

**Name of Camp:** Mauthausen-Gusen

**Location of Camp:**

Near the villages of Mauthausen and Gusen in upper Austria.

**Brief Description of the Camp:**

Mauthausen began as a labor camp for the educated upper class. The Mauthausen camp, also known as “The Mother Camp,” was the central camp for the SS and was in operation from 1938 to May 1945. Mauthausen became one of the first massive concentration camps in Nazi-controlled Europe. The camp was labeled “Grade III” which means that it was one of the cruelest camps for the “Incorrigible Political Enemies of the Reich.” It was referred to as “*Knochenmühle*” meaning “bone-grinder.” The prisoners were subject to hard labor and due to the harsh treatment and conditions many of them died. Mauthausen had about 50 sub-camps throughout Austria and southern Germany. The main complex is now a museum and some of the sub-camps were turned into memorials.

**How many people were imprisoned at the Camp? How many people perished at the Camp?**

It is estimated that about 192,000 prisoners passed through Mauthausen. At least 9,500 died there. The prisoners were killed by being forced to take freezing showers and being left outside in the cold for days, mass shootings, medical experiments, injections of phenol, drowning, starvation and the biggest killer - labor accidents in quarries.

**What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?**

Mauthausen was built in 1938. In 1945, the camp was dismantled by the Germans using a Jewish labor force

**When was the Camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?**

The camp was not liberated, rather dismantled by a Jewish labor force under command of the Germans in 1945.

**Other interesting facts:**

- The camp was originally built to house the prisoners who would be forced to work in the quarries of the newly established German Earth and Stone Works Inc.
- Mauthausen was one of the first massive concentration camps.

