

Gusen

Satellite camp of the Mauthausen concentration camp in Germany. Gusen was established in March 1940 to compensate for the phenomenal growth of Mauthausen. It was liberated on May 5, 1945.

During 1940 some 5,000 prisoners arrived at Gusen, where they worked in brickyards and quarries. During that time, more than 1,500 prisoners died or were killed there. During the first half of 1942, over 2,000 Soviet prisoners were brought to Gusen.

The living conditions at Gusen were quite brutal. Prisoners were made to work at a backbreaking pace, and those who could not keep up were killed. One of the camp's barracks was designated for prisoners who were to be executed by poisonous injection and was also used for the fatal beatings of those prisoners too weak to work. In addition, groups of prisoners from Gusen were taken to be killed in the gas chambers of the nearby Hartheim castle.

Two more satellite camps, Gusen II and III, were instituted in 1944. The prisoners at Gusen II worked on constructing tunnels to underground armaments factories.

Altogether, 67,677 people were interned at the Gusen camps, of whom 31,535 were recorded as having died, not including the 2,500 Jews whose deaths were not recorded, and the 2,630 prisoners gassed at Hartheim—a former Euthanasia Program installation.