

Contents

Preface by Annette Chalut	9
The new central exhibition at the Ravensbrück Memorial Introduction by Insa Eschebach	11
CHAPTER 1	
The establishment and development of the Ravensbrück camp	23
Precursor institutions of the Ravensbrück camp	24
The Ravensbrück women's concentration camp	28
Fürstenberg	35
CHAPTER 2	
The prisoners	39
Prisoner groups	40
Jehovah's Witnesses	42
Prisoners persecuted as 'anti-social elements'	44
'Criminals'	46
Political prisoners	47
Special prisoners and 'kin imprisonment'	50
Jewish women	51
Roma and Sinti	52
Prisoners from all over Europe	55
Poland	56
Czechoslovakia	57
The Netherlands	58
Yugoslavia	59
France	61
Luxembourg	62
The Soviet Union	63
Belgium	64
Norway and Denmark	65
Italy	67
Spain	68
Hungary	69
From countries around the world	70
The men's camp at Ravensbrück	71
Biographical sketches	72

CHAPTER 3	Everyday life at the camp: Conditions of imprisonment	113
	Arrival	114
	Housing	118
	Food	119
	Clothing	121
	Hygiene	122
	The daily routine	126
	Slave labour at Ravensbrück	128
	Types of prisoner labour	130
	Punishment, harassment and maltreatment	134
	The prisoner functionary system	137
CHAPTER 4	Everyday life at the camp: Solidarity and self-preservation	139
	Children in the concentration camp	140
	Friendships	148
	Solidarity and resistance	150
	Cultural activities in the camp	155
CHAPTER 5	The SS and its 'retinue'	167
	The SS at Ravensbrück	168
	The commandant	172
	The female guards	175
	The guard squad	178
CHAPTER 6	Slave labour and the satellite camps	179
	Slave labour in the camps and the German war economy	180
	The Texled company ('Textile and Leather Processing Company')	181
	Siemens & Halske	184
	Slave labour at the satellite camps	186
	Slave labour in the camp brothels	190
CHAPTER 7	The Uckermark 'juvenile protective custody camp'	193
	Social control and exclusion of young people	194
	The establishment of the Uckermark 'juvenile protective custody camp'	196
	Prisoners of the Uckermark 'juvenile protective custody camp'	199
CHAPTER 8	The camp's hospital	213
	Admission to the infirmary	216
	The treatment of sick prisoners	218
	The organisation of the infirmary	219
	Forced abortions and births	221
	Forced sterilization	223
	The '14 f 13' murder campaign	225
	Murder by injection	228

Typhus	229
Typhoid fever	229
Dysentery	230
Tuberculosis	230
Medical experiments at Ravensbrück	233
Sulfonamide experiments	234
CHAPTER 9	
Murder and mass deaths at Ravensbrück	239
Murder and death, 1939–1943	240
Executions	245
‘Death became a familiar sight to us’	252
Murder and mass deaths, 1944–1945	253
Selections	256
The Uckermark death camp	258
The gas chamber and mass executions	259
CHAPTER 10	
The dissolution and liberation of the camp	261
The final weeks	262
The first rescue transport	263
The White Buses rescue campaign	265
The death marches	267
The arrival of the liberators	271
The liberated camp	273
Repatriation Camp No. 222	275
CHAPTER 11	
Life after liberation	277
The long way back	279
Life after survival	288
Reparation payments and post-war legal proceedings	297
CHAPTER 12	
Ravensbrück as a site of commemoration	299
The site after liberation	301
Years of transformation	303
CHAPTER 13	
Commemoration of Ravensbrück in Europe	305
The associations of former prisoners	306
The culture of the survivors’ associations	307
The associations’ varied activities	308
Forms of commemoration – Signs of remembrance	310
Monuments	312
Official and personal signs of remembrance	315
Contributors and Acknowledgements	319