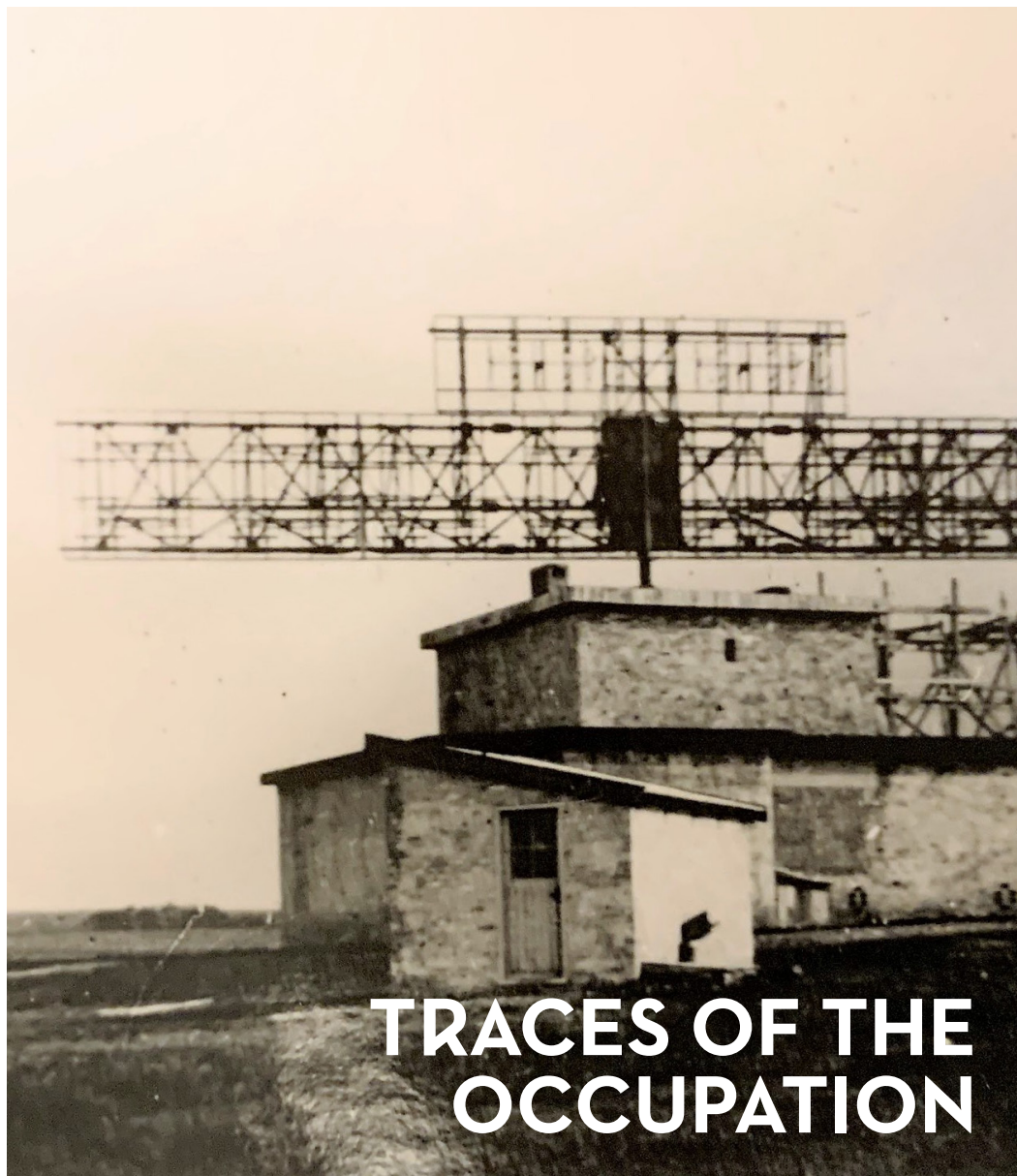


# THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN REBILD



**TRACES OF THE  
OCCUPATION**

# THE LISTENING POST, THE GERMAN STONE, AND LITTLE BERLIN



*The Listening Post.  
(Photo: Local history Archive, Skørping)*

# THE LISTENING POST

## THE LISTENING POST IN REBILD BAKKER

When the Germans established the radar station – also called the ‘Listening Post’ – at Sønderkol shortly after the occupation in 1940, the beech woods were not as tall as they are today, so there was a great view of the area. The station was staffed by 16 German soldiers and used during the entire occupation period.

A soldier was always on the watch, keeping an eye on the sky and the air traffic through his binoculars. If enemy aircraft appeared, he would immediately notify the air base in Aalborg. Here, troops were ready to board the fighters and give the enemy troops a warm reception at their arrival in Aalborg.



*German guards at the Listening Post in Rebild Bakker.  
(Photo: Local history Archive, Skørping)*

## WARNINGS WERE ESSENTIAL TO THE GERMAN AIR DEFENCE

The radar station in Rebild Bakker was part of a comprehensive air-warning net-

work established by the Germans in Denmark during the Second World War. This network was to prevent any aircrafts from entering Danish territory without the occupying power knowing about it.

Already the day after the occupation of Denmark on 9 April 1940, German air observation troops arrived in Aalborg. Radar stations were soon established in Kolding, Odense, Aarhus, Aalborg, and Copenhagen. All warnings received from the radar stations were sent to Hotel Regina in Aarhus, a national radar centre called ‘Luftmeldesammelstelle’. From this radar centre, the Germans could alarm the air defence in the different parts of the country and disseminate notifications about the air space situation in Denmark via Berlin and Kiel.



*The Listening Post at the top of Sønderkol in Rebild Bakker.  
(Photo: Local History Archive, Skørping)*

# THE LISTENING POST AND THE GERMAN STONE

## HOW TO FIND THE LISTENING POST

When you walk from the parking lot via the Rebild Bakker trail past The Lincoln Log Cabin you will pass a grid. Follow the white arrows up some stairs to the northernmost part of Sønderkol. At the top, beneath the twisted beech woods, you will see a stone pecking that forms a path across the hiking trail. During the Second World War the stone pecking connected the wooden barracks that housed the German radar station. The stone pecking was constructed by the German soldiers manning the radar station so that they could walk between the buildings with dry shoes. On the right side of the trail - in the northward direction - was a residential barrack. On the left side - southwards - was a watch tower and a barrack used for storing listening equipment.



At the top of Sønderkol you will find an information board about the Listening Post and the German Stone. Near the board, you will see the stone pecking that marks the location of the Listening Post.

## THE GERMAN STONE

The German Stone was originally located near the now vanished wooden barracks that housed the radar station.

When you head out to the northern edge of Sønderkol, where the residential barrack was located, you can look down a steep cliff and out to Hulvejen. You can see a large boulder about 30 meters down the hill from this point. This is the German Stone. The boulder is approximately one meter high and 75 cm wide. The inscription is turned upwards but is not easy to read. It says: "Zum Andenken - Flug-Wache - Rebild 1940". The inscription and the outline of a German steel helmet were carved into the stone by an unknown German soldiers.

The radar station was located very close to 'Gryden', where the Fourth of July is celebrated. When the first Rebild Festival was to take place after the liberation in 1945, the organizers of the event made short thrift of the Listening Post and tore down the wooden barracks and the watch tower. The heavy stone was pushed down the hill in the opposite direction of the celebration site. It ended up in a gorge where people normally did not go.

In the 1990s, the boulder re-appeared. It was found by some children playing outside, who told writer and local historian Helge Qvistorff about their discovery.

# THE EVERYDAY LIFE

Today, signs direct you to the German Stone. Follow the Rebild Bakker trail from the parking lot towards Sønderkol, you will see a mark that directs you to the right towards the monument, right before the stairs to Sønderkol.



*The German Stone, which is still hidden between the hills in Rebild Bakker.*

## THE LOCAL EVERYDAY LIFE

A local woman provided food for the 16 deployed soldiers for four years. The soldiers would come every day in two groups and have dinner in her living room. The woman was married with children. Her family lived in poor circumstances, and they had just bought a house in Rebild. The few pennies that the housewife earned from giving board to the soldiers were much needed.

The woman has since told that most of the Germans were “old and with cooked leg”. Many of them had been sent to the Eastern Front to fight with the German troops. They were wounded but would be of good use at the radar station once

they had recovered. Several of the soldiers were Germans from Southern Jutland who spoke Danish, so they had no problem talking to the people in Rebild.



*German soldiers at the workshop behind the former Rebild Park Hotel in Skørping. (Photo: Local history Archive, Skørping).*

This sort of boarding house business was not unusual during the occupation. A lot of German military was present in Rold Skov forest, and several families gave board to German soldiers. The troops at the radar station could also receive guests.

The Listening Post was not barred, so both locals and tourists could move freely around the area. A cord was placed to show that it was not permitted to enter the barrack.

The local woman told that the German soldiers had to walk back to Germany after the occupation. One of them, who had trouble walking, had to sit in a push cart that the Germans had brought.



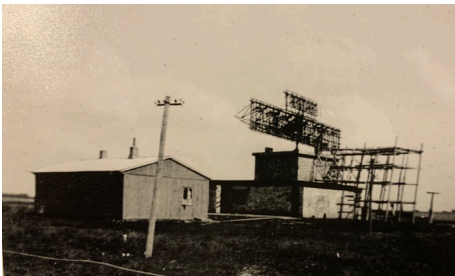
*The Würzburg Radar at Little Berlin.  
(Photo: Local history Archive, Skørping)*

# LITTLE BERLIN

## LITTLE BERLIN

When the German radar stations had existed for a few years, the occupying power expanded the warning network with 15 radar positions. The most significant ones were located in the village Fræer near Skørping.

The radars could trace aircrafts in dark, foggy weather, or when the aircrafts flew above the clouds. They had a reach of approximately 100 km and could identify the direction and distance of the objects. If the aircrafts flew very low in order to avoid the radar signals, the troops at the station would step in. The national radar network was a technical improvement and made air warning much more efficient for the Germans.



*Little Berlin with the Jagdschloss radar. (Photo: Local history Archive, Skørping).*

The German air defence troops had time to get in the air before the attacking aircrafts appeared.

The big radar in the hills near Fræer was

called 'Jagdschloss'. It was constructed as two large rotatable antennas. To register altitude, a satellite was established in the opposite side of the Skørping-Fræer road. The remains of its foundation can still be seen on a hilltop west of the road.



*The ruins left on a hill in Fræer. (Photo: Local history Archive, Skørping)*

In addition to the radars, command centres, residential barracks, and a workshop were established. The station near Fræer had 400 employees and was considered a town in its own by the locals. Colloquially, the station came to be known as Little Berlin.

After the capitulation of the Germans, Little Berlin grew even bigger. The buildings were used to house German refugees who had come to Denmark from Eastern Prussia and Pommern. The Russian advance to Germany dislodged a vast number of people, and approximately 250,000 refugees came to Denmark. Initially they were placed in schools, community centres, and hotels.

# LITTLE BERLIN

The refugee camp in Fræer became a form of pick-up camp for the Himmerland area.

It is known that the camp in Fræer housed 2,012 refugees on 12 July 1946. The camp was guarded by young Danish police officers. The refugees were not allowed to leave the camp, and the Danes were not allowed access.



*Today, these bricks are all that is left of Little Berlin.  
(Photo: Local history Archive, Skørping).*



## REBILDPORTEN

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