

Refugees in Transit in Ulm (September 1945)

Abstract

Although heavily destroyed during the Second World War, the city of Ulm in Swabia had several military barracks that were still largely intact at the end of the war. These became the site for a major transit camp for refugees and expellees, Displaced Persons, and returning war veterans, who soon arrived in the city along with many returning evacuees. Living conditions in the city were dismal, however, so the American occupation forces sought to distribute refugees and DPs to the surrounding rural areas. These clips from film footage shot by the U.S. Army Signal Corps in August/September 1945 show various groups of people arriving at the train station in Ulm and leaving for places north of the city on foot, by wagon, train or truck if they were able to catch a ride. Ulm was located only a few kilometers north of the border between the French and American occupation zones, which cut off its economic connection to much of the region since crossing the border remained difficult in the early postwar years.

Source

Source: "Mass Movement of German Refugees, Ulm, Geislingen, and Gmund, Germany." September 13, 1945. U.S. Army Signal Corps. NARA. NAID: 19240

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