

DRANCY

Established in August 1941, Drancy was the largest transit camp for the deportation of Jews from France. Located in an unfinished housing project near the Paris suburb of Drancy, the site detained 5,000 prisoners, the majority of whom were Jewish.

Initially, French police staffed the camp, and were overseen by the German Security Police. In 1943, however, the Germans took full control of the camp and appointed an SS officer as camp commandant.

Between August 1941 and August 1944, it is estimated that 70,000 prisoners passed through Drancy. Between July 1942 and August 1944, over 61,000 Jews were sent from Drancy to Auschwitz. Approximately 3,700 Jews were sent from Drancy to the Sobibor extermination camp. Of all the Jewish prisoners deported from Drancy, only 2,000 survived.

In August 1944, as the Allies reached Paris, all documents in Drancy were destroyed and the guards fled the camp. The remaining 1,542 prisoners were liberated on August 17, 1944.