



## Teacher material

# Humanity in inhuman times

## Activity Plan

1. The students discuss the thesis that *War frees people (both civilians and soldiers) from moral responsibility for their action*. They can also give the arguments for and against and write them on the board. The teacher moderates the discussion (10 min).
2. The students watch a fragment of newsreel (Source material no. 1) and analyse the material by answering questions (examples) (10 min):
  - What can you see?
  - Who can you see?
  - What is the reader talking about?
  - Which pictures did draw your attention and why?
  - Which words used by the reader did draw your attention and why?
  - Who could have made the film?
  - What was the purpose of making the film?
3. The students familiarize with history of camps in Lamsdorf/Łambinowice by watching a Power Point presentation with a commentary of the teacher. The students are also familiarized with the newsreel's background (15 min).
4. The teacher divides students into two groups. He or she distributes source materials. The students familiarize with the sources (each student receives one item to analyse it and question(s) to this item) and discuss about the problems mentioned in questions for the group.

### Group 1

- Which groups of the prisoners of war who stayed in Stalag 318/VIII F (344) Lamsdorf were mentioned in the source materials?
- Which problems are brought up by the prisoners of war in their memories?
- What were the conditions in which the Soviet prisoners of war stayed?
- What was Germans' attitude towards the prisoners of war and what they resulted from?

### Group 2

- Which problems of the prisoners are brought up in the source materials?
- What were the living conditions of the prisoners? How were they treated?
- How did the Polish side perceive the presence of Germans in the post-war camps? Which words would you use to describe the situation?

Teacher moderates the group work (25 min). Students from group 2 have to know that Germans used the name "Lamsdorf" even after the change of the village's name into Łambinowice. That's why they use "Labour Camp Lamsdorf" in their memories. The students present the results of their work to other groups by answering the questions (15 min).



5. The students discuss the main thesis once again. Additional questions can be helpful for them: How did the propaganda influence the way of treating the prisoners and prisoners-of-war? Why do people feel that they are free from moral responsibility for their actions? (Ideology which imposes enemy's image? Revenge? Brutalization of life which is the effect of war?) (15 min)

**Sources:**

All images and texts are selected from the collection of the Central Prisoners-of-War Museum in Łambinowice-Opole.