

Report about the 6th International Meeting of the ISCP from April 25th to 27th, 2008 in Plauen

Our meeting enjoyed also in 2008 a good response by the participating members and guests. Our President David Jones and his wife Edwina as well as Helen Charles had arrived already on April 22nd to give lectures at the “Diesterweg” High School in Plauen and at the High School in Oelsnitz (Vogtland). Captain David Jones referred in his slide talks to the torpedoing of his ship “*Quebec City*”, his rescuing and the role of Werner Hartenstein, the commander of U 156. After that Helen Charles spoke about the rescuing of her family after the torpedoing of the “*Laconia*”, their happy return home and the crowing of her family with children and grand children up to day.

They also followed an invitation to a student’s concert of the High School in Greiz (Thuringia) and were surprised at the quality of the student’s performances in the City Theater.

The festive evening took place on Saturday, April 26th 2008 at the Hotel “Alexandra”. The Plauen newspaper “*Vogtland Anzeiger*” reported as follows:

The Special Understanding Among Nations

Meeting / International Meeting of the U boat Circle of Friendship U 156 in Plauen



Werner Schuppan (second from right) handed over the picture of Werner Hartenstein to Wilfried Poenitz (third from left) the new Managing Director of the ISCP at the international meeting of the U boat circle of friendship (ISCP). The Plauen Hartenstein was commander of U 156, a boat of the Kriegsmarine in the Second World War. In the picture you can also see (from right to left) Michael Brooks, the President of the ISCP David C. Jones (Great Britain), Helen Charles (Wales) and City Councilor Hansgünter Fleischer.

Plauen – Wilfried Poenitz, a citizen of Plauen, is the new Managing Director of the ISCP. This is an international U boat circle of friendship. It was founded six years ago and meets once a year in Plauen. Recently, they all met again in Hotel “Alexandra”. Before, Poenitz led the association for about one year provisionally. Great thanks received on this meeting the previous treasurer of the association Wolfgang Wagner who had to leave this position due to illness and has now been replaced by Sabine Poenitz.

The ISCP counts 35 members presently who are living in the USA, Germany Italy, Great Britain, Australia and Belgium. Their President is David C. Jones. The Welshman and former member of the naval forces as well as Wilfried Poenitz remembered the events in the middle Atlantic in February 1942 in their speeches. In the focus was the boat “U 156” which carried the name of Plauen. A son of the city, Werner Hartenstein, was its commander. Thanks to Hartenstein, over 1,000 people had been saved in this battle. Both the speakers emphasized to commit a share for understanding among nations also in future.

About 50 people were present at this meeting. They were witnesses when Werner Schuppan of Schneeberg handed over a picture of his uncle the commander Werner Hartenstein to Poenitz as a present for the club. During the evening the American Michael Brooks remembered the U boat 156 in his slide show. He spoke about its history as well as its services in World War II and presented a general idea of the USA war tactics in the Pacific.

To conclude this year’s meeting of our circle of friendship we arranged for our participants a bus trip to the spa “*Marienbad*” in the Czech Republic. On our way there, we visited the “*Castle Metternich*” and on our way back to Plauen we took a remembering photo of all of us in front of the historical buildings in the market place of Eger.

We hope for a healthy reunion next year.