

Concentration Camp Gross-Rosen

Gross-Rosen, located in Silesia between Görlitz and Breslau (Wrocław), opened August 2, 1940, initially as a Sachsenhausen sub-camp, mainly to receive prisoners from the occupied and annexed territories. Together with Mauthausen, Gross-Rosen was among the harshest of all the camps. *Lagerstufe 1*, the most lenient level, was the designation for Dachau and Sachsenhausen. *Lagerstufe 2*, the intermediate level, included Flossenbürg, Buchenwald, and Neuengamme. Gross-Rosen was classified *Lagerstufe 3*, the most severe. On May 1, 1941, Gross-Rosen became an independently operated camp, mainly for Jews; about 30 percent of the inmates were women, almost all of them Jews. It later became a holding and transit camp for Jews destined for death camps to the East, and finally was closed and evacuated on February 11, 1945.

In addition to the censor's mark, a boxed purple handstamp states, "Special Delivery and Registered Parcels Forbidden!" on the inside of this generic prisoners' formular lettersheet canceled September 22, 1944, at Gross-Rosen.

