

## **Antifascist struggle for remembrance - Lagerhaus G at Dessauer Ufer**

Lagerhaus G, a warehouse erected by the tobacco company Reentsma in 1903, is located at Dessauer Ufer in the Kleiner Grasbrook neighbourhood in the former free port of Hamburg. From 1944 to 1945, the last two years of the Second World War, one of the three largest satellite camps of the Neuengamme concentration camp was situated in this building. Around 1,500 Hungarian, Czech and Polish Jewish women were imprisoned here and forced to work in the harbour. At least 2,000 male concentration camp prisoners and an unknown number of prisoners-of-war of different origins suffered the same fate. Extensive research has not been conducted to date that could bring this information to light and also detail the lives of the people imprisoned at Dessauer Ufer who left their traces in Lagerhaus G. These traces include a particularly impressive Cyrillic inscription in the cellar where the prisoners took shelter from allied bomb attacks under conditions we can barely imagine.

Since 1945, there has been no official memorial of this use of Lagerhaus G during Nazi Germany. The only memorials to be found there today are a commemorative plaque on the wall and a *Stolperstein*, a brass plaque with the name of one of the murdered prisoners, embedded in the cobblestones in front of the building.

*Initiative Dessauer Ufer* is an association of antifascist groups and individuals focusing on the politics of history, memorial, documentation and performance. *Initiative Dessauer Ufer* is calling for a memorial site and learning space to be created at Lagerhaus G. Furthermore, we urge that Lagerhaus G be made available for non-commercial use that would meet the needs of the surrounding neighbourhoods. We are currently researching the history of the building and establishing contacts and discussions with survivors. We also run guided tours to raise awareness of the history of this site and to contribute to the act of remembrance (information and dates are available on our website).

Lagerhaus G requires major redevelopment work. It is owned today by a private company that would like to remain anonymous. Situated on the Kleiner Grasbrook island, the site is within the Hamburg port area, which is the property of the Hamburg Port Authority (HPA). Permission must be granted by the HPA for any use of the building. The HPA is currently withholding this permission due to a conflict between the HPA and the anonymous private company. A new Hafencity district is planned for the Kleiner Grasbrook island in the near future; it is unclear how this will affect the future of Lagerhaus G.

*Initiative Dessauer Ufer*, *Poliklinik Veddel* and *New Hamburg* are calling for the conservation of the entire 24,000 m<sup>2</sup> site and that at least three of its eight buildings be remodelled as a memorial site, learning venue and neighbourhood centre. The neighbouring Hamburg districts of Veddel, Wilhelmsburg and Rothenburgsort all lack non-commercial spaces where, for example, neighbourhood assemblies could be held.

For this purpose, Lagerhaus G must first be modernised and refurbished in a way that respects its status as a listed historical site. Of great and equal importance is research into the building and the preservation of the traces of the people imprisoned there.

The act of remembrance is an act of antifascism. Lagerhaus G needs to become a part of antifascist remembrance in Hamburg!

### **Initiative Dessauer Ufer**

<https://initiativedessauerufer.noblogs.org/>