

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.

The Germanisation Camp

Regina Kibilska:

I remember being brought to the ulica Sporna several times together with a group of other children. There our outer appearance was examined, in the course of which we had to undress, and some of the henchmen classified us according to our suitability to be germanised.

In mid January I was brought to the Germanisation camp in Kalisz at the ulica Poznańska 1, where I spent one year. We were not allowed to speak Polish; we were only taught the things that were appropriate German behaviour. That roused my defiance, and I was beaten as a punishment. In the beginning of January 1945 we were suddenly brought on board of a train which was to take us into the interior of Germany. At night our train was bombed several times – then we were chased from the wagons and lay in the cold for hours.

I remember an incident during the transport that almost caused me to lose my life. One of the Nazi henchmen gripped my arm to throw me out of the moving train because I had spoken Polish. That happened in March 1945, somewhere on the river Oder near Kostrzyn (Küstrin), when the Germans who had accompanied us left the train in great haste. Soviet soldiers liberated us after a couple of hours.