



The 522nd Field Artillery Battalion Memorials, Markers, Cemeteries, and Landmarks Today in the "The Holocaust Corridor"



TOP: Left: Battalion Flag; Right: 442nd Regimental Combat Team Shoulder Patch
BOTTOM Left to Right Guidons for Headquarters A, B, C, and Service Batteries



Death March Memorial at Waakirchen, site of the 522nd's rescue of Dachau subcamp prisoners

Introduction

In February 1945, the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion (FAB) was detached from the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and assigned to the Seventh Army. On April 26, 1945, attached to the 4th Infantry Division (ID) and operating with the 12th Infantry Regiment (IR), advanced into "The Holocaust Corridor" in Germany. This is the area of the main Dachau concentration camp and Dachau and Natzweiler-Struthof subcamps.

Over the next seven days, the 522nd advanced near (but did not enter six subcamps, French POWs who were escaping slave labor, and 3000 Dachau subcamp prisoners on a death march (map below).



The war in Europe ended on May 8, 1945 and the 522nd was ordered to Donauwörth. On May 9, soldiers of the 522nd toured the main Dachau concentration camp. The camp had been liberated ten days earlier on April 29 by the 45th and 42nd Infantry and 20th Armored Divisions while the 522nd was at Kaufering IV concentration camp about 38.5 miles west. While serving on occupation duty at Donauwörth until November 1945, the soldiers of the 522nd had additional opportunities to tour the main Dachau concentration camp.

This is a of memorials, markers, cemeteries, and landmarks at some of the sites in the chronological and geographic order the 522nd encountered during their 1945 advance through the "The Holocaust Corridor". We hope this encourages veterans, families, and those interested in 522nd history to visit those sites. By viewing the photos and clicking on the links, people can take a virtual tour.

Touring these sites is among the ways to honor, share, and preserve the memory of the 522nd's service in "The Holocaust Corridor:"

Suggested Priorities/Itinerary

Visiting all these sites over 170 miles may not be practical or possible for all visitors. What follows is a priority itinerary starting with the most significant 522nd site.

1. Page 15: If you can only visit one 522nd Holocaust Corridor the death march memorial at Waakirchen, where the 522nd rescued Dachau subcamp prisoners from a death march, is the most significant 522nd Holocaust Corridor site.

2. Pages 16–18: The town of Dachau. The 522nd toured the main Dachau concentration camp after the war possibly as early as May 9, 1945. (During the April 29, 1945 liberation of the main Dachau concentration camp, the 522nd was at the Kaufering IV subcamp. See page 11-12.)

The main Dachau concentration camp places in context the service of the 522nd in The Holocaust Corridor. That is where the satellite system of slave labor subcamps was organized. The Dachau subcamp prisoners rescued by the 522nd at Waakirchen were transported from the subcamps to Dachau where the death march started.

At the start of the death march in Dachau is a death march memorial identical to the one at Waakirchen.

The Waldfriedhof Cemetery contains the remains of death march victims.

3. Page 7-10: Augsburg-Haunstetten Subcamp of the Dachau System. The 4th Infantry Division is recognized by the U.S. Army Center of Military History of the liberating Division of this subcamp. The 522nd was attached to the 4th Infantry Division and is included in that recognition, the only official recognition of the 522nd as a liberator. The 522nd was stationed a few miles away while units of the 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division entered the subcamps.

4. Page 11-12: Kaufering IV subcamp of the Dachau System at the Lechfeld Airfield near Hurlach. The 522nd was briefly at this subcamp and may not have entered it. Just prior to the arrival of Army units, the SS murdered prisoners too weak to be transported by setting them on fire. Other units report the burning bodies could be smelled from a distance. Soldiers of the 522nd may have been close enough to smell those burning bodies. (While the 522nd was at Kaufering IV, units of three other divisions were liberating the main Dachau concentration camp about 38.5 miles east.)

The prisoners rescued from the death march by the 522nd at Waakirchen were mostly Jews from the Kaufering subcamps.

This has been identified as the subcamp visited by novelist J.D. Salinger who was serving in the 12th Infantry Regiment.

5. Page 14: The 522nd rescued an unknown number of French POWS at Mörlbach. No marker or memorial exists.

6. Page 6: Horgau Subcamp. While the 522nd was briefly at this subcamp and may not have entered it, some of the structures are preserved and give a sense of what soldiers of the 522nd may have witnessed in The Holocaust Corridor.

Ellwangen, Lauingen, and Turkenfeld are included as they are cited by the 522nd in their history. One had been abandoned, one had never been put into operation, and the SS had transported all the prisoners prior to the arrival of the 522nd.

April 22, 1945: Ellwangen Subcamp of Natzweiler-Struthof Concentration Camp (No prisoners)

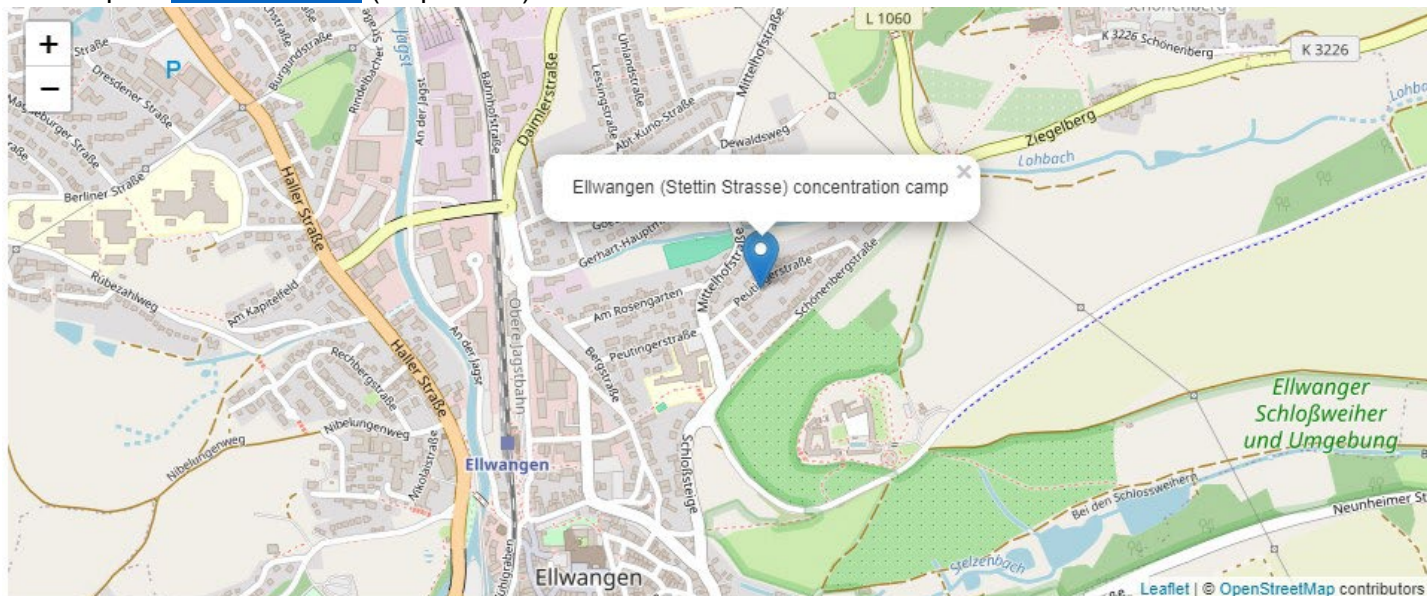
On April 22, 1945 while displacing from Stimpfach to Wasseraufingen, the 522nd probably passed around Ellwangen. The 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Regiment was able to completely clear Ellwangen by April 25 making it unlikely the 522nd entered the town.

Ellwangen was the site of a subcamp abandoned in October 1942. The 522nd does not appear to have stopped in Ellwangen or entered the abandoned camp.

Members of the 17th SS Panzergrenadier Division were convicted of the shooting of foreign subcamp prisoners in Ellwangen. SS units were stationed at the Reinhardt Barracks in Ellwangen (map below)



No marker has been identified at the site of the Ellwangen Subcamp or the site of the SS crimes. The European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) identifies the site of the Ellwangen subcamp on [Stettin Strasse](#) (map below)



A memorial is at the Natzweiler-Struthof site, 210 miles to the west in France.

For more information:

[Wikipedia with citations to the war crimes trials](#)

[Concentration Camp Natzweiler-Struthof](#)

[Natzweiler-Struthof Concentration Camp section](#) of the USHMM Encyclopedia of Camp and Subcamps

April 26, 1945: Lauingen Subcamp of the Dachau System (No Prisoners)



On April 12, 1945 the SS transported the prisoners from the Lauingen, subcamp, ten days before units of the 12th Armored Division liberated it on April 22.

The 522nd displaced through the town during their advance and does not report if they were at the site of the subcamp.

[Location with map](#)

For more information:

[Lauingen](#) by Robin Whitlock

April 27, 1945: Horgau Subcamp of the Dachau system (No Prisoners)



Location: Swabia, Bavaria, Germany

The SS transported the prisoners prior to the arrival of the 522nd.

On April 27, the 522nd arrived at Horgau at 1330 and remained until 2045. The 522nd was with units of the 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 12th Infantry Regiment.

The remnants of the structures at the site give a sense of what the soldiers of the 522nd may have seen.

[Location](#)

For more information:

[Horgau](#) by Robin Whitlock

[Vergessene Konzentrationslager: Das Kz-Aussenlager Horgau \(Forgotten Concentration Camps: The Horgau Sub-Camp\) In German and French](#)

**April 28 & 29, 1945: Augsburg-Haunstetten and Pfersee Subcamps of the Dachau System
(No Prisoners)**

Two Sites: Halle 116 and the Westfriedhof (West Cemetery)

Map Below on Page 11

The 4th Infantry Division is the recognized liberating division of the Augsburg-Haunstetten Subcamp. They are more likely to have liberated the Augsburg- Pfersee subcamp. The 522nd, as a unit attached to 4th Infantry Division, is included in that recognition.

On April 13, 1944 the Augsburg-Haunstetten (LEFT, map below) subcamp was destroyed by an Allied air raid. Surviving prisoners were transported to other camps.

On April 25, 1945, the SS transported the sick Augsburg-Pfersee subcamp (CENTER TOP map below) prisoners to the main Dachau concentration camp and sent the remaining 1600 hundred prisoners on a death march. The survivors of that death march were later rescued by units of the 12th Armored Division at Klimmich. Units of 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division found no living prisoners at the Augsburg-Pfersee subcamp.

On April 28, 1945, while units of the 8th Infantry Regiment (according to the 4th Infantry Division After Action Reports) were in the city of Augsburg, from 1630 until 1800 the 522nd was positioned at Augsburg-Bergheim (LEFT CENTER, map below), 5 miles south of the Pfersee subcamp and 6 miles west of the bombed out Haunstetten subcamp. During those 90 minutes soldiers of the 522nd were unlikely to have had time to enter either subcamp before moving 8 miles south to their next position at Bobingen (LEFT BOTTOM, map below).



Fair use of image: Copyright: Max Lohrmann, Amerika in Augsburg e.V. Foto: Vereinsarchiv

Sheridan Park Hall 116 (CENTER TOP, below cemetery, map below) is a surviving structure for the manufacture of Messerschmitt aircraft that included slave labor subcamps. Hall 116 is now a city history museum that includes an exhibit [on the subcamps](#).

The exhibit mentions liberation is mentioned but not the liberating units.

Location: Karl-Nolan-Straße 2, 86157 Augsburg, Germany

[A History of Building 116](#)

**Augsburg Concentration Camp Memorial Grove at the
West Cemetery (Westfriedhof) (South of the Augsburg-Haunstetten Subcamp)
(Map below on page 11)**

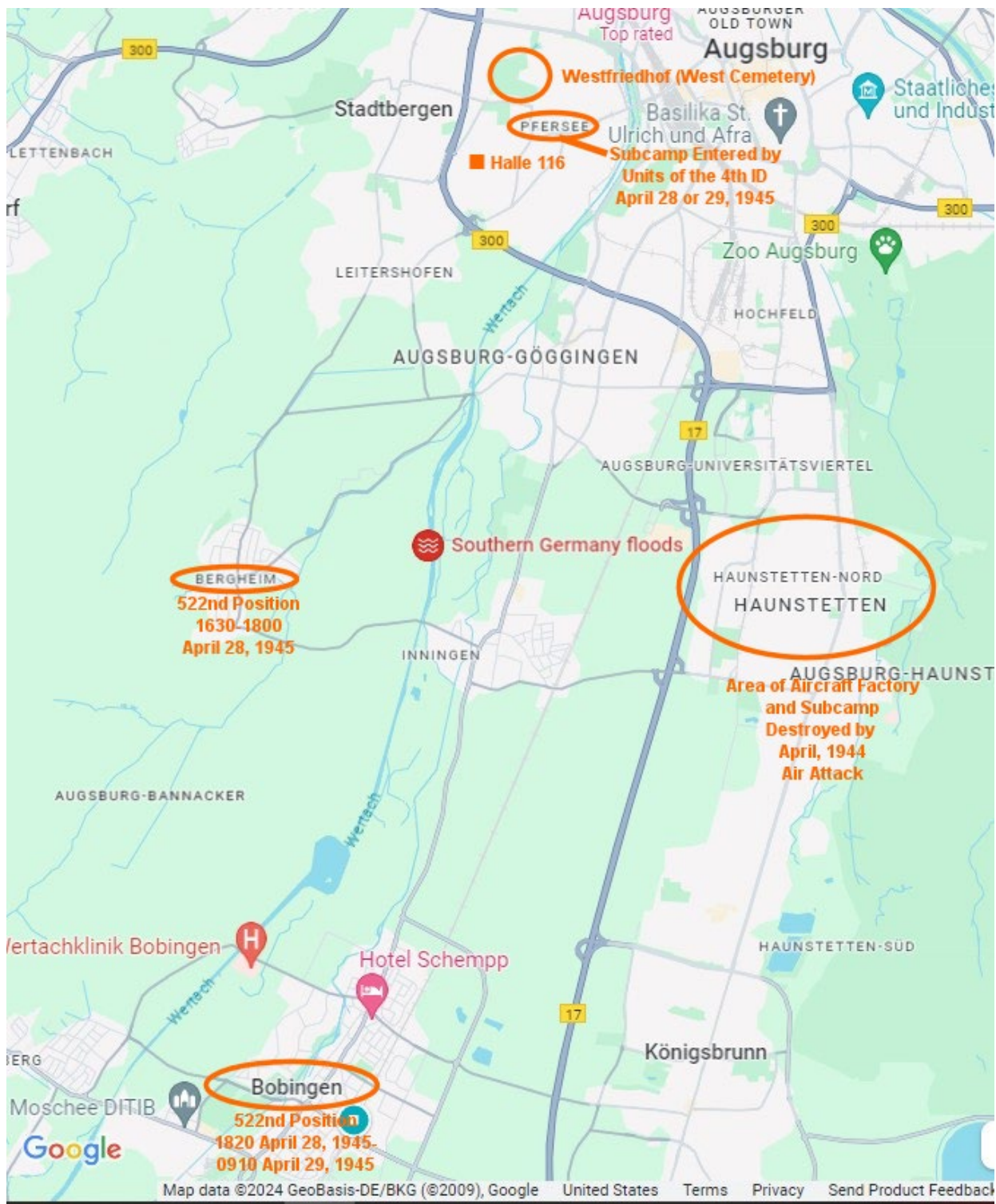


Includes a section of prisoners from the Augsburg-Haunstetten Subcamp. Some may have been killed in the April 13 air raid. (CENTER TOP map below.)

For more information (in German) with photos:

[Orte des Gedenkens und der Auseinandersetzung mit der NS-Zeit Westfriedhof Augsburg](#) (Places of remembrance and dealing with the Nazi era Westfriedhof Augsburg)

[Der KZ-Ehrenhain auf dem Augsburger Westfriedhof](#) (The concentration camp Ehrenhain at the Augsburg West Cemetery)



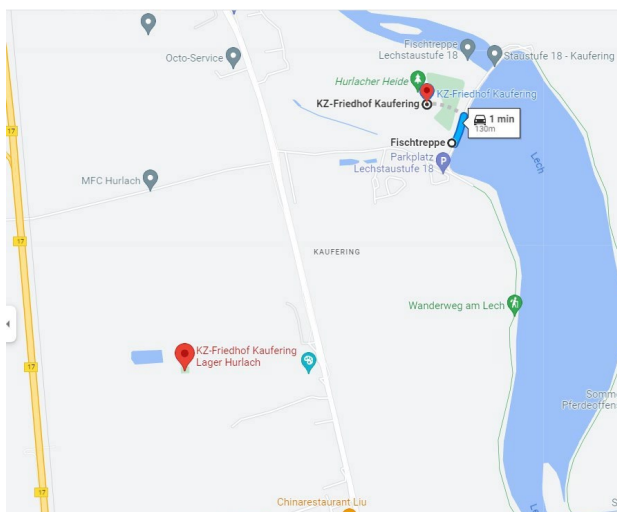
April 29, 1945:
Kaufering IV Subcamp of the Dachau System at the Lechfeld Airfield near Hurlach
(Unknown Number of Prisoners Who Evaded Transport by Escaping and Hiding Nearby)



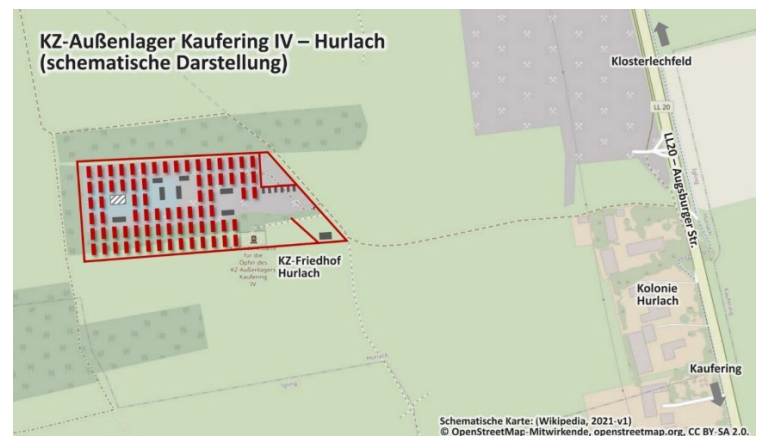
Fair use of image by Volker Matthies

Cemetery at Kaufering IV

[Forgotten Concentration Camp: The Kaufering Iv Sub-Camp – Hurlach \(In German and French\)](#)



Map of cemetery and subcamp



Overlay of inmate barracks at Hurlach subcamp site

In mid-April, the SS transported the prisoners from the Kaufering subcamps to the main Dachau concentration camp. Some prisoners evaded the transport and hid in the woods until the rescued by U.S. troops. The unit that rescued them is unknown. The CMH recognizes the 63rd Infantry Division as the liberating Division of Kaufering. The 63rd ID assigned Battalion A, 253rd Infantry to liberate the camps. That is the most likely unit to have rescued the prisoners that hid.

The SS set fire to huts containing prisoners deemed too weak to be transported. The bodies were smoldering when U.S. troops arrived. Soldiers of the 522nd report the smell of burning bodies.

[Soldiers of the 522nd took photos with the Nazi jet aircraft being assembled by the slave laborers.](#)

No 522nd documents or accounts report contact with prisoners at the subcamp. On May 2, 1945, prisoners transported from Kaufering IV were among those rescued by the 522nd from a death march at Waakirchen.

April 29 - 30: Turkenfeld Subcamp (No Prisoners)

The Turkenfeld subcamp was constructed but never put into operation. The 522nd was at Turkenfeld from 2000 on April 29 until 1215 on April 30.

April 30, 1945: Mörlbach: (Liberated/Rescued French POWS)

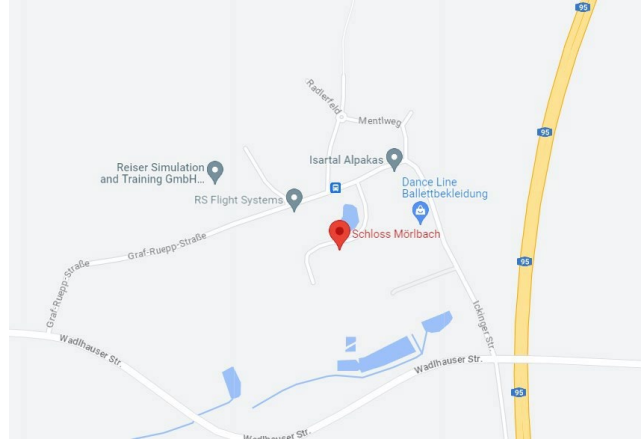
The 522nd captured Mörlbach, liberated many French POWS, and captured 50 German soldiers.

French POWS were used as slave laborers in manufacturing, mining and agriculture.

No memorial or marker has been identified at Mörlbach.



Schloss (Manor) Mörlbach



Map of Mörlbach and Schloss (Manor) Mörlbach

Schloss (Manor) Mörlbach is being used as a landmark to identify the area where the 522nd rescued French POWS slave laborers. No information has been found about how Schloss (Manor) Mörlbach was used during WWII or if slave laborers were used there.

May 2 to 4, 1945: Waakirchen (unknown number of prisoners, possibly up to 3,500)



Death March Memorial



Map

A death march memorial is at the site where prisoners were rescued by the 522nd on the road between Bad Tölz and Waakirchen.

6,887 mostly Jewish prisoners from the Kaufering subcamps started the death march on April 26, 1945. 8,000 were added from Munich area subcamps, bringing the death march to about 14,000. 3,000 prisoners were left behind when the SS blew up a bridge. An unknown number were murdered or died of exposure, illness, exhaustion, dehydration, starvation, and medical neglect. Mortality on death marches was up to 50%. An unknown number of Jewish, Slavic, and German prisoners were rescued.

Translation of the plaque on the memorial above left.

"Here, in the final days of the war on May 2, 1945, the ordeal of thousands of degraded people from the Dachau concentration camp ended. Many died before liberation."

Translation by Christopher Focke

For more information:

[The 522nd Field Artillery Battalion and the Waakirchen Death March Rescue: An Illustrated Record](#)

Waldfriedhof Cemetery, Dachau: Includes Death March Victims



Public domain photo from the Department of Defense

In 2015 U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards, the adjutant general for Colorado; and U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Robbie L. Asher, the adjutant general for Oklahoma; lay a wreath in the Waldfriedhof Cemetery as part of activities honoring the 70th anniversary of the liberation of prisoners of the Dachau concentration camp during World War II

Over 1,300 victims of the death march, the main Dachau concentration camp, and the Allach subcamp are buried at the Waldfriedhof Cemetery in Dachau.

[Location with map](#)

Town of Dachau: Memorial at the Start of the Death March



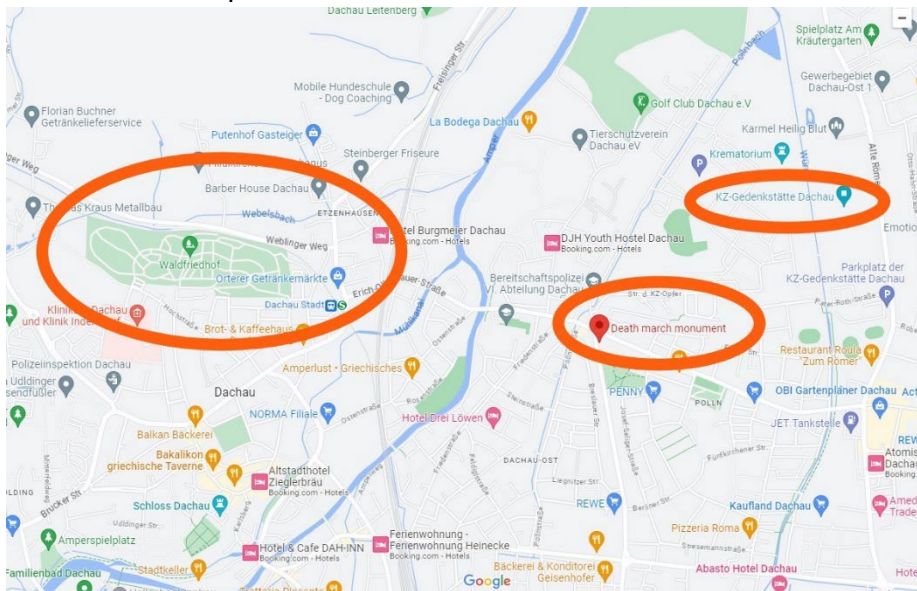
At the intersection of Theodor-Heuss-Straße/Sudetenlandstraße (Sudetenlandstraße 10, 85221 Dachau, Germany) (See map below)

1.5 miles south of the main concentration camp

Main Dachau Concentration Camp



- The subcamps encountered by the 522nd were organized from the main Dachau concentration camp.
- The subcamp prisoners were transported to the main Dachau concentration camp prior to the arrival of the 522nd.
- The death march that the 522nd started at the main Dachau concentration camp.
- Between May 9 and November 1945, soldiers of the 522nd toured the main Dachau concentration camp.



Waldfriedhof Cemetery; Center: Death March Memorial: Right: Main Concentration Camp

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[The 45th Infantry Division in World War II: An Unofficial Guide to Resources](#)

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