

VORWEIHNACHTSSITTEN (PRE-CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS)

"CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS IN GERMANY"

CHRISTMAS IN GERMAN FAMILIES SINCE 1945

Christmas in 1945



1945: The first Christmas after a devastating war - Germany was left in ruins. Refugees and homeless people were roaming the streets. American soldiers observed a sense of total apathy and resignation among the people. This front page of a magazine from that period seems to suggest something different, but the most important question on most people's minds was: Where can I find something to eat?

The first years after the war



1946 - 1949: Charity organizations distributed gifts, chocolates and sweets to impoverished children during these years, which were marked by hunger and misery. But the lack of food and housing also brought people together. Many showed great efforts to somehow celebrate Christmas communally - with at least some food on the table. They even came up with modest gifts like old toys and used clothes.