

Other Prisoners from the Soviet Union

Between 1942 and 1944, around 2.8 million people from the parts of the Soviet Union occupied by the Germans were systematically deported to Germany for slave labour. More than half of them were women. POWs from the Red Army added to the number of deported Soviet citizens. These so-called "eastern workers" were subjected to terrible working and living conditions in work camps and factories. The majority of these Soviet prisoners were taken to concentration camps for disobeying the strict work regulations or for attempting to escape.

The 22,000 Russian and Ukrainian prisoners (around 2,000 of them women) formed the largest group of prisoners in Neuengamme concentration camp. The treatment they received was especially brutal and the mortality rate among them was especially high because they were classified as "racially inferior". Due to the strong need for qualified workers in the German armaments industry, some of the Soviet prisoners eventually managed to be transferred to more bearable work places.