

Prisoners from Denmark and Norway

In April 1940, the Wehrmacht occupied Denmark and Norway. By 1943, resistance in Denmark had become so strong that the occupying authorities declared martial law. In Norway, a strong resistance movement developed as early as 1940, and the Gestapo arrested a large number of people. From autumn 1943, the SS deported hundreds, and later thousands, of Danish people to German prisons and camps. In September 1944, nearly 2,000 Danish policemen were taken to Buchenwald concentration camp via Neuengamme, and on 5 October, 141 members of the Danish border police arrived in Neuengamme. Further transports from Frøslev police prison camp near the German-Danish border followed.

Almost all of the Norwegian prisoners in Neuengamme came here in the course of the rescue operation carried out by the Swedish Red Cross from March 1945. They were brought here from other German prisons and concentration camps in order to be evacuated to Scandinavia. Including these prisoners, a total of around 4,400 Danish and 2,800 Norwegian people were imprisoned in Neuengamme concentration camp.