

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

CONTENTS

	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