

17. November 2025

City history

Guided tour remembers displaced persons in the Bocholt city forest camp

Replacement date for cancelled guided tour from October // Registration online

Until the early 1980s, an extensive barrack camp - the so-called Stadtwaldlager - was located where walkers now stroll through the city forest. After the end of the Second World War, it served as accommodation for refugees from Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. In addition to over 7,000 Jewish survivors of concentration and extermination camps, numerous refugees from the GDR also found a temporary home there from 1950 onwards.

A public guided tour on Saturday, 29 November 2025 at 2 pm will commemorate this eventful history as part of a replacement date for 25 October. During the approximately one-and-a-half-hour tour, Bocholt local history researchers Josef Niebur and Hermann Oechtering will explain the various uses of the camp in the immediate post-war period and report on the fates of the so-called *displaced persons* - people who were unable to return to their home countries after 1945.

"The tour offers an impressive insight into a previously little-known chapter of Bocholt's history and makes it clear how closely Bocholt is connected to the aftermath of the war and European refugee history", says Oliver Brenn, Head of Culture and Archives at the City of Bocholt.

The guided tour is part of the "Blind Spots" project. This series of events is dedicated to the history of displaced persons in Westphalia-Lippe. These are former forced labourers and concentration camp prisoners who were housed in special camps by the Allies after the end of the war.

There are 38 such camps known in the Westphalia-Lippe region. As part of the project, their history will be explored with a varied programme at the Haltern am See, Bocholt, Bochum, Münster and Soest sites.

Participation in the guided tour is free of charge. Registration is required at www.stadtmuseum-bocholt.de ↗



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Bocholt city forest camp, November 1955 - Source: Bocholt city archives, picture collection no. 5853