

Oskar Groening: "Bookkeeper of Auschwitz"

Oskar Groening, a former SS guard who worked at the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz, has been convicted by a German court of being an accessory to the murder of at least 300,000 Jewish people in 1944

■ **1921:** Born in Nienburg, Lower Saxony, Germany

■ **1930s:** Joins *Stahlhelm* youth organisation, then *Hitler Youth* when Nazis come to power in 1933

■ **1941:** Volunteers for *Waffen-SS* – Nazi party's military wing

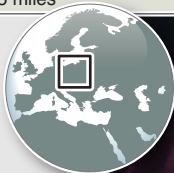
■ **1942-44:** Serves as guard at Auschwitz. Responsible for collecting belongings of trainloads of arriving Jews and sending any money found to Berlin to fund Nazi war effort

■ **1944-45:** Wounded during fighting in Ardennes offensive. Taken prisoner after his unit surrenders to British

Children at Auschwitz, 1945



Charges against Groening relate to period from May-July 1944, when at least 300,000 Hungarian Jews were sent to Auschwitz gas chambers



■ **1948:** Returns to Germany after war, works as wage accountant in glass-making factory

■ **1980s:** Speaks out publicly against Holocaust denial. Admits witnessing mass killings but denies any direct role. Charges brought against him dropped due to lack of evidence

■ **2014:** Arrested during hunt for Nazi camp guards following successful war crimes trial of *John Demjanjuk*. Charged with 300,000 counts of accessory to murder

■ **July 15, 2015:** Found guilty by German court in Lueneburg following three-month trial. Sentenced to four years in prison