

DESCENDANTS OF DANIEL KOHLHOFF PART IIIC

The following, also provided by **Manfred Moll**, explains how his family traveled from Gross-Justin to West Germany in 1945 at the end of World War II.

“Trailer to Kohlhoff Gr.Justin

The name Kohlhoff or Kohlhof in the Hufenklassifikation for Pomerania 1717-1719 named six times, so there were already more than three hundred years of Kohlhoff in Pomerania.

On the Internet are in the database Pomerania in many counties Kohlhoff families registered.

With the end of World War II ends the history of Kohlhoff in Gr-Justin and across Pomerania.

The descendants of Hermann, Carl Friedrich Kohlhoff found after a sometimes very arduous, with strain and painful experiences displacement, in different regions of Germany west of the River Oder a new home.

On **March 5, 1945** Gr. Justin had to be evacuated before the Soviet army arrived. The population escaped to the West on foot or by horse and wagon. The escape route went directly along the coast past **Dievenow** to Swinoujscie. When the big bomb attack hit Świnoujście on March 12, 1945 the trek was in the middle of the city of Swinoujscie.

We children survived the attack in an air raid shelter with relatives while our mother stayed with our grandmother who got a place on the horse carriage of friendly farmers.

While the family of Hermann Kohlhoff remained on the trek, the sisters Martha and Elizabeth with their children and the grandmother took the train from Swinoujscie. After a long journey with many interruptions on sidings and for lack of locomotives and damaged tracks, they are finally arrived in Bissendorf near Hanover on March 23, 1945. The grandmother unfortunately died, weakened from the strains of the flight, on April 5, 1945, before the arrival of the Allied troops in Bissendorf.

Part of the refugee treks from Gr. Justin were caught up by the Soviet army in the area of Rostock and many refugees, including the family of Hermann Kohlhoff were commanded to go back to their home villages on foot. In the summer of 1945 the German population was finally expelled from their homeland.

A report from Zoldekow about the escape from the area around Gr.-Justin can be found on the Internet:
www.geschichtsatlas.de/~gc31/daten/seite1.htm

(Zoldekow is a neighboring village about 3 km west of Gr. Justin)

On **March 6, 1945** the first Russian troops came to Poberow 3 km north of Gr.Justin and not all residents, including the family of Emil Reinhold Kohlhoff, could leave the place in time.

On that topic a report by Rudolf Kohlhoff, the eldest son of Emil Reinhold Kohlhoff.

On March 6, 1945, on the instructions of the Russian military, we had to leave Bad Poberow in the direction of Gr. Justin with mother, grandparents (Wallschläger), aunts and children, where we were referred to stay at a restaurant. During an attack of low flying planes on the Russian troops in Gr. Justin the restaurant had been hit hard and almost all family members were injured.

After this experience we wanted to go back to Poberow but that was denied to us by the military. The only way now was to go in the direction of Nitznow. In a forest we waited for the dawn and then went into the village where we found accommodation in the small school house.

After about three weeks in Nitznow we were sent in the direction Karnitz by the Polish military and then further towards Parpart. Here we stayed until the end of the war and moved back to Poberow a few days after.

We stayed only eight weeks in Poberow, then we were asked to leave immediately and sent in the direction of Dievenow, where we had to spend a night in the forest. Over the destroyed bridge, which was only made passable by using pontoons, we went to the island Wolliner.

After a four week stay in a barracks camp at the military airfield we had to move on and made it to Wolmirstädt on the island of Wollin today called "Zolwino Wolin“, where we found accommodation at a farm.

Here our mother died on August 9, 1945 from hunger typhoid. We were then dependent on our Mother's parents, who treated us like their own children. In September we had to leave what was by then Polish territory, and were sent to Swinoujście via Międzyzdroje, with only the things left that we had on our bodies.

From here we were sent on the ferry and across the border. In a reception camp in Ahlbeck on the island of Usedom we spent 5 weeks. After another stay in a camp in Rostock-Dierkow we were brought to Heiligenhagen, district of Bad Doberan until the end of the year.

It should be our new home.”

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Prepared by:

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