

Name of Camp: Dachau

Location of Camp: Dachau is 10 miles northwest of Munich, Upper Bavaria, South Germany.

Brief description of the Camp: In March 1933, shortly after Adolf Hitler was appointed Reich Chancellor, Dachau opened to hold political prisoners. It would serve as a model for all later concentration camps and as a “school of violence” for the training of SS (Schutzstaffel) concentration camp guards. Dachau remained in operation for the entire period of the third Reich. It also served as a central camp for Christian religious prisoners. At least 3,000 religious deacons, priests and bishops were imprisoned there.

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

In the twelve years of its existence, over 200,000 persons from all over Europe were imprisoned there and in the numerous subsidiary camps. In total, over 40,000 people were murdered there.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

Dachau opened on March 22, 1933 and it operated until April 29, 1945 when it was liberated by American troops.

When was the Camp liberated? April 29, 1945.

Who liberated the Camp? American troops liberated the survivors.

Other interesting facts:

- Dachau was the first concentration camp in Nazi Germany.
- It is located on the grounds of an abandoned munitions factory near the medieval town of Dachau.
- The area in Dachau included other SS facilities beside the concentration camp – it held a leading school for economics and civil service as well as a medical school for the SS.
- In the postwar years, it held SS soldiers awaiting trial.
- After 1948, it held ethnic Germans who had been expelled from Eastern Europe and were awaiting resettlement.
- It was used for a time as a United States military base during the occupation.
- It was finally closed for use in 1960.
- Dachau was the only concentration camp mentioned in the movie Judgment at Nuremberg.

