

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)
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Community Dobiegniew
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„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.

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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

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IMPRINT

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

History trail of the 1945 war events

WAR GRAVE SITE OF THE 1ST ARMY OF THE POLISH ARMED FORCES IN STARE ŁYSOGÓRKI

Station on the Liberation Route Europe



www.reembrance-connects.eu



WAR GRAVE SITE OF THE 1ST ARMY OF THE POLISH ARMED FORCES IN STARE ŁYSOGÓRKI

The War Cemetery of the 1st Polish Army in Stare Łysogórki is a place of silence and reflection on the Oder River, where history intertwines with the landscape. The necropolis commemorates the dramatic efforts of soldiers fighting at the end of World War II.



Muzeum w Starych Łysogórkach

IS-2 heavy tank located in front of the entrance to the Museum in Stare Łysogórki



The military cemetery of the 1st Polish Army in Stare Łysogórki, also known as the military cemetery in Siekierki, is one of the most important places of national remembrance on the Oder River. The necropolis is the final resting place for soldiers who crossed the Oder and took part in the Berlin operation in 1945.

Here lie about 1,977 soldiers of the 1st Polish Army who lost their lives in one of the most difficult operations of the Second World War on the Eastern Front – during the crossing of the Oder and the subsequent battles towards Berlin.

The cemetery was laid out on a square plan and is divided into regular plots with characteristic Grunwald Cross monuments, which are a symbol of the bravery and sacrifice of Polish soldiers.

The central point of the necropolis is a monumental memorial by sculptor Stanisław Lewiński, unveiled in 1961. It depicts a woman with a child and floating sails and swords, symbolising the sacrifice, hope and hardships of the military crossing of the river.

The Oder River, which the soldiers of the 1st Polish Army crossed under enemy fire, became not only a natural border in 1945, but also a symbolic gateway leading to final victory. Crossing it meant overcoming the last major obstacle on the way to Berlin and the end of the suffering of war on Polish soil.

Every year in April, on the anniversary of the crossing of the Oder, solemn commemorative ceremonies for the fallen soldiers are held at the cemetery.

These events are attended by war veterans, representatives of the military, local authorities, schoolchildren and residents of the region to commemorate those who fought for the freedom of their homeland.

Together with the nearby Museum of Engineering History of the 1st Polish Army, the cemetery forms the heart of the National Memorial Site on the Oder River – an area that connects memorials, monuments and museum exhibitions from Czelin to Cedynia.

It is a place of reflection, history and education, and at the same time an important point on the region's historical and natural history trail.



Lapidarium commemorating all victims of World War II

Siekierkowski Cemetery of Soldiers of the 1st Polish Army in Stare Łysogórki



Address: Stare Łysogórki 1, 74-505 Mieszkowice

Opening hours of the Museum in Stare Łysogórki
Tuesday to Friday 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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