

HISTORY TRAIL ODER-WARTA 1945

At the end of the Second World War, the heaviest fighting in the Oder-Warta region left scars that are still visible today. Follow the cross-border history trail in the footsteps of the events of spring 1945.



On 31 January 1945, the first units of the Soviet Army reached the Oder River and established themselves there. Heavy fighting broke out entlang the present-day border river between Poland and Germany, resulting in countless casualties and devastating destruction of towns, villages and infrastructure by the end of April 1945.

The locations on the 1945 War Events History Trail vividly convey the dramatic events at the end of the Second World War. These include former prisons and camps such as the Sonnenburg Penitentiary in Stońsk, Oflag IIC Woldenberg in Dobiegniew, the Wehrmacht prison in Anklam and the satellite camp of the Theresienstadt ghetto in Wulkow.

Places such as Klessin, Kienitz, Kostrzyn nad Odrą, Santok and Seelow also represent severe destruction and heavy losses in connection with the last major Soviet offensive towards Berlin. Nazi Germany finally surrendered on 8 May 1945 in Berlin-Karlshorst.

The **Oder-Warta 1945 history trail** recalls the events of that time and offers exciting insights from different perspectives.

PROJECT PARTNERS

City of Seelow (Lead Partner)
Küstriner Straße 61, 15306 Seelow
www.seelow.de

Community Dobiegniew
ul. Obrońców Pokoju 24, 66-520 Dobiegniew
www.dobiegniew.pl



„Remembrance connects“ the Oder-Warta region is a German-Polish network for cross-border educational and remembrance tourism. Under the leadership of the city of Seelow, the tourism brand of the same name connects around 180 places of remembrance on both sides of the border to create a multi-perspective landscape of remembrance. Discover the unique history of the Oder-Warta region.

WWW.REMEMBRANCE-CONNECTS.EU

LIBERATION ROUTE EUROPE

European Cultural Route of Liberation 1944-45

Liberation Route Europe is a certified Cultural Route of the Council of Europe and a project of the LRE Foundation. The route connects people, places, and events to mark Europe's liberation from occupation during World War II and to reflect on the long-lasting consequences and history of the war through a multi-national, multi-perspective approach. With hundreds of sites and stories in ten European countries, the route links the main regions along the advance of the Allied Forces in 1943-1945.

Liberation
Route
Europe



www.liberationroute.com

www.lre-germany.org

IMPRINT

Editing and layout:
ECCOFORT e.V., Albertinenstr. 1, 13086 Berlin, www.eccofort.eu

Pictures: Map ©ECCOFORT e.V.; map background ©Printmaps.net/OSM Contributors; Title: ©Museum im Steintor Anklam_Fotografin Monika Hillenbach

The project „**Shared remembrance, expansion of German-Polish history trail War events in 1945**“ was funded by the Small Projects Fund (KPF) 2021-2027 of the PRO EUROPA VIADRINA Euroregion as part of the INTERREG VI A Brandenburg-Poland 2021-2027 cooperation programme.

Travelling through the unique history of the German-Polish border region on the Oder and Warta rivers

History trail of the 1945 war events

FORMER WEHRMACHT PRISON IN ANKLAM

Fates in Nazi justice

Station on the Liberation Route Europe



www.reembrance-connects.eu



FORMER WEHRMACHT PRISON IN ANKLAM

Fates in Nazi justice

From 1940 to 1945, the prison served as a detention centre for members of the Wehrmacht. Convictions included desertion, insubordination, homosexuality, undermining military morale, theft, unauthorised absence, self-mutilation and murder.



Rear of the long building, 2025 (0191re2 ©Peer Wittig)

Interior view of the cell corridor, 2025 (0393 ©Peer Wittig)



The Anklam Wehrmacht prison began operating as a military justice detention centre on 25 November 1940. The inmates were male members of the Wehrmacht who had been convicted, were in pre-trial detention or were being held in transit from military districts I, II and XX, air force districts I and XI, the Baltic Sea area of the navy and Army Group North.

In at least 139 cases, there is evidence that the Anklam prison applied the Special War Criminal Law Ordinance, which was associated with the imposition of the death penalty. The sentences imposed on those not sentenced to death varied greatly.

However, their daily prison routine and their work assignments in the city and its surroundings were similar. The structures of the Anklam Wehrmacht prison were maintained until the last days of April 1945. On 26 April 1945, executions and pardons of death sentences still took place.

The shifting front line of the Soviet army, with a major advance towards northern Germany, took place between 27 and 28 April 1945. On the night of 29 April 1945, the Allies entered Anklam. It was to be the day of the last major fighting around Anklam. The city was almost completely destroyed (70-80%) by bombing, shelling and arson by German and Allied troops.

Alarm units were still being deployed against the Soviet army in the prison. On 28 April 1945, the guards set off on an evacuation march towards the west with a group of prisoners. Two days later, the group had marched through Tribsees and continued towards Bad Sülze. On the morning of 1 May 1945, this unit was captured. (Source: *Das Anklamer Wehrmachtgefängnis*, Schwerin 2021, published by the State Agency for Political Education Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania)

The former Wehrmacht prison is part of the Anklam museum landscape and is jointly managed with the Foundation „Centre for Peace Work - Otto Lilienthal - Hanseatic City of Anklam“.

The main topics for visitors are guided tours and workshops on the history of the site and its surroundings, military justice and democracy, everyday life and the biographies of the prisoners. The death cell wing of the building, which was established as a memorial site in the 1960s, is accessible for remembrance and as part of a museum visit.



Exterior view of Langbau with extension, 2022 (586A6473 ©Photo Hendrik Lietmann, State Agency for Political Education MV)

Historical exterior view of Langbau at the time of use, undated, Museum archive



Ehemaliges Wehrmachtgefängnis
Adolf-Damaschke-Straße 5a
17389 Anklam

Opening hours, workshops, guided
tours on request at the Museum in
Steintor.

+49 3971 245503
info@museum-im-steintor.de
www.museum-im-steintor.de

