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Vestiges of affect: A photographic re-calling of a forced migrant community's landscapes

WICHERT, Patrick

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Thesis title:

Vestiges of affect: 'A photographic re-calling of a forced migrant community's landscapes

A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of Sheffield Hallam University, for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy



Abstract:

This research explores the role the photographic imagination can play in communicating a sense of loss and trauma of forced migration. It is a practice-led landscape photography research project, a re-visiting of the flight towards the end of WW2 from a small village, Gardyny, the home of my father, to Hemme, Heide-Holstein.
Is it possible for landscape photography to recall a shared, familiar cultural memory of home, and what impact do trauma and time have on this memory? Are such memories recalled, re-constructed or re-imagined, and how can the taking, editing and presentation of photography enable this? In what ways can photography communicate intimacy with such fragmented landscapes? Can the expressed empathy be contained in the photography however fleeting and threatened by distance, both geographically and through time?
The approach draws on archive research, oral histories and auto-ethnographic photographic field work which includes phenomenological methods. It analyses lived personal experience across generations and reframes them within their current social and political context. Methods combine landscape photography with discursive writing, thereby responding to archive materials, literature and personal memories expressed in interviews conducted. Outcomes are presented in a thesis alongside a digital photographic book.

Patrick Wichert, 19th April 2025

Candidate Declaration

I hereby declare that:

1. I have not been enrolled for another award of the University, or other academic or professional organisation, whilst undertaking my research degree.

2. None of the material contained in the thesis has been used in any other submission for an academic award.

3. I am aware of and understand the University's policy on plagiarism and certify that this thesis is my own work. The use of all published or other sources of material consulted have been properly and fully acknowledged.

4. The work undertaken towards the thesis has been conducted in accordance with the SHU Principles of Integrity in Research and the SHU Research Ethics Policy.

Name Patrick Wichert
Date 19th April 2025
Award Doctor of Philosophy
Faculty Social Sciences and Arts
Director(s) of Studies Professor Esther Johnson

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- Gardyny, Heide-Holstein, Freiburg
- Taibe, Port Suez, Madrid

Photographs:

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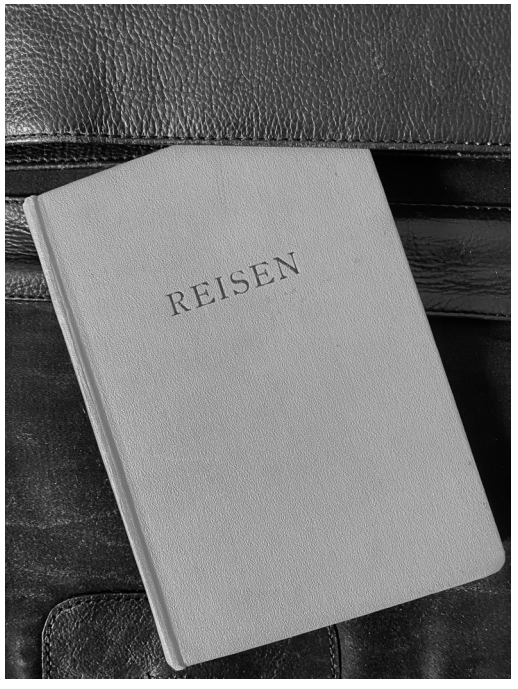
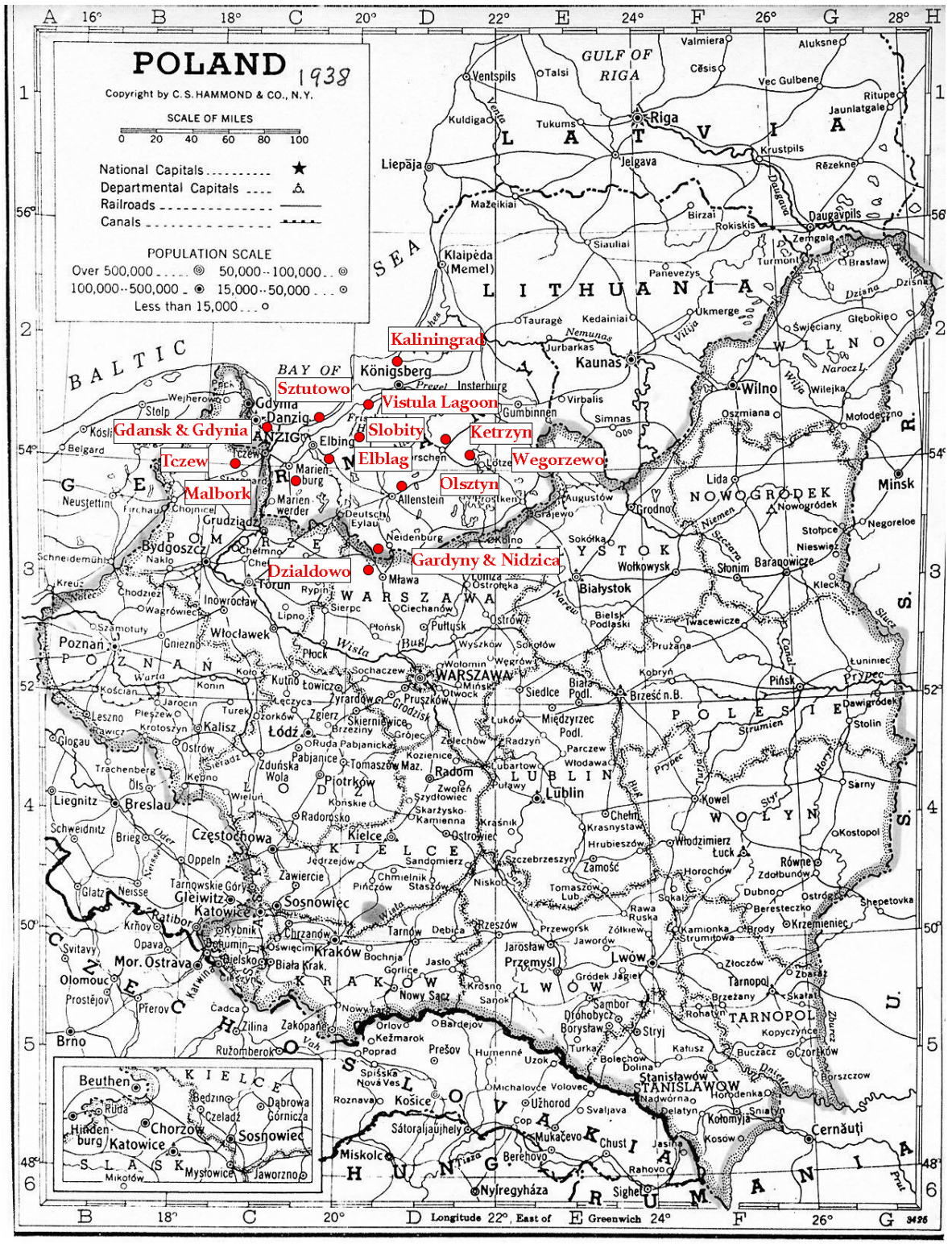


"Travels" notebook, 2025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A typical Masuria landscape (near Wegorzewo and the border to the Russian Kaliningrad exclave)



Tree lined country lanes near Tczew, typical for this region: Most car journeys during my field work took me along such lanes.



One of many swimming lakes in the county of Masuria, this one near Gardyny/Nidzica: I did go for a swim.



Woodland near Rokitki, west of Tczew: Mushroom hunting and berry picking is common in the region and became essential for survival for many in 1944-46.



According to archive testimonies, the small woodland suggests there might have been a small farmstead here once (near Wegorzewo and the border to the Russian Kaliningrad exclave)



Wild flower meadow with poppies, near Tczew: One of my interviewees recalled lying in a poppy field as a teenager and blissfully eating seeds (in Southern Germany after the flight).



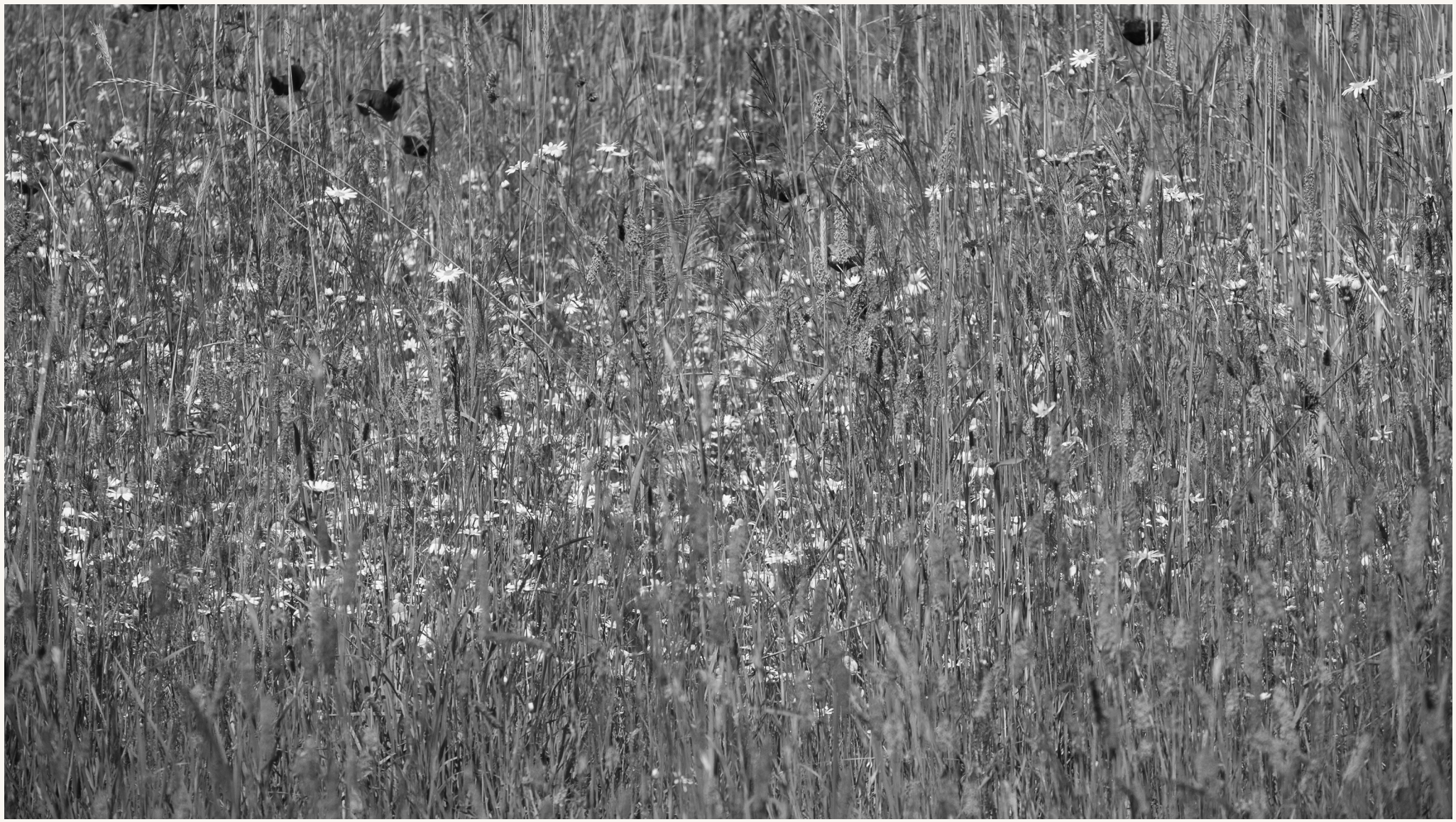
Woodland near Rokitki, west of Tczew: According to archive testimonies, livestock was frequently driven into woodlands and abandoned as the Red Army advanced in January 1945.



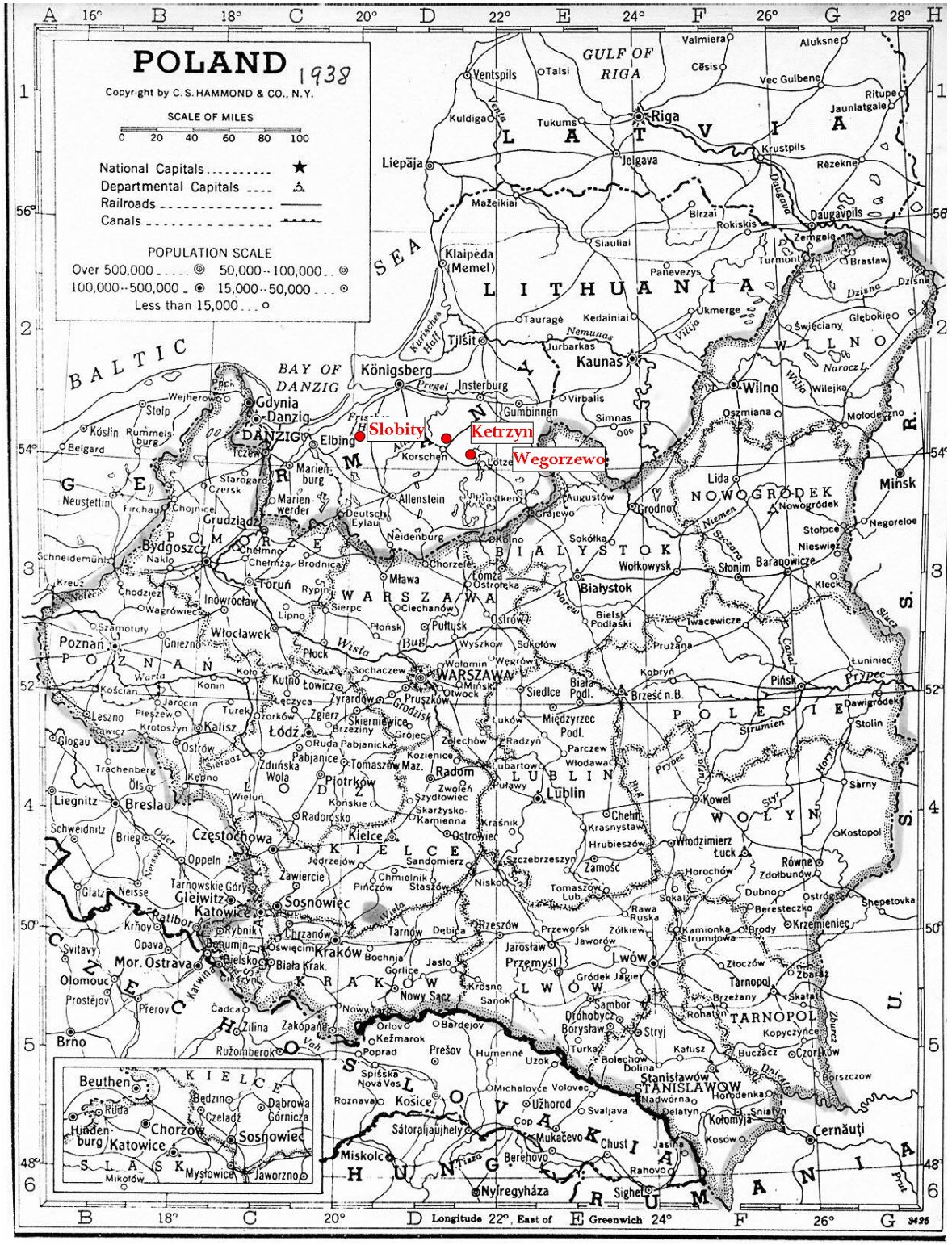
A typical tree-lined country lane near Tczew: As the treks fled westward in January 1945, many archive testimonies and my interviewees mentioned passing frozen bodies lying in the ditches.



By a lake near Rotitki, west of Tczew: On hearing about the German capitulation, the mother of one of my interviewees announced that she would go in the water (taking her children with her) - she never did.



Summer meadows near Olsztyn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The ruins of ‘Dohna-Schlobitten’ estate in Slobity near Elblag: Once belonging to landed aristrocats connected to the Prussian ‘Junkers’, the buildings were raided and destroyed in 1945.



Auxiliary building at the ‘Dohna-Schlobitten’ estate, likely the former gatehouse



Former approach road into the ‘Dohna-Schlobitten’ estate



The ruins of ‘Lehndorff’ estate in Sztynort near Węgorzewo: Once belonging to landed aristrocats connected to the Prussian ‘Junkers’, the buildings were raided and destroyed in 1945. The Count of Lehndorff-Steinort was part of the failed 20th July plot to assassinate Hitler in 1944.



Former outbuildings of the ‘Lehndorff’ estate, some partially renovated and in use at the time of my visit. Lake Dobskie is some 100 yards opposite (behind the viewpoint).



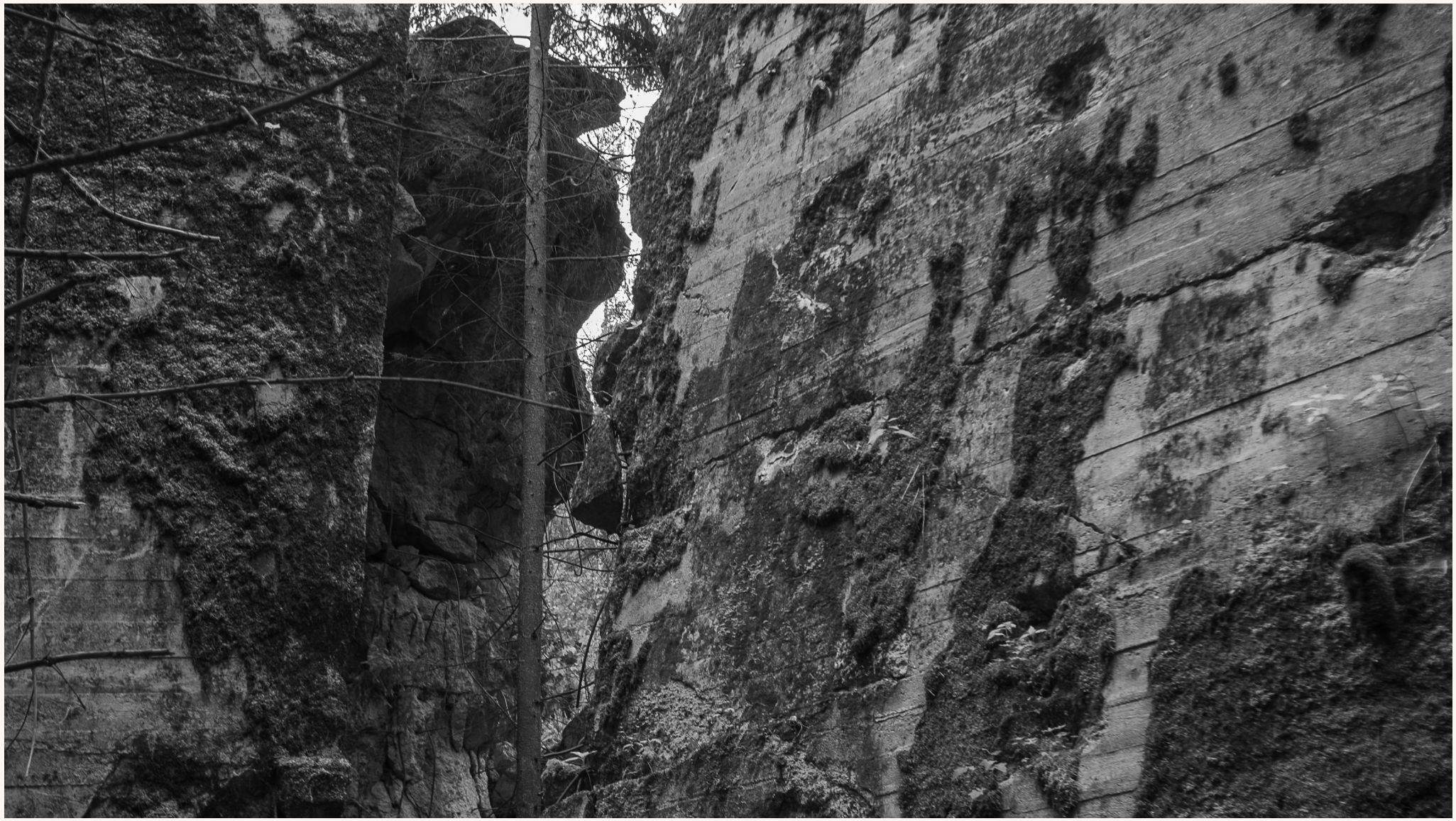
Sztynort port at lake Dobskie, opposite the Lehndorff estate: Masuria is famed for its ‘lakelands’ which are most expansive in this eastern region.



Wheat field with poppies near Kętrzyn



Ruins at the former ‘Wolfsschanze’ (Wolf’s Lair) near Ketrzyn: The complex is now a visitor site and even offers hotel accommodation. It was the German headquarters of the eastern front during the Second World War.



Ruins at the former ‘Wolfsschanze’ (Wolf’s Lair), demonstrating how thick concrete bunker walls were.



Some spaces remained partially intact at the former ‘Wolfsschanze’ (Wolf’s Lair)



For the region typical country lane in Stawiska, a small village near Ketrzyn: The man in the picture spoke German and told me (unpromted) that he had been left behind as a small child as his family fled westward in January 1945. He was deemed to weak to survive the cold and later decided to stay in Poland while maintaining family connections to Germany.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Suwalki
Augustów
Sokólka
Grajewo
Wolkowysk
Slonim
Baranowicze
Nieswiez
Kleck
Mozyrz
Negoreloe
Stolpce
Lida
Grodno
Gumbinnen
Insterburg
Pregel
Tilsit
Jurbarkas
Kaunas
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Wilno
Vilna
Virbalis
Simnas
Oszmiana
Molodeczno
Wilejka
Narocz L.
Wilia
Vilija
Nemunas
Kurisches Haff
Frisches Haff
Elbing
Marienburg
Marienwerder
Graudenz
Bydgoszcz
Thorn
Culmsee
Briesen
Strasburg
Soldau
Neidenburg
Lötzen
Rastenburg
Angerburg
Goldap
Pillkallen
Tilsit
Memel
Libau
Mitau
Jelgava
Tukums
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Ventspils
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Windau
Cäsis
Valmiera
Aluksne
Vec Gulbene
Ritupe
Jaunlatgale
Krustpils
Rezekne
Daugavpils
Dünaburg
Rokiskis
Birzai
Siauliai
Mazeikiai
Panevezys
Ukmerge
Turmont
Zemgale
Brastaw
Dzisna
Dziana
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Kedainiai
Tauragè
Beuthen
Hindenburg
Kattowitz
Chorzow
Sosnowiec
Dabrowa Górnicza
Bedzino
Czeladz
Ruda
Mysłowice
Jaworzno
Mikołów
Oppeln
Neisse
Glatz
Gleiwitz
Tarnowskie Góry
Liegnitz
Breslau
Brieg
Oder
Schweidnitz
Oels
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Ratibor
Krnov
Opava
Mor. Ostrava
Olomouc
Prostějov
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Brno
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Cadca
Biała Krak.
Bielsko
Oświęcim
Chrzanów
Rybnik
Pszczyna
Katowice
Sosnowiec
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Tarnowskie Góry
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Olomouc
Prostějov
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Cadca
Zilina
Zakopane
Ružomberok
Orlov
Kežmarok
Bardejov
Poprad
Prešov
Humenné
Uzok
Spišská Nová Ves
Roznava
Košice
Michalovce
Volovec
Užhorod
Svaljava
Sátoraljaújhely
Cop
Mukačevo
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Gródek Jagiel
Sambor
Drohobycz
Borysław
Stryj
Turka
Katusz
Bolechow
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Jaroslau
Jaworów
Zólkiew
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Kamionka Strumilowa
Rawa Ruska
Sokal
Lub
Tomaszów Lub.
Chelm
Krasnystaw
Hrubieszów
Zamość
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Daugavpils
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Allenstein
Deutsch Eylau
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Dawidgródek
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Kobryń
Pruzana
Twacewicze
Mielnik
Siemiatycze
Ostrów
Wyszków
Sochaczew
Wolomin
Minsk
Otwock
Grodzisk
Pruszków
Zyrardów
Lowicz
Kutno
Leczyca
Sierpc
Lipno
Plock
Wisla
Mlawa
Soldau
Rypin
Chorzele
Lomza
Ostroleka
Narew
Bug
Prypec
Pripet
Horyn
Sluczk
Styr
Stur
Strumien
Przemysl
Jaroslau
Jaworów
Zólkiew
Lemberg



Railway bridge in Tczew across the Vistula river: Tczew marks a major east-west and north-south rail link while the Vistula is Poland's longest and most important river. The line is leading west (left) towards Tczew central and east (right) towards Malbork. The immense strategic importance of the bridge and Tczew led to them being targeted at the outset of the German invasion of Poland in September 1939.



North-east view of the railway bridge in Tzew, broadly towards the Kaliningrad exclave



The Vistula river in Tczew: The central geographical location of the city proved to be perfect during my 2nd field trip as all key locations could be reached from here within about 2h drive.



Farmland across the Vistula river - view from Tczew towards the east: As the Russian invasion of Ukraine escalated ever more during my field work in the region, it occured to me that the border to the Russian Kaliningrad exclave is less than 50 miles to the east from here.



Late evening sun on the banks of the Vistula river, just outside Tczew



Poland Map, 1938 with field work locations - original map copyright: C.S. Hammond & Co, N.Y.

Malbork



Malbork train station: Archive testimonies and interviewees recall fleeing in overcrowded and basic freight carriages - some on flat-cars only - and being exposed to the freezing winter temperatures. Together with Tczew, Malbork was (and is) a key station, linking north-south and east-west traffic.



Archive testimonies and interviewees recall fleeing in overcrowded and basic freight carriages - some on flat-cars only - and being exposed to the freezing winter temperatures.



Below the main bridge across the river Nogat (a branch of the Vistula) in Malbork: Archive testimonies tell of groups of starving orphaned children (”Wolfskinder”) fishing with makeshift glass bottle grenades.



Bank of river Nogat in Malbork


POLAND 1938
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SCALE OF MILES
0 20 40 60 80 100
National Capitals
Departmental Capitals
Railroads
Canals
POPULATION SCALE
Over 500,000
100,000--500,000
50,000--100,000
15,000--50,000
Less than 15,000
Dzialdowo
Gardyny & Nidzica
Gdynia
Danzig
DANZIG
Königsberg
Elbing
Marienburg
Marienwerder
Graudenz
Bydgoszcz
Thorn
Posen
Poznań
Warschau
WARSZAWA
Łódź
Lodz
Kalisch
Włocławek
Plock
Lodsch
Kutno
Lowicz
Pruszkow
Siedlce
Brest
Pinsk
Lublin
Radom
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Częstochowa
Tschenstochau
Katowice
Kattowitz
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Jaroslaw
Jasło
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Nowy Sącz
Gorlice
Bochnia
Tarnow
Debica
Rzeszów
Jedrzejów
Sandomierz
Szczebrzeszyn
Zawiercie
Chmielnik
Pinczów
Staszów
Niskot
Tomaszów Lub.
Tomaszów Maz.
Pabjanice
Pabianicka
Zgierz
Brzeziny
Grójec
Zelechów
Radzyn
Lukow
Międzyrzec Podl.
Parczew
Włodawa
Kozienice
Zwolen
Puławy
Szydłowiec
Skarżysko-Kamienna
Kraśnik
Ostrowiec
Kielce
Sandomierz
Pleszew
Jarocin
Turek
Konin
Leszno
Krotoszyn
Ostrów
Kalisz
Gnesen
Inowrocław
Wagrowiec
Schneidemühl
Nakel
Chodziez
Kreuz
Rypin
Lipno
Sierpc
Ciechanów
Mława
Ostrołęka
Lomza
Ostrów
Pultusk
Ptonsk
Wyszków
Sokołów
Wengrów
Wolomin
Otwock
Minsk
Siedlce
Biała Podl.
Prużana
Twacewicze
Bielsk Podlaski
Białystok
Wasilkow
Kleck
Slonim
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Augustów
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Gumbinnen
Insterburg
Pregel
Frisches Haff
Alle
Korschen
Lötzen
Simnas
Virbalis
Wilejka
Oszmiana
Molodeczno
Minsk
Jurbarkas
Kaun



Site of former Tannenberg memorial in Olsztynek, about 20 miles north of Gardyny: The memorial was a monument to the Battle of Tannenberg during World War I (dedicated to the victorious field general Paul von Hindenburg), as well as the medieval Battle of Tannenberg of 1410. Rallies were held here during the Third Reich. It was first destroyed by the retreating German troops in 1945 and later completely cleared by the Polish authorities. Only a small information board and a few bricks remain today.



As I was exploring the memorial site, I found a small remnant of a brick wall in the undergrowth to the left.



Memorial site of the Soldau concentration camp, now Dzialdowo: The town is about half an hour drive south of my father's childhood village.



Flowers, wreaths, and candle lamps left at the foot of the memorial



Wild flowers by the road near Dzialdowo



Jezioro (lake) Rokickie, just west of Tczew



On the banks of Jezioro (lake) Rokickie



View across Gardejki lake towards Kaplica Ewangelicko Augsburska church in Gardyny: My father's childhood village until the age of 7. The village also has a catholic church.



View of Gardyny, near Nidzica across a wheat field and small lake: Seeing the village for the first time was much more emotional than expected.



Turn-off into Gardyny village



Small potato field and agricultural plot by the lane leading into Gardyny: Potato fields and the associated harvest fires feature often in archive testimonies and interviewee recollections, in literature too.



Allotment in Gardyny village



Chicken farm in Gardyny village



Abandoned house in Gardyny village; the signs warn of entering the property. I could not find out when the house was abandoned, but its condition indicated that this would perhaps have happened about 10 years ago. The area remains very rural indeed with very few nearby industries other than farming, a small gravel mine, and little tourism. The most likely reason for it having been abandoned is economical.



View across Gardejki lake towards Gardyny: I imagine my father roaming around the lake as a child.



A weather-worn rock on a field next to Gardejki lake in Gardyny: As there are no roads or tracks, it looked as if it had fallen off the sky. I imagine it always having been there given how smooth it is. An ‘extended time’ stamp?



A small path towards Gardejki lake in Gardyny, just behind the church: This must be the most common swimming and fishing spot in the village as I could not find a better one when walking all around the lake. I imagine my father using it as a child.



A hillock at the south entrance of the village: In the 14th and 15th century the raised plateau and then wooden structures housed a Teutonic stronghold. Family oral histories tell of my father as a child walking to school over a hill and sitting on it looking down towards the school. As it is the only elevation in or near the village, and his family home was immediately behind it, I'm certain this would have been the one.



Turn-off into country lane: My father's childhood home was (is) located just beyond the left of the frame and the medieval hill to the right. The village and lake are just north of here beyond the hill.



A tended field by a country lane: My father's childhood home was (is) hidden in the small woodland in the centre of the frame. Property deeds I copied at Olsztyn state archive list tenants for part of the land on their small-holding in 1937. The deeds contained no drawings, but it is probable that they refer to the land in the foreground.



View of derelict property on overgrown grounds in Gardyny: I believe this to be my father's childhood home.



A closer view of property in Gardyny: Other than its south-facing wall, the house appears to be intact. I had a longer conversation with one of my interviewees about the tiled oven in her family home. In its doll-house-like appearance, I think of the house as metaphor for forced uprootedness.



Crossing, cross, and hill: Family oral histories suggest that my father walked this route as a child on his way to school. He'd climb the hill in view from which one can see the village.



Meadows on the side of the hill - view towards Gardejki lake: I imagine my father resting here on his way to school as a child.



View from hilltop towards Gardejki lake



View from hilltop towards Gardyny village



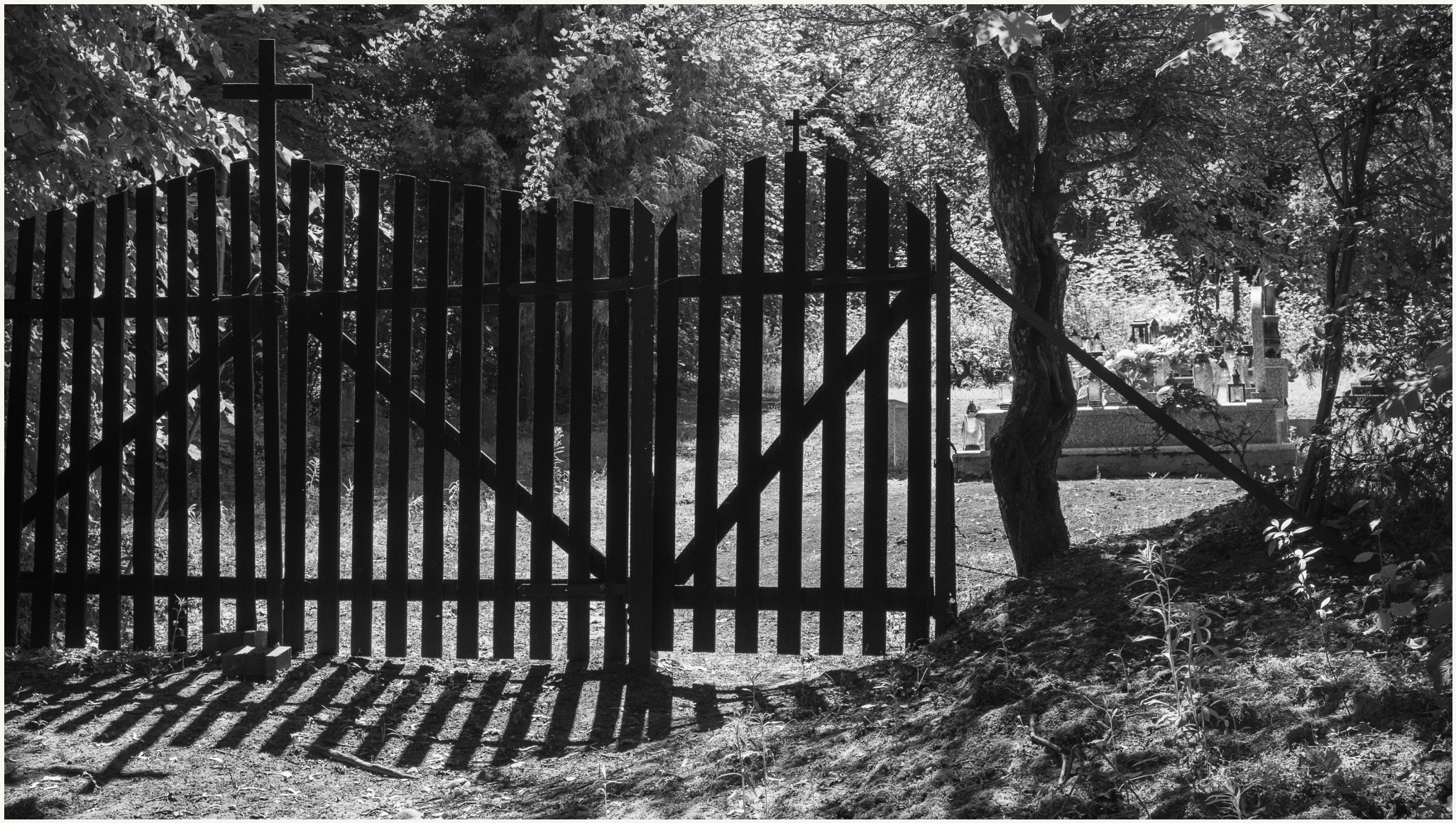
View from hilltop towards lane leading into Gardyny village: Below the distant tree at the centre of the frame the school-bus is parked.



School-bus parked beside the village bus stop and the Gardyny voluntary fire brigade building



Lane leading out of Gardyny: The village cemetery is to the right of the frame.



Entrance to Gardyny cemetery



Overgrown graves at Gardyny cemetery: There were old and newer graves with German and Polish gravestone inscriptions. My family name was not amongst them.



Country lane leading out of Gardyny towards Nidzica to the east



A bridleway following the curve of the lake in Gardyny



View of Gardyny, near Nidzica across grassland and a bridle way: I imagine, this is as far as my father dared to venture on his own as a child. The family home was behind the church in the centre, about as far again as from this viewpoint.



A tree-lined lane leading out of Gardyny towards the nearest railway station in Nidzica: This is most likely the route my father's family took when fleeing on foot (as part of a trek) to Nidzica in January 1945.



Poland Map, 1938 with field work locations - original map copyright: C.S. Hammond & Co, N.Y.

Gardyny, Nidzica, Olsztyn, Elblag



Nidzica railway station, about 1h (by train) south of Olsztyn: Oral accounts suggest my father's family fled by boarding a train here towards Olsztyn.



View north at Nidzica railway station, broadly towards the Baltic Sea and Olsztyn



Olzstyn railway station (Dworzec Kolejowy): My father's family then fled onwards by train towards Elblag and Gdansk.



Elblag railway station, about 1/2h (by train) south-east of Gdansk: My father's family continued their flight by train via Elblag, then Gdansk and Berlin. From Berlin they were later sent to Schleswig Holstein in northern Germany, close to the Danish border.



Platform and tracks at Elblag railway station



Field and gravel road opposite Elblag railway station: Many archive testimonies speak of the children roaming station areas for food or water at any stop during their flight by train.



Poland Map, 1938 with field work locations - original map copyright: C.S. Hammond & Co, N.Y.

Vistula Lagoon, Kaliningrad, Sztutowo, Gdansk



View from Kobyla Kępa near Sztutowo towards the Vistula lagoon: As the treks of fleeing East Prussians headed across the frozen lagoon towards Gdansk, this is close to where they came ashore.



View from Katy Rybackie across the vistula lagoon: According to testimony archive accounts, many horse drawn carts in the treks broke through the ice cover.



Archive testimonies told of air raids too, mostly when the sun allowed best visibility.



View from Kobyla Kępa towards the Vistula Lagoon and Spit: Beyond the Vistula Spit the view is directed towards Kaliningrad some 75 miles north-east. At the time of the field work no entry visas to the Russian Kaliningrad Oblast (exclave) were granted to European Union nationals.



Bridleway next to the Vistula Lagoon near Kobyla Kępa and leading towards Sztutowo and Gdansk: Archive testimonies tell of seeing German teenage deserters hung on trees beside the route as they came off the ice on the lagoon.



View from Kobyla Kępa towards Gdansk: Treks making it onto land after traversing the ice-covered lagoon were aiming for Gdansk and Gdynia harbour about 35 miles west of this location, and passing the Stutthof concentration camp less than a mile to the north (right).



Poland Map, 1938 with field work locations - original map copyright: C.S. Hammond & Co, N.Y.

Sztutowo

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View of the Baltic sea from Plaża w Sztutowie: Soviet submarine S-13 would have passed these waters before sinking the Wilhelm Gustloff ship carrying some 9300 East-Prussian refugees on 30th January 1945.



A bridleway in the woodlands near Sztutowo: Although major treks with hundreds of Germans fleeing the Russian advances westward passed the Stutthof concentration camp within under a mile, I could find no mention of this in the testimonies. The location and striking oral history ‘silence’ is the the starting point of a new research project.



Driftwood on Plaża w Sztutowie



View towards the Gulf of Gdansk on Plaża w Sztutowie: All ships from and to Gdynia harbour are passing through this part of the Baltic Sea.



Stutthof concentration camp memorial site: Each of the marked stoneworks represent a former prisoner barracks.



Woodland between Sztutowo and Plaża w Sztutowie (beach)



More woodland between Sztutowo and Plaża w Sztutowie (beach)



Plaża w Sztutowie


POLAND 1938
Copyright by C.S. HAMMOND & CO., N.Y.
SCALE OF MILES
0 20 40 60 80 100
National Capitals
Departmental Capitals
Railroads
Canals
POPULATION SCALE
Over 500,000
100,000--500,000
50,000--100,000
15,000--50,000
Less than 15,000
Gdansk & Gdynia
Königsberg
Gdynia
Danzig
Elbing
Marienburg
Marienwerder
Graudenz
Bydgoszcz
Toruń
Włocławek
Poznań
Kalisz
Łódź
Piotrków
Radom
Lublin
Warszawa
Płock
Mława
Ostrołęka
Białystok
Łomża
Grajewo
Suwałki
Augustów
Sokółka
Wołkowysk
Baranowicze
Brześć n.B.
Pińsk
Kobryń
Siedlce
Międzyrzec Podl.
Parczew
Włodawa
Chełm
Kowel
Włodzimierz
Łuck
Równe
Zdołbunów
Dubno
Ostróg
Krzemieniec
Tarnopol
Brzeżany
Skałat
Zbaraż
Złoczów
Lwów
Przemyśl
Jarosław
Przeworsk
Rzeszów
Tarnów
Debica
Jasło
Krosno
Nowy Sącz
Sanok
Gorlice
Gródek Jagiel
Sambor
Drohobycz
Borysław
Stryj
Kopyczyńce
Buczacz
Czortków
Stanisławów
Nadwórna
Horodenka
Kołomyja
Delatyn
Kosów
Jasina
Rahovo
Sighet
Cernăuți
Borszczow
Kostopol
Shepetovka
Sarny
Kamionka Strumilowa
Brody
Rohatyn
Zloczow
Tarnopol
TARNOPOL
STANISLAWOW
Kraków
Katowice
Sosnowiec
Częstochowa
Kielce
Radom
Lublin
Zamość
Chrzanow
Oświęcim
Bielsko
Biała Krak.
Mor. Ostrava
Opava
Olomouc
Přerov
Prostějov
Brno
Zakopane
Zilina
Ružomberok
Poprad
Prešov
Košice
Michalovce
Užhorod
Svaljava
Mukačevo
Chust
Berehovo
Miskolc
Nyíregyháza
Sátoraljaújhely
Humenné
Uzok
Bardejov
Orlov
Kežmarok
Spišská Nová Ves
Roznava
Beuthen
Hindenburg
Katowice
Chorzów
Sosnowiec
Dąbrowa Górnicza
Będzino
Czeladź
Ruda
Mikołów
Myslowice
Jaworzno
Gleiwitz
Tarnowskie Góry
Zawiercie
Oppeln
Neisse
Glatz
Ratibor
Krnov
Rybnik
Chrzanów
Tarnów
Debica
Jaroslaw
Przeworsk
Zólkiew
Jaworów
Rawa Ruska
Lwow



Crossroads between Gdansk and Gdynia harbour: Treks towards Gdynia harbour would have come along this main road, the nearby beach front, or by train, maybe 100 yards behind this viewpoint.



Café bar on Plaża Sopot (beach): Between Gdansk centre and Gdynia harbour.



Plaża Sopot (beach): The tracks in the sand are pointing towards Gdynia harbour.



The main railway line between Gdansk and Gdynia harbour



Gdynia harbour railway tracks end: Those fleeing on crowded train carriages would have disembarked here. The harbour is just north (right) of the tracks.



Gdynia harbour: Major ships taking refugees across the Baltic Sea towards western regions of the Third Reich would have landet on the quays here.



Gdynia harbour quays: View towards Gulf of Gdansk.



Archive testimonies recounted the area being so crowded with desperate refugees trying to board ships that some were pushed into the ice cold water and drowned.



Polish marine ships at Gdynia harbour: The Russian naval base at Baltyisk (the former seaside town Pillau) is only 60 nautical miles to the east.



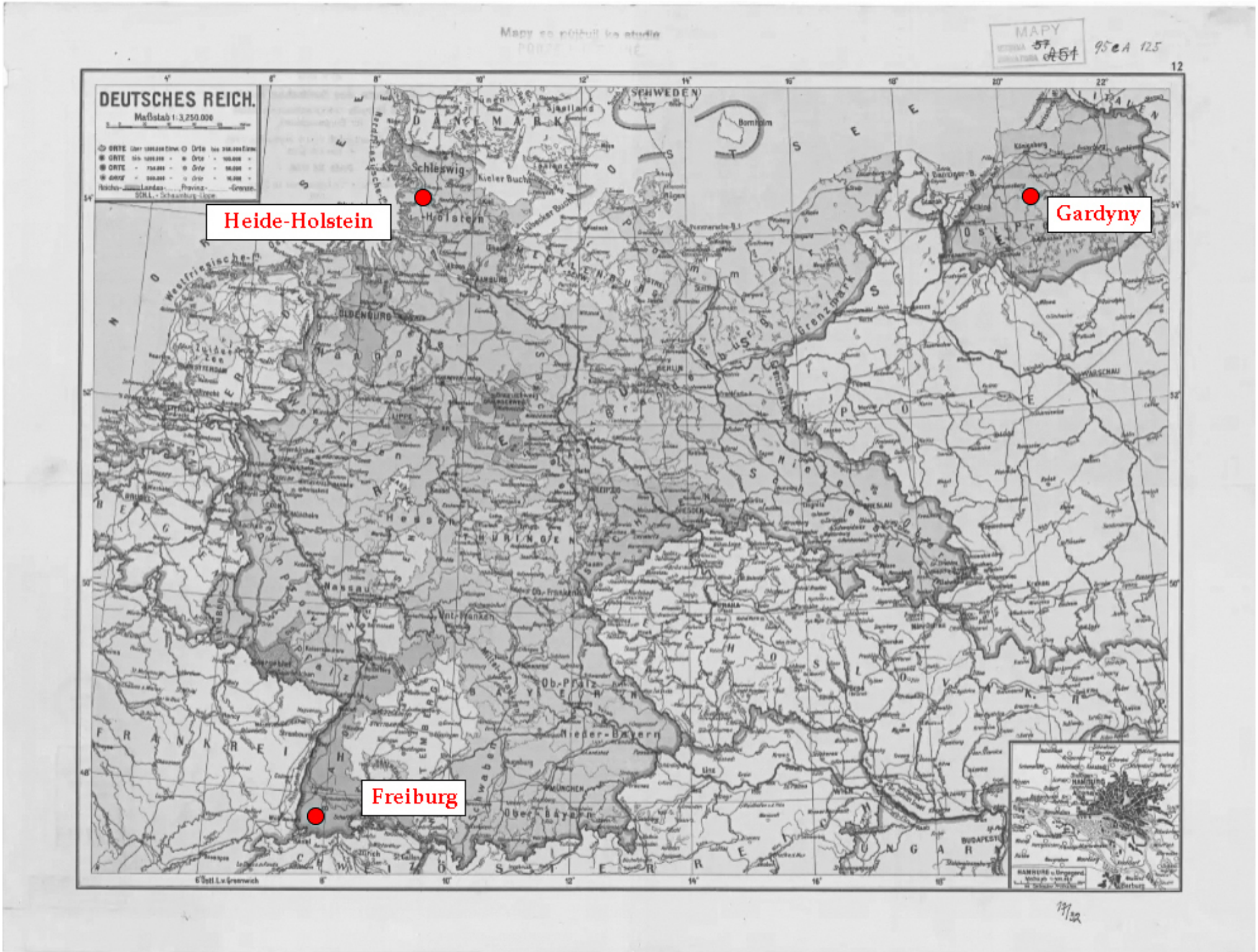
Entrance of Hipodrom Sopot (racecourse): Archive testimonies tell of cart horses being let loose and abandoned here as the refugee treks arrived at the nearby Gdynia harbour.



Paddock inside Hipodrom Sopot



Exercising fields at Hipodrom Sopot



‘Deutsches Reich Map, 1932 with home locations - original map copyright: Staatliche Verlagsanstalt

Gardyny, Heide-Holstein, Freiburg

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Residential building in Emmendingen near Freiburg, southern Germany: My family stayed in a flat on the first floor for a about two years after moving south from Hamburg. My father's mother and one of his brothers had already moved to the region.



Grassy patch in the front garden of the residential building in Emmendingen: My very first memory is of playing in a sandpit under conifer trees. I believe this to be the spot.



Denzlingen train station near Freiburg: My family moved to this small town in 1972. I grew up here.



View of the old part of Denzlingen from the top of ‘Mauracher Berg’ (hill)



Barley field near Köndringen, about 15 miles north of Denzlingen: We frequently cycled here as teenagers to a nearby swimming lake.



The banks of ‘Köndringer Baggersee’ (quarry lake): My father would take the family here at weekends most summers. This was “our” spot. Gardyny also had a lake as well as an open quarry. I realise now that my father must have felt at home here.



The life savers hut on the banks of ‘Köndringer Baggersee’: There used to be an accessible platform on its roof. As a child I did get stung by a bee on it once.



Banks of ‘Köndringer Baggersee’ and small café/shop just beyond: We’d walk (run) this route to the café/shop as children often.



Shallow end of Köndringer Baggersee: As children we dared each other walking across through the shallow waters. They were still deeper than I was tall - I believe I first learned swimming this way.



Woodland on ‘Mauracher Berg’ (hill) in Denzlingen: We played here as teenagers and imagined the ground in this area to be war trenches. Erosion is the much more likely reason for the ditches visible in the frame.



View across fields behind ‘Mauracher Berg’ towards Buchholz village



Main path through woodland on ‘Mauracher Berg’ (hill): The trees with exposed roots to the left bare the names of many local children cut into their bark.



Tree with wood vine at westernmost point of ‘Mauracher Berg’ (hill): The location is maybe 1 mile away from my childhood home and marks the furthest point we would venture on our own as children.



Europe and Middle East map with home locations. Original map copyright: 'historicair', Wikipedia Media Commons, 2007

Taibe, Port Suez, Madrid



Lemons with branches on the table in our garden in Sheffield.

My interviewee Herr B proposed for me to photograph the lemon tree in the yard of his childhood home in Taibe, now Israel. Again, neither budget nor the current geo-political situation allowed travelling there for this study.



Stack of books on the table in our garden in Sheffield.

My interviewee Ms C stated that her ‘home’ would be her books in her flat having migrated from Montevideo, Uruguay to Madrid as a student. Photographing personal objects which offer a sense or feeling of home for ‘nomads’ will be a logical follow-up project.



The Container ship ‘Ever Given’ running aground between 23rd and 29th March 2021 near Port Suez - event restaged on the table in our garden in Sheffield.

My interviewee Frau A recalled that she had been to this very location during her many travels (as volunteer) to Israel and Egypt in the 1980s and 90s . Neither my budget nor the geo-political situation allowed travelling here for the purpose of this study, however her journeying as her stated ‘being at home’ would merit it.

End