

Women's Concentration Camp Ravensbrück Mail to and from the same inmate

Ravensbrück, located 65 kilometers north of Berlin near Fürstenberg, was Germany's only major concentration camp for women — successor to the Lichtenburg concentration camp in Saxony that opened in 1934 and became a women's camp in 1938. Ravensbrück opened May 15, 1939, and was liberated by the Red Army on April 29, 1945.

Both items shown here are from a single correspondence between Aleksandra Badurzyuska, a Ravensbrück prisoner, and her family, a seldom seen combination. From the prisoners' formular envelope she sent to her mother at Warsaw, dated September 7, 1942, the camp censor removed a 12-pfennig stamp, searching for a hidden message underneath. The censor's purple boxed handstamped marking and initial attest to a thorough examination, and equal diligence was applied to the Christmas post card she received from her family.

