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# NEWSLETTER OF THE LEIPZIG NAZI FORCED LABOUR MEMORIAL

#11



GEDENKSTÄTTE  
FÜR ZWANGSARBEIT  
LEIPZIG





Dear friends of the memorial, dear interested people,

there is a certain irony in writing the foreword for a newsletter when what one feels most, looking back on the past year, is actually speechlessness. After two years of the Covid-19 pandemic, a kind of everyday life had returned to the memorial at the beginning of the year. Digital formats had been created and tested. And the all-important face-to-face encounters could finally be realized again. A new routine had been established in dealing with the exceptional situation.

Then came February 24, 2022. It is difficult to find adequate words for what is happening in the world right now without feeling trepidation at the same time. It is not that other wars that have already lasted longer, such as those in Afghanistan, Yemen or Ethiopia, are any less horrific and condemnable. And previous armed conflicts and wars in Europe and the former Soviet republics have also cost many lives since 1945. But the Russian attack on Ukraine has left us speechless because of its ruthlessness. To counter the trepidation we feel, we have joined forces with other memorials, networks and institutions in the "Aid Network for Survivors of Nazi Persecution in Ukraine." The network collects donations to secure the livelihood of Nazi persecutees and their relatives in Ukraine and arranges support for applications for admission to Germany.

All the more we would like to thank the volunteers, sponsors and staff of the memorial this year. From the very beginning, they have worked tirelessly to keep memory alive and to make an inclusive society reality. In times of great social uncertainty, they are unceasingly committed to educating people about the mechanisms of dictatorships and raising awareness of the crimes and continuities of the Nazi regime. This year, too, a variety of innovative formats and ideas have emerged. For example, in cooperation with Theater der Jungen Welt, we were able to develop the smartphone app "Tracing Remembrance. On the Traces of Nazi Forced Labor in Leipzig's Urban Space" as an innovative form of conveying history. As a part of our project "On the Traces of Nazi Forced Labor", virtual tours and learning materials about various sites of Nazi forced labor were created at the History Department of the University of Leipzig in cooperation with the memorial. These 360° tours received the award for outstanding digital teaching in Saxon teacher education. We would like to express our special thanks for the valuable work of Isabel Panek, whose position funded by the federal program "Jugend erinnert" will unfortunately end at the end of the year. Both her expertise and her person have greatly enriched the memorial.

A new tour for the Schönefeld district was created for the visibility of the topic of Nazi forced labor in public space. In addition, a lettering and a new window design were installed on the memorial building. Furthermore, we handed over to the city of Leipzig our declaration on the former concentration camp "HASAG Leipzig", which was signed by more than 1,500 individuals. The city of Leipzig is now examining how to proceed with the property at Kamenzer Straße 10/12. In this context, a new memorial stele was initially inaugurated on site by the Lord Mayor on July 12, 2022. Under the critical eye of the current tenants of the site, texts, photographs and music were used to commemorate the history of the site and the importance of local remembrance work at historical sites.

In order to promote supra-regional cooperation, a networking workshop on the recording of sites of Nazi forced labor in Saxony was held on November 19, 2022 with the Foundation of Saxon Memorials, the Saxon State Working Group on Dealing with National Socialism (sLAG), the State Office for Monument Preservation, and the Saxon State Office for Archaeology. The goal was to further strengthen the joint inter-professional cooperation at the state level. It is regrettable that despite this important networking work, the advisory board of the state program "Weltoffenes Sachsen" decided against funding the sLAG as a statewide professional network. As a result, the sLAG lacks the financial basis to continue its work in 2023.

The year 2022 is also a year of sad anniversaries. It was the anniversary of the attack on the synagogue in Halle, which led to the murder of passerby Jana Lange and the guest of the Kiez-Döner Kevin Schwarze in 2019. The memory of the attack in Rostock-Lichtenhagen thirty years ago was overshadowed by recent attacks on a shelter for refugees in Leipzig-Grünau. Also in 2022, it is clear how important the ongoing commitment against racist and inhuman attitudes is. Looking back, this desire led me to join the association and later the association board already in 2008. In May 2022, I decided to hand over this office to Lisa Ulbricht after ten years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the exciting, educational and intensive time. Thank you for all the great moments, the lively discussions, the courage to grow beyond ourselves and try out new things, the trust in us as board members and also for the tireless commitment of everyone involved.

Looking at the development of the memorial and the sponsoring association, I can say after fourteen years of association work that change is possible. Thanks to the above-average commitment of all the people involved, the memorial is now a permanent institution in Leipzig's remembrance landscape. These people and their commitment are more important today than ever before: people who ceaselessly stand up to admonish injustice and enforce human rights, who are committed across personal boundaries to counter the shift to the right in society, and who, in remembrance of past injustice, repeatedly take a stand and put their finger on the wound for as long as it will be necessary.

Therefore, this is my wish:  
Stay critical and committed!

Enjoy your read,  
Nadine Lorenz for the Board

# News from the Leipzig Nazi Forced Labor Memorial

(all pictures GfZL)



↗ On December 12, 2001, the first memorial in Germany dedicated to the topic of Nazi forced labor was opened on the former site of the armaments company HASAG, now the Leipzig Science Park. The memorial was inaugurated in the presence of several former forced laborers as well as Charlotte Zeitschel (1926–2011), then chairwoman of the association, Wolfgang Tiefensee, Lord Mayor of Leipzig, and numerous supporters. We would like to sincerely thank all those who have accompanied us, supported us and enriched us with their personal commitment during these **20 years!**

↗ **A new short film introducing the topic of Nazi forced labor:** Commissioned by the Leipzig Nazi Forced Labor Memorial (GfZL), a five-minute animated film has been produced that provides an introduction to the topic of Nazi forced labor: The animation can be used to prepare a visit to the memorial and is particularly suitable for use in school lessons.

↗ On January 27, 2022, the Leipzig Nazi Forced Labor Memorial presented to the Lord Mayor of the City of Leipzig, Burkhard Jung, a statement on the former concentration camp subcamp "HASAG Leipzig" in Kamenzer Strasse. There is the only remaining former concentration camp building in Leipzig today, which has been privately owned since 2007 and since then has repeatedly attracted attention due to neo-Nazi activities. The use of a former concentration camp site by neo-Nazis is a scandal and trivializes the suffering of the prisoners formerly im-



sioned there. This situation is unworthy and unacceptable. With this statement, the memorial calls on the city of Leipzig to act. More than 1,500 people subsequently signed the declaration.

As part of its educational work, the GfZL invites schools and other educational institutions to jointly search for **traces of Nazi forced labor** in various parts of Leipzig. In 2022, we were particularly pleased about the successful cooperation with the Lene-Voigt-Oberschule and the "Lernkurve Leipzig".



The war in Ukraine has left many people there in great need, including survivors of Nazi persecution. Now more than ever, they need our help to provide them with vital necessities such as warmth, food and medical care. For this purpose, an **aid network for survivors of Nazi persecution in Ukraine** was founded in **March 2022**, consisting of around 30 initiatives, foundations, memorial sites and memorials in Germany. Since then, more than 500 survivors and 200 relatives and colleagues have been supported with financial aid. Help the survivors of Nazi persecution in Ukraine with your donation!

→ hilfsnetzwerk-nsverfolgte.de

In spring, new episodes of our podcast "**Memorial Meets Science**" were released. Among other things, they dealt with a HASAG building in Taucha, the Penig place of remembrance and memorial walks in Saxon Switzerland.



↗ April 18 marked the 77th anniversary of the "Abtnaundorf Massacre" and the end of the war in Leipzig. On this occasion, we remembered the victims of Nazi forced labor and the last crime of National Socialist tyranny in Leipzig.

With the beginning of spring, our **neighborhood tours and bicycle tours on the traces of Nazi forced labor in Leipzig** started again. From April to October, more than 30 tours took place in seven Leipzig districts!

↘ In March, a tour of former sites of Nazi forced labor in Alt-Paunsdorf took place for the first time in **cooperation with the Neighborhood Management Paunsdorf**. Together with a large group of interested people, we visited former camp sites, including forced labor camps of the company Christian Mansfeld GmbH. The company was headquartered at Riesaer Straße 64 and produced grenades and bullets for the Wehrmacht as well as parts for aircraft engines in addition to tooling and printing machines during World War II. The company used about 1,300 forced laborers for this purpose.

We have revised our **digital map** and added some new features! In the past semesters, students at the University of Leipzig developed 360° tours of former forced labor sites in the Leipzig area in an intense process of dealing with the topic of Nazi forced labor. At the same time, learning materials were created for use in the classroom and in extracurricular educational work. These tours and working materials can be accessed via our digital map:  
→ zwangsarbeit-in-leipzig.de/karte



↗ Under the title "**(Un)sichtbare(s) sichtbar machen**" (**Making the invisible visible**), we presented the 360° tours developed by students to the public in May 2022 together with our cooperation partner Anja Neubert, lecturer for special tasks at the History Department of the University of Leipzig. More than 80 teachers, trainees, historical-political educators and students took part in the event in the cube of the Environmental Research Center, which was opened by Leipzig's Mayor of Culture Dr. Skadi Jennicke and Leipzig University Professor Dr. Kenkmann.

Our project "On the traces of Nazi forced labor" was awarded with the 1st place! In October, Anja Neubert, lecturer for special tasks at the at the Department of History at the University of Leipzig, for the exercise "Virtual Reality Lab - 360° Tours of Nazi Forced Labor in Leipzig", received the **award for outstanding digital teaching** in Saxon teacher education of the Saxon joint project PraxisdigitaliS!

↗ In the first half of the year, we were able to provide the building of the memorial with the **lettering** Gedenkstätte für Zwangsarbeit Leipzig (Leipzig Nazi Forced Labour Memorial) on the facade facing the street and the grounds of the Leipzig Science Park. The aim is to increase the visibility of the memorial and to draw the attention of passers-by. In May, new window stickers were added to the building. In this way, initial information can be conveyed to interested parties even before they enter the grounds, regardless of the memorial's opening hours. Recently, five information boards on Nazi forced labor at the Leipzig armaments factory HASAG have been installed on the grounds to provide information and encourage visitors to the memorial.





↳ In May, we organized an educational **trip to the Ravensbrück Memorial together with the feminist library MONALiesA from Leipzig**. On the first day, we received a guided tour of the former camp grounds lasting several hours and visited the permanent exhibition. A special focus of the educational trip was on the topic of female perpetrators. We deepened this by visiting the exhibition “*Im Gefolge der SS* – Aufseherinnen des Frauen-Konzentrationslagers Ravensbrück”, which was newly opened in 2020. On the second day, we were able to walk the grounds of the former Uckermark Youth Concentration Camp for girls and young women. Two activists from the network, which has been working for many years to commemorate the historical site and remember the victims and survivors of the camp, accompanied us.



↳ There is a **new district tour on the traces of Nazi forced labor in Leipzig – in Schönefeld!** After intensive research by a volunteer at the memorial, the tour was held publicly for the first time in June. In particular, it presents the use of forced labor at the Deutsche Reichspost and the armaments company Tromka Apparatebau GmbH. The tour also highlights the visibility of Nazi forced labor in the neighborhood: in the middle of an allotment garden association, there was a barracks camp for more than 400 forced laborers starting in 1942.



This year we received more than 70 **inquiries from family members about former forced laborers.**

We arrange for archival research, gather information, provide information and send them documents. In some cases we receive scans of diaries, later memoirs or photographs from the families. In this way, our knowledge about Nazi forced labor in the Leipzig area grows, and so does our digital map!

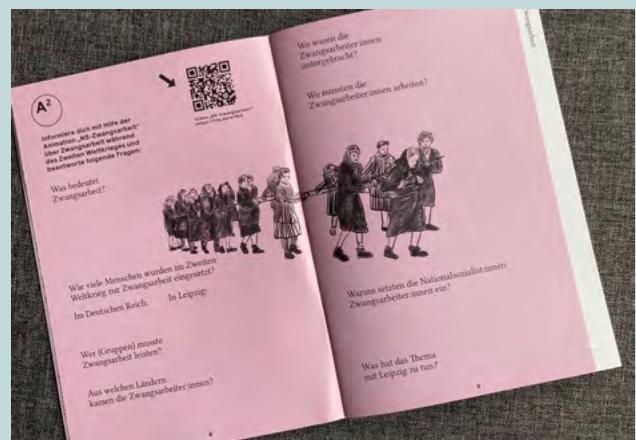
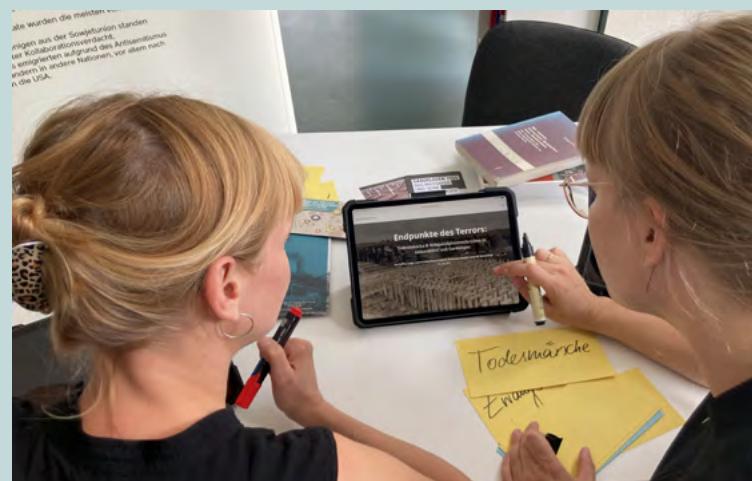
↗ On July 12, together with the City of Leipzig and about 130 interested people, we inaugurated a **memorial stele at the site of the former concentration camp "HASAG Leipzig".** With speeches by Lord Mayor Burkhard Jung, the director of the Buchenwald and Mittelbau-Dora Memorials Foundation Jens-Christian Wagner and memorial staff member Anja Kruse, as well as artistic accompaniment by the Theater der Jungen Welt, it was a very dignified and successful event. We were especially pleased that Harry Frey from Israel spontaneously took the microphone. He told the audience about the persecution of his aunt Lola Better, who was imprisoned in the concentration camp "HASAG Leipzig".



↗ In July we met **Harry Frey** from Israel. His aunt Lola Better was imprisoned as a Polish Jew in the concentration camp "HASAG Leipzig". Now 95 years old, she was the only member of her family to survive the Krakow Ghetto and the camps. Today she lives in Australia.

↗ In 2022 we cooperated with the University of Applied Sciences Merseburg and the memorial Feldscheune Isenschnibbe Gardelegen in the context of the seminar "**Crime scenes | Memorials. Mediation possibilities in memorial work**". Students dealt with visual aspects of commemoration and remembrance work and took part in excursions to both memorials. Afterwards, they developed interactive websites for students and young people in small groups with the help of digital storytelling. The websites enable users to discover former forced labor sites in Leipzig, the historical site of the Gardelegen massacre, and biographies of former forced laborers. We will use the websites in our educational work in the future.

↗ As part of our project "**On the Traces of Nazi Forced Labor**," we have produced a booklet that invites school and youth groups to independently search for clues. The booklet contains instructions and many practical tips on how young people can approach former sites of Nazi forced labor in Leipzig and the region and learn about their history. In addition, it offers suggestions for exploring the former camp and work sites on site and for creative engagement with these places and their history.

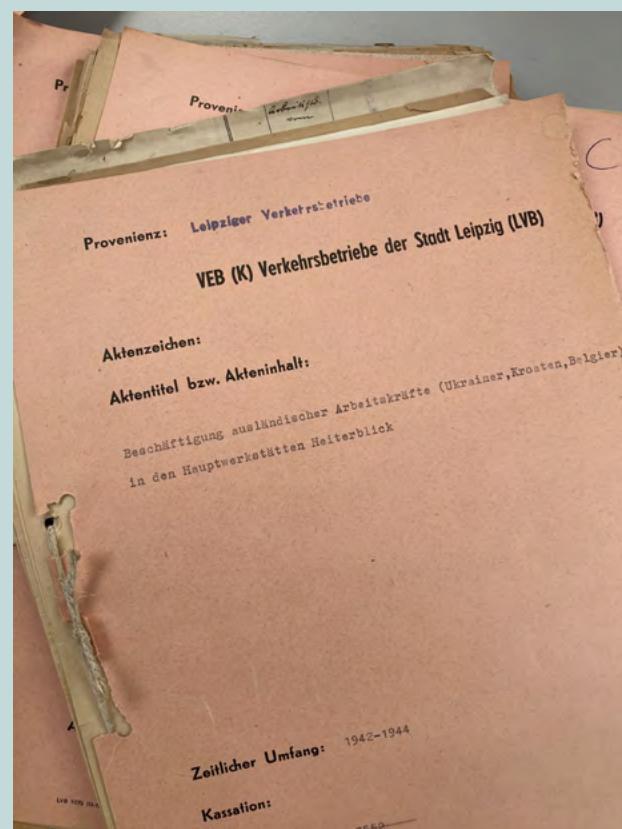




Since October, the memorial is now also open on weekends: **every Saturday between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.**, visitors have the opportunity to view the exhibition and learn about the use of Nazi forced labor in the Leipzig area.

» This year saw the publication of the first volume in the series of publications by the Leipzig Nazi Forced Labor Memorial, edited by Anne Friebel and Josephine Ulbricht. It is entitled **Forced Labor at the HASAG Armaments Company. The Leipzig plant site under National Socialism and its aftermath** and is dedicated to the main HASAG plant, where more than 10,000 civilian forced laborers, prisoners of war and concentration camp inmates were forced to work.

- » In the summer, we undertook **extensive research in the archives of the Leipziger Verkehrsbetriebe**. Forced laborers were employed at the LVB in various functions – as conductors, car washers or in the streetcar workshops. The newly gained knowledge is now being evaluated and fed into our digital map.



On November 19, 2022, the networking workshop **“Recording Sites of Nazi Forced Labor in Saxony”** took place. The memorial, together with the Foundation of Saxon Memorials, the Saxon State Working Group on Dealing with National Socialism (sLAG) and the Saxon State Offices for the Preservation of Monuments and for Archaeology, invited participants to this event. The networking workshop made it possible to bring civil society actors from the field of remembrance and commemoration culture into conversation with memorial staff and representatives of the specialized authorities. Together, we explored the question of how sites of Nazi forced labor can be recorded and what future cooperation with the specialized authorities might look like. In addition to keynote speeches and workshops, various projects were presented.



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