

Erasmus PLUS

Refugees – yesterday and today

Wemding

Rome

Liepaja



1945

2016



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Refugees – yesterday and today

Presentation of the
Anton-Jaumann-Realschule, Wemding

Erasmus PLUS

- a project supported by the EU
- participating schools:

Anton-Jaumann-Secondary School, Wemding

Istituto Comprensivo Regina Margherita, Roma

Emilis Melngailis Vidusskola, Liepaja, Latvia

Erasmus PLUS: aim

- ❑ looking at the situation of refugees in the past
 - ❑ reflecting it →
 - ❑ to get a better understanding for refugees nowadays
 - ❑ to be open-minded
 - ❑ to critically reflect the situation
-

Erasmus PLUS: content

- international aspect:
flow of refugees to and from different regions and countries
 - past:
flow of refugees after World War II from east to west
 - current situation:
focus on the refugees in Italy, Germany and Latvia
-

school year 2016 /17

refugees yesterday

- ❑ pupils of all three schools carry out research in their families to find out personal impressions, stories and experiences
 - ❑ they write personal reports
 - ❑ the reports are put on etwinning
 - ❑ exchange via etwinning
pupils read and comment on those reports and work with them
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school year 2016 /17

- interviewing people who experienced that time themselves
 - presenting the contributions in May in Wemding
 - outlook on 2018: final meeting and presentations in Liepaja
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Wemding 2016/17



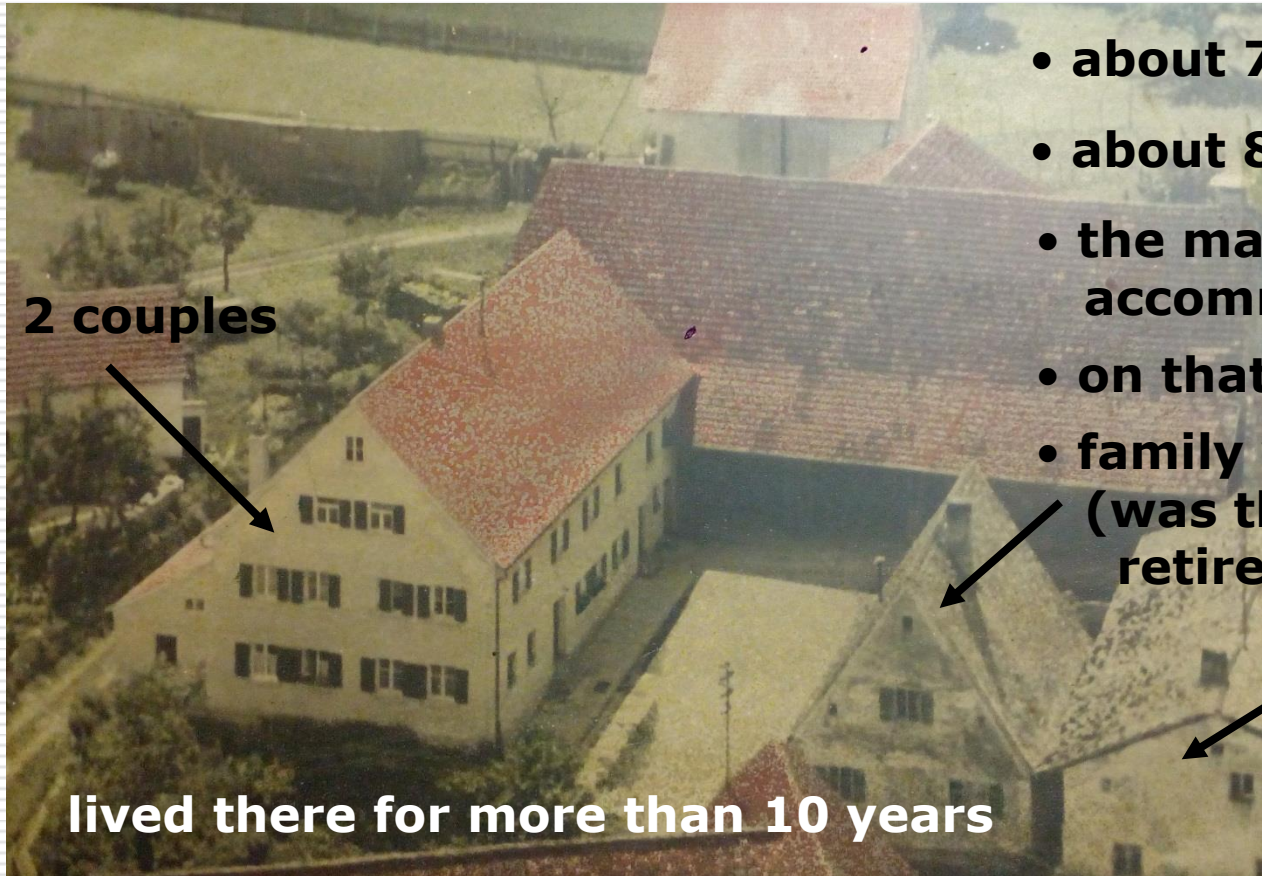
our projects

- situation after World War II
- population in Wemding in 1945
about 2,500 inhabitants

with about 2,000 refugees arriving

- example of Hagau,
village near Wemding
-

our projects



2 couples

lived there for more than 10 years

- about 70 inhabitants
- about 80 refugees arrived
- the mayor tried to find accommodation for them
- on that property:
- family with 9 children (was the house for the retired farmer)

20 refugees in that neighboring house

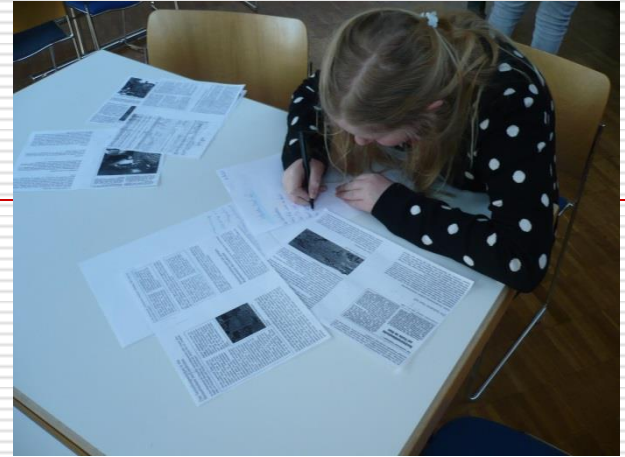
further information

- ❑ the refugees were very poor, grateful and hard-working
 - ❑ they often worked on the farms as servants or maids
 - ❑ worked as day laborers
 - ❑ looked after the children
 - ❑ their children had to attend school
 - ❑ they often learned a profession
-

further information

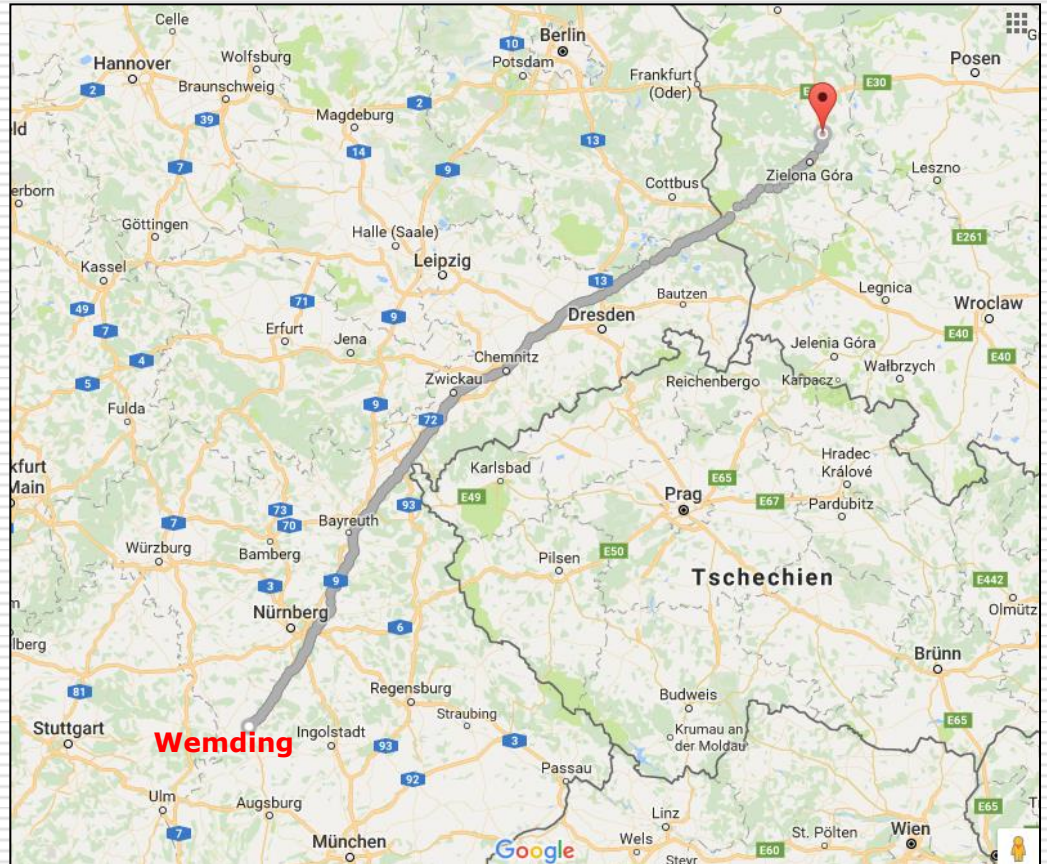
- some years later:
some refugees moved to big cities
and found work there
 - other refugees built their own houses
in nearby places
 - general consequences of the war
for Hagau: a great many refugees,
but no destruction
-

our projects



our projects

□ report of a refugee



our projects



our projects

During World War II, my great-grandmother (Luise P.) from Züllichau (Mark Brandenburg → today Poland) fled to Wemding with her little daughter (Gudrun) covering a distance of almost 700 km.

They joined the spinning factory, where my great-grandmother's younger sister named Martha worked. My great-grandfather (Richard P.) was at the Russian front at that time. The family had agreed to keep in touch with their Berlin relatives. In Wemding the refugees were accommodated in different families first, among them the families E. and H.. At that time life was very hard for refugee families, as most of them were women with children and they could not work because they had to look after their children. My great-grandmother earned some money by knitting. They were very fortunate to spend time with the H. family because they were well-disposed towards them and supported them a lot. The relationship remained close also in later years.

In a letter from a Berlin relative, my great-grandma learned that her nephew, Walter Weiss, had escaped from his boarding school to Neuburg on the Danube. So she and her sister decided to take the nephew in. Martha set off to pick up the youth. In order not to be a burden to his aunts Walter earned some money by taking up small jobs.

My great-grandfather had come into Russian captivity after he was injured. He came to Wemding only after the end of the war. Here he found work in the hard stone factory. Since my grandmother went to school now, my great-grandmother could also go to work. She was the head of the hard stone factory canteen, whereas my great-grandfather worked in production. Richard P. remained there until his retirement.

our projects



http://www.ks-wemding.de/frames/fr_album.html

our projects

My grandmother had to learn that a protestant refugee was still bullied at school even after living here for several years. The Catholic priest Johannes F. said to her: "Go away, you Lutheran rascal!"

In the 1950s, my great-grandparents built the house in the Sandfeldsiedlung, where I still live today. The fact that there were many protestant refugees in Wemding after the war made it necessary to build a church there. The Bu. and Bi. families, who were the owners of the hard stone factory, supported the construction of the Protestant Christ Church. My great-grandfather helped with the construction and he supported the community all his life. Although they were refugees, they gained respect, my great-grandfather was a church administrator and a member of the parish council for decades. After his death, my grandmother was also elected to be the woman of trust in the parish council.

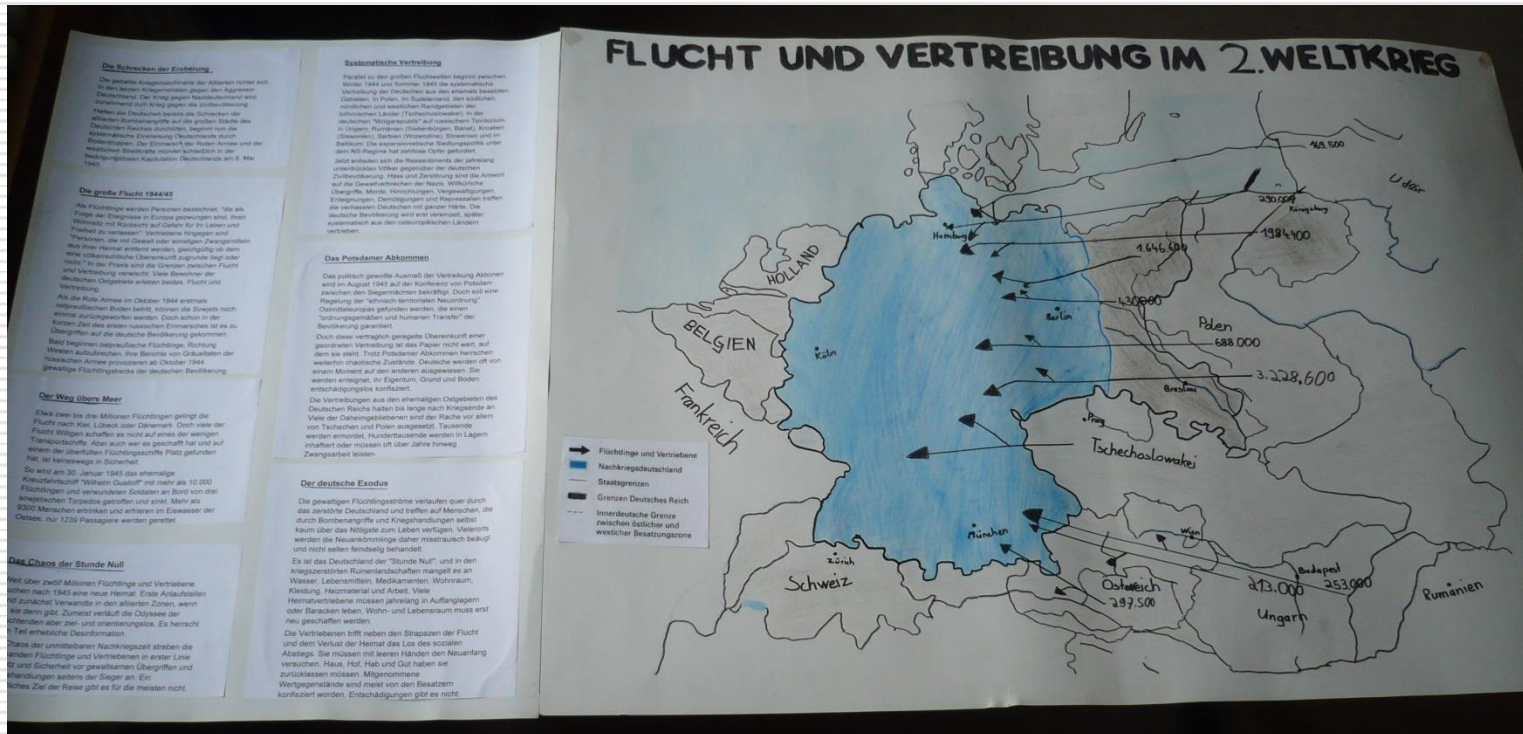
My great-grandmother died half a year after my birth, and I never met my grandmother since she already died in 1990. I only met Walter W., who was like a grandpa for me until his death seven years ago.

our projects



our projects

works of art (6th graders)



our projects

Flucht und Vertreibung im 2. Weltkrieg!

Der Zweite Weltkrieg entwirrt zahlreiche Menschen in Europa. Hunderttausende fliehen im Winter 1944/45 aus den deutschen Ostgebieten vor der heranrückenden Roten Armee nach Westen.

Viele Familien werden auseinandergerissen und sind auf der Suche nach ihren Angehörigen.



Wie viele Menschen in den chaotischen Ereignissen sterben, ist bis heute unklar. Schätzungen schwanken 400.000 und bis zu zwei Millionen Opfern. Etwa zwölf Millionen Deutsche suchen eine neue Heimat.

our projects

- concert in the Art Museum of Wemding in May



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1. Projekttreffen
mit den Partnern
in Rom



our projects



Präsentation des Projektes für
Bundesentwicklungsminister Gerd Müller
im Wemdinger Rathaus

our projects

➤ Rome and Liepaja in Wemding:

19. – 25.05.2017

➤ 2017/18: „Flüchtlinge heute“

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**Thank you
for your attention**

Sources

- ❑ page 2:
picture 1: Brachwitziremember.com (1945), 9/2/2017. www.dw.com
(2016), 9/2/2017
picture 2: picture-alliance/dpa/B. Gindl
 - ❑ photos of Wemding: Neubauer Christian
 - ❑ http://www.ks-wemding.de/frames/fr_album.html
(mit freundlicher Genehmigung der Familie)
 - ❑ photos of the school: Neubauer Christian
 - ❑ photos of the pupils' artworks: Gehring Sabine, Ponicki Susanne
 - ❑ <https://www.museen-in-bayern.de/das-museumsportal/museumssuche/museen/museum/kunstmuseum-donau-ries.html>
 - ❑ photo of Hagau: Breyer-Grüneis Astrid
(mit freundlicher Genehmigung der Familie Stenzenberger)
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