

## **Soviet POWs in the "POW Work Camp"**

The German Wehrmacht attacked the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941. By the end of the same year, the Wehrmacht had captured around three million Soviet soldiers. In the POW camps, Jewish soldiers and Communist Party officials were singled out and murdered. During the winter of 1941/42, around two million Soviet POWs died of hunger, cold, disease and the inhuman treatment they were subjected to.

In October 1941, the Wehrmacht handed over 10,000 Soviet POWs to the SS, 1,000 of whom were later transferred to Neuengamme from Wietzendorf POW camp. At Neuengamme, they were crammed into a detached section of the camp known as the "POW work camp". Within the space of eight months, 652 of these Soviet POWs had died. The survivors were transferred to Sachsenhausen concentration camp in June 1942. Their fate is unknown.