

THE ITALIANS AT AUSCHWITZ (1943-1945)

Deportations, "Final Solution", forced labour. A mosaic of victims

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For over a year, between autumn 1943 and the last months of 1944, several thousand Italians were deported from Italy to Auschwitz. More than 7,800 were Jews captured during the German occupation and under the RSI as part of the Final Solution (the Holocaust); for most of them it was a journey of no return. During 1944 about 1,200 non-Jews were also interned in the Auschwitz concentration complex, mainly as political prisoners with the red triangle. Women, at least a thousand (many Slovenian and Croatian), were arrested mainly on the Adriatic coast and left from the stations in Trieste, Gorizia. They were partisans, suspected of supporting the Resistance movement or the victims of forced labour in the Reich, and constituted a large and fairly homogeneous group. The men, on the other hand, came to Auschwitz from other KLs (Dachau, Mauthausen and Majdanek) with specific transfer or evacuation transports.

This book tells their stories, interweaving their deportation routes, prison experiences and memories with some central themes in order to understanding the history of Auschwitz: the extermination, the forced labour, the condition of denied motherhood and interned doctors, the solitude and the cohesion.

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