

1941: Completing extension phase I

By the end of the 2nd quarter, installation of the steel fabrications at Workshop I and roofing with cinder block tiles was concluded. Internal work, above all concreting the workshop floor, now continued. The roofing of Workshop II was also complete. Reinforced concrete work on Workshops III and IV was pushed ahead and the air raid shelters in both workshops were cast. In Workshops V and VI internal jobs such as painting, glazing, tiling and joining were carried out. In Workshop VII, the new large-scale assembly bay, excavating the foundations and concrete pouring proceeded. At the coal dump, the concrete supports for the crane runway were poured and assembly work on the coal conveyor line continued.⁵⁴



The completed and operational coal bunker for the boiler house in summer 1941. [Doku STV]

The status on July 23, 1941 was that the bodysells of Workshops I and II were ready and scheduled for occupation in August 1941. The bodysells for Workshops III and IV were half completed, that of Workshop VII was 15% finished. Extension of the railroad siding was completed, the peripheral tunnel closed and the water supply system ready and operational. The building sites had received a reinforcement of 495 Italian construction workers, but a shortage of carpenters remained. To speed up the project even faster on the plant and housing sites, a

⁵⁴ AMM, NARA Microcopy T-77 Roll 744, KTB RüKo Linz, construction progress report 2nd Quarter 1941

further 120 construction workers had been requested and these were deployed in St. Valentin by the end of July 1941. Because management repeatedly intervened when difficulties were experienced with supplies of various building materials, deliveries of those products were declared satisfactory. Structural work on the plant gatehouse was already completed and it was occupied in August 1941. Construction of the garages and workshop opposite began in July 1941. Work on the peripheral tunnel servicing Workshops I and II was completed. Progress on the peripheral tunnel for Workshops III, IV and VII was so advanced that bringing these facilities on stream in the winter of 1941/42 was already possible.⁵⁵

The steel fabrications for the workshop buildings, in particular those for Workshops I, V and VII were supplied by the Stahlbau GmbH of Linz. This company was a subsidiary of the „Reichswerke Hermann Göring“ in Linz, which also furnished the steel structures of the smelting plant and the Eisenwerke Oberdonau GmbH.⁵⁶

In the 3rd quarter 1941, interior finishing on the buildings of extension phase I only was undertaken, while both internal and external work continued on the facilities of extension phase II. For Workshop I this meant plastering, laying the parquet floor, installing cranes and installation jobs for the heat treatment shop were reported to the Armaments Section Linz. The interior fitting out of the temporary offices for the commercial departments in Workshop II and equipping the storerooms progressed efficiently. That same quarter saw the shuttering and concreting of the building and roofing structures of Workshop III, and also the brickwork on the external walls. Progress on Workshop IV was slightly more advanced; in addition to masonry and glazing jobs, installation work in the production shops and air raid shelters was under way.⁵⁷

In Workshop VI, blackout equipment was fitted in accordance with the air raid regulations. Inside Workshop V, painting, joining and glazing jobs needed to be completed. The steel structural elements for Workshop VII had been delivered and partially erected. In the boiler house, efforts concentrated on the ash silo and the coal conveying system.⁵⁷

Construction of the gatehouse continued to make good progress. At the garage building opposite the plant entrance, excavation, foundation and walling work on the north and south wings was started. It was also possible to continue construction work on the access road and those connecting the workshops.⁵⁷

⁵⁵ Collection Perz, minutes of meeting of the Nibelungenwerk GmbH board of directors, dated 23. July 1941, Dr. Judtmann's report on the status of the construction work, reports of the technical and commercial directors on the Nibelungenwerk GmbH board of directors meeting, dated 23. July 1941

⁵⁶ AMM, NARA Microcopy T-77 Roll 744 KTB RüKo Linz, description of events, 1. August 1941

⁵⁷ AMM, NARA Microcopy T-77 Roll 744, KTB RüKo Linz, construction progress report 3. Quarter 1941

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After completing the load-bearing elements of the reinforced concrete structure, the openings were walled up with industrial brick. Then followed the fitting of the steel frame windows. The peripheral tunnel can be seen in the foreground. [Archive ECS]

As the final quarter of 1941 came to a close, significantly better construction progress had been made than in the year before.⁵⁸ In Workshops I and II, there was only minor reworking and modification to be undertaken, while in Workshop II and at the boiler house, just a few different finishing jobs were necessary. Extension phase I necessitated more extensive effort at Workshop I. At this time, flooring and tiling was under way, as were machine installation, joining and various bricklaying jobs in the area of the heat treatment bay. At Workshop III and its corresponding air raid shelter, installation work was ongoing. The skylights were glazed and the steel window frames fitted, glazed and painted. Construction of Workshop IV was more advanced; the parquet floor had been laid and only minor installation and bricklaying jobs needed completion. Concreting the foundations for Workshop VII was finished and erection of the steel fabrications continued. The first bricklaying jobs were done in parallel. Before winter set in, the kerbstones and paving of the access and connecting roads were laid.⁵⁸

All that was needed to complete the gatehouse was painting, glazing and flooring work. In various areas of the garage and repair shop buildings bricklaying, carpentry and even foundation work was still being undertaken.⁵⁸

⁵⁸ AMM, NARA Microcopy T-77 Roll 744, KTB RüKo Linz, construction progress report 4. Quarter 1941