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The Battle for Castle Itter was one of the final battles of World War 2, taking place on the 5th of May, 1945, only five days after Hitler's suicide and two days before the official surrender of Nazi Germany. Castle Itter (Schloss Itter) was a small 19th-century Austrian Castle located in Itter, a village in the state of Tyrol; which later became a prison for French VIPs in the second world war.

Probably the most interesting part of the battle would easily be the participants that fought in it; namely the fact that it is one of, if not the only, battle where both American and German soldiers fought alongside each other. The allied side of the battle consisted of a grand total of somewhere around 45 people, about nine or so being former French prisoners, sixteen United States infantry under the command of Captain John C. Lee, Jr and Lieutenant Harry Basse, eleven Wehrmacht Heer soldiers under the command of Major Josef Gangl and a Waffen SS Hauptsturmführer, Kurt-Siegfried Schrader, as well as one M4 Sherman. Opposing them is an estimate of about 150 to 200 Waffen SS under the command of Hauptsturmführer Sebastian Wimmer as well as two 2 cm Flak 30, and a single Flak 41 88mm. The allied side received reinforcements after about twelve to sixteen hours after the battle began, said reinforcements consisting of approximately two more Wehrmacht Heer Soldiers, 3 additional M4 Shermans, a single member of the Austrian resistance, and other reinforcements from the United States 104th Infantry Division. By the end of the battle, only a handful of Wehrmacht and US troops were killed in the battle, as well as the M4 Sherman destroyed, while having killed dozens of SS. On the 3rd of May, 1945, the French Prisoners within Castle Itter rebelled against their captors, the SS troops of the "Death's Head brigade"

(SS-Totenkopfverbände); beginning with killing one of the top leaders of the prison, Eduard Weiter. This act resulted in the retreat of the SS troops under the order of Hauptsturmführer Sebastian Wimmer and the true beginning of the battle.

Now freed, the French prisoners armed themselves with the discarded weapons left behind. The next day, Andreas Krobot snuck through SS lines using a bicycle and went looking for help, which he had found in the town of Wörgl in the form of Major Josef Gangl. The Major and his soldiers had made the conscious decision to defy Hitler's orders, as was surprisingly common among the Wehrmacht in the last few days of the war. Gangl and his men had joined up with the Austrian resistance to protect the town from the SS; because of this, their forces were depleted, and would not be able to be much assistance on their own.

However, Gangl's troops had met with a division of American Armor, and its commander of Captain Jack Lee, who also decided to help the French prisoners. Even with the small force, the combined force broke through SS lines and back to the castle. On the 5th of May, 1945, the SS troops launched their assault. The Sherman had held back the SS from reaching the gates, but was unfortunately destroyed by an 88mm shell; no casualties were caused from the destruction, though Major Gangl was killed trying to pull one of the French prisoners, former Prime Minister Reynaud from the line of fire not long after the destruction of the Sherman.

As the battle raged, the allied side quickly ran low on ammunition and were close to defeat; however, one of the French prisoners, a tennis player by the

name of Jean Borotra left the castle walls and ran through the SS lines to contact the allied reinforcements. Miraculously, he both survived and succeeded, leading the United States 104th Infantry Regiment, and defeating the SS troops and rescued the prisoners; taking somewhere around 100 SS as prisoners, the former French prisoners evacuated that evening, and reached Paris about five days after. It is not certain whether Hauptsturmführer Sebastian Wimmer was captured, killed, or escaped during the battle. In the end, it was a short battle, lasting only two days, one in conflict, and resulted in an Allied victory, as it tended to during the last days of the second World War. Despite how interesting, and seemingly ridiculous nature of the battle, it is still relatively obscure; the only things that tell the story outside of historical documentaries or other information sites would be the Swedish metal band Sabaton's song The Last Battle and a movie coming out in 2018, sharing the same name, directed by Peter Landesman.

As stated previously, the battle was one of the only ones, if not the only one, where both German and American forces fought alongside each other for a goal during World War 2; and that is really fascinating.