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Gross-Rosen concentration camp

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Gross-Rosen Concentration Camp

(*German: Konzentrationslager Groß-Rosen*) was a [German concentration camp](#), located in Gross-Rosen, [Lower Silesia](#) (now [Rogoźnica, Poland](#)). It was located directly on the rail line between [Jauer](#) (now [Jawor](#)) and [Striegau](#) (now [Strzegom](#)).

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The camp [edit]

It was set up in the summer of 1940 as a satellite camp to [Sachsenhausen](#), and became an independent camp on May 1, 1941. Initially, work was carried out in the camp's huge stone quarry, owned by the *SS-Deutsche Erd- und Steinwerke GmbH* (SS German Earth and Stone Works). As the complex grew, many inmates were put to work in the construction of the subcamps' facilities.

In October 1941 the SS transferred about 3,000 Soviet POWs to Gross-Rosen for execution by shooting.

Gross-Rosen was known for its brutal treatment of *NN* (*Nacht und Nebel*) prisoners, especially in the stone quarry. The brutal treatment of the political and Jewish prisoners was not only due to the SS and criminal prisoners, but to a lesser extent also due to German civilians working in the stone quarry. In 1942, for political prisoners, the mean survival time was less than two months.

Due to a change of policy in August 1942, prisoners were likely to survive longer because they were needed as slave workers in German industries. Among the companies that benefited from the slave labour of the concentration camp inmates



Nazi concentration camps in occupied Poland (marked with black squares)



Gross-Rosen entrance gate with the phrase *Arbeit macht frei*



Gross-Rosen memorial

were German electronics manufacturers such as [Blaupunkt](#) or [Siemens](#). Some prisoners who were not able to work and not yet dying within a few days, were sent to the [Dachau concentration camp](#) in so-called invalid transports. One of these, [Willem Lodewijk Harthoorn](#) (nl), an inmate from the end of April to mid-August 1942, wrote an account of his experiences, *Verboden te sterven* (in Dutch, meaning *Forbidden to Die*). The largest population of inmates, however, were Jews, initially from the Dachau and Sachsenhausen camps, and later from [Buchenwald](#). During the camp's existence, the Jewish inmate population came mainly from Poland and Hungary; others were from Belgium, France, Netherlands, Greece, Yugoslavia, Slovakia, and Italy.

At its peak activity in 1944, the Gross-Rosen complex had up to sixty subcamps located in eastern Germany and occupied Poland. In its final stage, the population of the Gross-Rosen camps accounted for 11% of the total inmates in Nazi concentration camps at that time. A total of 125,000 inmates of various nationalities passed through the complex during its existence, of whom an estimated 40,000 died on site and in evacuation transports. The camp was captured on February 14, 1945, by the [Red Army](#).

A total of over 500 female camp guards were trained and served in the Gross Rosen complex. Female SS staffed the women's subcamps of [Brünnlitz](#), Graeben, [Gruenberg](#), Gruschwitz Neusalz, Hundsfeld, [Kratzau II](#), Oberalstadt, [Reichenbach](#),^[*disambiguation needed*] and Schlesiersee Schanzenbau.

A subcamp of Gross-Rosen situated in the [Czechoslovakian](#) town of [Brünnlitz](#) was a location where Jews rescued by [Oskar Schindler](#) were interned.

Camp commandants [edit]

During the Gross-Rosen period as a subcamp of [Sachsenhausen](#) the following SS-officers served as *Lagerführer*:

- [SS-Untersturmführer](#) - [Anton Thumann](#)
- [SS-Untersturmführer](#) - [Georg Gussregen](#)

As an independent [concentration camp](#) from May 1941, the following were commandants:

- [SS-Obersturmbannführer](#) - [Arthur Rodl](#), May 1941- September 1942
- [SS-Hauptsturmführer](#) - [Wilhelm Gideon](#), September 1942 - October 1943
- [SS-Sturmbannführer](#) - [Johannes Hassebroek](#), October 1943 - until evacuation
- Second-in-command: In the spring of 1944 [Fritz Ritterbusch](#) was second in command at Gross-Rosen, where from May 1944 to 13 February 1945 he was the Commander of the company, as well as the Manager of subcamps of Parschnitz in Pozici and Trautenau in Trutnovie in the Czech Republic. Unknown fate.

Notable inmates [edit]

- [Boris Braun](#), Croatian University professor
- [Simon Wiesenthal](#), Nazi hunter

See also [edit]

- [List of Nazi-German concentration camps](#)
- [List of subcamps of Gross Rosen](#)
- [Project Riese](#)

References [edit]

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Inmate accounts

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External links [[edit](#)]

- druhasvetovavalka.cz  - Pages show pictures and videos of the day taken at places connected with the World War II]
- [The Gross-Rosen Museum in Rogoźnica](#) 

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