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Lw. 2/XI
MUNA Lübberstedt
Forced labor for the war



Working group Muna Lübberstedt e.V.

The origin

In 1988, Axstedt student Henning Bollinger, under the guidance of his teacher Volrad Kluge, wrote an essay for the student competition of the State Center for Political Education in the context of the commemoration of 50 years since the beginning of the war. This work was supported by a church group, which in 1992 developed into a working group and on 27 January 1996 expanded to the registered association. Already in 1995, the intensive research by the working group led to the publication of the book »Lw. 2 / XI - Muna Lübberstedt Forced Labor for the War«. This unique reference work on the history »on your doorstep« is currently out of print, but can be borrowed from various libraries (see Homepage »Literature«). The association organises monthly guided tours through the otherwise closed MUNA. Dates and information on the tours are updated daily and can be found on the homepage www.muna-luebberstedt.de.

About MUNA

The code name Lw.2 / XI stands for Lufthauptmunitionsanstalt 2 / XI Lübberstedt. The Roman numeral XI stands for the Luftgaukommando XI, based in Hanover, later in Hamburg. The largest part of today's Lower Saxony belonged at that time to Gau. At the beginning of the war, from 1 September 1939, 8 main air ammunition institutions worked throughout the German Reich. In 1938/1939 the construction of Muna commenced and its commission completed in the fall of 1941. The core area of Muna was 415 ha (equivalent of 580 football fields). In addition to 30 km of roads and 8.5 km of railway tracks, there were a total of 22 buildings for the storing and processing of ammunition. The northern 8 administrative buildings were clearly separated from the production facilities in southern forest. In the western area of Muna were 109 bunkers, which were partially blown up by the end of the war. Furthermore, Muna had warehouses, workshops, a fire department, a gas station, wells, dog kennels and a power station.

The people of MUNA

Initially, building employees and Reich Labour Service (RAD) did the construction work for Muna. Later, foreign workers arrived from all over Europe and were recruited for the construction. However, as the War progressed, more and more prisoners (also known as »Eastern workers«) came to Muna, many civilian employees took over the administration in Muna, as well as the kitchen or supervisors in production. At times there were more than 1,000 people employed in Muna Lübberstedt.

Concentration camp prisoners from Hungary – via Auschwitz to Lübberstedt

At the end of August 1944, 500 Hungarian female Jews were deported by cattle wagons from Auschwitz to Lübberstedt. The transports took place under guard of the SS and the Hungarian Jews were housed in the former "Eastern workers" Camp Ohlenstedt-Bilohe, which was located directly at the south gate of Muna. The inmates were led daily by SS guards for forced labor into Muna. At the end of the war, the concentration camp prisoners were crammed into wagons and transported across northern Germany, to be ultimately taken to »Cap Arcona«. Due to 2 British dive bombing attacks, the train was heavily hit and only about 320 women survived the transport. After their release, some survivors returned to their homeland but many lost their entire family in concentration camps and emigrated to Israel, England, USA and Australia. Even today the working group of Muna maintain active contact with survivors and their families.

End of the war in Lübberstedt and use after the war

After the war, Muna was under the command of the British and later the American occupation troops. Back then, parts of the Muna buildings were used as a Red Cross children's home and GDR expatriates home. On 2 May 1956, the Americans officially handed over Muna to the newly established armed forces (Bundeswehr), which used the area as an ammunition depot. Some bunkers were also used by the US and Dutch forces in NATO. After careful consideration by the armed forces at the beginning of 2010, the Federal Government for Real Estate took over the ownership of Muna. Declaring it a natural site; bearing a special responsibility for its diverse landscapes with its animal and plant species with the non-profit natural heritage subsidiary of the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU). Future plans propose these areas accessible to people as a resort. The outlying barracks have been converted into private apartments.

Memorial on the Lübberstedter Cemetery

On the Lübberstedter Cemetery is a memorial stone with the names of 12 forced laborers and their children, who died in Muna Lübberstedt. They should not be forgotten!

School projects for remembrance work

The working group of Muna Lübberstedt and other groups have supported political, historical and cultural heritage architecture (Monument Construction Summer 2019) within schools such as BBS Osterholz-Scharmbeck, KGS Hambergen and IGS Lilienthal. Further school contacts are encouraged and most welcome. Please contact us.