

PLÖTZENSEE MEMORIAL CENTER



COMMEMORATION AND REMEMBRANCE

Since 1954, West Berlin's annual ceremony in memory of the resistance against National Socialism has been held on July 19 or 20. It is attended by relatives of the victims of the failed coup of July 20, 1944, and by representatives of the federal government. The commemorations are now hosted by the federal government and the Memorial Foundation for July 20, 1944. Further events regularly commemorate various other victim groups.

The Plötzensee Memorial Center is now a European site of commemoration and quiet remembrance.

Guided Tours for Groups

You are welcome to register your group (8 to 30 people) for a free guided tour. Booking enquiries: bildungploetzensee@gdw-berlin.de (please enquire at least 6 to 8 weeks before the planned date)

Permanent Exhibition Catalog

You can obtain the catalog to accompany the permanent exhibition, *Executions in Plötzensee Prison*, on site or via the German Resistance Memorial Center: www.gdw-berlin.de

View of the permanent exhibition at Plötzensee Memorial Center, 2019.



Getting here

Bus 123

Bus stop
Gedenkstätte Plötzensee
approx. 3-minute walk

U9

Turmstraße U-Bahn station,
then Bus 123 to bus stop
Gedenkstätte Plötzensee
approx. 3-minute walk

S41, S42

Beusselstraße S-Bahn station,
then Bus 123 to bus stop
Gedenkstätte Plötzensee
approx. 3-minute walk

Opening hours

Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed December 24 to 26,
New Year's Eve,
and New Year's Day

Free entry

PLÖTZENSEE MEMORIAL CENTER

Gedenkstätte Plötzensee
in der Stiftung Gedenkstätte
Deutscher Widerstand
Hüttigpfad
13627 Berlin-Charlottenburg-
Wilmerdorf

Contact

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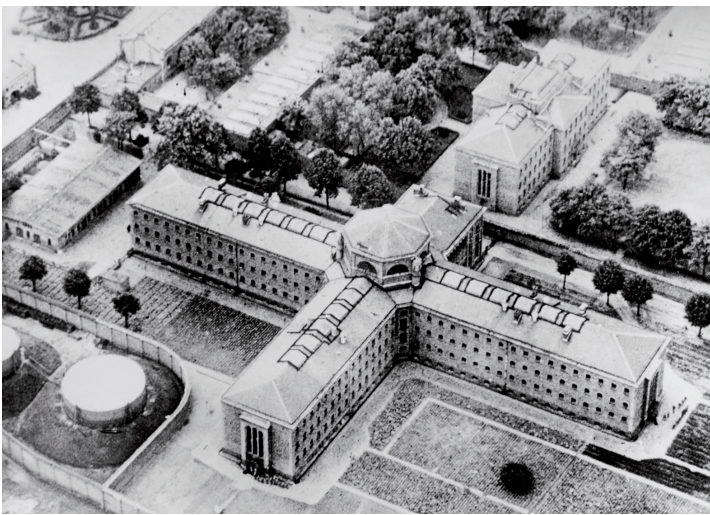
Braun Engels Gestaltung, Ulm
Photos: Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand (2),
Georg Engels, Braun Engels Gestaltung (3)

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German
Resistance
Memorial Center
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PLÖTZENSEE PRISON

Opened in 1879, Plötzensee prison provided space for 1,200 inmates, most of whom served short sentences. After the National Socialists took power in 1933, conditions in Plötzensee and elsewhere worsened. The prison became the site of numerous executions by the unjust National Socialist justice system. In total, more than 2,800 prisoners from 20 countries were beheaded or hanged in Plötzensee prison between 1933 and 1945. The prison was liberated by Red Army soldiers on April 25, 1945.

After 1945, Plötzensee prison was a juvenile detention center. It is now a closed and open prison for men. Since 2005, it has also housed Berlin's central prison hospital.

Aerial photo of Plötzensee prison, late 1920s.

House III, where the condemned prisoners were held, is visible at the center of the picture. They were taken to the execution shed (left) immediately before the death sentence was enforced, and then murdered. The front section of the execution shed was demolished after 1945, as was House III, which was replaced by new buildings.



PLÖTZENSEE MEMORIAL CENTER

The first commemorations took place at the former execution site immediately after the war. The architect Helmut Heide won a competition to plan a memorial tendered by the Berlin municipal authorities in 1946. Due to the city's division and the Berlin blockade in 1948/49, his design was never built.

In 1951, the West Berlin authorities decided to build a memorial in Plötzensee, commissioning the architect Bruno Grimmek. The foundation stone was laid on September 9, 1951, and the memorial was inaugurated on September 14, 1952. The memorial center has been a protected site since July 20, 1987.

Former execution room, 1997.



In 1951, a commemorative wall was placed in front of the former execution shed. The wall was almost twenty meters long and six meters high, and made of volcanic tuff blocks. The result was a spatial boundary to the courtyard where the commemorative events are held.

In May of 1956, the West Berlin senate also decided to erect a stone casket in the Plötzensee Memorial Center which would contain earth from various concentration camps. It was inscribed "Dedicated to the victims of the concentration camps, in reverent commemoration." Remembrance of those murdered in Plötzensee was thus linked to commemoration of the victims of the National Socialist genocide.

A permanent exhibition next to the former execution room now commemorates all victims of the unjust Nazi justice system murdered here.

Commemorative wall at Plötzensee Memorial Center, 2019.