



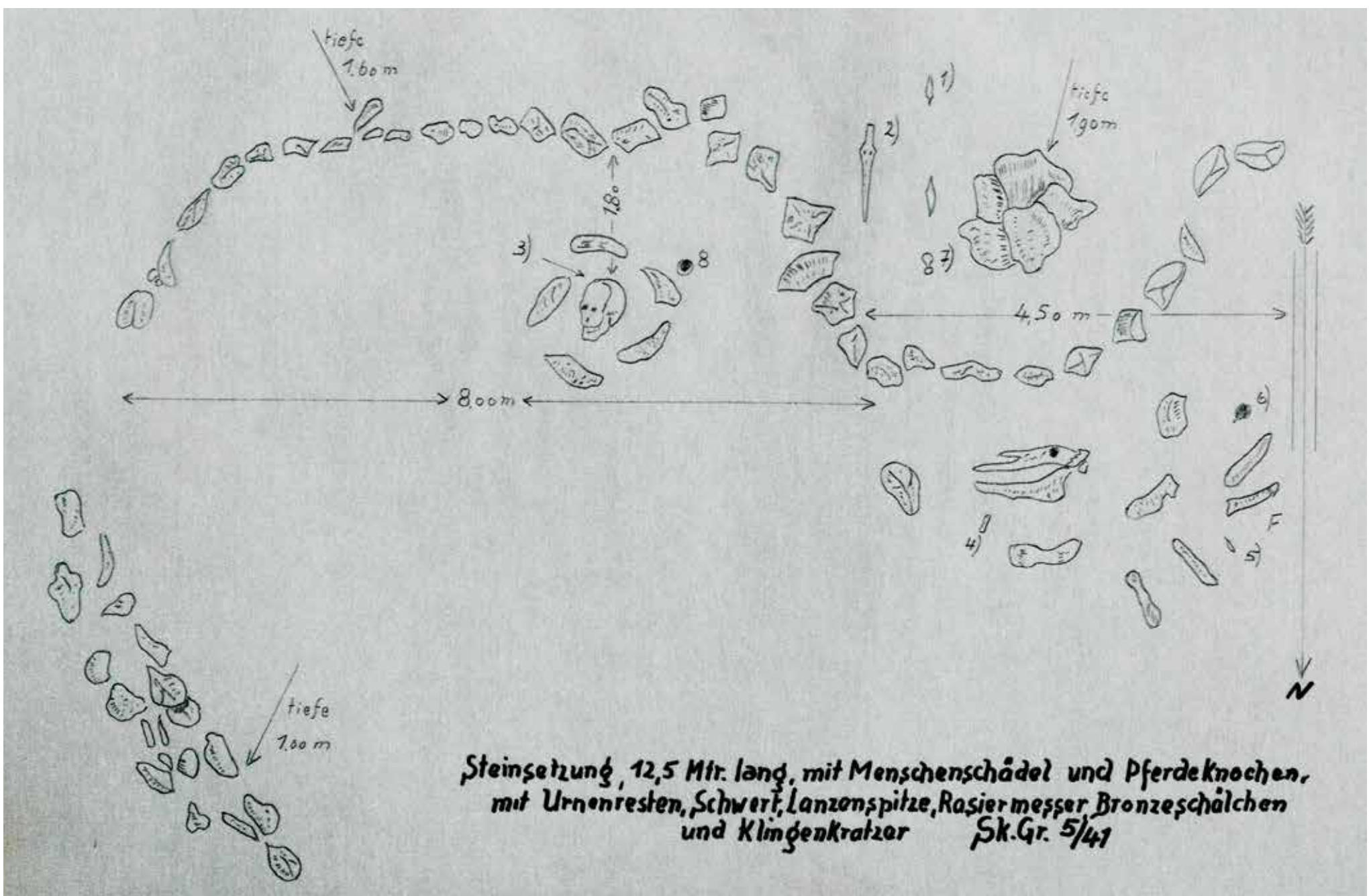
RESISTANCE – DEATH – SURVIVAL

The archaeological excavations of the Gusen Concentrations Camp

This exhibition takes visitors from the Late Bronze Age to the Middle Ages and through the Nazi era to the present day.

The focus is on objects that detainees were forced to excavate at the Gusen concentration camp. These are significant finds from a Late Bronze Age cemetery. To illustrate the conditions of forced labour in concentration camps in the 1940s, everyday objects from the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp complex are also displayed.

The special situation of the archaeological forced labourers in the ‘Spielberg Commando’ and in the ‘Excavation and Museum Commandos’ is made tangible through the biographies of concentration camp detainees, Kazimierz Gelinek, Władysław Gębik, Józef Eugeniusz Iwinski and Johann Gruber. The exhibition shows using selected objects how archaeology and National Socialist racial ideology were entangled.



Grave 5-41 is the most remarkable grave in the Gusen cemetery and is the remains of an armed man, who was equipped with a bronze sword of the Gusen type, a so-called Gusen bowl, a bronze razor and a spearhead. A horse’s head was also found. The stone setting of the grave is shown on the floor in its original size, with a length of 12.50 m (see figure).

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