



Directions to the Gestapokeller Memorial



Directions to the Augustaschacht Memorial

Discovering History – Meeting People

Tours and workshops for groups and school classes can be booked in advance and are not subject to opening hours. They are available in German, English, Dutch, Russian, Italian and French. Topics can be arranged upon request.

Special educational offerings and projects can be booked in consultation with us. Accommodation and meals are available in the vicinity of the memorials.

A series of events, including lectures, readings, conversations with survivors and eyewitnesses, trips to memorial sites, films, theater and concerts, take place in cooperation with the Osnabrück adult education centers and the Museumsquartier Osnabrück.

International and regional work camps for adolescents and young adults who volunteer to work for the memorial sites can be arranged for summer.

Publications about the Gestapo Osnabrück, the AEL Ohrbeck (ArbeitsErziehungsLager = Labor Education Camp) and other exhibition topics are available at the Memorial Sites.



Workcamp at the Augustaschacht Memorial



The entrance to the memorial had previously served as the main entrance to the Gestapo offices in the Osnabrück Palace.

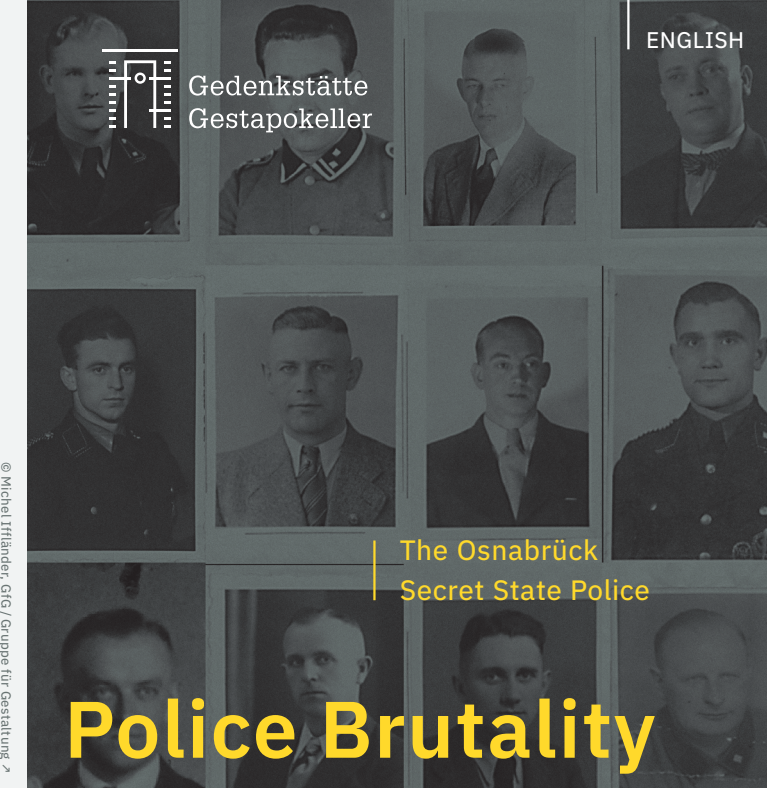
@Christa Henke

The Gestapokeller Memorial

The memorial includes three prison cells of the former Osnabrück (Gestapo). During the Nazi era the Gestapo monitored the population. It persecuted political opponents and deported Jewish people to ghettos and extermination camps. The Gestapo had the special power to imprison people indefinitely, to torture and to kill. During World War II, its most important task was to monitor people from other countries who were forced to work in Germany against their will.

The Osnabrück Gestapo had its headquarters in the west wing of the palace from 1938 to 1940 and again from 1943 to 1945. Its offices were located on the upper levels; the prison cells were in the cellar.

@Michael Iffländer, GfG/Gruppe für Gestaltung



Gedenkstätte Gestapokeller

ENGLISH

The Osnabrück Secret State Police

Police Brutality

The Augustaschacht Memorial

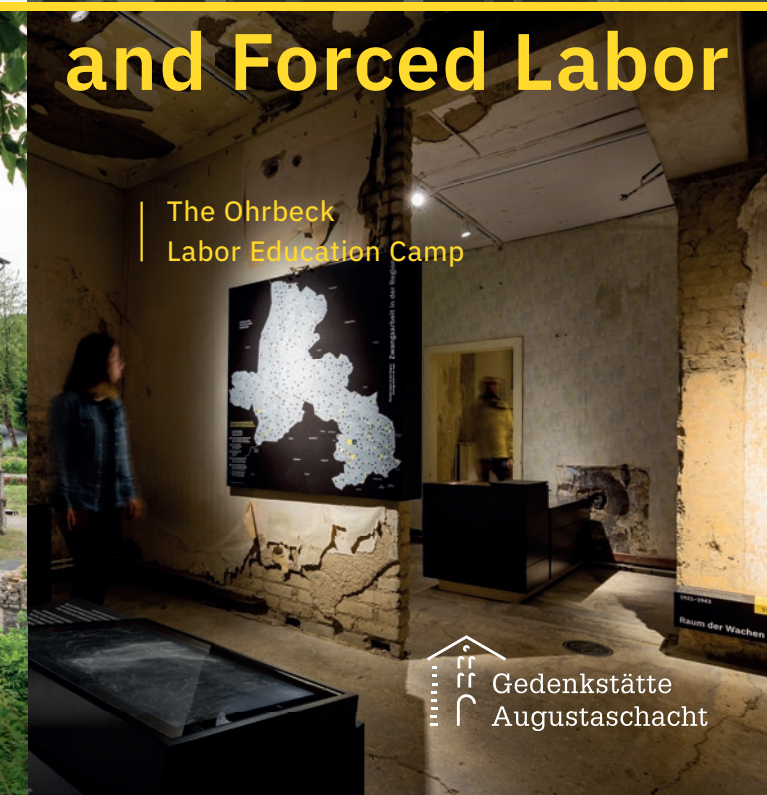
The memorial is located at the site of the former Ohrbeck labor education camp (AEL). More than 2,000 men and boys were imprisoned in the AEL Ohrbeck under inhuman conditions. They came from 17 different countries, in particular the Netherlands, the former Soviet Union, Italy and Poland. At least one hundred inmates, primarily from the Netherlands, died in the AEL Ohrbeck. Most of the prisoners were foreign forced laborers.

The AEL Ohrbeck was established and supervised by the Gestapo in Osnabrück. The camp existed from January 1944 to April 1945. The Gestapo selected the Augustaschacht as the location for its labor education camp. The camp buildings belonged to the Klöckner factory in Georgsmarienhütte, which cooperated with the Gestapo.



The main building of the AEL Ohrbeck, the Augustaschacht, is a protected historical monument, one of only few remaining architectural landmarks of this kind of camp.

@Christa Henke



The Ohrbeck Labor Education Camp

Gedenkstätte Augustaschacht

Involvement and Support

The two memorials Gestapokeller and Augustaschacht are cared for by Gedenkstätten Gestapokeller und Augustaschacht e.V., a public charity with private and public funding. Those who would like to be involved are welcome to support the non-profit association that is committed to encouraging action against racism and raising awareness for democracy.

Free admission to the memorial sites is made possible with the support of donations.

Donation Account IBAN: DE35 2656 5928 2512 1332 00
Volksbank GMHütte-Hagen-Bissendorf eG (GHB) BIC: GENODE 1 HGM
Tax Number: 65/270/10102

Sponsors



Additional support

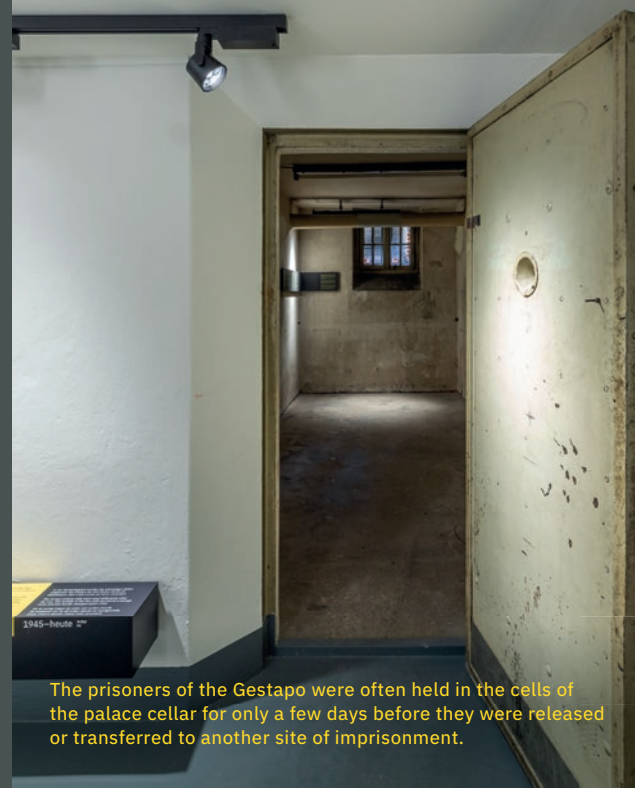


Translated by Miriam Fields and Lisa Shoemaker

Police Brutality and Forced Labor

The new exhibition “Police Brutality and Forced Labor” addresses a crime of Nazi Germany that has received little attention: The many measures and violent actions taken against foreign forced laborers by the Secret State Police (Gestapo) during World War II.

The exhibition, which is presented in two parts, focuses in the Gestapokeller Memorial on the history of the Osnabrück Gestapo und in the Augustaschacht Memorial on the history of the Ohrbeck labor education camp. The memorials can be visited individually or in any sequence.



The prisoners of the Gestapo were often held in the cells of the palace cellar for only a few days before they were released or transferred to another site of imprisonment.

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File card in the Gestapokeller Memorial on a persecuted person. Some 49,390 file cards from the Osnabrück Gestapo have been preserved.

© Michèle Iffländer, GfG / Gruppe für Gestaltung

The Osnabrück Secret State Police

The Secret State Police (Gestapo) constituted one of the most important instruments of terror for the Nazis. The Osnabrück Gestapo monitored the population in the region of Osnabrück. In World War II the Gestapo primarily persecuted foreigners who had been deported to Germany for forced labor who had either evaded compulsory work or defied racist discriminatory measures against them.

The exhibition describes the actions taken by the Gestapo against forced laborers. It shows the power of the Gestapo and the people who exercised this power. Visitors also have the opportunity to research people whom the Gestapo persecuted. The perpetrators got off with light sentences after the war. The victims, on the other hand, received little acknowledgment of their suffering and were overlooked for a long time.

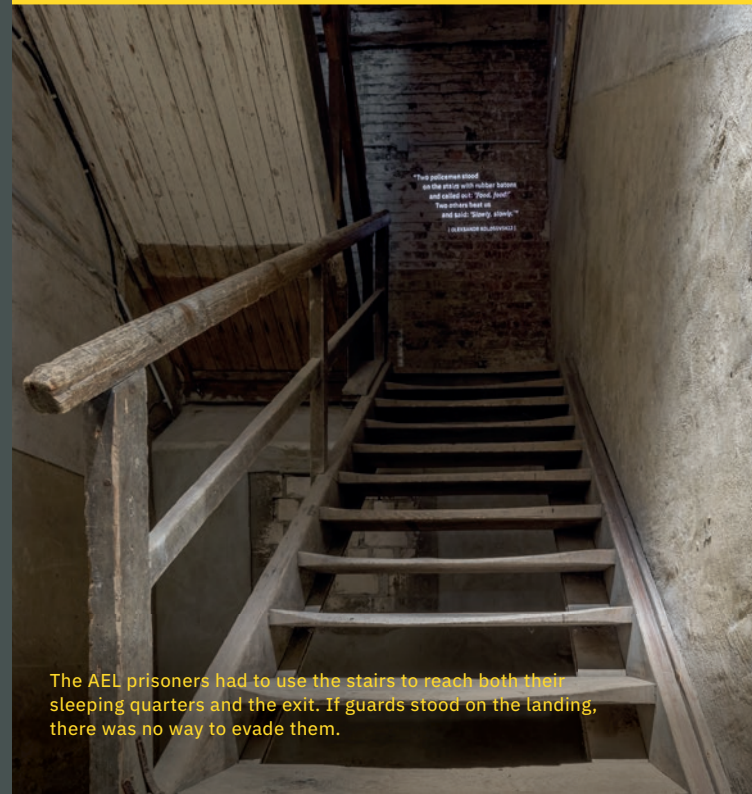


Zur Hügelschlucht 4
49205 Hasbergen

Schloss Osnabrück
Neuer Graben
49074 Osnabrück

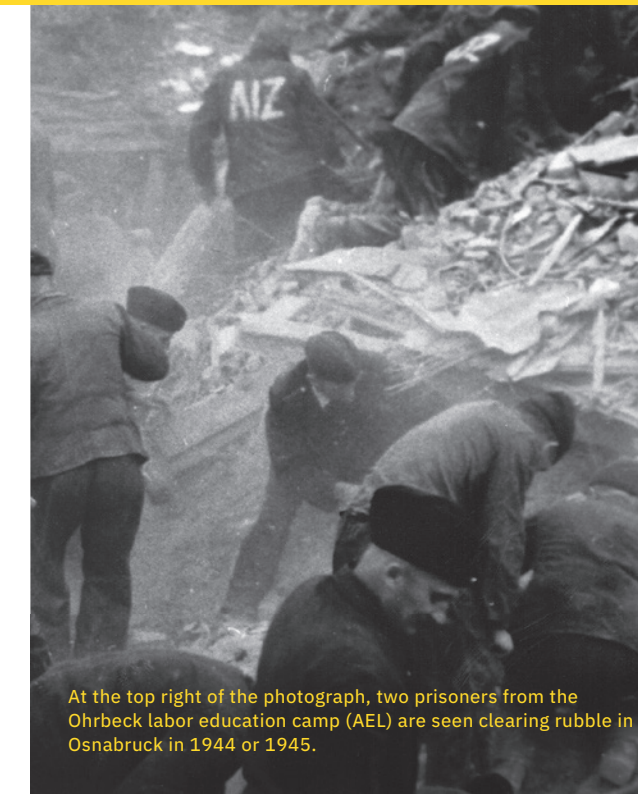
The Ohrbeck Labor Education Camp

Millions of people had to carry out forced labor for Nazi Germany during World War II. In the region of Osnabrück alone, there were tens of thousands of forced laborers from all over Europe. Those who tried to evade forced labor were sentenced to the Ohrbeck labor education camp (AEL). Conditions in this camp, run by the Osnabrück Secret State Police (Gestapo), were perilous. The exhibition shows how the cruel treatment of prisoners was designed to make them compliant. Accounts of former prisoners testify to the difficulty of surviving in the AEL Ohrbeck. Survivors, the families of prisoners, and the bereaved continued to be affected by the experience of camp imprisonment for a long time. Nonetheless, within German society today the labor education camps remain little known.



The AEL prisoners had to use the stairs to reach both their sleeping quarters and the exit. If guards stood on the landing, there was no way to evade them.

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At the top right of the photograph, two prisoners from the Ohrbeck labor education camp (AEL) are seen clearing rubble in Osnabrück in 1944 or 1945.



Opening Hours
Tues.–Sat. 2 p.m.–5 p.m.
Sun. & holidays 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Closed on:
Good Friday, Ascension
Thursday, 1st May, Christmas
Day to New Year’s Day

Please see our website for current visitor information.

Free Admission

Contact and information

Gedenkstätten Gestapokeller und Augustaschacht e.V.
Zur Hügelschlucht 4, 49205 Hasbergen-Ohrbeck
+49 (0)5405 8959270 | info@augustaschacht.de
www.gedenkstaetten-augustaschacht-osnabrueck.de

Tours and individualized educational activities can also be booked outside normal hours by contacting:
+49 (0)5405 8959270
info@augustaschacht.de

The Augustaschacht Memorial is fully accessible except for the third floor. The Gestapokeller Memorial is only accessible via a staircase.

“R. was arrested on 21.12.1943 because he stole 700 grams of sausage from a butcher.”
Quote from the Gestapo card file on Igor Rudchin

“Why [did you steal]? I was hungry. [...] He began to strike my back with a whip. [...] he lashed and lashed.”
Igor Rudchin

[NIEDERSÄCHSISCHES LANDESARCHIV | STANDORT OSNABRÜCK]

[INTERVIEW IGOR RUDCHIN | 2011 | GEDENKSTÄTTEN GESTAPOKELLER UND AUGUSTASCHACHT]