

Secondary Source Information

From 1941 to 1945, German authorities transferred thousands of Lodz ghetto Jews to a number of forced labor and concentration camps and deported over 100,000 Jews from the Lodz ghetto to their deaths at the Chelmno and Auschwitz-Birkenau killing centers. The timeline and general histories below may provide valuable clues about specific camps and transports that included Jewish prisoners from the Lodz ghetto.

TIMELINE OF TRANSPORTS INCLUDING LODZ GHETTO JEWS

FEBRUARY 1940 – AUGUST 1944

- [Forced Labor Camps](#)
- [Chelmno](#)
- [Auschwitz](#)

AUGUST 1944 – MAY 1945

- [Bergen-Belsen](#)
- [Buchenwald](#)
- [Dachau](#)
- [Flossenbürg](#)
- [Gross-Rosen](#)
- [Mauthausen](#)
- [Natzweiler-Struthof](#)
- [Neuengamme](#)
- [Sachsenhausen](#)
- [Stutthof](#)

TIMELINE: Transports & Prisoner Registrations of Lodz ghetto Jews

Date	Event	From	To	Size of Transport(s)	Assigned Prisoner #'s	Comments
- 1942 -						
Jan. 16-29	Deportation	Lodz	Chelmno	More than 10,000		14 Transports; Killed in gas vans
Feb. 22-28	Deportation	Lodz	Chelmno	Approximately 7,025		Killed in gas vans
March (daily)	Deportation	Lodz	Chelmno	More than 24,650		Killed in gas vans
April 1-2	Deportation	Lodz	Chelmno	Approximately 2,350		Killed in gas vans
May 4-15	Deportation	Lodz	Chelmno	More than 10,900		Killed in gas vans
May 14	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	35363-35660	298 people registered as prisoners
July 15	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	46938-46959	22 people registered as prisoners
July 16	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	8726-8744	19 people registered as prisoners
Sept. 5-12	Deportation	Lodz	Chelmno	More than 15,675		Killed in gas vans; predominantly children under age 10, the elderly and sick.
Oct. 14	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	67759-67801, 22493-22511	43 men admitted, 19 women admitted
Nov. 12	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	74428-74498, 24402-24425	71 men admitted, 24 women admitted
- 1943 -						
Jan. 30	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	97523-97684	432 people registered as prisoners
April 8	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	112854-112960	107 people registered as prisoners
April 17	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	115709-115805	97 people registered as prisoners
May 6	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	120075-120353, 44112-44192	279 men admitted, 81 women admitted
May 25	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	122855-122952	98 people registered as prisoners
June 5	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	123995-124043	49 people registered as prisoners
June 6	Arrival	Labor Camps in Wartheland	Auschwitz	more than 938	124044-124281	238 men registered as prisoners. The SS killed the rest, more than 700 people, in the gas chambers.
July 3	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	127474-127579	106 people registered as prisoners
July 3	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	127597-127606	10 people registered as prisoners
July 16	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	130061-130107	47 people registered as prisoners
July 17	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	130126-130213	88 people registered as prisoners
Aug. 3	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	135203-135276	74 people registered as prisoners
Aug. 3	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	135277-135290, 53544-53555	14 men admitted, 12 women admitted
Aug. 13	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	136702-136711, 136713-136718	16 people registered as prisoners

Aug. 14	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	136723-136835	113 people registered as prisoners
Aug. 23	Arrival	Kolo	Auschwitz	Approximately 2,000	138223-138663, 55121-55711	441 men and 591 women registered as prisoners. The SS killed the rest, almost 1,000 people, in the gas chambers.
Aug. 25	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	55919-55925	7 people registered as prisoners
Aug. 27	Arrival	Märkische Stahlform-Werke in Eberswalde	Auschwitz	250		All are killed by the SS the same day in the gas chambers.
Aug. 27	Arrival	Wolsztyn (in province of Posen/Poznan)	Auschwitz	1026	140721-141736	1,016 men registered as prisoners. The SS kill the remaining 10 men in the gas chambers.
Aug. 28	Arrival	Küstrin (Kostrzyn)	Auschwitz	800	141903-142569	667 men registered as prisoners. The SS kill the rest, 133 men, in the gas chambers.
Aug. 29	Arrival	Rawicz	Auschwitz	Approximately 2,000	142570-143961	1,392 men registered as prisoners. The SS kill the rest, more than 600 men, women, and children, in the gas chambers.
Sept. 8	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	148993-149036, 61321-61323	44 men registered as prisoners, 4 women registered as prisoners
Sept. 17	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	151064-151189	126 people registered as prisoners
Sept. 26	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	101	152403-152490, 63387-63399	88 men registered as prisoners, 13 women registered as prisoners
Oct. 28	Arrival	Pabianice	Auschwitz	348	159305-159376	72 men registered as prisoners. The SS kill the rest, 276 people, in the gas chambers.
Nov. 17	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown		3 Lodz Jews enter the camp
Dec. 1	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	165245-165309, 69446-69463	65 men registered as prisoners, 18 women registered as prisoners
- 1944 -						
Jan. 12	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	171700-171794	95 people registered as prisoners
Jan. 19	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	74640-74694	55 people registered as prisoners
Jan. 22	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	74753-74782	30 people registered as prisoners
Jan. 22	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	74798-74834	37 people registered as prisoners
Feb. 28	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	75715	1 people registered as a prisoner
March 4	Deportation	Lodz	Czestochowa	750		Mostly men
March 10	Deportation	Lodz	Czestochowa	850		Mostly young men and women
April 22	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	181950-181956	7 people registered as prisoners

May 3	Deportation	Lodz	Czestochowa(?)	80		
June 19	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	82030-82038	9 people registered as prisoners
June 23	Deportation	Lodz	Chelmno	more than 560		Transport I; killed in gas vans
June 26	Deportation	Lodz	Chelmno	more than 900		Transport II; killed in gas vans
June 28	Deportation	Lodz	Chelmno	more than 800		Transport III; killed in gas vans
June 30	Deportation	Lodz	Chelmno	700		Transport IV; killed in gas vans
July 1	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	unknown	82349-82359	11 people registered as prisoners
July 3	Deportation	Lodz	Chelmno	700		Transport V; killed in gas vans
July 5	Deportation	Lodz	Chelmno	700		Transport VI; killed in gas vans
July 7	Deportation	Lodz	Chelmno	700		Transport VII; killed in gas vans
July 10	Deportation	Lodz	Chelmno	700		Transport VIII; killed in gas vans
July 12	Deportation	Lodz	Chelmno	700		Transport IX; killed in gas vans
July 14	Deportation	Lodz	Chelmno	700		Transport X; killed in gas vans
Aug. 15	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	244	B-6210-B-6453	The SS probably held temporarily some young and healthy prisoners, without registering them, and killed the rest of those on the transport in the gas chambers.
Aug. 16	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	400	B-6454-B-6853	The SS probably held temporarily some young and healthy prisoners, without registering them, and killed the rest of those on the transport in the gas chambers.
Aug. 16	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	270	B-6889-B-7158	The SS probably held temporarily some young and healthy prisoners, without registering them, and killed the rest of those on the transport in the gas chambers.
Aug. 21	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	131	B-7566-B-7696	The camp authorities put them in quarantine in Camp B-IIe, and killed the rest of those on the transport in the gas chambers.
Aug. 22	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	66	B-7697-B-7760, 87096-87096	In a clandestine message to Teresa Lasocka the prisoner Stanislaw Klodzinski reports: "The gassings continue. Today, for example, 40 cars with Jews arrived from Lodz -

						all went in to the gas." From this transport, the camp authorities registered only 64 men two women as prisoners.
Aug. 24	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	17	B-7860-B-7876	The SS probably held temporarily some young and healthy prisoners, without registering them, and killed the rest of those on the transport in the gas chambers.
Aug. 24	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	222	B-7905-B-8126	The SS probably held temporarily some young and healthy prisoners, without registering them, and killed the rest of those on the transport in the gas chambers.
Aug. 30	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	75	B-8129-B-8203	The SS probably held temporarily some young and healthy prisoners, without registering them, and killed the rest of those on the transport in the gas chambers.
Sept. 2	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	393	B-8210-B-8602	The SS probably held temporarily some young and healthy prisoners, without registering them, and killed the rest of those on the transport in the gas chambers.
Sept. 2	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	500	B-8603-B-9102	The SS probably held temporarily some young and healthy prisoners, without registering them, and killed the rest of those on the transport in the gas chambers.
Sept. 7	Registration	Lodz	Auschwitz	247	B-9372-B-9618	Arrived earlier; held pending transfer, and registered at Auschwitz
Sept. 8	Registration	Lodz	Auschwitz	50	B-9767-B-9816	Arrived earlier; held pending transfer, and registered at Auschwitz
Sept. 8	Registration	Lodz	Auschwitz	216	B-9817-B-10032	Arrived earlier; held pending transfer, and registered at Auschwitz
Sept. 15	Registration	Lodz	Auschwitz	97	B-10173-B-10269	Arrived earlier; held pending transfer, and registered at Auschwitz

Sept. 18	Arrival	Lodz	Auschwitz	2500	B-10270-B-10419	150 men admitted, 2350 killed in gas chambers. Up to 80 percent of the people on the transport were children between 13 and 16 years of age.
Oct. 2	Registration	Lodz and other locations	Auschwitz	949	B-11403 – B-12351	Camp authorities registered 949 Jews – some from Lodz – whom they had held pending transfer, as Auschwitz prisoners. SS labor allocation officers selected 297 of these prisoners, including two prisoners from Lodz, for deployment at forced labor at the Gollerschau subcamp, and deployed others at the Gleiwitz I subcamp.
November	Registration	Lodz	Auschwitz	12	within the sequence B-14582 and B-14594	Auschwitz camp authorities registered 12 male Jews from Lodz, whom they had held pending transfer.
November	Registration	Lodz	Auschwitz	several dozen	within the sequence A-27700 – A-27871	Auschwitz camp authorities registered several dozen female Jews from Lodz, whom they had held pending transfer.

Adapted from Strzelecki, Andrzej. *The Deportation of Jews from the Lodz Ghetto to KL Auschwitz and Their Extermination*. Oswiecim: Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, 2006, Czech, Danuta. *Auschwitz Chronicle 1939 – 1945*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1990, and Dobroszycki, Lucjan (ed.). *The Chronicle of the Lodz Ghetto 1941 -- 1944*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1984.

[Return to Index](#)

Forced Labor Camps and Auschwitz (More than 10,000 Jews transferred from the Lodz ghetto)

The Germans transferred over 10,000 Jews from the Lodz ghetto to forced labor camps in the District Wartheland (seat Poznan), a territory of western Poland directly annexed by Germany in 1939, and the General Government, that part of partitioned Poland that Germany administered but did not annex. Approximately half of these deportees, close to 5,000 people, went from Lodz to forced labor camps between September 1941 and the summer of 1944.

Many Jews died in the forced labor camps, and when most of the labor camps were liquidated in 1942 and 1943, they either relocated prisoners or killed them. The German authorities returned some prisoners to the Lodz ghetto; in many cases, the SS deported them directly to Auschwitz.

For many of these smaller transports no written record survived the war; however, records of several large transports of Lodz Jews to various destinations did survive.

Częstochowa camps

The German authorities transported around 1,600 Lodz Jews, primarily young men and women, to Częstochowa in the Radom District of the General Government on March 4 and 10, 1944. Another 80 people may have arrived in Częstochowa from Lodz on May 3, 1944. The German company HASAG (Hugo Schneider Aktiengesellschaft) operated four labor camps in Częstochowa: [HASAG-Appartenbau "Pelzery,"](#) HASAG-Częstochowianka, HASAG-Warta, and HASAG-Rakow- Eisenhütte. Three other HASAG camps were located in the nearby Radom region: HASAG-Skarzysko-Kamienna, HASAG-Radom, and HASAG-Granat in Kielce. Conditions were brutal and many prisoners died. The SS evacuated surviving prisoners from the HASAG camps in Częstochowa on January 15-16, 1945 to Buchenwald, Gross-Rosen, and Ravensbrück.

Poznan/Posen camps

At least two large transports of male Jews left the Lodz ghetto for camps in Poznan (Posen), the administrative seat of District Wartheland – over 750 people in May 1942 and over 620 people in June 1942. Several firms in the Poznan district used Jewish forced labor. Jewish prisoners from the Kreising camp constructed the Poznan airport. Mortality rates were high.

Highway construction projects

The German authorities sent several transports of Jewish men to be deployed at forced labor constructing highways for the Reichautobahn. There were camps in Kreuzsee near Reppin (Rzepin) as well as Necklo where forced laborers engaged in such projects. Jewish forced laborers were used to build the Frankfurt-Oder-Poznan, Kutno-Poznan, and Lissa-Ostrowa highways, among others. In August 1942, a transport of approximately 75 male Jews left the Lodz ghetto to work for the Reichautobahn.

In addition, Jews from the Lodz ghetto are known to have worked as forced laborers at other camps in German annexed and occupied Poland, including camps at – Kolo, the Märkische Stahlform-Werke in Eberswalde, Pabianice, Rawicz, Wolsztyn, and Küstrin (Kostrzyn). As these camps were liquidated in the summer and fall of 1943, the SS deported the surviving prisoners, including Jews from Lodz, in several transports to Auschwitz.

Auschwitz

German authorities deported at least 2,700 Jews from the Lodz ghetto to Auschwitz on several transports between May 1942 and July 1944.

[Return to Index](#)

Chelmno
(More than 77,000 Jews deported from the Lodz ghetto)

The German authorities initiated the liquidation of the Lodz ghetto and renewed deportations of Jews from the Lodz ghetto to the Chelmno killing center on January 16, 1942. Between January and May 1942, more than 54,000 Lodz Jews were killed at Chelmno. There were no deportations to Chelmno during the summer. However, a special action was carried out during the first half of September 1942 in which over 15,000 people were deported to Chelmno, primarily children under the age of ten, the elderly, and sick.

Late September 1942 through May 1944 was a period of relative calm in the ghetto. There were no more deportations to Chelmno until the liquidation of the ghetto began in June 1944. Between June 23, and July 14, 1944, almost 7,200 people were sent to their deaths at Chelmno.

[Return to Index](#)

Auschwitz

(More than 65,000 Jews deported from the Lodz ghetto)

German authorities liquidated the Lodz ghetto in August 1944, at a time of extreme demand for forced labor for German war production. As in the case of the Hungarian Jews who arrived in Auschwitz the previous spring, the Auschwitz camp authorities selected significant numbers of Lodz Jews (roughly one third) for deployment at forced labor, sparing them, at least temporarily (for some) the gas chambers upon arrival. The SS labor allocation officers held most of these prisoners temporarily "on deposit" and subsequently transferred them to other concentration camps within the Reich.

Killed in the Gas Chambers

The SS authorities at Auschwitz killed approximately 67% of the Lodz Jews sent there — more than 43,000 people — upon arrival or within a few weeks in the gas chambers.

Held Unregistered Pending Transfer

Auschwitz camp authorities did not register approximately 19,000 people — almost one-third of Lodz Jews arriving at Auschwitz in August 1944 — as prisoners at Auschwitz, but held them there temporarily. After a few days or weeks, the SS transferred them to other concentration camps as forced laborers. Between August and November 1944, SS labor allocation authorities transferred these prisoners to camps affiliated with [Bergen-Belsen](#), [Buchenwald](#), [Dachau](#), [Flossenbürg](#), [Gross-Rosen](#), [Mauthausen](#), [Natzweiler-Struthof](#), [Neuengamme](#), [Sachsenhausen](#), and [Stutthof](#).

Registered as Prisoners

Camp authorities registered more than 3,000 (mostly male) Jews as prisoners at Auschwitz, recording the previous residence as "Litzmannstadt" (i.e., Lodz).

Sub-camps of Auschwitz with prisoners from the Lodz ghetto:

<u>Subcamp</u>	<u>Approximate number of prisoners from the Lodz ghetto</u>
Althammer	250
Charlottegrube	12
Furstengrube	185
Gleiwitz I	20
Gleiwitz IV	at least 200
Janinagrube	94
Neu Dachs	220
Trzebinia	97
Tschechowitz-Vacuum	300

The SS exempted several hundred Jews, who had worked for Siemens in the Dawidowicz department in the ghetto, from selection on the ramp when they arrived at Auschwitz.

Auschwitz camp authorities detailed at least 100 Jews from the Lodz ghetto aged 18 or younger to work in KL Auschwitz run farms near the camp.

The camp authorities selected approximately 200 younger Jews from the Lodz ghetto to attend a bricklaying school (*Maurerschule*) in the Auschwitz main camp. In November 1944, they were transferred to the [Sachsenhausen](#) sub-camp in Lieberose where many of them died. The SS evacuated most of those who survived in February 1945 via the Sachsenhausen main camp to [Mauthausen](#); and may have sent some to [Bergen-Belsen](#) instead.

Over 200 Lodz Jews are listed among 917 prisoners evacuated from Auschwitz and arriving at Buchenwald on January 23, 1945. Lodz Jews are represented in similar records from [Dachau](#).

Many Lodz Jews imprisoned in Auschwitz and its sub-camps died or were killed during the evacuations and brutal forced marches of January 1945. Some managed to escape during the death marches. Soviet troops [liberated a small number](#) left behind at Auschwitz I, Birkenau and some sub-camps.

[Return to Index](#)

Bergen-Belsen

(Approximately 2,000 female Lodz Jews held "on deposit" and transferred via Auschwitz)

In December 1944 the Germans re-designated Bergen-Belsen as a concentration camp.

Among its many functions, Bergen-Belsen served as a collection camp for sick and injured prisoners transported from other concentration camps. The prisoner senior orderly, on the orders of the SS, killed many seriously ill prisoners by means of lethal injection in the camp infirmary.

Bergen-Belsen also functioned as a way station distributing forced laborers to various camps within the Reich. SS authorities transported Jewish women from Lodz via Bergen-Belsen to [Buchenwald](#) (Elsnig and Magdeburg), [Flossenbürg](#) (Mehltheuer), [Natzweiler-Struthof](#) (Geisenheim and Geislingen) and [Neuengamme](#) (Salzwedel).

On August 23, 1944, 1,000 Jewish women, originally from the Lodz ghetto, arrived in Bergen-Belsen from Auschwitz. The SS authorities sent many of them directly to the newly converted subcamps Tannenlager in **Unterlüss-Altensothrieth** and the Waldeslust Lager in **Hambühren-Ovelgönne**, where they were forced to work for *Rheinmetall-Borsig* and *Wintershall AG (Heeres-Munitionstalt)* respectively.

The SS deployed approximately 150 Jewish women from Lodz as forced laborers at the **Bomlitz** sub-camp. In mid-October 1944, SS authorities closed Bomlitz and transferred the surviving women back to the main Bergen-Belsen camp. *

By late 1944 and early 1945, Bergen-Belsen had become a collection camp for thousands of Jewish prisoners evacuated from camps closer to the front as Allied forces advanced into Germany. The arrival of thousands of new prisoners, many of them survivors of brutal evacuations, flooded the camp. In February 1945 there were already some 22,000 prisoners. With the arrival of prisoners evacuated from the east, there were over 60,000 by April 15, 1945. Overcrowding, poor sanitary conditions, and the lack of adequate food and shelter led to a typhus epidemic. Between January and May 1945, tens of thousands of prisoners, perhaps as many as 35,000 people, died.

On April 15, 1945, British forces liberated Bergen-Belsen. Sixty thousand prisoners, most of them seriously ill, were found in the camp. Thousands of corpses lay unburied on the camp grounds. More than 10,000 former prisoners, too ill to recover, died after liberation. After evacuating Bergen-Belsen, British forces burned down the whole camp to prevent the spread of typhus. During its existence, approximately 50,000 persons died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. After liberation, a displaced persons camp of more than 12,000 inhabitants was established in German military school barracks near the original concentration camp site.

* (Adapted from Strzelecki, Andrzej. *The Deportation of Jews from the Lodz Ghetto to KL Auschwitz and Their Extermination*. Oswiecim: Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, 2006.)

[Return to Index](#)

Buchenwald

(Up to 800 Lodz Jews — mostly female — held "on deposit" and transferred via Auschwitz)

During World War II, the Buchenwald camp system became an important source of forced labor. The prisoner population expanded rapidly, reaching 112,000 by February 1945. Buchenwald administered at least 88 sub-camps located across Germany. The SS deployed prisoners in the satellite camps mostly in armaments factories, in stone quarries, and on construction projects. Periodically, camp authorities throughout the Buchenwald camp system subjected the prisoners to "selections." The SS staff sent those too weak or disabled to work to sanitariums such as Bernburg, where health care personnel operatives killed them in gas chambers. These mass murders fell within the framework of Operation 14f13, in which the program to murder institutionalized people with disabilities was extended to those concentration camp prisoners who were too ill, exhausted, or mentally enfeebled by mistreatment to work. SS orderlies and other medical personnel in the camp killed other prisoners who were unable to work by means of phenol injections.

In October 1944, the SS transferred more than 250 Lodz ghetto Jews to **Buchenwald-Elsnig**, where they were forced to work in an explosives factory. Despite starvation rations, 12-hour work shifts, and brutal treatment by guards, some prisoners reported conditions as being better than at Auschwitz. In April 1945, the SS evacuated the camp in a train carrying explosives and bound for Berlin. Near Potsdam, Allied planes bombed the transport, killing many of the prisoners. The Germans hunted down and murdered most of those who managed to escape the inferno. Few prisoners survived.

Among the prisoners the SS transferred to **Buchenwald-Magdeburg**, approximately 140 were, in all probability, former residents of the Lodz ghetto. They were forced to work in the Polte ammunition factory. Immediately prior to liberation by U.S. forces on May 4, 1945, the Germans massacred a number of prisoners outside the *Neue Welt Stadium*; however, some did survive. As a group, they returned to Lodz, arriving on May 25, 1945.

In September 1944, the SS transferred some 400 Jews from Lodz and environs and hence probably residents of the Lodz ghetto from Auschwitz to **Buchenwald-Mühlhausen**, where German authorities deployed them at forced labor in the *Junkers Flugzeug-und Motorwerke AG* plant and *Thiel* ammunition factory. In March 1945, the SS evacuated the surviving prisoners to [Bergen-Belsen](#), where most probably died. *

On April 11, 1945, U.S. soldiers found more than 21,000 people in the main Buchenwald camp. Between July 1937 and April 1945, the SS imprisoned some 275,000 persons from all countries of Europe in Buchenwald Concentration Camp System. Exact mortality figures for the Buchenwald site can only be estimated, as a significant number of the prisoners were never registered: the SS murdered approximately 56,000 prisoners in the Buchenwald camp system, some 11,000 of them Jews.

* Adapted from Strzelecki, Andrzej. *The Deportation of Jews from the Lodz Ghetto to KL Auschwitz and Their Extermination*. Oswiecim: Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, 2006.

[Return to Index](#)

Dachau

(Approximately 2,500 male Lodz Jews held "on deposit" and transferred via Auschwitz)

To increase war production, the SS Inspectorate of Concentration Camps established, in the summer and fall of 1944, satellite camps under the administration of Dachau at locations near armaments factories throughout southern Germany. Dachau had dozens of subcamps in which over 30,000 prisoners worked almost exclusively on armaments. Thousands were worked to death.

On August 31 and September 1, 16-18, and 29, 1944, approximately 2,500 Jews from the District Wartheland (seat Poznan), including Lodz, arrived at Dachau via Auschwitz. Many had previously resided in the Lodz ghetto.

From the end of September, approximately 500 Lodz Jews were prisoners in **Dachau-Riederloh II**. The Germans put them to work building an underground munitions factory; within a few months, most were dead.

In October 1944, the SS transferred 150 Jewish prisoners, many from Lodz, from **Dachau-Kaufering IV** to Auschwitz as "unfit for work." *

As Allied and Soviet forces advanced toward Germany, the Germans evacuated large numbers of prisoners to Dachau, resulting in a dramatic deterioration of conditions. After days of travel, with little or no food or water, the prisoners arrived weak and exhausted, often near death. Typhus epidemics became a serious problem due to overcrowding, poor sanitary conditions, insufficient provisions, and the weakened state of the prisoners.

On April 26, 1945, as U.S. forces approached, there were 67,665 registered prisoners in Dachau and its sub-camps; more than half of these prisoners were in the main camp. Of these, the camp authorities categorized 43,350 as political prisoners, 22,100 as Jews, and the remainder as falling into various other categories. Starting that day, the Germans forced more than 7,000 prisoners, mostly Jews, on a death march from Dachau to Tegernsee far to the south. During this brutal evacuation march, the Germans shot anyone who could no longer continue. Many others died of hunger, cold, or exhaustion. On April 29, 1945, U.S. forces liberated Dachau. As they neared the camp, they found more than 30 railroad cars filled with bodies, all in an advanced state of decomposition. In early May 1945, U.S. forces liberated the surviving prisoners on the evacuation march to Tegernsee.

The number of prisoners incarcerated in Dachau between 1933 and 1945 exceeded 188,000. The number of prisoners killed in the main camp and the sub-camps ranges between 31,000 and 39,850. It is unlikely that the exact number of victims who died in Dachau will ever be known.

Adapted from Strzelecki, Andrzej. *The Deportation of Jews from the Lodz Ghetto to KL Auschwitz and Their Extermination*. Oswiecim: Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, 2006.

[Return to Index](#)

Flossenbürg

(Approximately 1,200 Lodz Jews — mostly female — held "on deposit" and transferred via Auschwitz)

During the war, prisoner forced labor became increasingly important in the German war industry. As a result, the Flossenbürg camp system expanded to include approximately 100 sub-camps concentrated mainly around armaments and related industries in southern Germany and western Czechoslovakia (today: Czech Republic). In January 1945, there were almost 40,000 prisoners in the Flossenbürg camp system as a whole, including almost 11,000 women. The German authorities forced prisoners to work in the stone quarry adjacent to the main camp and in armaments-related production. Illness, exhaustion, starvation, and inadequate housing conditions contributed to a high mortality rate.

The Germans deported at least 1,200 Lodz ghetto Jews via Auschwitz and [Bergen-Belsen](#) (in one case, through [Stutthof](#)) to subcamps of Flossenbürg.

The German authorities transferred more than 300 female Lodz ghetto Jews from Auschwitz directly to **Freiberg** to produce aircraft wings and ammunition. While conditions at Freiberg compared favorably to Auschwitz, hunger, 12-hour work shifts seven days a week, and mistreatment by the SS guards were the norm. The SS evacuated the prisoners to [Mauthausen](#), in April 1945 where U.S. troops liberated the survivors in May.

Almost 200 Polish Jewish women, most likely from Lodz, arrived in **Mehltheuer** (established in December 1944) via Auschwitz and [Bergen-Belsen](#). They worked producing armored vehicles for the *Vogtländische Maschinenfabrik AG*.

Founded in September 1944, the **Siegmar-Schönau** camp housed prisoners, mostly from Lodz, whom camp authorities forced to work in an *Auto Union AG* plant.

The Germans transferred almost 160 female Lodz ghetto Jews from Auschwitz to **Oederan** to work in a factory belonging to *Auto Union AG* Chemnitz. In April 1945, the SS evacuated the prisoners to Theresienstadt.

A small group of Lodz ghetto Jews were part of the *Metallgruppe* of some 500 prisoners sent via [Stutthof](#) to **Dresden** where they worked in an ammunition factory. Some were subsequently evacuated to Theresienstadt. Many died in the last weeks of the war. Those who survived were liberated by the Red Army either at Theresienstadt or on a death march near Pilsen.

Over 140 female Lodz ghetto Jews were evacuated to **Hainichen** to work in a munitions factory, and from there to Theresienstadt in April 1945. *

The Flossenbürg prisoners evacuated to Theresienstadt were among more than 13,000 prisoners whom the SS evacuated from numerous concentration camps to Theresienstadt between April 20 and May 8, 1945. Many were sick and weak. The overcrowded conditions contributed to the outbreak of typhus in the camp. When Soviet forces arrived at Theresienstadt on May 9, 1945, they found about 30,000 people imprisoned there.

As U.S. forces approached the Flossenbürg camp on April 20, 1945, the SS evacuated the prisoners, except those unable to walk. They forced about 22,000 prisoners, including 1,700 Jews, were forced on a brutal evacuation march from the Flossenbürg main camp toward Dachau in southern Germany. SS guards shot any prisoners too weak or ill to keep up. At least 7,000 prisoners died or were shot before reaching Dachau.

U.S. forces liberated Flossenbürg on April 23, 1945. They found about 1,600 ill and weak prisoners, mostly in the camp's hospital barracks. Between 1938, when the SS established the camp, and April 1945, more than 100,000 prisoners passed through Flossenbürg. About 30,000 died there.

*Adapted from Strzelecki, Andrzej. *The Deportation of Jews from the Lodz Ghetto to KL Auschwitz and Their Extermination*. Oswiecim: Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, 2006.

[Return to Index](#)

Gross-Rosen

(Approximately 5,000 Lodz Jews held "on deposit" and transferred via Auschwitz)

Increasing emphasis on the use of concentration camp prisoners in armaments production led to the expansion of the Gross-Rosen Concentration Camp, which became the center of an industrial complex and the administrative hub of a vast network of over 100 sub-camps. As of January 1, 1945, the Gross-Rosen complex held 76,728 prisoners. Nearly 26,000 of these were women, most of them Jews. This was one of the largest groupings of female prisoners in the entire concentration camp system.

In October 1944, female Jews from the Lodz ghetto were among a group of 1,000 prisoners whom the SS deployed to **Birnbühl** to dig trenches. In January 1945, the Germans evacuated them to [Bergen-Belsen](#). During the evacuation several Lodz Jewish women managed to escape.

At the end of August 1944, the Germans transported some 500 female prisoners, mainly Lodz Jews, from Auschwitz to **Christianstadt**, where camp authorities forced them to work in *Dynamit AG* plants producing grenades. Towards the end of 1944, the SS transferred some to **Parschnitz**. At the end of February 1945, the SS evacuated the remaining prisoners in Christianstadt to [Bergen-Belsen](#).

In September and October 1944, the German authorities transported 460 prisoners, most of them Lodz Jews, to **Friedland**. The majority worked in a factory producing aircraft propellers, while others worked in a saw mill. Living conditions were better in comparison to most other sub-camps. Soviet troops liberated almost all of the prisoners on May 9, 1945.

Between 500-800 Lodz ghetto Jews arrived at **Gorlitz-Biesnitzer Grund** on September 5, 1944. They worked producing armored vehicles and grenades. As Soviet and Polish forces approached in February 1945, the SS force-marched most of the prisoners to a transit camp in Rennersdorf. In March, the Germans sent them back to Gorlitz, where they dug fortification trenches. Many died. Soviet troops liberated the survivors in early March 1945.

The SS authorities transported approximately 250 female Lodz ghetto Jews to **Halbstadt** to work in a munitions factory. Conditions were better compared to many sub-camps. Soviet troops liberated almost all of the prisoners on May 9, 1945.

Survivor testimony indicates that a small number of Lodz Jews were sent to **Hirschberg**.

The SS transported at least 50 Jewish women from Lodz via Auschwitz to **Kratzau** in September/October 1944, where they produced armaments and ammunition. The prisoners at Kratzau were liberated on May 8, 1945.

Survivor testimony indicates that a small number of Lodz Jews were sent to **Langenbielau**.

German authorities transported approximately 200 female Lodz ghetto Jews via Auschwitz to **Merzdorf** at the end of August 1944. Soviet troops liberated most of them on May 8, 1945.

At the end of August 1944, the SS transported approximately 100 Jewish women from the Lodz ghetto from Auschwitz to **Mittelsteine** where they were forced to produce aircraft parts. In March and April 1945, SS guards evacuated the prisoners to Grafenort and Weisswasser where Soviet troops liberated them on May 8 and May 9, 1945.

The Germans transported two groups of Lodz ghetto Jews from Auschwitz to the **Peterswaldau/Eulengebirge** (also known as the **Riese** sub-camp complex) in the Sowie Mountains in August and September 1944. The first transport included approximately 2,000 prisoners and the second over 700. The prisoners were forced to dig massive underground tunnel complexes. Conditions were terrible in Riese. Approximately 40 percent of the prisoners died from the effects of hunger and exhaustion.

A small number of women from the Lodz ghetto are known to have been deported to **Sackisch**. Soviet troops liberated the survivors on May 9, 1945. *

It is estimated that of the 120,000 prisoners who passed through the Gross-Rosen camp system, 40,000 died either in Gross-Rosen and the subcamps, or during the evacuations.

* Adapted from Strzelecki, Andrzej. *The Deportation of Jews from the Lodz Ghetto to KL Auschwitz and Their Extermination*. Oswiecim: Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, 2006.

[Return to Index](#)

Mauthausen

(More than 50 Lodz Jews held "on deposit" and transferred via Auschwitz)

In the summer and fall of 1944, the Germans established subcamps of Mauthausen near armaments factories throughout Austria. There were over 45 subcamps, including Gusen, Gunskirchen, Melk, Ebensee, and Amstetten. The German authorities worked thousands of prisoners to death.

The Germans transferred a small number of Lodz ghetto Jews between August and October 1944 from Auschwitz to Gross-Rosen, and, in March 1945, further on to Mauthausen.

The SS sent some Lodz Jews directly from Auschwitz to the sub-camp of **Lenzing**. *

Because of the large number of transports arriving from evacuated camps in early 1945, especially from Auschwitz, [Sachsenhausen](#), and [Gross-Rosen](#), Mauthausen became increasingly overcrowded, resulting in the serious deterioration of already terrible conditions. Many prisoners died from starvation or disease. Typhus epidemics further reduced the camp's population.

An estimated 197,464 prisoners passed through Mauthausen between 1938 and May 1945. Slight more than half of these prisoners, an estimated 102,765 are believed to have died in Mauthausen and its subcamps, including Gusen. At least 15,000 of them were Jewish.

U.S. forces liberated Mauthausen on May 5, 1945.

- Adapted from Strzelecki, Andrzej. *The Deportation of Jews from the Lodz Ghetto to KL Auschwitz and Their Extermination*. Oswiecim: Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, 2006.

[Return to Index](#)

Natzweiler-Struthof

(Approximately 350 Lodz Jews — mostly female — held "on deposit" and transferred via Auschwitz)

The Germans used prisoners throughout the Natzweiler-Struthof camp system as forced laborers to produce arms and to construct underground manufacturing facilities. (Allied air raids on industrial complexes necessitated the construction of such facilities.)

There were about 50 sub-camps in the Natzweiler-Struthof camp system, located in Alsace and Lorraine as well as in the adjacent German provinces of Baden and Württemberg. By the fall of 1944, there were about 7,000 prisoners in the main camp and more than 20,000 in sub-camps.

With the approach of Allied forces in September 1944, the SS evacuated the main camp at Natzweiler-Struthof and transferred the prisoners to other concentration camps.

The Germans transported approximately 150 Jewish women from Lodz via Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen to **Geislingen**, a subcamp of Natzweiler Concentration Camp, where they worked in the Württembergische Metallwaren factory.

The German authorities deported up to 200 Jewish women from the Lodz ghetto via Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen to the **Geisenheim** sub-camp in December 1944. At Geisenheim, they worked in a *Krupp* factory producing grenades and anti-aircraft gun locks.

In March 1945, the Germans disbanded the sub-camps. SS guards accompanied most of the prisoners on brutal forced marches toward the Dachau Concentration Camp in southern Germany. The Geisenheim prisoners marched to the [Dachau](#) sub-camp of Allach; many died or were shot by the SS guards on the way. At Allach, some survived the war. *

From May 1941 to March 1945, around 20,000 people died in the Natzweiler-Struthof camp system.

*Adapted from Strzelecki, Andrzej. *The Deportation of Jews from the Lodz Ghetto to KL Auschwitz and Their Extermination*. Oswiecim: Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, 2006.

[Return to Index](#)

Neuengamme

(Approximately 1,800 Lodz Jews — mostly male — held "on deposit" and transferred via Auschwitz)

As of mid-January 1945, there were about 50,000 prisoners in the Neuengamme concentration camp system. This figure included almost 10,000 women. The Neuengamme camp system included about 70 subcamps spread over northwestern Germany, with more than 20 camps in Hamburg alone.

From September to November 1944, the SS transferred up to 400 Lodz ghetto Jews from Auschwitz to [Braunschweig](#). Between January and March 1945, the Germans moved a large proportion of the Braunschweig prisoners to **Salzgitter-Watenstedt**.

The SS evacuated approximately 300 Lodz ghetto Jews from Salzgitter and Braunschweig to Ravensbrück on April 14, 1945. About 75% of the prisoners transferred from Braunschweig to Ravensbrück survived to be liberated by Soviet troops in late April 1945.

A transport of almost 1,000 Jews from the Lodz ghetto arrived via Auschwitz at a Neuengamme sub-camp at **Hannover-Stocken** on September 7, 1944. German authorities deployed them at forced labor in the Continental Rubber Works factory. In October 1944, the SS sent 80-85% of the prisoners were sent to the Neuengamme main camp as "unfit to work." By the end of November, at least 50 of them had died. On November 30, the management of the Continental Rubber Works transplanted the factory to the mine tunnels at Hannover-**Ahlem**, while the SS moved the surviving prisoners there. Conditions in the tunnels at Ahlem were particularly bad, and prisoner mortality soared. In January 1945, the camp authorities transferred at least 200 Lodz Jews back to the main camp at Neuengamme as "unfit to work". On April 6, 1945, the SS evacuated approximately 600 prisoners from Ahlem to [Bergen-Belsen](#). Over 220 prisoners remained in Ahlem because they were too weak or sick to make the journey. U.S. troops liberated them on April 10, 1945. Almost one quarter of these prisoners died within weeks after liberation. It is also likely that most of the prisoners evacuated to Bergen-Belsen did not survive the war. All told, at least 450 prisoners died at the Hannover-Stocken and Ahlem subcamps. Many of them were Jews from the Lodz ghetto.

In September 1944, approximately 400 Jewish women from the Lodz ghetto arrived at the subcamp **Hamburg-Sasel** where, under SS guard, they cleared bombing debris and constructed housing for air raid victims in the city. The SS evacuated the surviving prisoners to [Bergen-Belsen](#).

The SS transported a small number of Lodz ghetto women (likely fewer than 50) from [Bergen-Belsen](#) to **Salzwedel** where they worked in the Polte ammunition factory. U.S. troops liberated Salzwedel in mid-April 1945. *

For more information about the group of Lodz Jews transferred from Auschwitz to **Braunschweig** — including the names and stories of several survivors — see Karl Liedke's "[Destruction Through Work: Lodz Jews in the Büssing Truck Factory in Braunschweig, 1944-1945](#)" in *Yad Vashem Studies* 30 (2002): 153-187.

* Adapted from Strzelecki, Andrzej. *The Deportation of Jews from the Lodz Ghetto to KL Auschwitz and Their Extermination*. Oswiecim: Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, 2006.

[Return to Index](#)

Sachsenhausen

(Approximately 400 Lodz Jews — mostly female — held "on deposit" and transferred via Auschwitz)

As of mid-January 1945 there were more than 65,000 prisoners in Sachsenhausen, including more than 13,000 women. During the war, forced labor utilizing concentration camp prisoners became increasingly important in German armaments production. As a result, the Sachsenhausen camp system expanded to include more than 72 subcamps concentrated mainly around armaments industries in the greater Berlin area in northern Germany.

Lodz ghetto Jews made up the majority of 500 female prisoners at the **Berlin-Neukölln** subcamp. They worked 12-hour shifts producing detonators, machine guns, and presumably aircraft parts at a plant which officially belonged to *National Krupp Registrierkassen GmbH* and the *American Cash Register*. Some of these prisoners had previously worked at a branch of the same firm in the Lodz ghetto. *

With the approach of Allied forces, SS camp guards began the forced evacuation of 30,000 prisoners from the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. They forced the prisoners on a brutal evacuation march to the northwest. SS guards shot prisoners who were unable to keep up. Soviet troops liberated the surviving prisoners on May 2 near the town of Schwerin, Germany.

Soviet forces liberated the Sachsenhausen camp itself on April 22, 1945. They found only about 3,000 ill and weak prisoners in the camp. Camp records indicate that the SS incarcerated more than 140,000 prisoners to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Between 40,000 and 80,000 of them died, including Soviet prisoners of war. The SS also deported to Sachsenhausen tens of thousands of unregistered prisoners, including between 6,000 and 18,000 Soviet prisoners of war, whom the camp staff shot shortly after the Soviet soldiers arrived.

* Adapted from Strzelecki, Andrzej. *The Deportation of Jews from the Lodz Ghetto to KL Auschwitz and Their Extermination*. Oswiecim: Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, 2006.

[Return to Index](#)

Stutthof

(Approximately 11,500 Lodz Jews — mostly female — held "on deposit" and transferred via Auschwitz)

Conditions in the Stutthof camp were brutal. Many prisoners died in typhus epidemics that swept the camp in the winter of 1942 and again in 1944. Those whom the SS guards judged too weak or sick to work were gassed in the camp's small gas chamber. Camp doctors also killed sick or injured prisoners in the infirmary with lethal injections. At least 65,000 people died in the camp.

The Germans used Stutthof prisoners as forced laborers. Some prisoners worked in SS-owned businesses such as the German Equipment Works (DAW), located near the camp. Others labored in local brickyards, in private industrial enterprises, in agriculture, or in the camp's own workshops. In 1944, as forced labor by concentration camp prisoners became increasingly important in armaments production, a Focke-Wulff airplane factory was constructed at Stutthof.

Eventually, the Stutthof camp system became a vast network of forced-labor camps; the camp authorities established 66 documented Stutthof subcamps throughout northern and central Poland. Among the major subcamps were **Thorn** and **Elbing**.

Almost 11,500 Lodz ghetto Jews arrived at Stutthof from Auschwitz on August 28 and 31, as well as September 3, 10 and 27, 1944. Most — perhaps 7,000 — were female prisoners. Until the end of October or early November 1944, in addition to those prisoners who died of hunger and disease, the SS killed numerous female prisoners of the camp by means of lethal gas, lethal injection, and shooting.

The SS transported 500 Lodz ghetto women to the **Gerdauen** sub-camp, and at least 1,000 to **Heiligenbeil**, **Jesau**, **Schippenbeil**, and **Seerappen**. Conditions were harsh, and mortality rates were very high. Many prisoners died or were shot during evacuations back to the main Stutthof camp in December 1944 and January 1945. The SS evacuated those prisoners who reached Stutthof further on foot on to Königsberg and Palmnicken on the Baltic coast. During the march to Palmnicken, SS guards shot approximately 1,000 prisoners. On January 30, the SS marched 3,000 to 4,000 prisoners out of Palmnicken into the icy Baltic Sea. Those who sought to escape were cut down by machine gun fire. Only a dozen or so survived.

1,000 Lodz ghetto Jews arrived at **OT Thorn** in November 1944 where they built fortifications and dug trenches. Mortality rates were high. The SS sent prisoners "unfit for labor" back to the main Stutthof camp. In January 1945, SS guards evacuated the remaining prisoners on foot toward Leborg in Pomerania. Soviet troops liberated approximately 400 prisoners near Leborg on March 1, 1945.

In October 1944, the SS held 20 boys from the Lodz ghetto at the **Stolp** subcamp to be taught plumbing skills. In January 1945, the SS evacuated the boys to the Stutthof main camp via Danzig-Burggraben. From there, they were among 4,000 prisoners whom the German authorities evacuated them by sea to Stutthof in January 1945. *

The evacuation of prisoners from the Stutthof camp system in northern Poland began in January 1945. When the final evacuation began, there were nearly 50,000 prisoners, the overwhelming majority of them Jews, in the Stutthof camp system. Excluding the prisoners that they shot on the shore near Palmnicken, the SS marched the surviving prisoners in the direction of Lauenburg in eastern Germany. En route, Soviet forces cut them off, forcing the marching columns to return to Stutthof. Marching in severe winter conditions and treated brutally by SS guards, thousands of prisoners died during the march.

In late April 1945, with Stutthof completely encircled by Soviet forces, the SS evacuated the remaining prisoners by sea. They forced hundreds of prisoners were forced directly into the sea and shot them. The Germans sent more than 4,000 prisoners by small boat to Germany, some to the [Neuengamme](#) concentration camp near Hamburg, and some to camps along the Baltic coast. Many drowned along the way. Shortly before the German surrender, some prisoners were transferred to Malmo, Sweden, and released to the care of that neutral country. It has been estimated that over 25,000 prisoners, one in two, died during the evacuation from Stutthof and its sub-camps.

Soviet forces liberated Stutthof on May 9, 1945, and liberated about 100 prisoners who had managed to hide during the final evacuation of the camp.

* Adapted from Strzelecki, Andrzej. *The Deportation of Jews from the Lodz Ghetto to KL Auschwitz and Their Extermination*. Oswiecim: Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, 2006.

[Return to Index](#)