

## Discovering History – Meeting People

### Gestapokeller and Augustaschacht Memorials – Learning Collaboratively

■ 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 talks, readings, conversations with surviving witnesses, trips to memorials, films, theatre performances and concerts are organised in cooperation with the Osnabrück Community College and the Museum for Cultural History / Felix-Nussbaum-House. For further information see > Memorial website.

■ 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 = Correctional Labour Camp) and other exhibition topics are available at the Memorial Sites.



Cell in the Gestapokeller memorial.

### Gestapokeller Memorial – Experiencing History

■ The west wing of the Osnabrück Palace was the seat of the Osnabrück Gestapo and housed its on-site prison.

■ One of the cells at Gestapo Osnabrück was preserved to a large extent in the original condition with door and barred window.

■ In 1995, a commemorative plaque on the wall of the inner yard of the west wing of the Osnabrück Palace was dedicated to the victims of the Gestapo Osnabrück.

■ The exhibition “Frauen im Räderwerk der Gestapo” (women in the mesh of the Gestapo) curated by Dr. Volker Issmer documents the persecution of women through Gestapo index cards.

■ The participation of Osnabrück police in the terror against political and ideological opponents of the Nazi Regime as well as in the occupied territories during World War II is illustrated on additional regional information boards for the travelling exhibition Ordnung und Vernichtung – Die Polizei im NS-Staat (order and extermination – the police in the Nazi State).



### Augustaschacht Memorial – Walking on History

■ 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.

■ The extension of the camp, former camp dormitories and the remaining camp stairs can be accessed during opening hours. The attic can be visited on a guided tour.

■ The former roll call grounds, the paving of the camp entrance, a bunker and the foundation walls of the latrine are accessible at any time.

■ The excavated foundation walls of the neighbouring building, where families lived while the camp was in operation, and the adjacent stable can be visited.

■ Another building, which was built in 1950, for bombed out, escaped or displaced Germans in the post-war era, is accessible on the former roll call grounds.

■ A 1998 memorial by Osnabrück artist Volker Johannes Trieb commemorates the victims of the AEL Ohrbeck and the two nearby forced labour camps.

■ Boards with poems by Truus Menger, sculptor and former member of the Dutch resistance, and an installation of charred tree trunks by Volker Johannes Trieb remind us of the victims of the AEL Ohrbeck and the time of German occupation of the Netherlands.

■ The triptych “...dann steigt ihr als Rauch in die Luft, da habt ihr ein Grab in den Wolken” (you’ll rise then as smoke to the sky you’ll have a grave then in the clouds) by the artist Friedrich Stork approaches Auschwitz and the extermination of Jews in Europe with artistic means.



Workcamp at the Augustaschacht Memorial



Exhibition at the Augustaschacht Memorial

### Augustaschacht Memorial – Exploring independently

■ Comprehensive information about the history of AEL Ohrbeck and forced labour in the Osnabrück region can be found in the exhibition “... ich habe oft gedacht, ich schaff’ es nicht – Fremdarbeit von Papenburg bis Melle” (I often thought I would not make it – Foreigners labourers in the region between Papenburg and Melle). A large map points out the approximately 600 currently known labour locations.

■ The exhibition “[Bau]Phasen” (building phases) offers an insight into the surprising results of a project retracing the history and shape of the Augustaschacht building which was built in 1876 and originally used as a machine hall. Before the Gestapo took over, the Wehrmacht (German army) used it as a camp for French prisoners of war. And in between it served as a camp for East European female forced labourers.

■ Changing exhibitions convey hitherto unknown historical knowledge or serve as a platform for new artistic approaches to the history of the crimes of the Nazi regime and their aftermath. For news see > website of the memorial sites.

■ Outdoor information boards provide information about the history of the AEL Ohrbeck (ArbeitsErziehungslagers = Correctional Labour Camp) and forced labour camps in the area.



## Police Force and Forced Labour



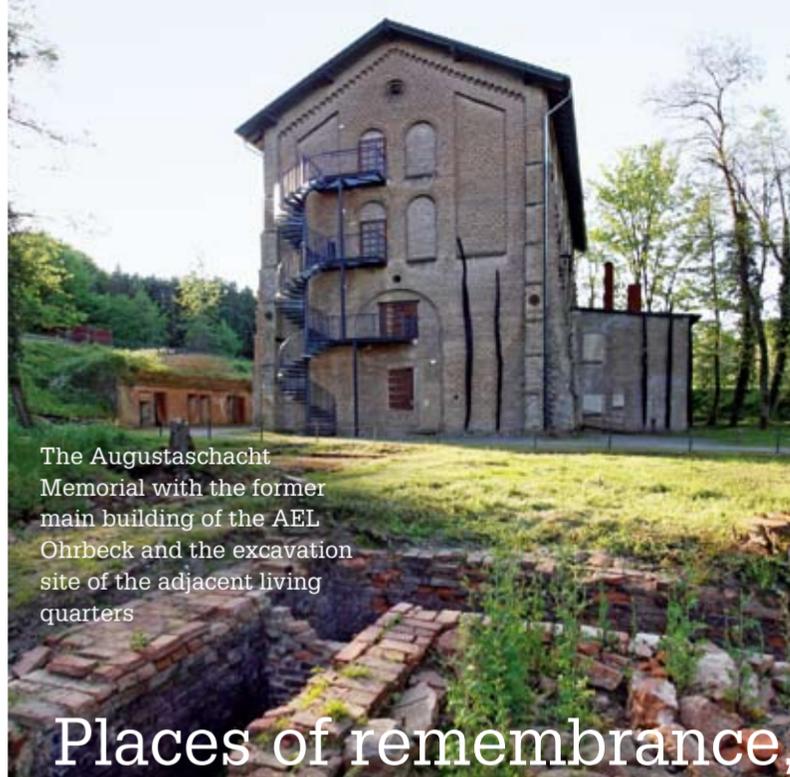
Exhibition at the Gestapokeller Memorial

## Linking the past and the future

### A Unique Ensemble

■ The region Osnabrück has two memorial sites which due to their historical link to National Socialism and their well preserved building stock form a unique ensemble: the Gestapokeller Memorial in the cells of the former secret state police (Geheime Staatspolizei = Gestapo) in the centre of Osnabrück and the Augustaschacht Memorial in the former buildings of the AEL Ohrbeck (ArbeitsErziehungsLager = Correctional Labour Camp) in Hasbergen – the two are separated by only nine kilometres. The AEL Ohrbeck was under the control of the Osnabrück Gestapo.

■ The two memorial sites serve as a reminder of surveillance, terror and the use of brutality by the Gestapo in a region bordering on the Netherlands. They aim at giving the victims a face and a voice and at making the perpetrators visible. Exhibitions and a range of educational opportunities enable visitors to explore the sites independently or to collaborate in learning. You can visit only one of the sites or both in any order.



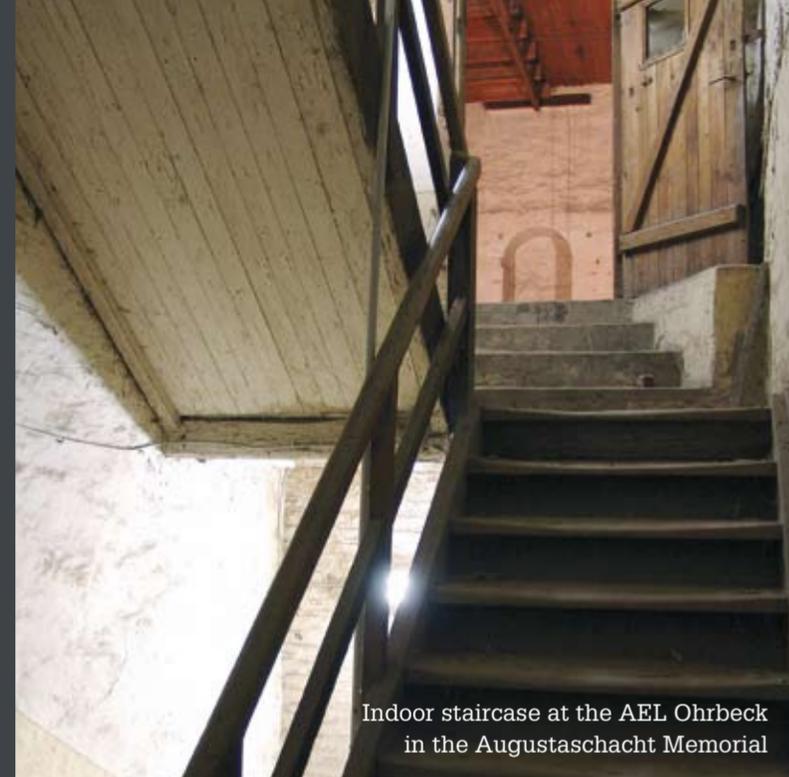
The Augustaschacht Memorial with the former main building of the AEL Ohrbeck and the excavation site of the adjacent living quarters

## Places of remembrance, research and education

### AEL Ohrbeck

■ In January 1944, the Gestapo Osnabrück set up the AEL Ohrbeck (ArbeitsErziehungsLager = Correctional Labour Camp). A total of more of 2,000 adolescents and men were incarcerated there until April 1945. They came from 17 different countries, notably from the Netherlands, the Soviet Union, Italy and Poland. More than 100 of them, mostly Dutch, did not survive the inhumane detention.

■ The prisoners had to work in the nearby Klöckner-Steel-works Georgsmarienhütte or in the town of Osnabrück. Most detainees were forced labourers who had tried to escape or whose work had been criticised. Their punishment served to intimidate the more than 25,000 women, men and children from many European countries who were forced to work in the Osnabrück region. The Gestapo also detained Jewish persecutees, union members, social democrats, communists and probably also Jehovah's witnesses.



Indoor staircase at the AEL Ohrbeck in the Augustaschacht Memorial



Gedenkstätte  
Gestapokeller

### Gedenkstätte Gestapokeller

Schloss Osnabrück / Neuer Graben 29  
49 074 Osnabrück  
Germany

**Opening hours**  
Sunday 2–5 pm



Gedenkstätte  
Augustaschacht

### Gedenkstätte Augustaschacht

Zur Hügelschlucht 4  
49 205 Hasbergen-Ohrbeck  
Germany

**Opening hours**  
Monday–Friday 2–5 pm  
Sunday 11 am–5 pm (Feb–Oct)  
Sunday 1–4 pm (Nov–Jan)

Closed on Good Friday, Ascension Day, May 1, Christmas through New Year

**Admission** Admission is free at both locations

**Accessibility** The Augustaschacht Memorial is freely accessible except for the third floor. The Gestapokeller Memorial is only accessible by a staircase.

Upon request, guided tours and individual educational projects can be arranged and are not subject to opening hours.

### Contact and information / Office

Gedenkstätten Gestapokeller und Augustaschacht e.V.  
Zur Hügelschlucht 4 49 205 Hasbergen-Ohrbeck Germany  
Telephone +49 (0) 54 05/8 95 92 70 info@augustaschacht.de  
www.gedenkstaetten-augustaschacht-osnabrueck.de

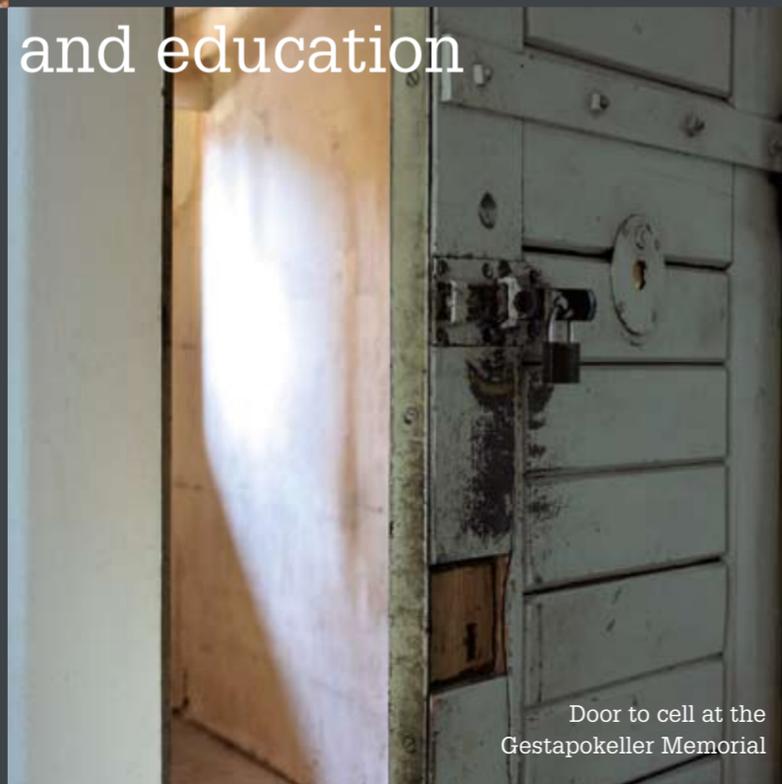


Entrance to the memorial site Gestapokeller at the Osnabrück Palace

### Gestapo Osnabrück

■ The Secret State Police took its seat at the Osnabrück Palace in April 1938. They organised the surveillance, persecution and deportation in the administrative district of Osnabrück. About 35,000 people were subject to or of victims of these Gestapo activities.

■ The Gestapo monitored the population, persecuted political opponents, deported Jews and, after the beginning of World War II, terrorised foreign forced labourers. They took them into custody, applying coercive interrogation techniques to obtain statements. From there, those who were not let go were transferred to other places of detention such as concentration camps, prisons, corrective labour camps or psychiatric units. Due to the proximity to the Dutch border, the Gestapo was increasingly busy with the persecution of escaped Dutch forced labourers who were sent to the AEL Ohrbeck.



Door to cell at the Gestapokeller Memorial

### 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.

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