

# A Day at Dachau

**IT SEEMED AN outrageous suggestion when it was first made. With all this pressure to “don’t mention the war” what could England fans be thinking of by visiting Dachau during the World Cup?**

**Our intentions were clear. Two world wars have nothing to do with our one World Cup. This mix-up in the name of national pride both belittles the heroism of those who fought to defeat fascism and obscures the horror and politics of the Holocaust. In part it is a product of two decades’ worth of turning the Second World War into a situation comedy.**

**Our intent was to mark the Holocaust by visiting Dachau jointly with German and Polish fan groups. We wanted to express our shared opposition to this horrific**

**period of human history, and our vigilance against a politics that begins with hate your neighbour and ends in the gas chamber. The fact that the President of Iran continues to claim that Dachau, and places like it, never existed made our visit even more relevant.**

**The response was magnificent. England fans were joined by Munich 1860, Bayern Munich, Dortmund, Hamburg and Frankfurt fan groups, together with the “Never Again” anti-racist football group from Poland and Maccabi GB, the Jewish sports organisation. All the groups laid wreaths, the huge floral St George Cross accompanied by the words of Edith Cavell, the English nurse executed by the Germans during the First World War, “Patriotism is not enough, I must have no hatred for others”. ◀**



English, German and Polish fans paid tribute to those who died in the Holocaust