



Photo: Andreas Werner, KRONOS Media GmbH/Uwe Petersen Collection

KZ-Gedenkstätte
Neuengamme

Ausstellungen
Begegnungen
Studienzentrum

**Mahnmal
St. Nikolai** 
Museum | Aussichtsturm

Special Exhibition

20 July – 29 September 2018

„Only Ruins Lay Before Us”

Concentration camp prisoners on clearance detail after Operation Gomorrah

Seventy-five years ago, the British and US air forces bombarded Hamburg under the codename “Operation Gomorrah”, lasting from 25 July to 3 August 1943. The destruction reached an unimaginable extent: Several parts of the city were completely in ruins. Over 34,000 people lost their lives.

After the attacks, prisoners of the Neuengamme concentration camp were forced to help clear the city. Their experiences in the demolished city constitute the core of this exhibition. Under often cruel conditions and with their lives under threat, the prisoners had to clear the ruins, recover bodies, and search for unexploded bombs. For the rest of the population, they were clearly visible, and sometimes, contact developed. Hundreds of the prisoners died as a consequence of the airstrikes.

An exhibition by the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial and St. Nikolai Memorial on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Operation Gomorrah, supported by the Ebelin and Gerd Bucerius ZEIT Foundation.

Open daily from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.; entry to the special exhibition is free