

KZ-Gedenkstätte  
**Neuengamme**

Ausstellungen  
Begegnungen  
Studienzentrum

## The Satellite Camp System

The preparation for a visit  
to the Neuengamme  
Concentration Camp Memorial

Tens of thousands of men from all over Europe – more than half of the prisoners of the Neuengamme concentration camp – were used as slave labourers in more than 85 satellite camps of the Neuengamme concentration camp during the second half of the war. Numerous satellite camps emerged in the vicinity of companies or building sites and were located all over north-west Germany.



Read the report by a former prisoner of a satellite camp to find out what the working and living conditions were like at this camp.

Do a research on the Neuengamme satellite camps and find out about what the prisoners had to do there.

Choose one satellite camp and look more closely into it. Compare your results with the results of the others.

Think about what the purpose of the satellite camps in the Nazi regime was.

A former French prisoner Henri Kerné made a report on his work at the Bremen-Farge satellite camp:

*"I came from Neuengamme to Farge on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1944. The work consisted of unloading cement bags from a barge (boat), transporting iron bars and steel pipes [...] while being at the same time constantly beaten with sticks, kicked and punched."*

*"We had to work for 12 or 14 hours a day, including Sunday mornings. Sunday afternoons, however, were not meant for relaxation, because there were searches, controls and roll calls. Every day we got up at 3, a roll call was at 4 and then a line-up, always the same, regardless of the weather (rain, wind, heat and above all the cold in the winter) and then marching off to the submarine construction site, where we had to start working at 6 o'clock. Sometimes we would go through the village and the children would throw stones at us and the women would spit on us."*

Henri Kerné, report No. 459, undated, (Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, Archives)