

Stalag 2-A (II-A)

All following material are courtesy of wikipedia

The camp was built in September 1939 to house Polish prisoners from the German September 1939 offensive. The first POWs arrived on 12 September. Some were used for completing the camp construction while housed in tents during the winter. Others were sent to work on farms. From May/June 1940 Dutch and Belgian prisoners arrived from the Battle of France, followed by French. A number of the French were from African colonial regiments and were used for the worst work such as collecting trash.

In September 1943 some Italian internees were transferred to Stalag II-A from Italy after the capitulation. From November 1944 to early January 1945 American soldiers captured in various operations during the Allied drive eastward arrived. Most were immediately sent to *Arbeitskommandos* (*work camps*). From February to April 1945 Neubrandenburg was a waypoint in the forced march westward of Allied prisoners from POW camps further east. The camp was finally liberated on 28 April 1945 when a Soviet armoured division reached Neubrandenburg.

The official prisoner census of 1 December 1944 records:

- 12,581 French
- 8,694 Russians
- 1,976 Serbs
- 950 Americans
- 738 Polish
- 527 Italians
- 200 British

For a total of 25,720 including 21 officers. Only about 3,500 were in the camp itself, the rest were in outlying sub-camps.

Stalag II-A had about 50 subcamps, known as *Arbeitskommando*. The largest was Teterow, several miles west of Neubrandenburg, which held about 175 prisoners living in a multi-storey brick building. They worked on the railway lines. Another was at Parchim, Germany.