

Searching for historical traces – Klein-Glienicke Rally!



Introduction: Searching for historical traces – Klein-Glienicke Rally!

28 years, two months and 27 days the Berlin Wall separated people in East and West. There was no other place on the border where the Wall was so omnipresent and life so "Wall-determined" as in the model GDR Klein-Glienicke, which was completely "walled in" except for a small entrance at the park bridge. Traces of German and European history can still be found in Klein-Glienicke!

Today, 30 years after the **fall of the Berlin Wall**, the Klein-Glienicke World Cultural Heritage Site with its cycle paths and hiking trails into the magnificent surrounding park landscape is a symbol of the potential of a united Germany, one that is open to the world. In times of Euroscepticism and Brexit, Klein-Glienicke is also a symbol of a united Europe. Prince Carl of Prussia acquired the country estate Glienicke in 1824. Inspired by his travels to Italy, Russia and Switzerland, he transformed his vision of Europe into garden and architecture. His right-hand men were the garden artist Peter Josef Lenne, master builder Karl Friedrich Schinkel and architect Ferdinand von Arnim! Following the English model, Glienicke was divided into a flower garden, pleasure ground and park. From Glienicke Castle, in the classicist style of an Italian villa, Prince Carl could ride over the "Alps" of the Böttcherberg, with its artificial rocks through the "Swiss village" in Klein Glienicke and visit his brother (later Emperor Wilhelm I) in his English Tudor Castle in Park Babelsberg. In the administrative reform of 1925, the municipality of Klein-Glienicke fell under the care of the city of Potsdam. It was this communal reorganization that destroyed the design unity of Prince Carl's "Europe". When the Wall was built, it ended up located on the two opposing ideological sides of the Iron Curtain.

In the early 20th century, Neu Babelsberg on the other side of the Griebnitzsee and the Griebnitzstraße in Klein

Glienicke advanced to become wealthy villa suburbs for Berlin's elite. The village street in Klein Glienicke developed into the Ku'damm and shopping centre for the "upper crust" In 1919 the Teltow Canal, built for an astronomical sum of 48 million Goldmarks, was opened. With the improved access to the water and the proximity of the royal parks, Klein Glienicke became more and more an "in-place" for the Berliners. On weekends they left inner city Berlin and visited the large number of restaurants and pubs - dancing, flirting, strolling and being seen! Life was raging in Klein-Glienicke in the Golden 20ern.

After 1933, when the National Socialists came to power, life in Klein-Glienicke changed dramatically. Jewish fellow citizens were arrested and expropriated or lost their work and often their lives. With church and state decision-makers, the fascist zeitgeist also found its way into Klein-Glienicke. Other Klein-Glienicker citizens opposed the brown wave and had to leave the villages, their houses and the country. While Klein Glienicke was spared the battles of the Second World War until the very end, the village was cut off from the city at the end of the war, after the bridges to Babelsberg were blown up. This act of desperation probably saved the village from destruction. On April 24th, 1945 Russian tanks rolled into Klein-Glienicke. The war was over!

After the end of the II World War, Klein-Glienicke lay in the Soviet occupation zone. The German Democratic Republic (GDR) was founded on 7th October 1949. In the first post-war years the inhabitants of the village could still work in Berlin or attend secondary schools in Wannsee. From June 1952 however, residents of West Berlin were no longer allowed to travel to the East Zone. Klein-Glienicke was cut off from the West with a first barbed wire. The social fabric of the village-community began to change. Some residents left Klein-Glienicke because they could not bear the growing spatial and political tightening

of the screw. Others were expelled as not politically loyal to the line or because of the danger that they might dare to escape to the west. The GDR authorities implemented a policy of "guided housing" by bringing party members loyal to the line to Klein-Glienicke. More and more people escaped from the "zone" to West Berlin; in the summer 1961 the Marienfelde emergency reception camp was hopelessly overcrowded. Since 1960 the GDR border guards were ordered to shoot in cases of "illegal border crossing".


On August 13, **1961**, the construction of the "**antifascist protective wall**" in the form of a 3.6 m high concrete barrier began. It was later strengthened in Klein Glienicke with a death strip and watchtowers. The wall imprisoned the inhabitants of Klein Glienicke and cut them off from the shores of the Griebnitzsee, from school, work, friends and family. Prince Carl's Garden Paradise mutated into a "special security zone", like a prison cell, with a single highly controlled entrance and exit.


It was not until almost three decades later, when the cold war began to thaw, that the Wall fell on November 9th in 1989. Today, visitors can once trace Prince Carl's footsteps through "Europe"! Only a few orange steles recall the course of the Wall and the history of the place.

The **Iron Curtain** has **fallen**, but barriers are being built in the rest of the world. Of today's 66 walls between nation states, 50 were built after the year 2000. Since the fall of the Iron Curtain, thousands of km of border walls have been erected in more than 65 countries around the world - in concrete but also in people's minds. In 2016 alone, 7,200 people lost their lives trying to overcome border walls. This historical hike, and the photo exhibit that accompanies it from October 2019 onwards, illustrates the costs, for people and nature

Hike with the rally through Klein Glienicke and immerse yourself in an extraordinary past!

Start and finish at Wartmann's Café

The rally runs clockwise through a part of Klein-Glienicke. Just follow the numbers from 1 to 18! Stop at each point of the map that is indicated with a number and read the short text provided. The questions can be answered with some attention to detail with the information provided in the document on "clues". All clues are marked with a  The rally leads you in a circle back to Wartmann's Café You will find a document with the correct solutions and on the website: <https://kleinglienicke.org/>

1. After the wall was built the **park bridge** was the only entrance into the enclave Klein Glienicke. A red and white striped barrier guarded by border guards with loaded submachine guns was the face of the model GDR. Klein Glienicke village was surrounded by a double wall. On the Potsdam side, the crossing was secured by an observation tower. Every craftsman who came for repairs to Klein-Glienicke, every visitor to the cemetery and social workers were accompanied during their work by two, armed border guards. As a result, some craftsmen refused to make repairs in Klein-Glienicke. Every movement through the checkpoint was meticulously noted by the border guards. For each visit an application had to be made which often lasted weeks or was often rejected. 

Question: What did visitors need to enter Klein Glienicke during the Wall period?

2. After 1945, 10 **Swiss houses** stood in Klein Glienicke. They were built between 1863 and 1867 at the request of Prince Carl, the brother of Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm IV. They were designed by court architect Ferdinand von Arnim, certainly according to the ideas of the prince, who returned enthusiastically

from his travels to Valais and Wengen. On your walk-through Klein Glienicke count the Swiss houses that survived the destruction during the construction of the Wall.

Question: How many of the Swiss houses that were built in the 19th century are still standing?


3. Next to the Swiss house with the workshop of the violin maker Muthesius is another historical building. In 1906, master carpenter Blume would probably have shaken his head in disbelief if he had learned, that only 40 years later his recently opened "**Havelschlösschen**" would be surrounded with barbed wire and a wall – preventing the many weekend visitors from Berlin to enjoy themselves! The ones that remained were the Klein Glienicker, who in turn had to be supplied with more than café, tea and beer. A lettering on the front of the house has been preserved from the Wall period and illustrates the new purpose of the former Havel Castle.

Question: Which word is written on the front of the house?


4. The increasingly claustrophobic situation in Klein Glienicke after the Wall was built and the difficulty in maintaining a normal social life led some inhabitants of Klein Glienicke to plan for their escape to the West. Some young men paid for this desire with their life, like Horst Körner. Some managed to escape like two families, whose house was directly next to the wall in front of the hunting castle. After their escape the house was demolished. The property remained empty.

Question: How long was the tunnel the two families dug for their escape from Klein Glienicke to West Berlin with a shovel for children and a spade without a handle?

5. The **chapel Klein Glienicke** was built in 1880/81 under Emperor Wilhelm I and Prince Carl of Prussia for the community of the former village. With the building of the Wall and the declaration of Klein-Glienicke as a restricted area, the tradition of playing music together,

accompanied by the church organ came to an unceremonial end. The number of church members of Pastor Joachim Strauss continued to decrease, but church services were still held from time to time and makeshift repairs to the chapel were carried out. After 1977, however, the building was finally left to its own devices and fell into decay. Only after the fall of the Wall the chapel "this gem of Märkischer Neugotik" restored to its original beauty. In addition to the loss of parishioners, there was another reason why since the beginning of the 70s the church in Klein Glienicke could not anymore be maintained. 

Question: What happened during the roof repair on 7 May 1965? (The solution can be found in the at the fence in front of the church)

6. After the construction of the wall the **cemetery** in Klein Glienicke was located right at the border wall. The row of trees at the end of the cemetery, in front of Berliner Straße illustrates the course of the Wall, for which graves of children had to make way. The location of the cemetery directly at the Wall made it difficult to guard for the border troops. To prevent potential fugitives to hide behind the gravestones, many of those were knocked over. The wall not only separated the living from each other, but also the dead and their relatives. Visits were only possible with the prior permission of the Potsdam City Council (Department of the Interior). 

Question: After the Wall was built, what did relatives need to look after and visit their families' graves? (You will find the answer at the photo in front of the newly planted laurel tree behind the wooden bell tower at the entrance).

7. Border guards were always assigned to work in pairs - "trust is good, control is better". Guarding was often a bleak affair for the men of the GDR border units, and some border guards "kept records" of the remaining

days. On the wooden bell tower of the cemetery, carvings testify to the guards longing for the end of their military service. EK 127 +h (release candidate - 127 days/hours). Some border guards also dreamed of their beloved and immortalized their love affair with a pocketknife.

Question: What was Karl's sweetheart's name?

8. In the Klein Glienicke cemetery, many **famous contemporaries** found their last rest. Among others the philanthropist Wilhelm von Türk. Following in the footsteps of the Swiss educational reformer Pestalozzi, Wilhelm von Türk, after moving to Potsdam in 1817, founded an orphanage, a teacher's seminar, a higher civic school and a building trade school. The "Türksche Schwimmanstalt" on the Havel for "physical training" also goes back to his initiative.

Question: What biblical quotation underlies Turk's philanthropic efforts? (Look for the gravestone of Wilhelm von Türk with its distinct golden writing)

9. Ulla Linow-Wirth was a post office clerk and lived in Klein Glienicke. In order to keep her head above water in the difficult post-war years, she began a career that led to her self-employment in the 50s. After the Wall was built, she commuted every day between Klein-Glienicke and Potsdam city centre. For her, the regulations governing the issue of a passport made life in the enclave particularly difficult. Fortunately, she had a bungalow outside Klein-Glienicke in which her entire social life took place for almost three decades of the Wall. In 2011 she was buried at Klein Glienicke Cemetery.

Question: What "healing profession" did Mrs. Ulla Linow-Wirth have?

18. The 20 **allotment gardens** of Klein Glienicke were created after the First World War from the kitchen garden of the Glienicke hunting castle. The

Berlin Wall was built in 1961 directly behind the allotment gardens on the slope. The wall had to give way to one of the Swiss houses after a family jumped from its balcony directly into the arms of the western border guards - and fled the republic. Today it is replaced by a modern "Schweizerhaus". After the fall of the Berlin Wall, the allotment gardeners escaped an impending sale to speculators when Klein Glienicke was declared a World Heritage Site in 1990.

Question: Which (artificial) relic of the "Swiss mountains" of Prince Carls can still be seen on the right in front of the "modern Swiss house"?

11. After the 13th of August 1961, the construction of the Berlin Wall also began in Klein-Glienicke. Within a short time, the village was completely surrounded, 360 degrees, with a wall, and was accessible only over the park bridge. The Enver Pascha bridge, which had connected Klein Glienicke with Babelsberg until 1945, had been destroyed in the last war weeks of 1945. In the course of the years the Wall was further developed into a border security installation. A 24 h illuminated death strip was added, and a second inner wall was built. The border guards needed free view to shoot. Approximately 40 houses fell victim to the wall. Klein-Glienicke also called the "appendix of the GDR" because of its narrowness, its complete closure by the wall – accessible only through one checkpoint. At this narrow point two double walls met, leaving only a narrow cobble stone road of 11m in the middle. No wonder that some Klein Glieniccker were infected by the "wall disease" – a psychological disorder and depression resulting from the stress associated with „being walled in“. Stop at the small wood information stand and look up into the dead-end street (through what used to be the narrowest part of the GDR).

Question: What was the important function of the building at the end of the cul-de-sac during the Wall era?

12. The **persecution and systematic murder of Jews** also did not stop at Klein Glienicke. Otto Lipmann, the founder of the first Institute for Applied Psychology in Europe, who lived with his family in Wannseestraße 9, lost his teaching position shortly after the NSDAP took power, in April 1933. The Institute of Applied Arts was ransacked by the Nazis, material confiscated and destroyed. Otto Lipmann was devastated by this complete destruction of his life's work; he died a few months later. His family that still managed to leave Nazi Germany in time, today is scattered all over the world.

Question: To which account was the purchase price of the Lipmann family house paid in 1937? ♦

13. Fritz Hirschfeld, who was chairman of the Potsdam Labour Court from 1927 to 1933, and his wife Grete, lived at Griebnitzstraße 8. His military honours from the First World War did not prevent his arrest, the plundering of his family wealth through the "Reich Flight Tax", his expulsion and final deportation (and presumable death) to a concentration camp. His terminally ill wife remained behind, too weak for the journey. Daughter Änne-Dorle reached Great Britain as a 13-year-old girl with a child transport. Today, only the "Maimi von Mirbach Strasse" in Potsdam recalls the tragic history of the Hirschfeld family and their family-friend Maimi, who supported the family despite the high risk she took for her own life. ♦

Question: In which country was Fritz Hirschfeld admitted after his escape from Nazi Germany? (The solutions for 14/15/16 can be found in the advertisement box from Cosmetic-Studio Braune, in Griebnitzstrasse 4a)

14. The Griebnitzstraße is a mirror of the historical developments since the turn of the century, even if today almost all traces of it have disappeared. The stars of the film studios in Babelsberg have been drawn to the waters of Lake Griebnitz since the Golden 20s. From 1935 for three years the British-German actress **Lilian Harvey** lived in a beautiful villa in Griebnitzstraße 6. As

an "Aryan blond dream" she was an ideal for the Nazis. But her help for her Jewish friends and colleagues brought her into the Gestapo's sights and only her British passport saved her from arrest before she left Germany in 1938. Her villa on the shores of the Griebnitzsee was destroyed for the construction of the Wall. ♦

Question: Lillian Harvey was very polyglot. In which languages did she shoot her films one after the other and in front of the same set?

15. The General **Kurt Schleicher** lived with his family in Griebnitzstraße 4. Schleicher was the last Reich Chancellor of the Weimar Republic in 1932/33 and, as an on-party head of government in alliance with the trade unions, tried to prevent the NSDAP from taking over power - and failed. On January 30, 1933, Hindenburg appointed Adolf Hitler as his successor. During the "Night of the Long Knives" on June 30 a year later, General Schleicher and his wife were murdered by the SS in their home. When the Wall was built, the villa of the Schleicher family had to give way to the border fortifications around Klein Glienicke. ♦

Question: What coup attempt did Hitler associate with the murder of General Schleicher and thus justify his violent death?

16. The **Admiral-Scheer View** is a relic from the time when Klein Glienicke was recognized as a climatic health resort during the Golden 20s and Berliners flocked in masses to Klein Glienicke on the weekends to enjoy themselves. The public embankment formed the crowning conclusion of the Kurfürstenstraße, which began at the hunting castle and was planted with alley trees. The Admiral Scheer View opens the view across the water to the villas on the other side. In the villa of the publisher Müller-Grothe, the "Little White House", just across the lake, on 6 August 1945 US President

Truman gave the order to use the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

Question: On which lake does the Admiral Scheer Blick open the view?

17. The small house with the angels in front of the door was built around 1850 as a **forester's lodge**. The architect Christian Heinrich Ziller built it according to the specifications of Carl of Prussia in typical English Tudor Gothic style. In 1901, the forester's lodge lost a whole piece of its garden due to the construction of the Teltow Canal. To the right of the forester's lodge, the view opens up across the Teltow Canal.

Question: What was the name of the bridge that connected Klein Glienicke with Babelsberg over the Teltow Canal until 1945 and was only destroyed in the last days of the war?

The solutions to the Klein-Glienicke Rally are found in a box next to these instructions in Wartmann's Café!

Thanks for joining!

We hope that you enjoy your hike through the past!

The following two books have important sources for the facts and figures of this rally. They are recommended to the interested reader:

Gerhard Ludwig Petzholtz, Klein Glienicke – Große Geschichte, Buchkontor Teltow 2018

Jens Arndt, Glienicke – Vom Schweizerdorf zum Sperrgebiet, coela Verlag GbR Potsdam 2011

Bürgerverein

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