

Forst and surroundings

Forst (Lausitz), Scheuno and the eastern urban hinterland, 1933-1945

G.E.O.S. 1995 · Preuß et al. 1994 · Jürgen Scholz · archiwa / archives

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Editorial note: this is a public-history study. Propellant production is described only historically, without recipes or manufacturing parameters. The full 2004 work by Jürgen Scholz was not publicly available during this research.

How to read this page

This is not a general history of the Third Reich. It focuses on a specific landscape on the Neisse: Forst (Lausitz), its eastern hinterland, Scheuno and the later DSC complex. Municipal, archival and testimonial sources are combined. Jürgen Scholz's 2004 work on "Ausländereinsatz in Forst (Lausitz) 1939-1945" is an important research guide, but no legally open full text has been found. We therefore do not attribute detailed figures or camp lists to Scholz unless they can be independently checked. The title, author and year are bibliographically confirmed, as is his later 2006 article.

Source-supported fact

Forst under National Socialist rule

Forst was an important industrial centre in Lower Lusatia. After 1933 its public and economic life was incorporated into the National Socialist system, and wartime demands increasingly shaped the local economy. Three developments need to be read together: persecution of people targeted by the regime, forced labour, and the expansion of armaments infrastructure east of the Neisse. That is why the history of wartime Forst extends beyond the limits of today's German city.

Source-supported fact

10 November 1938 - the pogrom reached Forst

An official City of Forst publication states that the November pogrom reached Forst on 10 November 1938. Jewish residents were disenfranchised, persecuted and deprived of their livelihoods. Today's Stolpersteine and remembrance ceremonies therefore refer to specific local families. This matters for understanding the war years: state-directed violence shaped the city long before the front arrived in 1945.

Source-supported fact

Forced labour was part of everyday wartime life

A particularly direct testimony is preserved by the Documentation Centre for Nazi Forced Labour. A Polish man deported at the age of twenty described the camp at Schönforst in Lusatia, a work card issued by the Forst labour office, barracks housing 16 men per room, and being marched under guard to the construction site. He explicitly named Deutsche Sprengchemie as the company for which he worked. The testimony links labour office, camp, construction site and armaments plant in one coercive system.

Source-supported fact

The cemetery record shows the wider scale

A 2010 municipal bulletin, citing a Brandenburg ministry publication, reported about 200 forced labourers from the Second World War buried in Forst's main cemetery; 43 foreign victims were then known by name. The "Zwangsarbeiterfeld" is a memorial site. These figures must not be automatically assigned to DSC - they concern forced labour in Forst more broadly - but they show that foreign coerced labour was a lasting part of the wartime city.

Scholz: a research guide, not a substitute for sources

The BLHA catalogue confirms Scholz's 2004 work, while the Museumsverein bibliography lists his 2006 article "Der Ausländereinsatz in Forst 1939 bis 1945". Their main value here is to structure the research field: camps, accommodation, companies and groups of foreign workers must be studied as a city-wide network. Until the 2004 text can be examined in full, detailed camp assignments on this page are drawn only from records, reliable testimony or institutional sources.

Source-supported fact

Forst, Scheuno and DSC formed one functional area

The 1995 G.E.O.S. report reconstructs the transport system of the DSC works east of the Neisse. The main access road ran through Scheuno from the Forst-Berge direction, while the railway linked the complex through the Groß Bademeusel area with the wider network. The modern border can suggest two separate worlds; during the war the city, roads, railway, labour office, accommodation and factory formed a single functional landscape.

Source-supported fact

1945: destruction and division

The official municipal chronology states that 85 per cent of Forst lay in ruins after the Second World War. 1945 was also a political and spatial break: National Socialist rule ended, armaments production stopped and the Neisse became an international border. A previously connected urban-industrial area was divided. Present-day Forst, Zasięki and Brożek therefore preserve different fragments of the same history.

Method

What is confirmed and what remains open

Confirmed are the 10 November 1938 pogrom in Forst, large-scale forced labour, the specific testimony of a Polish worker employed by DSC, the main cemetery memorial record, the functional link between the city and the DSC complex, and the catastrophic destruction of 1945. Complete camp lists, occupancy, nationalities and exact company assignments still require archival work. The Foundation does not automatically connect every camp mentioned in Forst or Scheuno with DSC.

Sources and verification

Source hierarchy: records, archival catalogues and institutional sources take priority over regional secondary accounts. Unavailable full texts are explicitly flagged.

1. Jürgen Scholz, "Konzeption, Analyse und Erstellung eines journalistischen Produktes zum Thema: Ausländereinsatz in Forst (Lausitz) 1939-1945", Berlin 2004 - bibliographic record in the BLHA catalogue.
<https://blha-bibliothek.brandenburg.de/>
2. Jürgen Scholz, "Der Ausländereinsatz in Forst 1939 bis 1945", Museumsverein Forst, 2006 - bibliographic confirmation.
<https://museumsverein-forst.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Auflistung-Jahrb%C3%BCcher-von-Geisler.pdf>
3. City of Forst (Lausitz), remembrance material on the November pogrom - official confirmation that the events reached Forst on 10 November 1938.
<https://www.forst-lausitz.de/gedenkveranstaltung-mit-der-stolpersteinverlegung-in-erinnerung-an-die-reichspogromnacht.175147.htm>
4. City of Forst (Lausitz), municipal chronology - 85% of the city lay in ruins after the Second World War.
<https://www.forst-lausitz.de/chronik.120414.htm>
5. Amtsblatt of the City of Forst (Lausitz), No. 4/2010 - about 200 forced labourers buried at the main cemetery; 43 foreign victims then known by name.
<https://www.forst-lausitz.de/sixcms/media.php/1019/Amtsblatt%20Teil%202.74005.pdf>
6. Documentation Centre for Nazi Forced Labour - testimony of a Polish forced labourer: Schönforst camp, Forst labour office, barracks and work for Deutsche Sprengchemie.
<https://www.dz-ns-zwangsarbeit.de/zeitzeugenarchiv/zeitzeugen-objekte/objekt-singleansicht/obj/98/?section=ankerdok>
7. State Archive in Zielona Góra / Szukaj w Archiwach, collection 89/1299/0 - 67 worker passes and the collection history describing DSC Forst-Scheuno.
<https://www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl/zespol/-/zespol/64472>
8. G.E.O.S. Ingenieurgesellschaft mbH, 1995 study of the former ammunition and explosives works at Forst, Berlin/Hennigsdorf, 30 Nov 1995 - local project source.
[/historia-regionu/dsc-forst/informacje-techniczne/zrodla/GEOS_Rokita_J_Preuss_1995.pdf](/historia-regionu/dsc-forst/informacje-techniczne/zrodla/GEOS_Rokita_J_Preuss_1995.pdf)

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