

Prisoners from France and Spain

In the spring of 1944, the German occupying forces responded to resistance activities and well-organised attempts to escape forced labour in Germany with mass arrests in France and the deportation of a large number of prisoners to German concentration camps. Within a few months, thousands of prisoners were transported to Neuengamme concentration camp via the Compiègne transit camp. Around 300 of these French prisoners were regarded as important figures who were housed separately and did not have to work. About 650 of the around 11,650 French prisoners in Neuengamme were women.

Many Spanish people who had fled to France after the end of the Civil War were arrested after they had been conscripted for forced labour in Germany or because they had taken part in resistance activities in France. Antifascists from different countries who had defended the Republic during the Spanish Civil War were arrested by the Vichy Government in France and handed over to the German occupying forces.