



In 1938, the Ministry of Aviation engaged the Zehlendorf architect Eduard Jobst Siedler to design the Air Raid Protection School at no. 80 Am Großen Wannsee. Air raid wardens from all over the Reich were trained here. The facility in Wannsee basically resembled the contemporary “comrades’ settlement”: terraced houses with prominent roofs, winding paths and landscaped grounds. The 49 hectare site comprised accommodation blocks for the trainees, but also numerous auxiliary buildings including a school building, a welfare building, lecture theatres, administration and garages.

The 25-metre-high command bunker was built near the administration building and was the first secure bunker in Berlin. Initially, it was used for training air raid wardens, but during the war, it protected prominent Nazis. It was not accessible to the general public. From 1943 onward, during the Allied bombardment of Berlin, it was used by the Luftwaffe. On April 28, 1945, troops from the Volkssturm (German Territorial Army) were brought in.

In 1946/47, the buildings of the former Air Raid Protection School were used as a tuberculosis hospital, and they later became the Heckeshorn Lung Hospital. In 1948, at the time of the Berlin blockade and airlift, the postal services built a transmission tower on the Wannsee bunker. The bunker served in 1948 as a radio control centre during the airlift and was transformed into a nuclear bunker later. As demolition would be too expensive, the bunker still stands on the site.

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