

Lernen aus der Geschichte e.V.

<http://www.lernen-aus-der-geschichte.de>

**Der folgende Text ist auf dem Webportal
<http://www.lernen-aus-der-geschichte.de> veröffentlicht.**

Das mehrsprachige Webportal publiziert fortlaufend Informationen zur historisch-politischen Bildung in Schulen, Gedenkstätten und anderen Einrichtungen zur Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Schwerpunkte bilden der Nationalsozialismus, der Zweite Weltkrieg sowie die Folgegeschichte in den Ländern Europas bis zu den politischen Umbrüchen 1989.

Dabei nimmt es Bildungsangebote in den Fokus, die einen Gegenwartsbezug der Geschichte herausstellen und bietet einen Erfahrungsaustausch über historisch-politische Bildung in Europa an.

Our first impression on seeing the grounds was already oppressive in some way. Virtually everything from buildings to walls was in dismal condition, ranging from dilapidated to collapsing. Daniell was already in a bad mood at the mere thought of setting foot in Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Later, however, he had "... a very good feeling about working here."

At first, as we worked on the walls, we barely thought about the prisoners who had once built this concentration camp. This changed, however, after our solitary walk through the grounds. We came face-to-face with the past at the crematorium, right next to the shooting trenches, as we observed either a funeral or a memorial service by a group of Jews and Germans.

We automatically became quieter. A speaker finished her address, a violinist played, and then the group sang and cried together!

We felt very distressed in this situation. It made us feel involved.

And only now were we suddenly conscious of how cruel it must have once been and how much pain and suffering people had had to endure. The outline of the crematorium with its gas chamber and shooting facility made one realize how perfectly set up the Nazis were to murder as many people as possible as quickly as possible.

The inhumanity of the camp became especially clear in the pathology facility. Even though they might have been only isolated cases, we were still shocked by the shrunken heads and the lampshades made from human skin.

We experienced firsthand the pain of those affected when a young woman from the memorial service entered the crematorium in the pathology facility, looked around only

briefly, and immediately began to weep profusely before running outside again.

Our combined impressions are:

Perfection to the smallest detail, unimaginable cruelty in dealing with people, and unbelievable ingenuity in torturing and killing prisoners, sadism as a sport.

We will long remember this week at Sachsenhausen concentration camp; it offered us many opportunities for reflection.