Helmstedt-Beendorf (Satellite Camp for Men and Women)

In 1944/45, two satellite camps of Neuengamme concentration camp were set up in Beendorf near Helmstedt. Men and women were housed on two different floors of the same building. The prisoners were used in transferring arms production important to the German war effort underground. On 17 March 1944, 750 men started converting two salt mines into underground production facilities, and from August 1944, up to 2,500 women worked there for the Askania-Werke and the Luftgerätewerke Hakenfelde (part of the Siemens group).

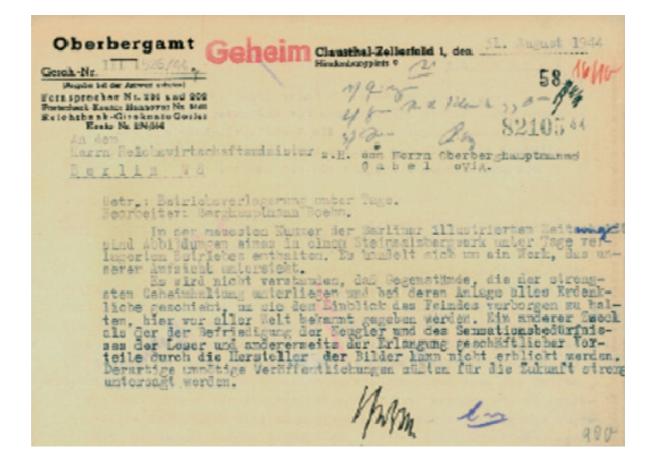


Beendorf Tunnel on 31 August 1944

The "Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung" published a report about "Underground Armaments Production". This photograph illustrated the report. It shows technical equipment for armaments production in one of the tunnels in Beendorf which had been fortified by concentration camp prisoners from Beendorf.

Foto: unbekannt. (BA (Koblenz))

Notification from 31 August 1944, Salt Crystal



The illustrated report in the "Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung" caused some annoyance at the Ministry of Armament and at the Mining Main Office. It was feared that the unprotected entrances to the tunnels might be bombed. The salt crystal was given to the Neuengamme memorial in 2003. (BA (Koblenz))

Work Card

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Cards like this one were used at Helmstedt-Beendorf satellite camp for women to register prisoners. The original is in the possession of the Beendorf satellite camp initiative.