The Transports

On the transports to the camps, the prisoners were penned up in goods wagons, sometimes for days, with no privacy and nowhere to sleep. They even had to relieve themselves in front of others. In the summer heat or winter cold, the conditions inside the wagons were especially unbearable. There was no water, sometimes even no food. These conditions resulted in disease, injuries and deaths. Prisoners who tried to escape were shot. Smaller groups or single prisoners were transported in police vehicles and sometimes also in the passenger carriages of trains. The transports arrived at the railway stations in Bergedorf or Curslack, and the prisoners were marched from there to the camp. From winter 1943/44, a connecting railway line led to Neuengamme camp, enabling the trains to run all the way into the camp.