



## locations (places)

<b>Bad Salzuflen, Germany</b>	City in the north-western area of Germany and home of survivor and <i>Gustloff</i> historian Heinz Schön. He maintains the <i>Gustloff-Archiv</i> here.
<b>Baltic Sea</b>	A relatively shallow inland sea surrounded by by the countries of Northeastern Europe and Scandinavia. The Baltic was where the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i> met its fate on January 30, 1945 - near the Stolpe Bank, off the coast of modern-day Poland.
<b>Bay of Danzig</b>	In modern day known as the Gulf (or Bay) of Gdansk, this southern-east area of the Baltic Sea provided perfect sheltered waters for German U-Boat training operations in World War II.  Currently, Poland and an area of Russia surround the Bay - but prior to the end of World War II, it was primarily German territory (East Prussia/Pomerania).
<b>Bay of Gdansk</b>	see 'Bay of Danzig'
<b>Berlin, Germany</b>	Capital of Germany today and during World War II, where Hitler commanded his empire from the massive Reich Chancellery designed by his architect - Albert Speer.  Berlin is one of Europe's younger cities, with its roots in the 12th century as two settlements developed on either side of the river Spree (Berlin and Cölln). The two towns unified under the name Berlin in 1709. It became capital of the German Empire in 1871.
<b>Bern, Switzerland</b>	Bern is Switzerland's charming capital and its fourth largest city in terms of population (today 130,000). Nestled into a peninsula in a crook of the River Aare, its quiet, cobble-stoned city centre with distinctive architecture has remained much the same for five hundred years. Notably, Bern was home to Albert Einstein when

	<p>he published his 'Special Theory of Relativity' in 1905.</p> <p>After David Frankfurter left Germany in October 1933, he settled in Bern to continue his studies in medicine at Bern University, but continued to become overwhelmed by a desire to take action against the Nazi menace. On January 31st 1936, he left his boarding house in Bern - never to return. Five days later, he shot Wilhelm Gustloff in Davos.</p>
<b>Bern University</b>	The University in the town of Bern where David Frankfurter sporadically studied medicine. His hope was to complete a doctoral thesis in cancer. He never reached this goal, instead assassinating Swiss Nazi Leader Wilhelm Gustloff.
<b>Bremerhaven, Germany</b>	see 'Wesermünde'
<b>Copenhagen, Denmark</b>	<p>Denmark's largest city and capital that was still under Nazi control until the very end of World War II. As Nazi Germany collapsed, many ships in <i>Operation Hannibal</i> were re-directed to Copenhagen instead of mainland Germany.</p> <p>Many survivors of the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i> disaster who had made it back to shore and recovered from their ordeal ended up in Copenhagen via other escape boats and vessels.</p>
<b>Danzig, Germany</b>	<p>Modern day Gdansk in Poland, Danzig was historically a German-speaking town in East Prussia and major port since the 14th Century. After World War I, Danzig was officially declared a "free" city to be governed under the auspices of the League of Nations.</p> <p>Tensions between the Poles and Germans over the city served as a pretext for Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939.</p>
<b>Davos, Switzerland</b>	<p>A small town in Eastern Switzerland that was home to Swiss Nazi leader Wilhelm Gustloff for over twenty years - until assassinated in the study of his residence in February 1936.</p> <p>Davos is known as a popular winter sports town. However, it gained widespread recognition for its climate - derived from being tucked away in one of the highest valleys in Europe. Doctors deemed it beneficial to patients with lung disease. Wilhelm Gustloff suffered from tuberculosis and was sent to Davos in 1914 on doctor's orders.</p>
<b>East Prussia</b>	This former kingdom in north-central Europe became officially



	<p>part of the German Empire in 1871 under the orchestration of Prime Minister Otto Von Bismarck.</p> <p>During the years after World War I, it remained a part of Germany - separated only by the Danzig corridor (officially ceded to Poland after Germany's defeat). It remained German until 1945 when the Soviets avenged the brutal invasion of their Motherland. East Prussians, in a panic to escape from torture and death, streamed into Danzig ports (including Gotenhafen/Gdynia acquired by 1939 forced annexation) to board western-bound vessels toward mainland Germany.</p> <p>Following World War II, East Prussia was formally absorbed into Poland and Russia. Many East Prussians who fled the Red Army attempted to return after the war - only to have all of their possessions confiscated and be ultimately expelled.</p>
<b>Fjords of Norway</b>	<p>The famous Fjords of Norway were a popular destination for <i>KdF</i> ships like the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i>. Most cruises in the North Sea included visits to the west coast of Norway so that passengers could view the world-famous scenery - created ages ago when glaciers retreated and carved spectacular results.</p> <p>During the <i>KdF</i> cruises, participants were never allowed to disembark in Norway, only to view it from the decks of the ships.</p>
<b>Flensburg, Germany</b>	<p>Flensburg - one of Germany's northernmost towns - is located in the state Schleswig-Holstein, on the German-Danish border. Historically a major port of the Danish monarchy, it has to this day a significant Danish community.</p> <p>If the <i>Gustloff</i> had avoided detection by the Allies on its fateful night, Flensburg would have been its second stop and final destination of the journey. Originally, the plan called for military personnel to be dropped off in Kiel, and for the <i>Gustloff</i> to carry on to Flensburg to disembark all refugees.</p> <p>On another interesting note, Admiral Karl Dönitz (who ordered the evacuation that included the <i>Gustloff</i>) fled to and was captured by the Allies in Flensburg after the end of the war.</p>
<b>Frankfurt University</b>	<p>Founded in 1914 through private funding, Frankfurt University was one of the educational institutions David Frankfurter attended in his efforts to obtain a medical degree.</p>
<b>Frisches Haff</b>	<p>A freshwater lagoon off the Baltic coast in Northern Poland (former East and West Prussia). Since it freezes for a period of time during winter months, it allowed refugees passage to the Danzig ports during early 1945 - allowing them to directly avoid contact with Russian ground troops. However, this came at a</p>

	<p>price - Soviet planes would strafe and bomb the human convoys. Direct hits were not necessary as people traveling with their wagons, carts and in some cases horses would collapse through ice weakened by these attacks.</p> <p>Frisches Haff is also known today as the Vistula Lagoon.</p>
<b>Gulf of Danzig</b>	see ' <i>Bay of Danzig</i> '
<b>Gulf of Gdansk</b>	see ' <i>Bay of Danzig</i> '
<b>Gotenhafen, Germany</b>	<p>Gdynia, part of Pomeranian Poland after World War I, was seized by the Nazis in late 1939. It was subsequently re-named Gotenhafen after the Goths. Gdynia established itself as a major seaport as a result of Polish-German tensions after World War I. The Poles, frustrated over German influence in the major port of Danzig, decided to build up shipping/port infrastructure in Gdynia.</p> <p>After annexation in 1939, the Nazis continued to build upon the infrastructure in Gotenhafen - turning it into a major naval base and eventually home to the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i> for over 4 years.</p> <p>Today, Gdynia remains an important seaport in the Bay of Gdansk, with a population of over one million people in its greater metropolitan area.</p>
<b>Gdansk, Poland</b>	see ' <i>Danzig</i> '
<b>Gdingen</b>	An early German name for Gotenhafen / Gdynia and used today as the official German translation for the seaport town in Poland.
<b>Gdynia, Poland</b>	see ' <i>Gotenhafen</i> '
<b>Genoa, Italy</b>	A seaport city in Northern Italy that served as home port for the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i> during its winter cruising season (1938/39) around the "boot" of Italy.
<b>Hamburg, Germany</b>	<p>Germany's second largest city (second to Berlin) and its principal port. As it has been for centuries, the Hamburg harbour today drives the economic engine of the city.</p> <p>Between August 1936 and March 1938, the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i> was</p>



	built at the Blohm & Voss shipyards in Hamburg.
<b>Hangö, Finland</b>	A small port town on the south coast of Finland founded in 1874. Used as a Soviet Naval base during certain periods of World War II, this is where Captain Alexander Marinesko of submarine <i>S-13</i> was transferred after questionable on-shore activities in Turku forced him to miss his scheduled sail date of January 2, 1945. After waiting in limbo, he was finally granted permission and returned to sea from this port on January 11, 1945. After 19 days at sea, the <i>S-13</i> torpedoed the <i>Gustloff</i> .
<b>Hanko, Finland</b>	See ' <i>Hangö, Finland</i> '
<b>Hela Peninsula</b>	A 35km long sandbar in the northwest area of the Gulf of Gdansk/Danzig that separates the Bay of Puck from the Baltic Sea. German ships escaping to the west in January through May 1945 passed by this geographical feature port side, its lighthouses often visible from the decks and an aid to navigation.  Initially, the crew on the conning tower of Soviet submarine <i>S-13</i> mistakenly believed they spotted lighthouses from this peninsula. Unfortunately for the former <i>KdF</i> cruise ship, they soon confirmed that these were actually the <i>Gustloff's</i> running lights.
<b>Hel Peninsula</b>	See ' <i>Hela Peninsula</i> '
<b>Hotel Metropol-Löwen</b>	The hotel in Davos, Switzerland where David Frankfurter stayed over the course of four days/nights in preparation for his assassination of Wilhelm Gustloff.
<b>Kiel, Germany</b>	City in northern Germany on the Baltic Sea, Kiel was home to a long-time major naval base until the end of World War II.  Kiel would have been the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff's</i> first destination point if it had been able to complete its journey on January 30, 1945. It was to disembark all military personnel here, and then continue to Flensburg to unload the thousands of refugees crammed into the ship.  Also, during its run as a hospital ship, the <i>Gustloff</i> returned wounded soldiers to Kiel from Oslo during the Norwegian campaign in 1940 and had defective mine detection equipment repaired in the naval base.

<b>Kaliningrad, Russia</b>	see ' <i>Königsberg</i> '
<b>Klaipeda, Lithuania</b>	see ' <i>Memel</i> '
<b>Kolberg</b>	Seaside town on the south coast of the Baltic sea where torpedoboat <i>Löwe</i> returned survivors of the <i>Gustloff</i> sinking to land.
<b>Kołobrzeg</b>	see ' <i>Kolberg</i> '
<b>Kolyma labour camp</b>	Soviet forced labour camp where <i>S-13</i> submarine captain Alexander Marinesko was sentenced to three years for questionable crimes. The Kolyma region in northeastern Siberia was notorious for its huge labour camp complex and part of the <i>Gulag Archipelago</i> brought to attention by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's 1973 book.
<b>Königsberg, Germany</b>	Former capital of East Prussia until 1945 when the Soviets annexed it into their territory and renamed the city Kaliningrad.
<b>Kronstadt</b>	A fortress island in the Baltic that was the Soviet Union's main naval base. Lies 30 kilometres west of St. Petersburg (Leningrad) and remains today a base for the Baltic fleet.
<b>Kurpark 2</b>	Home of the Gustloff's elderly neighbors, from which David Frankfurter made a call to the police to inform them of his actions.
<b>Kurpark 3</b>	The home of Wilhelm and Hedwig Gustloff in Davos, Switzerland and scene of the assassination.
<b>Leipzig University</b>	University that David Frankfurter attended before transferring to Frankfurt University in his efforts to obtain a medical degree.
<b>Leningrad, Soviet Union</b>	Leningrad (renamed St. Petersburg after the fall of the Soviet Union), was home base for captain Alexander Marinesko's submarine <i>S-13</i> during World War II (known as the 'Great Patriotic War' to the Russians).  Founded by Peter the Great in 1703, it is Russia's second largest



	city and its most important Baltic Sea port. Between December 1941 and January 1944, it was under siege by the German <i>Wehrmacht</i> but never capitulated despite horrific suffering. For his part in protecting the city, Marinesko received one of the many "Defense of Leningrad" medals awarded to its heroic citizens.
<b>Madeira</b>	<p>One of two inhabited islands of the Madeira Islands archipelago in the north Atlantic Ocean. For centuries, the Madeira Islands were under Portuguese rule, only becoming autonomous in 1976 after a democratic revolution.</p> <p>A favourite stop for cruise ships of the <i>KdF</i> during the pre-WWII years, Madeira was the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff's</i> first "southern" exotic destination - and included on its "official" maiden voyage.</p>
<b>Mayakovskoye, Russia</b>	see ' <i>Nemmersdorf, Germany</i> '
<b>Mediterranean Sea</b>	<p>Covering almost 2.5 million km<sup>2</sup> and bordered by numerous European, African, and Asian countries, the Mediterranean Sea was a critical transportation route in ancient times and fundamental to the development of Western Civilization.</p> <p>For the ships of the <i>KdF</i> during the 1930's including the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i>, it served as winter home - primarily for trips around the "boot" of Italy.</p>
<b>Memel</b>	<p>Memel (now Klaipeda, Lithuania) was a traditional East Prussian town until the Treaty of Versailles after World War I separated it from Germany. In March 1939, it was annexed back to Germany when Lithuania's leaders realized they could not override the desire of local residents to rejoin the Reich. It was the last of the so-called "Flower Wars" (the others being Austria and the Sudetenland) - named because no real bloodshed was necessary and no significant challenge existed from the worldwide community.</p> <p>In late January 1945, Captain Alexander Marinesko of the <i>S-13</i> was patrolling just off the coast of Memel and supporting the Red Army's advance into the town. The Soviets were clearly in control of the area and opportunities were minimal. Therefore, early in the morning of January 30th, he decided to break off and head toward the Danzig without telling his superiors. He assumed that he would find more opportunities. Hours later, his assumptions proved correct when he began tracking the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i>. Soon he would have the biggest score in history by any submarine.</p>

<b>Nemmersdorf, Germany</b>	<p>Was the first settlement in Nazi Germany's pre-war borders to fall to the Allies. The Soviet Red Army advanced on the East Prussian town in October 1944. The brutal revenge included the massacre of 26 civilians. After the Germans recaptured the town in a counterattack, Nazi newsreels were quick to disseminate information on the atrocities.</p> <p>By using Nemmersdorf as a propaganda tool, the Nazis hoped to strengthen the resolve of the German fighting forces and demonstrate the danger of Bolshevism to the rest of the world. The only real impact the newsreels had was to intensify panic and to increase the stream of refugees toward ports in the Danzig area.</p> <p>Today Nemmersdorf is known as Mayakovskoye in Russian.</p>
<b>Norwegian Fjords</b>	see ' <i>Fjords of Norway</i> '
<b>North Sea</b>	<p>A sea of the Atlantic Ocean bordered by the coasts of north-western Europe, the United Kingdom, and Scandinavia.</p> <p>The North Sea was cruised by the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i> during 1938/39 peacetime cruises (during warmer months - particularly to the Norwegian Fjords) and as a hospital ship in 1940 to support the campaign in Norway.</p>
<b>Odessa</b>	A Ukrainian port city on the Black Sea and birthplace of Soviet submarine captain Alexander Marinesko.
<b>Oslo, Norway</b>	Capital city of Norway and port where the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i> tied up as a hospital ship ( <i>Lazaretschiff D</i> ) to support the German armed forces
<b>Ostermündingen Shooting Range</b>	David Frankfurter practiced his shooting skills at this range in Bern, in preparation for his assassination of Gustloff.
<b>Ostpreussen</b>	see ' <i>East Prussia</i> '
<b>Oxhöft Pier</b>	The pier in Gotenhafen (modern day Gdynia) where the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i> was semi-permanently docked throughout most of World War II.
<b>Palermo, Italy</b>	Widely considered by many to be the most conquered city in



	<p>history, Palermo is the principal city and administrative core of Sicily, Italy.</p> <p>During pre-WWII years, it was a popular stop for <i>KdF</i> ships like the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i>.</p>
<b>Rotterdam, Netherlands</b>	Port where the <i>Gustloff</i> would have been stationed as 'Lazarettsschiff D' (Hospital Ship D) to support <i>Operation Sea Lion</i> - the planned and abandoned invasion of England.
<b>St. Petersburg, Russia</b>	see ' <i>Leningrad</i> '
<b>Schwerin, Germany</b>	A city surrounded by lakes in Northern Germany. Birthplace and final resting place of Wilhelm Gustloff, the Swiss Nazi leader.
<b>Smolny Naval Base</b>	Soviet naval base at Turku, Finland during the latter years of World War II.
<b>Stockholm, Sweden</b>	Largest city and capital of Sweden. Was home of the <i>Lingiad</i> - a world gymnastics festival held during late July 1939. The <i>Gustloff</i> became a floating dormitory for over 1,000 young German gymnasts as it lay anchored off shore.
<b>Stolpe Bank</b>	A relatively shallow basin in the North Sea, a few kilometers north off the coast of modern-day Poland around Leba and Ustka. The <i>Gustloff</i> was sunk just north of the Stolpe Bank.
<b>Swinemünde, Germany</b>	<p>Pomeranian town (present-day Swinoujście, Poland) used as a German naval base in World War II.</p> <p>During its run as a hospital ship, the <i>Gustloff</i> returned wounded soldiers to Swinemünde from Oslo during the Norwegian campaign in 1940. Prior to the war, some of the <i>Gustloff's</i> peacetime cruises began or connected in this seafaring town.</p> <p>Additionally, minesweeper <i>M-387</i> (AKA <i>TS 2</i>) returned 98 survivors from the <i>Gustloff</i> to Swinemünde on the night of the disaster.</p>
<b>Swinoujście, Poland</b>	see ' <i>Swinemünde, Germany</i> '

<b>Tilbury, England</b>	<p>Located on the north bank of the River Thames, Tilbury was the location of London's major passenger port for centuries. In present-day it serves as a major shipping/container port.</p> <p>On April 10, 1938, the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i> dropped anchor near the Tilbury docks east of London, staying over three miles offshore to remain in international waters. With the question of Austria's annexation into the Third Reich, the ship acted as a floating polling station for German and Austrian citizens living in England. Eligible voters were ferried between the Tilbury docks and the <i>Gustloff</i>.</p>
<b>Tokyo, Japan</b>	<p>Location of the planned Olympic Games for 1940. Robert Ley, head of the <i>DAF</i>, stated that he intended to send his <i>KdF</i> ships (including the <i>Gustloff</i>) to Tokyo via America for this event. He expected that a convoy of up to 12 ships filled with workers and athletes would set sail including various ports of call along the way so that the passengers "may see something of the world". Of course, these Olympics were cancelled once World War II broke out, and the excursion never took place.</p>
<b>Tripoli</b>	<p>In present-day, Tripoli is in Libya. However, during the World War I and II era, it was part of an Italian colony and a favoured stop on <i>KdF</i> cruises in the Mediterranean Sea, including of course the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i>.</p>
<b>Turku, Finland</b>	<p>Located in the south-west part of Finland, Turku was home to Smolny Naval Base for the Soviets in the latter part of World War II.</p> <p>This is the notorious site of Captain Alexander Marinesko's disappearance after New Year's on December 31, 1944. He vanished into a haze of alcohol and brothels and could only be located one day after his submarine <i>S-13</i> and crew were supposed to leave port on January 2, 1945.</p>
<b>Vigo, Spain</b>	<p>A city in northwest Spain on the Atlantic Ocean, Vigo is a major shipping and fishing center.</p> <p>Between 1936 and 1939, Spain was in the grips of a complex civil war. Nazi Germany provided support to fascist dictator Francisco Franco who was ultimately victorious. Approximately 20,000 Germans served in Spain as part of the infamous Condor Legion.</p> <p>After the civil war officially ended, in late May 1939 the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i> was diverted from its cruise duties to the port of Vigo. Along with a convoy of German ships, the <i>Gustloff</i> picked up over 1,400 Condor Legion troops and returned them home to a triumphant welcome in Hamburg.</p>



<b>Vistula Lagoon</b>	<i>See 'Frisches Haff'</i>
<b>Wesermünde, Germany</b>	The port where the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i> joined with other ships in preparation for the execution of <i>Operation Sea Lion (Seelöwe)</i> - the planned but abandoned invasion of England. In present day, the city is known as Bremerhaven.

return to [Key Players \(Glossary\) main page](#)

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