

Mass graves in Wintermoor

The hospital „Gesundungshaus Wintermoor“ opened in February 1943. It was divided in two parts: the northern part was for children and the southern part for grown-ups. Many children with lung diseases were cured here. There are very many victims of bombings from Hamburg, too. The hospital started with 400 beds and was built up to 825 beds in 1943.

About 500 people died in Wintermoor in war-times. The cemetery in Wintermoor was built for them. Because there are so many corpses, all deads from the hospital were buried in mass graves in part B of cemetery, on the left side of the main entrance (picture from 1998 on the right above).



Part C & D are for private burials in after-war-times. Next to the church building in part C are some graves of German soldiers. Prisoners-of-war were buried in part B2: Soviets who built the hospital in 1941/42 and some allied soldiers who died fighting in Wintermoor or by airplane crashes in 1944/45. There was a train with a concentration camp transport in Wintermoor in April 1945: the 156 dead bodies from it were buried in part A after war. Part A2 was reserved for „displaced persons“, former prisoner-of-war from Sovietunion, who couldn't get back home after war. Many of them died in Wintermoor hospital because of lung diseases. Part A2 doesn't exist anymore.

Directions

Wintermoor a.d.Ch. is situated at federal street 3 (B3) between Hamburg and Soltau. Wintermoor has a train station. The cemetery is located western, not far away from the train station: a street sign at street „Ehrhorer Heuweg“ will show the main entrance.



Hospital Wintermoor is situated in the opposite direction 3km from the train station. The hospital is out of order and entrance is forbidden.



Sources

Information (in German) are published on this website for local history:

Cemetery: <https://archiv-wintermoor.de/ehrhorn/kirche-in-wintermoor>

Hospital: <https://archiv-wintermoor.de/ehrhorn/waldkrankenhaus-und-endo-klinik>

Second World War: <https://archiv-wintermoor.de/allgemein/krieg-in-wintermoor>

Prisoner-of-war in Wintermoor: <https://archiv-wintermoor.de/allgemein/zwangsarbeit>

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