

## German Armament Works

(*Deutsche Ausrüstungswerke*, DAW), one of the SS's leading economic enterprises. DAW was founded in May 1939 with SS-*Standartenfuehrer* Walter Salpeter as its executive director. The company's main offices were in Berlin.

DAW's mandate was to manage the factories that had been established by the SS to take advantage of the slave labor of prisoners interned at concentration camps such as Dachau, Sachsenhausen, Buchenwald, and Auschwitz. Later on, similar factories were set up in other camps, including Pulawy, Stuttoff, Furstenwalde, Ravensbrueck, Neuengamme, and at the Jewish prisoner of war camp in Lublin. The two biggest plants run on slave labor were those at the Janowska camp in Lvov and at the Lublin prisoner of war camp. In 1940, 1,220 prisoners were forced to work in all the factories put together; that number rose to 15,500 in 1943. Some 8,000 Jews worked at Janowska and Lublin alone.

Most of the prisoners who worked in these DAW-controlled factories perished during the war, either from exhaustion and overwork, or during *aktionen*, in which hundreds of Jews were massacred. The largest of these *aktionen* took place in November 1943, when 2,000 Jewish prisoners of war were taken to the crematoria at Majdanek and shot to death as part of Operation Erntefest.