

Both of these letters were sent by Dr. Mengele to his wife Irene while he was stationed in the Auschwitz concentration camp. The letters offer rare insight into the life and mind of the man who has been nicknamed the “Angel of Death” and the “God of Auschwitz” for his seeming mastery over who lived and who died in the camp.

These letters offer a jarring juxtaposition to what we know of Mengele and the horrific medical experiments he performed on camp prisoners, including the twin sisters Miriam Mozes Zeiger and Eva Mozes Kor, the founder of CANDLES.

“Every morning after roll call, Mengele came to our barracks for inspection. Smiling, he called us meine kinde, my children. Some of the twins liked him and called him Uncle Mengele. Not I. I was terrified of him. Even in those days I knew he did not care for us like a real doctor.”

- Eva Mozes Kor, A-7063, “Surviving the Angel of Death”

Dr. Mengele was very secretive about his twin studies and therefore very few records of his work remain. However, for the days that Mengele wrote these letters there do exist scant records of other events at Auschwitz.

April 26, 1944

A 12-year old boy, a woman, and seven girls, all Gypsies with German citizenship, are given Nos. Z-9833 and Z-10573--Z-10580

600 prisoners are transferred from Auschwitz to Buchenwald. In the transport are 60 prisoners from the Penal Company. The transport consists of 599 Poles and a Russian. It reaches Buchenwald the next day.

Two Polish prisoners, Janusz Tusiński (No. 120257) and Kazimierz Owczarek (No. 125601), escape from a labor squad for road construction and barrack expansion in Auschwitz II.

- Source: Danuta Czech, “Auschwitz Chronicle 1939-1945: From the Archives of the Auschwitz Memorial and the German Federal Archives”

December 14, 1944

Four female prisoners are sent to Auschwitz.

11 female prisoners are released from Auschwitz-Birkenau. Six female prisoners die of exhaustion.

1,923 female prisoners work in the agricultural and stock-raising operations, in which auxiliary camps for women are set up.

- Source: Danuta Czech, “Auschwitz Chronicle 1939-1945: From the Archives of the Auschwitz Memorial and the German Federal Archives”