



Historic Gatehouse

Brief Overview

The Fuhlsbüttel Concentration Camp and Penal Facility 1933-1945 Memorial is housed in the historic gatehouse of the Fuhlsbüttel prison. During the National Socialist period, the Hamburg Police used the buildings as a concentration camp and police prison. Prisoners perceived this entrance as "a gate to hell."

Tens of thousands of people who opposed the National Socialist regime or were persecuted for other reasons were imprisoned and tortured in the camp and prison, also known as "Kola-Fu" until the end of April 1945.

Convicts from the regular penal system, who were also persecuted during the Nazi regime, were imprisoned in the prison as well as a house of correction. For several months, part of the building was used as a satellite camp of the Neuengamme concentration camp.

Since 1987, a memorial has been located in the gatehouse. Its exhibition explores the history of the Fuhlsbüttel concentration camp, the police prison and the satellite camp of the Neuengamme concentration camp. Various reasons for resistance and persecution, life stories of prisoners, the site's post-war history and the treatment of perpetrators are presented using individual examples.

THE FUHLBÜTTEL CONCENTRATION CAMP AND PENAL FACILITY 1933-1945 MEMORIAL

Imprint
Opening hours
Contact

THE FUHLBÜTTEL
CONCENTRATION CAMP
AND PENAL FACILITY
1933-1945 MEMORIAL

Suhrenkamp 98
22335 Hamburg
(Ohlsdorf station, S1/U1)

A Branch of the Neuengamme
Concentration Camp Memorial

OPENING HOURS:
Sunday 10:00 – 17:00
or by appointment.
Admission is free

Book a group tour:
Museumsdienst Hamburg
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On Sundays you can take part in tours offered by the members of the Union of Victims of the Nazi Regime – Association of Antifascists (VVN) from Hamburg and the Work group of social democrats who were persecuted and imprisoned at the time.

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BRANCH OF THE NEUENGAMME
CONCENTRATION CAMP MEMORIAL

THE FUHLBÜTTEL CONCENTRATION CAMP AND PENAL FACILITY 1933-1945 MEMORIAL



Exhibition

The *Fuhlsbüttel Concentration Camp and Penal Facility 1933-1945 Memorial* was established in the historic gatehouse of the Fuhlsbüttel prison in 1987. A commemorative plaque placed at the entrance contains the names of all the victims of the Nazi regime who did not survive their imprisonment. The exhibition occupies two floors and explores the history of the concentration camp and the individual stories of its prisoners.

The exhibition deals primarily with the stories of people who were imprisoned in the penal facilities, the concentration camp or the police prison. Panels display information on various prisoner groups, their daily lives and the guards. Additional information can be found in folders which contain archive material, such as biographies and testimonies of prisoners and guards, as well as reconstructed documents. The exhibition also houses a small library.

On the ground floor, visitors can see a reconstructed prison cell and listen to recorded testimonies of former prisoners describing their daily lives.

View of an exhibition showcase



Background

A few weeks after National Socialists rose to power, the Hamburg police established a concentration camp for opponents of the regime in the Fuhlsbüttel prison compound. On September 4, 1933, the concentration camp was officially handed over to the brutal and ruthless members of the SS and SA. The Fuhlsbüttel concentration camp, today commonly known as *Kola-Fu*, quickly became synonymous with horror, suffering and death. From August 1934, women were also imprisoned in a separate wing.

Although the Fuhlsbüttel camp was turned into a police prison from 1936 onwards, the inhumane conditions remained the same. Almost all arrested members of the resistance in Hamburg were imprisoned in *Kola-Fu*. The same is true of Jehova's Witnesses, homosexuals, Jews, the Swing Youth, as well as people labeled and persecuted as "anti-social" or "folk pests". With the onset of the war, numerous foreign resistance fighters and forced workers were imprisoned, and the prisoner demographics changed significantly. By the time the camp was liberated in May 1945, 250 men and women had lost their lives – murdered, driven to suicide or found dead as a result of abuse. There were also many prisoners who were transferred to other concentration camps.

In addition to the police prison, the compound contained a house of correction and another prison. Apart from the lack of sleep and starvation, prisoners' daily routine involved forced labor which was often accompanied with more abuse.

From October 1944 until February 1945, the SS used a part of the house of correction as a satellite camp of the Neuengamme concentration camp. More than 250 concentration camp prisoners from twelve countries died as a result of inhumane treatment in this satellite camp also.



View of the exhibition

Biographies

The exhibition focuses primarily on prisoners' biographies. Fritz Solmitz, a Jewish antifascist and editor of the socialist newspaper, *Lübecker Volksbote*, was one of them.

In September 1933, he was tortured by the Fuhlsbüttel guards on a daily basis. He secretly kept a diary on cigarette papers and hid the notes in his pocket watch. They survived as unique evidence of the guards' cruelty and are on exhibition in the memorial. Fritz Solmitz's notes end shortly before September 19, 1933 – the day of his violent death.

"I can hear flogging and screams every day. How long will it take till it's my turn again?"

From Fritz Solmitz's notes, September 16, 1933