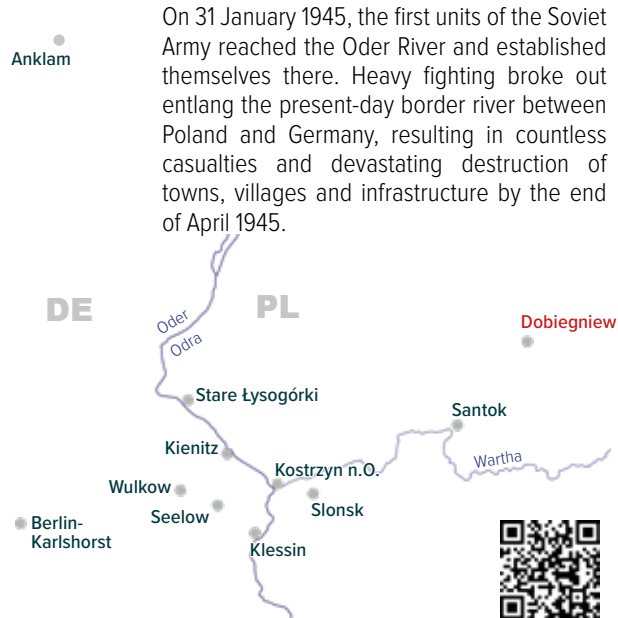


# HISTORY TRAIL ODER-WARTA 1945

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 Słońsk, 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](http://www.seelow.de)

**Community Dobiegniew**  
ul. Obrońców Pokoju 24, 66-520 Dobiegniew  
[www.dobiegniew.pl](http://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](http://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.



[www.liberationroute.com](http://www.liberationroute.com)

[www.lre-germany.org](http://www.lre-germany.org)

## IMPRINT

**Editing and layout:**  
ECCOFORT e.V., Albertinenstr. 1, 13086 Berlin, [www.eccofort.eu](http://www.eccofort.eu)

**Pictures:** Map ©ECCOFORT e.V.; map background ©Printmaps.net/OSM  
**Contributors;** Title: ©...; Inside: ...

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

## WOLDENBERG MUSEUM IN DOBIEGNIEW

Officers' camp Oflag II C  
Woldenberg 1940-1945

Station on the Liberation Route Europe



[www.reembrance-connects.eu](http://www.reembrance-connects.eu)



# WOLDENBERG MUSEUM IN DOBIEGNIEW

## Officers' camp Oflag II C Woldenberg 1940-1945

Oflag IIC Woldenberg was a German prisoner-of-war camp for Polish officers during the Second World War. Despite the captivity, it became a place of learning, culture and resistance, demonstrating the prisoners' strength of spirit, solidarity and patriotism.



View of the camp, funeral

Sculpture workshop, students of Prof. Stanisław Horno-Popławski



Oflag II C Woldenberg was the largest German prisoner-of-war camp for officers of the Polish Army during the Second World War. It was established in autumn 1939 on the site of what is now Dobiegniew, then German Woldenberg. The camp covered an area of 24 hectares and was surrounded by double barbed wire fences and watchtowers. Several barracks housed over 6,000 Polish officers and officer cadets who had taken part in the September offensive and later battles in Europe.

Everyday life in the camp was hard. Hunger, disease, monotony and deprivation of liberty took their toll on the prisoners. Nevertheless, they led an intense cultural and intellectual life. There were three choirs, a symphony orchestra and a theatre, and lectures, vocational training courses and study programmes were organised as part of the Woldenberg University.

There was also a clandestine independence organisation. Of particular importance was the clandestine radio listening carried out by the 'R' group, which provided information from war fronts and from the occupied country.

Sport was an important part of life behind barbed wire. Football and volleyball matches were held regularly, and in 1944 a major tournament was organised under the name 'Olympic Year 1944 in Camp II C', which tied in with the cancelled Olympic Games in London.

In the autumn of the same year, after the failure of the Warsaw Uprising, over 100 officers of the Home Army arrived at the camp, which intensified conspiratorial and patriotic activities.

On 25 January 1945, with the Eastern Front approaching, the Germans ordered the evacuation of the camp. The prisoners were led away under heavy guard in two columns, 'East' and 'West'.

The eastern column was liberated on 30 January 1945 in Dzierżycze by tanks of the Soviet 55th Tank Brigade. The western column was driven across the Oder River, where it was liberated by American and Canadian troops. Finally, on 3 May 1945, the last prisoners of Oflag II C Woldenberg regained their freedom.

Today, the site of the former camp is home to a museum, a memorial dedicated to the fate of Polish officers, their steadfastness, their solidarity and their struggle to preserve their dignity and national identity under the conditions of captivity.



View of the grounds of the Woldenberg Museum

Woldenberg Museum building



MUZEUW WOLDENBERCZYKÓW W DOBIEGNIEWIE  
ul. Gorzowska 11, 66-520 Dobiegniew

Tel.: +48 95 76 11 095

E-Mail: [muzzeum@dobiegniew.pl](mailto:muzzeum@dobiegniew.pl)

[www.muzeum.dobiegniew.pl](http://www.muzeum.dobiegniew.pl)

