

In
commemoration
of the “Stranded
Train“, its
survivors and
liberators.

Befreiung
13. April 1945



At first, I wanted to know exactly what happened so many years ago, because I only knew the rough facts.

But the deeper I delved into what had happened, the more I learned about the experiences of the survivors and others who were affected, the more shaken I was.

But it was not just me: I met many people who were not indifferent to what had happened, who were interested, who were touched and who got involved because of this feeling.

A special feature of this project has turned out to be the direct contact with survivors and their relatives in so many parts of the world - this personal connection is incredibly valuable to me.

I personally believe that every mosaic stone of remembrance helps to immunise people against hate and violence.

As head of the project group "Stranded Train" at the *Gymnasium Wolmirstedt*, I would like to thank my students for their interest and commitment - they will carry on the commemoration.

Karin Petersen



My name is Lina Schmidt and I am 18 years old.

The project was a part of my time at school and it showed me, once again, how important it is to bring this topic into the public and educate people further. To remember the events is a task that will still be of extreme importance in the future, so that they will never be forgotten. This is the reason why I take part in the project and want to contribute to society's education in the future.

My name is Nils Duncan Lichtenberg, I am 19 years old and a former student of the *Kufürst-Joachim-Friedrich-Gymnasium* and currently a soldier in the German *Bundeswehr*.

I was one of the first people to take part in the project and I am excited to meet the survivors and their families on the anniversary of the liberation.



My name is Lea Neumann, I am 18 years old and a member of the project group “Stranded Train” since its founding.

I think it is very important that we admit to our own past, even when it is not always a good memory. Especially the history of our own home town should never be forgotten, but rather passed on from one generation to the next.





I am Leonora Krogel, 14 years old, and I joined the project group “Stranded Train” because I think it is important to direct people’s attention to history; especially when it happened so closely to one’s home.



I am Alexander Werner, 16 years old and I am from Wolmirstedt.

In my opinion it is important to look further into history and pass the knowledge on to future generations, so that they will have the chance to remember our past. The project group “Stranded Train” is therefore an opportunity for me to learn about interesting facts and stories and to take part in commemorating those. I gained a lot of experience and a lasting impression from that time through speaking with witnesses and the work we did in our group.

I am Hugo Muschal, 17 years old and I am from Dahlenwarsleben near Wolmirstedt.

I am a part of the project group "Stranded Train" because I am interested in learning more about the time of Nazi Germany and because I wanted to help to remember the victims' stories.





My name is Johanna Mücke, I am 19 years old and also from Wolmirstedt near Farsleben. I have always taken a huge interest in history, but other than the important happenings and times you get taught at school, I would rather be told the unknown stories, the events that, in the grand scheme of things seemed so unimportant, but still impacted numerous people deeply, moved them enormously and, unfortunately, are forgotten about way too often.

When I first heard the story of the train, I thought to myself: *"This cannot actually have happened so close to my home, otherwise we would have surely heard about it before. How could this remarkable story have been forgotten?"*



So, I joined the project group, and what started out as wanting to learn more about what had actually happened on April 13, 1945 and also seizing the opportunity to speak English more often, soon turned into this mission that I just could not let go. I suddenly found myself doing more and more research, reading more and more stories, talking to more and more people who were a part of these events all those years ago and almost naturally the story of the “Stranded Train”, the stories of the survivors, those who liberated them and those who took them into their homes after this train had stopped right on their doorstep, became a part of my life.



All of you
deserve to be
remembered.



It is the unknown, untold stories that make history so interesting. It is the stories of love and kindness that show us what is really important in life. It is the stories of hate and pain that remind us of the mistakes we shall never make again.

We have not been able to let this story go, nor do we intend to because it is the past that tells us what could be and what shall never be again.