

Non-German Groups of Prisoners

From 1941, the majority of prisoners in Neuengamme concentration camp came from countries occupied by the Germans. In 1941/42, Polish prisoners formed the largest group in the camp, and from 1942/43 the majority of prisoners came from the Soviet Union. In total, more than 90 percent of the prisoners in Neuengamme concentration camp were non-Germans. More than half of them came from eastern Europe, but there were also large groups of prisoners from France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark. They had been imprisoned because they had committed acts of resistance against the German occupation, they were slave labourers who were being punished for some offence, or they had been taken hostage as part of "retaliation measures". From 1941, Neuengamme concentration camp also held Soviet POWs, but it was not until 1944/45 that a larger number of Jewish prisoners from outside Germany were taken to Neuengamme.

