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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 Liberation of the Camp

Apolonia Beda: A couple of days before our liberation the Germans became very nervous. Some became softer, others still more aggressive. Many of them were drunk. We could feel something coming, but none of us dreamed of freedom. In the night of 17 January 1945, Radogoszcz [a transition camp near Łódź] was burning. We saw the glow of the fire from the camp. The following morning during roll-call, Hans said that if need be we would end up like Radogoszcz (2,000 persons were killed there). I was terribly scared. Some behaved totally indifferently, as if they were in a trance. On that day, we got nothing to eat. We heard the sound of engines. Then everything was quiet for a long time. Somebody went outside to see what was happening because all of a sudden it was said that the Germans were not there any more. I was afraid they would come back to burn us, but they were really gone.

Jan Kuczyński: I remember how we had to line up the day after the fire at Radogoszcz. The trumpeter blew to call us to the store to get clothes and explained that on this day we were allowed to eat as many potatoes as we could peel. The office of the camp commander was deserted, everybody had left. We were on our own. Shortly afterwards, all the Nazis fled. A little later we discovered that the gate was open. When I was still hanging around and making up my mind, the gardener came in from the street. He nodded at us and told us to flee; he said they were going to burn us.

Władysław Wojdyło (Nummer 668): Many of us did not know what to do and where to go. It was an icy cold winter with severe frost. We wandered the streets, but many returned to the camp to sleep on their old beds once more.

Janina Ruta-Koperkiewicz (living at Północna street, from where she observed the liberation of the camp): The children fled towards the Plac Wolności. They were of different ages, hungry, their clothes in rags, their shoes several numbers too big, some wore slippers, others had rags wrapped around their feet. A boy was wearing a torn man's jacket, but at least his hands didn't get cold in the long sleeves. A little girl had on a woman's skirt, pulled up all the way to her chin. [...] All the children were dressed very strangely.