



The Camp King Area in Oberursel / 1933 - 1993

A Contemporary Memorial Area

The former Camp King site in Oberursel is a memorial area that experienced **different uses between 1933 and 1993** and is the ideal location to rediscover history and understand what was happening in those years. There are still traces of everyday life long-past and national history happening here. On a guided tour you come across them on streets and buildings and at prominent spots.

In a central location (for details see on the right), there is also a large collection of materials relating to the history of the Camp King area to give you a better understanding of sixty years of history. This collection includes books, excerpts from books, eye-witness reports, documents, photographs, maps and some multimedia, and it is edited and sorted in such a way that everyone who is eager to learn or to teach or just eager to know can easily use it. Groups of visitors are also very welcome to make use of this collection, and, if you would like to use this trove of information for a scientific project, feel free to do so, too. With the help of our inventory books, you should be able to find what you are looking for.

When the Frankfurt Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe University Geländesportschule (**outdoor school of sports**) was taken over by the Gauheimstättenamt (district housing office), the area was gradually converted into an "educational farming school". For this purpose, a meeting and guest house, several show houses, a research institute for bees and a breeding compound for small animals were built in 1937 to mark the beginning of an ambitious, future-oriented Third Reich research and settlement project. Then, in 1939, the area was converted into a transit camp for air force POWs and, subsequently, expanded. The comprehensive plans to turn the area into an exemplary Reichs-Siedlungshof (**teaching farm for future settlement endeavours**) were stopped as a consequence. A university secretary shelved the files scribbling on them "For resubmission after the war".

Prior to the landing of the Allied Forces in Normandy in June 1944, the Western front was an air war. Every pilot and aircrew member captured before the end of the war was first transferred to this **central transit camp (Air Force)** in Oberursel. Here, the POWs were not only asked to provide details about themselves but also interrogated about combat plans, weapons used and technical equipment. Also, every plane wreck was closely scrutinised. All the information gathered was eventually evaluated to find out as much as possible about the enemy. By early 1945, 40,000 POWs had passed through this transit camp and been interrogated. When US Forces were approaching in March 1945, all the files kept at this so called Auswertstelle (West) (**information evaluation centre for the Western front**) were destroyed. Then, in April 1945, the US Army occupied the area and the buildings.

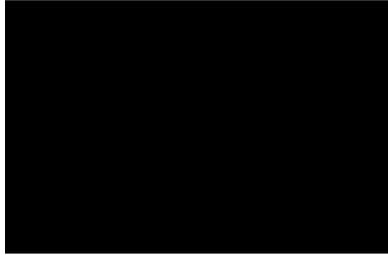
For some time after WWII, the **Camp King**, named after Charles B. King, who was an intelligence officer during the invasion of Normandy in 1944, was a **prisoner-of-war camp** for "damned Nazis", who were detained in the run-down buildings of the former air transit camp. This was known as "automatic arrest". The rather lavish neighbouring "House Alaska" was used to interrogate leading members of the former Nazi government prior to the Nuremberg Trials. On behalf of the US Forces, former German Wehrmacht officers were assigned to record the details of WWII combat operations. Subsequently, the so-called Gehlen Organisation was turned into a key intelligence force to set up a spy ring directed against the Soviet Bloc. The East German Ministry for State Security considered the Camp King an "enemy object".

For local residents the area was "Off Limits". They could only speculate about what was going on behind the guard house on Hohemarkstraße, which only US Army civilian employees were allowed to pass.

As of 1968 the US Army Movements Control Center was stationed at Camp King to serve all US troops in Western Europe.

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Historic Photograph, Settlers'
Houses

Camp King History

Collection of materials, information and advice available at:
Kirchenladen "Aktiv im Norden" der Heilig Geist congregation
Im Rosengärtchen 37, 61440 Oberursel

Guided tours for groups upon request.
Lectures are announced in the local press or online at www.campking.org
mehr
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Information on Camp King history is also available at:

- **Camp King gestern und heute**
on the SEWO homepage
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- **History of Camp King 1936 - 2000**

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Dulag Luft (Transit Camp - Air Force)

Written materials on Dulag Luft (Transit Camp - Air Force) are available at:

National Archives, 8th and Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington DC 20408

US Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania 17013 - 5008

Quelle: <http://www.oberursel.de/en/town-life/oberursel/camp-king/>
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