



The monument of Seeshaupt

Back then in April

In the morning hours of April 30th, 1945, a freight train stranded at the station of Seeshaupt. Later on, US-soldiers, which marched at the village, freed the prisoners from the wagons. 68 of them died on the ride from Mettenheim Station.

The prisoners came from a sub camp from the KZ of Dachau, Mühldorfer Hart. At a construction site was planned, that a half-underground armour bunker should be built to produce the jet Me 262. On April 25th, 1945, the camp was quickly evacuated because of the fear of the US-Army. The sick people were left behind. The guards loaded about 3600 prisoners at the station of Mettenheim in a freight train. 80 to 90 people per wagon. In the late evening, a train with 50 wagons left the station to go to Dachau. In the next morning, low-flyer attacked the train for the first time. A day after, the train stopped in Poing, the locomotive was broken. In the evening the rumour said, the war is over. Some of the guards from the train fled. Soon after, some prisoners left the train but were driven back from the SS. The massacre of Poing started, with 50 dead and over two hundred wounded.

The train headed to Munich and was divided at the Isartalstation. Both trains were directed to Bichl-Kochel. In Beuerberg, American low-fighters fired at the train, again, not knowing, KZ-prisoners were inside. 20 dead people were to complain. After one of the locomotive was destroyed, both trains are coupled and headed again to Bichl and Kochel. In the morning of April 30, 1945, the board of Director from the station, also the mayor of Kochel, steered the train in direction to Starnberg. A part of the train were disconnected in Tutzing, near the "Bavarian textile factory". The other one in the station of Seeshaupt. The Americans freed about 1600 people in Tutzing, in Seeshaupt quite 2000 – after 5 days of wandering.



Face of horror

The sight of the prisoners must be horrible. One of the Americans testified that he never in his life saw such a terrible thing – even though as a soldier he saw many things. Many of the prisoners have been underfed; lot of them had deceases of Typhus and Tuberculosis. Other are wounded badly, because of the air raids and the massacre of Poing. The US-troops forced the mayor, community councils and from every household one citizen, to go to the station and see the train, the murgeled bodies, the dead and the emaciated people. After this, the wounded and sick people were brought to hospitals. Most of them came to „Lazarett 2003“at the Lido hotel in Seeshaupt. 28 of them died there. Private houses and official buildings were confiscated from the Americans to accommodate the capable. They even tolerated the looting through the KZ-prisoners. About two or three weeks later, the American commander took the later prisoners to a location for „Displaces persons“(DP) in Feldafing and Freimann.

The unknown dead from the KZ-train, 63 or 68, where buried at the cemenetary in Seeshaupt. 1956 they were exhumated and transferred to Dachau. The deceased from the Lido-Lazarett where exhumated in 1955. At the mass grave in the cemenetary is a mark – a silent cross out of wood. No inscription.

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Memory and discussion

For decades, no one spoke about the cruelty, about the merged people, which came to the village. No one spoke about the expulsion of the residents to make space for the prisoners and the bad time of the plunder. However, like in many places, there was a rethink. The personal experiences faded because nothing compared to the inhuman domination of violence of the Nationalsozialismus and the unimaginable sorry of the people in the concentration camps compared. 1985, the doctor and municipal count, Uwe Hausmann, stimulate to remember with a memorial to the happening on April 30, 1945. It lasted about 10 years for the line-up. A heated discussion between the advocates an opponent started up in Seeshaupt.

At the 50th anniversary, April 30, 1995, the iron-plastic, design by the Artist Jörg Kicherer, was revealed. The monument is crowned by the words from the Antigone of Sophokles: "Not for hate, for love I be". Pastor Heggenstaller appreciates the design in an impressive Mediation. "I see a construction built out of peaces of steel, because the violence war hard as steel, how the people where avoided, they treated and locked, tormented them and took all human dignity. I see a memorial to be here for thinking – everyone should think about it for himself, what incident from back then has to admonish us today!"

Peter Westebbe from Seeshaupt, caused, initiated an article in the Los Angeles times that many of the survivors of the KZ-train – from the USA and Israel - took part at the revelation.



The second place of birth from Louis Sneh

One of the survivors of the KZ-train was Louis Sneh. Born as Jewish Luis Szunyogh in Szegedin, Hungary, lives today in Los Angeles. He is a successful businessman and Seeshaupt is his very special second place of birth. In 1994, it was a happy coincidence, that he meets the people of the initiative of Dr. Hausmann.

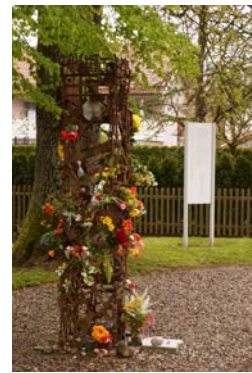
In 1945 while his liberation, Louis Sneh was 17 years old. His carefree youth ended with the invasion German Soldiers in Hungary in March 1944. In the middle of April, the ghettoization of the Jewish population began and a couple of days later the transportation to KZ Auschwitz started. For some days, Louis Sneh and his mother has been in the freight train on the way. Pinned up with fellow sufferers, no water, no bread, no toilets – and the uncertainty what will happen. They stood at the death ramp of Auschwitz on June 29, 1944, in front of the KZ-doctor, Dr. Mengele. Louis Sneh was sent to the working camp Birkenau, he saw his parents never again. Four weeks later, he came with the Tattoo-number 83500 to the KZ-camp Mühldorfer Hart. After nine long month, the allied troops came closer, the camp was cleared. On April 25, 1945, the guard squeezed Louis Sneh together with 3600 prisoners in a train. Again, he did not know, why and where to go. Five days later, US-troops opened the doors, finally he was free! And the sign of the Seeshaupt station he burned in his brain.



The monument belongs to the village

In 1995, the village stood because of the monument shortly for an ordeal, no one believes this today. Opposite the people of Seeshaupt are proud of the courage dealing with the past. This happened earlier as some other commune did. The memorial belongs to the village like the yearly celebration under the name "Seeshaupt im April" stands. Famous speaker came to the small village of Seeshaupt like Hans-Jochen Vogel, Max Mannheimer, Theo Waigel, Kurt Kister, Christian Ude, Franziska Augstein and many more.

The monument and its historical background are an inherent part in the curriculum at the primary school in Seeshaupt. Children decorate it every year on April 30 with flowers. High school students from many schools are treated the monument, the incident of April 30th, 1945 and the history of Seeshaupt in a skilled work. Moreover, from time to time many aged survivors from the KZ-train are visiting the place. It is a deep pleasure that Seeshaupt remembers their story.



Seeshaupt in April

The memory is not limited to the memorial. The wooden cross at the cemetery was replaced in 2013 with a simple gravestone. The impressive design for a sculpture “empty dig” from the Jewish Artist Marlies Ploss and Blanka Wilchfort could not force. Although a bronze panel at the Seeshaupt station remembers in German, English and Hebrew.

For the book-series “Seeshaupter accumulation”, Renate and Bero von Fraunberg wrote the book “Seeshaupt in April” in 2010. The same year Walter Steffen documented the movie “Final destination Seeshaupt” which had its first run. Two years later, the movie “The death train” from Beatrice Sonhüter was shown.

Renate von Fraunberg, Seeshaupt; Translation: Christina Christoph, Seeshaupt

