

Project Name: Prisoners of War as Victims of Nazi Persecution at Zeithain 1941-1945 (Saxony)

Project code: DE-SCI 1.31

Country: Germany

Date: 09 Jul 2022 - 30 Jul 2022

Topic: 1: Antiracism, antifascism, remembrance

Number of volunteers required: 12

Age range: 18 and over

Language: English



Description: The Zeithain prisoner of war (POW) camp was established in 1941 by the Nazi regime, to accommodate Soviet POW's. Due to malnutrition, disease, insufficient medical treatment and terrible conditions approximately 30,000 POWs died. Their living conditions did not comply with the rules of the Geneva Convention and it was one of the biggest war crimes committed by the German armed forces. From 1943 there were also prisoners from other countries including Italy, Poland, Yugoslavia, France and the UK. Since 2003, volunteers, under the supervision of an archaeologist, have worked on uncovering the

former camp area.

Work: Volunteers will work on creating a "history trail" on the site of the former Zeithain camp. The work will involve landscaping and gardening and hopefully some construction work. Depending on weather conditions, conservation and documentation of objects found at the site may also be done.

Study Theme: Prisoners of war and Nazi persecution. For further information about the history of the camp please visit this website: <https://www.stsg.de/cms/zeithain/startseite>

Accommodation: In a house shared by volunteers. Showers in a gym next to the house. Internet available in the house. Bicycles are provided.

Wheelchair Accessible: No

Requirements: No qualifications or specific skills are required, only an interest in history and archeology. Regarding COVID, we organize our projects according to the regulations at the time the project takes place. We will inform you about this in the Infosheet and by email. Please note the vaccination and testing regulations for entering Germany: <https://t1p.de/at82o>

Location: Zeithain is a small town in Saxony, near Riesa am Elbe which is known for the history of the POW-camp and the link-up of the Red Army and the US Army in April 1945.

During free-time volunteers can access a gym and outdoor volleyball; excursions to various cities (e.g. Dresden, Leipzig, Berlin) and Saxonian sightseeing spots like Meissen and Moritzburg are planned.

Notes: Videos of former SCI projects in Zeithain, from our long-standing project leader Rolf Schwarz:
<https://rb.gy/ra8goh> <https://rb.gy/Obkqvf>

This project is organized by the German branch of Service Civil International (SCI) (VSI is the Irish branch of SCI). SCI Germany was founded in 1946 and is a registered non-profit organisation. SCI Germany is one of the oldest peace and volunteer organisations in Germany and like VSI, aims to promote peace, non-violence, international solidarity, social justice, sustainable development and cross-cultural exchange through international voluntary work. Through the SCI network VSI and SCI Germany cooperate with a network of branches and partners in over 90 countries. Every year, SCI Germany organizes about 50 international volunteer projects in Germany.