

THE WINSBERGE EXECUTION SITE

Arms Industry in Ottensen

In Ottensen, a center of the metal industry, arms were produced for the Wehrmacht during the war, such as tank engines, submarine propellers and bombs. This would not have been possible without forced labour. Men and women from Eastern Europe in particular kept production going in the factories.



Kolbenschmid GmbH, 1953
(Zentralarchiv der Rheinmetall AG Düsseldorf)



Soviet forced labourers at Noleiko, 1944
(Stadtteilarchiv Ottensen)

Norddeutsche Leichtmetall- & Kolbenwerke GmbH (Noleiko)

Noleiko produced pistons for the engines of bomber aircraft and metal alloys for warships at *Friedensallee 128*. After the war, it also produced pistons for passenger cars as *Kolbenschmidt GmbH* until production was relocated to Neckarsulm in 2009. The *Kolbenhöfe* quarter is currently being built on the site.

Forced labour at *Noleiko*

In 1942/43, around 1,000 people worked at *Noleiko*, including more than 400 from countries occupied by the Wehrmacht: in addition to mostly "voluntary" labourers recruited from Western Europe, there were also Soviet forced labourers. The largest company camp was located at *Brahmsstrasse 109* (today Griegstrasse). It also housed around 60 women, mostly prisoners of war of the Red Army, who were closely guarded and lived under worse conditions than the "voluntary" workers.

Strike for better rations

On November 11, 1943, some of the Soviet female soldiers refused to work because they had received rotten food. The plant director reported them to the *Gestapo*, which brutally interrogated the women and found five of them guilty as "ringleaders:"

Anna Arapova, * 22.10.1916

Antonia Kozlova, * 10.11.1921

Sofija Minaeva, * 23.11.1920

Marija Perminova, * 09.12.1919

Taissija Smirnova, * 25.01.1923

Executions in the Winsberge

On November 15, 1943, they were taken to the *Winsberge*, a remote hilly area east of the Altona Volkspark. Two policemen killed them in a gravel pit by shooting them in the neck. Their comrades had to watch. The bodies were buried in the Jewish cemetery on *Försterweg*, as witnesses later testified. Other people were also murdered by the *Gestapo* and SS in the *Winsberge*: at least 24 forced labourers from *Lederstraße Camp* and other camps, as well as so-called "Ostarbeiter", workers from Eastern Europe, from the *Wilhelmsburg tin works*. The exact location is not known. Today, an allotment garden association and a business park use this area.

Winsberge, 1908
(Stadtteilarchiv Ottensen/
Privately owned, Rössing)



Allotment gardens „Kiesgrube“, 2020
(Dirk Hempel)

