

Historical Film

Photos of 1938 show procession anniversary of the high school

by Thomas Pusch

STENDAL. *The Circle of Friends of the Winckelmann High School found a virtually sensational message in its e-mail box. An American had found an old film which apparently shows photos of Stendal from the end of the thirties. You can see the parade on the day of the 600-year existence of the Stendal High School when the name "Winckelmann" was awarded.*

In these days much is discussed about the end of the war 60 years ago. April 1945 also marked events that prompted a letter which the Circle of Friends of the Winckelmann high school got by e-mail. The American Duane Thompson requested help to correctly identify a film which his father brought from the second World War. He has pictures of a school building and a street found on the Internet which seem to match scenes from the film. The pictures can be seen on the home page of the Winckelmann High School.

Duane Thompson made the 7 minute and 15 second long film available on the Internet, the Circle of Friends downloaded it from there, and were absolutely flabbergasted. "This is a sensation," treasurer Hans Basner told the AZ. Basner maintains the Internet web site for the Circle of Friends



A still image taken from the film of the 1938 parade on the day the name "Winckelmann" was given to the 600-year old Stendal High School.

and is therefore also responsible for the e-mails. The film dates from the year 1938 and shows, until now, unknown photos of a parade on the occasion of the 600th annual celebration of the Stendal High School. On exactly that day it also had the name "Winckelmann" awarded. Even if the film is almost 70 years old there are recognizable essential details such as the historical school building at the Monchskirchhof, the religious grove street, the market, the sparrow mountain and the Schadewachten.

Hans Basner immediately thanked Duane Thompson

and got an answer promptly from his brother, Joe Thompson, who wanted to settle additional questions. He is also interested in knowing how his father may have come to a Zeiss-Ikon / Kinnox BJ 16 mm projector and the film of the parade. His father was a doctor in the fight command "A" of the 5th U.S. Armored Division which, between the 12th to 15th of April [1945] was in Stendal and Tangermünde.

Of course the Circle of Friends would like to support the Thompson brothers with their enquiries. "Can somebody perhaps still remember the events 60

years ago and knows the doctor in U.S. uniform perhaps?," asks chairman Burkhard Jochemzyk. Naturally it is also of great interest who shot the film 67 years ago and who had the equipment.

Witnesses from that time are asked to personally notify the office of the Circle of Friends of the Winckelmann High School, Schönbeckstraße 6, 39576 Stendal, © (0 39 31) 21 14 30. The historical documents can be seen at www.winckelmann-gymnasium.de.