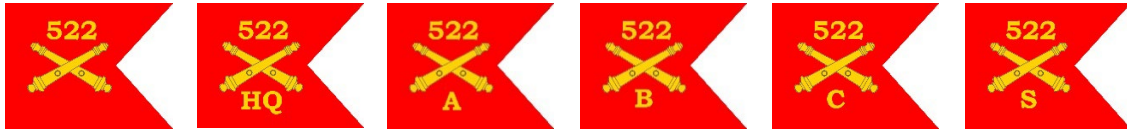




The 522nd Field Artillery Battalion Memorials, Markers, Cemeteries, and Landmarks Today in the "The Holocaust Corridor"



Left: Battalion Flag; Right: 442nd Regimental Combat Team Shoulder Patch



Left to Right: Guidons for the Battalion and the Headquarters A, B, C, and Service Batteries

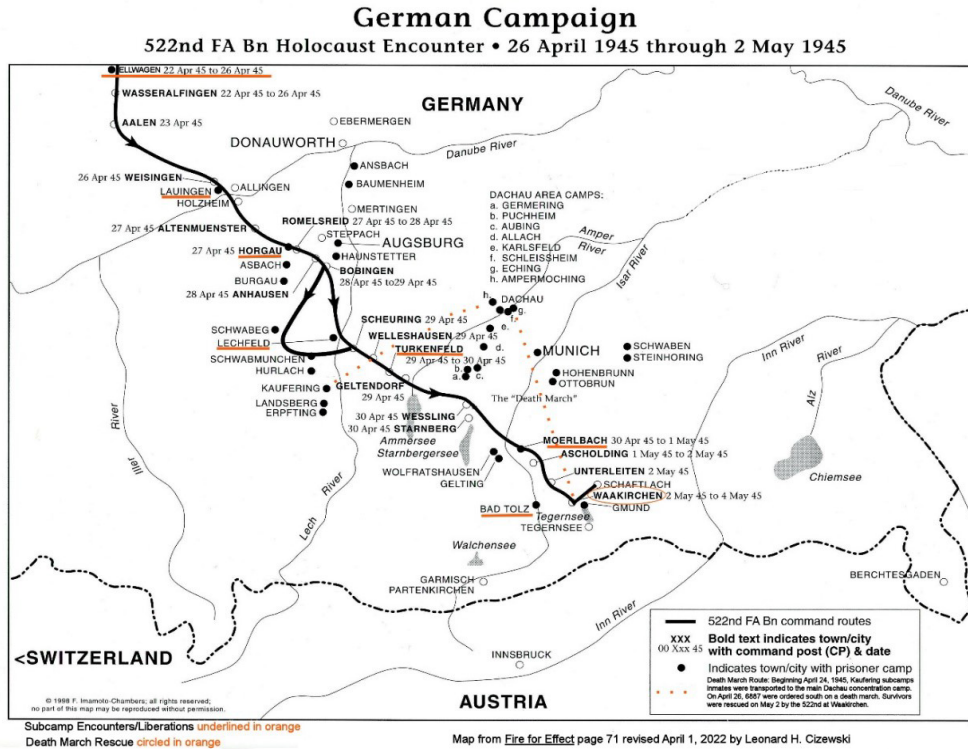


Death March Memorial at Waakirchen, site of the 522nd's rescue of Dachau subcamp inmates

Introduction

On April 26, 1945, the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, 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 encountered seven subcamps, French POWs who were escaping slave labor, and 3,444 Dachau subcamp inmates on a death march (map below).



Larger format map page 15.

On May 9, 1945, one day after the May 8 end of the war in Europe and ten days after April 29 liberation of the main Dachau concentration camp, the soldiers of the 522nd were enroute to Donauwörth, Germany. This was their first opportunity to tour the main Dachau concentration camp. 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.

We hope this compilation of memorials, markers, cemeteries, and landmarks at some of the sites today the 522nd encountered during their 1945 advance through the "The Holocaust Corridor" 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 Holocaust service.

Ellwangen Subcamp of Natzweiler-Struthof Concentration Camp

Encountered April 26, 1945, No Inmates Present

The subcamp was abandoned in October 1942.

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

Buildings of the Reinhardt Barracks remain in Ellwangen (orange circle, map below) but do not have any identifying markers or plaques of the site of the subcamp or war crimes.



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

Lauingen Subcamp of the Dachau System: Memorial Plaque

Encountered April 26, 1945, No Inmates Present



The SS abandoned the Lauingen subcamp on April 12, 1945 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

Horgau Subcamp of the Dachau System: Subcamp Ruins

Encountered April 27, 1945: No Inmates



Location: Swabia, Bavaria, Germany

The SS transported the inmates prior to the main Dachau concentration camp arrival of the 522nd. The 522nd encountered the subcamp 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 saw.

[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](#)

Augsburg-Haunstetten Subcamp of the Dachau System: Manufacturing Building

Encountered: April 27 or 28, 1945: No Inmates Present

On April 13, 1944 the subcamp was destroyed by an Allied air raid. Surviving inmates were transported to other camps. No living inmates were reported at the Augsburg-Haunstetten Subcamp when the 12th IR arrived.

The 4th Infantry Division is the recognized liberating division of the Augsburg-Haunstetten Subcamp. That includes the attached unit 522nd. The 522nd advance went alongside the camp during the 48-hour period of liberation (as defined by the U.S. Army Center of Military History) and the soldiers of the 522nd had the opportunity to briefly enter it.

Sheridan Park Hall 116, Augsburg



Fair use of image: Foto: Vereinsarchiv

Sheridan Park Hall 116 is a surviving structure for the manufacture of Messerschmitt aircraft from another part of the Augsburg slave labor complex. The 522nd may have encountered a similar bombed out building at the time of liberation at the Augsburg-Haunstetten Subcamp

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

[A History of Building 116](#)

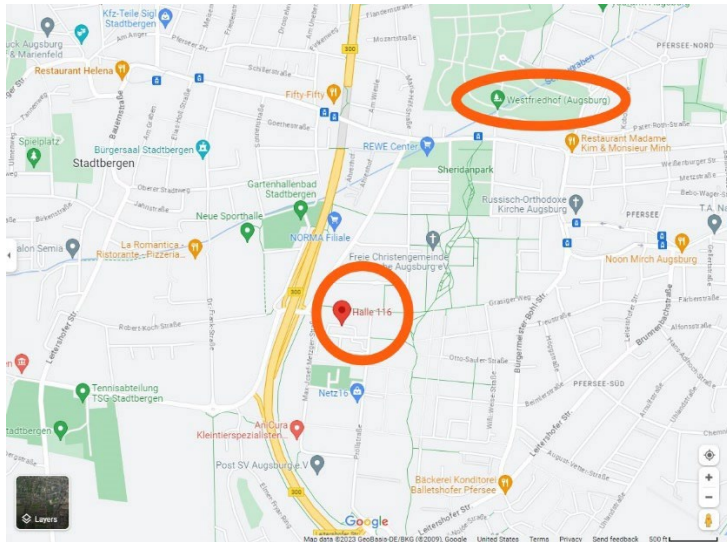
(Augsburg-Haunstetten Subcamp continues on the next page)

Augsburg Concentration Camp Memorial Grove at the West Cemetery (Westfriedhof)

(South of the Augsburg-Haunstetten Subcamp)



Includes a section of inmates from the Augsburg-Haunstetten Subcamp. Some may have been killed in the April 13 air raid.



Map of cemetery and manufacturing building.

Large format map on page 16.

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)

Kaufering IV subcamp of the Dachau System at the Lechfeld Airfield near Hurlach: Cemetery and Ruins

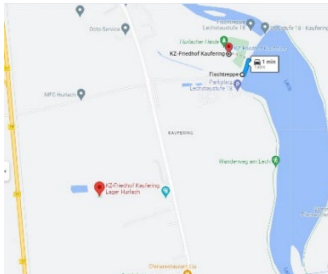
Encountered April 29, 1945: An Unknown Number of Inmates Hiding Nearby Who Evaded Transport by Escaping



Fair use of image by Volker Matthies

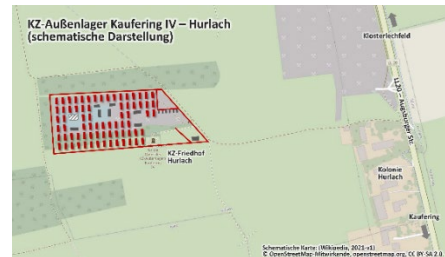
Cemetery at Kaufering IV

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



Larger format map on page 17.

Map of cemetery and subcamp



Larger format map on page 18.

Overlay of inmate barracks at subcamp site

In mid-April, the SS transported the inmates from Kaufering IV to the main Dachau concentration camp. Some inmates 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 inmates that hid.

The SS set fire to huts containing inmates 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 inmates at the subcamp. On May 2, 1945, inmates transported from Kaufering IV were among those rescued by the 522nd from a death march at Waakirchen.

Turkenfeld Subcamp of the Dachau System

Encountered April 29 - 30: No Inmates Present

The Turkenfeld subcamp was constructed but never put into operation. The 522nd reports they displaced through the town but do not state if they were at the site of the subcamp.

Mörlbach

April 30, 1945: Liberated an Unknown Number of French POWS)

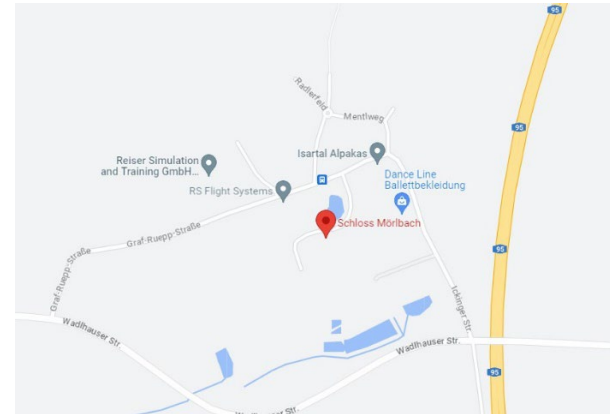
The 522nd captured Mörlbach, liberated a large number of French POWS, and captured 50 German soldiers.

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. Larger format map on page 19.

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.

Bad Tolz Subcamp

Encountered May 1 or 2, 1945: 50 to 150 Inmates Present

The 522nd displaced through Bad Tolz while advancing east.

The 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division and 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division were also operating in and around Bad Tolz at the time. The subcamp inmates were liberated on May 1. The CMH has not recognized a liberating division and no unit history has identified any of the three units as liberating the inmates.



The Bad Tolz subcamp was in the SS-Junkerschule (Leadership School which is now public offices. No information has been found if the site includes a subcamp memorial. The current location of the SS Junker School is included as a landmark for a site with a subcamp in a town which the 522nd encountered. No 522nd documents or individual histories mention soldiers entering the SS-Junkerschule or subcamp.

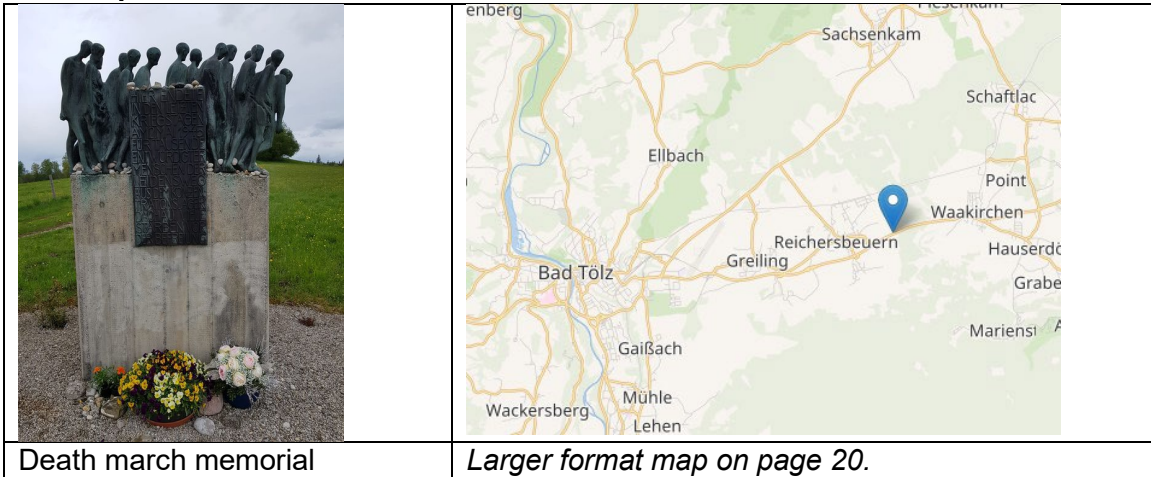
On May 1, the 522nd headquarters was at Ascholding, 10 miles north of Bad Tolz. On May 2, the headquarters was at Unterleiten, 18 miles east of Bad Tolz. That suggests the 522nd briefly passed through Bad Tolz on its advance from Ascholding to Unterleiten to Waakirchen.

The SS-Junkerschule has no markers or memorials to the subcamp.

[Location with map](#)

Waakirchen: Memorial Sculpture

Encountered May 2 to 4, 1945: Rescued an Estimated 3,244 Dachau Subcamp Inmates from a Death March



A Death march memorial is at the site where inmates were rescued by the 522nd on the road between Bad Tölz and Waakirchen. 6,887 started the death march on April 26, 1945. 2,000 Allach subcamp inmates were added, bringing the death march to about 9,000. 3,000 inmates 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 estimated 3,444 were rescued.

Translation of the plaque:

"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](#)

Town of Dachau:

Death March Cemetery, Death March Memorial, and Main Dachau Concentration Camp

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 continues on the next page)

Memorial at the Start of the Death March



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

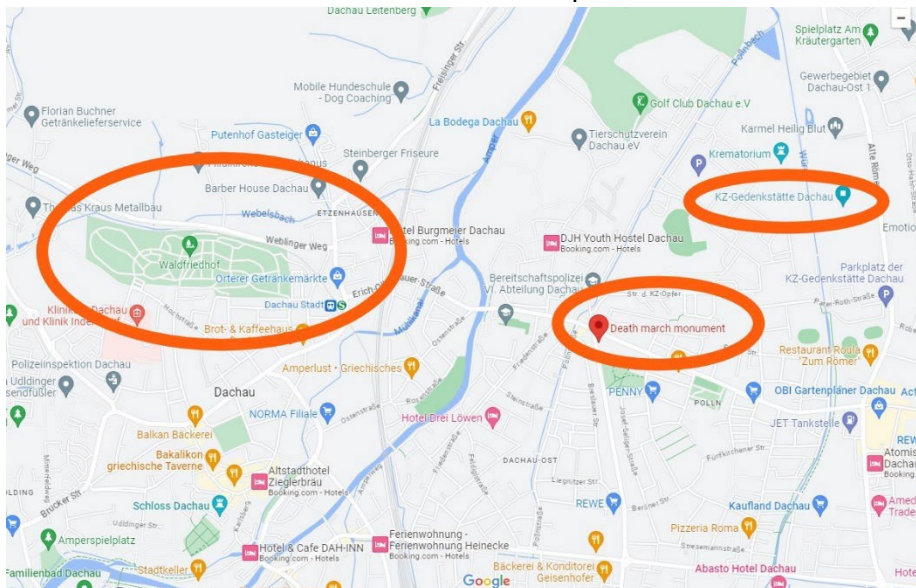
1.5 miles south of the main concentration camp.

(Town of Dachau continues on the next page)

Main Dachau Concentration Camp



- The subcamps encountered by the 522nd were organized from the main Dachau concentration camp.
- The subcamp inmates 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.



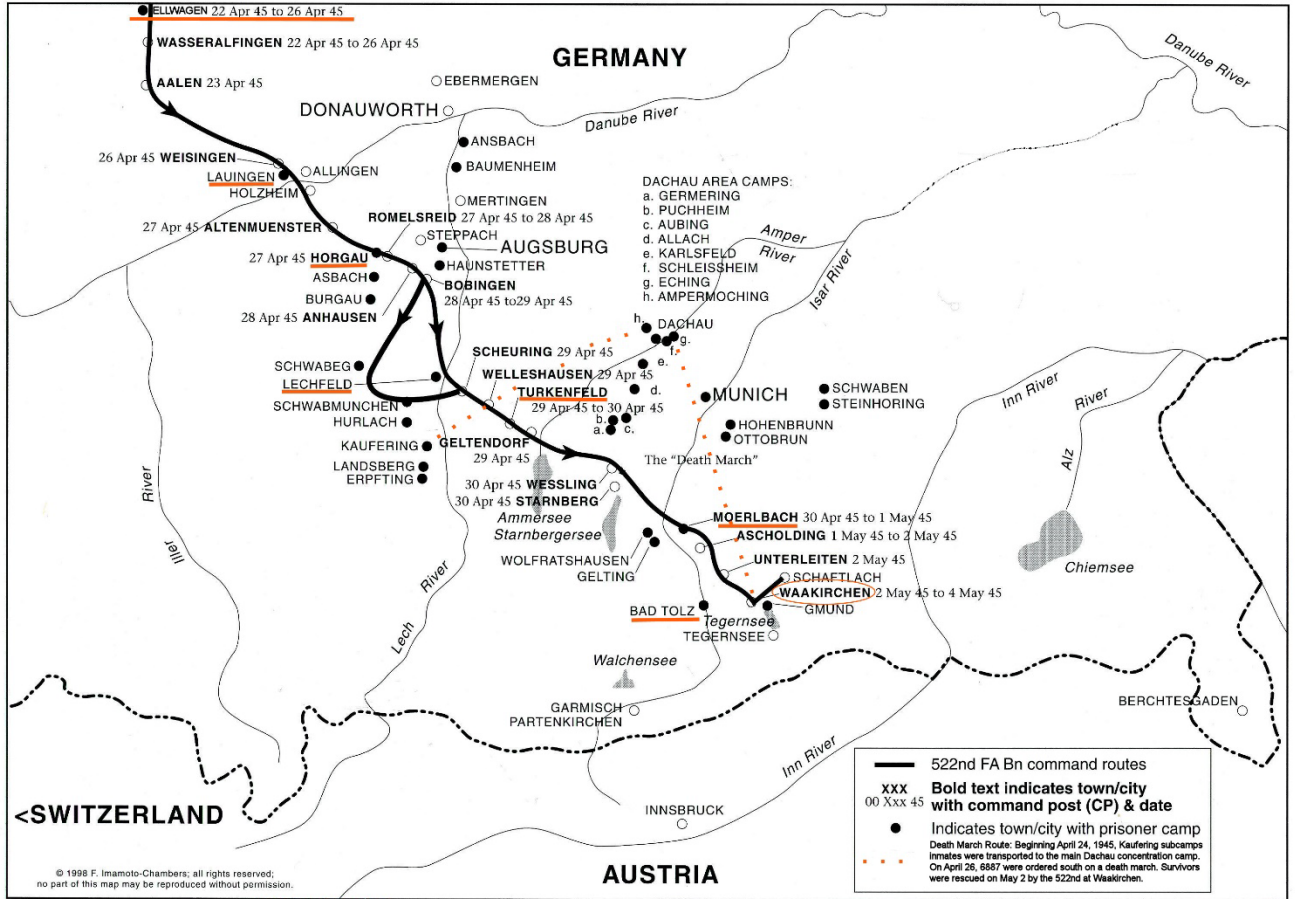
Left: Waldfriedhof Cemetery; Center: Death March Memorial;
Right: Main Concentration Camp.

Larger format map on page 21.

Appendix: Larger Format Maps

German Campaign

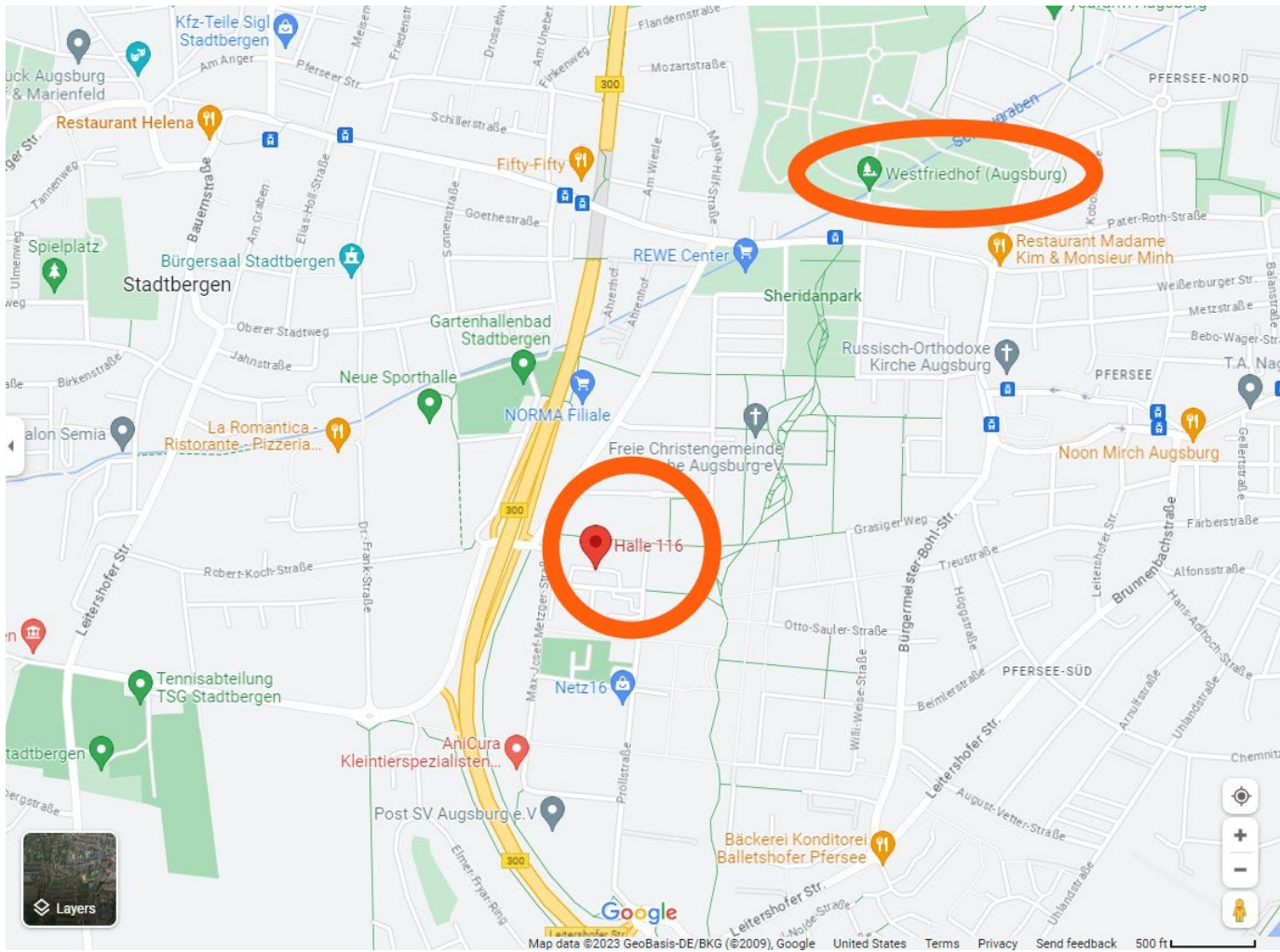
522nd FA Bn Holocaust Encounter • 26 April 1945 through 2 May 1945



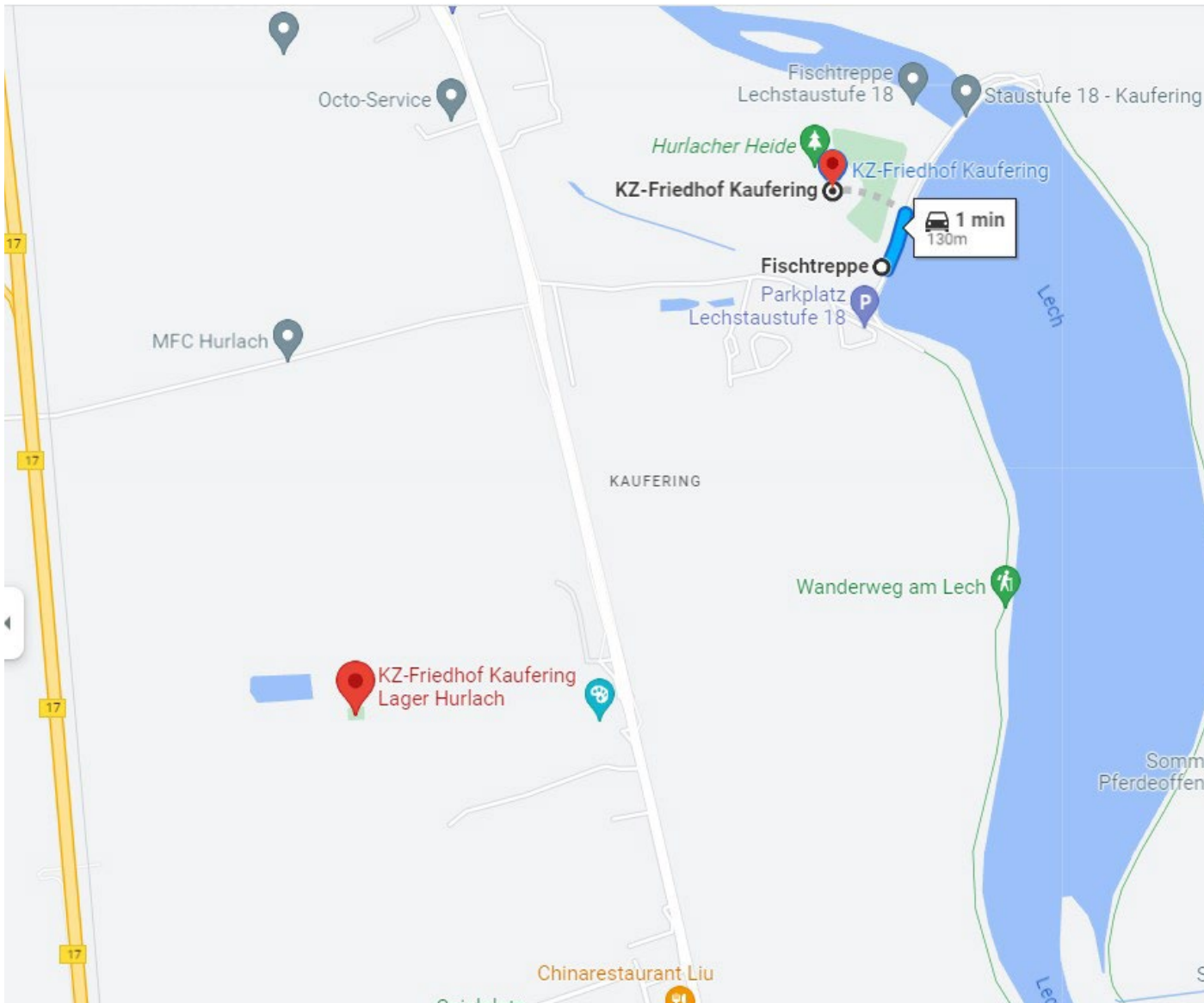
Subcamp Encounters/Liberations underlined in orange
 Death March Rescue circled in orange

Map from *Fire for Effect* page 71 revised April 1, 2022 by Leonard H. Cizewski

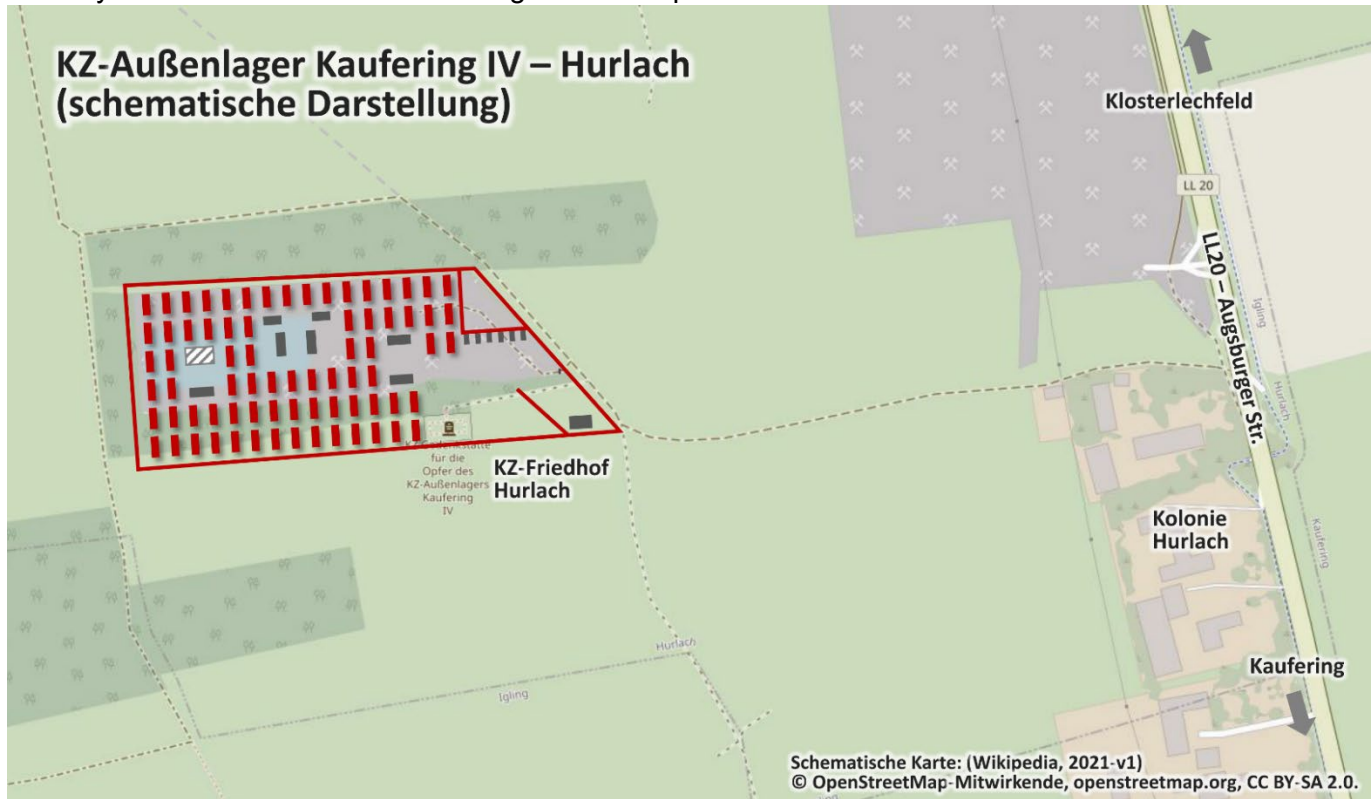
Map of cemetery and manufacturing building



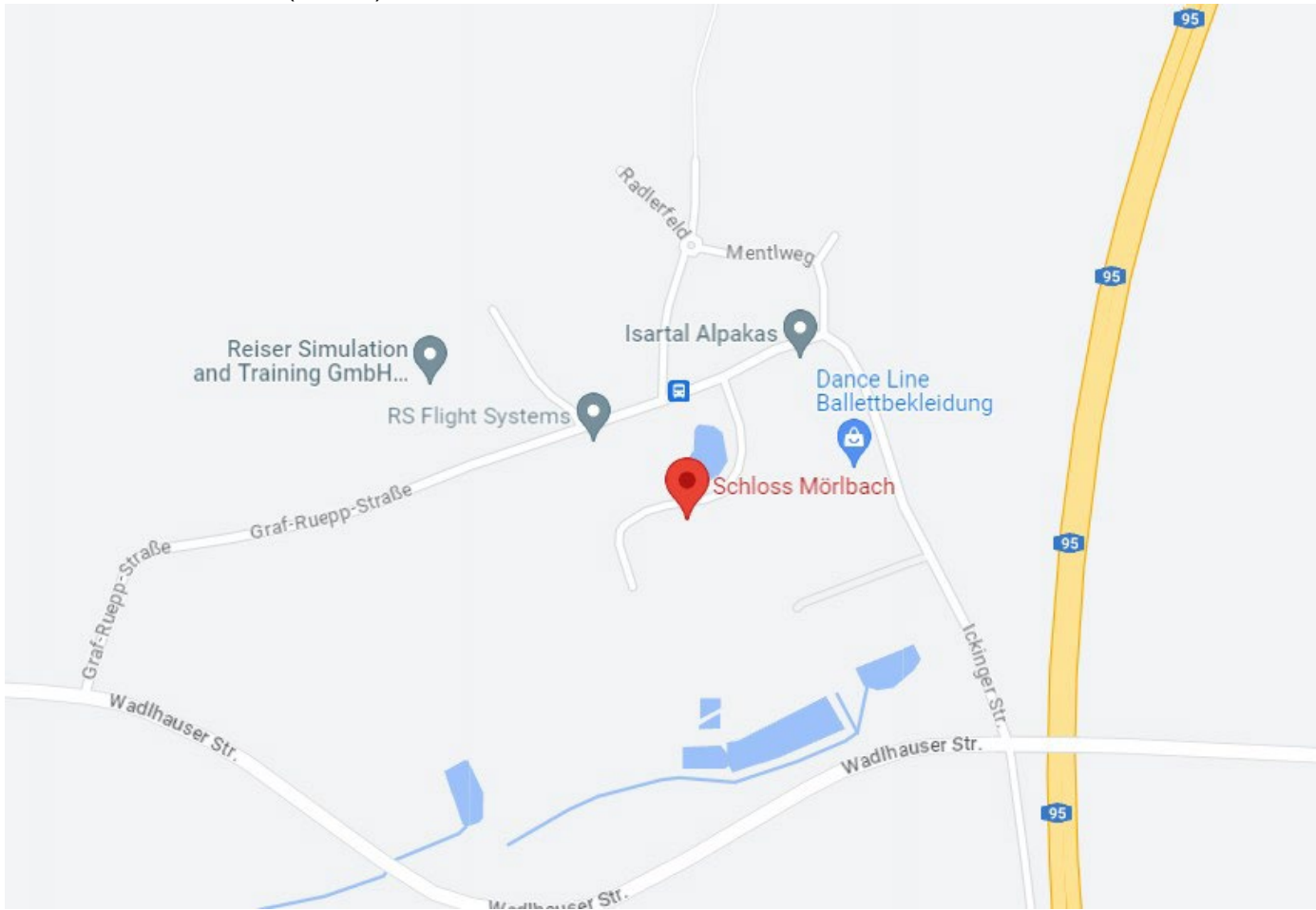
Kaufering IV Cemetery and Subcamp



Overlay of inmate barracks at Kaufering IV subcamp site



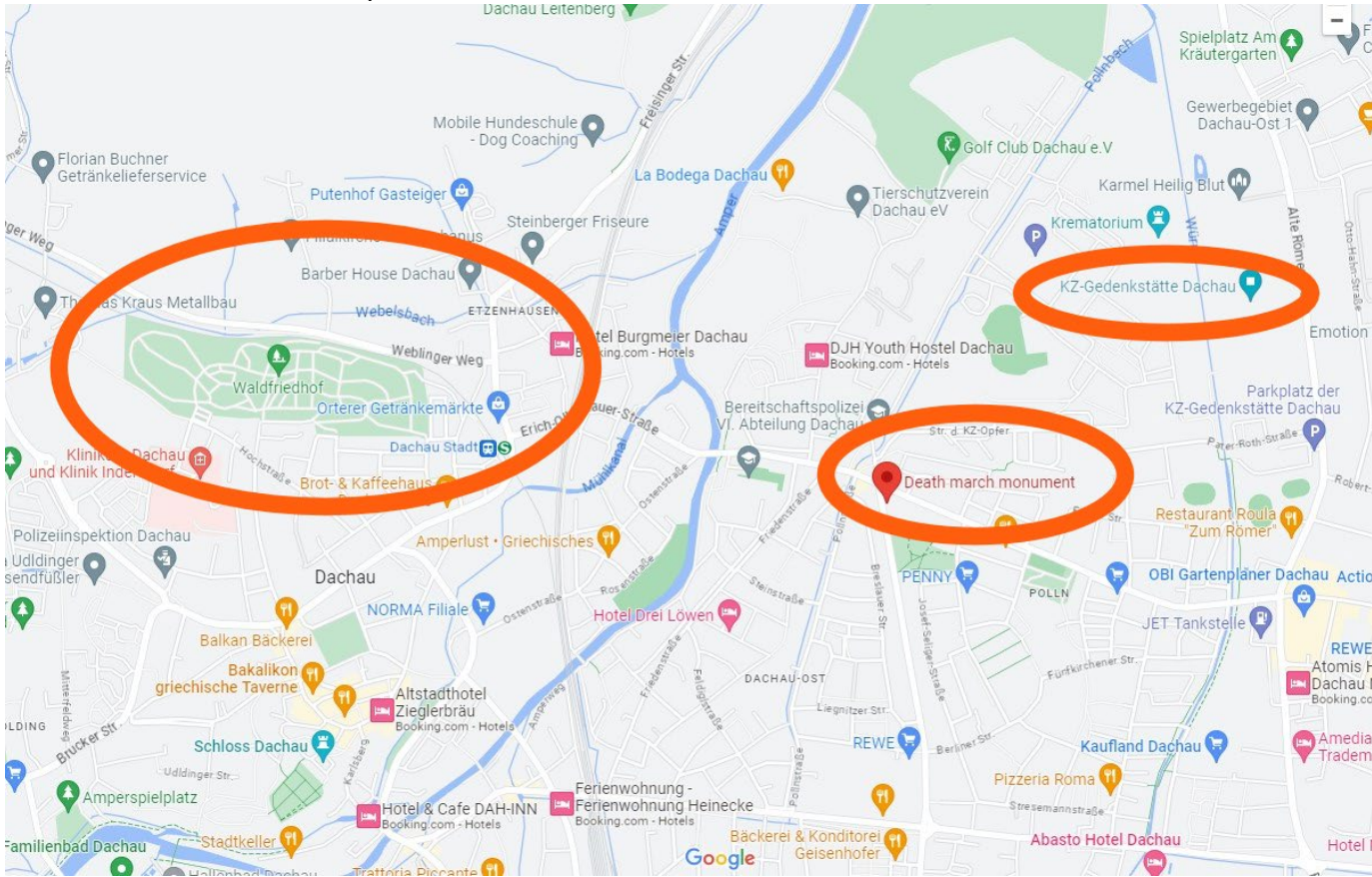
Mörlbach and Schloss (Manor) Mörlbach



Waakirchen: Death March Memorial Sculpture



Town of Dachau: Death March Cemetery, Death March Memorial, and Main Dachau Concentration Camp



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

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August 22, 2023