

At the beginning of the First World War, Wilhelmsburg schoolchildren drew their ideas about the war at the front during lessons.

These drawings lay unnoticed for decades on the attic of the school building of School 3 until they were handed over to the Verein für Heimatkunde in Wilhelmsburg e.V. (now Museum Elbinsel Wilhelmsburg e.V., MEW) after the great Hamburg storm surge in 1962.

Even there, little attention was initially paid to it and so it took almost a century for this collection to be rediscovered in 2013 by librarian Peter Beenk in the depot and now met with understanding and appreciation in the Museum Elbinsel Wilhelmsburg.

A large folder contained 293 drawings on the subject of the First World War, which were sorted into eight groups according to subject and class level and grouped together with now rusty paper clips. This classification will be retained, although drawings can fall into several categories, just as a war can take place anywhere:

Class 2a Land War, Military Hospital, Naval War and 2c Air War and Class 4a Land War, Military Hospital, Naval War and 5a Air War and a small group without a predetermined classification, which is still being worked on.

At that time, the classes were numbered "downwards", i.e. in class 4 the younger children were from 10 to 11 years old and in class 2 the older children from 12 to 13

The drawings are not dated, but several points speak for the first years of the "Great War":

- no tanks are drawn, which were only deployed by the British from September 1916 (MARK I)
- there are no signs of poison gas attacks, which were first carried out by the Germans in 1916 (GASKRIEG)
- the "Pickelhauben" (spiked helmets) worn by schoolchildren on the German side were replaced by more protective steel helmets without "spikes" from 1916 onwards. This also speaks for the early years of the "Great War".
- the French were always drawn with red pants, but these were replaced by less conspicuous blue pants in the early years of the war.

These children, whose fathers and older brothers were actively involved in the First World War as soldiers, represented the commanding, executive generation 25 years later in the Second World War.