

The Natzweiler concentration camp

The Natzweiler concentration camp in Alsace went into operation on 1 May 1941. The inmates there were put to work primarily in a rose granite quarry. Starting in the winter of 1942/43, more than fifty Natzweiler subcamps were set up at war industry sites on both sides of the Rhine. The inmates of these camps were to be exploited as manpower.

A large proportion of the altogether 52,000 Natzweiler inmates were imprisoned exclusively in the subcamps. There they had to perform forced labour. Although the parent camp was cleared in September 1944, the Natzweiler camp complex remained in existence. The camp administration moved to small villages in North Baden and 20 new subcamps were established east of the Rhine. The last Natzweiler subcamps were cleared in April 1945 and the remaining inmates sent on death marches.