

Crucified Island

The Georgian
Uprising
on Texel

Kai Althoetmar

April 6, 1945



Inhaltsverzeichnis

[Crucified Island](#)

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Today, sheep graze on the roof of the headquarters where the mutiny and murder began. Three sheep on a rampart that could be mistaken for a Holstein barrow, were it not for

Texel, the dune paradise among Holland's North Sea islands. The site has already become a grave. On the night of 6 April 1945, when Nemesis, the daughter of Nyx, the 'Night', came to Texel from the realm of Greek mythology.

The farm is called 'Texla'. The pointed roof of the slender main house is covered with red tiles. It's just a two-minute cycle ride from the centre of Den Burg. Pass the town cemetery and turn into Kogerstraat, leave Georgieweg to the right, and Texel's main town is a cow village. Grey concrete corners peek out from the green rampart, the remains of bunkers, fragments of ceilings and walls - the 'Texla' headquarters. The hill is fenced off, the tractor track around the meadow is muddy, it smells of slurry and the wind is icy cold. A small sign at the entrance to the path warns: No access. The writing is faded. At some point it must have become too much for the farmer. Always these questions about the past, the curious war tourists from Duitsland running across the pasture with their cameras and clambering up to the bunker - who wants that? And where is the piety? Hundreds dead, murdered in their sleep with daggers, like in 'Macbeth', but in Shakespeare's play, only the king was killed.