

Youth Concentration Camp Moringen

In 1939 and 1940, the Nazis established three concentration camps to "re-educate" wayward young people who deviated from the official racist doctrine of the state — at Moringen and Litzmannstadt for boys, and at Uckermark for girls. One example of a crime that led to the incarceration of so-called "Swingboys" was a fondness for jazz music, which the Nazis disparaged as "niggerjazz." Moringen was very small, with a capacity for 400 prisoners. Opened in April 1933 as a regular concentration camp for men, it became the first women's concentration camp in September 1933. In August 1940, the first youth arrived when it was redesignated *Jugendschutzlager Moringen*, also *Konzentrationslager für Jugendliche*.

Very few prisoner letters from Moringen are known, and none are recorded from the other youth concentration camps. This is an August 26, 1942, young man's letter to his family. A purple handstamped cachet on the back gives instructions for sending money to inmates.

