

(Ebook free) After Daybreak: The Liberation of Bergen-Belsen, 1945

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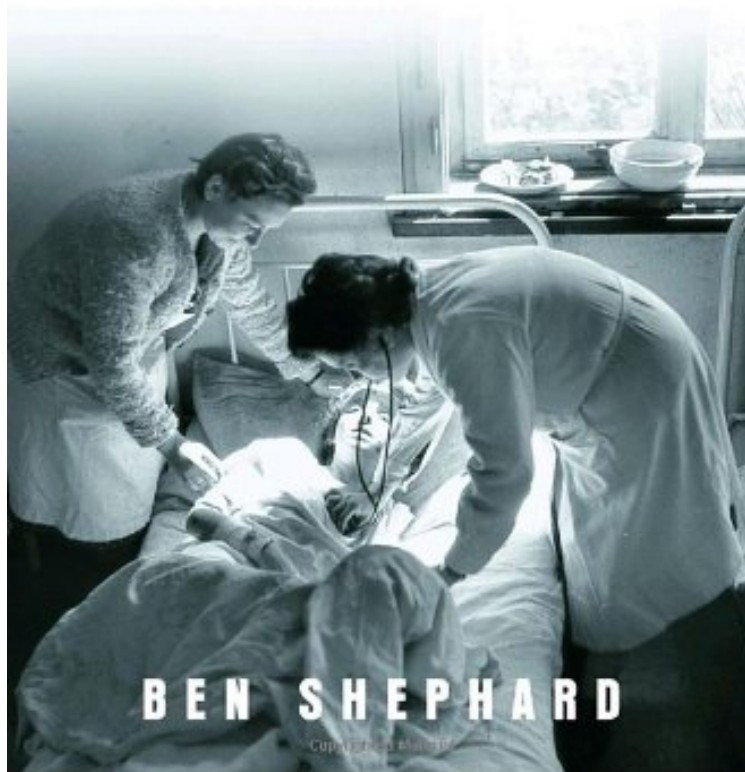
*Ben Shephard*

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# AFTER DAYBREAK

THE LIBERATION OF BERGEN-BELSEN, 1945



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#1516926 in Books Schocken 2005-11-15 2005-11-15Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.53 x 1.09 x 5.82l, 1.07 #File Name: 0805242325288 pages | File size: 46.Mb

**Ben Shephard : After Daybreak: The Liberation of Bergen-Belsen, 1945** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised After Daybreak: The Liberation of Bergen-Belsen, 1945:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. accurate.By Nelson ByrneA good picture of good people thrown into relieving Hell. The British could in theory done better, this book explains, but did well in spite of being unprepared for such evil. Well-written.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. After DaybreakBy KateBen Shephard has created a very even handed account of the unbelievable difficulties the military faced after coming upon Bergen-Belson, the near logistical capacity to get that many bodies buried, that many survivors treated and reaccomidated to

clean and sanitary conditions and with no drugs to treat typhus, to rid a camp of the lice and fleas that spread typhus and to figure out a diet for the starving victims that did not kill more than it assisted...is not even something one could imagine the commanders to have at their disposal in the middle of battle conditions. People have meted out much post event criticism, the Allies should have known the conditions they would discover, should have had a reserve of medical specialists, should have prioritized supply lines. Critics always have a wonderful advantage of looking back from a distance imagining other scenarios. I find it amazing that as much was done given the Battalion that liberated this camp were in the middle of battles, that the Allies had groups of soldiers that they couldn't supply even though these soldiers certainly had priority over all civilians, because until an enemy surrenders the resupply of the military on the ground has the highest priority. It is a moving account, willing to address all of the errors, the small victories as the men and women who worked tirelessly to offer the best care they knew how to provided slowly addressed the overwhelming task before them. Half the camp had typhus and we had no drugs for typhus at the time. This is very moving, as it underlines mans unbelievable will to survive the most unimaginable conditions, and mans ability to tend to those who have suffered in spite of setbacks and loss. I think this is a very important text. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Great service, great book

I find it hard even now to get into focus all these horrors, my mind is really quite incapable of taking in everything I saw because it was all so completely foreign to everything I had previously believed or thought possible. British Major Ben Barnetts words echoed the sentiments shared by medical students, Allied soldiers, members of the clergy, ambulance drivers, and relief workers who found themselves utterly unprepared to comprehend, much less tend to, the indescribable trauma of those who survived at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. The liberation of Bergen-Belsen by the British in April 1945 was a defining point in history: the moment the world finally became inescapably aware of the Holocaust. But what happened after Belsen was liberated is still a matter of dispute. Was it an epic of medical heroism or the culmination of thirteen years of indifference to the fate of Europes Jews? This startling investigation by acclaimed documentary filmmaker and historian Ben Shephard draws on an extraordinary range of materials contemporary diaries, military documents, and survivors testimony to reconstruct six weeks at Belsen beginning on April 15, 1945, and reveals what actually caused the post-liberation deaths of nearly 14,000 concentration camp inmates who might otherwise have lived. Why did it take almost two weeks to organize a proper medical response? Why were the medical teams sent to Belsen so poorly equipped? Why, when specialists did arrive, did they get so much of the medicine plain wrong? For the first time, Shephard explores the humanitarian and medical issues surrounding the liberation of the camp and provides a detailed, illuminating account that is far more complex than had been previously revealed. This gripping book confronts the terrifying aftermath of war with questions that still haunt us today.

From Publishers Weekly Why did 14,000 inmates of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp die after its liberation and under British control? Shephard, creator of the Emmy-winning documentary series *The World at War*, casts a critical but judicious eye on British management of the camp. Drawing on letters and diaries by British military and medical personnel, he paints a textured picture of the camp's desperate state, rife with starvation and typhus. Shephard acknowledges the enormity of the problems the British faced and the logistical difficulties of wartime. Yet he makes clear that many deaths could have been prevented. Some died from food that was too rich and heavy for starving people, and the evacuation of both the sick and fit was delayed. At the same time, he commends some people, often outside the military structure, who saved lives through individual initiative and heroic measures. Shephard draws lessons for today in, for instance, the difficulty the military has in dealing with a humanitarian disaster, and the basic reality that there's only so much that can be done when confronting a den of disease. Bw photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist \*Starred\* On April 15, 1945, the first British tanks entered Bergen-Belsen. Inside the concentration camp were piles of dead bodies and 60,000 people--more than half of them Jewish survivors of the Nazi Final Solution. They were still clinging to life and crying out to be saved. Shephard, a documentary filmmaker and historian, notes that it fell to the British to help them. This book is about how they responded to that challenge. He observes that the role played by 96 volunteers from London medical schools who were sent to the camp was lauded, but when historians looked at this event again in the 1990s, they noticed several disturbing elements. Why did it take so long (almost two weeks) to organize a proper medical response? Why were the medical teams sent to the camp so poorly equipped, with only aspirin and opium, and no surgical instruments and anesthetics? Above all, was it inevitable that nearly 14,000 people should die thereafter it was liberated? The answers, Shephard writes, can be found in contemporary military records, diaries, and the testimony of survivors. He concludes that it is a moving story of brotherhood, a sad tale of human frailty, and an illuminating case study. Sixty years later, the author offers readers a precise sense of what went on in the camp day by day. He believes that Bergen-Belsen should be remembered not simply for the evil perpetrated there but for the humane and life-affirming work that was done. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Ben Shephard was born in England in 1948 and grew up in South Africa. After studying history at Oxford, he

spent two decades making documentaries, including the Emmy Award-winning series *The World at War*. His first book, *A War of Nerves: Soldiers and Psychiatrists in the Twentieth Century*, was published in 2001. He lives in London.