



Name of Camp: Dora-Mittelbau

Location of Camp:

Dora-Mittelbau is located in central Germany, near the southern Harz Mountains.

Brief description of the Camp:

The Dora-Mittelbau camp was originally a sub-camp of Buchenwald. In October 1944, Dora-Mittelbau became an independent concentration camp with more than 30 sub-camps of its own. Allied air raids on industrial complexes in Germany necessitated the construction of underground production facilities. Concentration camp prisoners dug huge tunnels into the surrounding mountains to house the production and storage areas. In 1943, prisoners at Dora-Mittelbau began construction of large underground factories and development facilities for the V-2 missile program and other experimental weapons. These weapons were called Weapons of Retaliation. Prisoners lived inside the tunnels with no fresh air, inadequate food and water, and terrible unsanitary conditions. In 1944, above-ground barracks were built for prisoners.

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

During the years 1943-1945, approximately 60,000 people were incarcerated there. Between 17,000 - 20,000 people died there.

What were the dates that the Camp was in existence?

Prisoners from Buchenwald were sent to Dora-Mittelbau in 1943, to begin the construction of a large underground industrial complex. In October 1944, Dora-Mittelbau became an independent concentration camp with more than 30 sub-camps of its own. The Nazis began emptying the camp on April 1, 1945, with the majority of prisoners transferred to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Thousands were murdered on route.

When was the Camp liberated? Who liberated the Camp?

The camp was liberated on April 9, 1945 by the Third Armored Division (United States).

Interesting facts:

- A strong underground movement functioned in Dora-Mittelbau and was responsible for sabotaging production in the weapons factories and thus disturbed the Nazi war effort.
- Over 200 prisoners were publicly executed for taking part in the sabotage.