

Forced labour in the National Socialist state: Further information and references

I. Introductory remarks

The history of forced labour in the National Socialist state is not solely restricted to the “German Reich” in its spatial reflection but likewise affects all territories occupied by the Germans and their Allies during Second World War. Thus, it reached an international European dimension. It is the history of forced migrations of a formerly unprecedented extent under inhuman and brutal conditions. It is a history of misdoings which were committed in broad daylight to foreign forced labourers by those in charge. This was not only facilitated by the National Socialist ideology – in fact the existing pattern of prejudices amongst Germans against foreigners and ethnic groups allowed the system of forced labour to flourish without being questioned in the slightest. Forced labour was a permanently publicly committed injustice, however, it was not considered to be wrong among large parts of the population.

About 10,000 individual people of different groups came together at the construction site of Bunker Valentin against their free will. Seven different camps for forced labourers existed in the nearby surroundings from the late 1930s to 1945. This is why the Bunker construction site can be seen as a microcosm of the complexity of forced labour, violence, racist distinctions and different treatments of people.

Under *II. Definitions, Figures, Responsibilities* there is information provided about the different categories of forced labourers, being oppressed by different power structures in the National Socialist State, and imprisoned in different camps.

II. Definitions, Figures, Responsibilities¹

a) Forced labourers

In the course of the scientific debate in recent years it has been shown that a classification of forced labourers into the following groups is appropriate (see for the following: Spoerer: *Zwangsarbeit*, p. 9 ff., 223):

¹ The following explanatory overview texts under chapter *II. Definitions, Figures, Responsibilities* are taken from: <https://www.bundesarchiv.de/zwangsarbeit/geschichte/auslaendisch/begriffe/index.html.en>; <https://www.bundesarchiv.de/zwangsarbeit/haftstaetten/index.php.en?tab=2>. Please note: Some terms/ text parts in this file are slightly modified (format/ phrasing) corresponding to the other material provided.

1. **Foreign civil forced labourers:** They entered the German Reich either voluntarily or were forced to enter the German Reich or were deployed for work in their home country or in one of the countries that was occupied by the Germans. One of the groups which was particularly deprived of their rights, were the so-called "Ostarbeiter".
2. **Prisoners of war (POW):** After some initial hesitation these were intensely used for hard physical labour. Formally, they were subject to the protection of the Geneva Convention. Through the forced transfer of entire units into the civil status, they could for example also work in the defence industry.
3. **Prisoners:** The deployment of prisoners of concentration camps and "Arbeitserziehungslager" was of major importance for the territory of the Reich. In the occupied territories ghetto prisoners and prisoners held at special forced labour camps for Jews were added. They did not have any legal protection whatsoever.

Especially in group 1 there were huge differences in the living and working conditions, which were primarily based on the national origin of workers. If one largely excludes those belonging to the allied countries, who could leave Germany easily and without objection once their labour contracts had expired after a term of six or twelve months, the following characteristics of forced labour can be noted:

1. Indissolubility of the employment relationship in legal respect
2. Slim chances of taking significant influence on the working conditions in social respect
3. Increased fatality rate, which indicates heavy workloads combined with emotional and physical stress malnutrition and poor medical care

The imprisonment in a concentration camp meant forced labour under extreme conditions as a prisoner without any rights and without any hope of ever being released or even improving the situation. This form of forced labour, which affected all concentration camp prisoners, regardless of their background, had already been described as "slave labour" by the Nuremberg Military Tribunal and was highlighted as a serious crime of the National Socialist regime. The expression "slave labourer" in association with National Socialism today describes mainly prisoners of concentration camps and the like as a specific group of forced labourers.

Altogether, approximately 13.5 million foreign workers and prisoners of concentration camps and similar places of detention were deployed in the Greater German Reich during the Second World War. Taking into account their repeated change of status these were made up of 8.4 million civil workers, 4.6 million POWs and 1.7 million concentration camp prisoners and "working Jews". 80 to 90 % of them can be categorized as forced resp. slave labourers according to the above mentioned definition. Figures on the use of forced labourers outside the Greater German Reich have so far not been compiled yet.

Forced labourers were used in every sector of economic life: In the mining and defence industry, in agriculture and forestry, in the municipal services, administration, in trade, in private households and so on. Almost every big and small business employed at least one foreign worker. Employers were primarily companies in the private sector, state-run operations of the SS and the organisation Todt, local governments, farms, churches as well as families with many children. Their assignment was made by the employment offices. The deployment of civil foreign manpower was made on top level by the Commissioner of the Four-Year-Plan (Hermann Göring), the Employment Minister of the Reich (Franz Seldte), since 1942 in particular the General Representative for the Deployment of Labour (GBA) (Fritz Sauckel), furthermore the Minister for the Occupied Eastern Territories (Alfred Rosenberg) with the Commissioner for the "Ostland" (Hinrich Lohse) and Ukraine (Erich Koch) as well as the "Reichssicherheitshauptamt" (Reinhard Heydrich, Heinrich Himmler, Ernst Kaltenbrunner).

b) Forced Labour Camps and Forced Labour camps for Civilian Labourers

In addition to POWs and prisoners of concentration camps and other camps and prisons some 8.5 million foreign civilian labourers had to perform forced labour for the National Socialist state between 1939 and 1945. Until autumn 1941, so-called civilian labourers were mainly deployed in agriculture, and afterwards increasingly in the defence industry as well as in other industries important for the war, finally in almost all work areas ranging from single households up to large firms. The largest group of male and female civilian labourers came from the Soviet Union followed by persons from Poland and France. More than half of the civilian labourers from Poland and the Soviet Union used in forced labour were women; many of the abducted were still minors. According to the National Socialist racist ideology, the living and working conditions of foreign civilian labourers were tiered in conformity with a racist hierarchy: their accommodation ranged from basic accommodations in huts, which were primarily intended for Western European civilian labourers, to fenced in camps for Polish and Soviet forced labourers.

The background for the establishment of labour camps for civilian labourers was the demand for manpower of the defence industry and other sectors important for war during the Second World War. Since all men able to work had to serve as soldiers and the introduction of obligatory work for single women had failed, foreign workers were to be employed although this contradicted the National Socialist ideology completely, which says that the employment of foreign people in the territory of the Reich would be a danger for the racial purity of the German race. Due to the manpower requirements in the German Reich, the recruitment of foreign civilian labourers had already started before the war. After the war had begun, Germany was recruiting foreign manpower in the occupied territories on a much larger scale for their deployment in the "Reich", initially in Poland but soon they started recruiting people in the occupied Western European countries as well as in countries that allied with the German Reich.

While the employment of foreign civilian labourers was voluntary at first, the recruitment of Polish and Soviet people was within shortly with the use of force and violence on the grounds that the willingness of the population to go on a work assignment to Germany dropped rapidly after the bad working and living conditions of civilian labourers in the German Reich had become known. In spring 1940, people were literally hunted to be recruited for an assignment in Poland. While the German government as well as the German population had initially objected to the use of manpower from the Soviet Union, the failure of the "Blitzkrieg" in the USSR in 1942 led to a recruitment of forced labourers from the Soviet Union on a large scale, which was brutal and violent right from the start. In two and a half years more than 2.5 million people were abducted from the USSR to a work assignment in the "Reich". Civilian labourers were accommodated in camps which were spread across the whole territory of the "Reich" with just a few exceptions. Their number was estimated to be more than 20,000. Equally, there were also labour camps for civilian labourers outside the territory of the "Reich", actually everywhere where German forces occupied territories. Deportations of civilian workers and POWs was a common occurrence: in Norway male and female civilian labourers were used in construction work in addition to POWs and Yugoslavian partisans held prisoner, some came from Norway others from the occupied Eastern Europe.

The living conditions in the labour camps for civilian labourers were quite different. Apart from freedom of action of the camp management, the National Socialist racist ideology played a major role with respect to the quality of prison conditions: While the living and working conditions of European workers were less restrictive at least in the beginning, the camps for Eastern European forced labourers being classified as "aliens" had the character of a detention site right from the start. The camps for Eastern European forced labourers were fenced in and safeguarded; the inmates were marked with a badge ("P"

for Poland, "OST" for "Ostarbeiter", which was the identification of Soviet civilian workers. If the workers had to work harder, their nutrition was of poorer quality than that of Western European labourers. They were neither allowed to listen to the radio nor read the paper or have contact with the German civil population. Hard physical work, repressive measures, poor nutrition and lacking medical care as well as disastrous sanitary conditions led to undernourishment, exhaustion and to the death of forced labourers in the course of the war. Especially at the end of the war, the prison conditions in these camps were comparable to those in a concentration camp. In addition to Jewish forced labourers, those from the Soviet Union and Poland had the slimmest of chances to survive, as their "Vernutzung" as it was called in National Socialist jargon during a work assignment was not only put up with in a cold and calculated way but was actively promoted as "extermination through labour" in the sense of the National Socialist ideology by the Germans.

c) „Arbeitserziehungslager“ – “Corrective Labour Camps”

The camp type "Arbeitserziehungslager" was introduced in the Second World War and was solely in control of the Gestapo. The background of this development were local interests of the industry, the communities, labour administration and the Gestapo interested in disciplining the workforce as well as oppressing any workforce resistance. "Arbeitserziehungslager", the "concentration camps of the Gestapo" (Gabriele Lotfi) were used to imprison initially German labourers, then foreign mainly Eastern European civilian labourers at breach of employment contract or when opposing to the obligation of work for a limited period of time. In addition to protective and preventive detention, the imprisonment in an "Arbeitserziehungslager" can be considered as the third element of the National Socialist repression policy. The number of "Arbeitserziehungslager" was only eight in 1940; by the end of the war there were 200 camps within and outside of the territory of the Reich. Altogether approximately half a million people were held prisoner in an "Arbeitserziehungslager" between 1939 and 1945. Despite the high number of prisoners, the "Arbeitserziehungslager" had not been investigated until later. Apart from economical and communal involvement one of the reasons might be that the importance of "Arbeitserziehungslager" as a National Socialist means of repression had long been underestimated due to the usually limited period of imprisonment.

A more exact demarcation of possible reasons for a confinement in a "Arbeitserziehungslager" was not conducted in the decrees that laid down the principles of organisation of the detention in a "Arbeitserziehungslager". Reasons for detention were things like loafing or refusal to work or for example the failure to do the German salute.

Mainly women were imprisoned in "Arbeitserziehungslager" for reasons other than work-related offences, e.g. due to violating the prohibition of contact with so-called aliens meaning usually men from Eastern Europe. According to the decree of the Chief of the Security Police dated 28 May 1941, the detention in a "Arbeitserziehungslager" served the purpose of education, and was officially not considered to be any kind of punitive measure. Being purely a "police-run" measure the detention in a labour education camp did not require any court conviction – who was imprisoned or punished for what reason was totally up to the arbitrariness of the police office in charge.

While releases from concentration camps were no longer intended once the war had begun, the detention in an "Arbeitserziehungslager" was for a limited period only. The reason was that the workforce working in operations and businesses could not be permanently withdrawn from their workplaces. For that reason the term of imprisonment was calculated from the time of arrest meaning the removal of the affected person from their job. Officially, a term of imprisonment of 21 to 56 days was intended, however, some prisoners had to stay for three months or longer in the "Arbeitserziehungslager". In the course of the war, prisoners held in an "Arbeitserziehungslager" were increasingly transferred to concentration camps following their imprisonment in a "Arbeitserziehungslager". Likewise, the prison conditions and functions of an "Arbeitserziehungslager" were drawing closer to those of a concentration camp towards the end of the war. The "Arbeitserziehungslager" were also used as places of execution by the Gestapo.

In the territory of the German Reich the "Arbeitserziehungslager" were in control of the regionally operating headquarters of the State Police. In the territories occupied by German forces, however, those camps were usually subject to the commanders of the security police and the SD. The establishment of those camps required the authorization of the "Reichssicherheitshauptamt" (RSHA). The responsible offices ordered the confinements into "Arbeitserziehungslager"; camp leaders and guard units were provided by the Gestapo, in exceptional cases police officers of the ordinary police, later in some cases also security personnel of factories and other supervisors.

The first early forms of "Arbeitserziehungslager" were established from late 1939 in the course of the erection of the Siegfried Line for disciplining German labourers working on the Siegfried Line. The "SS Sonderlager Hinzert" in the Hunsrück and seven further police detention camps served as repressive instruments for the Organisation Todt, which was in charge of the work at the Siegfried Line. The majority of "Arbeitserziehungslager" that were erected in the course of the Second World War was in the vicinity of industrial centres or also adjacent to factory premises. Six concentration camps also had separate "Arbeitserziehungslager": Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Dachau, Groß-Rosen, Plaszow and

Stutthof. The prison and working conditions in the "Arbeitserziehungslager" were comparable to those of a concentration camp. According to Ernst Kaltenbrunner, Head of Security Police and SD, dated May 1944 the prison conditions were supposed to be even more ghastly than those at a concentration camp. Combined with the limited term of imprisonment the cruelty of the imprisonment was not only to terrorize prisoners and dash their spirit. The National Socialists hoped for an immediate repressive effect on the life and work environment of the prisoners upon their return. The prisoners of the "Arbeitserziehungslager" suffered badly under the harassing and cruel punishments at the camp as well as the hard physical labour and the disastrous living conditions there, so that many lost their lives there.

d) Concentration Camps and Satellite Camps

The concentration camp system in Europe involved a total of 24 main camps and more than 1,000 satellite camps in the period between 1936 and 1945. In concentration camps of the early days in particular, but also in those camps that had been erected resp. taken over in the occupied territories borderlines were becoming blurred. This is in line with the contemporary perspective: Various places or detention and terror between 1933 and 1945 were perceived as concentration camps but officially they were not. The "early" concentration camps in 1933 and 1934 differ in their functional operation significantly from "late" concentration camps as from 1936 as well as the concentration and extermination camps that were only erected during the war like Auschwitz-Birkenau. The "early" concentration camps were primarily used by National Socialists for combatting their political enemies following the seizure of power. Since March 1933 more than 70 concentration camps had been set up in a very short time. There were also protective detention departments in justice and police prisons. Some of these early camps like Oranienburg near Berlin only existed a few weeks or months. They were places of terror against political enemies, mainly Communists and Social Democrats, who were arbitrarily sent to concentration camps by detention order. Those held prisoner there experienced the concentration camps as a situation of entire deprivation of rights and complete arbitrariness. They were defenceless against the violent sadism of guards and had to carry out pointless work, which was solely directed at humiliating people. Poor hygienic conditions belonged to everyday life the same as malnutrition. The prisoners' clothes, the permitted hair length as well as accommodation in mass facilities were aimed at the National Socialist intention of dashing their spirit. The early concentration camps did not show a uniform structure. They were different with respect to the administrative structure and in terms of guarding. The Concentration Camp commander Theodor Eicke introduced a camp regulation in the concentration camp Dachau in October 1933, which was

introduced with only minor changes in all other camps that were existing at that time which lasted throughout the war. This led to a first systematisation of camps. From May 1934 the smaller concentration camps were gradually closed and a number of bigger concentration camps (KL) according to the "Dachau Model" was established. These were subject to the "Inspection of Concentration Camps" (IKL).

The concentration camp Sachsenhausen near Berlin served as a "model camp" as of summer 1936 – a permanently established new type of camp. Based on that, new bigger concentration camps were set up like the concentration camp Buchenwald, the concentration camp Flossenbürg and the women's concentration camp Ravensbrück. These camps had a uniform organisational structure consisting of the Command, a political section, protective detention camp, administration, camp or site physician as well as the guards. These were under the control of the SS. The political police was responsible for confinements. The IKL determined the conditions in the individual camp. In addition to political enemies, an increasing number of other population groups were taken prisoner in the concentration camps, who did not comply with the National Socialist ideal of the so-called "Volksgemeinschaft" (National Socialist's idea of a racial community). This happened mainly from the second half of the 1930s. These included – amongst others – religious communities like Jehovah's Witnesses but also homosexuals, Jews and other minorities persecuted for racial reasons like Sinti and Roma; the latter were usually categorised in the category of the so-called social misfits in addition to various other groups of people. People deemed "professional criminals" were taken prisoner relatively early. They were sometimes transferred from justice to camp management.

When the war began, the camp system started expanding. Until 1942 another 6 concentration camps were established, most of which were located in the border regions of the German Reich. From this point in time, any releases from the concentration camps were no longer scheduled. At the same time the mixture of prisoners changed: In addition to the increased persecution and imprisonment of actual and alleged political enemies of the NS regime, there were large numbers of prisoners from the occupied territories, amongst them Soviet POWs as well as prisoners from cloak-and-dagger operations, who were deported to the concentration camps from the occupied territories without notice as to their personal tragedy and which was supposed to be a deterrent for the population from 1941. This affected some 7,000 who were suspected to have been involved in any resistance activities from France, Belgium and the Netherlands. They were kidnapped and condemned. With the beginning of the war prison conditions were getting worse: ill-treatment, hunger, lacking medical care and massive exploitation up to complete

extermination through forced labour as well as arbitrary and systematic murder of prisoners were a common occurrence.

All concentrations camps had satellite camps resp. external commands. The satellite camps, which were of different size and duration, were subject to the management and power of control of the respective main camp. Prisoners, who had to do forced labour in the external commands usually returned back to the main camp at the end of their workday. While the main camps were fortified and had a complex supervision structure, this varied with the satellite camps. They were only partly fenced in by barbed wire or the prisoners were accommodated in buildings that were close to their workplaces. Mobile external commands were escorted and supervised by SS guard forces.

Through the growing use of prisoners in the settlement and construction projects of the SS and the defence industry the IKL was subjected to the "SS – Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt" run by Oswald Pohl. As of 1942 the concentration camps served on the one hand primarily as places of exploitation for forced labour on the other hand they became places of mass murder like the concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau erected in 1940 and the concentration camp Majdanek in the "General Government".

After the murder of European Jews had been agreed in summer 1941, the concentration camp erected in Auschwitz in May 1940 – near Krakow – was selected to be the central place of mass extermination. Auschwitz, the biggest extermination camp, was as of summer 1942 the main destination of deportation trains from the occupied European countries. Auschwitz and Majdanek from time to time had a dual function of concentration camp and extermination camp. Those deported in trains to Auschwitz were screened at the ramp and separated according to employability or inability. Old people, sick people, mothers with young children were removed immediately and taken to Auschwitz-Birkenau to be gassed with Zyklon B. Those who were able to work were taken to different subcamps for forced labour. Auschwitz-Monowitz with the Buna factory was the best known of them. Pure extermination camps were in contrast Chelmno close to Lodz, Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka, which had been established in spring/summer of 1942 in the so-called General Government. In Treblinka alone approximately 900,000 Jews were murdered. Non-Jewish prisoners like Sinti and Roma and POWs were also killed in these death camps. These camps were closed during 1943, all evidence was destroyed and levelled.

As of 1943 the number of external commands resp. satellite camps was growing considerably. Further places of terror in Eastern and Southern Europe – ghettos, Gestapo prisons and forced labour camps for Jews – were declared as concentration camps resp. satellite camps, which were however of a different structure and were rather serving as

collective and transition camps. As of 1944 the National Socialists began relocating war-relevant production facilities which had not yet been the target of bombing raids. In this context, further self-contained major concentration camps were established like for example the former Buchenwald satellite camp Mittelbau-Dora. In the last year of the war the number of prisoners held at satellite camps exceeded that of the main camps.

When they started clearing the concentration camps with the approaching Red Army there were still 15 main camps as of summer 1944. Between one third and almost half of the more than 700,000 concentration camp prisoners who had still been held prisoner in January 1945 were killed in the last months of the war. Due to the living conditions in the camps which had deteriorated dramatically, many of the inmates died of malnutrition, disease and cachexia following extermination through labour. Another part of prisoners was finally shot in mass shootings by the guards at the camps or during death marches in the last months and days of the war.

e) Soviet Prisoners of War and "Workers from the East"

On 22 June 1941 the German Armed Forces started the war against the Soviet Union. Until December they had captured the Baltic States, Belarus and Ukraine in a "Blitzkrieg". The front was running further East so that a civil administration had already been established in the new "Reichskommissariat Ostland and Ukraine". The Germans entered the non-Baltic territories of the Soviet Union with a brutish plan in mind. While parts of the population were welcoming the Germans as the liberators of Bolshevism pinning cautious hopes on the occupying forces, the government of the Reich had a different plan: as part of the extraction of "habitat in the East" their intention was to ruin the territories economically and either starve out or drive away the population or bring them into forced labour.

Prisoners of War:

The Soviet POWs were the first to feel this. Within a few months two million of the 3.35 million prisoners that had been imprisoned until the end of 1941 died from cachexia due to insufficient food rations, lack of medical care and lacking protection against heat and cold. Initially, the plan was not to deploy Soviet POWs for labour in the Reich. Racist ideological reasons and fearing a diffusion of Bolshevik ideas were the obstacles especially on the part of the law enforcement officers and the high command of the Armed Forces. Only when the early onset of winter 1941 caused a halt in the advance of Armed Forces, which meant that the war in the East would drag out for some time, and

when parts of the German economy was threatening to stagnate because of the labour shortage growing rapidly again, the POWs were intended to be deployed in the Reich and were cockered up by feeding them increased food rations, as they said in the administrative language. Due to the maltreatment also in the Reich and very hard work especially in the defence and in the mining industry, which had to be carried out by Soviet POWs from then on, a further 1.3 million soldiers lost their lives.

"Workers from the East":

Although the cachexia of Soviet POWs in the first months of the Russian campaign was deliberately not hidden from the civil population, the number of those who volunteered for a deployment in the Reich was surprisingly high at first. Many were fooled by the German propaganda, which led the foreign workers to believe in a comfortable life in Germany without any deprivations. At the same time food rations in the Eastern territories were reduced below the mere subsistence level so that hundreds of thousands were gradually starving to death in their fertile and cultivated home countries. Hence the transport into the Reich was even more attached to the hope of not only surviving but also supporting the relatives from a distance.

The first reports about the conditions at German work places and the sight of the first people taken back from Germany that were unable to work, made all kinds of euphoria evaporate very rapidly still during the first year of occupation. Anyway, the responsible German authorities had not only deemed the use of coercive measures necessary in the first place, but considered the use of which as appropriate.

The obligation of all residents of the occupied Eastern territories, to do labour for the occupying forces, took place in December 1941 through an enactment of the Reich Minister for the Occupied Eastern Territories, Alfred Rosenberg, which affected any males up to the age of 65 and females between 15 and 45 years. As a result, the local authorities were imposed with "manpower supply contingents" and local office holders were engaged to recruit people accordingly. In order to support the recruitment, the German occupying forces kept interfering with acts of terrorism more frequently. To meet the imposed contingents, passers-by and people attending celebrations or church services were seized in broad daylight and taken to assembly centres. Communities that did not comply with the recruitment orders were facing draconian punishments, which could lead to burning down entire villages.

Additionally, in summer 1942 a compulsory service lasting two years was introduced in the Reich for all young people from Ukraine. Hardly equipped with the bare necessities, the recruited children, women and men were brought to transit camps in the Reich using

freight trains, from where they were brought to the final deployment places and operations.

One of the biggest problems for the "Workers from the East" was the nutrition situation in the Reich, which was extremely bad in many cases. The quality of the food and the size of rations, which was partly made up of rubbish by 40 to 50 %, weakened the people so badly that soon sickness and cachexia left up to half of the deployed "Workers from the East" unable to work in many businesses and many businesses were on the verge of losing their efficiency. The businesses started complaining about the alarming conditions at the authorities. Months later the SD started taking these complaints seriously and pursued the situation which was subsequently confirmed and discussed at top level in the relevant ministries and offices for months without any significant changes of the situation.

Being at the lowest level in the foreigner hierarchy, the "Workers from the East" were accommodated in their own camps separate from the other foreign labourers. Their camps were initially fenced in with barbed wire.

Those "Workers from the East" who were deployed in German private households like numerous Polish girls were facing much better living conditions. They did not have to stay in camps but stayed in the home of their employers. Additionally, they received equal food rations as the German civil population to fit into the pattern of a German household without any signs of deficiency and cachexia.

Just like the Polish the "Workers from the East" were made recognizable on their appearance. They had to wear a blue rectangle with the inscription in white "OST" sewn onto the left chest side of their garment.

In the overall period of the war some 2.75 million "Workers from the East" were deployed in the Reich. The legal basis for their special treatment were the "Ostarbeiter decrees" of 20 February 1942.

III. Further references

- a) Unfortunately, only limited parts of the website of the "Denkort Bunker Valentin" memorial are available in English: <https://www.denkort-bunker-valentin.de>, but you can get some first visual impressions of the site's activities on its Instagram account: <https://www.instagram.com/denkortbunkervalentin/>.

You can have a look at it together with the students and write down questions!

- b) A huge online archive of filmed interviews with forced labourers can be found here: <https://archiv.zwangsarbeit-archiv.de>.

All 478 interviews in many different languages are translated into German, with the transcripts of both original and translation available on the website. There are 9 interviews in Croatian and 74 in Polish that could be interesting for further research.

There is an educational platform that has been developed from this archive containing shorter interview films with extra educational materials. Available in German: <https://lernen-mit-interviews.de> and in Polish: <https://edukacja.wojnaipamiec.pl/>.

- c) Website of the US Holocaust Memorial about forced labour (info texts, resources, etc.): <https://www.ushmm.org/collections/bibliography/forced-labor>.
- d) Information about forced labour during National Socialism provided by "Dokumentationszentrum NS-Zwangsarbeit": <https://www.ns-zwangsarbeit.de/en/forced-labour-in-the-daily-round/topics/introduction-to-the-exhibition/>.
- e) A Book dealing with forced labour in Nazi-occupied Europe: Alexander von Plato/ Almut Leh/ Christoph Thonfeld (Eds.): Hitler's Slaves. Life Stories of Forced Labourers in Nazi-Occupied Europe. New York/Oxford: Berghahn 2010.