

STUTTHOF

Shortly after the Nazis invaded Poland in September 1939, Stutthof was established 34 kilometers east of Gdańsk. Originally a civilian internment camp, it became a “labour education” camp in November 1941, and by January 1942 it had developed into a concentration camp.

Throughout northern and central Poland, 105 Stutthof sub-camps were formed. While prisoners were mainly non-Jewish Poles, some Jewish Poles were also interned at Stutthof.

As with other camps, Stutthof inmates were used as forced labourers in SS-owned enterprises, as well as in privately owned businesses. In 1944, prisoners began to work in armaments production at a newly constructed airplane factory near the camp.

Stutthof prisoners also endured harsh conditions. Many died during typhus epidemics, which ravaged the camp in 1942 and 1944. Stutthof had a small gas chamber, and extermination with Zyklon B began in June 1944. Prisoners judged to be unfit for work were either gassed in the chamber or killed with lethal injections while in the infirmary.

Approximately 115,000 inmates from 16 different countries were interned at Stutthof, which was liberated by Soviet troops on May 10, 1945.