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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.

Letter from Friedrich Mennecke to his wife (April 1941)

This letter is from Mennecke's visit to Sachsenhausen concentration camp, where in early April 1941, the 14f13 program had just started. Mennecke stayed at Eilers Hotel in Oranienburg and in four days at Sachsenhausen completed questionnaires for about 135 prisoners. Together the three T4 physicians (Otto Hebold, Theodor Steinmeyer, and Mennecke) managed to "process" 350-400 prisoners to be selected for the "euthanasia" program.

Director, Dr. Fr. Mennecke, MD Specialist for Oranienburg, April 7, 1941 11:40 p.m.
Neurology and Psychiatry

My dearest little mommy!

I am just starting to write my last letter from this first concentration camp period, which, however, I will bring to you rather than mail. I have just completed my statistical summary of the patients I examined, 109 of them to this point. Tomorrow an additional 25-30 will be the last job. I think these records will be especially important for scientific purposes later, because they deal exclusively with incorrigible "antisocials." Before I send my patient reports to Tiergartenstraße, I'll prepare lists of all significant details. I will still have to examine 84 prisoners tomorrow. From today on, with the addition of Dr. Hebold, the physician at the Eberswalde state hospital, there will be three of us

physicians, so each of us will only have to examine around 26 prisoners. [Hebold was assigned by the T4 Central Office to visit Sachsenhausen and other concentration camps.– editor] I hope that we will be able to finish quickly enough so that I can start for home tomorrow morning. If so, I would take the S-train to Berlin and, travel from there to Wittenberg before dark if it is still worthwhile. I would spend the night there and only continue the trip on Wednesday morning. I can't finalize my plans this evening—first the job must get done!! Today the restaurant downstairs was jammed to capacity with a gathering of Oranienburg innkeepers and their wives. I found it too crowded and noisy to sit, read or write. So after the 8 p.m. news, I went back to my room with a bottle of 1937 vintage Piesporter Falkenberg. It is now midnight and I'm about to turn in. There was nothing especially new in the news about the southeast front, but perhaps Belgrade will be taken, hopefully tomorrow!! We can wait and see!! I purchased an excellent map and can begin to follow the front hypothetically. So I will now close, my dearest, ... sleep well!! Good night!! Sweet dreams! I'll see you in 48 hours!! Good night!! Ahoy!