

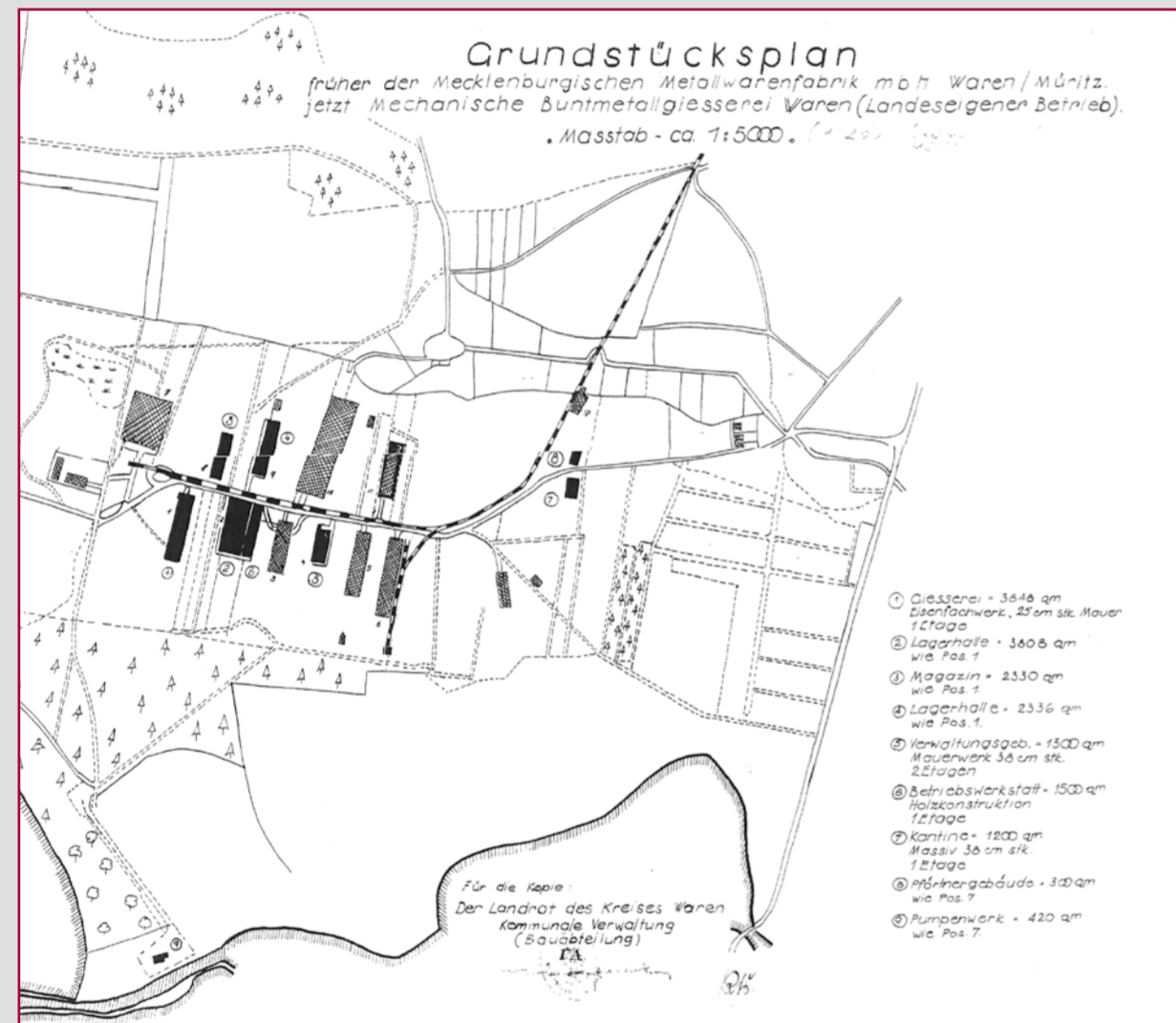


Mecklenburgische Metallwarenfabrik MEMEFA



Mecklenburgische Metallwarenfabrik m.b.H. (MEMEFA) was founded in December 1935 as a subsidiary plant of Dürener Metallwerke AG and construction lasted until the end of 1936 under top secret conditions. The building was used for company offices and is still standing today. The plant manufactured finished and semi-finished products from Duralumin for German industry, in particular the arms industry, but also for export.

For example, up until 1941 MEMEFA sent huge shipments of sheet metal to the USSR as part of the pact between Hitler and Stalin. As the war persisted, production focused more and more on the manufacture of aircraft components (Heinkel, Arado Dornier) and parts for U-boats. There were plans to expand the site in 1944 but they were never implemented due to the war.



Plan of MEMEFA factory site after 1945

After the breakout of the Second World War in 1939, as members of the workforce were gradually called up, PoWs, forced labourers and foreign workers from several countries – the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Denmark, Poland, Ukraine, Belarus and Yugoslavia – were brought in. They were housed in several different camps close to the factory. A plaque is affixed to the building in remembrance of the nearly 2,000 people who were forced to work here.

In 1936, construction began on the so-called Western Settlement, a MEMEFA works housing estate, on a previously uninhabited stretch of land between Röbeler Chaussee and the railway line towards Malchow.

The population of the Town of Waren (Müritz) grew by up to 5,000 in just a few years, resulting in more than a few changes to the structure of local society.

After the war, in 1946, the MEMEFA site initially became home to the Mecklenburg non-ferrous metal foundry which manufactured household products by remelting light scrap metal.

However, the Soviet Military Administration in Germany (SMAD) decided just a short while later to demolish the factory and blow up the production halls. Many of the workers were able to find new employment at the Waren Ironworks, today MMG. The office building was damaged but remained standing. The solid construction of the building meant it could not be torn down for its bricks.

In the 50s, it was used as a training and education centre for civil engineers. The East-German trade union, the Free German Trade Union Federation (FDGB), took over the building in the mid-60s and used it as a holiday facility until 1990. At the end of the 80s, following the withdrawal of Soviet troops and atomic weapons from Warenschhof, it was given another facelift.



View of the former MEMEFA site



Historical depiction of brick homesteads in the Western Settlement which still exists today

The Europäische Akademie Mecklenburg-Vorpommern e.V., which was founded in the autumn of 1990, has leased the building and the land from the trust since 1991 onwards and began work on education policy. In 1993, the association sold the house and the land. Today the building is a seminar centre, acting as a site of conversation and democratic dialogue.

One of its focuses is on running seminars and study trips alongside the European integration process to bring people closer together.

The association is a locally and nationally approved provider of extra-curricular education for young people and adults.



Europäische Akademie building

Source Text und Bild: Europäische Akademie MV