

PUBLISHED BY

Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial  
Jean-Dolidier-Weg 75  
21039 Hamburg  
Phone: +49 40 428131-500  
info@kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de  
www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de

EDITED BY

Karin Schawe

TRANSLATED BY

Georg Felix Harsch

PHOTOS

unless otherwise indicated courtesy  
of the Neuengamme Memorial's Archive  
and Michael Kottmeier

Maps on pages 29 and 41:

© by M. Teßmer, graphische werkstätten  
feldstraße

GRAPHIC DESIGN BY

Annrika Kiefer, Hamburg

PRINTED BY

Druckerei Siepmann GmbH, Hamburg

We would like to thank the Friends of  
the Neuengamme Memorial association  
for their financial support.

This brochure was produced with  
financial support from the Federal  
Commissioner for Culture and the Media  
based on a decision by the Bundestag,  
the German parliament.

Hamburg, November 2010



The Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial – A Guide to the Site's History and the Memorial

# KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme

Ausstellungen  
Begegnungen  
Studienzentrum



The Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial –  
A Guide to the Site's History and the Memorial

# **The Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial – A Guide to the Site's History and the Memorial**

Published by the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial  
Edited by Karin Schawe

---

# Contents

6	<b>PREFACE</b>
10	<b>THE NEUENGAMME CONCENTRATION CAMP, 1938 TO 1945</b>
12	<b>Chronicle of Events, 1938 to 1945</b>
20	<b>The Construction of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp</b>
22	<b>The Prisoners</b>
22	German Prisoners
25	Prisoners from the Occupied Countries
30	<b>The Concentration Camp SS</b>
31	<b>Slave Labour</b>
35	<b>Housing</b>
38	<b>Death</b>
40	<b>The Satellite Camps</b>
42	<b>The End</b>
45	<b>The Victims of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp</b>
46	<b>THE SITE AFTER 1945</b>
48	<b>Chronicle of Events from 1945</b>
58	<b>The British Internment Camp</b>
59	<b>The Transit Camp</b>
60	<b>The Prisons and the Memorial at the Historical Site of the Concentration Camp</b>

# Contents

## 66 THE NEUENGAMME CONCENTRATION CAMP MEMORIAL

### 70 The Grounds

### 70 The House of Commemoration

### 72 The Exhibitions

72 Main Exhibition *Traces of History*

73 Research Exhibition *Posted to Neuengamme. The Camp SS*

74 Supplementary Exhibition on Slave Labour in Brick Production

75 Supplementary Exhibition on Slave Labour in Armaments Production

76 Supplementary Exhibition *Prisons and Memorial*

76 Travelling Exhibitions on Loan

77 Special Exhibitions

### 78 The Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial's Educational Activities

79 The Educational Department

84 The Centre for Historical Studies

89 Additional Information on Educational and Academic Services

91 Directions and Meeting Point for Guided Tours

92 Practical Information for Visitors

92 Tours and Educational Services for Visitors with Special Needs

### 93 Archives and Library

93 The Archive

95 The Library

96 The Open Archive

### 98 Branches

98 The Bullenhuser Damm Memorial and the Rose Garden for the Bullenhuser Damm Children

100 The Fuhlsbüttel Memorial (Concentration Camp and Prison, 1933 to 1945)

102 The Poppenbüttel Memorial (The Prefab Building)

### 104 Contact Details

### 105 Literature

### 107 Abbreviations in Photo Credits

### 108 Opening Hours and Guided Tours

### Contributors

### Map

## PREFACE

Today, the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial is an important site of commemoration and learning. It keeps alive the memory of the victims of the SS's regime of terror, and it offers its visitors a whole range of approaches to the causes and effects of the Nazi reign in Germany. The Memorial as it is today is, however, the result of a long history of controversy and struggle.

Between 1938 and 1945, the site was the location of the largest concentration camp in north-western Germany, the Neuengamme concentration camp. More than 100,000 people from all over Europe were imprisoned in the main camp and its over 85 satellite camps. Over 42,900 of the prisoners registered at Neuengamme died towards the end of the war and in the course of the camp's evacuation.

In June 1945, the British Military Government established an internment camp for SS members and civilian functionaries of the Nazi state. When this camp was disbanded in 1948, the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg took over the site and used the larger part of the grounds for two prisons, one of which was in operation until 2006. This meant that a major part of the grounds, especially the former prisoners' compound, were not accessible to the public for commemorative purposes.

Under pressure from the survivors, the International Monument was erected on the northern edge of the historical site in 1965. In 1981, the first exhibition was shown in the newly erected Document Building, and in 1995 a new and larger permanent exhibition was opened in



*The House of Remembrance (ANG)*



- ■ ■ Expansion of the camp. In 1944, the prisoner huts were partly replaced by solid brick buildings. Photo taken by the SS
- ■ ■ Laying of the foundation stone for the new prison building, 17 July 1949 (Hamburg prison authority)
- ■ ■ A West German soldier visiting the Neuengamme Memorial in 1967. Photo by Egon Holzman (ANG)



the Walther factory. This former armaments factory was built on the site between 1942 and 1944. The Document Building was then redesigned and became the House of Remembrance.

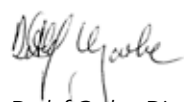
When the first prison was closed in 2003, it finally became possible to expand the Memorial and make it a centre for exhibitions, international encounters and learning. In May 2005, this new Memorial opened with newly designed exhibitions. In February 2006, the second prison was closed and the era of the site's use by the Hamburg prison service finally came to an end. In 2007, two new permanent exhibitions were opened to the public. This ended the Memorial's redesign process, which had begun in 2002.

After many decades, Hamburg had found an adequate way of dealing with the site. Today, tour paths lead around the 57 hectares which make

up the large site, providing access to the 15 buildings remaining from the time of the concentration camp, the clay pits, the dock, the sites of the camp's railway station, the detention bunker and the crematorium as well as the commemorative area with the House of Remembrance, the International Monument and the other monuments.

Thanks to 60 multilingual panels in the grounds, an audio guide system, the Open Archive, the Centre for Historical Studies, the five exhibitions and its educational activities, the Memorial offers a host of approaches to and different information on the site's history.

In its new form, the Memorial allows for an adequate commemoration of the past.



Detlef Garbe, Director



The entrance to the Memorial, the former roll-call square, the Centre for Historical Studies and the sites of the prisoner huts (ANG)



- ■ ■ View of the exhibition building from the main entrance (ANG)
- ■ ■ Visitors in the exhibition on the concentration camp SS (ANG)
- ■ ■ On the way to the main exhibition. (ANG)
- ■ ■ Biographies of prisoners in the main exhibition (ANG)

## THE NEUENGAMME CONCENTRATION CAMP, 1938 TO 1945

Towards the end of 1938, the SS set up a satellite camp of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in a disused brick factory in the Hamburg district of Neuengamme. In the early summer of 1940, the camp was expanded and became an independent camp under the direct authority of the Inspectorate of the Concentration Camps. The camp was established to manufacture bricks for monumental buildings the Nazis wanted to construct in Hamburg. During the war, the Gestapo and the SS Security Service deported tens of thousands of people from all over German-occupied Europe and imprisoned them in the Neuengamme concentration camp. The reasons for these arrests were usually resistance activities against the German occupation forces, non-compliance with

forced labour orders or racist persecution. According to the latest research, more than 80,000 men and 13,500 women were registered as prisoners at Neuengamme. Another 5,900 people were either never entered into the camp's records or were registered elsewhere. At the Neuengamme main camp and the over 85 satellite camps, which were established all over northern Germany from 1942 – but particularly from 1944 –, prisoners had to perform slave labour for the German wartime economy in construction and armaments production. Their living and working conditions were murderous. At least 42,900 prisoners died in total at the Neuengamme main camp, the satellite camps or during the evacuation of the camps.



*Entrance to the prisoners' compound. Prisoners paving the roll-call square.*



- ■ ■ Prisoners working by the Dove Elbe river in 1941-42, photo taken by the SS (NIOD)
- ■ ■ Prisoners building a hut at the SS barracks in 1940, photo taken by the SS (ANG)
- ■ ■ Watercolour painting entitled "Roll-call Square" by Danish former prisoner Jens Martin Sørensen. The painting was made in 1960 and is based on an earlier sketch. (Frøslevlejrens Museum, Padborg)

## Chronicle of Events, 1938 to 1945

- 3 September 1938** The SS buys a disused brickworks in the Hamburg district of Neuengamme
- 13 December 1938** The Neuengamme satellite camp is built, 100 prisoners from the Sachsenhausen concentration camp arrive
- January 1940** SS Reich Leader Heinrich Himmler visits the satellite camp and orders its expansion
- February to June 1940** Around 1,000 more prisoners arrive from Sachsenhausen
- 13 April 1940** The SS and the Hamburg city council sign a contract for the construction of a new and larger brickworks
- 15 April 1940** *SS-Hauptsturmführer* Martin Weiß becomes Commandant of Neuengamme Concentration Camp
- 4 June 1940** The prisoners are transferred to the newly established camp four kilometres to the south and are given new numbers.  
Neuengamme is mentioned as an independent concentration camp for the first time
- End of 1940** Around 2,900 prisoners are held at the camp; 432 deaths are registered in 1940
- April 1941** Arrival of 1,002 prisoners from Auschwitz, including many young people; Polish prisoners now form the largest group of prisoners in the camp

- Around Sept. 1941** The prisoners' compound is finished
- 16 October 1941** Arrival of 1,000 Soviet POWs from Stalag XD at Wietzendorf; they are housed in a fenced-off section of the camp
- 28 December 1941** The camp is quarantined due to a typhoid epidemic
- End of 1941** Around 4,500 prisoners are interned at the camp; 495 deaths are registered by name
- January 1942** Emaciated prisoners are killed by injections
- From spring of 1942** Forced labourers from the Soviet Union are imprisoned; Soviet citizens now make up the largest group of prisoners
- April to May 1942** Production facilities for the Messap and Jastram armaments companies are set up in the grounds of the Neuengamme camp
- May 1942** The crematorium is put into operation
- Late June 1942** 348 of the 1,000 Soviet POWs imprisoned in October 1941 are still alive; they are transferred to Sachsenhausen
- June / July 1942** 220 prisoners are transported to the Bernburg (Saale) "sanatorium", where they are murdered with poison gas upon arrival
- 15 July 1942** A section of the new brickworks is put into operation
- 28 August 1942** The first satellite camp of Neuengamme is set up at an industrial facility; 150 prisoners are transferred to the Phrix factory in Wittenberg



- ■ ■ Heinrich Himmler visiting the Neuengamme camp, January 1940. Photo taken by the SS (NIOD)
- ■ ■ Concentration camp prisoners building the new brickworks. Photo taken by the SS (ANG)
- ■ ■ Prisoners at the Messap work detail. Photo secretly taken by a civilian worker (ANG)



- 1 September 1942** SS-Sturmbannführer Max Pauly becomes Commandant of the Neuengamme concentration camp
- September 1942** All Jewish prisoners are transported to Auschwitz
- 25 September 1942** 197 Soviet POWs are murdered with Zyklon B at the camp prison also known as the "bunker"
- 13 October 1942** A satellite camp is established at the Reichswerke Hermann Göring factory in Drütte (Watenstedt-Salzgitter)
- Mid-October 1942** 1,000 prisoners are grouped to form the IInd SS Construction Brigade and transferred to Bremen and Osnabrück (later to Wilhelmshaven for a time and eventually to Hamburg in August 1943) to defuse bombs, recover bodies and clear rubble in bombed-out cities
- November 1942** 251 more Soviet POWs are gassed at the "bunker"
- End of 1942** Between 5,000 and 6,000 prisoners are held at the camp, 4,000 to 5,000 of them at the main camp and 1,474 at the satellite camps; 3,083 deaths are registered by name. The monthly death toll rises to over 10 per cent

**Early 1943** Arms production begins at the Metallwerke Neuenengamme GmbH factory at the camp, known as the Walther factory, a subsidiary of the armaments company Carl Walther GmbH; production (fitting and carpentry work) is taken up at the SS-owned Deutsche Ausrüstungswerke (DAW) factory

**March 1943** The 1st SS Construction Brigade work detail, deployed to Alderney for building fortified defence systems, is put under the authority of the Neuenengamme camp administration

**Spring of 1943** The canal from the Dove Elbe to the brick factory is finished; railway tracks are laid to the camp

**Mid-1943** Around 9,500 prisoners are held at the camp, around 5,800 of them at the main camp and 3,700 at the satellite camps

**17 July 1943** A satellite camp is established at the Accumulatoren-Fabrik AG factory in Hanover-Stöcken

**Late July 1943** Prisoners are deployed on clearance detail after air raids on Hamburg

**October 1943** Prisoners are deployed to the construction of the "Valentin" submarine pen in Bremen-Farge



- ■ ■ The "bunker". Photo taken by the SS (ANG)
- ■ ■ Prisoners working by the Dove Elbe. In late 1940, the "Elbe detail" became one of the most dreaded work details. Photo taken by the SS, circa 1941 / 42 (NIOD)
- ■ ■ Prisoners on clearing detail in the destroyed Hammerbrook district of Hamburg, 1943 (StA HH)



**End of 1943** Between 12,000 and 13,000 prisoners are held at the camp, 7,000 to 8,000 of them in the main camp and 5,336 in the satellite camps; 3,391 deaths are registered by name

**From spring of 1944** Throughout 1944, around 60 new satellite camps are set up all over northern Germany, where prisoners are forced to work on clearance detail after air raids, in factories and on the construction of provisional housing and anti-tank trenches

**8 June 1944** The first satellite camp for women is set up in Hamburg-Wandsbek; over the following months, 23 more satellite camps for women are set up

**July 1944** More than 10,000 Jewish prisoners are taken from Auschwitz or directly from Hungary to the Neuengamme main camp and the satellite camps to work for the German armaments industry

**Late 1944** Around 49,000 prisoners are held, around 12,000 in the main camp, around 37,000 in the satellite camps. Around 10,000 of them are women. 5,692 deaths are registered by name

**15 March 1945** The transfer to Neuengamme of Danish and Norwegian prisoners from all over the German Reich begins

**24 March 1945** The evacuation of the satellite camps begins. More than 20,000 prisoners are taken to the Bergen-Belsen, Sandbostel and Wöbbelin "reception camps", where thousands of them die before the end of the war

**27 March 1945** The Scandinavians' Camp, a camp section for Danish and Norwegian prisoners, is set up at the main camp; to make room for these prisoners, more than 4,000 emaciated inmates are transported to satellite camps in Hanover and Salzgitter in late March and early April

**29 March 1945** According to a report from the SS garrison physician, 6,224 prisoners died in the first quarter of 1945; the camp now holds 40,393 men and 11,768 women, around 12,000 of them in the main camp and roughly 40,000 in the satellite camps; 2,211 SS members work at the main camp and the satellite camps

**April 1945** The prisoner numbers assigned to newly registered prisoners exceed 80,000 for the men and 13,000 for the women

**8 April 1945** A train transporting prisoners is bombed in Celle; over 800 of the surviving prisoners are later massacred



- ■ ■ Construction plan of the Walther factory, 1943 (ANG)
- ■ ■ New brickworks with ramp for tipper wagons. Photo taken by the SS (ANG)
- ■ ■ Commandant Max Pauly with members of the SS headquarters staff. Photo taken by the SS in 1943 (ANG)

**9 April 1945** The transports of Danish and Norwegian prisoners to Sweden begin

**13 April 1945** 1,016 prisoners from the Mittelbau-Dora concentration camp and the Hanover-Stöcken satellite camp of Neuengamme are burned alive by the SS in a barn near Gardelegen

**14 April 1945** Members of the Ninth US Army liberate 3,000 women in Salzwedel at the only Neuengamme satellite camp that was not evacuated

**19 April 1945** The order for the evacuation of the main camp is given

**20 April 1945** 4,000 Danish and Norwegian prisoners are evacuated to Sweden on the White Buses by the Danish and Swedish Red Cross  
20 Jewish children who had been subjected to medical experiments at Neuengamme since December 1944 and several other prisoners, including Soviet POWs, are murdered by hanging at the evacuated Bullenhuser Damm satellite camp in Rothenburgsort, a former school

**20-26 April 1945** More than 9,000 prisoners from the main camp are taken to the Lübeck port, where they are loaded onto ships

**29-30 April 1945** The last 600 to 700 prisoners, who had to clean the camp and burn the camp administration files, are marched off; 368 prisoners are forcibly recruited into the SS's Dirlewanger special units

**2 May 1945** The last SS men leave the Neuengamme concentration camp with the remaining prisoners; British troops arrive to find the camp empty

**3 May 1945** Almost 7,000 people die in the aerial attacks by British fighter planes on the Thielbek and Cap Arcona ships in Lübeck Bay, 6,600 of them are prisoners. Hamburg surrenders to the Allies

**10 May 1945** The last Neuengamme prisoners are liberated in Flensburg



■ White Buses from the Danish Red Cross at the Friedrichsruh base camp in the Sachsenwald forest (MDF)



■ Fire on the Cap Arcona after it was bombed by British fighter planes (IWM)

## The Construction of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp

In the mid-1930s, Adolf Hitler visited Hamburg several times and on these occasions developed plans for the construction of a string of monumental buildings along the banks of the Elbe. In order to carry out this gigantic construction project, the authorities needed, among other things, an enormous amount of red clinker bricks, which are characteristic of northern Germany.

In the autumn of 1938, the SS-owned company Deutsche Erd- und Steinwerke GmbH therefore bought an abandoned brickworks situated on the outskirts of the village of Neuengamme in the Vierlande area of Greater Hamburg. It also bought around 50 hectares of land that was suitable for clay extraction and other uses. On 12 December 1938, 100 prisoners from the Sachsenhausen concentration camp arrived on the site to bring the brickworks back into operation. The grounds were fenced

in and the prisoners were housed in the attic of the brickworks above the kilns.

The guard squad was made up of 40 SS men and a *Kommandoführer* (work detail leader). The conditions of imprisonment in 1938 / 39 differed considerably from the period beginning in 1940. For example, former prisoners have described the rations during this period as more or less sufficient.

In January 1940, a few months after the outbreak of the war, it was decided to expand the Neuengamme camp into a large-scale concentration camp. Following a visit from Heinrich Himmler to Neuengamme, the SS entered into negotiations with the Hamburg council in January 1940. The council was "most interested in expanding the brick factory operated by prisoners" in order to bring down construction costs for the "Führer buildings" it wanted to build in the

context of the "redevelopment" of Hamburg's riverside areas.

In April 1940, the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg signed a contract with Deutsche Erd- und Steinwerke GmbH. The council promised the SS-owned company a loan of one million Reich marks for the construction of a larger brickworks and said it would build a railway connection, make the Dove Elbe fully navigable and construct a canal with a harbour basin. The SS, in turn, promised to "provide prisoners' labour and the necessary guard squads free of charge for this endeavour". In the spring of 1940, the Neuengamme camp was given the status of an independent concentration camp. The SS pushed ahead with the construction of the huts, watchtowers and fence for the camp. Maltreatment, exhaustion, hunger and accidents at work caused the first deaths among the prisoners.

In June 1940, the prisoners were transferred to the first newly constructed huts south of the brickworks. Further transports of prisoners arrived at Neuengamme, and at the end of 1940, around 3,000 prisoners were imprisoned in the concentration camp. Their labour was needed for the ongoing manufacture of bricks at the old brickworks. In addition, work on the regulation of the Dove Elbe was begun, and the canal and the harbour basin were built. Between 1940 and 1942, the prisoners had to build the new brickworks, and from 1942, they were deployed to build armaments factories on the site. The expansion of the camp continued until the end of the war.

In addition, more than 85 satellite camps of Neuengamme were established all over north-western Germany from 1942.



- ■ ■ Prisoners working at the old brickworks. (ANG)
- ■ ■ Construction of a watchtower, 1940/41. Photo taken by the SS (ANG)
- ■ ■ Prisoners building the SS barracks, 1940. Photo taken by the SS (ANG)



## The Prisoners

The concentration camps were initially set up to imprison political opponents of the Nazi regime. However, from 1937, an increasing number of people from other persecuted groups were taken to the camps, including Jews, Roma and Sinti, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, alleged "anti-social elements" and "criminals". The SS marked the prisoners according to group by attaching triangles of different colours to their prisoner uniforms.

During the early stages of the Neuengamme concentration camp, the majority of the prisoners were Germans. As the war progressed, men – and from 1944 women – from all over German-occupied Europe were imprisoned in the camp, and they quickly became the majority among the prisoners.

In total, 80,000 men and 13,500 women were registered and given prisoner numbers at the Neuengamme concentration camp or its satellite camps between 1938 and 1945. 5,900 more prisoners were either never registered or their information was kept in different files.

### German Prisoners

In total, around 9,200 Germans were imprisoned in Neuengamme. 400 of them were women imprisoned in the satellite camps. Prisoners were assigned to one or more of the following groups based on the reason for their imprisonment:

#### *Prisoners in "preventive detention"*

A little over half of the German prisoners at Neuengamme had been arrested by the police and imprisoned in the camp as "criminals". Their arrests were based on the Decree on Preventive Crime Fighting issued on 14 December 1937. The SS referred to these prisoners as "professional criminals" and marked them with a green triangle. Often, petty theft or fraud convictions were enough for the culprits to be imprisoned in a concentration camp, even after serving a prison sentence. Courts also transferred prisoners to the authority of the SS for "annihilation through labour". From 1942, these prisoners were referred to as *Sicherungsverwahrte* (prisoners in preventive detention, literally: "prisoners detained for reasons of security") and had to wear the green triangle pointing upwards on their clothes.

### Number of prisoners in the Neuengamme concentration camp (including satellite camps)

Country of origin	Men	Women	Total
Austria	300	0	0
Belgium	3,500	150	3,650
Czechoslovakia	800	800	1,600
Denmark	2,400	0	2,400
France	11,000	650	11,650
Germany	8,800	400	9,200
Greece	1,200	0	1,200
Hungary	1,400	5,800	7,200
Italy	1,100	100	1,200
Latvia	3,200	100	3,300
Luxembourg	50	0	50
Netherlands	6,600	250	6,850
Norway	2,800	0	2,800
Poland	13,000	2,700	15,700
Soviet Union (not including Baltic states)	21,000	2,000	23,000
Spain	750	0	750
Yugoslavia	1,000	250	1,250
Other countries	2,100	300	2,400
<b>Prisoners not registered in the camp files or registered separately</b> (1,000 Soviet POWs, 2,000 Danish policemen, around 1,500 prisoners who were mostly German police prisoners, 1,400 prisoners taken to Neuengamme for execution)	5,800	100	5,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>86,800</b>	<b>13,600</b>	<b>100,400</b>

Among the registered prisoners were around 13,000 Jews and around 500 Roma and Sinti

### ***Political prisoners***

Another major group of German prisoners were imprisoned on political grounds for opposing the Nazi regime. Most of them were communists, social democrats and trade unionists, as well as a small number of liberals and conservatives. Others were imprisoned by the Gestapo for listening to enemy broadcasts, for having expressed a critical opinion of the government or for joking about the regime. German political prisoners were marked with a red triangle. Their total number at the Neuengamme concentration camp is estimated at 1,000 to 1,500.

### ***"Anti-social elements"***

At least 1,200 German prisoners at Neuengamme were marked with a black triangle as "anti-social elements". Among them were homeless people, alcoholics and so-called "work shirkers".

### ***Roma and Sinti (Romanies)***

Roma and Sinti people are an ethnic minorities whose history is marked by ostracism and persecution. There is very little information about the fates of Neuengamme's Sinti or Roma

prisoners, of whom there were several hundred.

### ***Jews***

The first Jewish prisoners arrived at Neuengamme in 1940 from the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Depending on the reason for their imprisonment, their clothes were marked with a red, black or differently coloured triangle underlaid with a yellow triangle to form the concentration camp version of the yellow star. In May 1942, Jewish prisoners from Neuengamme were taken to the "euthanasia" facility at Bernburg (Saale) to be murdered. The remaining Jewish prisoners were transported to Auschwitz in October 1942.

### ***Police prisoners***

Police prisoners formed a prisoner category of their own. They were political prisoners who had been transferred to the Hamburg-Wilhelmsburg "work education camp" and to Neuengamme because of overcrowding at the Fuhlsbüttel prison. They were marked with yellow triangles on their clothes and received special numbers beginning

with a zero. Many police prisoners were transferred to the Hamburg remand prison after a few weeks or months, but others became "regular" prisoners of Neuengamme concentration camp or were transferred to other concentration camps.

### ***Other groups of prisoners***

Up to 400 men were imprisoned in the Neuengamme camp for their homosexuality. They came from all walks of life and social classes and were marked with a pink triangle on their clothes. Another group of prisoners consisted of around 200 Jehovah's witnesses who had to wear a purple triangle. Around 100 prisoners belonged to the "Wehrmacht special department". They were former soldiers who had been discharged dishonourably from the Wehrmacht and had been transferred from Wehrmacht penal units or camps to the concentration camp.

### ***Prisoners from the Occupied Countries***

Men and women from more than 20 countries were imprisoned in Neuengamme and its satellite camps. The first prisoners to be deported to Neuengamme from occupied countries in 1940 were Poles and Czechs. After Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, Soviet POWs were also imprisoned in Neuengamme. In 1941/42, the largest group of prisoners in the camp were from Poland, and from 1942/43 Soviet citizens formed the largest prisoner group. By then, 90 per cent of the prisoners came from outside Germany. More than half of them were from Central and Eastern Europe, but in 1943/44, thousands of people from Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Denmark were also deported to Neuengamme. Most of them were imprisoned for resistance activities against the German occupation, or they were forced labourers who were being punished for some transgression. Many prisoners were victims of an act of retaliation or were randomly taken hostage and then transported off.

From the spring of 1944, more than 12,000 Jewish prisoners from different countries, most of them women from Poland and Hungary, were transferred to the satellite camps of Neuengamme for slave labour. Although the camp was officially designated as a detention facility for adults, teenagers and, from 1944, even children were incarcerated there. Transports from the Soviet Union, the Baltic states and France, in particular, repeatedly brought very young people to Neuengamme. Many teenagers were also among the Jewish prisoners from Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia. In late 1944, 20 Jewish children aged between five and twelve were brought to Neuengamme from Auschwitz to be subjected to medical experiments.

#### ***Prisoners from Austria***

The majority of the 320 Austrian prisoners in Neuengamme, whom the SS classified as "Germans from the Reich", were political prisoners or, to a lesser degree, "criminals". Most of them had been transferred from the Mauthausen and Dachau concentration camps.

#### ***Prisoners from Poland***

From the very beginning of the war, the SS deported large numbers of Polish people who had been involved in resistance activities against the German occupation to the concentration camps. Many men and women were deported to Neuengamme from Auschwitz. From 1942, Polish forced labourers, who had violated work regulations or special decrees for Poles ("*Polenerlasse*"), were also imprisoned in Neuengamme. Among the 15,700 Polish prisoners were more than 5,000 Jews.

#### ***Prisoners from Czechoslovakia***

Many Czechoslovakian prisoners at Neuengamme had been arrested on political grounds. They were intellectuals and workers who had been involved in resistance activities or had violated work regulations. 1,600 men and women from Czechoslovakia were imprisoned in Neuengamme.

#### ***Prisoners from the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg***

Men and women from Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg were arrested for resistance activities,

"anti-German behaviour", insubordination against the occupation authorities or resisting forced labour in Germany. In the course of reprisals against the population in 1944, the Gestapo deported almost the entire male population of the villages of Putten in the Netherlands and Meensel-Kiezegeg in Belgium to Neuengamme.

#### ***Prisoners from France and Spain***

In France, resistance activities and attempts to evade forced labour in Germany led to mass arrests. Particularly from the spring of 1944, many of these prisoners were deported to German concentration camps. More than 11,000 prisoners were taken to Neuengamme. Around 300 of them were considered to be important individuals. They were housed separately in the "camp for prominent prisoners" and did not have to work. Many Spanish people who had fled to France after the end of the Civil War were arrested for their involvement with the French resistance. 750 Spanish men were imprisoned in Neuengamme.

#### ***Prisoners from Yugoslavia***

In occupied Yugoslavia, many people were arrested because of their political convictions or during "resettlement measures" in northern Slovenia, and deported to concentration camps. Yugoslavian citizens who were forced to work in Germany were also imprisoned for violations of work regulations. Around 1,000 men and around 250 women from Yugoslavia, mostly from Slovenia, were imprisoned in Neuengamme.

#### ***Prisoners from the Soviet Union***

In October 1941, the Wehrmacht handed over 10,000 Soviet POWs to the SS. 1,000 of them were taken to Neuengamme, where they were held in a camp section labelled "POW labour camp". 652 of them died within the space of eight months. The surviving POWs were transferred to the Sachsenhausen camp in June 1942. Their fates are unknown.

Between 1942 and 1944, around 2.8 million people from the occupied territories in the Soviet Union were deported to Germany for forced labour. More than half of them were women. The most common reasons for imprisonment in concentration camps were violations of work regulations and escape attempts. Around 22,000 Russian and Ukrainian prisoners, 2,000 of them women, formed the largest prisoner group at Neuengamme.

### ***Prisoners from the Baltic Countries***

Around 3,800 people from the Baltic countries were imprisoned in Neuengamme. Roughly 3,300 of them were from Latvia. Most of them arrived between June and October 1944 on three transports from the Salaspils "work education camp" near Riga. Several hundred of these prisoners were women, some of them Jewish.

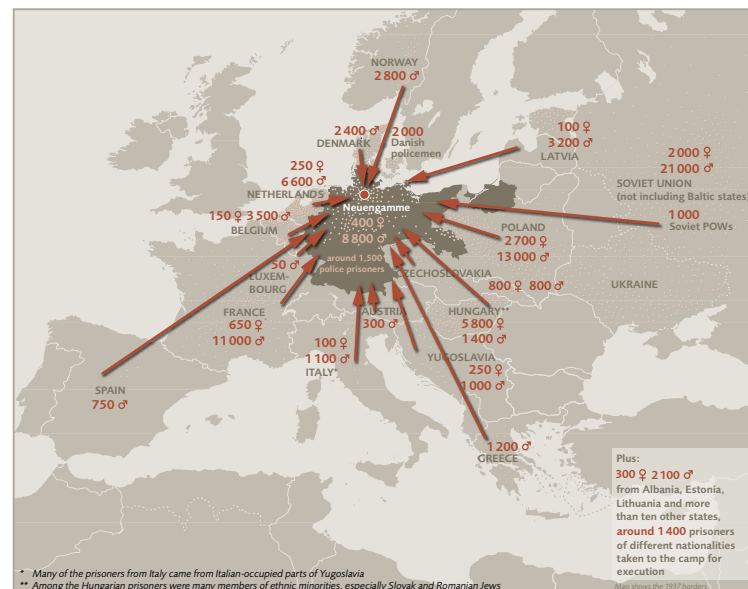
### ***Prisoners from Italy***

From September 1943, Italian soldiers, who were classified as "military internees", were taken to Germany for forced labour. In

addition, Italian partisans, hostages from areas where partisan groups were active and people who had participated in strikes were imprisoned in Neuengamme. In total, 1,200 Italians were imprisoned in the camp.

### ***Prisoners from Denmark and Norway***

Resistance fighters from Denmark and around 2,000 Danish policemen who had refused to cooperate with the German occupation authorities as well as 141 Danish border guards were imprisoned in Neuengamme. After a brief stint at Neuengamme, the policemen were transferred to Buchenwald. Norwegian prisoners were mainly taken to Neuengamme from other camps in the course of a rescue operation carried out by the Danish and Swedish Red Cross beginning in March 1945. They were housed separately from the other prisoners. In total, around 4,400 Danish and 2,800 Norwegian people were imprisoned in Neuengamme.



### ***Prisoners from Hungary***

Almost all of the 7,200 Hungarian prisoners in the Neuengamme concentration camp were Jewish, and around 5,800 of them were women. Most of them were transferred from Auschwitz, where they had been selected for slave labour inside the German Reich. In November 1944, a transport of 830 Jewish men arrived at the Neuengamme camp directly from Budapest.

### ***Prisoners from Greece***

The German occupation authorities reacted to partisan activities in Greece with harsh measures, including deportations to the concentration camps. Greek forced labourers in Germany were also often arrested and imprisoned in concentration camps for violating work regulations. Around 1,200 men from Greece were imprisoned in Neuengamme.

## The Concentration Camp SS

The SS organised the incarceration of people who were persecuted for political, racist or other reasons. In total, more than 4,000 SS men served at Neuengamme between 1938 and 1945. Most of them had volunteered for the SS. Towards the end of the war, the Nazis also deployed Wehrmacht soldiers and sailors as well as customs and police officers and employees of the Reichsbahn, the state railway company, as concentration camp guards, most of them at the satellite camps. Female SS guards worked at the women's satellite camps. The Commandant of the Neuengamme main camp controlled both the main camp and the satellite camps. Neuengamme had three Commandants: Walter Eisfeld (1940), Martin Weiß (1940/1942) and Max Pauly (1942/1945). The SS headquarters at Neuengamme was made up of six departments: Headquarters (I), the

Political Department (II), Prisoners' Compound/Work Deployment (III), Administration (IV), the Medical Department (V) and Education and Training (VI). On the organisational level below these departments were the guard squads. The individual SS guards were instructed to be completely ruthless in their treatment of the prisoners, who were seen as enemies. According to SS ideology, the fight against the "enemy within" was an important part of the fight against the "enemy without". The guards had a lot of leeway to maltreat prisoners even beyond the strictly regulated penal system. Exceptionally brutal SS men were rewarded, for example by being promoted. The prisoners' compound was surrounded by a barbed wire fence which was electrically charged at night. The prisoners were under constant watch by sentries and guards, who also marched them to and from work.

## Slave Labour

At the turn of 1936/37, the SS developed plans to set up their own production facilities and to financially profit from exploiting the prisoners' labour. The first area in which the SS became economically active was the production of building materials. In April 1938, the SS founded the company Deutsche Erd- und Steinwerke GmbH (DESt) (German Earth and Stone Works Ltd.). A few months later, the company bought, among other facilities, the disused brickworks at Neuengamme, where the first concentration camp prisoners from Sachsenhausen were deployed in December 1938. In the course of 1939, after the first production trial runs, the SS leadership decided to build a completely new factory and expand the camp. The prisoners at Neuengamme had to perform extremely hard labour, constructing the prisoners' compound, the SS barracks, the new

brickworks and other production facilities. One of the worst work details was making the Dove Elbe navigable and building a canal with a harbour basin. The new brickworks was brought into operation in 1942, after which the prisoners were increasingly forced to work in the clay pits. In 1943, the production of prefabricated concrete parts for air raid shelters and provisional houses started at the camp.

During the second half of the war, the SS prioritised the use of prisoners at the camp's armaments factories – the production facilities belonging to the companies Messap, Jastram and Metallwerke Neuengamme (Walther) – and in the SS's own Deutsche Ausrüstungswerke (DAW). In addition, prisoners were forced to work on the ongoing expansion of the camp until the end of the war.



■ ■ ■ View of the SS barracks.  
Photo taken by the SS. (ANG)  
■ ■ ■ Guards listen to an address  
in the courtyard of the  
SS garages in November 1943.  
Photo taken by the SS. (ANG)  
■ ■ ■ Prisoners at the Dove Elbe  
in 1941/42. Photo taken by the  
SS. (ANG)



### Construction details

Among the toughest work details at Neuengamme were those forced to do excavation, transport and construction work. The prisoners, who were insufficiently dressed and undernourished, had to work out in the open. They were forced to dig up the loamy soil, push loaded tipper wagons and carts, pull rollers and transport carts and perform other strenuous tasks. The resulting physical decline among the prisoners was part and parcel of the SS's regime at the camp. For the details made up of skilled construction workers, conditions were slightly more bearable, because the SS wanted to keep using them for the long-term.

### The Elbe detail

Between 1940 and 1942, the Dove Elbe, an arm of the river Elbe, was widened over a stretch of several

kilometres in order to make the Neuengamme brickworks accessible by boat from Hamburg. Prisoners had to shovel the dug-up soil, straighten the river banks and reinforce them. At times, more than 1,000 prisoners worked on this detail. Exhausted and ill, they had to perform these strenuous tasks in all kinds of weather, while being maltreated and driven on by guards and *kapos*.

### The brickworks detail

From 1942, between 600 and 1,200 prisoners had to work on the brickworks detail, most of them in the clay pits. The new brickworks was up to modern production standards, and only 160 to 180 prisoners were needed for turning the clay into bricks. In the clay pits, by contrast, hundreds of prisoners had to dig the clay in hard manual

labour, load it onto tipper wagons and push these on provisionally laid rails to the brickworks. Work in the clay pits and on the tippers was particularly hard, and many prisoners died performing these tasks.

### Work in the prisoners' compound and in the SS barracks

Work inside the prisoners' compound or in the SS barracks often meant greater chances of survival for the prisoners, because workplaces inside buildings afforded them better protection from the elements. Those who worked for the SS administration were housed separately and received sufficient food, clean clothes and better medical care than most other prisoners. Some workplaces also offered the chance of procuring additional food.

### Armaments factories

From 1942, the increased integration of the concentration camps into the German war effort led to the establishment of private armaments factories at the Neuengamme camp. The companies had to pay the SS a fee for using the prisoners' labour. The management of the companies Messap and Jastram were eventually allowed to use civilian employees to supervise the prisoners instead of SS guards, which meant that the prisoners were only maltreated and severely overworked in exceptional cases. However, if prisoners did not meet the set production quotas, they were in danger of being transferred to one of the dreaded excavation or construction details. In 1942, the arms manufacturer Walther began planning and building a factory which it operated under the name Metallwerke Neuengamme GmbH (Neuengamme Metalworks



■ ■ ■ Prisoners working on the Neuengamme embankment. Photo taken by the SS. (NIOD)

■ ■ ■ Ramp with hoist for tipper wagons at the new brickworks. (Institut für Zeitgeschichte, Munich)

■ ■ ■ A workshop of the Metallwerke Neuengamme factory, a subsidiary of Carl Walther GmbH from Zella-Mehlis. (Ang)



Ltd.). From 1944, almost 1,000 prisoners were forced to manufacture up to 20,000 rifles per month. Construction work on the factory building was extremely strenuous and life-threatening for the prisoners, as they had to work at great speed. By comparison, working conditions in the Walther factory were considered relatively good.

### External work details

Various smaller work details were deployed outside the camp, for example on nearby farms or in businesses supplying the camp. Prisoners also had to work on clearance and bomb disposal details in Hamburg following Allied air raids. Collapsing buildings and exploding duds regularly claimed the lives of prisoners on these details.

## Housing

In the 16 wooden huts, the so-called blocks, which were built over time, the prisoners initially had to sleep crowded together on straw mattresses on the floor. Later, the huts were furnished with three-tier bunk beds, lockers, tables and benches. Usually, considerably more than 300 – at times even over 600 – prisoners were crammed into the huts, which were 50 metres long and eight metres wide. The two brick buildings erected in 1943/44 contained four blocks each, in which between 500 and 700 men were housed. From 1944, prisoners often had to sleep three to a bed. Prisoners had few opportunities to wash themselves. The huts smelled of sweat and faeces. There was no privacy. The better beds often went to the stronger prisoners.

### The daily routine

The prisoners were woken very early in the morning, even as early as

4.30 a.m. in the summer. After washing, a meagre breakfast and making up their beds – a procedure during which the guards often took any deviation from the prescribed position of the straw mattresses as an opportunity to terrorise and maltreat the prisoners –, the inmates had to assemble on the roll-call square for morning roll call. After roll call, the prisoners worked all day until dark. Their workdays were ten to twelve hours long. During the winter, they were slightly shorter. At noon, prisoners were given soup during a break. They had to work in all kinds of weather. In the evening, after they had been marched back to the camp, there was another roll call, during which penal measures were often carried out. No evening meals were handed out until it was established that all prisoners were present. Afterwards, there was little time until lights out at 9.00 p.m.

■ Prisoners on clearing detail in the Hamburg district of Hammerbrook after an air raid in 1943. (StA HH)



■ Prisoners' huts in 1940/41. The connecting middle sections of the huts, which contained latrines and wash rooms, had not been built at the time. Before the water pipes were laid in the first half of 1941, water was only available from hand pumps. Photo taken by the SS. (ANG)



## Hygiene

In 1940/41, the blocks were only equipped with hand pumps. Even after the sewage system was completed in 1941, the sanitary facilities remained inadequate. In the morning, hundreds of prisoners would jostle over the 15 to 20 water taps in each washroom. It was not until after the typhus epidemic of 1941/42 that prisoners were led in groups to the newly built shower room. Initially, this was done once a week, then less often until in 1944/45 prisoners were only taken to the showers in exceptional cases. There were hardly any towels or soap. In the beginning, prisoners were only able to change their underwear every two weeks, and later even less often. From 1942, the gas Zyklon B was used to combat pests in the huts, but despite these efforts, the prisoners suffered from vermin, especially fleas and lice.

## Food

Hunger determined the prisoners' every thought and action. The rations they were given were of inferior quality and often barely edible. The SS gave the prisoners less food than was officially allocated to them and used some of the prisoners' rations for themselves.

In the morning, the prisoners were given either a thin milky soup or so-called "coffee". At midday, there was a thin turnip soup with very little fat in it. As a so-called "extra allowance for hard labour", some prisoners were given a slice of bread with butter and cheese or sausage in addition to the soup. In the evenings, prisoners were given their bread rations for the next day and a little margarine, cheese or jam.

## Clothing

Initially, the prisoners wore the uniforms which were introduced in 1938. They were made from blue and white or blue and grey striped fabric, which offered little protection from the cold. The uniform consisted of a jacket, a pair of trousers and a cap, as well as a shirt and one pair each of underpants, socks and shoes. However, often prisoners were not issued all items of clothing, and the ones they received were often badly mended, torn, too small or too big. The shoes were almost always wooden clogs. Instead of socks, prisoners were usually given rags to wrap their feet in. In the winter of 1942/43, overcoats made from the

same fabric as the rest of the concentration camp clothes were issued. Many prisoners tried to protect themselves against the cold by wearing empty paper bags, pieces of blankets or other strips of fabric underneath their clothes. This was strictly forbidden, and prisoners who did this risked beatings and entries in their penal file. When the SS ran out of the striped fabric for the uniforms later on in the war, they began issuing civilian clothes taken from those who were murdered in the extermination camps. These clothes were marked as prisoner uniforms by bright yellow crosses painted on the back and sometimes on the trouser legs.



- ■ ■ Washroom. Drawing by the Danish former prisoner Hans Peter Sørensen. (ANg)
- ■ ■ Distribution of Soup. Drawing by Hans Peter Sørensen. (ANg)
- ■ ■ Clothing in the Camp. Drawing by French former prisoner Lazare Betrand. (Musée de l'Ordre de la Libération, Paris)



## Death

The prisoners were confronted with death on a daily basis: They had to watch their comrades die, and they lived in constant fear of their own death. The smoke from the crematorium was also a constant reminder of death. At Neuengamme, prisoners were beaten to death, drowned, hung or killed by poison gas. They starved to death or perished because they were insufficiently clothed or housed and lived under appalling hygienic conditions. They died from lack of medication or medical care, physical exhaustion from work or from the effects of their maltreatment.

### Executions and murder campaigns

In the spring of 1942, a commission of doctors visited the Neuengamme concentration camp and selected prisoners "unfit for work", Jews and other prisoners, who were then taken to the Bernburg/Saale "euthanasia"

facility to be gassed. In 1942, the SS introduced executions as punishment at the camp. These were carried out on the roll-call square. In the spring of 1943, the SS murdered a large number of "preventive detainees" transferred to Neuengamme by the judiciary by driving them across the cordon of guards and then shooting them for "attempting to escape". The Neuengamme camp was also used for executions by the Gestapo and, in August/September 1943, by the Hamburg judiciary, who had convicts executed there. They were either shot at the sewage plant or hung in the camp prison. Soviet POWs from Wehrmacht POW camps who were selected according to the "Commissar Order" were also murdered at Neuengamme. In the autumn of 1942, 448 of them were gassed with Zyklon B in two separate operations at the "bunker", which was specially converted for the purpose.



*Furnaces at the crematorium, 1945. (ANG)*

### Registration of deaths and body disposal

Up to March 1941, deaths that occurred at the camp were registered by the Neuengamme village registry office. Then the camp was given its own registry office, "Special Registry Office A". During the first years, a local funeral director would take the bodies to the municipal crematorium in Ohlsdorf cemetery. Several hundred bodies, mostly of executed

prisoners, were given to the anatomical institutes of the Hamburg and Kiel university hospitals. From May 1941, the SS had the victims burned in a provisional crematorium near the camp until a new crematorium located near the prisoners' compound was brought into operation in 1942. However, the new crematorium soon proved too small, and in December 1944, an additional facility was built.



- ■ *Death at the Electric Fence. Drawing by the Soviet former prisoner V. Petrov. (ANG)*
- ■ *The camp prison ("detention bunker") was also used for executions by the SS and the Hamburg Gestapo. Photo by Sgt. K. Edward, 1946. (ANG)*

## The Satellite Camps

From 1942, there was an increasing demand for concentration camp prisoners' labour from the Ministry of Armaments and the German armaments industry. This prompted the establishment of a large number of satellite camps near factories and construction sites, especially during the last year of the war.

In total, more than 85 satellite camps of Neuengamme were established all over north-western Germany. In addition to Hamburg, most of these were located in Bremen, Hanover, Salzgitter, Hildesheim and Porta Westfalica. The first satellite camp of Neuengamme at a factory was established in August 1942 in Wittenberge.

During the second half of the war, tens of thousands of men from German-occupied countries were forced to work in the more than 60 men's satellite camps of Neu-

gamme. They had to work in armaments production, build bunkers, industrial complexes and underground production facilities, dig anti-tank ditches, clear rubble and repair streets and other traffic routes. The prisoners in the 24 women's satellite camps which belonged to the Neuengamme complex in 1944/45 had to work in armaments production, both over- and underground, on clearance detail and in the construction of provisional housing. The women came from the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. Conditions in the satellite camps were marked by SS terror, overwork, lack of health and safety provisions at workplaces as well as insufficient medical care, undernourishment and insufficient housing, often in provisional huts. In March 1945,



around 40,000 prisoners – roughly 28,000 men and 12,000 women – were imprisoned in the satellite camps, where they had to perform slave labour for German businesses, the Wehrmacht, the German state or

the SS. At the same time, around 13,000 prisoners were incarcerated in the Neuengamme main camp.



- ■ ■ The state-owned Hermann Göring Works in Salzgitter in 1944, where the Drütte satellite camp stood. (TNA)
- ■ ■ Prisoners of the Bremen-Obernheide women's satellite camp. (StA HB)
- ■ ■ Liberated prisoners at the Wöbbelin "reception camp", 2 May 1945. Photo by the US Army. (USHMM)

## The End

From the summer of 1944, the SS began to evacuate concentration camps located near the front lines. Those prisoners and production facilities which were important for the German war effort were transported to numerous newly-established satellite camps within Germany. When the concentration camps inside the Reich were also evacuated in the spring of 1945, the SS had very few remaining camps to fall back on.

The dissolution of the entire Neuengamme camp system began on 24 March 1945 with the evacuation of the camps in the Emsland region near the Dutch border. In early April, the satellite camps in the Weserbergland region south of Hanover, Wilhelmshaven, Hanover, Braunschweig and Salzgitter were evacuated, followed by those in Bremen and Hamburg. Thousands of prisoners were taken to so-called "reception camps" such as Wöbbelin or Bergen-Belsen, where they were left to their own devices without any food or medical care and under appalling hygienic conditions.

### The White Buses campaign

In March 1945, the Neuengamme concentration camp became the assembly point for all Danish and Norwegian prisoners incarcerated in Germany. The "Scandinavians' Camp" was established following talks between Heinrich Himmler and the Swedish Red Cross's Vice President, Count Folke Bernadotte. Through this channel, Himmler hoped to enter into talks with the British government about a ceasefire to prevent Germany's unconditional surrender and agreed to the rescue of Scandinavian prisoners as a first concession. After some sick prisoners had been taken to Sweden on the White Buses earlier, more than 4,000 Danish and Norwegian prisoners were also taken there in a convoy of 120 vehicles on 20 April 1945, the day the evacuation of the main camp started.

### The dissolution of the main camp

The main camp was used for executions until the very end of the war. On 21 and 23 April 1945, the SS executed 58 men and 13 women who had been transferred to Neuengamme from the Fuhlsbüttel police

prison. On 20 April, 20 children who had been subjected to medical experiments at Neuengamme, four prisoners who had looked after them and 24 Soviet POWs were taken to the evacuated Bullenhuser Damm satellite camp in the Hamburg district of Rothenburgsort and murdered. During the same period, a remaining work detail of 600 to 700 prisoners had to clean up the camp. The SS took calculated measures to erase the traces of the crimes committed at Neuengamme. The camp's files were burned, the straw and refuse were cleaned out of the huts, the flogging trestle and the gallows were dismantled. The last prisoners and SS men left the camp on 2 May 1945.

### Transports and death marches

For the evacuation transports, the SS used cattle cars into which they crammed between 50 and 100 prisoners, sometimes even more. The prisoners were given very little or no food during the journeys which sometimes lasted for many days. The many dead along the way were taken out and either left lying next to the tracks or were buried there. If the SS could not transport

prisoners by train, they were forced to march from the camps. These torturous marches, which often went on for days, led to the deaths of many of the men and women evacuated from the camps. Those who collapsed or could not keep up were shot by the guards.

### "Reception camps"

Most transports went to so-called 'reception camps'. Around 9,000 prisoners from satellite camps in Bremen and Hamburg and sick prisoners from the Neuengamme main camp were taken to the Sandbostel POW camp near the town of Bremervörde. More than 8,000 prisoners, most of them Jewish women or prisoners from satellite camps in the Hanover area, were taken to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. The Wöbbelin satellite camp near the town of Ludwigslust was the last place of imprisonment for around 5,000 prisoners, who were mainly from satellite camps in the Braunschweig/Salzgitter area. Thousands of prisoners died of starvation and disease in these three camps.



The burning Cap Arcona, 3 May 1945. (IWM)

### Prison ships on the Baltic

When no more "reception camps" were available for the evacuation of the main camp, Hamburg's regional Nazi Party leader (*Gauleiter*), Karl Kaufmann, requisitioned ships moored near Lübeck. More than 9,000 prisoners were taken aboard these ships. Crammed into the ships' holds, many of them died of starvation, thirst and disease. On 3 May

1945, the ships Cap Arcona and Thielbek, lying just off Neustadt in Lübeck Bay, were accidentally bombed during a British air raid intended to stop German troops from escaping across the Baltic. Almost 7,000 prisoners were either killed in the flames, drowned or were shot trying to save their lives. Only 450 people survived.

## The Victims of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp

Shortly before the end of the war, the SS destroyed all files and documents from the camp's administration. Therefore, the exact number of people killed at Neuengamme cannot be established. The names of around 22,500 prisoners who died in Neuengamme and its satellite camps before the evacuation of the main camp in late March 1945 are known. The total number of victims up to late March 1945 is estimated at 26,800. At least 16,100 more people died during the evacuation marches and transports to the so-called "reception camps" (excluding Bergen-Belsen) and in the air raid on the prison ships in Lübeck Bay.

In total, there is evidence for the deaths of at least 42,900 people, including the executed Gestapo prisoners and judicial prisoners. Additionally, thousands of prisoners died after being transported to other camps while often in a severely weakened condition, or they died of the effects of their imprisonment after their liberation. We must assume that more than half of the around 100,400 prisoners of Neuengamme concentration camp did not survive their ordeal.

Excerpt from a death register kept at the camp's sick-bay. (ANG)

## THE SITE AFTER 1945

After the end of the war, the British military authorities used the buildings of the former concentration camp in Neuengamme for three different purposes: One section was the "Russian DP camp" (DP: displaced person), where they housed former slave labourers from the Soviet Union who had been deported to the Hamburg area; another was used as an internment camp for members of the SS, the Nazi party and the Wehrmacht as well as civilian functionaries of the Nazi state; and the third section was used as a transit camp. In 1948, the British authorities handed over the camp to the Hamburg city council, which established a prison at the site, using both the existing buildings and erecting new ones. The prison was initially called the Neuengamme Men's Prison and was later referred to as the Vierlande Penal Facility or

Penal Facility XII (*Justizvollzugsanstalt XII*). In the late 1960s, another prison, the Vierlande Juvenile Detention Centre, later called Penal Facility IX, was built in the grounds of the former concentration camp. Under pressure from former prisoners, the Hamburg council had a commemorative pillar erected at the site of the former camp garden nursery. In 1965, the International Memorial was established. It consists of an inscribed stone slab, a commemorative wall and the sculpture *Le Déporté* ("The Deportee"). In 1981, the Document Building containing a first permanent exhibition was opened. Slowly other parts of the former camp were also incorporated into the Memorial until, after the closure of the two prisons in 2003 and 2006, the complete site was handed over to the Memorial and underwent extensive redesign.



*The prison completed in 1970 on the site of the former clay pits, 1992. (ANG)*



- ■ ■ May 1945: German internees arriving at the former Neuengamme concentration camp. Film still from footage shot by the British Army. (IWM)
- ■ ■ The memorial site designed in 1965 with the commemorative wall and the "Path of Nations". (ANG)
- ■ ■ The former Document Building, now the House of Commemoration, 1995. (ANG)

## Chronicle of Events from 1945

- 2 May 1945** The last SS men leave the Neuengamme concentration camp; in the evening, a British advance guard unit reaches the evacuated camp
- 9 May 1945** The camp is designated as the "Russian DP camp" and used to house former slave labourers from the Soviet Union who had been deported to the Hamburg area. German POWs are also interned there
- 22 May 1945** The first DPs are transferred to other camps
- 27 May 1945** More than 8,000 members of the SS arrested in the area occupied by the Ninth US Army arrive at Neuengamme
- 5 June 1945** The British Military Government begins using the former concentration camp as an internment camp for civilian functionaries of the Nazi state, suspected war criminals and people arrested for security reasons. Most of the internees come from Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein
- September 1945** The first issue of a bulletin by the French association of former Neuengamme prisoners, the Amicale de Neuengamme, is published. The Belgian association of Neuengamme survivors is also founded in 1945

- 18 March to 3 May 1946** The main trial against members of the Neuengamme concentration camp headquarters is held before a British military tribunal at the Curio-Haus in Hamburg; 11 of the 14 defendants are sentenced to death and executed

- Autumn of 1946** The internment camp is expanded to include a transit camp section, where German citizens extradited to the British zone from other countries are held.

- Turn of 1946/47** The crematorium is demolished

- February 1948** The internment camp is gradually disbanded and the British Military Government hands over the former brickworks to the Hamburg city council. The first 40 prisoners and eight judicial officers move into the brickworks and begin clearance and renovation work

- 6 June 1948** The Arbeitsgemeinschaft Neuengamme, the representative organisation of German Neuengamme survivors, is founded

- 13 August 1948** The British Military Government closes the internment camp; the grounds and buildings of the former concentration camp are then taken over by the Hamburg prison service

- 6 September 1948** The Neuengamme Men's Prison (later renamed Vierlande Penal Facility) is brought into operation



■ ■ ■ Former prisoners at the crematorium in the evacuated camp. The photo was taken on 5 May 1945. Photo courtesy of the IWM. (ANG)

■ ■ ■ Former Neuengamme prisoner Herbert Schemmel identifying SS men in 1945. (ANG)

■ ■ ■ Trial of 14 SS members at the Curio-Haus in Hamburg, 1945. (ANG)



- Spring of 1949** The wooden huts in the former prisoners' compound are torn down
- Mid-1949** The Hamburg council rents out the brickworks to a company making lightweight panels
- 14 July 1949** The foundation stone for a new cell block for the Neuengamme Men's Prison is laid at the former prisoners' compound
- 10 December 1950** The new cell block is brought into operation.
- 1951** Almost all the watchtowers are demolished
- 18 October 1953** A commemorative pillar bearing the inscription "Dedicated to the Victims, 1938 – 1945" is erected at the site of the former camp garden nursery on the northern edge of the grounds
- 1958** The survivors associations in different countries join together to form the Amicale Internationale de Neuengamme. The international survivors' association demands that the Hamburg council establish an adequate memorial
- 7 November 1965** The International Memorial with the inscribed stone slab, the memorial wall, the plaques for the different nations and the sculpture *Le Déporté* is officially opened and a park is laid out

- 1970** The second prison, the Vierlande Juvenile Detention Centre, is brought into operation at the site of the former clay pits. The new prison building is used as a juvenile detention centre until the mid-1980s and later as a closed prison for adults (*Justizvollzugsanstalt IX*)
- 18 October 1981** The Document Building containing the permanent exhibition *Labour and Annihilation* on the history of the Neuengamme concentration camp is opened. The Neuengamme Memorial becomes a branch of the Hamburg Historical Museum
- July 1982** Participants of the First International Youth Work Camp mark and lay out a tour path around the grounds of the historical camp
- 1982-83** A new solitary confinement building for the first prison, the Vierlande Penal Facility, is constructed
- 14 February 1984** Following public protests against the planned demolition of the brickworks, which is in danger of collapsing, the Hamburg council issues a preservation order for the brickworks and those sections of the site that are not used by the prisons
- 1985 to 1991** The brickworks is restored with funds from the Hamburg council and the German Federal Employment Agency



- ■ ■ The foundation stone for a cell block of the Neuengamme men's prison is laid on 17 July 1949. (Strafvollzugsbehörde Hamburg)
- ■ ■ The commemorative pillar for the victims of the Neuengamme concentration camp, erected in 1953. (ANg)
- ■ ■ Official opening of the Document Building in 1981. (ANg)



- 23 November 1986** A section of the street Neuengammer Heerweg is renamed Jean-Dolidier-Weg
- 1988** Plans to construct more prison buildings on the site of the former roll-call square trigger international protests
- 17 July 1989** The Hamburg Senate decides to move the older one of the two prisons, the Vierlande Penal Facility, to a different site. The move is completed in the mid-1990s
- 6-7 June 1990** The Hamburg Parliament welcomes the decision to move the Vierlande Penal Facility (XII) and asks the Senate to consider "whether and how the Vierlande Juvenile Detention Centre [Penal Facility IX] might also be moved and the building demolished over the coming years"
- 1990 to 1993** In the course of an oral history project, the Memorial conducts biographical interviews with former prisoners in 14 European countries as well as in Israel and the USA
- 7 May 1991** A commission for the development of the Neuengamme Memorial chaired by First Mayor Henning Voscherau is set up. Its members include members of the Hamburg Parliament,

academics and survivors of the camp.

They draw up a plan for the extensive redesign of the Memorial, to be implemented after the prisons have been moved as decided

- 6 April 1993** The Hamburg Senate and Parliament approve the plan for the future development of the Neuengamme Memorial drawn up by the commission

- 1994** The first issue of the Neuengamme Memorial's yearly journal *Papers on the History of Nazi Persecution in Northern Germany* is published

- 27 April 1994** The Hamburg Senate and Parliament provide special funds for collecting all available data on prisoners in digital format for statistical evaluation and for establishing a scientifically validated death register

- May 1994** A modular, relocatable building is set up to house the Memorial's archive, offices and rooms for receiving visitors while the Document Building is being redesigned as the House of Commemoration

- August 1994** The tracks near the former camp train stop are reconstructed and a historical goods wagon is put on display



- ■ ■ Tipper wagons from the concentration camp outside the second prison. (ANG)
- ■ ■ In November 1986, a section of Neuengammer Heerweg was named after former prisoner Jean Dolidier (ANG)
- ■ ■ Work camps for young people have been held at Neuengamme since 1981. Photo taken in 1986. (ANG)

**4 May 1995** For the 50th anniversary of the liberation, the Document Building is reopened as the House of Commemoration after its redesign by artist Thomas Schütte. In a section of the former Walther factory, which had been used by Penal Facility XII for workshops, the new permanent exhibition *Struggling for Survival – Prisoners under the Reign of the SS* is opened

**June 1996** The Hamburg Senate decides to build a new prison in the Hamburg district of Billwerder – under the provision that the budget is consolidated

**1 June 1997** Opening of the exhibition *Labour and Annihilation: Concentration Camp Prisoners' Slave Labour in Brick Production* about the prisoners' working conditions at the brickworks

**September 1997** In its coalition agreement, the new coalition government in Hamburg made up of the SPD and the Green Party confirms the goal of moving the prison and steps up the planning process for the redesign

**1 January 1999** The Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial becomes independent from the Hamburg Historical Museum. Now an institution of its own, the Memorial answers directly to the Hamburg Ministry for Cultural Affairs

**27 July 1999** The German Federal Government presents its new plan for memorials which, for the first time, includes the West German memorials at Bergen-Belsen, Dachau and Neuengamme in its permanent funding plans

**August 2000** Construction work for a new prison in the Hamburg district of Billwerder begins

**1 October 2000** The Hamburg Ministry of Justice hands over the former commandant's house of the Neuengamme concentration camp, which it had used to house prison staff, to the Memorial. The building is renovated

**5 September 2001** The Hamburg Parliament decides to hand over the entire historical site and its buildings to the Memorial for expansion and redesign (2002 – 2006) once the construction of the prison in the Hamburg district of Billwerder and the move of Penal Facility XII are completed

**13 October 2001** After the state elections of 23 September 2001, the new coalition between the conservative CDU, the far-right Law and Order Offensive party and the liberal FDP announces that it will not close Penal Facility XII because of "the urgent need for prison space"

■ ■ ■ The House of Remembrance. (ANg)  
 ■ ■ ■ Neuengamme, May 1995. (ANg)  
 ■ ■ ■ Protest graffiti: "There used to be a concentration camp here" on the wall of Penal Facility IX, which opened in 1970. Photo taken in 1988. (ANg)



- This triggers vehement international protests, which in turn prompts First Mayor designate Ole von Beust to enter into talks with survivors' associations to find a solution
- December 2001** The former SS garages are handed over to the Memorial before the rest of the site and are converted into office and exhibition spaces
- 24 January 2002** The Hamburg Parliament decides to move Penal Facility XII by 30 June 2003, finish the reconstruction of the roll-call square even while the prison is still in operation and finish the entire redesign process in time for the 60th anniversary of the liberation in May 2005
- 26 June 2003** The new prison in Billwerder is opened
- 30 June 2003** Penal Facility XII is closed and the site is handed over to the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial. The Memorial now covers an area of 50 hectares and contains 15 buildings dating from the time of the concentration camp with a total floor area of 41,000 square metres
- August 2003 to May 2005** The post-war buildings are demolished, those dating from the time of the camp are renovated and the grounds of the former camp are redesigned. Funding comes from the Federal State of Hamburg and the German Federal Government

- 4 May 2005** The redesigned Memorial at the site of what was the prisoners' compound is opened. Its main elements are the Centre for Historical Studies, the library, the archive, the main exhibition *Traces of History*, which is housed in what used to be prisoners' quarters, the research exhibition *Posted to Neuengamme* about the camp's SS staff shown in the former SS garages, the Open Archive and the markings of where the huts and camp fence used to be as well as the archaeological digs

- February 2006** The second prison, Penal Facility IX, is moved to Billwerder  
This ends the grounds' period of use by the prison service. The last sections of the site are handed over to the Memorial, which now covers 57 hectares

- 5 May 2007** The exhibition *Mobilisation for the War-time Economy: Concentration Camp Prisoners as Slave Labourers in Armaments Production* is opened at the former Walther factory

- 19 May 2007** The exhibition *Prisons and Memorial: Documenting a Contradiction* is opened. The exhibition is installed on a piece of a wall from Penal Facility IX at the site of the former clay pits



- ■ ■ The site of the former prisoners' compound is handed over to the Memorial in a ceremony on 30 June 2003. (ANG)
- ■ ■ View of the redesigned main entrance. (ANG)
- ■ ■ Demolition of Penal Facility IX in 2007. (ANG)



## The British Internment Camp

On the evening of 2 May 1945, British soldiers reached the Neuengamme concentration camp and found it mostly empty. The vast site itself with its many huts and buildings did not reveal what had happened there.

Because the buildings and the site's infrastructure seemed suitable for housing large numbers of people, the British brought Soviet former slave labourers from the Hamburg area to Neuengamme, where they were given accommodation and medical care. During the same period, German POWs were taken to other parts of the camp. From early June 1945, in accordance with the principles of the Potsdam Agreement, the British military administration used the former concentration camp as an internment camp, mostly for SS members at first, and later also for civilian functionaries of the Nazi state, suspected war criminals and people

arrested for security reasons. Information on Nazi crimes had prompted the Allies to draw up measures to combat Nazi ideology in the German population even during the war. These measures included the automatic arrest of all members of certain groups following an Allied victory over Germany. The majority of the internees at Neuengamme were members of one of these groups: First and foremost among them were functionaries of the Nazi party – the NSDAP – and members of the Gestapo, the SD and the SS. Among the members of the Waffen-SS who were interned at Neuengamme were also people from outside Germany.

From November 1945, the Neuengamme camp was officially called Civil Internment Camp No. 6 (CIC 6). Conditions at CIC 6 were tough in the beginning but were eased over time. The internees were given a say in the

administration of the camp and were allowed cultural activities, i.e. they could put on concerts or plays, organise public talks or form learning groups. In these efforts, the internees were supported by the Hamburg authorities and local churches. In the summer of 1947, British experts carried out a pilot programme aimed at turning Nazis into democrats through education. Many of the internees were released after their cases had been individually examined or after amnesties had been granted. In 1948, the British military administration disbanded the internment camp and handed the site over to the Hamburg council, which then began using it for its penal system.

## The Transit Camp

From the autumn of 1946, the Neuengamme site also contained a transit camp for German men, women and children who had been expelled from other countries. This camp was the only one of its kind in the British zone of occupation.

The expellees came from countries all over Europe, Africa and Asia; a large number of them had been interned since the start of the war. Many were missionaries with families who now received support from church groups in Neuengamme. Most of them were able to leave the camp after a few days once they had undergone brief screening procedures. If these interrogations revealed, however, that the expellees had held an important position in the Nazi party's foreign departments or their interrogators suspected them of espionage, they were transferred from the transit camp to the neighbouring CIC 6.



- ■ ■ British soldiers at the entrance to the camp, 2 June 1945 Film still from footage shot by Lt. Thompson. (IWM)
- ■ ■ View of the internment camp at the former Neuengamme concentration camp from the watchtower in the south-east. (ANG)
- ■ ■ German internees at the internment camp, May 1945. (IWM)

## The Prisons and the Memorial at the Historical Site of the Concentration Camp

After the British internment camp was disbanded in 1948, the Hamburg council took over the grounds and the buildings of the former Neuengamme concentration camp. The Neuengamme Men's Prison was set up at the site of the former prisoners' compound. The Hamburg Senate rejected criticism of this use of the grounds from the survivors' associations, arguing that the prison was going to serve as an example for the new liberal prison regime in Hamburg.

A few months after the council had taken over the grounds, the wooden huts at the prisoners' compound were demolished and replaced by a new cell block in 1949/50. The stone buildings that had been built at the former concentration camp were used as cell blocks to house the prison administration and workshops. The two large brick buildings which had been used to house prisoners

during the time of the concentration camp were altered in 1954 and 1957. The prison refectories, storerooms and a hospital ward were moved into the eastern brick building, and the prison administration was housed in the western building facing the street. Also in 1957, the roll-call square was torn up and a sports field installed at the site of the former sickbays. Over the course of the 1980s, several new buildings were constructed for the prison, which was now officially called the Vierlande Penal Facility (JVA XII). Initially, only men were imprisoned in Penal Facility XII, but in 1995 a women's wing was added. The prison guards were initially housed in the former SS barracks and the commandant's house until a housing estate was built for them in 1953 in the northern part of the grounds. The Hamburg Senate's decision to use the former concentration camp

as a prison meant that the grounds continued to be off-limits to the public and could not be used for commemorative purposes. During the first few years, the survivors had no help in keeping the memory of the past alive. Their emphatic interventions eventually forced the Hamburg Senate to agree to the erection of a small commemorative column, which was unveiled in 1953 and bore the inscription "Dedicated to the victims, 1938–1945". However, the column could only be erected on the northern edge of the grounds at the rather secluded site of the former camp nursery. Because the SS had ordered human ashes from the crematorium to be scattered here, the site had the status of a cemetery. The efforts of the international umbrella organisation of Neuengamme survivors to create a suitable memorial eventually led to the establishment of the International

Monument, which still exists today. It was unveiled on 7 November 1965 and consists of a concrete slab which bears the inscription "Your suffering, your struggle and your death shall not have been in vain", a commemorative wall with 18 plaques from different nations and the sculpture *Le Déporté* ("The Deportee") by the French sculptor Françoise Salmon, which was donated by the Amicale Internationale de Neuengamme. The area of the former camp nursery was turned into a park, but the public still had no access to the site of the former camp itself. In 1970, the outline of the former crematorium, which had been demolished in 1947, was marked as a commemorative site and access to it was provided via an avenue lined by birch trees which crossed the prison grounds. Although the Hamburg government continued to be criticised for setting up the first prison, construction work



■ ■ ■ Topping-out ceremony for the new prison building at the men's prison, 17 May 1950. (ANG)  
 ■ ■ ■ Inauguration of the first commemorative column on 18 October 1953. Photo by Conti-Press (StA HH)  
 ■ ■ ■ Inauguration ceremony for the International Monument on 7 November 1965. Photo by Hansa-Bild. (ANG)



on a second prison began in the late 1960s at the site of the former clay pits. The Vierlande Juvenile Detention Centre was opened on 15 January 1970.

Initially, the detention centre held 300 young remand prisoners and offenders. It was used as a juvenile prison until 1980, when it was renamed Penal Facility IX and used as a closed prison for adult offenders. During the 1970s, the readiness to deal with the Nazi past increased in West German society. In Hamburg, youth associations and trade unions began to campaign for commemorating and documenting the crimes committed in the concentration camp at the historical site itself. On 4 September 1979 – over 40 years after the concentration camp was established and more than 30 years after the first prison was opened – the Hamburg Parliament decided on the establishment of a documentation centre in Neuengamme.

In October 1981, the Document Building containing a first permanent exhibition covering 250 square metres of exhibition space was opened. Following the opening of the Document Building, those sections of the former camp that were accessible to the public were integrated into the Memorial step by step. The laying-out of a tour path in 1982 and the successful campaign against the demolition of the brickworks in 1983 / 84 were of particular importance in this context. However, the coexistence of the prisons and the Concentration Camp Memorial, which was working towards an adequate use of the historical site, continued to represent a contradiction. In July 1989, following protests against the construction of further prison buildings on the site of the former camp, the Hamburg Senate decided to restore the dignity of the site and move the Vierlande

Penal Facility (XII), which had stood at the Neuengamme site since 1948. It would, however, take another 14 years until the prison actually closed in June 2003.

In 1994, parts of the former Walther factory, which had contained prison workshops until then, were made available to the Memorial for a new permanent exhibition as a preliminary measure before the prison was actually closed.

The exhibition *Struggling for Survival – Prisoners under the Reign of the SS* was opened in 1995 for the 50th anniversary of the camp's liberation. It was housed in a hall measuring almost 1,000 square metres of floor space in the southern wing of the former Walther factory. The exhibition broke new ground and abandoned traditional ideas of exhibition design. Around the same time, the former Document Building was remodelled by an artist and

reopened as the House of Remembrance. In 1995, the Neuengamme Memorial consisted of the area surrounding the International Monument and the House of Remembrance, the former brickworks – where a supplementary exhibition opened in 1997 – and the exhibition hall in the southern wing of the former Walther factory. The path to the exhibition led along the railway tracks, past the former camp train stop, the site of the crematorium and the remains of the SS shooting range excavated in 1997.

Following the 2001 Hamburg parliamentary elections, the new Hamburg Senate briefly considered maintaining the Neuengamme prisons but had to abandon these plans under pressure from public protests and official interventions from abroad. In 2003, Penal Facility XII was finally moved. The grounds and buildings were handed over to the Memorial.

■■■ Signposts taken down in 2004. (ANG)

■■■ The permanent exhibition *Struggling for Survival* opened in 1995. Photo by H. Scharnberg. (ANG)

■■■ Strips of fabric with the names of the victims in the House of Remembrance. (ANG)



Following a redesign process funded by the German Federal Government and the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial reopened on 4 May 2005 – on the 60th anniversary of the camp's liberation – as a centre for exhibitions, encounters and historical study. The new Memorial contained a newly designed permanent exhibition covering more than 2,000 square metres of exhibition space and a research exhibition on the Neuengamme SS staff. Since 5 May 2007, a permanent exhibition on the slave labour of concentration camp prisoners in armaments production has been on display in the northern wing of the former Walther factory. On 28 February 2005, the Hamburg Senate decided to close the second prison on the site, Penal Facility IX, citing Hamburg's "historical responsi-

bility towards the victims and their families" as one of the reasons for this decision.

The prison was closed in February 2006 and subsequently demolished before this part of the grounds was also handed over to the Memorial in May 2007. Today, almost the entire site of the former concentration camp has been integrated into the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial.

Two so-called "time windows" serve as reminders of the prisons that used to occupy the site: a remainder of the cell block built in 1949/50 and a wall section and watchtower of the second prison built in 1970. An exhibition was mounted on the wall which opened on 19 May 2007. It illustrates the incongruous coexistence of the prisons with the Memorial at the historical site



*The exhibition Prisons and Memorial: Documenting a Contradiction on the remaining piece of wall from Penal Facility IX, 2007. (ANG)*



- ■ ■ The section on "Everyday life and work" in the main exhibition. (ANG)
- ■ ■ The Centre for Historical Studies and the wire mesh structures marking the sites of the prisoner huts. (ANG)
- ■ ■ The site of the former prisoners' compound today. (ANG)



## THE NEUENGAMME CONCENTRATION CAMP MEMORIAL

Today, the Memorial covers an area of 57 hectares – almost the entire site of the former Neuengamme concentration camp – and contains 15 original buildings from the time of the camp. This makes it one of the largest concentration camp memorials in Germany. The grounds are fully accessible and marked with signs and information panels.

The layout of the site of the former prisoners' compound includes wire mesh structures – so-called gabions – marking the foundations of the prisoner huts, metal poles marking the course of the camp's perimeter fence as well as open archaeological excavations. The Memorial contains five permanent exhibitions: the main exhibition *Traces of History* in the former prisoners' quarters, a research exhibition on the Neuengamme SS

shown at the former SS garages and three supplementary exhibitions – one on prisoners' slave labour in armaments production, one on slave labour in brick production and one on the decades of conflict over the use of the grounds for prisons and the demands for an adequate memorial and documentation centre. The Memorial's archive, library, the Open Archive and the Centre for Historical Studies, where research projects and seminars are held, serve to collect and document materials and provide historical education. Today, the Neuengamme Memorial is a site of both commemoration and learning.



View of the reconstructed roll-call square and the building housing the main exhibition. (ANG)



- ■ ■ The section on different groups of prisoners in the main exhibition. (ANG)
- ■ ■ Wire mesh structures marking the sites of the former utility huts. (ANG)
- ■ ■ A door of the historical gate of the Neuengamme camp, donated to the Memorial in 2005 by the Amicale Internationale. (ANG)



### *The Memorial's profile*

The Memorial depends on wide-spread public attention to provide sustainable educational work and become part of Hamburg's historical memory. Its activities are part of the city's cultural life. The Memorial's work aims to have an impact beyond the boundaries of Hamburg and contribute to international understanding. Over recent years, it has put much effort into developing new ways of informing the public about the Neuengamme concentration camp and its post-war history. To this end, it has implemented new methods of teaching people about Germany's Nazi history. This includes new educational forms such as the so-called project days – educational projects tailored for particular professions – and the introduction of new modules into guided tours. It

also organises seminars in collaboration with the Memorial's international partners or within the context of its international exchange programmes. Changing and improving information channels, introducing new kinds of education outreach such as talk series and special exhibitions, participating in larger cultural events held in Hamburg and increasing participation in the activities of other cultural institutions complete the new concept for the Memorial's educational work. The Memorial's events and activities also focus on the history of the Neuengamme concentration camp by placing it in the context of current issues relating to Holocaust remembrance, human rights violations past and present, the development of a culture of democracy and understanding between cultures.

### *The Memorial's tasks:*

- Researching and teaching the history of Nazi persecution in Hamburg
- Developing and presenting exhibitions on these issues
- Publishing catalogues, studies and biographical accounts from survivors
- Annually publishing the journal *Papers on the History of Nazi Persecution in Northern Germany*
- Collaborating with universities, research institutions, museums and historical associations
- Collaborating with memorials in Germany and abroad
- Supporting the over 20 memorials at the sites of former Neuengamme satellite camps where exhibitions are shown
- Maintaining contact with concentration camp survivors and their families
- Collaborating with survivors' associations in Germany and abroad
- Providing individual survivors with the certificates of imprisonment necessary for claiming pensions and compensation payments
- Guided tours and other educational activities for more than 1,500 groups of schoolchildren, teenagers and adults every year
- Organising cultural, educational, historical and political events
- Organising lectures and talks by survivors as well as conferences

The Memorial's current programme of events is available online at:  
[www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de](http://www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de)



- ■ ■ *International youth exchange programme at the Neuengamme Memorial in 2005. (ANg)*
- ■ ■ *A group looking at the remaining foundation of a prisoner hut in 2007. (ANg)*
- ■ ■ *A theatre performance at the former brickworks in 2009. (ANg)*



## The Grounds

The site includes the commemorative area with the International Monument and the House of Commemoration as well as the large exhibition and documentation complex to the south. Tour paths provide access to the extensive grounds and lead to the historical buildings and facilities, such as the former brickworks, the harbour basin, the former Walther factory building, the prisoners' compound and the SS barracks.

60 panels containing texts and images offer information on the site

and enable further exploration. An audio guide system provides extensive additional information. At the former prisoners' compound, foundations have been excavated and mark the sites of the former wooden huts and other buildings. Metal poles mark the course of the camp fence and watchtowers, making the outline and different sections of the former camp visible to visitors.

## The House of Commemoration

The House of Commemoration was established in 1995. The artist Thomas Schütte from Düsseldorf was commissioned to redesign the former Document Building, which was built in 1981. Schütte had the rough concrete walls exposed to stress the

building's sculptural and religious architectural qualities, and a gallery with high red walls enclosing the square central hall was put in. 22,460 names of victims of the Neuengamme concentration camp – those that could be determined from

the fragmentary documents available – are printed on four-metre long strips of fabric hanging from the ceiling. These names are presented in the chronological order of their deaths. Towards the end of the war, the columns of names become longer and longer for each day. A separate room containing unmarked strips of fabric is dedicated to the memory of the victims whose names remain unknown.

Seven display cases in a plain side room with a view of the International Monument hold some of the most important surviving original documents from the concentration camp: handwritten death ledgers from the hospital at the prisoners' compound. Six glass doors offer a view of the area where the ashes of victims were scattered whose bodies had been cremated at the camp's crematorium. When redesigning the site, Schütte had conifers planted in this area.

A display case in the central hall of the House of Commemoration contains a model of the former concentration camp at Neuengamme. It is 4.65 metres long and shows the site and its buildings as they appeared in 1947/1948. The model is a historical artefact in its own right. It was made for the Hamburg prison authority in 1948, when the council took over the still largely unchanged camp complex and began building the first prison. In 1995, the Hamburg Ministry for Urban Development had another model made of the entire grounds. The new model was the same scale and was designed like a contemporary architectural model. Both models are presented together at the House of Commemoration to illustrate the changes the grounds of the former camp underwent over the post-war decades.



## The Exhibitions

Camp Memorial contains five permanent exhibitions. An additional sixth exhibition space has also been created for showing travelling exhibitions which expand on the information on offer in the permanent exhibitions. The travelling exhibitions are either compiled by the Memorial itself or by other institutions.

### Main Exhibition

#### ***Traces of History: The Neuengamme Concentration Camp 1938–1945 and its Post-War History***

The main exhibition is shown in a brick building which was built in the prisoners' compound in 1943/1944 and was used for housing prisoners. The building originally consisted of four prisoner blocks with separate entrances, each covering around 600 square metres. The blocks, in turn, consisted of two large dormitories, a washroom and a latrine. Parts of the

building's original features have been preserved, while others had to be reconstructed. The exhibition's main focus is on the history of the Neuengamme concentration camp and its satellite camps from 1938 to 1945. Its central aim is to document the crimes that were committed and the suffering of the prisoners. Information is presented on three levels. On the first level, short introductory texts on large panels provide an overview. On the second and third levels, more detailed information is provided through historical documents, such as files, photographs or artefacts combined with short explanatory captions. Audio and video accounts by survivors and more than 150 biographical folders give visitors a closer insight into the fates of individual prisoners. The exhibition also examines the way the Hamburg council has dealt with the site of the

former concentration camp at Neuengamme as well as the changes in commemorative practices over the decades. Its structure and modes of presentation make the exhibition easy to use for teaching purposes. Maintaining a multi-perspective approach also played an important role in its development. Individuals can have very different memories, depending on whether they are former prisoners or British soldiers, male or female SS personnel, inmates of the British internment camp, policy makers during the immediate post-war era or members of the younger generation. These many perspectives show that history often presents itself in contradictory and conflicting narratives.

### Research Exhibition

#### ***Posted to Neuengamme: The Camp SS***

With the help of legal files, documents and biographies, the research exhibition offers extensive information on the perpetrators and the concentration camp system as a whole. The exhibition is shown in one of the historical buildings of the former SS garage complex and is made up of five thematic parts. It starts with the legal proceedings dealing with the crimes committed at Neuengamme. The relationship between individual deeds and individual responsibility, which is central to this exhibition section, is also discussed in the many biographies of SS members presented here. Furthermore, the exhibition illustrates the hierarchical organisational structure of the SS and the different workplaces SS members were assigned to both in the main



camp and in the satellite camps. In its final section, the exhibition looks at what happened to the SS members after the war.

**Supplementary Exhibition**  
***Labour and Annihilation:***  
***Concentration Camp Prisoners***  
***as Slave Labourers in Brick***  
***Production***

The Nazis were planning to turn Hamburg into a so-called *Führerstadt* ("Führer city"). They had begun designing large redevelopment projects for the northern banks of the Elbe, where they intended to have monumental brick buildings erected. To produce the large quantities of bricks they needed, the SS established the Neuengamme concentration camp on the site of a disused brickworks and had a new brick factory built. Concentration camp prisoners were forced to provide labour for the construction of the

new brickworks from 1940 to 1942 and later for brick production. The prisoners also had to work on the construction of a harbour basin and a canal connecting the camp to the Dove Elbe – an arm of the Elbe River – so that materials and finished bricks could be transported to and from the camp by barge.

The supplementary exhibition on the prisoners' slave labour in brick production is shown in the eastern wing of the former brickworks and describes the conditions under which prisoners had to work in this section of the camp. It also documents the Nazis' construction plans for the "New Hamburg", the production methods used at the brickworks and the prisoners' work routine. They had to perform hard, physically exhausting work under primitive conditions, and many of them died while working or from exhaustion and disease. As the war progressed, the production

of bricks was replaced by manufacturing concrete parts for temporary housing. Another subject covered in the exhibition is the use of the brickworks building after the war, because it was not incorporated into the Memorial until the late 1980s and only after considerable controversy.

**Supplementary Exhibition**  
***Mobilisation for the War-Time***  
***Economy: Concentration Camp***  
***Prisoners as Slave Labourers in***  
***Armaments Production***

In 1942, armaments companies began setting up production facilities at the Neuengamme concentration camp. Prisoners were forced to produce timed detonators used in grenades for Deutsche Messapparate GmbH ("Messap") and naval engines and other parts for shipbuilding for the Hamburg-based engine manufacturer Carl Jastram. At the Walther factory, prisoners had to make pistols

and carbines for Metallwerke Neuengamme GmbH, a subsidiary of the armaments manufacturer Carl Walther from Thuringia. The SS-owned company Deutsche Ausrüstungswerke (DAW) also operated a production facility at Neuengamme, where prisoners had to work in furniture production and metal processing.

The supplementary exhibition on slave labour in armaments production is shown in a section of the Walther factory building. This former weapons factory within the perimeter of the Neuengamme camp was built by prisoners for the Walther company between 1942 and 1944.

The exhibition in the factory building documents the conditions under which prisoners had to work and how the prisoners' labour was increasingly exploited for armaments production as the war progressed. The main focus of the exhibition is on the



Walther factory, the largest armaments factory at the Neuengamme camp. It also covers the general structures of slave labour in the German armaments industry.

### **Supplementary Exhibition** ***Prisons and Memorial: Documenting a Contradiction***

The subject of the supplementary exhibition on the prisons and the Memorial is the way in which the former concentration camp was used after 1945. The outdoor exhibition is shown in the grounds of the Memorial near the former clay pits on a piece of wall that was part of the second prison, Penal Facility IX, built in 1970 and closed in 2006. The site of the former concentration camp was used by the Hamburg prison authorities for almost 60 years. This also meant 60 years of struggle for a more adequate form of remembrance at the site.

The exhibition describes the historical circumstances under which the prisons were built at Neuengamme and the often controversial development of the site until the prisons were eventually demolished. It also discusses the history of commemoration at the site.

### **Travelling Exhibitions on Loan**

In addition to the permanent exhibitions, the Memorial has been regularly compiling travelling exhibitions since 2001. These exhibitions deal with subjects relating to Nazi persecution and resistance in Hamburg as well as the history of the Neuengamme camp. Every year on 27 January, they are officially opened at Hamburg City Hall. After being displayed there for three weeks, the travelling exhibitions are put on loan to other institutions. So far, exhibitions on the following subjects have been produced:

- The Perspectives of the Perpetrators, Victims and other Eyewitnesses
- The Evacuation of a Concentration Camp. Prisoners between extermination and liberation. The dissolution of Neuengamme concentration camp and its satellite camps
- KoLaFu – A Place of Arbitrary Violence. The history of the Fuhlsbüttel concentration camp and penal facilities, 1933–1945
- "... That We Managed to Remain Women in this Terrible Struggle." The history of the women's satellite camps of Neuengamme concentration camp
- "I Left my Youth in Hamburg." Slave labour in Hamburg, 1940–1945
- The Invisible Helpers. Hiltgunt Zassenhaus and the Norwegian Sailors' Mission working on behalf of the Norwegians imprisoned in Fuhlsbüttel, 1940–1945
- "The Drawing Survives ..." Pictorial evidence from prisoners of Neuengamme concentration camp.
- Hamburg's Port during the Nazi Period. Business, slave labour and resistance
- "The Sites Will Remain." Memorials to the victims of Nazi persecution in Hamburg

For more information about loaning these exhibitions, please contact Heidi Heitmann at the Memorial: [heidi.heitmann@bksm.hamburg.de](mailto:heidi.heitmann@bksm.hamburg.de)

### **Special Exhibitions**

Changing special exhibitions expanding on the information presented in the permanent exhibition are shown in the southern wing of the Walther factory. For information on current special exhibitions, see the Memorial's programme of events flyer or its website.



## The Memorial's Educational Services

As a site where visitors are confronted with issues from the past and the present, the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial has a significant role to play on a European level. It provides a space for encounters between people from Germany and abroad, and it enables visitors to explore the historical site. The main aims of the Memorial's educational work are to inform visitors about the crimes committed under the Nazis and to raise awareness of current forms of intolerance, racism and anti-Semitism. The Memorial is committed to applying a reflective approach to history education and also works toward putting the history of Nazism in the context of current issues. The Memorial's Educational Department and Centre for Historical Studies provide a wide range of educational services, such as guided tours of the grounds and exhibitions,

so-called project days, study days and further training courses. In addition, the exhibitions, classrooms and the digitally organised Open Archive offer many opportunities for exploratory learning. Some tasks are shared by both the Department and Centre, for example training staff and volunteers who are interested in working with the Memorial in an educational capacity, or developing teaching materials such as lesson units, worksheets or introductory texts and other media. The Memorial cooperates with schools in the tailoring of projects, so-called project weeks or research projects to fit their individual needs, and it helps schools to raise their profile in history and social sciences. The Memorial's Educational Department and the Centre for Historical Studies are involved in projects relating to peace and democracy education as well as

initiatives working against right-wing extremism and racism. Both institutions are always open to participating in similar projects on a local, regional or national level.

### The Educational Department

The Neuengamme Memorial's Educational Department provides guided tours and teaching units on the history of the Neuengamme concentration camp to groups of visitors, most of them school groups. These tours have a special focus on the suffering of the prisoners. Each year, the Department organises tours for more than 1,500 groups, both at the Neuengamme Memorial and its branches: the Bullenhuser Damm Memorial in the Hamburg district of Rothenburgsort, and the Fuhlsbüttel and Poppenbüttel Memorials. The Open Archive also provides opportunities for exploratory learning by giving visitors access to documents

and other materials from the Memorial's exhibitions, archives and library

### *Tours, Projects and Project Days*

The Memorial's educational activities give visitors a deeper understanding of the history of the Neuengamme concentration camp between 1938 and 1945. They also focus on the post-war use of the grounds and raise awareness for appropriate ways of dealing with Germany's Nazi past. This is often done through describing the fates of individual prisoners. The Educational Department offers tours and projects ranging from one to five hours in length.



### *Tours and other services:*

- Museum Tour: This one-hour tour gives adult visitors an introductory overview of the main exhibition and the various sites in the grounds
- Museum Talk: A two-hour guided tour which provides a general survey of the history of the camp and the Memorial and includes a guided visit to the main exhibition
- Project: This three-hour tour includes the "Museum Talk" plus a guided visit to one of the supplementary exhibitions and a short tour of the grounds
- Project Plus: This four-hour event gives visitors the opportunity to explore the history of the site in more depth by focussing on one particular aspect
- Project Day: The five-hour Project Day includes Project Plus as well as an additional topic for which visitors can do their own research

that they can then discuss in brief presentations

The one-hour museum tour offers groups of adults a short introduction before letting them explore the grounds and the exhibitions on their own.

The two-hour tour provides an overview of the history of the largest Nazi concentration camp in northern Germany. It includes a guided tour of the main exhibition *Traces of History* and a visit to some of the sites in the grounds, particularly in the area of the former prisoners' compound. If visitors are already familiar with the main exhibition or want to focus on particular issues during their visit, other sites can be chosen for the Museum Talk by prior arrangement. The three-hour Project tours include a visit to the main exhibition plus a more in-depth exploration of the former prisoners' compound, the brickworks and the House of

Commemoration. Other sites and exhibitions within the Memorial's grounds may also be visited, depending on the focus chosen by the visitors. Because it is three hours long, a Project is particularly suited for giving first-time visitors a general overview of the site's history.

The extended 4-hour Project Plus tour also gives visitors the opportunity to examine the site's history more closely by allowing them to choose topics and do their own research in the exhibitions, the grounds and at the Open Archive or the Centre for Historical Studies. Students can also explore the exhibitions on their own with the help of worksheets, which are then evaluated in a group discussion after the visit

### *Possible topics for Projects:*

- The prisoners and the commemoration of the victims
- The Neuengamme SS
- Slave labour
- Conflicts regarding how the site's history was dealt with from 1945 to 2005

*Tours on other topics can also be arranged.*

Apart from a guided tour of the main exhibition, one supplementary exhibition and large parts of the grounds, the five-hour Project Days also allow visitors to explore the site's history on their own. The Memorial's educational staff will help visitors conduct research in small groups at the Open Archive, the Centre for Historical Studies or the library. They will also make documents, photographs, films, books and other materials available to visitors, who can share their research



with others in the form of a written text, presentation or discussion. Visitors who would like to attend a Project Day at the Neuengamme Memorial should have basic knowledge of Germany's Nazi history and be interested in exploring the history of the Neuengamme concentration camp in some depth.

Groups can either choose a shared topic for their tour and research, or they can split up into several smaller groups and work on different aspects of the camp's history. Possible topics include:

- Groups of prisoners and individual prisoner biographies
- The Neuengamme SS and how German society dealt with the perpetrators after the war
- Slave labour and the prisoners' everyday lives
- Keeping up morale, cultural and resistance activities

- Life after survival
- The history of commemoration

Tours on other topics can also be arranged. See the Memorial's website for a list of possible topics:

[www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de](http://www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de)

To book a guided visit to the Neuengamme Memorial or one of its branches, please contact the Hamburg Museum Service at +49 40 428131-0.

[www.museumsdienst-hamburg.de](http://www.museumsdienst-hamburg.de)

The Neuengamme Memorial's three branches, the Bullenhuser Damm, Fuhlsbüttel and Poppenbüttel Memorials, are also suited for supplementary tours on the Nazi period, resistance and Nazi persecution in Hamburg.

### ***Changing educational approaches***

One of the educational challenges the Educational Department faces is the need for new forms of guided tours for groups which are designed to encourage visitors to actively and independently seek out information. The Department encourages creative and associative educational approaches and therefore also offers audio, film, art and photography projects.

The Memorial's guides and facilitators still have a role to play, however, in that they act more as moderators for the group visits and discussions. With the help of maps, audio guides and the many information panels, groups of visitors can explore the extensive grounds on their own. During guided tours, groups may split up into smaller "exploration groups" and collect information on their own, which they can later present and discuss with the rest of

the group. In the exhibitions, guides encourage visitors to explore the subjects presented on their own and help organise discussions so visitors can talk about what they have seen. Worksheets can be ordered in advance via e-mail and are designed to enable smaller groups to independently explore different exhibition sections simultaneously and to make the different topics more accessible.



### ***The Open Archive***

The Open Archive is an educational service provided by the Memorial. Visitors looking for information beyond what is presented in the exhibitions can do their own independent research on particular topics based on the texts, images and films contained here. Computer terminals give visitors access to these materials through a navigation system or through a search engine. In all, the Open Archive contains more than 5,500 items in both digital and analogue format. These can be used by groups of visitors for exploratory learning and for drawing up presentations on particular topics in the course of a guided visit of the Memorial. In addition, the Open Archive also contains a selection of videos and audio recordings from the Memorial's extensive archives.

### **The Centre for Historical Studies**

The activities carried out by the Centre for Historical Studies are geared towards adults and young people and are often organised in close cooperation with other institutions working in youth and adult education. The Centre offers tailored educational services for professionals or vocational college students who want to explore the historical site and the history of the Nazi period in more depth and in the context of their particular profession. Close ties have also been established with schools, further training institutions and information disseminators in academic institutions. The Centre has meeting and class rooms of different sizes, as well as two screening rooms, a workshop, a kitchen and a dining room. These facilities allow groups of visitors to work in spacious surroundings equip-

ped with up-to-date media technology (video projectors, DVD and VHS players, and Internet access). The premises can also be rented.

### ***The Centre's activities***

The Centre for Historical Studies organises educational and academic conferences and seminars, often in cooperation with other institutions both from Germany and abroad. It also documents the results of these conferences. Its work focuses on the changing nature of the culture of commemoration as well as the latest developments in civic and historical education. The Centre is aware that Nazi crimes are increasingly receding into the distant past for members of subsequent generations. This raises questions such as how to talk about the fates of concentration camp prisoners or other victims of Nazi persecution without the direct testimony from the survivors or other

witnesses.

The topics of the Centre's conferences and seminars include the development of a democratic way of life, the peaceful coexistence of different cultures, and human rights issues.

By focusing on the perpetrators and the choices available to individuals and institutions during the Nazi period, the Centre encourages participants to reflect on today's values and forms of social behaviour. Other central topics for the Centre's work are questions of how memories are handed down to the third and fourth generations as well as issues relating to Germany as an immigration society and how we experience history.



### Study Days

Groups of adults or young people can explore the history of the Neuengamme site in the course of a six-hour workshop called a Study Day. Study Days can focus on a particular country or issue of memorial culture or on how societies have dealt with the Holocaust and the experience of Nazi persecution. A Study Day consists of an introductory presentation, a tour of the exhibitions and the grounds and the further exploration of a particular subject in smaller groups. These groups work either at the Centre or at the Open Archive, researching documents, photographs, videos, books and other materials and then compiling, presenting and discussing the results of their work with the other groups. The seven-hour Study Day Plus workshop allows for a more in-depth examination of specific questions and

takes a more seminar-like form. It also allows groups from the police, armed forces, railway, fire brigade, local administration, health care or other professions to discuss questions relating to their fields. For students from vocational training colleges, the Study Day Plus model also allows for an examination of historical issues relating to their particular profession.

#### Possible topics for Study Days:

- Groups of prisoners and individual prisoner biographies
- The Neuengamme SS and the way German society dealt with the perpetrators after the war
- Slave labour and the prisoners' everyday lives
- Keeping up morale, cultural and resistance activities
- Life after survival
- The history of commemoration
- The White Buses rescue operation for the Scandinavian prisoners

- "Why were black people imprisoned in concentration camps?"
- The medical profession under the Nazis
- The role of the police in the concentration camps and within the Nazi system of persecution
- Soviet POWs in the Neuengamme camp and the role of the Wehrmacht in the concentration camp system
- The role of the Reichsbahn (the German national railway) in the deportation of prisoners to the concentration and extermination camps
- The administration and implementation of the Nazi policies of ostracism and persecution
- Nazi economic and social policies
- Religion in the concentration camps

A list of other possible topics for Study Days can be found on the Memorial's website at [www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de](http://www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de)

Study Days can only be booked through the Centre for Historical Studies.

### Multi-day events

School groups and other groups of young people can use the premises of the Centre for Historical Studies over several days for educational projects by prior arrangement. The Centre especially supports regional cooperation projects, multi-day international youth or school exchanges as well as work camps. Because of the Memorial's geographical location and the history of the Neuengamme concentration camp, the focus in this context is on north-western Europe, especially on Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the



Baltic states, Poland, the Netherlands and Belgium. However, the Centre also supports cooperative projects with France, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.

#### *Further training*

The Neuengamme Memorial offers further training courses for teachers and other information disseminators from all fields. These courses combine the particular skills of participants with the specialist knowledge and skills of the Memorial's staff, creating a learning process that goes beyond the traditional school context. Many courses are organised in cooperation with university and non-university teacher training, historical and civic education institutions.

#### *Possible topics for multi-day events and further training courses*

- Memorial culture in an immigration society
- Educational work relating to the Nazi period and the Holocaust and the role of educational centres outside the school context
- The second and third post-war generations and the way they dealt with Germany's Nazi past
- The Nazi period and the Holocaust in literature, film and the media
- Photographs and drawings from concentration camps and their significance as media of memory

#### *Seminars and conferences*

The Centre organises educational and academic workshops, seminars and conferences in cooperation with institutions from Germany and abroad. The Centre's premises are also available to rent.

#### *Support for visiting scholars*

The Centre supports visiting scholars in their research at the Neuengamme Memorial. It also offers them an office space for pursuing longer projects or academic work relating to the historical site.

Developing high-quality teaching material for historical and civic education from a German, bi-national and international perspective for teachers and educators from many different fields is another very important aspect of the Centre's work.

### **Additional Information on Educational and Academic Services**

The wide range of information available at the Memorial makes it necessary for visitors to concentrate on a limited number of topics, based on their previous knowledge and age as well as the amount of time available. The following exhibitions and sites within the grounds can be integrated in a visit:

- The main exhibition *Traces of History: The Neuengamme Concentration Camp 1938–1945 and its Post-War History*, shown in the two-storey brick building which was used to house prisoners
- The former prisoners' compound
- The research exhibition *Posted to Neuengamme. The Camp SS* shown in the former SS garages
- The former Walther factory, which contains the exhibition *Mobilisation*



*for the Wartime Economy:  
Concentration Camp Prisoners as  
Slave Labourers in Armaments  
Production*

- The former clay pits and the open-air exhibition *Prisons and Memorial: Documenting a Contradiction*
- The former brickworks and the exhibition *Labour and Annihilation: Concentration Camp Prisoners as Slave Labourers in Brick Production*
- The House of Commemoration and the International Monument

*For more information about the services offered by the Educational Department, please contact*  
Iris Groschek at the Memorial  
Phone: +49 40 428131-521  
[iris.groschek@bksm.hamburg.de](mailto:iris.groschek@bksm.hamburg.de)

If you are planning a full-day project for children or teenagers on a topic other than the ones described above, have any special requirements as to topics or educational approaches, or if you want to establish an official cooperation project between your school and the Memorial, please contact Iris Groschek at the Memorial's Educational Department.

*To book a tour or Project Day, please contact*

Museumsdienst Hamburg  
Phone: +49 40 428131-0  
[www.museumsdienst-hamburg.de](http://www.museumsdienst-hamburg.de)  
[info@museumsdienst-hamburg.de](mailto:info@museumsdienst-hamburg.de)

After booking your visit with the Hamburg Museum Service, you will be given the phone number of one of our guides so you can make arrangements for your visit. The Hamburg Museum Service can arrange tours in the following

languages: Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Hebrew, Polish, Russian and Spanish.

*For more information on the services offered by the Centre for Historical Studies, please contact*

Oliver von Wrochem at the Memorial  
Phone: +49 40 428131-515  
[Oliver.vonWrochem@bksm.hamburg.de](mailto:Oliver.vonWrochem@bksm.hamburg.de)

For seminars and further training courses not outlined above, or for projects tailored to specific professions or for students from vocational training colleges, please contact Oliver von Wrochem at the Centre for Historical Studies.

Please see the Memorial's website at [www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de](http://www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de) for an up-to-date programme of educational services.

## Directions and Meeting Point for Guided Tours

The VHH bus company offers charter bus services for groups that are too large to travel on the regular bus service. Bookings must be made at least one day in advance by calling +49 40 72594-0.

The meeting point for guided tours is located by the main entrance at 75 Jean-Dolidier-Weg near the "KZ-Gedenkstätte, Ausstellung" bus stop. At the main entrance, which is well signposted, a glass pavilion offers some introductory information as well as room for groups waiting for a tour.



### Practical Information for Visitors

A small cafeteria offering a limited range of food and drinks is located in the same building as the main exhibition. There are no other shops in the Memorial's immediate vicinity. Visitors are allowed to bring their own food to the Cafeteria.

When choosing what clothing to bring, visitors should keep in mind that the weather in the Vierlande region is often considerably colder and windier than in central Hamburg. Good walking shoes are recommended, as the tour paths around the grounds are laid with gravel.

### Tours and Educational Services for Visitors with Special Needs

The Memorial offers tours and educational services for visitors who are visually or hearing impaired. Please let the Hamburg Museum Service know of your needs in advance. Phone: +49 40 428131-0  
info@museumsdienst-hamburg.de

All buildings in the grounds which are open to the public are also accessible by wheelchair, except for the House of Commemoration.

## Archives and Library

The Memorial has two archives and a library, where visitors can do further research into particular topics after visiting one of the exhibitions, work on personal projects or conduct academic research.

The main topics covered by the collections are the concentration camp system, the Neuengamme concentration camp and its more than 85 satellite camps, the early Hamburg concentration camps at Fuhlsbüttel and Wittmoor, Nazi persecution and resistance activities in Northern Germany, the "forgotten victims" of the Nazis, post-war history, how Germany dealt with its Nazi past, and educational issues relating to concentration camp memorials. Texts and materials from the exhibitions are also available in the archives and library.

### Archive

Since the opening of the Document Building in 1981, the Neuengamme

Concentration Camp Memorial's archive has continued to expand. Apart from original documents from the camp administration, it contains an extensive collection of duplicates of other documents archived elsewhere as well as a significant collection of documents, accounts and recorded interviews from former prisoners. Records from Nazi institutions and the British occupation authorities as well as documents from both German states after 1949 also form part of the collection. Other important elements of the archive's collection are reproductions of documents from the British National Archives relating to investigations into war crimes committed at Neuengamme or one of its satellite camps, case files on former concentration camp guards and other staff members compiled by West German public prosecutors or the East German Ministry for State Security



(the Stasi), around 2,000 accounts from and biographical interviews with former prisoners, a selection of materials from the Hans Schwarz Archive, around 28,000 photographs, posters, maps, drawings, press clippings, artefacts such as archaeological finds from the grounds of the former camp, and audio and video media.

Data on almost half of the over 100,000 prisoners of Neuengamme and its satellite camps can be accessed at several computer terminals. There are few documents from the Nazi period itself, as the SS at the Neuengamme concentration camp destroyed almost all of its files in April 1945 in an attempt to cover up their crimes. However, during the last days of April 1945, prisoners were able to hide several death ledgers and lab records from the camp's sickbays. Apart from the death records from the camp's SS registry office, which

are now kept at the Bergedorf registry office, these records represent the most significant surviving documents from the administration of the Neuengamme concentration camp.

All use of the archives or the data bases on the Neuengamme prisoners is regulated by the Hamburg Archive Law and relevant data protection regulations. In some cases, their use may be restricted by the institutions or individuals who donated the documents to the Memorial.

*Archive opening hours:*

Monday to Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
by appointment only

*For questions and research appointments, please contact*

Reimer Möller at the Memorial  
Phone: +49 40 428131-537  
reimer.moeller@bksm.hamburg.de

## The Library

The Memorial has a reference library open to the public that mainly focuses on the following areas: the Neuengamme concentration camp and its satellite camps, the concentration camp system, persecution and resistance in Northern Germany, slave labour, educational questions relating to concentration camp memorials and memorial culture. The collection includes around 15,000 books and 75 periodicals and is organised according to topic. Ten reading desks are available to visitors, one of which has Internet access. The library's holdings are catalogued alphabetically by title, key word and subject, and the catalogue can be searched in a card index and online through the GBV Common Library Index at [www.gbv.de](http://www.gbv.de). The library not only buys new books, it also exchanges publications with more than 60 research institutions and

memorials in Germany and abroad. It also receives many book donations and promotion copies.

*Library opening hours:*

Monday to Thursday:  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.,  
Fridays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
and by prior arrangement

*For more information, please contact*  
Carola Kieras at the Memorial  
Phone: +49 40 428131-513  
carola.kieras@bksm.hamburg.de



## The Open Archive

The Open Archive gives visitors the opportunity to research specific topics in the exhibitions by accessing texts, images and other materials.

Information in both digital and analogue formats can be researched via a navigation system or an open search at four computer terminals. The topics covered in the Open Archive are:

- The Neuengamme concentration camp and its satellite camps
- Information on the buildings and the grounds
- The development of the Memorial up to the present day
- The Memorial's educational work
- The Nazi period (including information on regional history)
- Memorial policies and the politics of commemoration
- The main exhibition *Traces of History*

→ The exhibition *Posted to Neuengamme. The Camp SS*

→ The exhibitions at the satellite camps

The Open Archive's collection of digital and analogue media is fully searchable. A data base lists a short description for each individual element. In addition, the Open Archive also contains a selection of copies from the Memorial's extensive video and audio archive, including interviews with survivors and other witnesses. Fictional and documentary films about victims and survivors of Nazi persecution complete the video selection. Video interviews with witnesses are available in Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Polish and Russian. A selection of clips from these films is also available at the computer terminals. The Open

Archive allows for exploratory learning processes during Project Days.

From 2010, a selection of the Open Archive's collection will be accessible online.

*Open Archive opening hours:*

Monday to Friday:

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays:

April to September,

12 noon to 7 p.m.;

October to March, 12 noon to 5 p.m.

*For more information, please call:*

+49 40 428131-521 or -551

The Open Archive is located directly adjacent to the exhibition on the camp's SS staff



## Branches

From 1942, both the Nazi armaments ministry and the German armaments industry demanded for more concentration camp prisoners to be used as slave labourers to support the German economy.

This led to the establishment of numerous satellite camps near factories or large construction sites, especially during the last year of the war. By 1945, more than 85 satellite camps of the Neuengamme concentration camp had been established in Hamburg and all over northern Germany.

During the 1980s, memorials were established at many of these sites, often following years of public controversies. These were built thanks to the commitment of individuals and initiatives in the private and public sector.

More than 20 of these sites have exhibitions informing visitors about the history of each satellite camp or

about what happened during the evacuation of the camps. Today, the three memorials located in Hamburg itself – the Bullenhuser Damm memorial, the Fuhlsbüttel Concentration Camp and Prison 1933-1945 memorial and the Poppenbüttel prefabricated building memorial – are all branches of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial.

### **The Bullenhuser Damm Memorial and the Rose Garden for the Bullenhuser Damm Children**

SS doctor Kurt Heißmeyer performed medical experiments with tuberculosis on prisoners at the Neuengamme concentration camp. In November 1944, he had 20 children brought to Neuengamme from the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp to experiment on them. When the concentration camp was

evacuated, the SS decided to murder these children to cover up their crimes. The children and the four prisoner doctors and nurses who had cared for them were taken to an evacuated satellite camp located at a school on Bullenhuser Damm in the Hamburg district of Rothenburgsort. There, the SS men hanged the children and the doctors and nurses in the basement. A few hours later, 24 Soviet POWs were also murdered there.

Today, part of the building houses the Bullenhuser Damm memorial, which also includes the basement rooms where the SS committed the murders. In 1979, this historical site was brought to the public's attention.

In 1980, the school was renamed Janusz Korczak School and the first exhibition on the murders opened in the basement. The memorial was completed in several steps over a period of 20 years, during which it

was operated by the "Bullenhuser Damm Children" association. In 1985, a rose garden designed by the Hamburg-based artist Lili Fischer was added to the memorial. That same year, a monument to the murdered Soviet prisoners was designed by Moscow sculptor Anatoly Mossichuk and was erected at the entrance to the rose garden.

The large painting "21 April 1945, 5 a.m." by the artist Jürgen Waller from Bremen has been on display at the memorial since 1987. It covers an entire wall and shows the school basement on the morning after the children were murdered.

In 1994, a new permanent exhibition was opened which documents the fate of the victims as well as the way post-war German society dealt with the perpetrators and the history of how the crimes were remembered. When the memorial and the rose garden at Bullenhuser Damm came



under the authority of the Hamburg council and became part of the Neuengamme Memorial in 1999, the memorial was redesigned and expanded.

*Address:*

Bullenhuser Damm 92  
20539 Hamburg

*How to get there:*

Take S-Bahn (urban railway) lines 2 or 21 to Rothenburgsort

*Opening hours:*

Sundays: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
and by prior arrangement.  
Admission is free

Tours may be arranged by calling:  
+49 40 428131-0  
[www.museumsdienst-hamburg.de](http://www.museumsdienst-hamburg.de)

### **The Fuhlsbüttel Memorial (Concentration Camp and Prison, 1933-1945)**

In early 1933, the Hamburg State Police took over one of the cell blocks of the prison in the Fuhlsbüttel district of Hamburg and used it as a concentration camp to imprison political adversaries of the Nazi regime. The camp became known and feared under the name "KolaFu". In 1936, it was designated a "police prison", but its new name did nothing to improve conditions there. The Fuhlsbüttel facility was used to imprison and torture people who resisted the Nazi regime or refused to follow its social norms, such as the "swing kids". Fuhlsbüttel was also used as a transit point for slave labourers being taken to the Neuengamme concentration camp for alleged transgressions and for prisoners who had been sentenced to

death. From October 1944 until February 1945, the SS also used part of the Fuhlsbüttel prison building as a Neuengamme satellite camp. More than 200 prisoners lost their lives in the camp.

From 1982, various initiatives campaigned for the establishment of a memorial at the prison gate house on Suhrenkamp road, and in March 1985, the Hamburg Parliament approved the plans for a memorial. Since 1987, the Fuhlsbüttel. Since 1987, the Fuhlsbüttel memorial has been a branch of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial. It is located in the prison's former gatehouse and houses an exhibition on the history of the Fuhlsbüttel concentration camp and police prison as well as the Fuhlsbüttel satellite camp of Neuengamme. The exhibition also discusses what happened to individual prisoners and

the different reasons for persecution. Another section deals with the post-war history of the site and the lives of the perpetrators after the war.

*Address:*

Suhrenkamp 98  
22335 Hamburg

*How to get there:*

Take S-Bahn (urban railway) or U-Bahn (underground) lines S1, S11 or U1 to Ohlsdorf

*Opening hours:*

Sundays: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
and by prior arrangement.  
Admission is free

To book a guided tour, please contact the Hamburg Museum Service at +49 40 428131-0 or visit [www.museumsdienst-hamburg.de](http://www.museumsdienst-hamburg.de)



### The Poppenbüttel Memorial (The Prefab Building)

Between mid-September 1944 and the end of the war, the SS operated a small satellite camp of the Neuengamme concentration camp in the Sasel district of Hamburg. The prisoners were 500 Jewish women who had been transferred in two groups to Neuengamme from the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. The women were housed in a former POW camp on Feldblumenweg and were forced to work on the construction of the temporary housing estate of prefabricated buildings near the Poppenbüttel train stop. Work on this housing estate, which was intended for bombed-out inhabitants Hamburg, had been going on since November 1943. The prisoners also had to do slave labour on clearance detail in central Hamburg as well as for various companies and the Hamburg city

council.

Demolition of the roughly 370 prefabricated buildings of the Poppenbüttel housing estate began in the late 1960s. The only building left standing is the one which houses the memorial today. The memorial, a branch of the Neuengamme Memorial, was established in January 1985 on initiative from various groups. Its exhibition was redesigned in 2008. It now focuses mainly on the destruction of Jewish life in Hamburg and the persecution of women by the Nazi state. It takes the district of Poppenbüttel in 1944/45 as a starting point for documenting the history of the Sasel women's satellite camp and seven other women's satellite camps of Neuengamme in Hamburg and Wedel. The exhibition also documents the immediate post-war period and how post-war German society dealt with sites of Nazi persecution.

Biographies of individual prisoners are presented here to enable visitors to examine the fates of some of the women who were imprisoned in the camp in more detail. One section of the building contains original furnishings used for temporary housing from 1944. This part of the exhibition also offers information on the construction of provisional housing and the situation of the people who lived in the prefab temporary housing estate.

**Address:**  
Kritenburg 8  
22391 Hamburg

**How to get there:**  
Take S-Bahn line S1 or S11 to Poppenbüttel

**Opening hours:**  
Sundays: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
and by appointment  
Admission is free

To book a guided tour, please contact the Hamburg Museum Service at +49 40 428131-0 or visit [www.museumsdienst-hamburg.de](http://www.museumsdienst-hamburg.de)



## Contact Details

### DIRECTOR

Detlef Garbe

Phone: +49 40 428131-511

[detlef.garbe@bksm.hamburg.de](mailto:detlef.garbe@bksm.hamburg.de)

### MANAGEMENT

#### AND COMMUNICATIONS

Wolfgang Stiller

Phone: +49 40 428131-547

[wolfgang.stiller@bksm.hamburg.de](mailto:wolfgang.stiller@bksm.hamburg.de)

### PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Karin Schawe

Phone: +49 40 428131-536

[karin.schawe@bksm.hamburg.de](mailto:karin.schawe@bksm.hamburg.de)

### RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

Herbert Diercks

Phone: +49 40 428131-517

[herbert.diercks@bksm.hamburg.de](mailto:herbert.diercks@bksm.hamburg.de)

### EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Iris Groschek

Phone: +49 40 428131-521

[iris.groschek@bksm.hamburg.de](mailto:iris.groschek@bksm.hamburg.de)

### CENTRE FOR HISTORICAL STUDIES

Oliver von Wrochem

Phone: +49 40 428131-515

[Oliver.vonWrochem@bksm.hamburg.de](mailto:Oliver.vonWrochem@bksm.hamburg.de)

### OPEN ARCHIVE

Phone: +49 40 428131-551

or:

Iris Groschek

Phone: +49 40 428131-521

[iris.groschek@bksm.hamburg.de](mailto:iris.groschek@bksm.hamburg.de)

### ARCHIVE

Reimer Möller

Phone: +49 40 428131-512

[reimer.moeller@bksm.hamburg.de](mailto:reimer.moeller@bksm.hamburg.de)

### LIBRARY

Carola Kieras

Phone: +40 40 428131-513

[carola.kieras@bksm.hamburg.de](mailto:carola.kieras@bksm.hamburg.de)

### CENTRAL OFFICE

Phone: +49 40 428131-500

## Literature

### *Literature in English*

**Eichengreen, Lucille.** From Ashes to Life. My Memories of the Holocaust. San Francisco: Mercury House, 1994

**Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial.** Traces of History. The Exhibitions. Bremen: Edition Temmen, 2005

**Sofsky, Wolfgang.** The Order of Terror. Transl. by Wiliam Templer. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999

### *Literature in German*

**Arbeitsgemeinschaft Neuengamme e.V. in Zusammenarbeit mit der**

**KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme (Hrsg.):** Gedenkstätten für die Opfer des KZ Neuengamme und seiner Außenlager. Redaktion: Hans-Joachim Höhler.

Hamburg 2000 (viersprachige Ausgabe: Deutsch, Englisch, Französisch, Russisch)

**Baganz, Carina:** Zehn Wochen KZ Wöbbelin. Ein Konzentrationslager in Mecklenburg 1945. Hrsg.: Mahn- und Gedenkstätten Wöbbelin. Wöbbelin 2000

**Borgsen, Werner/Klaus Volland:** Stalag XB Sandbostel. Zur Geschichte eines Kriegsgefangenen- und KZ-Auffanglagers in Norddeutschland 1939–1945. 3. Aufl. Bremen 2003

**Buggeln, Marc:** Das Außenlagersystem des Konzentrationslagers Neuengamme, in: Sabine Moller/Miriam Rürup/Christel Trouvé (Hrsg.): Abgeschlossene Kapitel? Zur Geschichte der Konzentrationslager und der NS-Prozesse. Tübingen 2002, S. 15–27

**Buggeln, Marc:** Erinnerung am Ort der Tat. Außenlager des KZ Neuengamme, in: Dachauer Hefte 24 (2008), S. 138–152

**Diercks, Herbert (Hrsg.):** Verschleppt nach Deutschland! Jugendliche Häftlinge des KZ Neuengamme aus der Sowjetunion erinnern sich. Hrsg. im Auftrag des Freundeskreises KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme e.V. und der KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme. Bremen 2000 (auch in russischer Sprache erschienen)

**Ellger, Hans:** Zwangsarbeit und weibliche Überlebensstrategien. Die Geschichte der Frauenaußenlager des Konzentrationslagers Neuengamme 1944/45. Berlin 2007

**Ernst, Christoph/Ulrike Jensen (Hrsg.):** Als letztes starb die Hoffnung. Berichte von Überlebenden aus dem KZ Neuengamme. Hamburg 1989

- Eschebach, Insa:** Das Konzentrationslager Neuengamme im Gedächtnis der frühen Nachkriegszeit, in: Dachauer Hefte 19 (2003), S. 71–88
- Garbe, Detlef:** Stammlager Neuengamme, in: Wolfgang Benz/Barbara Distel (Hrsg.): Der Ort des Terrors. Geschichte der nationalsozialistischen Konzentrationslager. Bd. 5: Hinzert, Auschwitz, Neuengamme. Redaktion: Angelika Königseder. München 2007, S. 315–346
- Garbe, Detlef/Carmen Lange (Hrsg.):** Häftlinge zwischen Vernichtung und Befreiung. Die Auflösung des KZ Neuengamme und seiner Außenlager durch die SS im Frühjahr 1945. Bremen 2005
- Hertz-Eichenrode, Katharina (Hrsg.):** Ein KZ wird geräumt. Häftlinge zwischen Vernichtung und Befreiung. Die Auflösung des KZ Neuengamme und seiner Außenlager durch die SS im Frühjahr 1945. Katalog zur Wanderausstellung. Hrsg. im Auftrag des Freundeskreises KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme. Bd. 1: Texte und Dokumente; Bd. 2: Karten. Bremen 2000
- Jureit, Ulrike/Karin Orth:** Überlebensgeschichten. Gespräche mit Überlebenden des KZ Neuengamme. Mit einem Beitrag von Detlef Garbe. Hamburg 1994.
- Kaienburg, Hermann:** »Vernichtung durch Arbeit«. Der Fall Neuengamme. Die Wirtschaftsbestrebungen der SS und ihre Auswirkungen auf die Existenzbedingungen der KZ-Gefangenen. Bonn 1990
- Kaienburg, Hermann:** Das Konzentrationslager Neuengamme 1938–1945. Hrsg.: KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme. Bonn 1997
- KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme (Hrsg.):** Beiträge zur Geschichte der nationalsozialistischen Verfolgung in Norddeutschland. Heft 1: Rassismus in Deutschland (1994); Heft 2: Kriegsende und Befreiung (1995); Heft 3: Die frühen Nachkriegsprozesse (1997); Heft 4: Abgeleitete Macht – Funktionshäftlinge zwischen Widerstand und Kollaboration (1998); Heft 5: Verfolgung Homosexueller im Nationalsozialismus (1999); Heft 6: Museale und mediale Präsentationen in Gedenkstätten (2001); Heft 7: Entgrenzte Gewalt. Täterinnen und Täter im Nationalsozialismus (2002); Heft 8: Zwangsarbeit und Gesellschaft (2004); Heft 9: Schuldig. NS-Prozesse vor deutschen Gerichten (2005); Heft 10: Hilfe oder Handel? Rettungsbemühungen für NS-Verfolgte (2007); Heft 11: Ausgegrenzt. »Asoziale« und »Kriminelle« im nationalsozialistischen Lagersystem (2009)

- KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme (Hrsg.):** Häftlinge im KZ Neuengamme. Verfolgungserfahrungen, Häftlingssolidarität und nationale Bindung. Hamburg 1999
- KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme (Hrsg.):** Die Ausstellungen. Deutsch – English – Français. Redaktion: Detlef Garbe/Wolfgang Stiller. Bremen 2005
- Lange, Wilhelm:** Cap Arcona – Das tragische Ende einiger Konzentrationslager-Evakuierungstransporte im Raum der Stadt Neustadt in Holstein am 3. Mai 1945. Dokumentation. Erstellt im Auftrage des Magistrats der Stadt Neustadt in Holstein. 4. Aufl. Eutin/Neustadt in Holstein 2005
- Projektgruppe für die vergessenen Opfer des NS-Regimes/KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme (Hrsg.):** »Und vielleicht überlebte ich nur, weil ich sehr jung war«. Verschleppt ins KZ Neuengamme: Lebensschicksale polnischer Jugendlicher. Redaktion: Georg Erdelbrock. Bremen 1999
- Schwarberg, Günther:** Der SS-Arzt und die Kinder vom Bullenhuser Damm. Göttingen 2006
- Strebel, Bernhard:** Celle April 1945 revisited. Ein amerikanischer Bombenangriff, deutsche Massaker an KZ-Häftlingen und ein britisches Gerichtsverfahren. Bielefeld 2008

### Abbreviations in Photo Credits

<b>ANg</b>	Neuengamme Memorial, Archive
<b>IWM</b>	Imperial War Museum, London
<b>MDF</b>	Museet for Danmarks Frihedskamp 1940-1945, Copenhagen
<b>NIOD</b>	Nederlands Instituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie, Amsterdam
<b>StA HB</b>	Bremen State Archive
<b>StA HH</b>	Hamburg State Archive
<b>TNA</b>	The National Archives (Public Record Office), London
<b>USHMM</b>	United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C.

The Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial was unable to locate all persons holding the rights to images reproduced in this brochure. We would therefore kindly ask all those who hold rights to any images included here to please contact the Memorial.

## Opening Hours and Guided Tours

### EXHIBITIONS

Monday to Friday:

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays,

April to September:

12 noon to 7 p.m.

October to March:

12 noon to 5 p.m.

### OPEN ARCHIVE

Opening hours same as  
exhibition opening hours

Phone: +49 40 428131-551

### ARCHIVE

Monday to Friday:

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

and by prior arrangement

Phone: +49 40 428131-537

### LIBRARY

Monday to Thursday

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

Friday:

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

and by prior arrangement

Phone: +49 40 428131-513

Admission is free.

Visitors can also access the grounds  
outside the Memorial's opening hours

### GUIDED TOURS

To book tours and project days, please  
contact the Hamburg Museum Service:

Phone: +49 40 428131-0

[www.museumsdienst-hamburg.de](http://www.museumsdienst-hamburg.de)

For more information, please contact

Iris Groschek:

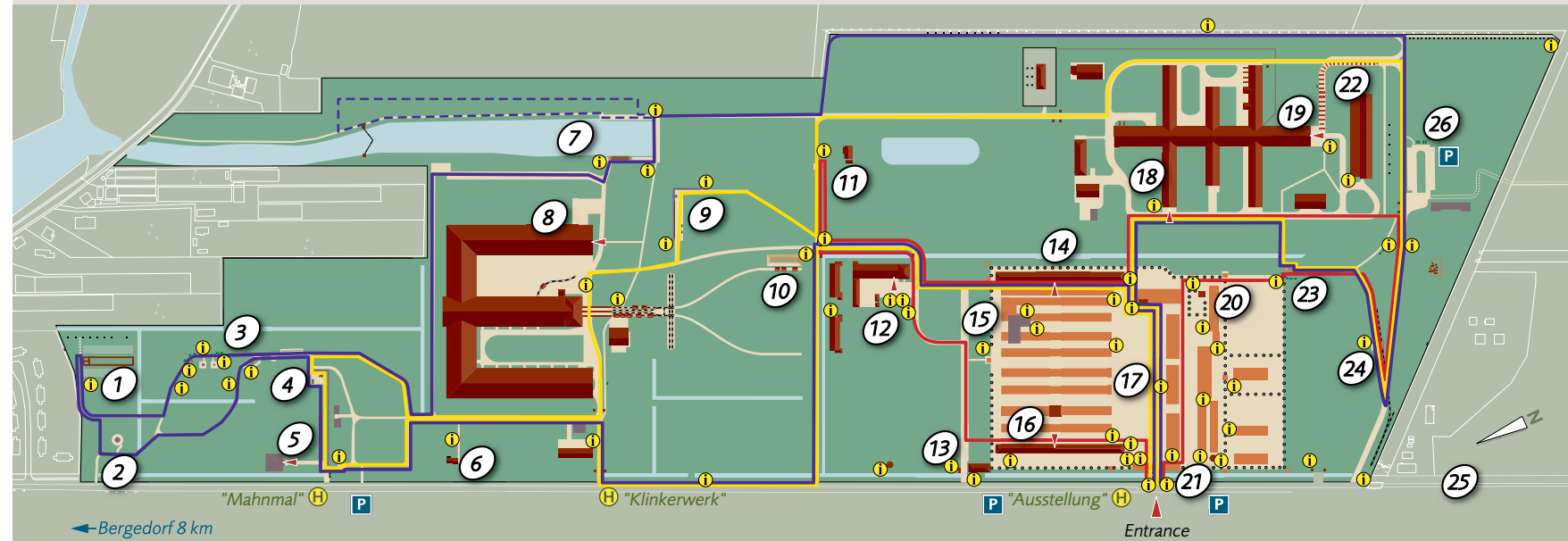
Phone: +49 40 428131-521

[iris.groschek@bksm.hamburg.de](mailto:iris.groschek@bksm.hamburg.de)

The Lutheran Commemoration Committee (*Arbeitskreis kirchliche Gedenkstättenarbeit*) also organises free guided tours every Sunday at 12 noon and 2:30 p.m. The meeting point for these tours is the prefab concrete building near the brickworks.

## MAP OF THE GROUNDS

### Tour paths



- Short tour path (1.5 km, around one hour)
- Medium-length tour path (3 km, around two hours)
- Long tour path (4.5 km, around three hours)

- Buildings dating from before 1945
- Buildings dating from after 1945
- Marked outlines of demolished buildings

- Area of the former prisoners' compound
- Original fence posts
- Reconstructed fence posts
- ① Information panel

Toilets are located in buildings 5, 12 and 14 and are open during the exhibitions' opening hours.

1. Foundations of the former camp nursery
2. Foundations of the first monument put up in 1953
3. Monuments to individual groups of victims and individual commemorative stones
4. International monument
5. House of Commemoration
6. Prefab building
7. Canal and docks
8. *Supplementary exhibition in the former brickworks: Labour and Annihilation: Concentration Camp Prisoners as Slave Labourers in Brick Production*

9. *Supplementary exhibition on the wall of the prison built in 1970 and torn down in 2006: Prisons and Memorial: Documenting a Contradiction*
10. Clay pits and tipper wagons
11. Commandant's house
12. *Research exhibition in the former SS garages: Posted to Neuengamme: The Camp SS*
13. Former main SS guard house and watchtower

14. *Main exhibition in the former prisoners' blocks 21 to 24: Traces of History: The Neuengamme Concentration Camp and its Post-War History*
15. Remains of the prison built in 1949 and torn down in 2003
16. Centre for Historical Studies, archive, library and administration
17. Roll-call square (reconstructed between 2002 and 2004)
18. *Supplementary exhibition in the former Walther factory: Mobilisation for the War-Time Economy: Concentration Camp Prisoners as Slave Labourers in Armaments Production*

19. Special exhibitions
20. Foundations of the former camp prison ("bunker")
21. Information panel
22. Former forge
23. Commemorative plaque at the site of the crematorium, which was demolished in 1947
24. Historic Reichsbahn goods wagon with reconstructed railway tracks (camp train stop)
25. Jean-Dolidier-Weg (formerly called Neuengammer Heerweg)
26. Coach park