



CONTACT

Gedenkstätte für Zwangsarbeit in Leipzig

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OPENING HOURS:

Tuesday to Thursday 10am–6pm

(or by appointment)

Admission is free.

HOW TO FIND US:

Tram 3: Permoser / Torgauer Str.

(Wissenschaftspark)

Bus 90: Permoser / Torgauer Str.



Stadt Leipzig
Kulturamt

Gedenkstätte für Zwangsarbeit Leipzig
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Nazi Forced Labour during World War II

Between 1939 and 1945, Nazi Germany forced more than 20 Millions of men, women and children from all over Europe to work for them in countries that were occupied by the Germans, as well as in the German Reich itself. In the German Reich, almost 13 Million people had to do forced labour. At the end of World War II, almost every fourth worker was a person who was forced to work. Their forced employment became part of the German population's day to day life – it was impossible to avoid contact with them in agriculture or the arms industry. Nazi forced labour was a public crime.

Prisoners of war, civilian forced labourers, prisoners and concentration camp prisoners had to work against their will. They were attracted by false promises or abducted and brought to the German Reich by force and abused as cheap labour.

They worked in agriculture and construction, in the industrial and the public sector, in private house holds – in every area of commercial life. They didn't have enough to eat and lacked proper health care; they were accommodated in barracks and camps, kept from returning and faced racist discrimination.

PICTURES:

Outside: *HASAG* factory building, destroyed by a bomb hit. © Collection GfZL
Inside: Soviet prisoners of war do clearing work at the Augustusplatz (Leipzig city centre), tower of the Nikolaikirche in the background © Stadtarchiv Leipzig
Former prisoners of the concentration subcamp "*HASAG-Leipzig*" after the liberation. © Collection GfZL
Design: Janett Bielau

Forced Labour in Leipzig

During World War II, Leipzig was important as armaments site and industrial location. At least 60,000 men and women had to do forced labour here. They worked in all sectors of the economy, i.a. as domestic aid, at municipal utilities, municipal transport services or private companies. The majority had to work in the armaments industry. Barrack camps and shared accommodations were built everywhere in the city. There were at least 400 collective accommodations all over the entire city area. Concentration camp prisoners should also work in the armaments industry, as the labour requirements rose. Therefore, six subcamps of the Buchenwald concentration camp were built in and around Leipzig from 1944 on.

The Hugo-Schneider-Aktiengesellschaft (HASAG) (Industrial Company Hugo Schneider)

The "Hugo-Schneider-Aktiengesellschaft", with its headquarters in Leipzig, was Saxony's biggest arms manufacturer and one of the companies that profited most from forced labour. The corporation owned large ammunition factories in occupied Poland and in the German Reich, where Jewish men and women, forced labourers and concentration camp prisoners had to work. In Leipzig alone, thousands of forced labourers had to produce ammunition and Panzerfäuste (a German rocket-propelled grenade similar to a bazooka). In the summer of 1944, the biggest women's subcamp of the Buchenwald concentration camp with more than 5000 prisoners was built next to the factory site. More concentration camp subcamps were built at other manufacturing locations of *HASAG* in Taucha, Altenburg, Meuselwitz, Schlieben, Colditz and Flößberg during the following months. On 13 April 1945, the women's subcamp in Leipzig was evacuated and the prisoners were sent on death marches. After the war, the factory was under allied control. Everything but the main building was dismantled.



The Leipzig Nazi Forced Labour Memorial

Since 2001, in Leipzig's north east, the Leipzig Nazi Forced Labour Memorial (Gedenkstätte für Zwangsarbeit Leipzig) at the former *HASAG* headquarter reminds us of the history and the injustice of Nazi forced labour on site. The memorial shows a permanent exhibition in its rooms about the history of Nazi forced labour in Leipzig and the fates of female concentration camp prisoners who worked at the *HASAG* factories (Leipzig, Taucha, Schlieben, Altenburg and Meuselwitz).

You can use the memorial's library and archive during the opening hours by appointment. Guided tours, project days and further educational offers can be booked on request.

Further information and our current program are on our website:

www.zwangsarbeit-in-leipzig.de

The Leipzig Nazi Forced Labour Memorial is run by the association "Dr. Margarete Blank" e.V.. To support our voluntary work, you can make a donation to the following account:

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