

## Althammer

Concentration Camp located in Poland, about 10 miles west of the city of Katowice. Althammer was established in September 1944 as a satellite camp of Auschwitz.

About 500 Jewish prisoners were interned at Althammer, including a large group from the Lodz Ghetto, and smaller groups from Hungary, France, and Greece. There was also a small number of German prisoners who were considered to be "privileged" and held positions of authority within the prisoner hierarchy. The inmates at Althammer worked at building a power station close by. They were treated brutally, worked to the bone, and given inadequate food rations. As a result, one-third of the prisoners fell sick. In addition, the camp commandant, Josef Mirbeth, tortured the prisoners and even murdered some of them himself.

On January 19, 1945 the Germans sent 400 prisoners on a Death March towards Gliwice. Most were killed along the way. The rest of the prisoners had been left behind in the camp because they were sick. The German staff murdered most of them before fleeing the camp; the survivors eventually reached the Nordhausen camp in Saxony. A few managed to escape Nordhausen and were liberated by Soviet troops.