

Dachau concentration camp

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Dachau concentration camp (German: *Konzentrationslager (KZ) Dachau*, IPA: [ˈdaxaʊ]) was the first Nazi concentration camp opened in Germany, located on the grounds of an abandoned munitions factory near the medieval town of Dachau, about 16 km (9.9 mi) northwest of Munich in the state of Bavaria, which is located in southern Germany. Opened 22 March 1933,^[1] it was the first regular concentration camp established by the coalition government of the National Socialist Party (Nazi Party) and the German Nationalist People's Party (dissolved on 6 July 1933). Heinrich Himmler, Chief of Police of Munich, officially described the camp as "the first concentration camp for political prisoners."^[1]



American troops guard the main entrance to Dachau just after liberation

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General overview

Dachau served as a prototype and model for the other Nazi concentration camps that followed. Almost every community in Germany had members taken away to these camps, and as early as 1935 there were jingles warning: "Dear God, make me dumb, that I may not to Dachau come."^[2]

The camp's basic organization: layout as well as building plans, were developed by Kommandant Theodor Eicke and were applied to all later camps. He had a separate secure camp near the command center, which consisted of living quarters, administration, and army camps. Eicke himself became the chief inspector for all concentration camps, responsible for molding the others according to his model.^[3]

The camp was occupied from 1933 to 1960, the first twelve years as an internment center of the Third Reich. From 1933 to 1938 the prisoners were mainly German nationals detained for political reasons. In 1938 and after a significant population of German Jews were added. Subsequently the camp was used for prisoners of all sorts from every nation occupied by the forces of the Third Reich.^[4] From 1945 through 1948 the camp was used as a prison for SS officers awaiting trial. After 1948 the German population expelled from Czechoslovakia were housed there and it was also a base of the United States. It was closed in 1960 and thereafter at the



Aerial photo of the camp



The main gate at Dachau where prisoners walked through marked with the sentence *Arbeit macht frei*

insistence of ex-prisoners various sorts of memorials began to be constructed there.^[5]

Estimates of the demographic statistics vary but they are in the same general range. History may never know how many people were interned there or died there, due to periods of disruption. One source gives a general estimate of over 200,000 prisoners from more than 30 countries for the Third Reich's years, of whom two-thirds were political prisoners and nearly one-third were Jews. 25,613 prisoners are believed to have died in the camp and almost another 10,000 in its subcamps,^[6] primarily from disease, malnutrition and suicide. In early 1945, there was a typhus epidemic in the camp due to influx from other camps causing overcrowding, followed by an evacuation, in which large numbers of the weaker prisoners died. Toward the end of the war death marches to and from the camp caused the expiration of large but unknown numbers of prisoners. Even after liberation, prisoners weakened beyond recovery continued to die.

Over its twelve years as a concentration camp, the Dachau administration recorded the intake of 206,206 prisoners and 31,951 deaths. Crematoria were constructed to dispose of the deceased. These numbers do not tell the entire story, however. Although there is no evidence of mass murder within the camp by methods other than poor sanitation, deprivation of medical care, withholding of nutrients, medical experiments, and beatings and shootings for infractions of the rules or at random, beginning in 1942 more than 3166 prisoners in weakened condition were transported to Hartheim Castle near Linz and there were executed by poison gas for reason of their unfitnes. In 1941 and 1942 an unknown number of prisoners of war from the Soviet Union were executed by shooting at the camp's surrounding firing ranges, some for target practice and for sport.^[4]

Together with the much larger Auschwitz, Dachau has come to symbolize the Nazi concentration camps to many people. Konzentrationslager (KZ) Dachau holds a significant place in public memory because it was the second camp to be liberated by British or American forces. Therefore, it was one of the first places where these previously unknown Nazi practices were exposed to the Western world through firsthand journalist accounts and through newsreels.

Main camp

Purpose

Once the Nazis came to power they quickly moved to ruthlessly suppress all real or potential opposition. For



The "*Brausebad*" ("Shower"), the infamous Dachau gas chamber



Crematorium in operation



example, between 1933 and 1945, the Sondergerichte which were "special courts" set up by the Nazi regime killed 12,000 Germans.^[7] Especially during the first years of their existence these courts "had a strong deterrent effect" against opposition to the Nazis, the German public was intimidated through "arbitrary psychological terror".^[8]

Use of the word concentration comes from the idea of concentrating a group of people who are in some way undesirable in one place, where they can be watched by those who incarcerated them. Concentration camp had in the past been used by the U.S. against native Americans, the British in the Boer wars, and others. The term originated in the "reconcentration camps" set up in Cuba by General Valeriano Weyler in 1897.

Dachau was opened in March 1933,^[1] The press statement given at the opening stated:

"On Wednesday the first concentration camp is to be opened in Dachau with an accommodation for 5000 persons. 'All Communists and—where necessary —Reichsbanner and Social Democratic functionaries who endanger state security are to be concentrated here, as in the long run it is not possible to keep individual functionaries in the state prisons without overburdening these prisons, and on the other hand these people cannot be released because attempts have shown that they persist in their efforts to agitate and organise as soon as they are released.'^[1]



The Dachau camp was created for holding political opponents. In time for Christmas 1933 roughly 6000 of the inmates were released as part of a pardoning action. The picture depicts a speech by the camp commander to prisoners about to be released.



Inspection by the Nazi party and Himmler at the Dachau Protective Custody Camp on 8 May 1936.

Dachau was the first regular concentration camp established by the coalition government of National Socialist Party (Nazi Party) and the German Nationalist People's Party (dissolved on 6 July 1933). Heinrich Himmler, Chief of Police of Munich, officially described the camp as "the first concentration camp for political prisoners."^[1]



Roll-call of prisoners (probably Jewish), 20 July 1938

Dachau served as a prototype and model for the other Nazi concentration camps that followed. Almost every community in Germany had members taken away to these camps, the Newspapers continuously reported of "the removal of the enemies of the Reich to concentration camps", and as early as 1935 there were jingles warning:

"Dear God, make me dumb, that I may not to Dachau come."^[2]

Between the years 1933 and 1945 more than 3.5 million Germans would be forced to spend time in these concentration camps or prison for political reasons,^{[9][10][11]} and approximately 77,000 Germans were killed for one or another form of resistance by Special Courts, courts martial, and the civil justice system. Many of these Germans had served in government, the military, or in civil positions, which enabled them to engage in subversion and conspiracy against the Nazis.^[12]

Following the holocaust, the term "concentration camp" carries many of the connotations of "extermination camp" and is sometimes used synonymously. Because of these negative connotations, the term "concentration camp", originally itself a euphemism, has been replaced by newer euphemisms such as internment camp, resettlement camp, detention facility, etc., regardless of the actual circumstances of the camp, which can vary a great deal.

Organization

The camp was divided into two sections: the camp area and the crematorium. The camp area consisted of 32 barracks, including one for clergy imprisoned for opposing the Nazi regime and one reserved for medical experiments. The courtyard between the prison and the central kitchen was used for the summary execution of prisoners. The camp was surrounded by an electrified barbed-wire gate, a ditch, and a wall with seven guard towers.^[3]



Prisoners' barracks in 1945

In early 1937, the SS, using prisoner labor, initiated construction of a large complex of buildings on the grounds of the original camp. The construction was officially completed in mid-August 1938 and the camp remained essentially unchanged and in operation until 1945. Dachau thus was the longest running concentration camp of the Third Reich. The area in Dachau included other SS facilities beside the concentration camp—a leader school^[citation needed] of the economic and civil service, the medical school^[citation needed] of the SS, etc. The KZ at that time was called a "protective custody camp,"^[citation needed] and occupied less than half of the area of the entire complex.

Demographics



The camp was originally designed for holding German political prisoners and Jews, but in 1935 it also began to hold ordinary criminals. During the war it came to also include other nationalities such as French, in 1940 Poles, 1941 people from the Balkans, and in 1942 Russians.^[13]

Before the war the biggest groups of inmates were Germans, Austrians, Jews. During the War the biggest groups were, in order of size; Poles, Russians, French, Yugoslavs, Jews, and

Polish prisoners in Dachau toast their liberation from the camp.

Poles constituted the largest ethnic group in the camp during the war, followed by Russians, French, Yugoslavs, Jews, and Czech.

Czech.^[13]

Inside the camp there was a sharp division between the two groups of prisoners; those who were there for political reasons and therefore wore a red tag, and the criminals, who wore a green tag.^[13]

The average number of Germans in the camp during the war was 3000. Just before the liberation many German prisoners were evacuated, but 2000 of these Germans died during the evacuation transport. Evacuated prisoners included famous political and religious hostages held in Dachau^[13], such as Martin Niemöller, Kurt von Schuschnigg, Édouard Daladier, Léon Blum, Franz Halder and Hjalmar Schacht.

At the time of liberation the death rate had peaked at 200 per day, after the liberation by U.S. forces this was eventually reduced to between 50 and 80 deaths per day. The cause of these deaths was, besides the murderous SS policies, typhus epidemics and starvation which claimed thousands of lives. The number of inmates had peaked in 1944 with transports from evacuated camps in the east (such as Auschwitz) and the resulting overcrowding led to an increase in the death rate.^[13]

Dachau also served as the central camp for Christian religious prisoners. According to records of the Catholic Church, at least 3,000 preachers, deacons, priests, and bishops were imprisoned there.^[14]

In August 1944 a women's camp opened inside Dachau. In the last months of the war, the conditions at Dachau became even worse. As Allied forces advanced toward Germany, the Germans began to move prisoners in concentration camps near the front to more centrally located camps. They hoped to prevent the liberation of large numbers of prisoners. Transports from the evacuated camps arrived continuously at Dachau. After days of travel with little or no food or water, the prisoners arrived weak and exhausted, often near death. Typhus epidemics became a serious problem as a result of overcrowding, poor sanitary conditions, insufficient provisions, and the weakened state of the prisoners.

Owing to continual new transportations from the front, the camp was constantly overcrowded and the hygiene conditions were beneath human dignity. Starting from the end of 1944 up to the day of liberation, 15,000 people died, about half of all victims in KZ Dachau. Five hundred Soviet POWs were executed by firing squad. Its first shipment of women came from Auschwitz Birkenau. Only 19 women guards served at Dachau, most of them until liberation.^[15] Sources show the names of sixteen of the nineteen women guarding the camp; Fanny Baur, Leopoldine Bittermann, Ernestine Brenner, Anna Buck, Rosa Dolaschko, Maria Eder, Rosa Grassmann, Betty Hanneschaleger, Ruth Elfriede Hildner, Josefa Keller, Berta Kimplinger, Lieselotte Klaudat, Theresia Kopp, Rosalie Leimboeck, and Thea Miesl. Women guards were also staffed at the Augsburg Michelwerke, Burgau, Kaufering, Mühldorf, and Munich Agfa Camera Werke subcamps. In mid-April 1945 many female subcamps at Kaufering, Augsburg and Munich closed, and the SS women stationed at Dachau. It is reported that female SS guards gave prisoners guns before liberation to save them from postwar

prosecution.^[citation needed]

Satellite camps and sub-camps

By 1944, Dachau had many satellite camps separate from the main camp, mostly to produce armaments.^[16] A website has been created at [kaufering.com](http://www.kaufering.com) (<http://www.kaufering.com>) about the eleven "Kaufering" camps, but states there were as many as 200 "Sub camps".^[17] There is also a site, [survivors-landsberg.com](http://www.survivors-landsberg.com) (<http://www.survivors-landsberg.com>) for an association of survivors of the camps. See also Kaufering concentration camp

Liberation

Main camp



Liberated female prisoners at Dachau wave to their liberators.

On 24 April 1945, about 140 prominent inmates, such as Léon Blum, Martin Niemöller, Dan Hartzman, and Franz Halder, were transferred to Tyrol, where the SS left the prisoners behind. They were liberated by the Fifth U.S. Army on 5 May 1945 in Niederdorf, Italy.^[18]

On 27 April 1945, Victor Maurer, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, was

allowed to enter camps and distribute food. In the evening of the same day a prisoner transport arrived from Buchenwald. Only 800 survivors were brought from the original 4,480 to 4,800 prisoners in transit.

Over 2,300 corpses were left lying in and around the train. The last regular commander of the KZ, Obersturmbannführer Eduard Weiter, had fled on 26 April. He probably followed Obersturmbannführer Martin Gottfried Weiss, who had led the camp from September 1942 until November 1943.

On 28 April 1945, the day before the surrender, Camp Commandant Martin Gottfried Weiss had left the Dachau camp, along with most of the regular guards and administrators in the camp. On that same day, Victor Maurer, a representative of the Red Cross, had tried to persuade Untersturmführer Johannes Otto, the adjutant of Commandant Weiss, not to abandon the camp, but to leave guards posted to keep the prisoners inside until the Americans arrived. Maurer feared that the prisoners would escape *en masse* and spread the active typhus fever epidemic. Lt. Otto declined to remain and fled.

On 29 April 1945, the watchtowers of the Dachau camp remained occupied and a white flag was hoisted. Red Cross representative Maurer persuaded SS-Sturmscharführer Heinrich



Bodies in the Dachau death train

Wicker, an NCO in the SS-Totenkopfverbände, to accompany him to the main gate of the complex to surrender the camp formally.



American soldiers of the U.S. 7th Army, force boys believed to be Hitler youth, to examine boxcars containing bodies of prisoners starved to death by the SS.

Late in the afternoon of 29 April 1945, KZ Dachau was surrendered to the American Army by SS-Sturmscharführer Heinrich Wicker.^[19] A vivid description of the surrender appears in Brig. Gen. Henning Linden's official "Report on Surrender of Dachau Concentration Camp":

"As we moved down along the west side of the concentration camp and approached the southwest corner, three people approached down the road under a flag of truce. We met these people about 75 yards north of the southwest entrance to the camp. These three people were a Swiss Red Cross representative and two SS troopers who said they were the camp commander and assistant camp commander and that they had come into the camp on the night of the 28th to take over from the regular camp personnel for the purpose of turning the camp over to the advancing

Americans. The Swiss Red Cross representative acted as interpreter and stated that there were about 100 SS guards in the camp who had their arms stacked except for the people in the tower. He said he had given instructions that there would be no shots fired and it would take about 50 men to relieve the guards, as there were 42,000 half-crazed prisoners of war in the camp, many of them typhus infected. He asked if I were an officer of the American army, to which I replied, "Yes, I am Assistant Division Commander of the 42d Division and will accept the surrender of the camp in the name of the Rainbow Division for the American army."

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, issued a communique over the capture of Dachau concentration camp: "Our forces liberated and mopped up the infamous concentration camp at Dachau.

Approximately 32,000 prisoners were liberated; 300 SS camp guards were quickly neutralized."^[20]

A tablet at the camp commemorates the liberation of Dachau by the 42nd Infantry Division of the U.S. Seventh Army on 29 April 1945. Others claim that the first forces to enter the main camp were a battalion of the 157th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Infantry Division commanded by Felix L. Sparks. There is an on-going disagreement as to which division, the 42nd or the 45th, actually liberated Dachau because they seem to have approached by different routes and by the American Army's definition, anyone arriving at such a camp within 48 hours was a liberator.^{[21][22]} General Patton visited the Buchenwald camp after it was liberated, but not Dachau.



Tablet dedicated to the 42nd Division

The Americans found approximately 32,000 prisoners, crammed 1,600 to each of 20 barracks,

which had been designed to house 250 people each.

Satellite camps

During the liberation of the sub-camps surrounding Dachau (which happened on the same day as the main camp's surrender on 29 April) the advance scouts of the US Army's 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, a Nisei-manned segregated Japanese-American Allied military unit, liberated the 3,000 prisoners of the "Kaufering IV Hurlach" slave labor camp.^[23]

Perisco describes an Office of Strategic Services (OSS) team (code name LUXE) leading Army Intelligence to a "Camp IV" on 29 April. "they found the camp afire and a stack of some four hundred bodies burning... American soldiers then went into Landsberg and rounded up all the male civilians they could find and marched them out to the camp. The former commandant was forced to lie amidst a pile of corpses. The male population of Landsberg was then ordered to walk by, and ordered to spit on the commandant as they passed. The commandant was then turned over to a group of liberated camp survivors." ^[24]

Killing of camp guards

The American troops were so horrified by conditions at the camp that a few killed some of the camp guards after they had surrendered in what is called the Dachau massacre.^[25] The number massacred is disputed as some Germans were killed in combat, some were shot while attempting to surrender, and others were killed after their surrender was accepted. Felix L. Sparks, the commander of a battalion that captured the camp, has stated:



Moments after American soldiers executed SS troops in the coalyard at Dachau

The total number of German guards killed at Dachau during that day most certainly does not exceed fifty, with thirty probably being a more accurate figure. The regimental records [of the 157th Infantry Regiment] for that date indicate that over a thousand German prisoners were brought to the regimental collecting point. Since my task force was leading the regimental attack, almost all the prisoners were taken by the task force, including several hundred from Dachau.^[26]

The "[American Army] Investigation of Alleged Mistreatment of German Guards at Dachau" found that about 15 Germans were killed (with another 4 or 5 wounded) after their surrender had been accepted. Two other reports collated years after the incident put the figure between 122 and 520 Germans murdered after their surrender had been accepted.^[25]

As a result of the American Army investigation court-martial, charges were drawn up against Sparks and several other men under his command but, as General George S. Patton (the then recently appointed military governor of Bavaria) chose to dismiss the charges, the witnesses to the massacre were never cross-examined in court and no one was found guilty.^[26]

American troops also forced local citizens to the camp to see for themselves the conditions there and to help clean the facilities. Many local residents were shocked about the experience and claimed no knowledge of the activities at the camp.^[citation needed]

Post-liberation Easter at Dachau

6 May (23 April on the Orthodox calendar) was the day of Pascha, Orthodox Easter. In a cell block used by Catholic priests to say daily Mass, several Greek, Serbian and Russian priests and one Serbian deacon, wearing makeshift vestments made from towels of the SS guard, gathered with several hundred Greek, Serbian and Russian prisoners to celebrate the Paschal Vigil. A prisoner named Rahr described the scene:

In the entire history of the Orthodox Church there has probably never been an Easter service like the one at Dachau in 1945. Greek and Serbian priests together with a Serbian deacon adorned the make-shift 'vestments' over their blue and gray-striped prisoners' uniforms. Then they began to chant, changing from Greek to Slavonic, and then back again to Greek. The Easter Canon, the Easter Sticheras—everything was recited from memory. The Gospel—*In the beginning was the Word*—also from memory. And finally, the Homily of Saint John—also from memory. A young Greek monk from the Holy Mountain stood up in front of us and recited it with such infectious enthusiasm that we shall never forget him as long as we live. Saint John Chrysostomos himself seemed to speak through him to us and to the rest of the world as well!

There is a Russian Orthodox chapel at the camp today, and it is well known for its icon of Christ leading the prisoners out of the camp gates.

The U.S. 7th Army's version of the events of the Dachau Liberation is available in *Report of Operations of the Seventh United States Army*, Vol. 3, page 382.

After liberation

After liberation, the camp was used by the US Army as an internment camp. It was also the site of the Dachau Trials, a site chosen for its symbolism. In 1948 the Bavarian government established housing for refugees on the site, and this remained for many years.^[27] The Kaserne quarters and other buildings used by the guards and trainee guards served as an American military post for many years. It had its own elementary school: Dachau American Elementary School, a part of the Department of Defense dependent school system.



Liberated Dachau camp prisoners cheer U.S. troops



Cheering crowds of liberated survivors

In popular culture

The Dachau Massacre incident figures prominently in the 'back story' of Teddy Daniels (played by Leonardo Di Caprio), the protagonist of Martin Scorsese's psychological mystery-thriller *Shutter Island*. Among other memories, Daniels is haunted by his own recollections of the massacre and taking part in the execution after seeing piles of prisoners' bodies.

Dachau is depicted as the setting for *The Twilight Zone* episode "Deaths-Head Revisited" in which a former SS captain revisits the place he once worked in and the ghosts of the men who died there.

The memorial site

Between 1945 and 1948 when the camp was handed over to the Bavarian authorities, many accused war criminals and members of the SS were imprisoned at the camp.

Owing to the severe refugee crisis mainly caused by the expulsions of ethnic Germans, the camp was from late 1948 used to house 2000 Germans from Czechoslovakia (mainly from the Sudetenland). This settlement was called Dachau-East, and remained until the mid 1960s.^[28] During this

time, former prisoners banded together to erect a memorial on the site of the camp, finding it unbelievable that there were still people (refugees) living in the former camp.



Memorial at the camp in 1997

The display, which was reworked in 2003, takes the visitor through the path of new arrivals to the camp. Special presentations of some of the notable prisoners are also provided. Two of the barracks have been rebuilt and one shows a cross-section of the entire history of the camp, since the original barracks had to be torn down due to their poor condition when the memorial was built. The other 32 barracks are indicated by concrete foundations.

The memorial includes four chapels for the various religions represented among the prisoners.

The local government resisted designating the complete site a memorial. The former SS barracks adjacent to the camp are now occupied by the Bavarian Bereitschaftspolizei (rapid response police unit).^[29]

List of personnel

Commanders

- SS-Standartenführer Hilmar Wäckerle (22 March 1933 - 26 June 1933)
- SS-Gruppenführer Theodor Eicke (26 June 1933 - 4 July 1934)
- SS-Oberführer Alexander Reiner (4 July 1934 - 22 October 1934)

- SS-Brigadeführer Berthold Maack (22 October 1934 - 12 January 1935)
- SS-Oberführer Heinrich Deubel (12 January 1935 - 31 March 1936)
- SS-Oberführer Hans Loritz (31 March 1936 - 7 January 1939)
- SS-Hauptsturmführer Alex Piorkowski (7 January 1939 - 2 January 1942)
- SS-Obersturmbannführer Martin Weiß (3 January 1942 - 30 September 1943)
- SS-Hauptsturmführer Eduard Weiter (30 September 1943 - 26 April 1945)
- SS-Obersturmbannführer Martin Weiß (26 April 1945 - 28 April 1945)
- SS-Untersturmführer Johannes Otto (28 April 1945)
- SS-Sturmscharführer Heinrich Wicker (28 April 1945 - 29 April 1945)

Other staff

- Adolf Eichmann (29 January 1934 - October 1934)^[30] (Eichmann claimed that his unit had nothing to do with the concentration camp)^[31]
- Rudolf Höss (1934–1938) ^[32]
- Max Kögel (1937–1938)

SS and civilian doctors

- SS-Untersturmführer - Dr. Hans Eisele - (13 March 1912-1967) - Escaped to Egypt
- SS-Obersturmführer - Dr. Fritz Hintermayer - (28 Oct 1911 - 29 May 1946) - Executed by the Allies
- Dr. Ernst Holzlöhner - (Committed Suicide)
- SS-Hauptsturmführer - Dr. Fridolin Karl Pühr - (30 April 1913 - ?) - Death, later commuted to 10-years imprisonment
- SS-Untersturmführer Dr. Sigmund Rascher - (12 February 1909-26 April 1945) - Executed by the SS
- Dr. Claus Schilling - (25 July 1871-28.5.1946) - Executed by the Allies
- SS Sturmbannführer - Dr. Horst Schumann - (11 May 1906-5 May 1983) - Escaped to Ghana, later extradited to West Germany
- SS Obersturmführer - Dr. Helmuth Vetter - (21 March 1910-2 February 1949) - Executed by the Allies)
- SS Sturmbannführer - Dr. Wilhelm Witteler - (20 April 1909-?) - Death, later commuted to 20-years Imprisonment
- SS Sturmbannführer - Dr. Waldemar Wolter - (19 May 1908-28 May 1947) - Executed by the Allies

List of notable prisoners

Jewish political prisoners

- Bruno Bettelheim, imprisoned in 1938, freed in 1939; left Germany



- David Ludwig Bloch, painter, arrested in November 1938 in connection with Kristallnacht
- Jakob Ehrlich, Member of Vienna's City Council (Rat der Stadt Wien), died in Dachau 17 May 1938
- Viktor Frankl, neurologist and psychiatrist from Vienna, Austria
- Alfred Gruenebaum, father of the prominent US obstetrician Amos Grunebaum
- Hans Litten anti-Nazi lawyer, died in 1938 by apparent suicide
- Aaron Miller, rabbi, chazzan, mohel
- Benzion Miller, born at the camp, son of Aaron M.
- Sol Rosenberg, participated in Warsaw Ghetto uprising; sent to Dachau; liberated from the camp in 1945; relocated to the United States
- Moshe Sanbar, Governor of the Bank of Israel
- Vladek Spiegelman, a survivor whose story was portrayed in the book *Maus* by son Art Spiegelman



The commemorative mass grave dedicated to the unknown dead at Dachau

Resistance fighters

- Yolande Beekman, Special Operations Executive Agent, murdered 13 September 1944
- Georges Charpak, who in 1992 received the Nobel Prize in Physics
- Madeleine Damerment, Special Operations Executive Agent, murdered 13 September 1944
- Georg Elser, who tried to assassinate Hitler in 1939, murdered 9 April 1945
- Arthur Haulot
- Franc Karo, partisan
- Noor Inayat Khan, the George's Cross awardee of Indian origin who served as a clandestine radio operator for the Special Operations Executive in Paris, murdered 13 September 1944 when she and her SOE colleagues were shot in the back of the head and cremated
- Kurt Nehrling, murdered in 1943
- Eliane Plewman, Special Operations Executive Agent, murdered 13 September 1944
- Enzo Sereni, Jewish, son of King Victor Emmanuele's personal physician. Kibbutz Enzo Sereni in Israel is named after him. Parachuted into Nazi-occupied Italy, captured by the Germans and executed in November 1944

Clergy

Dachau had a special "priest block." Of the 2720 priests (among them 2579 Catholic) held in Dachau, 1034 did not survive the camp. The majority were Polish (1780), of whom 868 died in Dachau.

- a number of the 108 Martyrs of World War Two:
- Father Jean Bernard (1907–1994), Catholic priest from Luxembourg who was imprisoned from May, 1941 to August, 1942. He wrote the book *Pfarrerblock 25487* about his experiences in Dachau; it was recently translated into English (translation *Priestblock 25487: A Memoir of Dachau* ISBN 978-0-9725981-7-0). The movie *The Ninth Day* is based on his diary.
- Blessed Titus Brandsma, Dutch Carmelite priest and professor of philosophy, died 26 July 1942
- Norbert Čapek (1870–1942) founder of the Unitarian Church in the Czech Republic
- Anton Fränznick, in Dachau since 1942, died 27 January 1944
- Gavriilo Dozic Patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church, imprisoned in Dachau from September to December 1944
- Blessed Stefan Wincenty Frelichowski Catholic priest, died 23 February 1945
- Blessed Stefan Grelewski, Catholic priest, prisoner No. 25281, starved to death in Dachau on 9 May 1941
- Hilary Paweł Januszewski
- Ignacy Jeż Catholic Bishop
- Joseph Kentenich, founder of the Schoenstatt Movement, spent three and a half years in Dachau
- Hermanus Knoop, Pastor of the Reformed (*Gereformeerde*) Church of Rotterdam-Delfshaven, arrested 19 November 1941 for praying for "*bringing politics to the pulpit*"
- Bishop Jan Maria Michał Kowalski, the first *Minister Generalis* (Minister General) of the order of the Mariavites. He perished on 18 May 1942, in a gas chamber in Schloss Hartheim.
- Blessed Michał Kozal
- Adam Kozłowiecki, Polish Cardinal
- Max Lackmann, Lutheran pastor and founder of League for Evangelical-Catholic Reunion.
- Blessed Karl Leisner, in Dachau since 14 December 1941, freed 4 May 1945, but died on 12 August from tuberculosis contracted in the camp
- Bernhard Lichtenberg - was sent to Dachau but died on his way there in 1943
- Martin Niemöller, imprisoned in 1941, freed 4 May 1945
- Hermann Scheipers
- Richard Schneider, in Dachau since 22 November 1940, freed 29 March 1945
- Aloys Scholze, died 1 September 1942
- Nikolai Velimirović bishop of the Serbian Orthodox Church and an influential theological writer, venerated as saint in the Eastern Orthodox Church.
- Lawrence Wnuk
- Nanne Zwiép, Pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church in Enschede, spoke out from the pulpit against Nazis and their treatment of Dutch Citizens and anti-Semitism, arrested 20 April 1942, died in Dachau of exhaustion and malnutrition 24 November 1942

More than two dozen members of the Religious Society of Friends, known to the World's People as Quakers, were interned at Dachau. They may or may not have been considered

clergy by the Nazis, as all Quakers perform services which in other Protestant denominations are considered the province of clergy. Over a dozen of them were murdered there.

Politicians

- Jan Buzek, murdered in November 1940
- Theodor Duesterberg, briefly imprisoned in 1934
- Leopold Figl, arrested 1938, released 8 May 1943
- Andrej Gosar, Slovenian politician and political theorist, arrested in 1944
- Karl Haushofer
- Miklós Horthy, Jr.
- Alois Hundhammer, arrested 21 June 1933, freed 6 July 1933
- Miklós Kállay
- Franz Olah, arrested in 1938 and transported on the first train to bring Austrian prisoners to Dachau.^[33]
- Hjalmar Schacht, arrested 1944, released April 1945
- Richard Schmitz
- Kurt Schumacher, in Dachau since July 1935, sent to Flossenbürg concentration camp in 1939, returned to Dachau in 1940, released due to extreme illness 16 March 1943
- Kurt Schuschnigg, the last fascist chancellor of Austria before the Austrian Nazi Party was installed by Hitler, shortly before the Anschluss
- Stefan Starzyński, the President of Warsaw, probably murdered in Dachau in 1943
- Petr Zenkl, Czech national socialist politician



A memorial at the camp with *Never again* written in several languages

Communists

- Alfred Andersch, held 6 months in 1933
- Hans Beimler, imprisoned but escaped. Died in the Spanish Civil War.
- Emil Carlebach (Jewish), in Dachau since 1937, sent to Buchenwald concentration camp in 1938
- Nando Gherghetta (Italian from Istria), from 1943
- Alfred Haag, In Dachau from 1935 to 1939, when moved to Mauthausen
- Adolf Maislinger
- Oskar Müller, in Dachau from 1939, freed 1945
- Nikolaos Zachariadis (Greek), from November 1941 to May 1945

Writers

- Fran Albrecht, Slovenian poet
- Robert Antelme, French writer
- Raoul Auernheimer, writer, in Dachau 4 months
- Tadeusz Borowski, writer, survived, but committed suicide in 1951
- Adolf Fierla, Polish poet
- Viktor Frankl, an Austrian psychiatrist and writer
- Fritz Gerlich, a German journalist
- Stanisław Grzesiuk, Polish writer, poet and singer, in Dachau from 4 April 1940, later transferred to Mauthausen-Gusen complex
- Heinrich Eduard Jacob, German writer, in Dachau 6 months in 1938, transferred to Buchenwald
- Stefan Kieniewicz, Polish historian
- Juš Kozak, Slovenian playwright
- Friedrich Bernhard Marby, German occult writer
- Gustaw Morcinek, Polish writer
- Boris Pahor, Slovenian writer
- Karol Piegza, Polish writer, teacher and folklorist
- Gustaw Przewczek, Polish writer and teacher
- Franz Roh, German art critic and art historian, for a few months in 1933
- Jura Soyfer, writer, in Dachau 6 months in 1938, transferred to Buchenwald
- Adam Wawrosz, Polish poet and writer
- Stanisław Wygodzki, Polish writer
- Stevo Žigon (number: 61185), Serbian actor, theatre director, and writer, in Dachau from December 1943 to May 1945

Royalty

- Antonia, Crown Princess of Bavaria
- Albrecht, Duke of Bavaria
- Franz, Duke of Bavaria
- Grand Duchess Kira Kirillovna of Russia
- Prince Louis Ferdinand of Prussia
- Prince Max, Duke in Bavaria
- Philipp, Landgrave of Hesse
- Franz Wittelsbach, Prinz von Bayern
- Maximilian, Duke of Hohenberg
- Prince Ernst von Hohenberg
- Princess Sophie of Hohenberg
- Prince Xavier de Bourbon-Parma

Others

- Charles Delestraint, French General and leader of French resistance. Executed by Gestapo in 1945

- Jan Ertmański, Polish boxer who competed in the 1924 Summer Olympics.
- Alexander von Falkenhausen
- Elly Gotz, Lithuanian born engineer and executive, now living in Canada doing public speaking to raise awareness about modern day genocides happening in places such as Darfur. She was born in Kovno (now Kaunas), Lithuania in 1902.
- Franz Halder, former Chief of Army General Staff
- Boris Kobe, Slovenian architect
- Zoran Mušič, Slovenian painter
- Alexander Papagos, future Prime Minister of Greece
- Božo Pengov, Slovenian sculptor
- Ernest Peterlin, Slovenian military officer
- Tullio Tamburini, Italian police chief
- Fritz Thyssen, businessman and early supporter of Hitler, later an opponent
- Bogislaw von Bonin, Wehrmacht officer, opponent
- Morris Weinrib, father of Rush singer, bassist, keyboardist Geddy Lee.
- Emanuel Thuma, Slovenian national figure skating champion

Gallery



The camp courtyard



Memorial to the victims of Dachau (October 2007)



Sign on the gravel road leading to the entrance



The Crematorium



New crematorium (picture taken on October 2007)



Original crematorium (picture taken on October 2007)



Crematorium at Dachau



The sign outside the building Crematorium says in German: "Think about how we died here"



Protestant Church of Reconciliation (June 2005)



Catholic Mortal Agony of Christ chapel (June 2005)



Jewish Memorial (June 2005)



Tower (June 2005)



The Perimeter Fence



Marker where barracks building #9 stood (June 2005)



View of roll-call area from one of the buildings (June 2005)



Prisoner bunks (June 2005)



Prisoner bunks (June 2005)



Triple bunks in the barracks



Prisoner sinks (June 2005)



Prisoner toilets (June 2005)



The entrance and the northern part of the "Bunker"



The east wing of the "Bunker" (camp prison), normally

See also

- Karl von Eberstein
- List of Nazi concentration camps
- List of subcamps of Dachau
- Standing cell

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4. [^] ^{*a b*} Edkins 2003, p. 137
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7. [^] Peter Hoffmann "The History of the German Resistance, 1933-1945"p.xiii
8. [^] Andrew Szanajda "The restoration of justice in postwar Hesse, 1945-1949" p.25 "In practice, it signified intimidating the public through arbitrary psychological terror, operating like the courts of the Inquisition." "The Sondergerichte had a strong deterrent effect during the first years of their operation, since their rapid and severe sentencing was feared."
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