

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.

Anklam



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

Municipality Stońsk
ul. Sikorskiego 15, 66-436 Stońsk
www.slonsk.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 and inside: ©Geschichts- und Heimatverein Gusow-Platkow e.V.

The project **„Remembering Together - 80 Years of the End of the Second World War 2025“** 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

MUSEUM HISTORY STATION SEELOW (MARK)

The region. The events.
The people.

Station on the Liberation Route Europe



www.reembrance-connects.eu



MUSEUM GESCHICHTSSTATION SEELOW (MARK)

The region. The events. The people.

The Seelow (Mark) History Station uses authentic exhibits and biographical details to document the transformation of the region over the course of a generation, offering a vivid insight into its eventful history.



The end of the Weimar Republic in 1933 marked the beginning of the National Socialist dictatorship. The National Socialists exerted increasing influence on public life. The persecution of dissidents, the suppression of political opponents and the integration of young people into Nazi structures characterised the image of the region.

Armament and forced labour in the region increased more and more from the mid-1930s. From 1939, with the outbreak of the Second World War, the picture of the region changed dramatically. Accompanied by forced and concentration camp labour, regional production was converted to war-related products, and military trains, deportation and prisoner of war transports crossed the country in both directions.

On the way to Berlin, the Red Army brought the war with full force to the Oder-Warta region. The Battle of the Seelow Heights, one of the last major battles of the war, raged around Seelow and was a decisive moment on the road to liberation from National Socialist rule.

The end of the Second World War marked further dramatic changes for the region as part of the new Soviet occupation zone. The westward shift of Poland to the Oder-Neisse border led to the expulsion and forced migration of millions of people, creating a new physical national border and a language barrier. Political and social structures had to be reorganised. The resulting loss of culture continues to have an impact to this day.

The reconstruction of the destroyed towns and villages and the implementation of the land reform, in which large estates were expropriated and distributed among the farmers, permanently changed the economic structure of the region. The founding of the German Democratic Republic in 1949 as a socialist state brought further changes. Agricultural production co-operatives (LPG) were founded, which shaped the structure of the rural economy.

The construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961 was an important symbol of the division of Germany and Europe. Even though political life in the GDR was determined by the socialist order, the historical traces remained visible in the region - from the destruction of the war to political repression.

Today, the Oder-Warta region is a place of remembrance, dialogue and change. As a multi-perspective landscape of remembrance, it brings the dramatic events of the 20th century to life and tells of the difficult path from destruction, division, expulsion and reconstruction to a new beginning after the end of the Cold War.



Museum Geschichtsstation Seelow (Mark)
Am Bahnhof 3
15306 Seelow

Geschichts- und Heimatverein Gusow-Platkow e.V.
www.geschichtsstation-seelow.de

