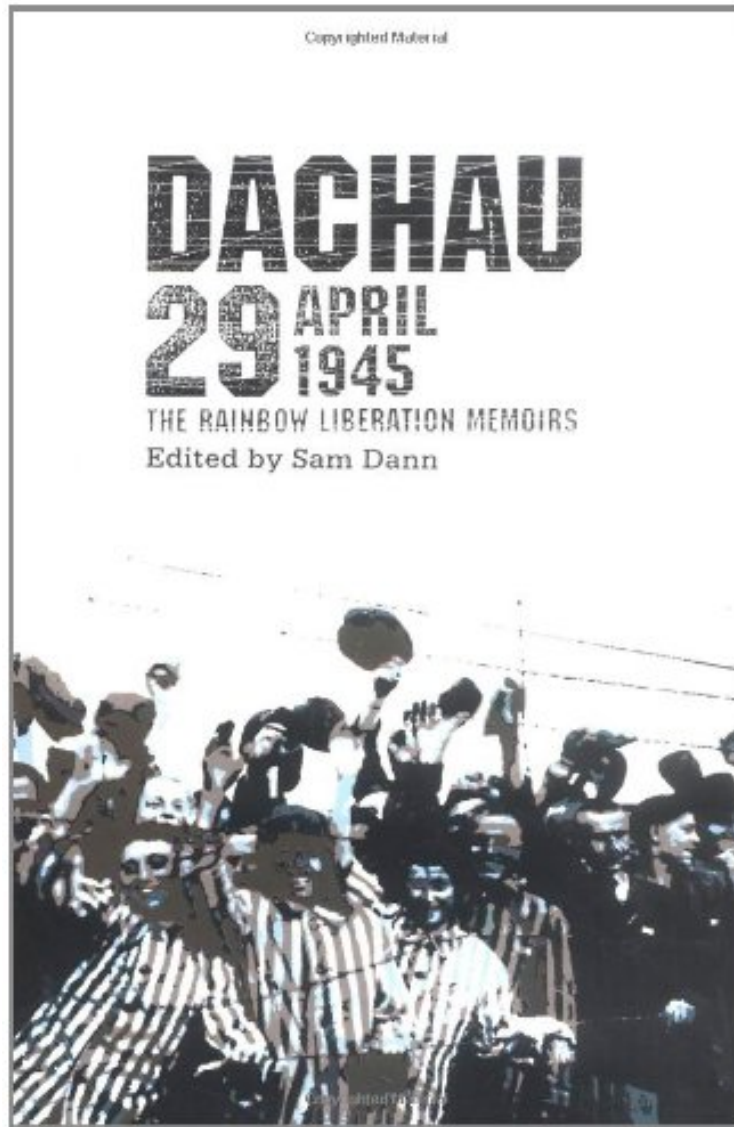


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Dachau 29 April 1945: The Rainbow Liberation Memoirs

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From Texas Tech University Press : Dachau 29 April 1945: The Rainbow Liberation Memoirs before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dachau 29 April 1945: The Rainbow Liberation Memoirs:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Rainbow Liberation; Dachau 29 April 1945 By Customer Disturbing yet excellent! 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. less a narrative than documentation of witnesses By Melanie White I think this book wasn't meant to tell the story of Dachau or its liberation

so much as to serve as a repository of first-person testimony from people who were there on that day. Most of the soldiers were teenage farm boys, hardened by combat but utterly unprepared for the horrorshow they encountered outside Munich. When they got home, they tried to block out the memory, and rarely (if ever) talked about it. But as time goes on, more and more people pass away, both liberators and prisoners, and it became important that those memories were formally recorded, especially in light of the persistent Holocaust deniers. I'm grateful they had the courage to resurrect those painful memories all these years later, for the sake of future generations. The only good thing anybody can take away from a place like Dachau is to learn from it, and we can't learn if it we don't know. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Worth the read By mcgundich Although many had such similar memories, naturally, there were some observances and occurrences which I've never come across before. For this alone it is worth the read.

On the 29th day of April 1945, the forward battalions of Rainbow Division, 42nd Infantry, were moving swiftly toward Munich. Confident and optimistic, they had survived four months of costly and bitter combat, and soon, it would all be over. But then the road led to Dachau and the worst day of the war. In their collected memoirs, the Rainbow soldiers, almost half of whom were only eighteen, nineteen, or twenty years old, tell how they were confronted suddenly without preparation, without warning by horrors beyond human imagination. This book is by and about the American liberators, who have since discovered that no one who was involved in any capacity can ever be truly free of the past that was Dachau. In the most complete eyewitness account ever available, editor Sam Dann, himself a Rainbow soldier, weaves their stories, official reports, other documents, and the reminiscences of several survivors with whom the Division has maintained contact for more than half a century. I have had the honor of meeting some of the veterans of the Rainbow Division. Like so many of their generation, they simply say, "We had a job to do, and we did it." But in doing it so courageously and so well, they demonstrated that to be human was to be capable of great acts of courage and goodness, even in the face of unspeakable cowardice and evil. U.S. Senator Joseph I. Lieberman

From Booklist Dachau concentration camp, nine miles from Munich, was opened in 1933. It could accommodate 5,000 prisoners--political opponents of the Third Reich. Before liberation in 1945, the camp held more than 200,000 inmates, mostly Jews, and thousands died from starvation, exhaustion, torture, disease, and the crematorium. More than 30,000 survivors were liberated by several hundred men of the U.S. Army's 42d Rainbow Division. Those young soldiers' eyewitness accounts are recorded here. The soldiers tell of giving the survivors their rations, which was a mistake; some died as a result of too much food at one time. One soldier tells of refusing to intervene when a survivor killed his Nazi tormentor. Many soldiers write that they are still haunted by this grotesque spectacle beyond human imagination. These vivid recollections, complemented by 50 black-and-white photographs, give poignant testimony to the horrors of the Holocaust. George Cohen In plain and powerful language, this book paints a moving portrait of historical reality that can help preserve our future. For it sets in immutable, irrefutable type the memories of those whose lives were forever changed on that day so long ago. And it serves as a permanent reminder of what can happen when we close our eyes to evil, and close our hearts to the fate of our fellow human beings on this planet. Joseph I. Lieberman, from the foreword