

MAUTHAUSEN SUB-CAMPS

On 25 May 1940, the first of the Mauthausen concentration camp satellite camps, Gusen I, was opened. Four more were opened in 1942, and from 1943, the number of sub-camps grew rapidly, in line with the Nazi decision to use prisoners as slave labour for war production. The main camp was responsible for registering and distributing new arrivals to the sub-camps, some of which ended up holding more prisoners than the main facility at Mauthausen. In November 1944, for instance, 74,000 prisoners were registered in a head-count of Mauthausen and its associated facilities: of these, only 13,000 were held in the main camp itself, and more than 60,000 were held in 22 different sub-camps.



Mauthausen sub-camps

Amstetten

Opened 19 March 1945, closed 18 April 1945

Nearly 3,000 men and 500 women were set to work here to remove rubble and allow for the re-opening of railway traffic after the Allies had bombed the train station.

Bachmanning

Opened 20 September 1942, closed some weeks later

20 prisoners were briefly sent to this work-camp to work for the Deutsche Ausrüstungswerke GesmbH.

Bretstein

Opened summer 1941, closed 30 September 1943

Around 80 prisoners were sent here to work in an SS-owned factory, and to build a road

Dippoldsau

Opened 17 September 1943, closed 25 August 1944

A maximum of 130 prisoners were set to work here in construction work related to a power station.

Ebensee

Opened 18 November 1943, liberated 6 May 1945

One of the worst of all the Nazi concentration camps. In its underground tunnels (dug out by thousands of prisoners), the Nazis hoped to build the secret weapons that would turn the tide of the war in Hitler's favour. It was the last facility to be liberated, on 6 May 1945, by an American army unit commanded by Captain Timothy Brennan, just two days before the capitulation of Germany. Thousands of Italian prisoners were deported to their deaths at Ebensee, mainly workers arrested after the industrial strikes of March 1944. Immediately after liberation, a head-count of the prisoners began, in one of the camp's barracks. Today Ebensee is twinned with the Italian town of Prato, as a symbol of a friendship born out of the memories of the past. More detailed information on Ebensee is available on the ANED website (www.deportati.it) in Italian and English translation.

Eisenerz

Opened 15 June 1943, closed 14 March 1945

In this small Styrian town, around 400 prisoners were set to work in gruelling conditions in a mine.

Enns

Opened 10 April 1945, closed 19 April 1945

A camp that only lasted a few days, but which still managed to claim many victims from the 2,000 prisoners sent there in a last-ditch German effort to construct a fortified line of defence and air-raid shelter, in the teeth of the unstoppable Allied advance.

Grein

Opened 2 February 1943, closed 19 February 1945

Around 120 prisoners worked here on construction work, including housing, shops and factories for industrial purposes.

Grossraming

Opened 14 January 1943, closed 19 February 1945

Together with Bachmanning and Dippoldsau, Grossraming constituted an external "Kommando": its prisoners numbered a maximum of 1,013, set to work on the construction of a power station.

Gunskirchen

Opened 12 March 1945, liberated 5 May 1945

A place of horror, in which thousands of Hungarian Jews were sent and distributed after the terrible forced "Death Marches" from

other camps. When the camp was liberated by US troops, it still held between 12 and 15,000 prisoners, most in very poor physical condition.

Gusen I

Opened 25 May 1940, liberated 5 May 1945

The original and closest of the Mauthausen sub-camps, a place of torture and death for thousands of Italian prisoners.

Detailed information on Gusen written by Lucio Monaco is available on the ANED website (www.deportati.it), in Italian and English translation.

The picture right, taken by ex-prisoner Carlo Allieri, shows the Gusen camp entrance as it looked in the spring of 1963.



Hartheim

Opened Easter 1940, closed mid-January 1945

Strictly speaking, the castle at Hartheim was not a Mauthausen sub-camp, serving instead as a principal location for the infamous "Euthansia" murder programme, which ended in the deaths of ten of thousands of people with mental and physical disorders, who clearly flew in the face of the preferred Nazi image of German racial supremacy. However, a close working relationship between Hartheim and Mauthausen has been clearly established: at least 4,841 prisoners from the concentration camp were sent to the castle to be murdered. More detailed information on Hartheim is available from the ANED website (deportati.it), in Italian and English translation.

Hinterbruehl

Opened September 1944, closed 1 April 1945

Prisoners at this camp, codenamed "Julius" by the Nazis, were set to work for Heinkel in the construction of airplanes and components for the V2 rocket system. This work was carried out in inhumane conditions in underground tunnels in the region, which had been created by reclaiming a huge underground lake. At least 2,000 prisoners were sent here, mainly political inmates, and many of them Italian.

Hirtenberg

Opened 28 September 1944, evacuated early April 1945

A camp for women prisoners which held 459 women set to work in the Gustloff-Werke munitions factory.

Klagenfurt

Opened 19 November 1943, closed April 1945

Around 130 prisoners were sent to this camp in Carinthia to build a training facility for the SS.

Leibnitz-Graz

Opened 9 February 1944, closed 2 April 1945

655 prisoners were set to work expanding a quarry and constructing tunnels for an arms factory.

Lenzing

Opened 3 November 1944, closed early May 1945

A camp for women prisoners, it held 577 women forced to work for Lenzinger Zellwolle AG.

Lind

Opened 22 June 1942 as a Dachau sub-camp, placed under Mauthausen 19 November 1942, closed 15 April 1945.

20-odd prisoners were sent here to work for an SS agriculture company.

Linz I

Opened 20 February 1943, closed 3 August 1944

A total of 790 prisoners were sent here to help construct the camp, build a road and to work for the Reichswerke Hermann Goering.

Linz II

Opened 27 February 1944, closed March-April 1945

285 prisoners were sent here to build air-raid shelters.

Linz III	Opened 22 May 1944, closed 5 May 1945
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The largest sub-camp in Linz, it held 5,615 prisoners set to work in a foundry, in the construction of power stations, excavation work and in tank production.

Loiblpass-North and South	Opened 2 June 1943, closed April-May 1945
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Two camps, one in Carinthia and the other in Slovenia, in which 1,300 prisoners were forced to work on the construction of a huge road traffic tunnel still used today, on the Slovenia-Carinthia border. The tunnel was fully excavated on 4 December 1943.

Melk	Opened 21 April 1944, evacuated 11-15 April 1945
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One of the main Mauthausen sub-camps, a place of torture and martyrdom for thousands of prisoners, including many Italians. The prisoners were initially set to work on excavating huge underground tunnels, and then for armaments production for Steyr-Daimler-Puch AG (the largest arms manufacturer in Nazi Germany). The tunnel excavation began in the spring of 1944: the camp opened on 21 April with 500 prisoners sent from Mauthausen. Each morning the prisoners were loaded onto cattle trucks to be taken to the tunnel works four and a half km away. War production began in December 1944. On 15 March 1945, the underground production areas occupied a space of 7,880 square metres, while further excavation continued on a similarly huge space. Around 15,000 prisoners were used as slave-labour at Melk, and at least 5,000 died due to the inhumane work conditions, the lack of basic safety regulations, undernourishment, mistreatment by the guards or simple murder.

Mittersill

A small work-Kommando for female prisoners in the Salzburg area, it held 15 women set to work cleaning local factories.

Passau	Opened 19 October 1942 as a Dachau sub-camp, placed under Mauthausen, closed 2 May 1945.
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Two camps existed in the Passau area, **Passau I** and **Passau II**: 83 prisoners in the first camp were forced to build a dam for a power station. The second camp was dedicated to armaments production, between 9 March and 7 November 1944.

Peggau	Opened 17 August 1944, closed 2 April 1945
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888 prisoners sent to Peggau were first used in the construction of underground tunnels and then in the production of airplane components.

Redl-Zipf	Opened 11 October 1943, evacuated 3 May 1945.
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Also known as "Schlier", it held 1,500 prisoners set to work first in the construction of a factory and then in production of oxygen for missile use. On 3 April 1945, the "Bernhard" work Kommando was transferred here from Sachsenhausen: it included 141 prisoners involved in the production of fake foreign banknotes. On 3 May 1945, as the Allied closed in, the camp was evacuated and the prisoners sent to Ebensee in a traumatic "Death March".

Saurer-Werke (Vienna)	Opened 20 August 1944, closed 2 April 1945.
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In this camp near Vienna, 1,500 prisoners were forced to work on engine production for tanks.

Schiffslager Mauthausen	Opened 28 April 1945, liberated 5 May 1945
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A facility that lasted a few days towards the end of the war, in which 736 Soviet prisoners-of-war were held in unspeakable conditions.

Schoenbrunn (Vienna)	Opened 28 September 1944, closed April 1945
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Five imprisoned scientists were set to work in an Institute for research into automobiles, run by the SS. From the Institute came innovations and inventions in the field of motor engines important to the German war effort.

Steyr-Muenicholz	Opened 14 March 1942, evacuated end of April 1945, closed 5 May 1945
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1,971 prisoners from Mauthausen were sent here to work on ball-bearing production for airplane engines, for Steyr Daimler-Puch AG.

St. Aegy am Neuwalde	Opened 2 November 1944, closed 1 April 1945
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An external "Kommando" of 300 prisoners, serving the Institute for motor engine research, run by the SS.

St. Lambrecht Opened 2 November 1944, closed 1 April 1945

A small camp in Styria that held 80 prisoners forced to work in the forests and surrounds of an SS factory. There was also a small female camp in the area, that held 23 prisoners.

St. Valentin Opened 21 August 1944, closed 23 April 1945

It held 1,480 prisoners forced to work for Steyr Daimler-Puch AG in the production of tank components.

Schwechat Opened 30 August 1943, "Santa I" closed 13 July 1944, "Santa II" closed 1 April 1945.

Two distinct camps located in the Lower Austria area, that for some time were in the operation simultaneously. A total of 2,568 prisoners worked in the production and assembly of airplane components for Heinkel.

Ternberg Opened 8 February 1943, closed 18 September 1944.

A camp that held 406 prisoners involved in the productions of roads and a power station.

Voecklabruck Opened 6 June 1941, closed 14 May 1942

Around 300 prisoners were set to work in road construction. After the work was finished and the camp closed down, the surviving prisoners would be sent to Ternberg (see above).

Wels Opened 27 December 1944, closed April 1945

Initially, prisoners were set to work building a warehouse: later, they were involved in repairing car and airplane components. 1,900 prisoners were deported to Wels.

Wien-Floridsdorf Opened 14 June 1944, evacuated 1 April 1945

Prisoners were involved in the transfer of a construction works for airplane components, which they moved into the underground cellars of the Jedleseer brewery.

Wiener Neudorf Opened 2 August 1943, evacuated 2 April 1945.

2,954 prisoners were set to work in the production of airplane engines for Flugmotorenwerke Ostmark.

Wiener Neustadt Opened 20 June 1943, closed 17 November 1943, re-opened 5 July 1944, evacuated 1 April 1945

The Rax-Werke engine factory was converted in 1943 to V2 missile production, which began in July. 500 men were transferred here from the main camp in June and another 772 in October. In November, after Allied bombing raids, the plant was closed down, and the prisoners transferred to other camps involved in the underground production of von Braun's missiles (Redl-Zipfe – see above - and the infamous Dora Mittelbau). Similar underground work was also carried out at Neustadt to protect the V2 project from Allied bombardment. In July 1944, the camp was reopened to house prisoners forced to work in unspeakable conditions in the underground tunnels. Hundreds and hundreds of prisoners died in the camp as a result.

Zeltlager Mauthausen Opened autumn 1944, liberated 5 May 1945

A canvas camp near the main camp at Mauthausen, that held prisoners evacuated in the merciless "Death Marches" from other camps (including Auschwitz, Flossenbürg, Sachsenhausen, Buchenwald, and Gross Rosen). Up to 10,000 prisoners were held here in unbelievable conditions.

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