



**Report on the activities of the
Museum of the Second World War
in 2011**



Museum of the Second World War

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Prof. Dr hab. Paweł Machcewicz, director of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk

The Museum of the Second World War is coming close to being transformed from an enormous blueprint into a real creature, a flesh-and-blood museum. We are finishing our work on the scenography of the permanent exhibition, which will become the Museum's heart. We have already acquired thousands of exhibits, many of them through our national appeal, which we launched in the autumn of 2011 and to which the response has surpassed our wildest expectations. Families have given us their most precious treasures: letters, documents, photographs, uniforms, items made in captivity in prisons and concentration camps and articles bearing witness to everyday life during the War and the occupation. Some of these objects will feature in the permanent exhibition and others in temporary exhibitions, while still others will be conserved so that they can survive in the Museum's collection for future generations. We thank all the donors from the bottom of our hearts!

The archaeological excavations, which needed to come before construction of the Museum's building could start, began in 2011. They have uncovered the fascinating, partly forgotten story of this scenic area of the city between the Motława River and the Radunia Canal, which until the end of the Second World War was its integral part. It was completely destroyed in 1945 and then abandoned for several decades. The archaeologists have uncovered layers illustrating the city's complicated and often stormy history: in the china buried by people fleeing the Red Army, in the 19th-century cobbled Kleine Gasse and Grosse Gasse and in the 17th-century coins from the Polish-Swedish wars. The Museum would like to return this district to life and, in a sense, give back to the city what had once belonged to it but was devastated by the cataclysm of the Second World War.

The construction of the Museum's home will begin in 2012. The moment is approaching when we will be able to invite you within its walls and to show you the exhibition about the War's causes, episodes and consequences. We would like to tell you about the experiences of earlier generations and about what the War changed and how it shaped the world in which we are living. We would like our museum to pass onto future generations the memory of this most horrific conflict in history, and also for the Polish and Central European perspective to become an important component of Europe's and the world's memory of the Second World War. You will soon be able to judge for yourselves whether we have succeeded.

Paweł Machcewicz
Director of the Museum of the Second World War



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The most important
events of 2011

4 January

The Council of Ministers adopts a resolution on the Multi-Year Programme “Construction of the Museum of the Second World War”

5 January

A cooperation agreement is signed between the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and of Military History in Brussels and the Museum of the Second World War

24 January

The European Parliament extends its patronage to the preparations of the permanent exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War

25 January

Workshops are held for European museum managers

17 February

Poland's honorary consul in Bremen, Hans-Dietrich Paschmayer, visits the Museum

9 March

The Museum signs the contract for the construction specifications of the new building

17 March

The Museum's architectural design is entered in the poll on the “Historical event of the year” sponsored by the Polish History Museum

5-8 April

“Echoes of the War” photography workshops (lectures on theory) take place

14 April

A cooperation agreement is signed with the Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo

18-21 April

“Echoes of the War” photography workshops (outdoor exercises) are conducted

19 April

Sherman tank and howitzer donated to the Museum arrive from Belgium

29 April

The Simonshof Foundation donates a rare book of photographs of the Nazi takeover of the State Aircraft Works in Mielec to the Museum

14 May

The European Night of Museums includes events on Westerplatte Peninsula

14 May

A play about General Elżbieta Zawacka, “Elizabeth Watson – Cichociemna” [elite Home Army paratrooper], co-sponsored by the Museum, premieres at the Baj Pomorski Theatre in Toruń

27 May

An assault course is organized on Westerplatte Peninsula as part of the 9th Baltic Science Festival

4 June

A hike in the Oliwa Woods near Gdańsk follows a trail of events relating to the Second World War

6 June

The Advisory Board of the Museum meets for the fourth time

17 June

An educational trail opens on Westerplatte Peninsula

17 June

A meeting of the Council on the Westerplatte Battlefield takes place

24 June

The 9th hike in the footsteps of the soldiers of the 5th Vilnius Brigade of the Home Army commanded by Major Zygmunt Szendzielarz “Łupaszko” takes place

9-10 July

The Exploration Forum convenes

12 July

Archaeological work begins on the grounds of the future Museum of the Second World War

20 July

European Union Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Máire Geoghegan-Quinn visits Westerplatte Peninsula

25 July

The Museum of the Second World War is placed on the State Museum Register

25 July

A cooperation agreement is signed between the Museum of the Second World War and the Museum of the Slovak National Uprising in Banská Bystrica

3 August

A cooperation agreement is signed with the Central Archives of Modern Records in Warsaw

27-28 August

The 33rd Defenders of Westerplatte Cup Regatta, sponsored by the Museum of the Second World War, takes place

2 September

The outdoor exhibition “The Major returns” opens

3 September

The first urban game is held on Westerplatte Peninsula

28 September

The architectural plans of the Museum's building are presented in Berlin

30 September

The newly acquired Sherman Firefly tank is displayed during the Open Day of the Land Forces Training Centre in Poznań

3 October

The Museum launches a national drive to collect exhibits

11 October

An Enigma encrypting machine is loaned to the Museum

5 November

Workshops for historical re-enactment groups are held

6 November

A hike retracing events of the Second World War is organized in the Tri-City Landscape Park

1 December

The fourth meeting of the Museum Board takes place

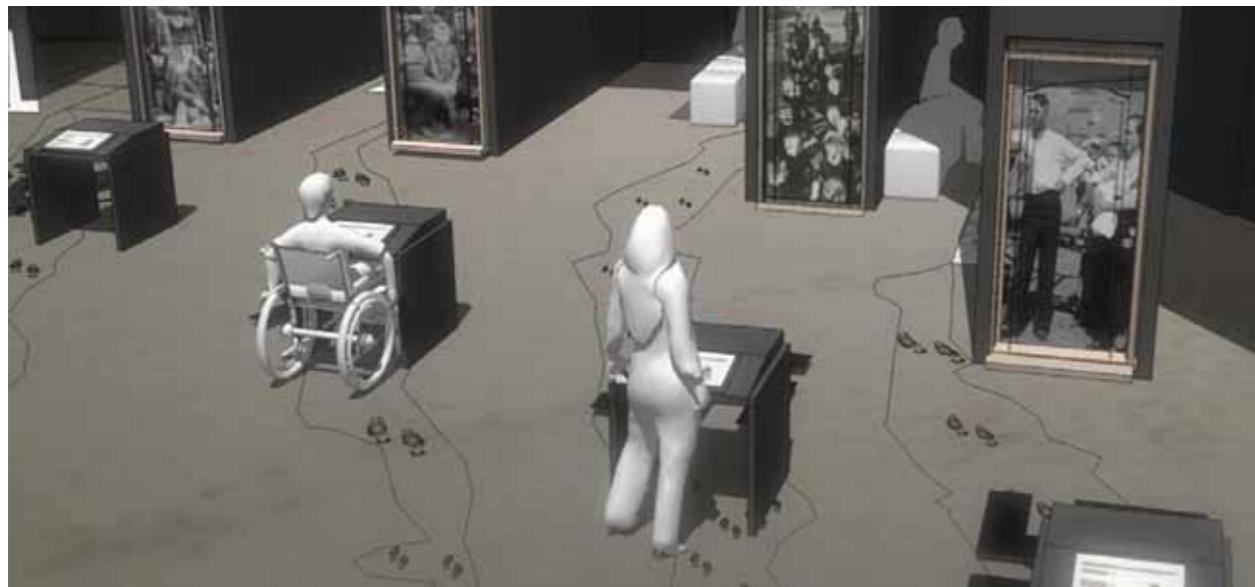
4 December

The exhibition “Marian Kołodziej, the theatre of life”, organized together with the National Museum in Gdańsk and the Baltic Centre for Culture



Programmatic premises
and their execution

Visualisation of the permanent exhibition by Tempora S.A.

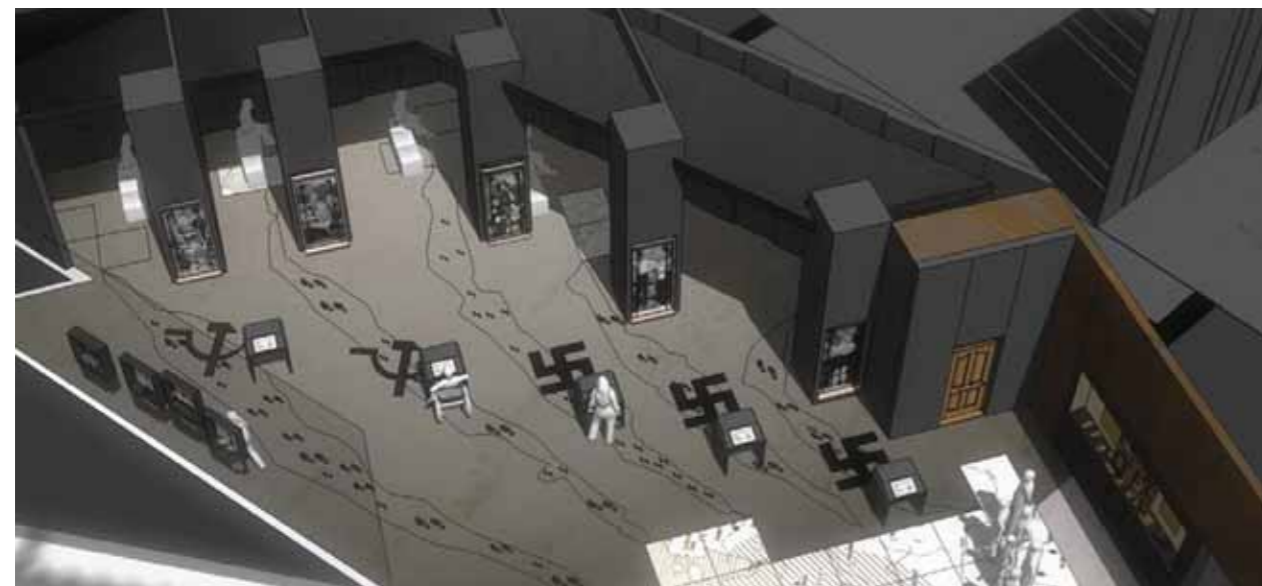


Work on the permanent exhibition

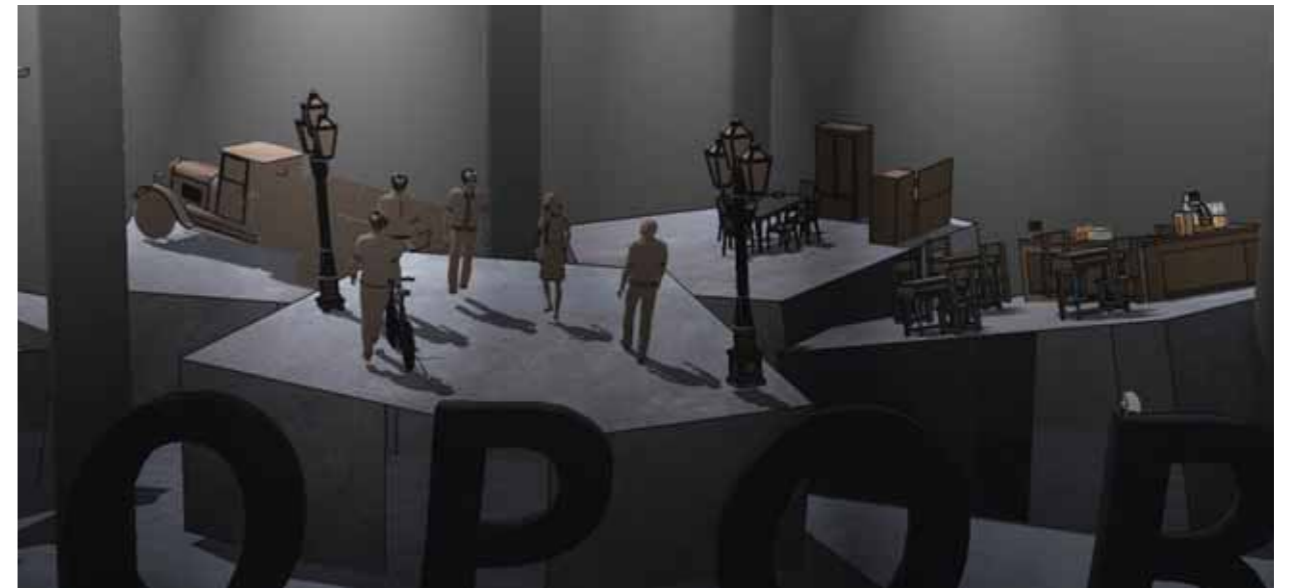
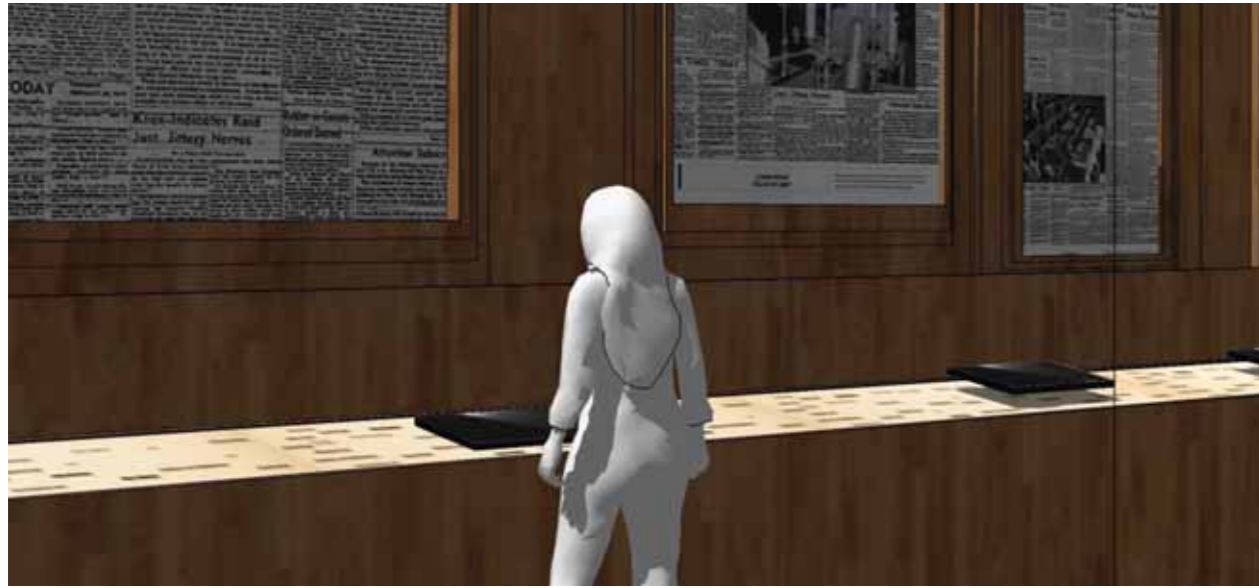
In 2011 we designed the scenography of about 75 per cent of the area of the permanent exhibition. The staff charged with preparing its contents has created draft scripts of the following sections: "To die for Gdańsk?", "After the War", "The War is over", "Deportations", "Concentration camps", "Massacres of prisoners of war", "The Holocaust", "Terror", "Occupation and collaboration", "Resistance", "From Tehran to Yalta", "The extermination of the disabled", "Everyday life" and "Blitzkrieg, a new kind of war". Tempora, the Belgian firm that won the contract for the permanent exhibition, has begun to use these scripts to design scenography.

Work on the different sections of the script required the Museum staff to continue their research in Poland and abroad. This included surveying the archives of the District Museum in Bydgoszcz, Institute of National Remembrance in Warsaw, Prussian Heritage Image Archive in Berlin, Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in London, Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Musée de l'Armée in Paris, Resistance and Deportation History Centre in Lyon, Resistance Museum in Châteaubriant, National Archives and US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington and Military Museum of Finland and Finnish Defence Forces Photo Archive in Helsinki.

In January the European Parliament granted its patronage to the preparations of the permanent exhibition.



Visualisation of the permanent exhibition by Tempora S.A.



Visualisation of the permanent exhibition by Tempora S.A.

Visualisation of the permanent exhibition by Tempora S.A.



Preparations for the construction
of the Museum's building

In March the Museum signed a contract for the building's construction and final design with the "Kwadrat" architectural firm based in Gdynia, which in 2010 had been awarded the first prize in the international competition for the architectural design of the Museum's building.

In January, the Council of Ministers adopted a resolution on the Multi-Year Programme "Construction of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk", for which it appropriated 358,432,000 zlotys.

This programme, in effect in 2011-14, guarantees the continuous financing of the Museum's construction and the creation of its permanent exhibition.

Archaeological excavations

Archaeological work on the grounds of the Museum at Wałowa Street in Wiadrownia was launched in July. Agencja Dart Jacek Gzowski based in Gdańsk is the contractor. By the end of the year, the archaeologists had explored about 80 per cent of the lot and reached layers dating back to the 17th century.

The Wiadrownia district was heavily damaged in 1945 and then levelled in 1947. The archaeological work has yielded several thousand objects, mostly ceramic shards, but also several hundred coins, pipes and other objects of everyday use. After they are conserved, the most valuable of them will enter the permanent exhibition. A separate exhibition is being planned to tell the history of this lost district.

The final plans and specifications of the building and the construction schedule

In March the Museum signed a contract for the building's construction and final design with the Kwadrat architectural firm based in Gdynia, which in 2010 had been awarded the first prize in the architectural competition.

Construction is to start in 2012, and be completed in 2014. BUD-INVENT, the substitute investor who won the tender, will construct and equip the building. Kancelaria Radców Prawnych Burzak Okoń i Wspólnicy are providing legal services for the project.



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II WOJNY ŚWIATOWEJ. PRZYŁĄCZ SIĘ!



The
collection



Bolesław Wnuk's parliamentary identity card

*Stanisław Karpiński's dog tag.
"588 Gdynia Karpiński Stan" is written on the obverse*



Polish armour-piercing 1935 (Ur) gun

General information

The Museum began to collect exhibits as soon as it was established. In 2011 it added nearly 7,000 items to its collection through purchases and donations. The total number of objects in its possession is now over 10,000.

Our principal criterion for deciding on the purchase of an object is whether it fits into the script of the permanent exhibition. Securing rare and interesting artefacts also plays a significant role.

Most of the objects we have bought document the everyday lives of civilians and soldiers during the War. There are components of uniforms, equipment used by soldiers who fought in the different armies on different fronts, photographs, fliers and newspapers from 1939-45.

Specialists inventory each acquisition and assess its value. The Museum subcontracts conservation to metal or wood specialists.



Album of drawings made by prisoners, organized by Capt. Czesław Kruszewski in the German prisoner of war camp in Dössel (Oflag VI B), a gift to his sweetheart, Ludwika Nagrabecka

The Enigma encrypting machine loaned to the Museum of the Second World War by the Internal Security Agency

French uniform jacket used by a soldier of the Polish Army in France

“Memories that are worth more than a brass farthing”

In October, the Museum announced a Poland-wide collection of objects related to the origins, course and direct consequences of the war. Its motto was “Memories that are worth more than a brass farthing”, and it lasted until the end of the year.

The goal of the drive was to acquire items for the permanent exhibition and to rescue and preserve souvenirs for research and future exhibitions. Some 1,800 objects found their way to the Museum through this drive, among them photographs, documents, uniforms and items of daily use. They document the lives of civilians and prisoners of war and illustrate the realities of camp life.

The relics are frequently accompanied by reminiscences, which help us to visualise history and its people. They are registered and archived in the Museum’s library.

Selected exhibits

The following exhibits stand out from among the many exceptional objects that came into our possession in 2011:

Sherman tank

Acquired through our cooperation agreement with the Royal Museum of the Army and of Military History in Brussels, the Sherman Firefly is the British modification to the American Sherman M4A3 tank. It has symbolic significance for the Poles, as tanks of this type were used by General Stanislaw Maczek’s First Armoured Division, whose battles included the Falaise Pocket.



Boleslaw Wnuk's documents

Signet ring with the initials F.T., camp identity no. 171245 and the letters KL A (short for Konzentrationslager Auschwitz), most likely made by Franciszek Tobiasz, who had this camp number



Handkerchief with Boleslaw Wnuk's secret message to his family



Sherman Firefly tank donated by the Royal Museum of the Army and of Military History in Brussels as by the two museums' cooperative agreement

Compass model 32 used by a soldier in the September 1939 campaign



After being thoroughly renovated, in late September the fully functioning Sherman was displayed during the Open Day of the Field Crown Hetman Stefan Czarnecki Land Forces Training Centre in Poznań. It will be exhibited in the Armoured Weapon Museum in Poznań until the Museum of the Second World War opens.

Enigma

The Internal Security Agency placed this German-made encoding machine on indefinite loan for display in our permanent exhibition.

Boleslaw Wnuk's handkerchief

This handkerchief, a priceless family memento, was placed on deposit at the Museum by Wnuk's grandson, Prof. Rafał Wnuk, a researcher at the Museum. Boleslaw Wnuk's handkerchief contains a kite, a letter to his family in which he bids them farewell and lets them know that he will shortly be executed.

Boleslaw Wnuk was arrested by the Germans in October 1939 for his public activities, which included serving as a member of the Sejm in its last pre-war session. He was jailed in Lublin Castle's so-called Sejm cell, together with several other parliamentarians. He was shot to death in June 1940.

Captain Antoni Kasztelan's mementos

These objects, which belonged to Antoni Kasztelan, infantry captain, include the warrant for his arrest issued by authorities in Berlin on 14 October 1940, a cigarette lighter with the initials AK and a metal cigarette box in which he kept his comb, cigarette holders and cigarette papers. His daughter Maria and son Zygmunt donated these belongings during our exhibit collection drive.

Antoni Kasztelan (1896–1942) served as the head of counter-intelligence in the Coastal Defence Command and in 1939 he took part in the defence of Hel Peninsula. After surrendering, he was held by the Germans in the Stutthof camp as a political prisoner and was later handed over to the Gestapo. On 12 January 1942 a court in Gdańsk handed him a quadruple death sentence for so-called actions harmful to the German state. He was guillotined in December 1942.

Julien Bryan's camera

This Bell & Howell Filmo 70 camera belonged to Julien Bryan, the American documentary filmmaker and photographer. He spent the first weeks of September 1939 in Warsaw and documented the life of the city under bombardment. His films and photographs, which portray the tragedy of civilians, were one of the first testimonies to the German armies' brutality in Poland. They were shown around the world and countered the Nazis' mass propaganda. His son, Sam Bryan, donated the camera to the Museum.

DKW motorcycle of a Wehrmacht reconnaissance company

This 350cc motorcycle, produced by Audi in 1939, was found near Góra Kalwaria during the demolition of a barn. It survived in exceptionally good condition under the building's floor. According to unconfirmed reports, local peasants had hidden it there after its owner, a German soldier, was killed in the first days of the War. There was petrol in its tank and it was covered with a German military coat; it had only driven 4,000 km.



Lt. A. Radwański's photographs and documents from the time he served in the Polish Air Force in Great Britain

Julien Bryan's camera

Military pocket game board for playing chess, checkers and ludo

Cigarette case with "Italia 1945" carved on its cover and decorations of the Polish Armed Forces in the West





Capt. Antoni Kasztelan's mementos

Flower vase made out of a brass cartridge case. Carved on it is: "Meiner Lieben Mutter – Gerhard. Vor Leningrad, 16.04.1942" [For My Beloved Mother, Gerhard. At Leningrad, 16.04.1942]

Mask of a woman's face used in a prisoners' theatre in the Oflag VII A camp in Murnau

Cardboard box with 12 pipes given as Christmas presents to German soldiers at the front

Battle Dress jacket that belonged to a Polish airman serving in Great Britain

Olympia typewriter from a German submarine stationed in Gdynia during the War

Fiat 508 Balilla

This car was produced in Italy and, beginning in 1932, under licence in Poland by the State Engineering Works. It served as a symbol of Fascist Italy, and was to be the Italian worker's equivalent of the Volkswagen Beetle. This car was made in 1937-38.

Polish armour-piercing gun 1935 (Ur)

This Polish-made gun was designed by the engineer Józef Maroszek to enhance the Polish Army's anti-tank defences. It proved exceptionally effective in the September 1939 campaign, when it could pierce the armour of any German tank of the period from a distance of less than 100 metres.

British Battle Dress jacket

This jacket was worn by a pilot of the 315th Polish Fighter Squadron, which was formed in January 1941 in Newcastle. The Polish airmen in Britain had the same uniforms as their RAF colleagues, with some modifications; this jacket is adorned with Polish decorations, eagle buttons and other features of the Polish air force uniform. Inside is the producer's tag with the size and name of its owner, Lt. Pilot A. Mieczysław, and the cap that went with the uniform.

Ski boots and sticks used by Jan Pzszewicz, who was forcibly recruited by the Wehrmacht and served in Finland

Children in a recreation room of a school of Gen. Anders's 2nd Corps, Tel Aviv 1942

Main Railway Station in Warsaw, ca. 1940

Column of Jews being led by German troops



Recordings of Second World War witness accounts

Our museum's collection also includes witness accounts digitally recorded by our staff. Twenty-six films have been collected so far. Their diverse subjects include the growth of Nazism in Gdańsk prior to September 1939, the lives of Polish families and soldiers during the September 1939 campaign, the expulsions of Polish families from Pomerania and the Eastern Borderlands, life in occupied Poland, the pacifications of Polish towns and villages, exterminations of the Jews, the stories of Polish exiles in Siberia, life in Soviet camps and Nazi concentration and forced labour camps, underground schooling and partisan operations.

Among the most moving are the accounts by Maria Janczewska and Zygmunt Kasztelan about their father, Antoni Kasztelan, an infantry captain executed as a German prisoner in 1942, and Jolanta Jarmolowicz's story about the orphans of Polish exiles in Siberia who were evacuated with the army of General Władysław Anders.

German infantry unit resting in the trenches

Marshal of the Senate Bogdan Borusewicz and politician Tadeusz Fiszbach visiting the exhibition



The opening of the exhibition. Left to right: Stefan Figlarowicz, Anna Makowska, Marshal of the Senate Bogdan Borusewicz and Nina Smolarz



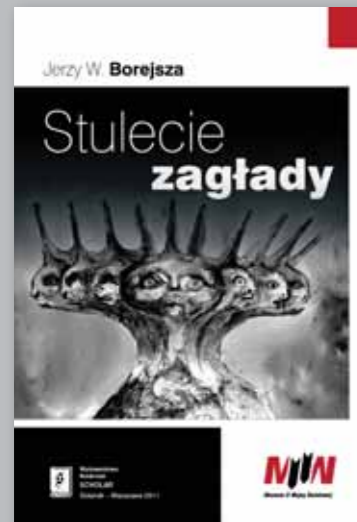
In 2011 the Museum prepared an exhibition consisting of over 120 rare photographs by Stefan Figlarowicz and Nina Smolarz entitled "The Major returns" about the ceremony of returning the ashes of Major Henryk Sucharski, commander of the Westerplatte defence, to Gdańsk. They document the events of 27 August-1 September 1971, when the Major's ashes were brought from Italy to Gdańsk and the urn was displayed in Artus Court before being buried on Westerplatte Peninsula. The exhibition also uses press clippings, witness accounts and testimonies of persons who knew Major Sucharski. It was open from 2 September to 14 October 2011 in Długi Targ in Gdańsk.

Mayor of Gdańsk Paweł Adamowicz and Pomerania Province Marshal Mieczysław Struk were the official patrons of this exhibition.





Research
and educational activities



Publications

Since its founding, the Museum has published eleven titles, including six in 2011. They are:

- Jerzy W. Borejsza, *Stulecie zagłady* (A century of annihilation) (Gdańsk–Warsaw, 2011);
- Karolina Wigura, *Wina narodów. Przebaczenie jako strategia prowadzenia polityki* (Nations' guilt: Forgiveness as a political strategy) (Gdańsk–Warsaw, 2011);
- Jiří Friedl, *Na jednym froncie. Czechosłowacko-polskie stosunki wojskowe 1939–1945*, (A common front. Czechoslovak-Polish military relations, 1939-45) (Gdańsk–Warsaw, 2011);
- Marek Kornat, Mikołaj Morzycki-Markowski, *W rumuńskiej pułapce. Internowanie Józefa Becka i Edwarda Śmigłego-Rydza w dokumentach rumuńskich służb specjalnych* (Minister Józef Beck and Marshal Edward Śmigły-Rydz in the documents of the Romanian secret services) (Gdańsk, 2011);
- Anna Czocher, *W okupowanym Krakowie. Codziennosc polskich mieszkańców miasta 1939–1945* (Everyday life in occupied Cracow, 1939-45) (Gdańsk, 2011); and
- Tomasz Chinciński, ed., *Przemoc i dzień powszedni w okupowanej Polsce* (Violence and everyday life in occupied Poland) (Gdańsk, 2011).

The 2010 publication by Piotr T. Kwiatkowski, Lech M. Nijakowski, Barbara Szacka and Andrzej Szpociński, *Między codziennością a wielką historią. Druga wojna światowa w pamięci zbiorowej społeczeństwa polskiego* (Between everyday life and world history: The Second World War in the collective memory of the Polish population), was among the ten publications nominated in the 2011 contest for the Best Historic Book of the Year in the category "The best academic book about Poland and the Poles in the 20th century". Its co-sponsors were the Institute of National Remembrance, Polish Television and Polish Radio.



Presentation about the Enigma encrypting machine as it is donated to the Museum of the Second World War by the Internal Security Agency, October 2011

Public lectures, book presentations

The Museum hosts a series of public lectures, "Meetings with history", by invited historians and specialists from other disciplines who study various aspects of the Second World War, as well as eyewitnesses. These events also serve to promote recent publications about the War.

The following meetings took place in 2011:

Gdańsk

- Lecture by Dr Władysław Bułhak on "The Secret of "Dzięcioł": A portrait of the chief of Department II [espionage and counter-espionage] of the Headquarters of the Home Army, Lt. Col. [dipl.] Marian Drobik"
- Book promotion of Andrzej Gašiorowski and Krzysztof Steyer, *Tajna Organizacja Wojskowa Gryf Pomorski* (The Pomeranian Griffin Secret Military Organization)
- Photography album promotion, *Kolory wojny. Oblężenie Warszawy w barwnej fotografii Julienu Bryana* (The Colors of War. The Siege of Warsaw in Julien Bryan's Color Photographs) (Institute of National Remembrance and KARTA Centre)
- Lecture by Anna Mieszkowska, "Irena Sendlerowa: An inconvenient witness to history"
- Book presentation, Grzegorz Motyka, *Od rzezi wołyńskiej do akcji „Wisła”. Konflikt polsko-ukraiński 1943–1947* (From the Volhynia massacre to Operation Vistula: The Polish-Ukrainian conflict of 1943-47)
- Book presentation of Jiří Friedl, *Na jednym froncie. Czechosłowacko-polskie stosunki wojskowe 1939–1945* (A common front: Czechoslovak-Polish military relations, 1939-45)

Presentation of the book of photographs "Kolory wojny. Oblężenie Warszawy w barwnej fotografii Julienu Bryana/ The Colors of War. The Siege of Warsaw in Julien Bryan's Color Photographs", March 2011. Photo: R. Kwiatek



- Book promotion, Andrzej Żbikowski, *Karski*
- Meeting with the authors of the exhibition "Powrót Majora" (The Major returns) about the return of Major Henryk Sucharski's ashes to Gdańsk in 1971
- Lecture by Dr Zofia Maciakowska on "Gdańska Wiadrownia – dzieje nieistniejącej dzielnicy" (Gdańsk's Wiadrownia: The story of a section of the city that is no more) about the district which will house our museum

Warsaw

- Meeting with author and promotion of Prof. Jerzy W. Borejsza's *Stulecie zagłady* (A century of annihilation) and *Piękny wiek XIX* (The beautiful 19th century)
- Book promotion of Karolina Wigura, *Wina narodów. Przebaczenie jako strategia prowadzenia polityki* (Nations' guilt: Forgiveness as a political strategy)
- Book promotion of Jiří Friedl *Na jednym froncie. Czechosłowacko-polskie stosunki wojskowe 1939–1945* (A common front: Czechoslovak-Polish military relations, 1939-45)
- Book promotion of Marek Kornat and Mikołaj Morzycki-Markowski, *W rumuńskiej pułapce. Internowanie Józefa Becka i Edwarda Śmigłego-Rydza w dokumentach rumuńskich służb specjalnych* (Minister Józef Beck and Marshal Edward Śmigły-Rydz in the documents of the Romanian secret services)
- Lecture by Dr Marek Grajek, author of *Enigma: Closer to the truth*

Cracow

- Book promotion of Anna Czocher, *W okupowanym Krakowie. Codzienność polskich mieszkańców miasta 1939–1945* (Everyday life in occupied Cracow, 1939-45)

Educational projects

Opening of the educational trail on Westerplatte Peninsula

The educational trail on Westerplatte complements the "Westerplatte: Spa – Bastion – Symbol" outdoor exhibition, focussing on the peninsula's architecture and topography. Information boards along the path tell visitors about the peninsula's appearance during the fighting of September 1939. They also serve as a guide to the buildings of the Military Transit Depot, which was situated there in 1926-39, making it possible to have an interesting tour without a guide. There are historical photographs, etchings and maps on the boards, as well as texts in Polish and English.

Active visits to the Westerplatte battlefield

This project continues the educational programmes launched in 2009 for secondary school pupils. The young people learn about the peninsula's topography, the locations of the buildings making up the defence system of the Military Transit Depot in 1939 and its defence in the first seven days of September 1939. The "Westerplatte: Spa – Bastion – Symbol" outdoor exhibition is an important part of this programme. This year, 540 pupils, including youth groups from Ireland, France and Germany, took part in events of this type.

Film screenings

The annual "War on tapes" series of film shows for secondary school pupils shows various aspects of the Second World War, such as the September 1939 defensive war, rivalries between intelligence services and the realities of life on the front and in the camps. The 2011 series included films co-created by Marian Kołodziej, an outstanding stage and film set designer, the creator of altars for papal Masses in Gdańsk and Sopot and the author of heart-breaking installations about his own experiences during the Second World War, "Klisze pamięci. Labirynty Mariana Kołodzieja" (The negatives of memory: Marian Kołodziej's labyrinths). The film screenings were a part of the project "Marian Kołodziej, the theatre of life" (co-organized with the National Museum in Gdańsk and the Baltic Centre of Culture) devoted to his work.

The Museum's staff historians spoke about the history behind the film plots, while a film specialist discussed the background to the creation of these films and the filmmakers' other work. The films are shown once a month at the Kameralne Cinema in Długa Street in Gdańsk.



Plutonowy Petzelt krzyknął: „Wszyscy na dół!” Lecz nie wszyscy zdążyli zejść. Kilku było jeszcze koło wjazdu, gdy nastąpił ogromny huk i trzask. Dalej nie widziałem już, co się stało. Straciłem przytomność. Jak długo tak leżałem, nie wiem. Gdy otworzyłem oczy i spojrzałem dookoła, leżałem na płocach, a nogi miałem przywalone kawałkami muru. Próbowałem je wyciągnąć, lecz bezskutecznie. Odczuwałem silny ból głowy. Nie wiedziałem, gdzie się znajduję. Nastąpiła zupełna ciemność. Prawdopodobnie drugi raz straciłem przytomność”.

kpr. Edmund Szamlewski



“Master Corporal Petzelt shouted: “Everyone down!” But not everyone had enough time. A few men were still at the hatch, when an enormous bang and a crack came. After that, I couldn't see what had happened. I passed out. I don't know how long I lay there. When I opened my eyes and looked around, I was on my back, and my legs had been pinned down by chunks of a wall. I tried to pull them out, without success. I had a severe headache. I didn't know where I was. Total darkness came. Most likely, I had lost my consciousness again”.

Cpl. Edmund Szamlewski

Wartownia nr 5 Guardhouse no. 5

Ważnym elementem obrony odcinka był jeden z najważniejszych elementów obrony odcinka – wartownia nr 5. Jej dowódcą wartowni był plutonowy Adolf Petzelt, załogę stanowiło osiem żołnierzy. 2 września, w dniu najbardziej tragicznej obrony, straciła bezpośrednio trafienie ciężką bombą stukasa. W wyniku tego zginęło najmniej siedmiu żołnierzy wraz z dowódcą, trzech zostało rannych. Łukę w systemie obrony zamknięto, tworząc niebezpieczny punkt – stanowisko ckm.

One of four guardhouses built from scratch in 1933 – in the most difficult fighting positions, it coordinated fire with Guardhouse no. 4 from the depot grounds from the east and with Guardhouse no. 6 from the west. Master Corporal Adolf Petzelt was the commander of the post, and his crew initially consisted of eight men. On the first day for the defenders, a heavy Stuka bomb struck the guardhouse and its crew. Seven soldiers and their commander were killed under the rubble. The post was seriously wounded. The gap in the defence line was closed with a machine gun, deployed near the guardhouse.



The 2011 programme included:

Kornblumenblau, director Leszek Wosiewicz

Jeszcze tylko ten las (Just Beyond the Forest), Jan Łomnicki

Sto koni do stu brzegów (A Hundred Horses to a Hundred Shores), Zbigniew Kuźmiński

Agent nr 1 (Agent No. 1), Zbigniew Kuźmiński

Ostatnie okrążenie (Last Lap), Krzysztof Rogulski

Westerplatte, Stanisław Różewicz

Koniec naszego świata (The End of Our World), Wanda Jakubowska

Potem nastąpi cisza (Afterwards There Will be Silence), Janusz Morgenstern

Krzyż walecznych (Cross of Valour), Kazimierz Kutz.

On 14 September, the Museum co-sponsored a screening for schoolchildren of a documentary by Jagna Wright and Aneta Naszyńska with the Kresy–Siberia Foundation at the Kameralne Cinema in Gdańsk. The film recounts the tragic story of people deported from eastern Poland to Siberia and Kazakhstan.

“Echoes of the War” photography workshops

Inspired by the history and literature of Gdańsk during the Second World War, these meetings were aimed at secondary school pupils and university students interested in history and photography. The young people learned about photographic theory and techniques from a professional photographer. They then moved outside to practice their newly acquired skills. They were also able to learn about the area’s history during the War.

Over 30 people took part in these workshops. During the wrap-up session, their work was critiqued. Some of it was later exhibited at the United Europe 15th Secondary School in Gdańsk.

Serving as patrons of these workshops were the Marshal of Pomerania Province Mieczysław Struk and Mayor of Gdańsk Paweł Adamowicz.

Exploration Forum

This forum brought together members of associations and foundations devoted to exploration, most broadly defined, the Łódź Group of the Exploration-History Association, the Pro Fortalicium Association for Preserving Fortifications, the Pomerania Szczecin-based Group of Military Archaeology and *Odkrywca* and *Nurkowanie* magazines.

Schoolchildren visiting
“Westerplatte:
A Spa – a Bastion
– a Symbol” exhibition.
Photo: R. Jocher



The meeting included a discussion with Iwona Pomian, manager of the underwater exploration department of the Polish Maritime Museum in Gdańsk. It covered relations between fans of exploration and archaeologists and museum workers, legal issues and the needs and educational potential of organized groups of explorers.

Workshops for historical re-enactment groups

These workshops served as a forum for discussing the potential and the needs of the re-enactment movement. Presentations by invited speakers about their past activities and future plans took up the majority of the meeting. It ended with a discussion about the Museum’s long-term role as a focal point for educational and popularizing programmes. Participants included representatives of the Poland Group of Historical Reconstruction, the Tri-City Association of Historical Reconstruction and the History-Exploration Unit of the Friends of Sopot.

Workshop participants were also invited on a hike through the Tri-City Landscape Park, which was organized by the Museum and the Historical Reconstruction of the Land Defence of the Coast Group and the Kadry Gdańsk Academic Club. The goal of the project was to make people aware of the places where battles had taken place in September 1939 and 1945. Learning about the basics of re-enactment was a key attraction. They were exposed not only to the equipment and arms used for historical re-enactment and necessary security precautions, but also to the principles of topography. Over 80 people took part.



Urban games
on Westerplatte Peninsula,
September 2011

The first urban game on Westerplatte

This game was part of the commemorations of the 72nd anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War. Members of the Kadry Gdańsk Academic Club served as its co-organizers. The idea was to combine good fun with an intellectual and physical effort and a lesson about the peninsula's history from the inter-war years to the end of Communism. Challenging the participants were tasks requiring tactical, analytical and mathematical skills. There were also practical tasks, such as bandaging and carrying a wounded person, using a metal detector to find shell casings and communicating on a field telephone. There were about 80 participants, both young people and entire families.

15th round of the "History is close" competition

In 2011 the Museum co-sponsored this contest for secondary school pupils, which had been organized since 1996 by the KARTA Centre. It was also supported by the History Meeting House in Warsaw and the EUSTORY network, as well as the Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression, Warsaw Mayor's Office of Education and the Warsaw Centre for Educational-Social Innovation and Training.

Participants in the
award gala of the 15th
round of the "History
is close" contest.
Photo: M. Sulek



This year, entrants could write about one of the following subjects:

1. The children of war: soldiers and victims.
2. School photos: the wartime stories of classmates, friends and teachers.
3. 20th-century encounters. Poles and Russians: friends, enemies, neighbours?
4. A constructed, destroyed and rebuilt Warsaw. My places and the people in those places...

Pupils from 146 schools and 107 localities all over Poland submitted 281 works. Two mutually independent juries judged them. The jury made up of Prof. Barbara Engelking, Prof. Cezary Eugeniusz Król, Prof. Andrzej Żbikowski and Zbigniew Gluza, the KARTA Centre's publications director, made the final decision.

The award gala took place on 12 September 2011 in the Royal Castle in Warsaw. Speakers included Prof. Dr hab. Paweł Machcewicz, director of the Museum of the Second World War. The jury awarded 14 first, second and third prizes, 16 honourable mentions of the first degree and 39 of the second degree.

European Night of Museums on Westerplatte Peninsula, May 2011. Photo: R. Jocher



European Night of Museums on Westerplatte Peninsula

The Museum participated in the European Night of Museums for the second year in a row, making its tour of Westerplatte a permanent feature of this annual celebration of museums. This year numerous attractions were added, including a tour of the ruins of the barracks concluded with a film screening; musters and military training shows put on by members of the Association of the Group of Historical Re-enactment of the Landed Defence of the Coast and the Marienburg Historical Re-enactment Association and the "Westerplatte: Spa – Bastion – Symbol" outdoor exhibition, which was specially illuminated for this evening. There were also special stations informing about the history of the War, which focussed on the inter-war military: shooting ranges, machine gun nests, lookouts and a communications centre. The re-enactment groups also prepared a military camp and, in full 1939 uniform, patrolled the peninsula and created historical scenes from the lives of the soldiers serving in the Military Transit Depot.

Assault course on Westerplatte Peninsula during the 9th Baltic Science Festival

This was the second time that the Museum took part in the annual Baltic Science Festival. The Westerplatte assault course is intended for secondary school pupils. This outdoor game, which is the focal point of the programme, aims to teach not only about history, but also analytical thinking, negotiating and orienteering. It combines with a tour of the remains of the architectural defences of the Military Transit Depot, the "Westerplatte: Spa – Bastion – Symbol" outdoor exhibition and the educational trail designed by the Museum.



Ninth hike along the trail of Major "Łupaszko's" 5th Vilnius Brigade of the Home Army.
Photo: Hike staff

The 9th hike along the trail of Major "Łupaszko's" 5th Vilnius Brigade of the Home Army

The Museum again took part in organizing this hike for children to learn about the Home Army unit commanded by Zygmunt Szendzielarz "Łupaszko" and other units of the pro-independence underground in Vilnius District and Pomerania in 1939-46; to become acquainted with the special features of the history of Pomerania, Kashubia and Powiśle; to think about ethics and civic virtues; to acquire skills in outdoor orientation and to find out about the principles and concrete skills of first aid.

The Museum also prepares educational activities for the youngest children. In 2011 these included:

Hike in the Oliwa Woods along Second World War trails

Taking part in this pilot programme were 9- and 10-year-olds from Elementary School No. 70 in Gdańsk with their parents. It gave them an opportunity to learn about history and become more curious about it, and also to practice using maps and a compass. Taking part was a member of the Tri-City Group of Historical Re-enactment. We are planning more similar hikes.

Participants in the hike in the Tri-City Landscape Park, November 2011.
Photo: M. Wróbel

"Living history lesson". Pupils cleaning the graves of Home Army soldiers at the Srebrzysko cemetery in Gdańsk.
Photo: Kosycarz Foto Press



"Living history lesson". The stories of soldiers fighting in the Home Army's Vilnius District

This exercise took place at the Srebrzysko Communal Cemetery in Gdańsk. It brought together children and witnesses to history (Dr hab. Piotr Nawiński from the University of Gdańsk, vice-chairman of the 5th Vilnius Brigade of the Home Army Historical Society, and Wiesław Giertowski, a former soldier of the 77th Infantry Regiment of the Home Army), who talked about the soldiers who had fought in the Home Army's Vilnius District and were buried in this cemetery.



About the Museum

Its creation

The idea of setting up an institution that would portray the Second World War by combining the Polish perspective with those of other European nations came from Prime Minister Donald Tusk. On 1 September 2008, the prime minister named Professor Paweł Machcewicz his plenipotentiary for the Museum of the Second World War.

Minister of Culture and National Heritage Bogdan Zdrojewski issued a directive creating the Museum on 26 November 2008, and named Gdańsk as its future home. Prime Minister Tusk signed its foundation act during observances of the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the war.

The Museum of the Second World War is a national cultural institution answerable to the minister of culture and national heritage. In July 2011 it was added to the State Museum Register.

Management

Prof. Dr hab. Paweł Machcewicz serves as the Museum's director, and Dr Janusz Marszalec and Dr hab. Piotr M. Majewski are his deputies.

Staff

In 2011 the Museum employed a staff of 33. Three temporary positions were created for the exhibit collection drive. Two interns were hired for the Information and Promotion Department and the Library.

From left to right:
Dr hab. Piotr M. Majewski,
Prof. Dr hab. Paweł Machcewicz
and Advisory Board member
Prof. Władysław Bartoszewski.
Photo: M. Nasternak



Financial information

The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage funds the Museum. Its 2011 budget totalled 18,715,000 zlotys, and expenses were:

- an ear-marked subsidy for out-of-pocket expenses (exhibitions, purchases of exhibits, conservation, safeguarding and digitalizing objects, educational, research and publication activities, promotion) of

4,441,000 zlotys

- an ear-marked subsidy for capital expenses (awarded in accordance with a Council of Ministers resolution of 4 January 2011 on the establishment of the Multi-Year Programme on "Construction of the Museum of the Second World War") of

14,274,000 zlotys



Meeting of the Museum Board in Gdańsk

Museum Board and Advisory Board

Two mutually independent consultative bodies, the Museum Board and the Advisory Board, support the work of the Museum. They are made up of prominent historians from Poland, Britain, the United States, France, Germany, Russia and Israel, as well as museum specialists, lawyers, journalists and veterans.

Minister of Culture and National Heritage Bogdan Zdrojewski created the **Museum Board** on 30 April 2009. Its members are:

Prof. Bogdan Chrzanowski, lecturer, University of Gdańsk; curator, Stutthof Museum; since 8 December 2010 chairman of the Museum Board of the Museum of the Second World War;

Dr Piotr M.A. Cywiński, director, Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and State Museum;

Lt.-Col. Tadeusz Filipkowski, member of the Board, World Society of Home Army Soldiers; chairman of the Board, Home Army Film Foundation;

Dr Jarosław Krawczyk, art historian; editor-in-chief of *Magazyn Historyczny* journal;

Prof. Jack Lohman, art historian; museologist; director, Museum of London;

Prof. Krzysztof Mikulski, president, Polish Historical Society; professor, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń;

Prof. Zdzisław Najder, literary historian;

Jacek Taylor, Esq., representative of the minister of the treasury on the Board of the Foundation for Polish-German Reconciliation; and

Dorota Zawacka-Wakarecy, chair, General Elżbieta Zawacka Foundation, Archive and the Pomeranian Museum of the Home Army and of the Polish Women's Military Service.

Members of the Advisory Board, left to right: Prof. Andrzej Chwalba, Prof. Jerzy Holzer, Prof. Jerzy W. Borejsza and Prof. Pavel Polian.
Photo: M. Nasternak



The **Advisory Board** was created on 18 May 2009 and is made up of:

Prof. Władysław Bartoszewski, the Polish prime minister's plenipotentiary for international dialogue;

Prof. Jerzy W. Borejsza, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences;

Prof. Włodzimierz Borodziej, Institute of History, University of Warsaw;

Prof. Andrzej Chwalba, Institute of History, Jagiellonian University, Cracow;

Prof. Norman Davies, British Academy;

Prof. Israel Gutman, International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem;

Prof. Ulrich Herbert, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg; School of History, Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, Germany;

Prof. Jerzy Holzer, Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences;

Prof. Pavel Polian, Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences; Academic Library, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow;

Prof. Krzysztof Pomian, Museum of Europe, Brussels;

Prof. Henry Rousso, Institut d'histoire du temps présent, Centre national de la recherche scientifique; Université Paris-Ouest Nanterre-La Défense

Prof. Timothy D. Snyder, Yale University; and

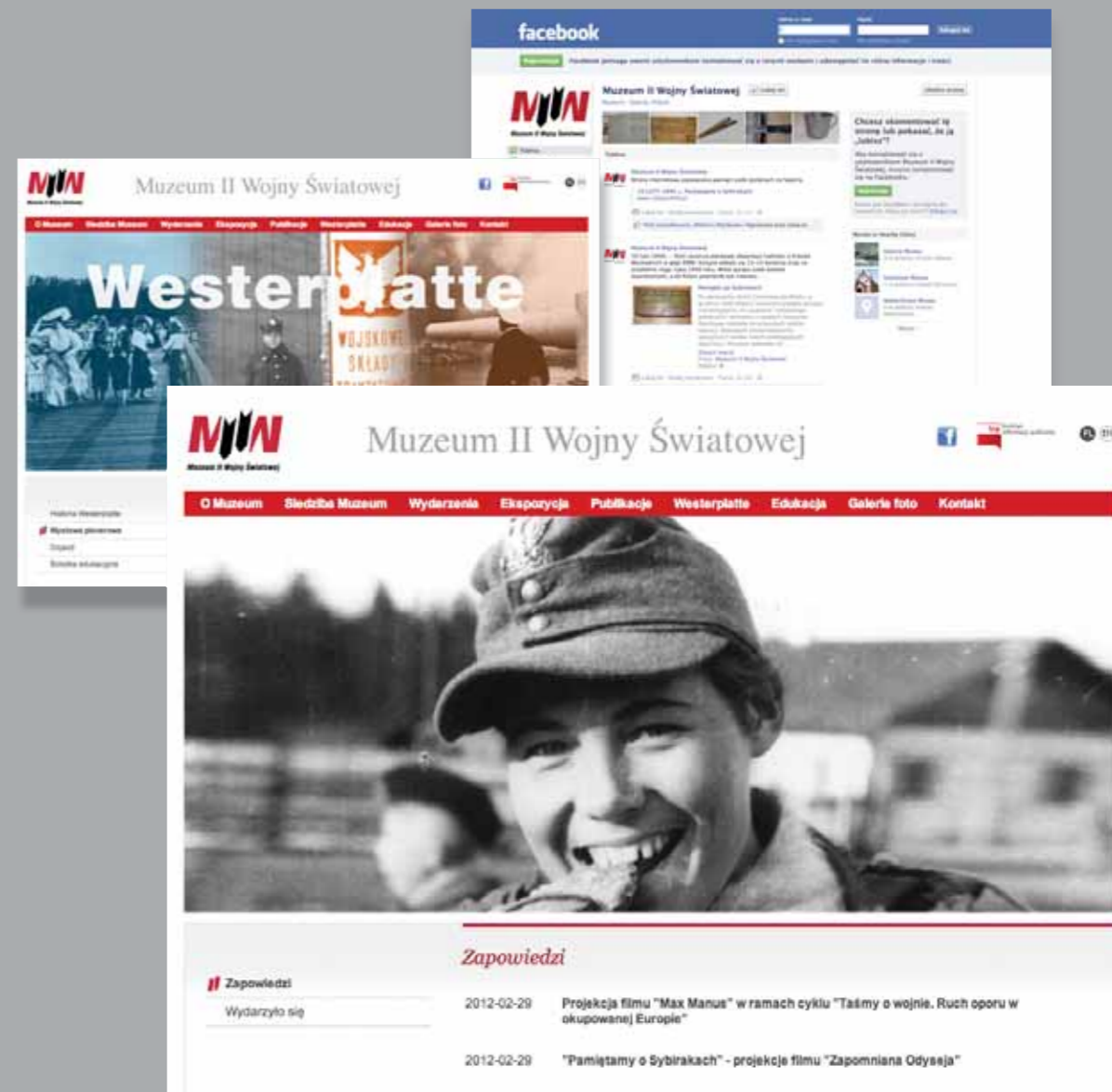
Prof. Tomasz Szarota, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences.

Prof. Norman Davies began to serve as its chairman in June 2009.

The Museum on the Internet

The website of the Museum of the Second World War, created in 2009, is regularly updated. It includes information about the most important events in the life of the Museum and the ideas behind its creation, goals and programmatic premises, educational and publishing projects. It is written in both Polish and English.

In 2011 the Museum also set up a Facebook page with current information about its creation and its educational and cultural programmes.





Cooperation with institutions
in Poland and abroad



Director of the Museum of the Second World War Paweł Machcewicz and Director General of the Royal Museum of the Army and of Military History Dominique Hanson, Brussels, January 2011

European Union Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Maire Geoghegan-Quinn visiting the Westerplatte outdoor exhibition with Director of the Museum of the Second World War Paweł Machcewicz, July 2011. Photo: J. Pinkas

The Museum of the Second World War takes advantage of the experience and help offered by numerous museums, archives and research institutions in Poland and abroad. It has signed cooperation agreements with some of them. Partners include the KARTA Centre, the Internal Security Agency in Poland, the Royal Museum of the Army and of Military History in Brussels, the Museum of the Slovak National Uprising in Banská Bystrica, the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw and the Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo. Their cooperation focuses on research, archives and exhibit exchanges, as well as cultural, educational and exhibition projects. In 2011 the Museum supported the KARTA Centre in organizing this year's "History is close" competition for secondary schools. Together with the National Museum in Gdańsk and the Baltic Centre of Culture, we organized the exhibition "Marian Kołodziej, the theatre of a life" devoted to the artistic work of this stage and film set designer, a former inmate of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp.

Conferences and seminars facilitate sharing experiences. The Museum tries to become a player in discussions of war-related issues. In 2011 our researchers took part in several events, including a panel discussion on "Plans for war of attrition" organized at the German-Russian Museum Berlin-Karlshorst, a conference "Eastern Europe in 20th century. Cultural and historical challenges for today" organized at the Imre Kertész Kolleg in Jena and a conference on "European perspectives on the culture of memory and development of places of memory: A Polish-German discussion" in Nordrhein-Westfalen, whose organizers included Bildungswerk der Humanistischen Union Nordrhein-Westfalen, in Gelsenkirchen. The events gave us an opportunity to present and compare the results of our research with the work of scholars from other countries.

"Marian Kołodziej, the theatre of life" exhibition, organized by the Museum of the Second World War, the National Museum in Gdańsk and the Baltic Centre of Culture, opens at the St John Centre in Gdańsk, December 2011



In its cooperation with other museums and research institutions, the Museum invites their representatives to Gdańsk. January 2011 workshops brought together museum people from Poland and managers of leading European museums that specialize in the Second World War, including the Imperial War Museum in London, German Historical Museum in Berlin, National Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 in Kyiv, Musée de l'Armée in Paris and the Royal Museum of the Army and of Military History in Brussels.

Our museum supports many initiatives that preserve the memory of the Second World War. In 2011, for the second year in a row, it was a patron of the annual Defenders of Westerplatte Cup Regatta in the Bay of Gdańsk. Director Machcewicz became a sponsor of the 9th Polish Conference of Students of Military History at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin in December 2011, at which over 100 students from Polish universities presented papers. The Museum was also a partner of the Home Army Film Foundation in the production of the documentary *Byłem żołnierzem Armii Krajowej* (I was a Home Army soldier).

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Museum of the Second World War

PL 80-831 Gdańsk, Długa St 81-83

Tel: +48 58 323-75-20, Fax: +48 58 323-75-30

sekretariat@muzeum1939.pl

www.muzeum1939.pl

English translation:

Maja Łatyńska

Editors:

Alicja Bittner

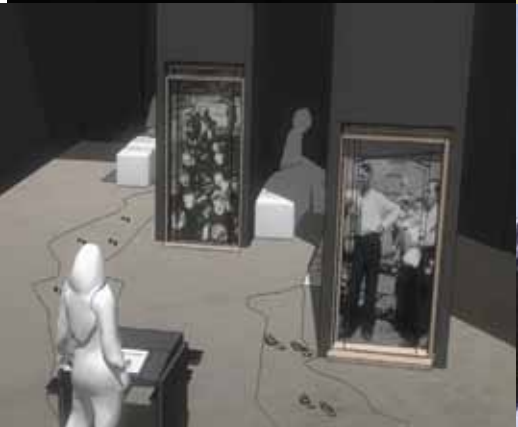
Anna Kądziała-Grubman

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