

Lernen aus der Geschichte e.V.

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Das mehrsprachige Webportal publiziert fortlaufend Informationen zur historisch-politischen Bildung in Schulen, Gedenkstätten und anderen Einrichtungen zur Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Schwerpunkte bilden der Nationalsozialismus, der Zweite Weltkrieg sowie die Folgegeschichte in den Ländern Europas bis zu den politischen Umbrüchen 1989.

Dabei nimmt es Bildungsangebote in den Fokus, die einen Gegenwartsbezug der Geschichte herausstellen und bietet einen Erfahrungsaustausch über historisch-politische Bildung in Europa an.

Working Group "Interviews of witnesses"

Working Group "Interviews of witnesses": One group of students interviewed contemporary witnesses on different topics. The interviews were recorded and presented in readers and on DVD. The press was invited for the interviews with school classes

Losing home for ever at age 17 A report about the interviews with eye witness Heinz Schmidt, who talked about his experiences at the end of the war, 60 years ago. He was interviewed by students Alexander Voß and Philip Bartsch. The Ostseezeitung (local newspaper) reported on this interview on 19 April 2005.

Heinz Schmidt was 17 when he lost his home for ever. An adventurous flight through Pomerania and Mecklenburg followed, until he finally found a new home in Bannemin. The Soviet tanks had already reached the other end of the town when Heinz Schmidt, his mother, his twin brother and his grandparents left Kammin in Pomerania on 5 March 1945. They went over the Kamminer Bodden to Wollin via boat and from there on to Swinemünde. There the family was surprised by the heavy bombing of 12 March. Miraculously Heinz Schmidt survived the bombing exactly at the spot where today the Adler-Schiffe (tourist cruising boats) moor in Swinemünde. The few remaining family possessions were pulled on a trolley and the family left Swinemünde. They wanted to reach Stolbe, close to Usedom, where a family acquaintance lived. Here the family found refuge for a few nights. "We were met with a great willingness to help", Heinz Schmidt remembers. Next, the family went to Malchin, because the brother of the grandfather lived there. Anklam was reached on foot and from there on they went by boat. The last step of the journey was once again done on foot. Malchin, however, was not the final stage of this Odyssey. Here, the Schmidt brothers would have been recruited by the Volkssturm. They fled to Bützow to stay with an aunt. Here, Heinz Schmidt witnessed the invasion of the Red Army. As the war was over, the family thought they could return to their native town of Kammin. However, after a short time this area became Polish and the remaining Germans were expelled. On their renewed flight through the island of Usedom, the

Schmidt family remained at Bannemin. Here the boys found jobs and started training as tailors shortly afterwards. Later on, Heinz Schmidt decided to become a teacher. He worked in that profession for 20 years at Bannemin and Trassenheide, and then he worked for two more decades at the school in Zinnowitz.