

Weaving and Knotting Commando



Drawing by Hans Peter Sørensen. This is the 17th drawing from his Neuengamme portfolio published in 1948. Print based on a pencil drawing. Hans Peter Sørensen added the following comments: *"Some of the brick blocks had large cellars, which were used as air raid shelters for all prisoners during air-raid alerts. But they were also used as work rooms for hundreds of emaciated and sick prisoners, whose last remaining strength was used up weaving and knotting camouflage nets and similar items."*

Translation. Hans Peter Sørensen, a former prisoner from Denmark, was imprisoned in Neuengamme from October 1944.

Two Photographs: Weaving and Knotting Commando



The knotting commando was one of the largest work details at DAW. Josef Schmitt, camp photographer at Neuengamme, who took these photographs in June 1944, wrote: *"As can be seen on this photograph, around 1,000 people were crammed into the hut every day. Most of the work had to be carried out sitting down. There wasn't a single corner of the place which was free from dirt and dust, and the air was stifling to boot. The people [...] [were sitting] very close to each other and received regular beatings from the Kabos [Kapos]."* (TNA (PRO))