



Remembering the past, shaping the future

ETWINNINGSPROJECT SCHOOLJAAR 2024-2025

EUROPEES TALENLABEL 2025



eTwinning = samenwerken

- Partner: Gosia Migoń
- Żagań, Polen: Prisoner of War camp Stalag VIII C



Het project

- focus Wereldoorlog II → krijgsgevangenen uit Stalag VIII in Żagań, Polen.
1. Elkaars leefwereld leren kennen
 2. Presentatie over herdenkingsmonumenten uit onze stad, onze provincie en ons land
 3. Het leven als krijgsgevangene in het POW kamp onderzoeken
 4. Een brief schrijven naar een geliefde alsof je een krijgsgevangene bent
 5. Interview met mensen die leefden tijdens Wereldoorlog II
 6. Reflectie over het project

1. Elkaars leefwereld leren kennen

Doel: internationale samenwerkingen promoten. Cultuur delen en aanmoedigen om een gemeenschappelijk doel te bereiken door de handen in elkaar te slaan.

- Hoe: PowerPoint - posters
- Waarom?
 - Juiste bril opzetten: blik op het verleden & toekomst
 - Belang er van inzien voor elkaar
 - Begrip en respect voor elkaar
 - Insteek van het project begrijpen

Our school is named in honor of the Victims of Stalag VIII C. Stalag VIII C was one of the prisoner-of-war camps located in and around Żagań.



In 1939, the German Office for Prisoners of War established Stalag VIII C, where approximately 49,000 soldiers were held.

How do we take care of memorial sites?

Cleaning the cemetery of Stalag VIII C prisoners.



My Town
Kortrijk

Large cities : BRUGGE, GENT County: WEST-VLAANDEREN

History and landmarks:
1386 Bruegeloren 1415 1302 Guldensporenslag

Population: 80.032

Our school: Athena Potteberg

In Kortrijk we have a lot of dogs and there are also many many pigeons!

Where are we?

Żagań is a city with over 800 years of history. It is located in southwestern Poland.



2. Herdenkingsmonumenten in kaart brengen

Doel: De bewustwording vergroten over de geschiedenis van de Wereldoorlogen.
Opzoekingsvaardigheden ontwikkelen omtrent geschiedenis en communicatie.

- Hoe: PowerPoint – opname – google maps
- Waarom?
 - Ontdekken hoe de geschiedenis van de Wereldoorlogen is verankerd in onze buurt, onze provincie, ons land.
 - Verhaal achter het monument begrijpen
 - Inzicht krijgen op de impact van deze gebeurtenissen

War Monument
WWII, Deinze

- Belgium, Deinze
- remembrance and gratitude
- Lost lives



Harelbeke
oorlogsmonument

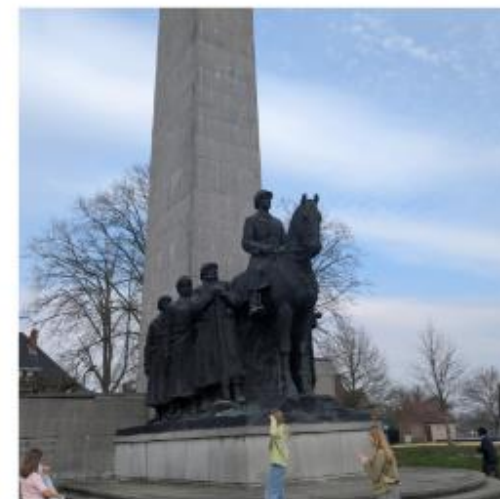
- Located next to the church of Harelbeke
- 1914-1918 and 1940-1945
- Memorial for the soldiers who died in and world war 1 & 2



-Thera-

Leieslag monument

Kortrijk



3. Onderzoek: het leven van krijgsgevangenen in het POW kamp

Doel: Leerlingen bijleren over de geschiedenis van Żagań POW kampen en hoe krijgsgevangenen uit o.a. Frankrijk, België en Polen dit hebben ervaren

- Hoe: websites – foto's - teksten
- Waarom?
 - Internationale samenwerking: bronnen via Poolse leerlingen ontvangen
 - Groepswork: analyse van de bronnen verdelen
 - De bronnen kritisch beoordelen en nalezen
 - Conclusies trekken uit deze bronnen
 - Inzichten delen met elkaar



Prisoner-of-War Camp Stalag VIII C

Stalag VIII C was a German prisoner-of-war camp from World War II, intended for non-commissioned officers and enlisted soldiers of land forces. It was under the command of the Wehrmacht's VIII Military District. The camp was established in Żagań in September 1939 on the grounds of a former German military training area dating back to the Napoleonic era.

It was located on the road leading out of the city toward the town of Ilowa. The camp covered an area of 48 hectares (120 acres) and was surrounded by a barbed-wire fence. Guard towers, manned by armed sentries, were positioned every 100 meters. Initially, the camp was meant for Polish soldiers captured by the Germans during the September Campaign and was designed to hold around 5,000 prisoners. The camp is believed to have also housed an unspecified number of Czechs.

Most of the Polish prisoners held there lost their prisoner-of-war status in June 1940 and were sent to labor camps deeper inside Germany. Later, the camp primarily held French prisoners. The first transport of French prisoners arrived on May 29, 1940, numbering about 10,000 soldiers. Prisoners of other nationalities were also detained there.

Inside the museum building today, there is a large candelabrum with thirteen candles, each symbolizing a country whose citizens were imprisoned in the camp. Flags of these countries are also displayed. Prisoners from various nationalities passed through the camp, including Poles, Russians, French, Belgians, Dutch, Czechs, Slovaks, British, Yugoslavs, Italians, Greeks, Romanians, Americans, Canadians, Norwegians, and even soldiers from distant nations such as Senegalese, Algerians, Malagasy, and Moroccans.

The number of prisoners grew rapidly. In 1940, in addition to the French, the camp housed 1,892 Britons, 458 Belgians, 1,811 Yugoslavs, and 1,211 Russians. The number of prisoners of various nationalities fluctuated throughout the war. By January 1945, just before the camp's evacuation, the prisoner count had reached 49,008.

A group of Spanish Republicans, interned in France at the end of the Spanish Civil War and later conscripted into the French army for fortification construction, were also briefly held in Stalag VIII C. In 1941, following the Balkan Campaign, the camp received an influx of prisoners, mostly British, Canadian, Greek, and Yugoslav soldiers. After them came Soviet prisoners captured during Operation Barbarossa.

4. Een brief schrijven alsof je een krijgsgevangene bent

Doel: Leerlingen reflecteren over de informatie die ze verzamelen en passen hun inzichten toe in een brief.

- Hoe: brief schrijven
- Waarom?
 - De juiste informatie verwerken in een brief
 - Je verplaatsen in het leven van een krijgsgevangene
 - Geschiedenis tot leven brengen
 - Geschiedenis tastbaar maken

Dear Mother,

I hope this letter reaches you. Life here in the camp is tough. We live very close to each other, with many people in one room.

The food is almost non-existent: a small piece of bread for 8 people, and soup made from turnips. We only get one cup of coffee a day, and that's it. The conditions are getting worse.

There are more and more prisoners, and diseases spread quickly. We sleep on the floor, and hygiene doesn't exist. New prisoners have their clothes taken away and are numbered.

Russian prisoners are treated the worst, but even we Italians are suffering.

There is work in the camp, and we get paid a small amount.

I often think of you and the times before everything changed. But I hold on to the hope that the war will eventually end, and that we will see each other again.

With love and hope,

Your son,

Pietro

1942/04/23

Hello mom

I hope you are doing well. I miss you all so much.

I'm lucky here in the POW, because I am French. They treat me pretty well.

I got a lot of food and tobacco.

We also often receive clothes sent to us for theatre or stage performances, we play music and card games. We also celebrated Christmas. I hope I will be released quickly, so I can buy you a present.

I've also got a paid job; I am the camp gardener. I work in a park surrounded by trees and plants.

I wish to see you again soon!

Greetings

Damien

Sagan, 20th December 1944

Dearest Mother,

I'm writing from the Stalag VIIIC camp, where every day is a struggle for survival. We work from dawn until dusk, digging trenches and carrying heavy stones until our hands bleed. The food is watery soup made from peelings and a piece of moldy bread. The barracks are cramped, the floorboards creak, and the wind howls through the cracks. The cold seeps into our very bones. Diseases spread like wildfire, and without medicine, many die in agony.

The guards are merciless—they beat us for the smallest offense, and their shouting wakes us at dawn. Sometimes I hear gunshots in the distance, and my heart freezes in terror.

Mama, the longing for you and home tears my soul apart. I'm afraid I won't have the strength to go on, that I'll forget what your smiling face looks like. But the hope that the war will end, that I'll hold you in my arms again, gives me the strength to keep fighting. I dream of our garden, of the warmth of our home.

Be strong, Mother. Take care of yourself and my siblings. I believe I will return.

I love you with all my heart.

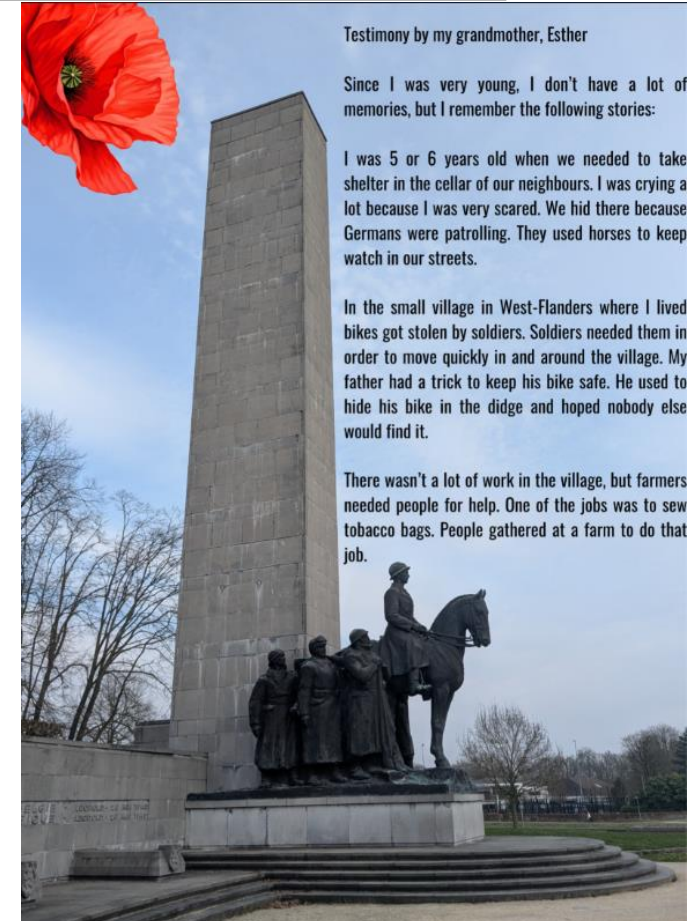
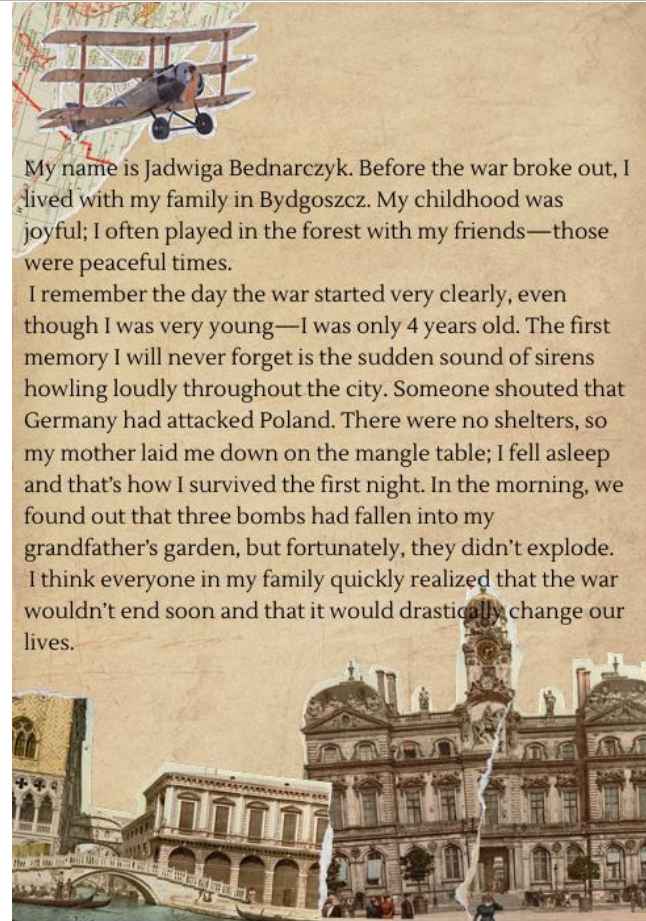
Your son,

Janek

5. Interview met mensen die leefden tijdens Wereldoorlog II

Doel: Inzicht krijgen over de impact van oorlogsvoering

- Hoe: opname – video - brief
- Waarom?
 - Wereld van leerlingen betrekken in het project door grootouders te interviewen
 - Link met het heden maken
 - Verhalen bewaren
 - Beseffen dat deze verhalen belangrijk zijn om te onthouden



Testimony from Word War II

Remembering the past,
shaping the future

eTwinning project
Belgium - Poland



6. Reflecteren over het project

Doel: Kritisch nadenken over de gevolgen van oorlogsvoering. Nadenken hoe herinneringseducatie positieve acties rond vrede en verdraagzaamheid kan inspireren.

- Hoe: forum op TwinSpace
- Waarom?
 - Welke gevoelens maakte dit project in je los?
 - Wat heb je geleerd door het project?
 - Wat was je persoonlijke bijdrage aan het project?



Mila Belgium in reply to **Evelyn Vyncke**

10 months ago

In this project I learned a lot. I've got to learn about the impact of WWII for different countries. I took a closer look on a difficult moment of history and had the chance to learn a bit more about my country. I feel this project taught me about different perspectives.



James Belgium in reply to **Evelyn Vyncke**

10 months ago

The project remembering the past shaping the future has been very fun and interesting. I have learned a lot about WW2 that i didn't know. It has also been very fun to get to know people from other countries (even if we didn't talk much)

It was very interesting to go to all the monuments that i didn't even know in the city.



Kaatje Belgium in reply to **Evelyn Vyncke**

10 months ago

- *The project was really good, it helped me to feel how others might have felt during the war.*
- *I learned about what happend, but also about what different people went trough.*
- *I read texts, and helped my classmates understand the part that I read. I also researched and I wrote a letter.*



Hubert Poland in reply to **Gosia Migoń**

9 months ago

The task I liked the most was conducting an interview with a war witness. It was a very interesting conversation that made me realize how difficult life was for people during the war, especially for children. I will never forget that conversation.

Bring the world into the classroom

- Betrek je buurt: musea, toeristische trekpleisters, monumenten ...
- Betrek de mensen: ouders, grootouders, gidsen, erfgoedsector, heemkundige kringen, bib, rusthuis ...
- Bronnenonderzoek
 - Uitwisselen van bronnen
 - Verscheidenheid aan bronnen: teksten, foto's, websites, filmpjes, boeken ...
- Zet in op inlevingsvermogen
 - Wat als ... ?
 - Gebruik informatie uit bronnenonderzoek om brief te schrijven, interview te houden, nieuwsartikel na te maken ...
- Maak de link met het heden: nieuws van vandaag verklaren?