

ENGLISH

We are welcoming you to our site. We would like to introduce you to the project "Hidden Threads", which deals with the history of Tempelhofer Feld during the Nazi rule. It is an interactive project and grows with each contribution. With this description we would like to arouse your interest and invite you to participate.

The project is conducted the Floating University Berlin in cooperation with KOLLEKTIV STICKEN. The Floating is a self-organized space near the Tempelhofer Feld, where artists and scientists from different fields come together to shape a more social and ecological future. KOLLEKTIV STICKEN works in the fields of art, culture, theatre and social work and realizes textile projects in public space. For both collectives, interaction, dialogue and exchange are of central importance.

Now to the topic of the project. First, we introduce you to the so-called Columbia House. After the National Socialists took power, a former Prussian military prison on Tempelhofer Feld was converted into a detention center for mainly political prisoners. In 1934, it came under the direction of the SS and was opened as the first concentration camp. It remained the only concentration camp in Berlin and was closed in 1936 because the new airport was to be built here. Over 1000 prisoners were imprisoned here over the years, among them mainly communists or social democrats, as well as homosexuals and Jews. They were held in small cells and tortured to squeeze out more information from them or to weaken them so that they would leave the country after their release or stop their opposition activities. Former prisoners described in detail the brutal conditions in the Columbia concentration camp, unfortunately without shaking the public. Only in the 80 years of the last century was the documentation of the Columbia House started. Today there are several articles and a website, the link can be found below. In addition, a memorial and a memorial sign remind us of the place of horror.

After the new Tempelhof Airport was completed in 1941, it was not used for flying, but for the production of weapons. This is where fighter bombers were made. Since there was a shortage of labor at the beginning of the war, people from other European countries were used in production from 1942. At first they were recruited, but later forced to be brought here. The workers were accommodated in large barracks camps on the Tempelhofer Feld. In a bitter irony of fate, many people from Ukraine, especially women, were among them. And now, as a result of today's war and the current Russian aggression, Ukrainian women and men live in this place again.

After the war, the traces of these terrible events seem to have largely disappeared from the memory of the city, as Berlin suffered massive destruction and the new airport was finally put into operation. Today there are only two unspectacular boards in the context of the Tempelhofer Feld historical path, which commemorate these historical events. In addition, the city is currently planning to develop parts of the field - only a small part with social housing, which would be justified at least in part by the need to relieve the housing in the city. However, there are protest movements and activists who are fighting against it.

Within the framework of this project, it is particularly important for us to bring people together around the topic of memory. We want to create a space in which we exchange ideas about our common violent past and thereby spinning the previously hidden threads into our present. We would like to invite you - especially if you live in the shared accommodation on Tempelhofer Feld and want to say something about it, or want to share your knowledge, your memories or your experiences or want to learn more about the research so far - to contact us and participate in our meetings. We invite you to join us in a circle, to embroider a symbol, a sign or a word - everything that comes to mind - and share your story, your impressions or anything that seems important to you in connection with this topic.

It is necessary to make visible that there were such camps in Tempelhof and that there were also people from Ukraine here. Currently, this issue is obviously not a priority in the city.