

Name: _____

Klasse: _____

The German Defeat in Perspective

(Pre-viewing activities)

World War II - War dead

Russia	over 20,000,000
Poland	6,000,000
Germany	4,200,000
China	2,200,000
Japan	2,000,000
Yugoslavia	1,700,000
France	600,000
Romania	460,000
Hungary	420,000
Italy	410,000
USA	406,000
Britain	388,000
Czechoslovakia	365,000
Austria	334,000
Netherlands	210,000
Greece	160,000
Belgium	88,000
Finland	84,000
Bulgaria	20,000
Norway	10,000
Luxembourg	5,000
Denmark	1,000

Expulsion of Poles in 1943

”About 6 o’clock a.m. inhabitants of the most distant streets were driven to the square (...). An SS-officer stood up in his car and said to the assembled: ‘Poles! You will leave this area. You will be resettled in the territories inhabited by purely Polish population. Here the Ukrainians will be left in order to avoid the inconveniences of a mixed population. You have one hour to go home and pack your belongings. You are allowed to take 10 kg of luggage per person. In one hour everybody must be here again.’

One hour later all were again at the market place. Those who resisted were pushed by young SS-men. Some shots were heard. It rained and the people were soaked. In spite of the summer weather they shivered. Women clasped in arms their frightened babies (...)

At noon people began to be herded into lorries. Women and children were separated from their husbands, fathers and brothers. After the painful farewells the division of food was made and the women were brutally crammed into cars made to move faster by beating (...) Before the start to an unknown destination they made the sign of the cross. The loading was not an easy thing to do since there were no men to help. A sick woman dropped an infant. After the women were loaded it was the turn of the men. Only those were left who could be of some use to the Germans and their allies, the Ukrainians (...)”

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A German soldier to his wife:

"We behaved like devils out of hell. We left villages to starve to death behind us, thousands and thousands of them. How can you win a war in this way? Do you think they won't revenge themselves somehow? Of course they will."

Tasks

1. *Link up the material above with the soldier's statement*
2. *What do you think the German people felt when the Allies arrived in their villages and towns? Choose those words from the list below which you think express their thoughts and feeling and explain your choice (you may want to use both adjectives and nouns).*

*fear**relief**disappointment**sadness**bitterness**hatred**hope**gratefulness**despair**doubts*