Memorial site “Unter den Eichen” (Under the Oaks) – former concentration camp satellite facility in Wiesbaden

Further information is available at
www.wiesbaden.de/erinnerungsorte

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Some words in the following text are highlighted. These terms are explained in the glossary at the end of the text.

The “Unter den Eichen” site has had many different functions. During the Nazi era, it was used for propaganda events, and from 1944 onwards, it housed a satellite camp of the SS special camp/concentration camp Hinzert. Since 1991, the bunker that prisoners were forced to build for the Schutzstaffel (SS) has served as a memorial site. Here, a permanent exhibition provides information about the history of the site, the prisoners, and the perpetrators.

History and origins of the Wiesbaden satellite camp

Until World War I, the “Unter den Eichen” area was a local recreation location with restaurants and sports fields. After being used as a military hospital during World War I, the site was used by the French and British soldiers who had occupied the region.

In the summer of 1930, the troops withdrew. This event, which was staged as the “liberation” of Wiesbaden, was to be celebrated accordingly, and the “Unter den Eichen” site was therefore redesigned. The celebrations were marked above all by nationalist and even anti-democratic tendencies, as demonstrated, for example, by the march of the veterans’ organization “Stahlhelm, Bund der Frontsoldaten” (Steel Helmet League of Front-Line Soldiers).

With the National Socialist German Workers’ Party (NSDAP) seized power, the “Unter den Eichen” site was used for large parades and events from 1933 onwards. The site was also venue to annual riding, show jumping, and driving tournaments, at which the Wehrmacht also made a show of presenting itself. From the start of the war in 1939,

the Hitler Youth (HJ) conducted military exercises there. In 1943, the SS set up an alternative base of operations on the premises to protect themselves against air raids. To this end, they had barracks built by inmates of the Wiesbaden police prison and requisitioned prisoners from the SS special camp/concentration camp in Hinzert to construct a bunker and other buildings. The first 57 prisoners from the Hinzert concentration camp arrived at the Wiesbaden satellite camp "Unter den Eichen" on March 20, 1944.

Wiesbaden under National Socialism

The Wiesbaden branch of the NSDAP was founded in 1926. With its brutal tactics, the Sturmabteilung (SA) put pressure on political opponents, thereby heating up the political climate in Wiesbaden. In the Reichstag elections in March 1933, the NSDAP received 46.2 percent of the votes in Wiesbaden, which was more than the average for Germany as a whole, which stood at 43.9 percent. Almost one in five adults in Wiesbaden was a member of the NSDAP or supported the Nazi regime in other ways.

Picture from the brochure "10 Years of the NSDAP in the Wiesbaden District." March on the occasion of the 1936 election.
StadtA WI, Best. NL 100, No. 198.

The SS special camp/ concentration camp Hinzert

The SS special camp in Hinzert near Trier, which was designated as a concentration camp in 1940, mainly held political prisoners. Life in the camp was marked by a constant fear of the guards' arbitrary cruelness and excessive violence. Several hundred of the approximately 10,000 men imprisoned there did not survive the camp. The Wiesbaden satellite camp "Unter den Eichen" was one of over 30 satellite camps of the Hinzert concentration camp.

The Wiesbaden prisoner community

On March 20, 1944, the first 57 Luxembourgers were brought from Hinzert to Wiesbaden. Immediately after they had arrived, they were forced to perform hard labor. The men were not given any food in the first few days, which caused their physical condition to deteriorate rapidly. The SS then decided that prisoners would be allowed to receive parcels from home in order to improve their supply of food.

Most of the prisoners had belonged to the Christian-conservative resistance group "Lëtzeburger Volleks-Legio'n" (LVL). Their "crimes" included, for example, hiding conscientious objectors in occupied Luxembourg after German conscription was introduced in August 1942, or helping forcibly displaced families.

The up to 100 prisoners held at times in the Wiesbaden satellite camp, who included Luxembourgers as well as a few French and Dutch nationals, one Belgian, and one German, were on average 30 years old and formed a close-knit community. They shared the food that their families sent them. The SS soldiers mostly stole cigarettes and tobacco from the packages for themselves.

In addition, the prisoners sought out further sources of food during their work assignments. For example, they

smuggled potatoes or dead animals into the camp and cooked them. Nicolas Braun was camp elder and was spokesperson for the prisoner community vis-à-vis the guards.

Prisoners from Luxembourg at the Wiesbaden satellite camp "Unter den Eichen", photo taken around 1945. The "L" on their clothing identified the prisoners as Luxembourgers.
photo: unknown, StadtA WI, Best. F000, No. 18733.

Construction of the Wiesbaden satellite camp

The Wiesbaden satellite camp was separated from Café Ritter and the SS and police stations by a barbed wire fence. The prisoners were housed in five simple wooden barracks. The survivors described the living conditions

in the Wiesbaden satellite camp as less harsh than those in the Hinzert concentration camp. The excessive violence and humiliation in Hinzert in particular reduced the chances of survival. However, fear and hunger also characterized everyday life in the Wiesbaden satellite camp.

Forced labor

The prisoners had to perform backbreaking forced labor for up to twelve hours a day. They were forced to construct buildings on the "Unter den Eichen" site, including a bunker that was concealed beneath the musicians' stage of the fairgrounds. The construction activity also included office buildings and a house for the SS Women's Auxiliary Corps.

The prisoners were also forced to work for businesses in Wiesbaden and the city administration. For example, after bombing raids in the city center, prisoners had to clear away rubble and, in February 1945, clear out municipal offices. They burned files and documents in the woods outside the city.

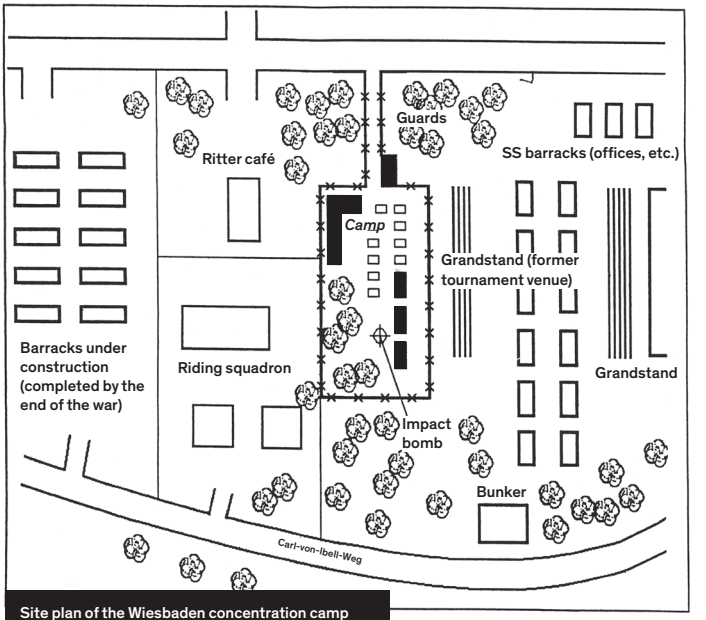
Elisabeth Ritter also requested two Luxembourg nationals to work in her café. Due to the poor physical condition of the men, Ritter allowed them to help themselves to kitchen scraps. She also sent medicine to the emaciated men.

Experiences of violence by the SS and police

To protect themselves from punishment for even the slightest infractions, the prisoners warned each other of approaching SS men with a secret code word. Punishments for violating the camp rules set by the SS were severe. Survivors also reported collective punishments. The strict rules and harsh punishments were probably also the reason why no escape attempts were made during the entire existence of the Wiesbaden satellite camp. Only during the camp's dissolution in March 1945

did some prisoners take advantage of the chaotic situation to hide and wait until the American Army arrived. The prisoners feared they would be executed when the camp was dissolved.

During a devastating air raid on the "Unter den Eichen" site on December 18, 1944, SS and police officers refused to allow prisoners seek shelter in the bunker. Six prisoners from Luxembourg died, while others were injured, some seriously. They were denied entry under threat of armed force. They could only seek protection in trench shelters. The shock waves caused by bombs often caused these trench shelters to collapse. Those who sought shelter in them had no choice to accept that there was a chance they would be buried alive under earth and debris.



Site plan of the Wiesbaden concentration camp satellite facility "Unter den Eichen," drawing based on Robert Poeker's recollections, 1953, Tageblatt (Luxembourg), May 7, 1993.
Map graphic: Sandner. StadtA WI, Best. NL 75, No. 3034.

Perpetrators

Josef "Jürgen" Stroop (1895–1952) was an SS-Gruppenführer and Lieutenant General of the Police who was responsible for the brutal murder of thousands of Jews during the suppression of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in May 1943. Due to his "achievements" in the destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto, Stroop was transferred to Wiesbaden in 1944 and promoted to Higher SS and Police Leader Rhine/Westmark. He was thus also in charge of the Wiesbaden satellite camp "Unter den Eichen." He was given an Aryanized villa at Nerotal 46 as official accommodation. He was given some prisoners who had to do manual labor for him around the villa or perform forced labor in the garden.

The SS was responsible for the external organization of the Wiesbaden satellite camp. The camp commander was SS-Hauptsturmbannführer Friedrich Leber (1896–1967). The duty of guarding the prisoners was undertaken by police reservists, whom the SS had requisitioned from the police president. Survivors reported that the violence was mainly perpetrated by the SS; police officers did not participate in punishing the prisoners.

Jürgen Stroop was arrested by American troops on May 8, 1945 and sentenced to death in the Dachau trials. In 1947, he was extradited to Poland, where he was tried again and finally executed for his crimes in 1952. The extent to which the involvement of Wiesbaden camp commander Leber in Nazi crimes has been legally investigated is unknown. Only the denazification proceedings against Eugen Bernhardt (1900–1983), who was transferred to Wiesbaden as a police reservist and served as a guard at the satellite camp, have been preserved. This shows that the state, as the public prosecutor, dismissed him from civil service without a pension. He did not receive any further punishment.

Dissolution of the camp and liberation

In the spring of 1945, the US Army approached Wiesbaden. The SS then evacuated the camp and transferred the prisoners to Frankfurt am Main, where they were to be shot in a "Russian camp". Some prisoners managed to escape during the so-called evacuation and stayed in hiding in Café Ritter and in the "Unter den Eichen" air and sun baths until the Americans arrived on March 28. The remaining men were taken to Frankfurt-Heddernheim, presumably to a labor education camp. The prisoners feared they would be shot there. However, the police lieutenant in charge did not carry out a possible order to execute them and instead sent the prisoners on toward Friedberg. They were then liberated by the US Army in Assenheim. The survivors then spent several weeks in the displaced persons camp in Frankfurt am Main to regain their strength. Many of them suffered from infectious diseases and were weakened by their internment and poor nutrition. At the time of liberation, for example, survivor Robert Poeker weighed only 40 kilograms and had contracted scarlet fever in the Wiesbaden satellite camp "Unter den Eichen". This caused rheumatic flare-ups, from which he suffered for the rest of his life. It was not until the summer of 1945 that the survivors were physically fit enough to begin their journey home.

The "Unter den Eichen" site after 1945 and the creation of the memorial

The camp barracks and SS buildings on the "Unter den Eichen" site were torn down already in 1945. Residents probably used the material to repair and restore houses damaged by bombing. In the 1960s, the ZDF, a German public-service television broadcaster, used the bunker to protect sensitive film reels from heat and light. It was the survivors themselves who pointed out the Wiesbaden satellite camp during a visit to Wiesbaden in 1974.
The Wiesbaden Geschichtswerkstatt (history workshop)

then began researching the history of the bunker and developed the first permanent exhibition. The memorial was handed over to the civil society in 1991.

Between 2021 and 2025, the City Archive, as the administrative body for the memorial sites dedicated by the state capital of Wiesbaden to the victims of National Socialism, designed a new permanent exhibition.

This exhibition presents photos that were originally black-and-white images and were recolored using artificial intelligence (AI). This makes details such as facial expressions and clothing stand out more clearly. At the same time, recoloring can only be an approximation of reality. It is possible that it contains color inaccuracies.

Reports from survivors

Nicolas Weis and Pierre Neven on their time imprisoned in Wiesbaden and their return home to Luxembourg

"The prisoners to go to the satellite camp [meaning the Wiesbaden satellite camp] were assembled in Hinzert. Suddenly, they said, 'numbers x, y, z, step outside.' Those who were not called were happy, because we didn't know where we would be going, and things could have turned out even worse. We then went to a special barracks where we were given clothes. Early the next morning, we were called out: 'Everyone line up! Bring your luggage!' Then we had to get into the vehicles with our few belongings. We were transported to Wiesbaden by truck. There we jumped out of the vehicles fearfully, because we didn't know what would happen to us next. We were immediately divided up among the barracks. There were three wooden barracks already standing there, surrounded by a chain-link fence; more were to be added later.

We were put to work straight away. We had nothing to eat during the first few days and were so weak we could barely lift a shovel. It soon became clear to the SS that we couldn't work like this. From that point on, we were allowed

to receive packages. The food we organized in Wiesbaden was pooled together in the rooms and used collectively. Once, two horses that had been hit during a bombing raid on the freight station died in front of the eyes of several prisoners who had been sent there to work. They cut a few large pieces from the carcasses and brought them back to camp.

We had four butchers among us who knew how to cut up the tough meat properly. We cooked and ate together, and our guards did not go hungry, either. Potatoes, for example, were also organized in this way. Once in winter, we found sheep that had died in the pasture. We cooked the rock-hard frozen meat together, and it helped us get by for a few more days.

In Wiesbaden, we were no longer subjected to the same kind of drill as we had had been in Hinzert. Only when a very young SS officer came by did we have to stand at attention. First, we built the bunker, by digging a deep pit was with a pickaxe and shovel. We had to transport the soil deep into the forest using a cart. At the very end, we built the barracks on Platter Street. Three or four of us always had to go to a work detail in Nerotal to work in the villa of SS General Stroop. One day, the feared camp commander from Hinzert, Sporrenberg [meaning Paul Sporrenberg], came to Wiesbaden. We got scared because we feared being transferred back to Hinzert. That could have cost us our lives. Our kapo (see 'camp elder'), Braun, was so terrified he couldn't utter a word. As he walked through the camp, Sporrenberg noticed that we hadn't raked up the fallen leaves and that there were also a few boxes lying around. That did not correspond to his ideas of camp order. 'What's going on here? This bunch of sloppy pigs are coming back to Hinzert,' he yelled. But his superior, Stroop, replied: 'No, the men work well, they're staying here.' Sporrenberg disappeared, and fortunately we never heard from him again. We shoed the horses of the cavalry squadron. Stroop was there often. He had stabled his horse at the 'Unter den

Eichen' stables. Once, his hoof had to be cleaned with a knife. That caused a bit of bleeding, and the men from the cavalry squadron came running. They shouted excitedly: 'Oh my God, the general's horse!' They feared they would be severely punished for a few drops of blood that Stroop's horse had shed.

On the last night before the Americans arrived, we met up with some other refugees from Luxembourg at Ms. Ritter's house, because we had agreed that we would meet there. After everything was over, an SS food warehouse was discovered nearby. The people of Wiesbaden, who were now also starving, came there with the intention to loot the storehouse, but the Allies stopped them. Our liberators now fed us from the supplies found there. After the Americans took the area, we initially believed that we would be taken home by car immediately. But then suddenly we were told we had to report to a barracks in Mainz. We then walked there, carrying our few meagre possessions in suitcases on a small two-wheeled cart. A ferry took us across the Rhine. We tried to stay under cover as much as possible, because the roads were not yet safe. Sometimes shots were even fired from American trucks. The barracks in Gonsenheim were already quite crowded when we arrived. We also met other Luxembourgers there, such as a girl from Diekirch who had been in the Ravensbrück women's concentration camp. Nothing worked anymore in our new home. We had no clean water and no electricity. The toilets were clogged. At least there was a little food, and we had something to cook. Shortly after our arrival, some of our fellow prisoners discovered the barracks' wine cellar. The wine was several inches deep because someone had smashed the barrels. Since we had no water, we cooked our potatoes, which we had found in another cellar, in wine. We ate anything back then, and thought it tasted amazing. We hadn't received any packages from home for months and were therefore starved. We stayed in Gonsenheim for a week, waiting impatiently for transport home, but they kept putting us

off from day to day. Finally, we met an American who wanted to travel to Luxembourg privately. With him, we were finally able to make the drive home."

Interview conducted on March 16, 1992, by Bärbel Maul, StadtA WI, Best. NL 75, No. 3107.

Robert Poeker on his arrival and the conditions at the camp, as well as the consequences of the aerial warfare in the Wiesbaden satellite camp "Unter den Eichen"

"From the signs, we finally realized that we were being driven into the city of Wiesbaden. The journey went uphill. In an instant, the car came to a halt in front of a gate. It was opened immediately, and we arrived at a square with barracks. The reception this time was, contrary to all expectations, pleasant.

We couldn't believe our eyes, and neither could the prisoners in the camp, who were almost exclusively Luxembourgers. In this way, the 'family' was enlarged in one fell swoop. There were so many questions and so much to talk about until we were surprised by the question: 'You must be hungry?' 'Oh, yes,' came the general response, expressed from the heart. I can still see the aluminum pots that my countrymen brought out. We were served soup, which was actually new to us. In this camp, the packages sent from home were not heavily censored, so there were still reserves left. We were told that they pooled everything and ate it together. This way, they had a proper meal in the evening. We newcomers were almost ashamed when we emptied these large pots—of course, things couldn't continue like this from September onwards, as there no more packages came through. Space was quite limited, we were assigned to various barracks, had to share beds, and awaited what was to come. We were shown around in the morning. A toilet without doors, a long wooden trough with taps above it—the whole thing resembled a covered terrace. We were still surprised by this level of comfort. Afterwards, coffee, a piece of bread, our former comrades

shared their last morsels with us. Line up immediately afterwards, a short speech and assignment of work teams. Everyday life in the new environment had begun.

We received the first shock at the end of October 1944. That evening, we saw a comet-like, fiery trail on the horizon, which moved ever faster toward the city until there was an exceedingly loud explosion. The next day, we learned that the first aerial bomb had been dropped in this war. The effects were devastating.

We experienced a second shock on December 18, at around half past one in the afternoon. The work details had gone out for the day. Only a small 'skeleton crew' remained in the camp. It was a cloudy, foggy day. We heard bombers flying over the city. At the edge of the trench shelters, we began to rejoice that bombs were falling on the city. Then we heard the eerie whistling of a falling bomb. It grazed an oak tree and crashed into our group. A stream of red-hot splinters flew above me. I found my burnt cap 20 meters away. When I finally freed myself from the debris that had been thrown on top of me, I was met with a gruesome sight: dead and injured scattered everywhere. One man stood upright for a while with his stomach slashed open until he collapsed lifelessly to the ground; another lay as if peacefully slumbering on a pile of rubble, but his brain was spilling out of the back of his head; shredded body parts hung on the wire fence; only the color of the clothing scraps made it possible to identify the dead; in the crater left by the bomb I could see the torn-off arms and legs of a victim. A good friend leaned his back against the wall of a barrack. He sighed and said, 'I'm dying here, Robert.' I promised to get help quick. Then his head fell forward, and he was dead. I climbed over the fence with a ladder and ran to the SS bunker, where our guards had taken refuge.

As I ran down the stairs to the entrance to get help, I saw gun barrels pointed at me. I breathlessly described the situation in the prison camp. Help was sent. Bombs continued to fall repeatedly in the following period. On the

evening of February 2, 1945, our altitude meant we were able to observe a major attack on Frankfurt. Shortly thereafter, Wiesbaden was attacked with target indicators that lit up the night as bright as day. A deafening scream from people and horses. There was a cavalry squadron near us. The next day, cleanup work for us, especially in apartments used by the SS. For days, we could see the bodies of people sticking out of the rubble like plants on Emser Street."

From: Die Grünen im Landtag (Hessen) (the Greens in the State Parliament (Hesse)), Lothar Bembenek, Frank Schwalba-Hoth (eds.): Hessen hinter Stacheldraht. Verdrängt und vergessen: KZs, Lager, Außenkommandos, Frankfurt/M 1984, p. 65 f. and Marcel Engel, André Hohengarten: Hinzert. Das SS-Sonderlager im Hunsrück 1939-1945, Luxembourg 1983, p. 444f. (Compiled by Dr. Axel Ulrich)

Glossary

Aryanization: The term "Aryanization" describes the displacement of Jews from economic life. Through boycotts of Jewish businesses, occupational bans, and other forms of discrimination, the state deliberately worsened the living conditions of Jews in order to force them to sell their houses, apartments, or businesses at well below their actual value. The targeted expropriation was aimed at destroying their economic livelihoods and ability to participate in professional life.

Camp elder (also known as Kapo): The camp elders were responsible for ensuring that everyday life in the concentration camp ran smoothly. They bore responsibility for their fellow prisoners and at the same time enjoyed a position of power over them, which they could use to the advantage or detriment of their fellow prisoners. Camp elders were often granted privileges by the SS over other prisoners, creating a hierarchy within the prisoner community.

Concentration camp: In total, there were several thousand concentration camps and satellite camps in the German Reich and the occupied territories. Around six million people were murdered directly or indirectly in these camps through malnutrition, abuse and violence, or the intentional refusal to treat diseases. The SS and the companies involved enriched themselves through the forced labor imposed on the prisoners.

Today, some concentration camps are referred to as extermination camps, as they were specifically designed for the mass murder of Jews and other groups of people.

Dachau trials: In the Dachau trials, the US Army prosecuted over 1,600 people, mainly Germans, for war crimes and crimes against humanity. In the run-up to this, 3,887 cases were investigated, but only 489 of these were brought to trial. The death penalty was imposed in 426 cases. The trials took place between 1945 and 1948 at the Dachau internment camp, where the suspects and defendants had been interned. The internment camp was located on the same site as the former Dachau concentration camp.

Displaced Persons (DP): Survivors of forced labor, imprisonment as POWs, and concentration camps who were not residing in their home country were referred to as "displaced persons." In the spring of 1945, nearly seven million people in the German Reich fell under this definition. By the end of 1946, around six million of them had been able to return to their homeland. UNRRA, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, housed the remaining people in camps under the responsibility of the Allies of the Western occupation zones. There, separated by nationality, they were to find temporary accommodation. The last DP camp was closed in 1959.

In 1946, the camp in the Zeilsheim district of Frankfurt housed around 3,570 Jewish men and women. They were housed in former forced labor barracks belonging to I.G. Farben and, with the help of the US Army, built schools, newspapers, leisure facilities, a synagogue, and a library. This camp was dissolved in 1948.

Higher SS and police leader: Higher SS and police leaders coordinated the activities of the SS and police in a designated area. As higher SS and police leader for the Rhine/Westmark, Jürgen Stroop was responsible for the SS Upper Section. This encompassed the area of present-day Hesse, without North Hesse, as well as Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, and the occupied territories of Lorraine and Luxembourg.

History workshop (Geschichtswerkstatt): History workshops emerged in the early 1980s. They were part of the so-called grassroots movement. This is a social or political initiative that originates from

the population. History workshops set themselves the goal of making local history accessible to a wide audience. Their work focused on the Nazi era. The intention was to make history more tangible so that it can be linked to one's own experiences. The history workshop in Wiesbaden existed until 2010 and campaigned for the establishment of a memorial site at the "Unter den Eichen" site.

Hitler Youth (HJ, Hitlerjugend): The Hitler Youth was the youth organization of the NSDAP. It was founded in 1926 and was intended to prepare boys to military service. Girls were to be prepared for life as housewives in the League of German Girls. From 1939 onwards, all young people between the ages of 10 and 18 had to join various sub-organizations of the Hitler Youth or the League of German Girls. Jewish children and young people, as well as those who were physically unfit for military-style drills, were excluded from youth organizations.

Labor education camp: Labor education camps were Nazi persecution and terror institutions in which a total of at least half a million people were imprisoned. Political opponents, the long-term unemployed, and foreign forced laborers were to be disciplined and re-educated through violence and hard labor. Internment was largely arbitrary and often took place without trial; even suspicion of having committed a crime, such as theft, could be sufficient grounds for being sent to a labor education camp. Forced laborers were often interned for "refusal to work" or "slacking off".

The Secret State Police (Gestapo) was responsible for the labor education camp. Local authorities often imposed short prison sentences so that forced laborers could quickly return to work. The Gestapo benefited from the labor education camps, as it also leased prisoners out to companies as laborers or had them work in the camps. The conditions of in these camps were often characterized by food deprivation and violence, meaning that imprisonment could have serious health implications for forced laborers.

Labor education camps were separate camps, but educational detention could also take place in concentration camps. There was an labor education camp in the Heddernheim district of Frankfurt am Main. Between 1942 and 1945, around 10,000 people were forcibly "re-educated" there. Prisoners were executed on multiple occasions, and many were sent to concentration camps after their imprisonment in the labor education camp.

National Socialism: From 1933 to 1945, the German Reich was ruled by the NSDAP. It transformed the state into a dictatorship. The National Socialist state was based on an ideology that disregarded human dignity. People who, according to Nazi ideology, did not or should not belong to the "people's community" and even threatened it by their mere existence were persecuted and murdered. The "people's community" comprised people who were supposed to share the same ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and historical origins and worldview.

National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP, Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei): The NSDAP was founded in Munich in 1920. It used the swastika as the party symbol. Its program and ideology were primarily characterized by anti-Semitism and anti-democratic views. After the surrender of the German Reich in 1945, the party was banned.

Propaganda: Propaganda is the deliberate attempt to shape political, ideological, or religious views. Opinions are manipulated, for example, by making speeches very one-sided and emotional. Any potential criticism is completely ignored. Information and opinion are mixed together, often creating projected, artificial notions of an enemy. For example, representatives of the Nazi regime attempted to influence the behavior of the majority of the German population

so that it would think and act in accordance with their inhumane policies. The National Socialists even set up a propaganda ministry for this purpose.

Schutzstaffel (SS): The Schutzstaffel, literally meaning "protection squadron," was an elite paramilitary unit in the Third Reich. It was founded in 1925 and was initially responsible for protecting Adolf Hitler and the NSDAP. From 1931 onwards, it functioned as the party police and was responsible for the concentration camps from 1934 onwards.

SS Women's Auxiliary Corps: SS auxiliaries were women who voluntarily joined the SS. To do so, they had to complete a basic training course and undergo a rigorous selection process. They worked primarily as communications assistants and operated radio, telephone, and teletype equipment. In doing so, they actively supported the regime.

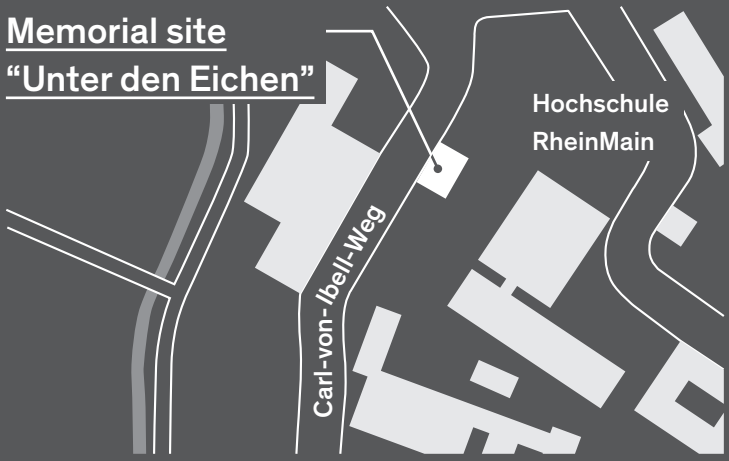
Female civilian employees, such as nurses or female guards in concentration camps, were organized in the SS-Gefolge auxiliary organization. They were not formally part of the SS.

Steel helmet League of Front-Line Soldiers (Stahlhelm, Bund der Frontsoldaten): The Steel Helmets were a paramilitary, nationalist, and anti-Semitic military organization founded shortly after the end of World War I by German veterans. It advocated for the recognition of all German participants in the war but excluded Jewish soldiers. The members strictly rejected the Weimar Republic as a political system and longed instead for a system similar to the German Empire. The Steel Helmets were the second strongest paramilitary association in the Weimar Republic.

Sturmabteilung (SA): The brutal fighting force of the NSDAP, the Sturmabteilung (which literally translated as "storm division"), carried out numerous terrorist attacks on political dissidents, arbitrarily arrested people, and conducted propaganda marches. Through its brutal attacks on political opponents, the SA played a decisive role in establishing the power of the NSDAP, particularly in the early phase of the Third Reich.

Third Reich: The term describes the German Reich during the Nazi era. In pursuing this logic, the Nazi state followed from the Holy Roman Empire and the German Empire. "Third Reich" was a term used by the National Socialists to describe themselves.

Memorial site “Unter den Eichen”



Memorial site “Unter den Eichen”
Carl-von-Ibell-Weg (opposite house number 6)

Opening hours:

Saturdays from 2 to 4 p.m.
Tours by appointment

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