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### The Hailfingen/Tailfingen "work camp"

In 1944, there were plans to expand the Hailfingen airfield so it could be used as a base for night fighters. There was a shortage of German labourers, so between then and the end of World War II, some 2000 prisoners of war, forced labourers, and concentration camp inmates were pressed into service on the construction work.

On November 19, 1944, a transport from the concentration camp Stutthof (near Danzig/Gdansk) brought 601 prisoners to Tailfingen, where the "Hailfingen work camp" was established as a satellite camp to the Natzweiler/Struthof concentration camp in the Alsace region. The authorities asked for the transfer of camp prisoners to build the airstrip for night flyers; a memorial to them now stands on its runway. They worked mainly in the surrounding quarries, laying the runway, and building two taxiways.

The prisoners ranged in age from 14 to 60 and were originally from 16 different countries. Most of them had been in Auschwitz before they arrived here. Many of them lost parents, siblings, or children there. About 50 of the prisoners had been deported directly from the Baltic region.

A hangar, guarded and surrounded by fencing, served as their barracks. The prisoners initially slept on a bare floor covered only with straw. The sanitary facilities were inadequate and there was no medical care. Many prisoners died as a result of the heavy labour, the cold, illness, and malnutrition. A few of the survivors can recall being given food on the way to work by nearby residents.

In mid-February, 1945, the camp was evacuated, and the surviving prisoners were sent to the concentration camps at Vaihingen/Enz, Dautmergen, Allach, and Bergen-Belsen, where many of them later died. There is proof of the death of 189 inmates at Hailfingen itself. Between November 21, 1944 and January 5, 1945, the crematorium at Reutlingen burned the bodies of 99 dead from the camp. And 15 prisoners, who died between December 4 and 9, 1944, were burned at the crematorium in Esslingen. A mass grave, discovered on June 1, 1945, contained 75 bodies.

### Additional information

kz-gedenkstaette-hailfingen-tailfingen.de (memorial site)  
gedenkpfad.info (Commemorative Path)



### Opening hours

The memorial and the Commemorative Path are open year round. The documentation centre in Tailfingen town hall (Hauptstr. 39, 71126 Gäufelden) is open every Sunday from 3 to 5 pm, except during school holidays. Appointments for school classes and group visits can be arranged via e-mail or phone:

fuehrungen@kz-gedenkstaette-hailfingen-tailfingen.de  
Andreas Kroll: +49 (0)170/8610129

### Getting there

The Commemorative Path is easily reached by train and bicycle. You can switch to bike after arriving at the stations Herrenberg, Pfäffingen (Ammerbuch-Pfäffingen), or Gäufelden (Gäufelden-Nebringen). There is a bus from Herrenberg for the 6 km ride to Gäufelden-Tailfingen. Bicycles are not permitted on the bus.



### Commemorative Path

Dedicated in June 2010, the concentration camp memorial Hailfingen/Tailfingen consists of the documentation centre in the Tailfingen town hall, and the memorial to the 601 Jewish camp inmates. After the ruins of a hangar were uncovered, the Columns for Thought were dedicated in July 2018 in memory of the prisoners-of-war and forced labourers at the Hailfingen airfield. The individual sites are linked by the Commemorative Path, which was inaugurated in October 2010 with the designation "search for traces". It was reworked and expanded between 2017 and 2020.

Following the path gives visitors an idea of the topographic dimensions of the camp and its surrounding areas.

The concentration camp inmates were forced into hard labour at the quarry and elsewhere, under inhuman conditions, in winter. Most of the time, they were forced into brutal foot marches to cover the distance between the camp and the labour sites, under constant threat from the guards.

### Exploring the Commemorative Path

The path consists of 12 stations with information panels. The best way to reach all the stations is by bicycle. It is also possible to do the all or part of it on foot, depending on how mobile you are. Most of the stations can also be reached by car, with the exception of stations 5, 6, and 9.

Complete route: 20 km  
without station 10: 14 km  
without 8 and 10: 11 km



### Audio guide

Via a smartphone or the Internet, you can use the QR codes on the panels along the Commemorative Path to access audio that provides more detailed information about individual aspects of each location.

The audio guide accounts from former prisoners, among others, giving the stories an emotional aspect and immediacy.

A QR code reader can be downloaded for free in any app store. You can also go to the website gedenkpfad.info and enter the location into your browser manually.

### Concept, photos, layout

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### Translation

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### Commemorative Path

Search for Traces of  
Concentration Camp  
Hailfingen/Tailfingen



Landeszentrale  
für politische Bildung  
Baden-Württemberg



BERTHOLD LEIBINGER  
STIFTUNG



KZ Gedenkstätte  
Hailfingen/Tailfingen