

OSTARBEITER- INNEN AT SOPHIENSAELE

FACTS

- ✗ Following the foreclosure of the building, it was used as a forced labour camp for 69 people during WW II.
- ✗ Around 20 of the workers were male forced labourers employed by the industrialist Karl Jung.
- ✗ They were 'hired' from France, Belgium, and the Netherlands.
- ✗ They slept in their own room at Sophienstraße 18.
- ✗ During the day, they worked at Jung's machine factory at Köpenicker Straße 48-49.

CAMP FESTSAAL

- ✗ Around 50 of them, presumably all female, 'came' from Ukraine and the Soviet Union.
- ✗ The so-called 'Ostarbeiterinnen' were housed on the gallery of the 'Festsaal' which is now part of the main stage of the Sophiensaele.
- ✗ The work took place in what is now the stage area of the Festsaal.

Ostarbeiterinnen were either recruited under false pretences or kidnapped and trafficked.



Katja & Tamara

How many nights were you crying on the gallery?

ABOUT THE WORK



The Ostarbeiterinnen, who slept and worked in the Festsaal made propaganda leaflets.

Facts

Dokumentationszentrum NS-Zwangsarbeit, Landesarchiv Berlin

page 5

Derschawnyj Archiw Kijwskoj, Kiew

photo on the back

Vom Hochzeitstag einer 18-jährigen, in: Sommer im Monbijou 15., 16., 17. Juli 1988, VEB KW Berlin-Mitte, Info-Zeitschrift, Texte: Klaus Henke.

Illustrations

Koen

The forced labour was organised by the subcontractor Franz Grimm, who worked on behalf of the Otto Elsner printing and publishing house.

Otto Elsner's company still exists, specialising in, among other things, publications on workers' rights.



Otto Elsner: company logo in the 1940s (l) and today (r).



«(...) Now it's ten in the evening, I'm writing a postcard and swimming in tears. And all the girls are sitting here and blubbering. The waiting is funny somehow - all twenty of them blubbering like cows. I'm going to bed now and don't know whether I'll still be alive tomorrow or not. (...)»

Letter from the Ukrainian Alla I. to her family. Berlin, 11 September 1943.

Alla was held in a camp at Köpenicker Straße 145-147.

