

VISITOR INFORMATION

DIRECTIONS

The Bunker "Valentin" is located in Bremen-Farge, Rekumer Siel, 28777 Bremen.

There is very limited parking available on the memorial grounds. We encourage you to use public transportation:

By train / bus:

Take the regional train (Regio-S-Bahn) from the Bremen main train station to Farge via Bremen-Vegesack. Transfer to bus line 90. Exit at the stop "Rekumer Siel".

By car:

Autobahn A27, exit at "Bremen-Nord, Elsfleth, Ritterhude, Osterholz-Scharmbeck," continue on A270 to the end (in the direction of Vegesack, Elsfleth, Farge ferry). Take Farger Straße and Rekumer Strasse towards Neuenkirchen, turn left onto "Rekumer Siel".

Navigation system:

Rekumer Siel

FREE ADMISSION

MULTIMEDIA GUIDE IN ENGLISH
deposit necessary

TOURS

A fee is charged for participation.

HOURS

Tues.-Fri., Sun. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Closed on holidays.

ACCESSIBILITY

The entire grounds are barrier-free. Additional information about the information trail is available at the visitors centre.

Special programmes and detailed information is found on our website:
www.denkort-bunker-valentin.de



INFORMATION TRAIL, EXHIBITION AND VISITORS CENTRE

A 1.5 km path runs through the grounds and bunker, providing information about the site's history at 25 stations. The trail begins at the monument "Extermination through Work" and continues through the main entrance to the visitors centre located on the south side of the bunker. A multimedia guide is available here, which provides more detailed information at each information station. In the visitors centre, a media table traces the geographical development of the area around the "Valentin" Bunker from early 1930s to the present. The exhibition here addresses other aspects of the bunker's history.

TOURS

Tours of the grounds and bunker in German are offered every Sunday except holidays, at 11:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Please book in advance online at our website: www.denkort-bunker-valentin.de

Individual tours in English for groups are also available. To book a group tour, please contact us at: mail@bunkervalentin.de or by telephone +49 (0)421 69 67 36-70 / -77.

PICTURE CREDITS: Archiv Denkort Bunker Valentin / LzpB; Bundesarchiv, Bild 185-09-25 / Fotograf: J. Seubert; Henry Fried, Tom Kleiner / GfG

IMPRINT

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Denkort Bunker Valentin

MEMORIAL AND INFORMATION CENTRE



ENGLISH



CONSTRUCTION SITE DURING THE WAR

The German navy began construction of the "Valentin" Bunker in mid-1943. Upon its completion, new submarines of the type "XXI" were to be produced here using new assembly-line methods. Navy commander-in-chief Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz hoped to use these new boats to cut off the Allies' supply routes across the Atlantic. The navy would thus be the pivotal factor in changing the course of the war. Between May 1943 and March 1945, up to 10,000 forced labourers – civilian forced labourers from all over Europe, Soviet POWs, Italian military internees, concentration camp prisoners and inmates of a so-called corrective labour camp run by the Bremer Gestapo – were forced to perform hard physical labour under inhuman conditions. Many of them died as a consequence of the strenuous work at the bunker construction site or from inadequate food and care and poor living conditions in the nearby camps. Approximately 1,600 forced labourers are estimated to have died during construction of the bunker.

▲ Detail from a photo taken by the construction site photographer Johann Seubert, 1944



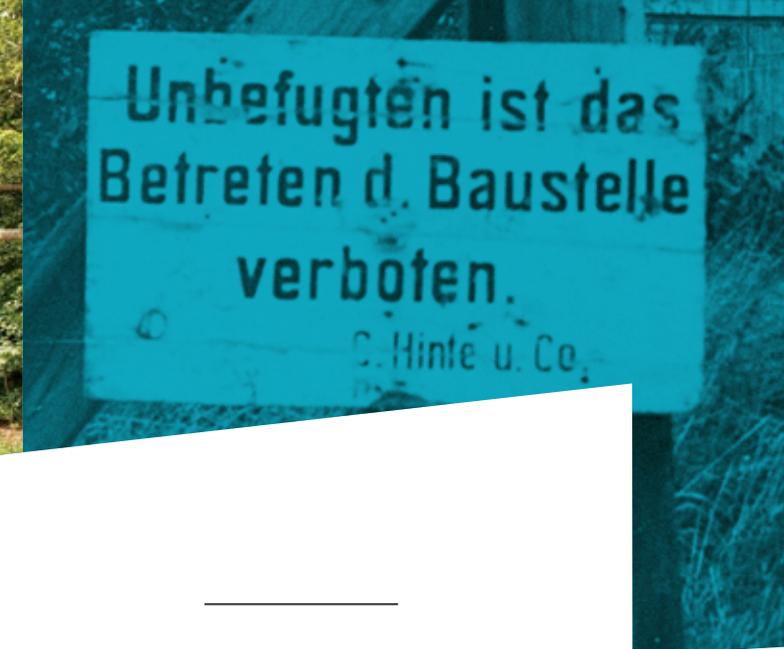
TRACES OF AN ARMAMENTS LANDSCAPE

The former "Valentin" submarine bunker is the most visible legacy of three major Nazi armament projects begun in the 1930s that transformed a predominantly agricultural region into an armaments landscape.

In 1938, the "Wirtschaftliche Forschungsgesellschaft" (Wifo), a front company run by the Reich Ministry of Economics, began construction of an underground fuel depot between Farge and Neuenkirchen. In 1939, the German navy constructed additional fuel depots in the immediate vicinity. These facilities were built in preparation for war.

By 1943 the existing infrastructure was being used for construction of the "Valentin" submarine bunker.

▲ View from the former northern concrete mixing plant to the "Valentin" Bunker



DESTRUCTION AND POST-WAR USE

The unfinished western section of the bunker roof was destroyed in a British Royal Air Force attack in late March 1945; construction stopped shortly afterwards. No submarine was ever built in the "Valentin" Bunker. After the war, the bunker was used by the Allies as a target for bomb tests. Later, demolition plans failed and it became an adventure playground for local children.

In the 1960s the bunker was taken over by the German navy, which used parts of the building as a supply depot until late 2010. The former camp complex served as training grounds for the German army in the late 1950s.

Little evidence remains today of the fuel depot projects of the 1930s, the huge submarine bunker construction site or the forced labour camps.

▲ Detail from a photo from the 1960s

REMEMBRANCE SITE AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

In the early 1980s, former prisoner organisations, local initiatives and associations, and committed individuals called for the establishment of a memorial at the "Valentin" Bunker. Only after the German army agreed to leave the bunker in late 2010 did it become possible to realise the memorial project, which was funded equally by federal and state governments. In 2011, the Bremen State Agency for Civic Education began redesigning the grounds into a Memorial. The memorial officially opened in November 2015. The Bremen State Agency for Civic Education serves as its supporting institution.

