

# REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE MUSEUM OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR FOR 2019

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## LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

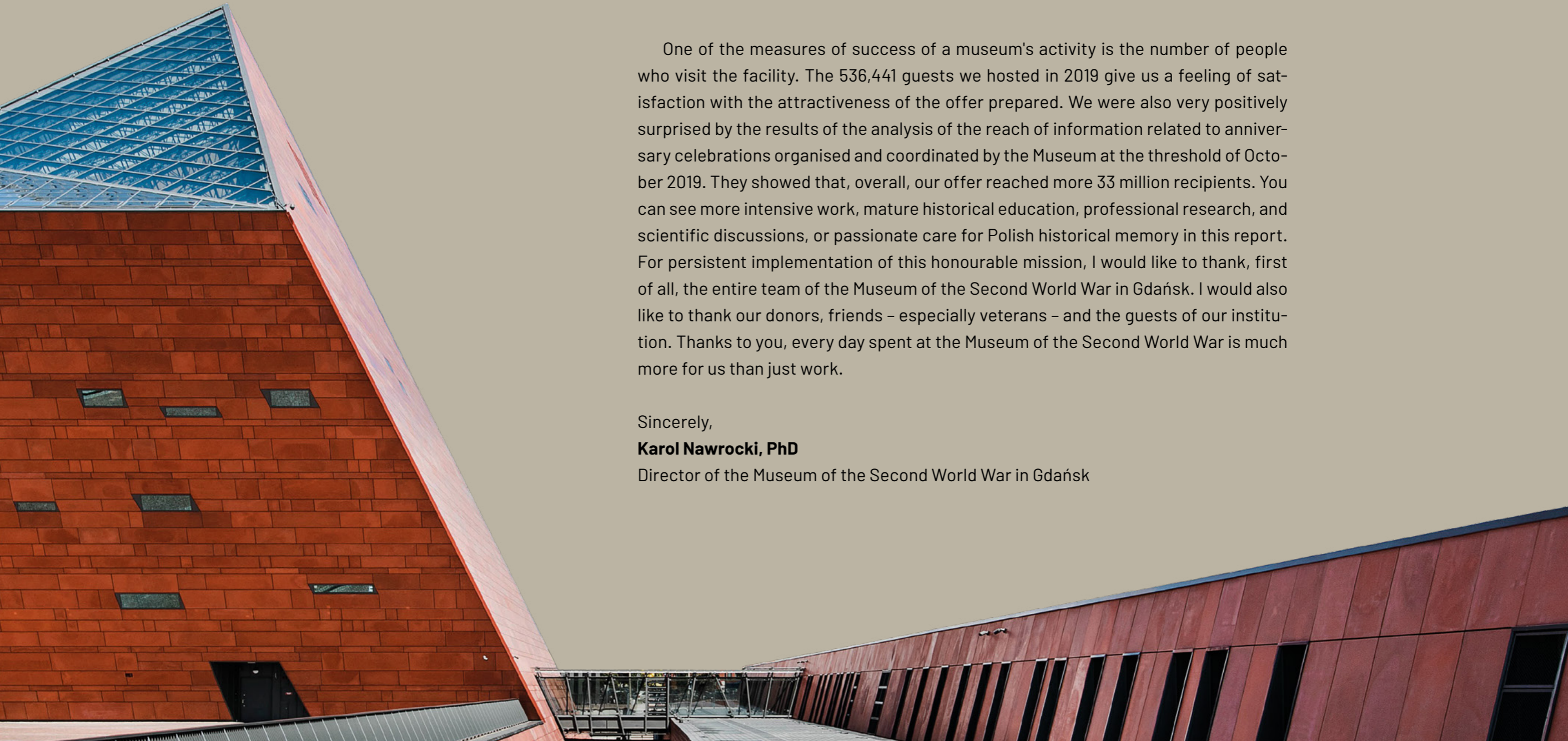
for the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, the year 2019 was closely associated with endeavours connected with the national celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the biggest conflict in human history. As a plenipotentiary of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, the Minister of Culture and National Heritage professor Piotr Gliński for organising the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, being fully aware of the importance – also for contemporary generations – of the historical message rooted in 1939–1945, together with my team, we have prepared a large variety of events comprising the Museum's part of the celebrations. On the one hand, the aim of the ceremony was to pay tribute to the victims and condemn the perpetrators of World War II, and on the other hand, to spread the message about the true history of Poland and Poles in the tragic realities of war to a wide audience all over the world. Apart from unknown facts, our vision of the celebrations also included showing the world Polish attachment to liberty and independence as well as deep, exceptionally tragic experience wrought on Poland and its citizens by the occupiers. By directing messages to recipients with various levels of knowledge of history and sensitivities, the Museum has created a programme of celebrations containing projects of a varied nature – from strictly scientific, educational, cultural, and even sports events, through film productions, commemorations, to projects in the field of latest multimedia technologies.

Therefore, the anniversary of the outbreak of World War II was both an opportunity for scientific reflections, such as the international scientific conference "Pact for War. Hitler–Stalin Collusion of 23rd of August 1939 from the Perspective of 80 Years



since the Outbreak of WWII.”, with lectures that could be deemed a reflection of the most recent state of research with regards to Hitler’s and Stalin’s collusion of 1939 – as well as implementation of projects that are undoubtedly innovative in their form. They included an open-air show “Poland: First to Fight”, based on large-format mapping projections on the Museum's facade. Despite various means of communication, the aim of both events was to present the Polish experience of World War II, as well as the causes and consequences of this conflict, reaching all the way back to the nineteenth-century anti-Christian ideas, stretching to the domination of the Communist regime in Central Europe after 1945. In this way, the viewers received a dense dose of historical information, important for understanding the essence of World War II, provided in a modern and attractive form.

Solutions rife with modern technologies and unorthodox methods allowed us to move classic museology to a new virtual dimension. The projects implemented this year used, among other things, the technology of augmented reality (VR), virtual walks, or multimedia performances. This offer was supplemented by a new portal of Oral History of the Museum of the Second World War, which brought cognitive and educational value. There, you can see accounts of participants and witnesses to history, short film forms, documentary films, and radio programmes that were created thanks to notes from all over the world gathered by the Museum. The exhibition “Fighting and Suffering” (“Walka i cierpienie”) also saw wide international coverage, which we multiplied after the official vernissage in Gdańsk in the form of a panel in nearly 200 places all over the world.

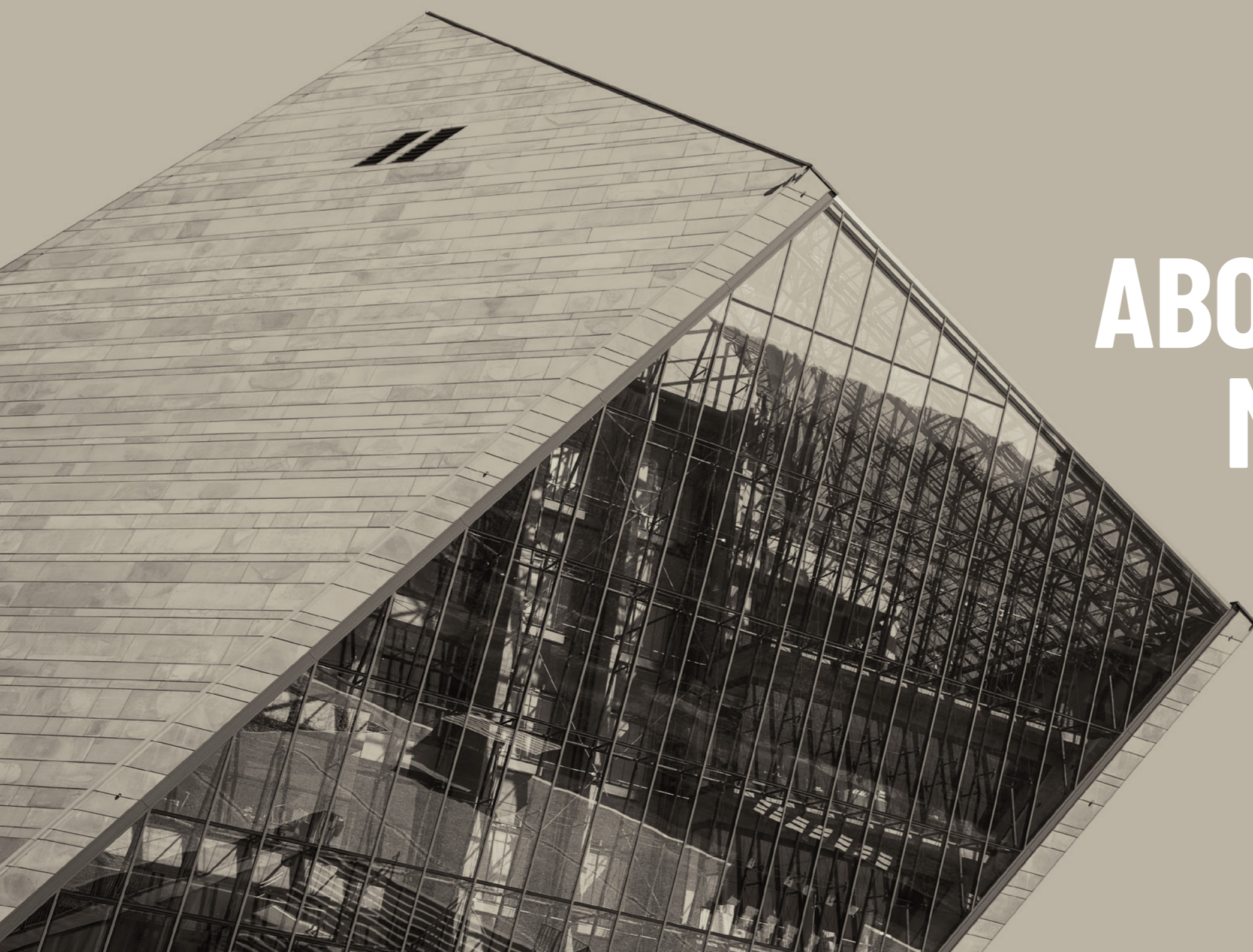


One of the measures of success of a museum's activity is the number of people who visit the facility. The 536,441 guests we hosted in 2019 give us a feeling of satisfaction with the attractiveness of the offer prepared. We were also very positively surprised by the results of the analysis of the reach of information related to anniversary celebrations organised and coordinated by the Museum at the threshold of October 2019. They showed that, overall, our offer reached more 33 million recipients. You can see more intensive work, mature historical education, professional research, and scientific discussions, or passionate care for Polish historical memory in this report. For persistent implementation of this honourable mission, I would like to thank, first of all, the entire team of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk. I would also like to thank our donors, friends – especially veterans – and the guests of our institution. Thanks to you, every day spent at the Museum of the Second World War is much more for us than just work.

Sincerely,

**Karol Nawrocki, PhD**

Director of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk



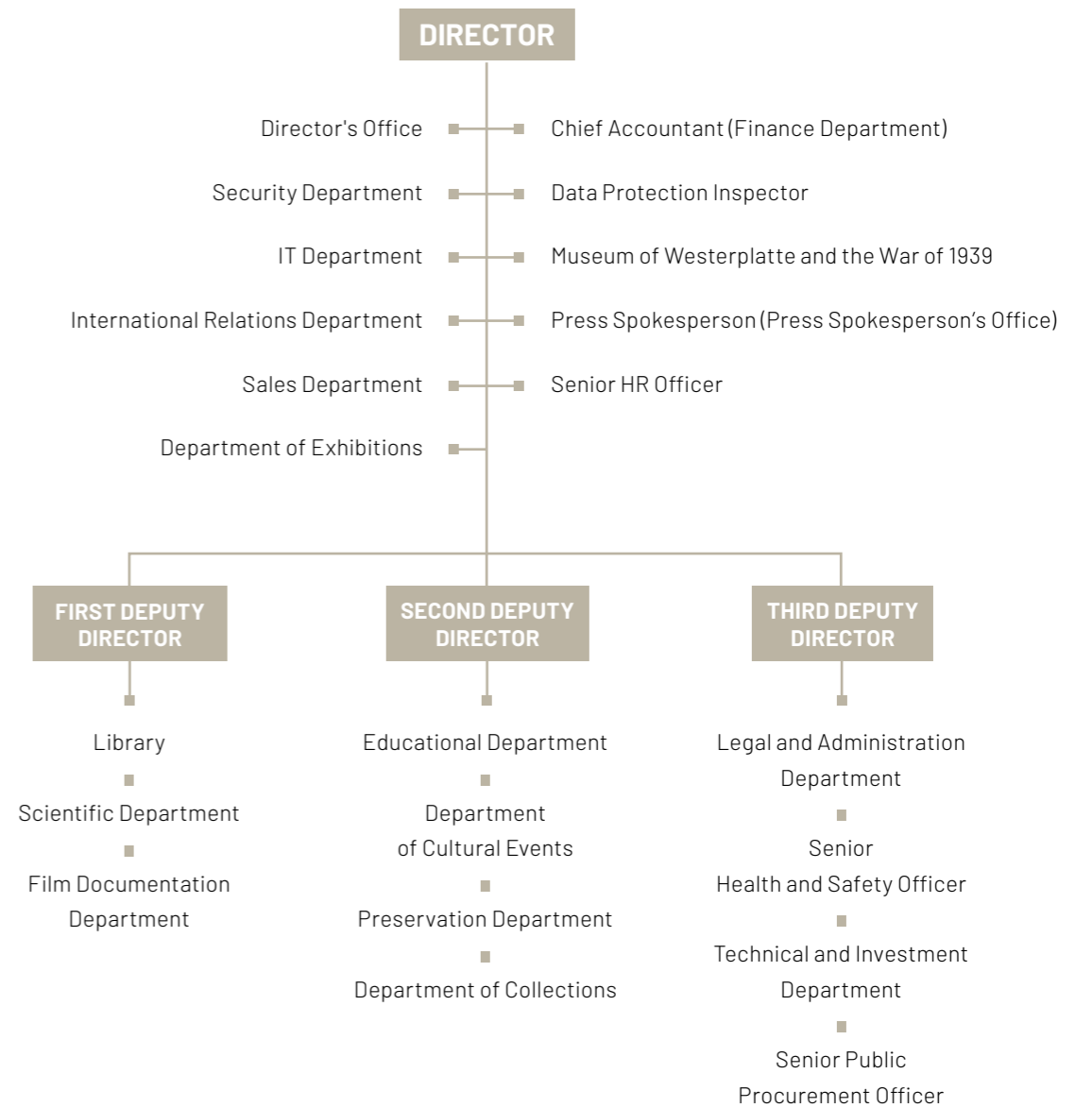
# ABOUT THE MUSEUM

**MIA**



## STRUCTURE

In order to optimise the work of the Museum of the Second World War, as well as due to emerging new challenges, the Director, Karol Nawrocki, PhD, by way of Ordinance 55/2018 of 29 November 2018, introduced Organisational Regulations of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, establishing a new organisational structure for the institution.



## MISSION

The mission of the Museum of the Second World War is to shape the historical narrative so that World War II is presented in a modern way, from the perspective of the Poles' unique experience, taking into account the world of great politics of the time, and above all, people's attitudes towards the realities of war and horrors of the occupation of the Republic of Poland by two totalitarian regimes.

Our tale has no shortage of war stories from other nations involved in the biggest armed conflict of the 20th century. Through our activities, we want to shape awareness not only in Poles, but also in our foreign guests. We are the only museum in Europe comprehensively presenting the course and nature of this conflict. Our mission is to speak about the victims of WWII, as well as its heroes, who are frequently forgotten and pushed to the margins of history.

## DIRECTORS

- Karol Nawrocki, PhD
- Grzegorz Berendt, PhD, Prof. UG – 1st Deputy Director
- Tomasz Szturo, PhD – 2nd Deputy Director
- Julia Katarzyna Olechno – 3rd Deputy Director – until 21 January 2019

## EMPLOYEES

As at 31 December 2019, the Museum of the Second World War employed 131 people.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In 2019, the budget of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk constituted the sum of funds allocated by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage under a grant from the state budget which includes:

- **PLN 19,443,106.00** – specified-user subsidy for current expenditure, including:
    - protection, provision of access to, digitisation, and dissemination of cultural assets and the promotion of knowledge about cultural heritage;
    - collection, safekeeping, and study of cultural assets;
    - restoration and conservation of objects and material cultural assets;
    - preservation of national memorial sites, war graves and cemeteries;
    - commemoration of historical events;
  - **PLN 6,219,100.66** – special-purpose subsidies for current expenses related to the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II;
  - **PLN 2,0509.94** – special-purpose subsidies for investments: “The Monument of Cavalry Captain Pilecki” and the exhibition “Fighting and Suffering. Polish Citizens During World War II” [Walka i Cierpienie. Obywatele polscy podczas II wojny światowej].
- Moreover, the budget of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk is based on the institution's own resources, of which **PLN 10,542,861.93** was allocated to current expenditures, and **PLN 1,269,077.82**, to investment expenditures.



# CALENDAR

**NIN**



## 2019

**12 JANUARY**

Benefit concert to celebrate the 90th birthday of Professor Jerzy Grzywacz, nom de guerre "Tapir".

**27 JANUARY**

Special feature of a fictionalized documentary entitled Who Will Write Our History (directed by Roberta Grossman) and Schindler's List (directed by Steven Spielberg) on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

**4 FEBRUARY**

Opening of the temporary exhibition "Armoured Wings" at the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and Military History in Brussels on the initiative of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Brussels, devoted to the 1st Armoured Division of General Maczek, prepared in cooperation with the General Representation of the Government of Flanders in Poland, the Institute of National Remembrance, and the National Institute of Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad.

**17 FEBRUARY**

Celebrations of the International Tourist Guide Day in cooperation with the Polish National Tourism Association – Branch in Gdańsk [Polskie Towarzystwo Turystyczno Krajoznawcze – Oddział w Gdańsku].

**17 FEBRUARY**

Play en. They Overcame Evil with Good (Besiegten das Böse mit Gutem) [Zło dobrem zwyciężali] in Essen, Germany, with participation of the children from the original Museum of the Second World War's theatrical-educational project "Changing Perspective" ["Zmieniając Perspektywę"]. The play was staged in the theatre room in the Polish Parish of St. Clement in Essen, in cooperation with Gazeta Polska Club in Essen.

**20 FEBRUARY**

Screening of the movie Młody Las [The Young Forest] (directed by Opening of a temporary exhibition Józef Lejtes) as part of the series "A Heritage Lost" ["Dziedzictwo utracone"] "At the Old Cinema" ["W starym kinie"].

**26 FEBRUARY**

The official premiere of the movie en. Made of Iron. Legend of the Vilnius Guerrillas [Żelazny. Legenda wileńskiej partyzantki] (directed by Marcin Maślanka).

**5 MARCH**

Poetry night devoted to the works of Grażyna Chrostowska in the library of the European Parliament in Brussels.

**6 MARCH**

Opening of the temporary exhibition "A Heritage lost"

**6 MARCH**

Meeting with Dr. Magdalena Ogórek "Stolen Polish Artworks – the Last Prisoners of World War II" ["Zrabowane polskie dzieła sztuki – ostatni jeńcy II wojny światowej"].

**24 MARCH**

Special showing of the Paszporty Paragwaju [Paraguay Passports] on the National Day of Remembrance of Poles Who Saved Jews Under German Occupation [Narodowy Dzień Pamięci Polaków ratujących Żydów pod okupacją niemiecką] – an event organised in cooperation with the Institute of National Remembrance.

**25 MARCH**

Opening of the temporary exhibition "Operation »Żegota« of the Polish Underground" ["Akcja »Żegota« Polski Podziemnej"].

**28 MARCH**

Meeting of the Board of the Museum of the Second World War.

**28 MARCH**

Ceremony of naming the conference room of the Museum of the Second World War after Jan Olszewski, along with a discussion about the patron, participated by Piotr Semka and Adam Chmielecki, President of Radio Gdańsk SA.

**28 MARCH**

Ceremonial gala crowning the "Reflection" One-Minute Film Competition [Konkurs Filmów Jednominutowych „Refleksja"] – an event organised by students of practical film studies at the University of Gdańsk.

**2 APRIL**

Opening of the temporary exhibition "Wieluń on 1 September 1939 – a History Interrupted" [Wieluń 1 września 1939 – przerwana historia].

**6 APRIL**

The Museum's Birthday – a concert entitled "Like in the Days of Old" [Jak za dawnych lat] by the Bellcanti band with the Opera Quartet [Kwartet Opera] and Mateusz Lipiński and presentation of Medals for the Centennial of Regaining Independence

**8 APRIL**

A visit of Arkady Rzegocki – Polish Ambassador in London and Justin Maciejewski – Director of the National Army Museum in London to the Museum of the Second World War.

**11 APRIL**

Lecture by Dr Sviatoslav Kulínok entitled Activities of German Intelligence-Sabotage Schools in Occupied Belarus 1941-1944 [Działalność niemieckich szkół wywiadowczo-dywersyjnych na terenie okupowanej Białorusi w latach 1941-1944] – an event organised as part of the series "Meeting History" [Spotkania z Historią].

## 2019

**13 APRIL**

Special features of: Katyń (directed by Andrzej Wajda) and a documentary Katyń Forest [Las katyński] (directed by Marcel Łoziński) on the occasion of the Katyń Massacre Victims Remembrance Day.

**24 APRIL**

International scientific conference en. "Seniors in the Face of Modern Threats" [Senior w obliczu współczesnych zagrożeń].

**26 APRIL**

Press conference devoted to the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, attended by: Minister Jarosław Sellin – Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Karol Nawrocki PhD – Director of the Museum of the Second World War, Prof. Jerzy Grzywacz – Chairman of the Pomeranian District of the International Polish Army Soldiers Association [Okręg Pomorski Światowego Związku Żołnierzy Armii Krajowej], Dr Tadeusz Krawczak – Director of the Central Archives of Modern Records in Warsaw [Archiwum Akt Nowych w Warszawie], Jan Książek – Director of the Museum of the Wieluńska Land in Wieluń [Muzeum Ziemi Wieluńskiej w Wieluniu], Paweł Rozdżestwieński – Director of the Museum Of Sochaczew Land and Battle of Bzura River.

**30 APRIL**

Announcement of the competition results for designing the monument of Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki.

**2 MAY**

Zagan Acoustic Concert "The Polish Soul" [Polska Dusza].

**2 MAY**

Polish Flag Day at the Museum of the Second World War co-organised by Radio Gdańsk.

**8 MAY**

Opening of the exhibition "Poles Saving Jews During the German Occupation" [Polacy ratujący Żydów podczas okupacji niemieckiej] at the Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in Beijing.

**11 MAY**

Outdoor concert en. "Cursed Maidens" [Panny Wykłe] under the Patriot Spring [Wiosna Patriotów] programme.

**14 MAY**

Special screening of Piaśnica (directed by Mariusz Sławiński) organised in cooperation with the Piaśnica Museum in Wejherowo.

**18 MAY**

Announcement of the beginning of a nationwide collection of exhibits "We'll Accept Your History" [Przyjmijemy Twoją historię].

**18 MAY**

European Night of Museums 2019 at the Museum of the Second World War and Westerplatte.

**22 MAY**

Screening of I'm in Charge Here [Ja tu rządzę] (directed by Mieczysław Krawicz) as part of the series "At the Old Cinema" [W starym kinie].

**24 MAY**

Concert of the Warsaw Sentimental Orchestra "In Defiance of Fashions" [Na przekór modom].

**25 MAY**

Opening of the outdoor temporary exhibition "Growth. Western and Northern Territories. The Beginning" [Wrastanie. Ziemie Zachodnie i Północne. Początek].

**25-26 MAY**

Screenings of competition performances at the Museum of the Second World War as part of the 19th Festival of the Polish Radio and Polish Television Theatre "Two Theatres - "Sopot 2019" [XIX Festiwal Polskiego Radia i Teatru Telewizji Polskiej „Dwa Teatry - Sopot 2019”].

**29 MAY**

Children's Day at the Museum of the Second World War.

**3 CZERWCA**

Visit of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Culture and National Heritage – Professor Piotr Gliński and Minister Jarosław Sellin – Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage at the Museum and Westerplatte.

**12 JUNE**

The conference "Destruction and Rescue of Cultural Heritage and Their Impact on Social Identity" [Niszczenie i ratowanie dziedzictwa kulturowego oraz ich wpływ na tożsamość społeczną] organised by the Museum of the Second World War together with the Polish Blue Shield Committee [Polski Komitet Błękitnej Tarczy].

**15-16 JUNE**

Pre-premiere of the play Sen [Dream] with the participation of youth from the original project of the Museum of the Second World War "Changing Perspective. 2nd Edition" [Zmieniając perspektywę. Edycja 2] with participation of a special guest – Prof. Jerzy Grzywacz.

**15 JUNE**

Lecture by Jan Hlebowicz en. Attitudes and Sacrifice of Catholic Clergy in Pomerania During World War II [Postawy i ofiara pomorskiego duchowieństwa katolickiego w czasie II wojny światowej] as part of celebrations of the Blessed Priest Franciszek Rogaczewski Day.

**30 JUNE**

Conclusion of the competition for the logo of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. The competition was won by the work by Konrad Fuśniak.

**13 JULY**

Opening of the "Museum on Water" [Muzeum na wodzie] season – an educational and exhibition waterway connection from the vicinity of the Museum of the Second World War to the Westerplatte peninsula.

**16 JULY**

Voivodeship Police Day celebrations on the 100th anniversary of the creation of the State Police.

**22 JULY**

Meeting of the Board of the Museum of the Second World War.

**30 JULY**

Official handover of keys to the historical power plant building at Westerplatte by Danuta Sikora – Director of the Gdynia Regional Branch of the Military Property Agency, to Karol Nawrocki PhD – Director of the Museum of the Second World War.

2019

**31 JULY**

A meeting with Piotr Gursztyn about the German edition of the book *The Slaughter of Wola. A Crime Without Reckoning* [Rzeź Woli. Zbrodnia nierozliczona] – event organised as part of the “Spotkania z Historią” [Meeting History] series.

**1 AUGUST**

Premiere of the play *Sen* [Dream] with the participation of youth from the original project of the Museum of the Second World War “Changing Perspective. 2nd Edition” [Zmieniając perspektywę. Edycja 2].

**1 AUGUST**

Celebrations commemorating the 75th anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising, which included: remembrance appeal, artistic programme, inauguration of the New Technologies Zone – premiere of the first film project in Poland using virtual reality technology “A Postcard from the Uprising” [Kartka z Powstania].

**6 AUGUST**

Official visit by the Ambassador of Kazakhstan Margulan Baimukhan to the Museum of the Second World War.

**17 AUGUST**

97th anniversary of the establishment of KS Gedania with the Museum of the Second World War

**22 AUGUST**

Screening of the reportage by Jakub Klebba *Epizod jak szpilka w lesie* [An Episode Like a Needle in a Forest] dedicated to Michał Różanowski.

**23 AUGUST**

Press conference attended by Jarosław Sellin – Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Szymon Szykowski alias Sęk – Secretary of State for the Polish diaspora, European policy and public diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Karol Nawrocki PhD – Director of the Museum of the Second World War, plenipotentiary of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage for organisation of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. The conference was devoted to the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of war in Poland and worldwide, as well as the exhibition project “Fighting and Suffering” co-organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and the Museum.

**23-24 AUGUST**

International scientific conference “Pakt dla wojny. Zmowa Hitler–Stalin z 23 sierpnia 1939 r. z perspektywy 80 lat od wybuchu II wojny światowej” / “Pact for War. Hitler–Stalin Collusion of 23 August 1939 from the Perspective of 80 Years since the Outbreak of WWII”.

**28 AUGUST**

Great WWII Test [Wielki Test o II Wojnie Światowej] on TVP.

**30 AUGUST**

36th Symposium of the Westerplatte School Club [Symposium Klubu Szkół Westerplatte] organised by the Heroic Westerplatte Defenders Maritime School Complex in Gdańsk [Zespół Szkół Morskich w Gdańsku im. Bohaterskich Obrońców Westerplatte] and the Museum of the Second World War.

**30 AUGUST**

Signing of the agreement on cooperation between the Museum of the Second World War and the Port of Gdańsk Authority SA

**23-25 AUGUST**

Multimedia show “Poland: First to Fight”.



2019

**1 SEPTEMBER**

Open air musical performance "This Is How War Began" [Tak zaczęła się wojna].

**1 SEPTEMBER**

Ceremony of laying the cornerstone for the construction of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 and opening of the special exhibition "Polish Westerplatte" [Polskie Westerplatte] in the historical power plant building at Westerplatte.

**1 SEPTEMBER**

Opening of the temporary exhibition "Fighting and Suffering. Polish Citizens During World War II".

**1 SEPTEMBER**

Premiere of the spot 1939. Memory and Message. [1939. Pamięć i przesłanie]

**1 SEPTEMBER**

A meeting with Roger Moorhouse concerning his latest book First to Fight: The Polish War 1939 – event organised as part of the "Meeting History" [Spotkania z Historią] series.

**4 SEPTEMBER**

Screening of the Last Correspondent – the Siege of Warsaw [Ostatni korespondent. Oblężenie Warszawy] – meeting with the director Eugeniusz Starky and Sam Bryan – the son of Julien Bryan.

**6 SEPTEMBER**

Screening of the war film Free City [Wolne Miasto] (directed by Stanisław Różewicz) and a lecture on the defence of Poczta Polska [Polish Post] in Gdańsk.

**7 SEPTEMBER**

Screening of the war film Westerplatte (directed by Stanisław Różewicz) and a lecture on the defence of Westerplatte in September 1939.

**7 SEPTEMBER**

"A Match That Didn't Happen" [Mecz, który się nie odbył] – a historical and sports show.

**11 SEPTEMBER**

Screening of Prohibited Songs [Zakazane piosenki] (directed by Leonard Buczkowski) and a lecture on the beginnings of the Polish war cinema after the end of World War II.

**13 SEPTEMBER**

The popular-science conference "Holocaust of the Eastern Borderlands. Soviet Aggression of 1939" [Zagłada polskich Kresów. Agresja sowiecka 1939].

**17 SEPTEMBER**

Unveiling of the monument of cav. cpt. Witold Pilecki in front of the Museum of the Second World War.

**23 SEPTEMBER**

The discovery of the first remains of Westerplatte defenders of September 1939. As part of the 5th stage of archaeological excavations, a total of nine human skeletons (preserved in whole or in part) and several hundred fragments of human bones were found.

**28 SEPTEMBER**

Formal Lt. col. Jan Kowalewski Award gala.

**3 OCTOBER**

Press conference at the seat of the Institute for Western Affairs in Poznań attended by the Director of the Museum of the Second World War, Karol Nawrocki PhD and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Szymon Szynkowski alias Sęk, summing up the information campaign #80WW2 commemorating the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II.

**4 OCTOBER**

The "My Piaśnica" [Moja Piaśnica] concert by the 4razywroku band, organised by the Piaśnica Museum in Wejherowo.

**10 OCTOBER**

Press conference attended by Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage Jarosław Selin, during which the effects of the 5th stage of archaeological works carried out at Westerplatte were presented – the found remains of defenders of the Military Transit Depot.

2019

**2 NOVEMBER**

All Souls Day celebration concert "Elegia in obitum".

**6 NOVEMBER**

Opening of a temporary exhibition of graphics and illustrations of Chinese artists, who created their works during the Japanese occupation of China in 1937-1945. Exhibition organised in cooperation with the Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in Beijing.

**14 NOVEMBER**

A meeting with the editor of the Ignacy Matuszewski. Pisma wybrane [Ignacy Matuszewski's Selected Writings] publication – dr. hab. Sławomir Cenckiewicz, director of the Military Historical Office [Wojskowe Biuro Historyczne] – an event organised as part of the "Meeting History" [Spotkania z Historią] series.

**15 NOVEMBER**

Premiere of a documentary entitled Gdańsk 1939 (directed by Grzegorz Karbowski).

**22 NOVEMBER**

The premiere of the Oral History [Historia mówiona] website of the Museum of the Second World War.

**17 NOVEMBER**

Premiere of the Red Winter [Czerwona zima] play (directed by Artur Hofman).

**18 NOVEMBER**

Conference on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of commencement of operations of the Ponarska Family Association [Stowarzyszenie Rodzina Ponarska].

**19 NOVEMBER**

Interdisciplinary conference "Piaśnica – Culture of a Place" [Piaśnica – kultura miejsca].

**27 NOVEMBER**

Meeting Wojciech Grotte, author of the book Lieutenant Colonel Jan Kowalewski (1892-1965) [Podpułkownik Jan Kowalewski (1892-1965)], published as part of the series "Patron's of Gdansk Streets" [Patroni dla gdańskich ulic] – an event organised as part of the series "Meeting History" [Spotkania z Historią].

**30 NOVEMBER**

Meetup of the ZHR Scouting Organisation Instructors [Złaz Instruktorów Organizacji Harcerzy ZHR] organised by the Pomeranian Scout Troop [Pomorska Chorągiew Harcerzy].

**2 DECEMBER**

Premiere of a documentary en. Gdańsk 1939 at the European Parliament.

**6 DECEMBER**

A screening of a documentary Of Animals and Men [O zwierzętach i ludziach] and meeting with director Łukasz Czajka, and a lecture on the fate of Mr. Jan and Mrs. Antonina Żabiński.

**8 DECEMBER**

Show en. Scars of Memory – A Story About Jan Karski [Blizny pamięci – rzecz o Janie Karskim] (directed by Jerzy Żelnic) – an event organised in cooperation with Telewizja Polska SA.

**11-12 DECEMBER**

Congress of 108 Blessed Martyrs of World War II [Kongres 108 Błogosławionych Męczenników II Wojny Światowej].

**13 DECEMBER**

Debate en. "Political Opposition en. of Youths From the Declaration of Martial Law Until the End of the 1980s" [Działalność opozycyjna młodzieży od stanu wojennego do końca lat osiemdziesiątych] as part of the 35th celebration of the Federation of Fighting Youth [Federacja Młodzieży Walczącej] in Gdańsk.

**28 DECEMBER**

Christmas carol concert "Around the Shed" [Wokoło Szopy] by the Pospieszalski Family.

**17 DECEMBER**

Premiere of the record en. Nigdy więcej wojny [No More War].



# CELEBRATIONS OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR II

**MUN**

The Minister of Culture and National Heritage established the Director of the Museum of the Second World War, Dr. Karol Nawrocki, the plenipotentiary for organisation of celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. The events organised by the Museum were of commemorative and educational nature. Their purpose was to allow reaching wide audiences worldwide with a message about the true history of Poland and Poles in the tragic war realities. This narrative also included showing the world Polish attachment to liberty and independence as well as deep, exceptionally tragic experience wrought on Poland and its citizens by the occupiers. Thus the message present in different forms in the entire programme of celebrations were the words "Fighting and Suffering". By directing the message to audiences with different levels of knowledge of history and of different sensitivities, the Museum planned a variety of projects – events that were strictly scientific, educational, cultural, and even sports events, as well as film productions, commemorations, to projects from the field of the latest multimedia technologies.

All of the celebrations were prepared by referring to three main dates: 23 August 1939 – signing of the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact, 1 September 1939 – attack of Germany on Poland, and 17 September 1939 – Soviet armed invasion of Poland. They were selected because they had an impact on the fates of millions of people, both in Poland and in the whole of Europe.

When preparing for the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, as early as in 2018 the Museum organised a competition for a **celebrations logo** which was then used to provide visual identity to all anniversary projects. In January 2019 we started publishing "**Calendar of 1939**" – an all-year project of presenting, day by day, the events of 1939, on the basis of the Polish press surviving from that period. Subsequent reprints of texts from 80 years ago appeared daily on the Museum's website and in social media.

An important element reflecting the position and tasks of the facility as an entity responsible for the implementation and coordination of the celebrations of the 80th anniversary was to create a system of patronage and promotional care over hundreds of larger and smaller undertakings organised by cultural institutions, local authorities and schools all over Poland and in many places worldwide. This way the **calendar of celebrations** was created, available on the Museum's website. It encompasses over 450 anniversary events in Poland and 10 other countries.

The Museum of the Second World War supported other institutions not only in the field of promotion, but also in implementation of the anniversary events. The facility, together with the Museum of the Wieluńska Land [Muzeum Ziemi Wieluńskiej], co-organised an **international scientific conference en. "Civil Population and the Drama of War" [Ludność cywilna i dramat wojny]** which took place on 30 August 2019 in Wieluń, Poland. It was also involved in helping the Museum of Sochaczew Land and Battle of Bzura River in organising the show "**Bzura 1939**" – a historical reconstruction of the largest engagement of September 1939. Another important undertaking during the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II was the cooperation of the Museum of the Second World War with the religious house of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin of the Krakow Province in Gdańsk. On 15 June 2019, the Museum organised the **Blessed Father Franciszek Rogaczewski's Day**. On that date, the entire revenue from the sale of entry tickets to the main exhibition of the Museum was donated to the construction of the monument. On 11–12 December 2019, the Museum hosted the **Congress of 108 Blessed Martyrs of World War II [Kongres 108 Błogosławionych Męczenników II Wojny Światowej]** – which was attended by 70 speakers. The opening of the debate was preceded by the unveiling ceremony for the monument of Blessed Father Franciszek Rogaczewski. Works to prepare the congress were conducted with the aim of commemorating and popularising the spirituality of the 108 Polish martyrs murdered during World War II, who were beatified on 13 June 1999 in Warsaw by St. John Paul II during his pastoral visit to Poland.

The inauguration of the anniversary celebrations was the theatrical presentation of **They Overcame Evil with Good [Zło dobrem zwyciężali]** play prepared by the children's theatre group under the direction of the Museum's employees. The play was staged twice in the theatre room at the Church of St. Mary Hofbauer in Essen on 17 February 2019. It tells the life stories of Polish heroes who paid the highest price for saving the life of another person and was very popular with audiences.



Another event was the **vernissage of the "The Heritage Lost" [Dziedzictwo utracone]** temporary exhibition held on 6 March 2019. The exhibition depicting the catastrophic damage caused by the occupants to Polish culture became an important museum voice in a discussion on war losses, heroic efforts taken to save cultural assets from destruction or theft, as well as on the value of cultural heritage for the Polish identity. The accompanying event of the exhibition was a scientific conference entitled "Destruction and Rescue of Cultural Heritage and Their Impact on Social Identity" [Niszczenie i ratowanie dziedzictwa kulturowego oraz ich wpływ na tożsamość społeczną] held on 12 June 2019 at the Museum, in cooperation with the Polish Blue Shield Committee [Polski Komitet Błękitnej Tarczy].





On 8 May 2019, an exhibition of photographs prepared by the Museum of the Second World War en. **“Poles Saving Jews During the German Occupation” [Polacy ratujący Żydów podczas okupacji niemieckiej] was opened in Beijing.** The exhibition was presented for two consecutive months at the Museum of the War of Chinese People’s Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. As a result, tens of thousands of visitors could learn about the heroic history of Poles who, during World War II, despite it being punishable by death, aided their Jewish countrymen.

**The nationwide collection of exhibits “We’ll Accept Your History” [Przyjmiemy Twoją historię]** was a project calculated for long-term effect started on 18 May 2019. As part of the project, exhibit collection points were created one by one throughout Poland. The widely conducted promotional campaign was met with great interest and reactions of people who donated gifts not only during meetings at collection points, but also by sending them directly to the Museum. The campaign was summed up by a press conference organised at the Museum’s seat on 18 December 2019. It included presentation of the results of the collection effort – 2167 exhibits acquired – a story about the course thereof, and presenting select, most interesting monuments. Apart from obtaining the exhibits, it was possible to achieve a no less important effect of inducing awareness of the existence of an institution which is willing to take care of objects of historical value from private collections throughout Poland.

One of the most important projects implemented by the institution is the **“Museum on Water” [Muzeum na wodzie]**, i.e. seasonal waterway connection from the city centre to the Westerplatte peninsula. A white fleet [biała flota] ship chartered for this purpose made the inaugural voyage on 18 July. The idea behind the project was both to launch a connection between the Museum and Westerplatte, where the seat of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 is cur-



rently located, and in the future, to create an open-air museum of the same name, as well as to allow visitors to become acquainted with a comprehensive and coherent narrative about World War II. An on-board exhibition describing the fate of the Military Transit Depot was placed aboard the ship, referring to the latest archaeological finds. An educational area for children was also created. Qualified guides were employed to take care of passengers and to familiarise them with the history of the Port of Gdańsk during the cruise and then, after reaching the peninsula, to guide them to the most important places related to its heroic defence in 1939. Over 2.5 months, the “Museum on Water” was visited by over 5,000 people.

The culmination of the all-year anniversary celebrations was planned for the period covered by the most important dates for the Polish experience of the beginning of the war: 23 August- the anniversary of signing the pact between Germany and the Soviet Union, together with a secret protocol on the division of Polish territories, 1 September – German invasion of Poland, and 17 September – Soviet invasion of Poland.



The first event of this period was an **international scientific conference “Pact for War. Hitler-Stalin Collusion of 23 August 1939 from the Perspective of 80 Years since the Outbreak of WWII”**, which took place on 23-24 August 2019. During the two-day conference, discussions were held on the genesis of the pact signed by the ministers of foreign affairs of the Third Reich and the USSR, as well as its consequences for the fate of Europe and the World in the 20th century. The four thematic panels enabled a discussion between representatives of scientific and museum institutions. Apart from the hosts and guests from Poland, the talks were attended by heads of museums and historians from the United States, Great Britain, Germany, Ukraine, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, and Romania. The conference was opened with a lecture by Roger Moorhouse.





The day of commencement of the conference was also the day of the premiere of an undoubtedly innovative point of the celebrations – **an open-air spectacle “Poland: First to Fight”**, presented in front of the Museum of the Second World War on 23-25 August. The show won The Drum Experience Awards 2019 in the Event Technology of the Year category. During three consecutive evenings, more than 6,000 people were able to see 9 screenings. The spectacle was based on the use of large-format mapping projections on the Museum’s facade. The music, light, and sound effects accompanying the screenings were complemented by a breathtaking dance choreography performed on the stage at the foot of the building’s tower. Computer animations created by graphical artists have been supplemented with archival materials, which included photographs and films obtained from various institutions, dedicated for the undertaking. The aim of the show was to present the Polish experience of World War II in an accessible way. Viewers received a condensed dose of historical information provided in a modern and attractive form, important for understanding World War II as a phenomenon that still affects reality.

An unconventional history lesson was **the “Great World War II Test” [Wielki test o II Wojnie Światowej] programme** co-developed by the Polish National Television [Telewizja Polska]. The Museum provided the knowledge base and support of experts in the implementation of the programme. During the live broadcast, well-known personalities from the world of media and over one million viewers had the opportunity to check their knowledge, answering questions prepared by the facility’s employees.

On 1 September 2019, on the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, events related both to the history of the Museum and the perspective of the institution’s activities in the future took place. The first, extremely significant point of the programme of this day was **the ceremony of laying the cornerstone for the construction of the Museum of West-**

**erplatte and the War of 1939** and the opening of the special exhibition in the historical building of the Westerplatte Power Plant. After the celebrations at the Museum of the Second World War, a temporary **exhibition entitled “Fighting and Suffering. Polish Citizens During World War II” [Walka i Cierpienie. Obywatele polscy podczas II wojny światowej]** was opened. The exhibition was created as an interdisciplinary project combining various scenography solutions, which comprise a coherent narrative about the Polish experience of World War II. The exhibition with a well-thought-out structure, precisely measured chronology and dramaturgy, as well as carefully selected exhibits, was created in order to describe the horrible war-time events that affected the citizens of the Republic of Poland as well as their steadfast fight against the enemy as suggestively as possible.



While the Museum of the Second World War hosted a vernissage of the exhibition, in several places around the world exhibitions were being opened as a result of the cooperation between the Museum and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. **The "Fighting and Suffering" international exhibition project** constitutes an emanation of the temporary exhibition en. "Fighting and Suffering. Polish Citizens During World War II"

The implementation of the endeavour was participated by around 100 diplomatic posts on 6 continents, making the project the largest information endeavour concerning World War II in the history of Polish Diplomacy. Thanks to the cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, in 2019 the exhibition was presented in 150 places all over the world.

Below is a list of diplomatic posts co-organising the "Fighting and Suffering" project, along with the place where the exhibition is presented. The list is in alphabetical order, by names of cities in which units co-organising the project are located.



1. **Algiers** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland – exhibition area of the UE Delegation.
2. **Algiers** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, ALGERIA – Palais de Culture.
3. **Almaty** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, KAZAKHSTAN – National Central Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Almaty.
4. **Ankara** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, TURKEY – Gardens of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Ankara.
5. **Athens** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, GREECE – Museum of War in Athens.
6. **Athens** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, GREECE – Museum of War in Napflio.
7. **Athens** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, GREECE – Museum of War in Tripoli.
8. **Athens** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, GREECE – Museum of War in Thessaloniki.
9. **Bangkok** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, THAILAND – Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.
10. **Barcelona** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, SPAIN – University of Barcelona.
11. **Beijing** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland/Polish Institute, CHINA – open-air urban space in Zaozhuang.
12. **Belfast** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, N. IRELAND – Building of the Northern Ireland Parliament in Stormont.
13. **Belgrade** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, SERBIA – Centre of Culture in Vrszac (Autonomic Province of Vojvodina).
14. **Belgrade** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, SERBIA – National Library of Serbia in Belgrade.
15. **Berlin** – Polish Institute/Embassy of the Republic of Poland, GERMANY – fence of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Berlin.
16. **Bogota** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, COLOMBIA – garden of Casa del Primer Congreso de las Provincias Unidas Villa de Leyva in the Boyaca region.
17. **Brasilia** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland/Consulate General Curitiba, BRAZIL – Mausoleum of the Fallen in World War II in Rio de Janeiro.
18. **Bratislava** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland/Polish Institute, SLOVAKIA – Museum of the Slovak National Uprising in Banská Bystrica.
19. **Bratislava** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland/Polish Institute, SLOVAKIA – Polish Institute in Bratislava.
20. **Bratislava** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland/Polish Institute, SLOVAKIA – University of Prešov.
21. **Bratislava** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland/Polish Institute, SLOVAKIA – Branch of the Military History Museum in Svidnik.
22. **Brussels** – Polish Institute/Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU, BELGIUM – Roeselare city centre – De Spil.
23. **Brussels** – Polish Institute/Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU, BELGIUM – Evergem.
24. **Bucharest** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland/Polish Institute, ROMANIA – Bukovina Museum in Suceava.
25. **Bucharest** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland/Polish Institute, ROMANIA – Palace of the Parliament in Bucharest.
26. **Bucharest** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland/Polish Institute, ROMANIA – Palace of Culture in Jassa.
27. **Budapest** – Polish Institute, HUNGARY – fence of the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest.
28. **Buenos Aires** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland; ARGENTINA – Main National Argentina Archive in Buenos Aires.
29. **Canberra** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, AUSTRALIA – Consulate General in Sydney.
30. **Canberra** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, AUSTRALIA – Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Canberra.
31. **Canberra** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, AUSTRALIA – Polish Club in Albion in Melbourne.
32. **Canberra** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, AUSTRALIA – Victoria State Parliament in Melbourne.
33. **Chengdu** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, CHINA – Main Library of the Yunnan University in Kunming.
34. **Chicago** – Consulate General, USA – Thompson Center Federal Building in Chicago.
35. **Cologne** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, GERMANY – Nazism Documentation Center in Cologne – NS-Dokumentationszentrum der Stadt Köln.
36. **Dar es Salaam** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, TANZANIA – Alliance Francaise in Dar es Salaam.
37. **Doha** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, QATAR – Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Doha.
38. **Dublin** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, IRELAND – Lexicon Library in Dun Laoghaire.
39. **Edinburgh** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, SCOTLAND – building of the Consulate and French Institute in Edinburgh.
40. **Edinburgh** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, SCOTLAND – Central Library in Aberdeen.
41. **Geneva** – Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations Office in Geneva, SWITZERLAND – "Grütli" Cinema in Geneva.
42. **Havana** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, CUBA – Jose Marti National Library in Havana.
43. **Havana** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, CUBA – parish in the town of Managua near Havana.
44. **Helsinki** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, FINLAND – National Finland Archives.
45. **Houston** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, USA – Parish of Our Lady of Częstochowa.
46. **Istanbul** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, TURKEY – Rector's Office of the Istanbul University.
47. **Istanbul** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, TURKEY – Prof. Fuat Sezgin Congress Centre in Istanbul.
48. **Jakarta** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, INDONESIA – Borobudur Hotel in Jakarta.

49. **Jakarta** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, INDONESIA – official celebrations of the Polish Independence Day in Jakarta.
50. **Kaliningrad** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, RUSSIA – electronic presentation on the website of the establishment (<http://www.kaliningrad.msz.gov.pl/>).
51. **Kiev** – Polish Institute, UKRAINE – Museum of the History of Kiev.
52. **Kuala Lumpur** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, MALAYSIA – Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya.
53. **Kuala Lumpur** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, MALAYSIA – Hotel Intercontinental in Kuala Lumpur.
54. **Kuwait** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, KUWAIT – Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Kuwait.
55. **Las Vegas** – Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland, USA – Sahara West Library in Las Vegas.
56. **Lima** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, PERU – Edward Habich Museum in Lima.
57. **Lima** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, PERU – Grand Theatre of the Engineering University in Lima.
58. **Lima** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, PERU – Hall de Rectorado UNI (Pabellon Central).
59. **Lima** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, PERU – Pablo Picasso Education Centre in Lima.
60. **Ljubljana** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, SLOVENIA – Museum of National Liberation in Maribor.
61. **London** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland/Polish Institute, ENGLAND – National Army Museum.
62. **Los Angeles** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, USA – Library in Santa Monica.
63. **Los Angeles** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, USA – Polish School in Yerba Linda – near Los Angeles as part of the Dozhinki harvest festival.
64. **Los Angeles** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, USA – NV Energy Company in Las Vegas.
65. **Los Angeles** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, USA – Cass Winery near Paso Robles as part of the annual Ignacy Paderewski Festival.
66. **Los Angeles** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, USA – Paso Robles Town Hall, during the Ignacy Paderewski Festival.
67. **Lvov** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, UKRAINE – Centre for Polish Culture and European Dialogue in Ivano-Frankivsk.
68. **Lvov** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, UKRAINE – school with courses taught in Polish in Lvov.
69. **Lvov** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, UKRAINE – school with courses taught in Polish in Mostyska.
70. **Lvov** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, UKRAINE – school with courses taught in Polish in Strilecke.
71. **Madrid** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland/Polish Institute, SPAIN – Complutense University in Madrid.
72. **Madrid** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland/Polish Institute, SPAIN – University of Valladolid.
73. **Manchester** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, ENGLAND – Polish “Vilnius” Centre in Manchester.
74. **Mexico City** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, MEXICO – Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Mexico City.
75. **Mexico City** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, MEXICO – Historical Research Institute at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).
76. **Mexico City** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, MEXICO – Institute of History and Anthropology in Mexico City.
77. **Mexico City** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, MEXICO – Memory and Tolerance Museum in Mexico City.
78. **Mexico City** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, MEXICO – University of Guadalajara.
79. **Milan** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, ITALY – Consulate fence.
80. **Minsk Polish Institute** / Consulate General in Brest, BELARUS – electronic presentation on the website of the institution ([http://www.pl.instp.by/events/history/wal\\_ka\\_i\\_cierpienie\\_\\_obywatele\\_polscy\\_podczas\\_ii\\_wojny\\_\\_wiatowej\\_\\_1185.html](http://www.pl.instp.by/events/history/wal_ka_i_cierpienie__obywatele_polscy_podczas_ii_wojny__wiatowej__1185.html)).
81. **Montreal** – Consulate General, CANADA – McGill University Library in Montreal.
82. **Munich** – Consulate General, GERMANY – Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Stuttgart.
83. **Nairobi** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, KENYA – Kenyatta University in Nairobi.
84. **New York City** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, USA – seat of the Polish-Slovenian Federal Credit Union in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.
85. **New York City** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, USA – Legislative Chambers, Manhattan City Hall.
86. **New York City** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, USA – Melrose Ballroom, Long Island City, Queens.
87. **New York City** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, USA – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York City.
88. **New York City** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, USA – U.S. Military Academy at West Point.
89. **New York City** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, USA – fence of the Consulate General at Madison Avenue.
90. **Nicosia** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, CYPRUS – Centre of Visual Arts and Research Museum in Nicosia.
91. **Nur-Sultan** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, KAZAKHSTAN – Gumilyov Eurasian National University of Nur-Sultan.
92. **Nur-Sultan** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, KAZAKHSTAN – University of Kustanai.
93. **Odessa** – Consulate General, UKRAINE – Museum of Literature in Odessa.
94. **Odessa** – Consulate General, UKRAINE – Picture Gallery of the Black Sea University of Mykolaiv.
95. **Odessa** – Consulate General, UKRAINE – Shovkunyenko Art Gallery in Kherson.
96. **Ostrava** – Consulate General, CZECH REPUBLIC – Department of Polish Studies at the University of Ostrava.
97. **Ostrava** – Consulate General, CZECH REPUBLIC – Polish House in Těrlicko.
98. **Ostrava** – Consulate General, CZECH REPUBLIC – Primary School and Kindergarten with courses in Polish in Horní Suchá.
99. **Ottawa** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, CANADA – University of Ottawa.
100. **Paris** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, FRANCE – Amiens.
101. **Paris** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, FRANCE – Polish church at Concorde Square.
102. **Podgorica** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, MONTENEGRO – Nikola Djurkovic Gallery in Kotor.
103. **Prague** – Polish Institute, CZECH REPUBLIC – Národní Památník na Vítkově Gallery in Prague.
104. **Prague** – Polish Institute, CZECH REPUBLIC – National Museum in Prague.
105. **Prague** – Polish Institute, CZECH REPUBLIC – University of Defence in Brno.
106. **Pretoria** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, SOUTH AFRICA – Brooklyn Theatre in Pretoria.
107. **Pretoria** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, SOUTH AFRICA – Johannesburg City Hall.
108. **Pretoria** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, SOUTH AFRICA – Museum of Military History.
109. **Reykjavik** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, ICELAND – Iceland University.
110. **Riga** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, LATVIA – Kara Muzejs Latvian War Museum in Riga.
111. **Rijad** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, SAUDI ARABIA – Residence of the Ambassador.
112. **Rome** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, ITALY – Library of the Italian Chamber of Deputies.
113. **Sarajevo** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
114. **Seoul** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, SOUTH KOREA – Korea University (EU Center) in Seoul.
115. **Seoul** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, SOUTH KOREA – Seoul National University.
116. **Skopje** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, NORTH MACEDONIA – “Grigor Prlicev” Culture Centre in Ohrid.
117. **Skopje** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, NORTH MACEDONIA – Culture Centre in the Museum of the Macedonian Struggle in Skopje.
118. **Skopje** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, NORTH MACEDONIA – Culture Centre in Bitoli.
119. **Sofia** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland/Polish Institute, BULGARIA – Military and Historical Museum in Sofia.
120. **Stockholm** – Polish Institute, SWEDEN – Galleri Ekvall + Törnblom in Stockholm.
121. **Strasbourg** – Special Representative to the Council of Europe, FRANCE – Council of Europe building in Strasbourg.
122. **Taipei City** – Polish Office, TAIWAN – National Chengchi University.
123. **Tallinn** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, ESTONIA – Estonian State Archive in Tartu.
124. **Tallinn** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, ESTONIA – Museum of Occupations and Freedom in Tallinn.
125. **Tbilisi** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, GEORGIA – NATO-UE Information Centre in Tbilisi.
126. **Tel Aviv** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, ISRAEL – Residence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Israel.
127. **The Hague** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, THE NETHERLANDS – celebrations of the liberation of the Netherlands in Driel.
128. **The Hague** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, THE NETHERLANDS – celebrations of the liberation of the Netherlands in Terneuzen.
129. **The Hague** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, THE NETHERLANDS – celebrations of the liberation of the Netherlands in Arnhem.
130. **The Hague** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, THE NETHERLANDS – celebrations of the liberation of the Netherlands in Breda.
131. **The Hague** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, THE NETHERLANDS – celebrations of the liberation of the Netherlands in Driel.
132. **The Hague** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, THE NETHERLANDS – celebrations of the liberation of the Netherlands in Axel.
133. **The Hague** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, THE NETHERLANDS – fence of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in The Hague.
134. **Tirana** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, ALBANIA – National Museum in Tirana.
135. **Tokyo** – Polish Institute, JAPAN – Osaka International Peace Center.
136. **Toronto** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, CANADA – Metro Hall Toronto.
137. **Tunis** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, TUNISIA – Taher Hadded Culture Club in Tunis.
138. **Ulaanbaatar** – organiser Polish Institute in Beijing, MONGOLIA – National Museum in Ulaanbaatar.
139. **Vancouver** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, CANADA – Victory Way Culture Festival in Vancouver.
140. **Vancouver** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, CANADA – University of British Columbia.
141. **Vancouver** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, CANADA – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Vancouver.
142. **Vancouver** – Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, CANADA – Cinemateque in Vancouver.
143. **Vienna** – Polish Institute/Embassy of the Republic of Poland, AUSTRIA – Museum of Military History in Vienna.
144. **Vilnius** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland/Polish Institute, LITHUANIA – Lithuanian National Library in Vilnius.
145. **Washington D.C.** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, USA – Avalon Cinema.
146. **Washington D.C.** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, USA – Residence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Washington D.C.
147. **Washington D.C.** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, USA – Washington Press Club.
148. **Wellington** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, NEW ZEALAND – Council Chamber at Victoria University of Wellington.
149. **Yerevan** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, ARMENIA – Union of Armenian Artists in Yerevan.
150. **Zagreb** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, CROATIA – “Nicolaus Copernicus” Polish Cultural Association in Zagreb.
151. **Zagreb** – Embassy of the Republic of Poland, CROATIA – foyer of the Library of the Philosophy Department of the University of Zagreb.

The ending of the programme envisaged for 1 September 2019 was the unique **musical show en. "This Is How War Began"** [Tak zaczynała się wojna] directed by Halina Przebinda, organised to commemorate the victims of World War II. The audiences gathered at the square of the Museum of the Second World War were entertained by Bovska, Krzysztof Cugowski, Piotr Cugowski, Grzegorz Hyży, Ralph Kamiński, Dawid Kwiatkowski, Michał Kowalonek, Margaret, Natalia Nykiel, O.S.T.R., Janusz Radek, The Dumplings, Warszawska Orkiestra Sentymentalna and Tomasz Szymuś Orkiestra. The show could not only be seen by the thousand people assembled at the square; it was also transmitted by the Polish National Television – as a result of which it was seen by 480,000 viewers. The transmission was also broadcast by Radio Poland.

The Museum also wanted to show the contribution of pre-war Polish athletes to the fight against the aggressors and the price of blood they had to sacrifice on the altar of their Homeland, as well as to impress on the viewers the losses suffered as a result of the war by those involved in Polish sport. In connection therewith, the Museum decided to implement a historical-sport reconstruction en. **"A Match That Didn't Happen"** [Mecz, który się nie odbył]. The idea behind this event was to recreate a match that could have been played in September 1939, and was not due to the outbreak of war. Alluding to the patriotic sports traditions of Poles in the Free City of Danzig, one of the teams selected for the match was KS Gedania which, according to the script, would go up against Lechia Lwów. Both teams, played by contemporary footballers representing the KS Gedania 1922 and



members of the "Retro Liga" sports reconstruction association, wore historical uniforms, according to pre-war rules and principles. The event, connected with a family fair, attracted almost a thousand viewers. The partners of the endeavour were the Polish Football Association and the Polish Ministry of Culture and Tourism.



17 September – third key date of the culmination of the celebrations – was commemorated with the official **unveiling of the monument of Cavalry Captain. Witold Pilecki** on the square in front of the Museum. The bronze figure measuring 2.8 m is a symbolic reflection of the life of the great hero. The placement of the figure, captured mid-movement, at the edge of the pedestal is representative of the life of Cavalry Captain Pilecki, who for most of his life, moved between life and death while fighting two totalitarian regimes.

Another project of an international scope was the competition for the **Lieutenant-Colonel Jan Kowalewski Award** carried out in cooperation with the Gdańsk University of Technology. The aim of the award was to recall both the merits of an outstanding Pole, officer, cryptologist, mathematician and linguist,

as well as to honour people who, using their own minds, knowledge and skills, acted for a common good in accordance with the slogan "mind over brawn". Winners, in two categories: "Poland for the World" and "World for Poland" (divided into age subcategories up to and over 35 years of age), were chosen by an international Competition Jury composed of: scientists, historians, journalists, museum professionals, and relatives of the award's patron. In this year's edition, the award in the first category was won by Mateusz Krakowczyk – an astronomer, and Prof. Ryszard Katulski – an academic teacher. Foreign laureates included Dr Utako Komai – museum curator from Osaka, as well as Prof. Raimo Pullat. The ceremony of presenting the Lieutenant-Colonel Jan Kowalewski Award was held on 28 September 2019 in the Jan Olszewski conference room at the Museum.

On 15 November 2019, a **premiere screening of the documentary Gdańsk 1939** produced by the Museum in cooperation with Video Studio Gdańsk was held. The film talks about the events which took place in Gdańsk in 1939 in a straightforward way, at the same time presenting the phenomena accompanying the creation of the Free City of Danzig after World War I, its nature, the process of Nazification and fall. The core of the narrative is the fate of Polish and Jewish minorities, persecuted with increasing force since the mid-1930s. The story is concluded with the tale of the defence of the Polish facility at Westerplatte and the Poczta Polska [Polish Postal Service] building in 1939. The film uses numerous archival materials, including those previously unknown to a wider audience, supplemented with fragments of film notations with witnesses to history prepared by the Museum. The substantive layer is supplemented by commentaries by eminent historians and researchers of the history of 20th century Gdańsk.

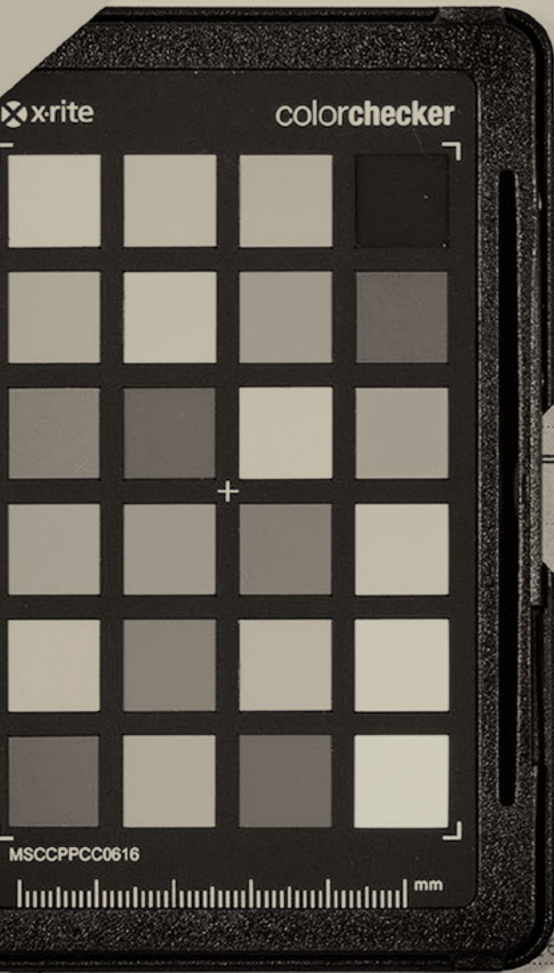
On 2 December 2019, the foreign premiere of Gdańsk 1939 was held during a special screening at the seat of the European Parliament in Brussels. The event, prepared in cooperation with the Office of MEP Anna Fotyga, was met with great interest of audiences who attended the event in substantial numbers.

On 17 November 2019, a **premiere of the Red Winter [Czerwona zima]** play took place at the Museum of the Second World War. It was inspired by memoirs of prisoners of Soviet camps and works of such authors as Anatol Krakowiecki, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, Gustaw Herling-Grudziński, Varlam Shalamov or Fyodor Dostoevsky. Red Winter is a theatrical story about the fate of the prisoners of the Soviet labour camps. It illustrates a vision of the world overcome by red ideology in its most extreme manifestations. The play was prepared under cooperation between the Museum and the Jewish Social and Cultural Association in Poland [Towarzystwo Społeczno-Kulturalne Żydów w Polsce].



An important project implemented as part of this year's event was the series of programmes created in cooperation with the Polish National Television [Telewizja Polska], en. **"War and Memory" [Wojna i pamięć]**. Programmes were devoted to the most spectacular events of World War II and its heroes. The basis for these programmes were conversations conducted by Karol Nawrocki PhD with invited historians, philosophers and persons whose scientific and professional activity focuses on the events of this tragic period. The programme's guests included: Prof. Ziyabek Kabuldinov, Jack Fairweather, Alieen Utterdyke, Prof. Tadeusz Wolsza, and Prof. Stephen Hicks.





Warschau

Warschau

Warschau

Religion Wyznanie röm.-kath. - rzwm.-kat.

Besondere Kennzeichen keine - nie ma  
Szczególna znaki rozpoznawcze Brillenträger-nosi okulary

rechter Zeigefinger  
palec wskazujący prawej ręki

linker Zeigefinger  
palec wskazujący lewej ręki

Unterschrift des Kennkarteninhabers  
Podpis posiadacza karty rozpoznawczej

Warschau den 5 Mei 1942  
dnia maja

Der Stadthauptmann  
Ausstellungsbehörde  
Władza wystawiająca

Dienststempel  
Pieczęć służbowa

Unterschrift des ausfertigenden Beamten  
Podpis sporządzającego urzędnika

AMTLICHE VERMERKE UWAGI URZĘDOWE

Der Kennkarteninhaber wohnt  
Posiadacz karty rozpoznawczej mieszka

in Warschau Strasse Śłużewska 5.  
w ulica

Kreish. Starostwo powiat.

Dienststempel  
Pieczęć służbowa

Unterschrift der Meldebehörde  
Podpis urzędu meldunkowego

ob od

in Okecie Strasse Sokol  
w ulica

Kreish. Starostwo powiat.

Dienststempel  
Pieczęć służbowa

ob od

in Warschau Strasse ...  
w ulica

Kreish. Starostwo powiat.

Dienststempel  
Pieczęć służbowa

Unterschrift der Meldebehörde  
Podpis urzędu meldunkowego

# COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT



The Collections Department deals with the acquisition, registration and collection of exhibits, which include donations, purchases and deposits. The collections are stored in warehouses and then edited substantively and digitised. Our collection includes over 52,000 exhibits, and that number grows every year.

The Collections Department cooperates with the Exhibition Department in order to present items at exhibitions and other projects of the Museum of the Second World War, as well as in other museums. In addition, the Department deals with granting licenses for photographs contained in collections, conducting internal and external queries, cooperating in borrowing exhibits and participating in the implementation of other substantive statutory tasks of the Museum.

## PURCHASES

In 2019, the Collections Department purchased 806 artefacts. These included:

- collection of conspiratorial publications published in Warsaw in 1940-1944;
- collection of correspondence addressed to Irena Urbańska, transported to forced labour camps;
- album with photographs of airmen from the fighter pilot training in the 2nd Air Regiment;
- album with photographs presenting German 15th Infantry Regiment from Wurzburg;
- photo album (German) documenting the construction of the German camp in Potulice;
- uniform of a Polish diplomat from the interwar period;
- banner of the Polish Women's Civic Labour Union in France;
- banner of a scouting organisation in France;
- set of mementos of a Polish prisoner of war kept in Stalag I A.





## NATIONWIDE COLLECTION OF EXHIBITS

In 2019, 2903 items were donated, 2167 of which were received as part of the nationwide collection of exhibits "We'll Accept Your History" [Przyjmiemy Twoją historię], which was launched on 18 May, connected with the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. Throughout its course, many valuable items were collected. The most important of these are:

- A Madonna with Infant Jesus figurine carved from a single piece of wood. It has a hollowed out space inside, closed off with a round piece of wood on the bottom. It was created by a Pole deported to the interior of the USSR between 1940 and 1942. According to the donor, the carver used the space to store a piece of paper with his personal data, fearing that no one will be able to identify him after his death. After leaving the USSR with the army under General



Władysław Anders, the artist served in the Polish Air Forces in Great Britain. Donated by Stefan Black.

- Turkish yataghan which, according to family stories, was captured during the Battle of Vienna in 1683. The donor's family heirloom, belonging to Jan Kosecki. Saved during the Warsaw Uprising from the family's apartment at the tenement house at ul. Puławska 99. Donated by Jarosław Afeltowicz.
- A Cross belonging to Józef Kwiczal "Mat", member of the ZWZ-AK in Krakow, who organised oaths for Home Army soldiers as part of his activities. The oaths were sworn on a small wooden cross accompanying the ceremonies held in premises belonging to the underground movement all around Krakow. Donated by Jerzy Kwiczal.

Department employees met with the donors mainly at the seat of the Museum. Temporary collection points were also created in five Polish cities in cooperation with the Lublin Museum in Lublin [Muzeum Lubelskie w Lublinie] and the Institute of National Remembrance:

- Lublin, 11–13 July;
- Szczecin, 8–10 August;
- Białystok, 10–12 October;
- Katowice, 14–16 November;
- Warszawa, 12–14 December.

In total, over 85 meetings with donors took place. The acquired exhibits enrich the Museum's collection, and the most valuable ones in historical and exhibition terms have a chance of finding themselves at temporary exhibitions at the facility. They will also become a canvas for the planned publication of an album.

## RECORDS OF COLLECTIONS

Records of collections are kept in the ZEUS Electronic System for Records of Museum Collections [Elektroniczny System Ewidencji Zbiorów Muzealnych] adapted to the needs of the Museum. The programme

which provides a basic work tool for the Collections Department is a comprehensive database and allows the processing and editing of exhibits in accordance with Polish law, editing the Museum's inventory, and creating inventory cards for the items. Moreover, the base allows queries to be carried out in the collections and is one of the basic tools allowing the determination of the topographic location of the objects.

## PHOTOS OF EXHIBITS AND DIGITISATION OF COLLECTIONS

The Department's tasks include digitisation of exhibits and photographs of exhibits for other units of the Museum. In 2019, 1647 photographs were taken, which constitute photographic documentation of objects for the needs of, among others: Exhibition Department or Spokesperson's Office





# PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT

**MUN**

The duties of the Conservation Department staff in 2019 were focused on three areas: preventive conservation, actual conservation of museum items carried out in the conservation workshop and the organisation of the workshop. The Conservation Department employs three people, one 2/5 time (manager), the second 3/5 time (conservation officer), and the third full-time (on maternity leave).

## PREVENTIVE CONSERVATION

The first area of activity includes constant supervision over the state of preservation of the exhibits, environmental conditions in the warehouses and exhibition halls, as well as over the transport of historical items to and from the Museum collections, including drawing up the necessary conservation opinions. The great diversity of the items collected by the Museum in terms of materials, dimensions, workmanship techniques and the state of preservation of the items is a very big challenge for the conservators taking care of them. This requires comprehensive, substantive preparation.

The conservators took an active part in the process of creating temporary exhibitions by the Museum (assistance in obtaining items from other institutions, participation in the assembly of exhibitions, determination of environmental conditions for exhibits, providing conservation copies of selected items). They carried out conservation inspections of all items selected for display, as well as all the necessary conservation procedures.

Within the framework of the prepared plan of warehouse inspections, an assessment of the condition of fabrics and leather items was carried out, selecting items for specific conservation procedures. In cooperation with the Collections Department, nearly 2000 items made of paper and leather were prepared and transported for disinfection in the fumigation chamber.

## CONSERVATION OF MUSEUM OBJECTS

The activities carried out in the conservation workshop are focused on cleaning items from unnecessary and harmful corrosion products. In order to preserve traces of old age and the value of authenticity of items, it is assumed that the corrosion processes will be stabilized without straightening, replenishing defects or shining the surface. Conservation procedures are intended to slow down or stop the corrosion processes of items in order to continue their proper storage in museum warehouses or on display.

In addition to the standard preventive conservation activities, the activities of the Conservation Department in 2019 focused on protecting a large number of artifacts that were acquired during the archaeological work carried out in the Westerplatte area. As a result of the measures taken, it has been possible to protect, among other things, items made of organic materials which are most exposed to the rapid processes of material decay. The following methodology was developed for leather and fabric:

- making descriptive and photographic documentation of the state of preservation of the items before undertaking the conservation procedures;
- pre-cleaning the surface from ground contamination with running water and various manual tools;
- carrying out disinfection in a 15% aqueous Aldewir disinfectant solution;
- carrying out a series of baths in a 2% citric acid aqueous solution for washing out tannic compounds;

- impregnation of skins in an aqueous solution of glycerine and fabrics in a solution of polyethylene glycol 400 and Paraloid B-72;
- conducting a slow and controlled drying process;
- preparation of descriptive and photographic conservation documentation after completion of works.

Below, the photographs show the effect of the works on the example of a leather shoe and a leather bag.



Before conservation

After conservation

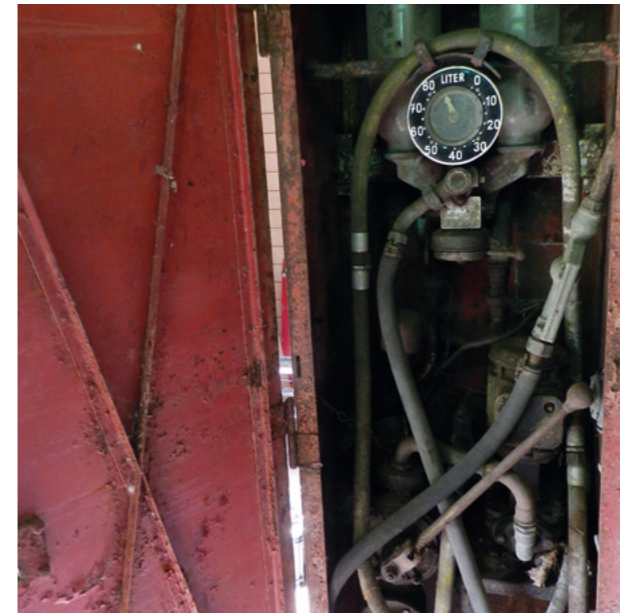
A very interesting example of conservation carried out in 2019 with a complex material structure are two large-size pre-war fuel dispensers. Their conservation programme was based on:

- making photographic and descriptive documentation of the state of preservation;
- preliminary surface cleaning from dirt;
- disassembly of individual elements;
- removal of corrosion products and protection against corrosion of metal elements by applying appropriate protective coatings;
- cleaning and surface protection of plastic parts;
- disinfection, impregnation and surface protection of elements made of wood and leather;
- cleaning of glass elements from dirt;
- reassembly of all parts;
- preparation of post-execution conservation documentation.

You can observe the effect of conservation in the photographs below.

## WORKSHOP ORGANISATION

In 2019, work on the organisation of the workshop continued. On the basis of the workshop development plan and public procurement law (conceptual preparation, market research, applications and contracts), specialist equipment was obtained, including large-size mobile tables, metal cabinets and shelves for storing items, a heating plate, a scale, a laboratory dryer, a device for distilling water, and also two air purifiers.



Before conservation



After conservation

# EXHIBITION DEPARTMENT

**NIN**



**Cichociemni**  
The Silent Unseen

*Wyalcz. Jej wolność lub zgin!*  
Dawka Cichociemnych

**Sophie Scholl**  
1921-1943

**Elzbieta Zawacka ps. „Zula”**

The Exhibition Department disseminates knowledge about World War II through preparing and carrying out new exhibition projects in cooperation with other departments of the Museum.

The duties of employees also encompass looking after the main exhibition, including current checks of its technical condition and renewing licences for the iconographic and audiovisual materials used. Moreover, the team prepares and coordinates study visits of visitors from Poland and abroad.

## MUSEUM'S OWN TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

It was not an accident that the **“The Heritage Lost” [Dziedzictwo utracone]** temporary exhibition was created in the year of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. It was the Museum’s attempt at answering questions that keep returning in debates about social identity and the shape of Polish heritage in the context of the biggest armed conflict. The main objective of the exhibition was to disseminate knowledge about the national legacy, with particular emphasis on the details of the part lost in 1939–1945. The curators intended for the exhibition to lead to create a belief about the value and respect for the heritage of both one’s own nation and other ethnic communities. The exhibit was addressed to all Poles interested in the history of the Polish national heritage, in particular during World War II, and to foreign guests wishing to broaden their knowledge on Polish history and heritology. The exhibition was awarded the honorary patronage of the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage – Jarosław Sellin. The accompanying event was the conference **“Destruction and Rescue of Cultural Heritage and Their Impact on Social Identity” [Niszczenie i ratowanie dziedzictwa kulturowego oraz ich wpływ na tożsamość społeczną]** organised on 12 June 2019 by the Museum of the Second World War. The structure of the conference was built on the basis of the same keywords which constituted the foundation of the exhibit. The main objective was to present the phenomena of “destruction” and “rescue” of cultural heritage, however, in the perspective of the present and future.

The conference was co-organised by the Polish Blue Shield Committee [Polski Komitet Błękitnej Tarczy] which has, for many years, performed a number of tasks for the security of collections. The conference was awarded the honorary patronage of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO [Polski Komitet do spraw UNESCO].



- The temporary exhibition entitled **“Fighting and Suffering. Polish Citizens During World War II”** [Walka i Cierpienie. Obywatele polscy podczas II wojny światowej] was created by the Museum of the Second World War in connection with the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. The exhibition is presented in the temporary exhibitions room from 1 September 2019 to 31 September 2021. It was created as an answer to the need for presenting the most tragic conflict in the history of humanity. Its basis is a reflection on the nineteenth-century anti-Christian philosophical currents that were distorted by the creators of Soviet Communism and German Nazism and led to the outbreak of World War II. This is accentuated by a central architectural installation alluding to the gallery of 19th-century thinkers. The exhibition space has been arranged in an innovative, non-linear way that allows the visitors to walk about freely. The section entitled “Fighting” presents the struggle of Poles on many fronts, from the first to the last day of the war, while “Suffering” shows a collective

and individual dimension of suffering of both the soldiers and the civilians. In order to compound the emotions, apart from traditional means, i.e. exhibits, iconography, infographics, the narration was based on scenography elements. Mutual penetration and complementation of archival materials with latest technologies is aimed at presenting the terror and tragedy of the largest armed conflict in the history of humanity. Both paths creating the exhibition enable visitors to familiarise themselves with the uniqueness of the Polish experience during World War II. The exhibition was prepared by a team composed of: Karol Nawrocki PhD, Grzegorz Berendt, Ph.D., Tomasz Szturo PhD, Bartłomiej Garba, Wojciech Łukaszun, Marek Szymaniak PhD, and Adam Żymła with cooperation of Wojciech Grott, Dr Marcin Kłodziński, Dr Dmitry Panto, Kamil Rutecki, Wirginia Węglińska, Marek Zambrzycki, and Dr hab. Karol Polejowski. The reviews of the exhibition were prepared by Prof. Tadeusz Wolsza, Dr. Jacek Friedrich, and Dr Marcin Westphal.



## PRESENTATION OF TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS

- The temporary panel exhibition **“Operation »Żegota« of the Polish Underground”** [“Akcja »Żegota« Polski Podziemnej”] tells the story about the creation and operations of the organisation and about the people who created it. The exhibition was presented between 25 March 2019 and 18 April 2019.
- The temporary panel exhibition **“Wieluń on 1 September 1939 – A History Interrupted”** [Wieluń 1 września 1939 – przerwana historia] showcases the destruction of the city and the tragedy that befell its citizens after German bombing raids of 1 September 1939. The exhibition was open between 2 April 2019 and 2 June 2019.
- The temporary open-air exhibition **“Growth. Western and Northern Territories. The Beginning”** [Wrastanie. Ziemie Zachodnie i Północne. Początek] was created as part of the cooperation between institutions in the Western and Northern Territories Network. The aim of the exhibition is to present selected aspects of the first few years after the war in the territories incorporated into Poland. The resulting consequences, i.e.: the replacement of the population, the need to rebuild war damages, building new identity, and specific actions of the communist authorities in the region, constitute a unique historical experience of the population living in Western and Northern Territories. The exhibition was in the form of a spatial installation, which gave the visitors the impression that they found themselves in a labyrinth. The exhibition included over 300 archival photographs, films and recordings constituting accounts of witnesses to history. The exhibition was presented between 25 May 2019 and 28 July 2019.

- The temporary exhibition entitled **“Armoured Wings”** was prepared in cooperation with the General Representation of the Government of Flanders in Poland, the Institute of National Remembrance, and the National Institute of Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad. The exhibition focuses on the part played by the 1st Armoured Division of General Maczek in liberating Flanders. It is comprised of archival films, unique, as of yet unpublished photographs, as well as exhibits – including personal memorabilia of soldiers. The exhibition was launched on 4 February 2019 at the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and Military History in Brussels on initiative of the Polish Embassy.









## LENDING OUT OWN EXHIBITIONS

- The exhibition en. **“Be Merciless! Be Brutal! The Destruction of Poland is Our First Task! The 1939 Invasion of Poland” [Bądźcie bez litości! Bądźcie brutalni! Zniszczenie Polski jest naszym pierwszym zadaniem! Agresja na Polskę 1939]** was lent to the Ciechanów Art Centre [Centrum Sztuki z Ciechanowa] between 20 August 2019 and 30 September 2019. The exhibition on 17 panels presents the situation of Poland and its citizens in the face of German and Soviet aggression in September 1939, the initial stages of the occupation, and underground activities.
- **“The Fate of Policemen During World War II” [Losy policjantów w czasie II wojny światowej]** exhibition was lent out to the Ciechanów Art Centre between 8 April 2019 and 10 May 2019. The exhibition on 12 panels shows: the circumstances of creating the police in reborn Poland, its participation in the war of 1939, the situation of officers after the defeat of the Republic of Poland, and their fate in Soviet captivity and under German occupation.

## OTHER PROJECTS

- International exhibition project **“Fighting and Suffering”** organised by Museum of the Second World War together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland since 15 August 2015. The exhibition was presented in 2019 in over 150 locations, in more than 60 countries of the world, on 6 continents – including such cities as: Washington D.C., Brasilia, Mexico, Edinburgh, Vienna, Belgrade, Bangkok, and Canberra. This is the largest informational campaign of this type referring to World War II in the history of Polish diplomacy. The coordinators of work on the exhibition in foreign diplomatic posts are: embassies, consulates, Polish institutes, or permanent delegations of the Republic of Poland which for its presentation chose interesting and well-known locations in the public space. The exhibition constitutes a narrative of Polish experience during World War II, attaching particular importance to depicting the tragic nature of war and the Polish soldier’s efforts to regain the independence of their homeland. The purpose of the exhibition is to present attitudes of Polish citizens in the face of the overwhelming forces of the aggressors and then occupiers. The project constitutes an emanation of the exhibition **“Fighting and Suffering. Polish citizens during World War II”** presented from 1 September 2019 in the temporary exhibition room of the Museum of the Second World War.
- Post-conference publication connected with the international conference **“World Battlefield Museums Forum”** conducted by the Museum of the Second World War on 4–8 September 2018, during which presentations were made by over a dozen representatives of museum institutions from all over the world, including visitors from: Pearl Harbor and Gettysburg (USA), Marathon (Greece), Waterloo (Belgium), Gallipoli (Turkey), Verdun (France) and many other places. The event was devoted to discussing the best-known historic battlefields worldwide.





# SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT



## CHANGES TO THE MAIN EXHIBITION

In 2019, no changes or additions were introduced to the main exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War. Works of the permanent exhibition evaluation team have been blocked by a court case launched against the Museum of the Second World War. The suit before the District Court in Gdańsk was filed by Prof. dr hab. Paweł Machcewicz, Dr. hab. Piotr M. Majewski, Dr. Janusz Marszałec, and Prof. dr hab. Rafał Wnuk. The representatives of the former management of the Museum claimed copyright to the exhibition. Therefore, in their lawsuit they demanded the removal of the Polish flag saved from the Soviets during the occupation and the Nagant revolver – a Soviet tool used by Stalin's executioners before the war to commit genocide against national minorities. The demand also pertains to the removal of portrait frames and multimedia exhibitors depicting father Maksymilian Maria Kolbe, Witold Pilecki, and Warsaw insurgents taking the oath during a Holy Mass. The lawsuit against the Museum of the Second World War also demands the removal of so-called icons depicting Major Henryk Dobrzański "Hubal", Marian Rejewski, Captain Antoni Kasztelan, as well as a large-format depiction of the Ulma family. Other pieces to be taken out of the exhibition include threads connected to the (anti)Polish operation of the NKVD and many other elements introduced thereto as a supplement by the team under Karol Nawrocki PhD.

The lawsuit displays inconsistency by not including a demand for several other threads to be removed: Jewish prayers for the dead, large-format depiction of the Silent and Unseen, and multimedia content concerning repressions taken by the Germans against Poles in the Free City of Danzig.

## ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

As part of the nationwide celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, on 23–24 August 2019, an international scientific conference "Pact for War. Hitler–Stalin Collusion of 23 August 1939 from the Perspective of 80 Years since the Outbreak of WWII" was held at the Jan Olszewski conference room. Its main theme was the collusion between Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin's of 23 August 1939 on the partition of the territory of Poland and the division of influence zones between the Third Reich and the Soviet Union in Central and Eastern Europe. The conference was planned exactly for the 80th anniversary of signing the Ribbentrop–Molotov pact



and final agreement on the contents of the secret protocol attached to it, under which both dictators finalised their aggression plans towards independent states set by the Germans and Soviets as entities subordinated to the pursuit of the interests of the Third Reich and USSR. The significance of that document in the discussion on the genesis of World War II cannot be overestimated. The pact concluded between the two dictators during the night from 23 to 24 August changed the world.

The conference was attended by representatives of all countries affected by the German–Soviet aggression pact (Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Romania, Finland). The scientific discussion on long-term consequences of the secret protocol for Europe or even the entire world was also attended by representatives of scientific communities from Germany, Ukraine, Great Britain, and the United States. Another impor-



tant element of the conference was to be a separate panel participated by museum workers from several Central-Eastern European countries, who shared their experience in creating a museum narrative on the genesis of the Second World War.

## MEETING HISTORY

In 2019, as part of the popular science series "Meeting History" [Spotkania z Historią], organised by the Scientific Department, the following events took place:

- 11 April 2019 – meeting with Sviatoslav Kulinok, "Activities of German Intelligence–Sabotage Schools in Occupied Belarus 1941–1944" [Działalność niemieckich szkół wywiadowczo-dywersyjnych na terenie okupowanej Białorusi w latach 1941–1944]; conducted by – Grzegorz Berendt PhD;
- 31 July 2019 – meeting with Piotr Gursztyn, the author of *The Slaughter of Wola. A Crime Without Reckoning* [Rzeź Woli. Zbrodnia nierozliczona] centred around the German version of the monograph; conducted by – Marek Szymaniak PhD;
- 1 September 2019 – meeting with Roger Moorhouse, the author of the book *First to Fight: The Polish War 1939* – conducted by Grzegorz Berendt PhD
- 14 November 2019 – meeting with Dr Sławomir Cenckiewicz, concerning *Ignacy Matuszewski's Selected Writings* [Ignacy Matuszewski. Pisma wybrane] vol. 1–2; conducted by Grzegorz Berendt PhD and Dr hab. Karol Polejowski;
- 27 November 2019 – meeting with Wojciech Grott, the author of *Lieutenant Colonel Jan Kowalewski (1892–1965)* [Podpułkownik Jan Kowalewski (1892–1965)]; conducted by Dr hab. Karol Polejowski.



## BOOK PUBLICATIONS

Since 2018, the publishing house of the Museum of the Second World War has been operating within the structure of the Scientific Department. In 2019, it published a total of 13 titles (including one in Polish and English).

As part of the scientific series, the following were published: a collection of sources about Soviet deportations of Polish citizens to Kazakhstan (1936–1941), Polish translation of Stephen R.C. Hicks's book focusing on the problem of searching for the genesis of Nazi ideology in the context of the inspiration it took from Nietzsche, and a German edition of the Slaughter of Wola monograph by Piotr Gursztyn (in cooperation with be.bra wissenschaft verlag and the Pilecki Institute).

As part of the "Patrons for the Streets of Gdansk" [Patroni dla gdańskich ulic] series, a work on Lieutenant-Colonel Jan Kowalewski and the first volume of a new series entitled "Collections of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdansk" [Kolekcje ze

Zbiorów Muzeum II Wojny Światowej w Gdańsku] were published. The latter was entirely devoted to the exhibits from the collection of the Museum of the Second World War constituting the appalling testimonies of Poles deported to the East.

There was also a number of albums published: in cooperation with the Polish Institute in Prague and the Prague Institute for Study of Totalitarian Regimes [Ústav pro studium totalitních režimů], the work of Dimitry Panto and Wojciech Łukaszun on the Soviet occupation of Polish territories (1939–1941) was published in Czech; another album by Tomasz Gliniecki and Dimitry Panto was devoted to the description and presentation of a set of photographs also from the collection of the Museum of the Second World War, but depicting the issue of the Red Army's presence in Gdansk and Prussia which it fought over in 1945.

In 2019, two other publications were released, being the result of the same-titled conferences held at the Museum of the Second World War a year later: Material Remnants of Conflicts and Atrocities in the Light of Contemporary Archaeological Research [Materialne pozostałości konfliktów i zbrodni

w świetle najnowszych badań archeologicznych] and World Battlefield Museums Forum [Światowe Forum Muzeów Pól Bitewnych]. The latter of those was also published as a separate book in English (World Battlefield Museums Forum).

A new element of the Museum of the Second World War's publishing activity in 2019 was also the publication of a set of educational materials for students and teachers prepared by employees of the Education Department in accordance with the idea of Elżbieta Olczak.

Two publications issued in 2019 constitute amended versions of previously issued books: Fighting and Suffering by Bogusław Kopka and Paweł Kosiński (with completely new illustrations selected by Maciej Badowicz, Grzegorz Berendt PhD., and Marek Szymaniak PhD.) and 7 Views on Westerplatte [Westerplatte w 7 odsłonach] (revised edition).

2019 also brought about the expected issue of the first annual of the Museum of the Second World War entitled "War and Memory. A Periodical of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdansk" [Wojna i Pamięć. Czasopismo Muzeum II Wojny Światowej]. The role of the editor-in-chief of the periodical fell to Grzegorz Berendt PhD (Deputy Director of the Museum of the Second World War for Scientific Affairs). The volume consists of several texts, most of which were devoted to the issue of the Katyn massacre.

The editorial care over the Museum of the Second World War's publications in 2019 was provided by: Agata Piedziewicz and Maciej Badowicz (managing editors), and Natalia Maliszewska (language editor).

Below you will find a list of items published in 2019:

- *Deportacje na Wschód/Deportations to the East, monograph* by Krystyna Dąbrowska, Monika Sołoduszkiewicz, Gdansk 2019, ISBN 978-83-65957-26-9, pp. 150;
- *Deportacje Polaków i obywateli polskich do Kazachstanu w latach 1936-1941. Dokumenty ze zbiorów Archiwum Prezydenta Republiki Kazachstanu*, tr. Bogusław Żytko, intro. and prep. Dimitry Panto, Gdansk 2019, ISBN 978-83-65957-14-6, pp. 248;
- Gliniecki Tomasz, Panto Dimitry, *Krzywy obraz wojny. Armia Czerwona w Gdańsku i Prusach w 1945 r.*, Gdansk 2019, ISBN 978-83-65957-16-0, pp. 212;

- Grott Wojciech, *Podpułkownik Jan Kowalewski (1892-1965)*, Gdansk 2019, ISBN 978-83-65957-18-4, pp. 47;
- Gursztyn Piotr, *Der vergessene Völkermord. Das Massaker von Wola In Warschau 1944*, tr. into German Bernard Wiaderny, Berlin-Brandenburg 2019, ISBN 978-3-95410-098-9, pp. 351;
- Hicks Stephen R.C., *Nietzsche i naziści. Moje spojrzenie*, tr. Izabela Kłodzińska, foreword by Karol Nawrocki, intro. to the 2nd Polish edition Marek Szymaniak, Gdansk 2019, ISBN 978-83-65957-15-3, pp. 128;
- *Kampania polska 1939 r. Materiały edukacyjne*, Gdansk 2019, ISBN 978-83-65957-25-2, pp. 80;
- Kopka Bogusław, Kosiński Paweł, *Fighting and Suffering. The Polish experience of World War II. Walka i cierpienie. Polskie doświadczenie II wojny światowej*, Gdansk 2019, ISBN 978-83-65957-13-9, pp. 72;
- Łukaszun Wojciech, Panto Dimitry, *Sovětská okupace polského území v letech 1939-1941*, tr. Petrušką Šustrová, Gdansk-Praga 2019, ISBN 978-83-65957.22-1, ISBN 978-80-88292-37-1, pp. 144;
- *Materialne pozostałości konfliktów i zbrodni XX wieku w świetle najnowszych badań archeologicznych*, red. Hanna Mik, Wirginia Węglińska, Gdansk 2019, ISBN: 978-83-65975-17-7, pp. 424;
- *Światowe Forum Muzeów Pól Bitewnych/World Battlefield Museums Forum*, red./ed. Bartosz Garba, Karol Nawrocki, Marek Szymaniak, Adam Żymła, Gdansk 2019, ISBN 978-83-65957-20-7, pp. 192;
- *Westerplatte w 7 odsłonach. Prezentacja zabytków pierwszego etapu badań archeologicznych na Westerplatte*, oprac. Filip Kuczma, Wojciech Samól, Karol Szejko, wyd. II popr., Gdansk 2019, ISBN 978-83-65957-19-1, pp. 128;
- „Wojna i Pamięć. Czasopismo Muzeum II Wojny Światowej w Gdańsku” 2019, No 1, ISSN 2658-0045, pp. 259.

## LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JAN KOWALEWSKI AWARD

The organisation of the competition for the Lieutenant-Colonel Jan Kowalewski Award was connected to the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the World War II. The project was created as a result of an agreement between the Museum of the Second World War and the Gdańsk University of Technology. The aim of the award was to honour four outstanding persons from Poland and abroad: representatives of different fields and professions, who – through their activity as well as achievements are trying to make the world better in accordance with the motto “brains before brawn”.

The Competition Jury – composed of scientists, journalists, museum professionals, and the grandson of Jan Kowalewski – selected winners in two categories: “Poland for the World” and “World for Poland” (divided into age subcategories up to and over 35 years of age). From among the candidatures submitted, people whose achievements and actions harken back to the attitudes and accomplishments of the competition’s patron – Lieutenant-Colonel Jan Kowalewski, a great Polish officer, and the Polish-Bolshevik war hero.

The award ceremony of the first edition of the competition took place on 28 September 2019 in the Jan Olszewski conference room at the Museum of the Second World War. The gala was graced by a performance of the Academic Choir of Gdańsk University of Technology under the baton of Professor Mariusz Mróz. The awards in the “Poland for the World” category were presented to an academic teacher, Prof. Ryszard Katulski, and a young astronomer, Mateusz Krakowczyk. In the “World for Poland” category, awards were presented to an Estonian historian, Prof. Raimo Pullat, and a Japanese researcher of the Katyn massacre, Dr Utako Komai. The winners received a financial prize of PLN 10,000, a special statuette designed by Prof. Stanisław Radwański, and a diploma.



# LIBRARY

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Museum II Wojny Światowej

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Museum II Wojny Światowej

**NIN**

The Museum's Library gathers collections and shares them with the readers. In 2019, its collection grew by 8,041 inventory units, including 7424 donations and other acquisitions and 617 purchases. By the end of 2019, it gathered a total of 30,037 items in over 30 languages. The book collection focuses on World War II and its consequences.

In addition, the collections contain publications on conservation, restoration, and protection of museum collections. The Library also collects auxiliary materials for work in other departments of the Museum. In 2019, the Library was visited by readers 787 times and over 1700 publications were used.

In 2019, the Library's tasks included:

- acquisition of publications by purchase, donation and other methods;
- editing, inventory, and preservation of new acquisitions;
- taking over the collection of the library of the former Council for the Protection of Struggle and Martyrdom Sites [Rada Ochrony Pamięci Walk i Męczeństwa] (over 6,800 inventory units);
- providing readers with access to collections;
- providing bibliographic information and conducting queries for Library users.

In addition, in 2019 the Library was visited by volunteers 619 times, who worked almost 1600 hours to script video recordings of interviews with witnesses of history.

Employees' publications:

- Zambrzycki Marek, *Slow-muzeum, czyli jak odróżnić rzeczy od rzeczy wartościowych*, Muzealnictwo.com, 2019.
- Zambrzycki Marek, *Wokół wystaw dedykowanych grupom zawodowym*, Muzealnictwo.com, 2019.





# EDUCATION DEPARTMENT







## MUSEUM LESSONS

The Museum's educational offer encompasses 18 subjects of museum lessons conducted at the exhibition for children and the permanent exhibition, as well as workshops during which the participants also enter the permanent exhibition.

In 2019, the Education Department conducted 446 lessons and museum workshops, attended by ca. 10,000 people – including children and youths from Gdańsk schools involved in cooperation with the Brzostek Team Foundation. Due to the World Scout Jamboree held in Gdańsk, the department's employees conducted guided tours around the

exhibition for several hundred scouts. Moreover, around a dozen classes were conducted in English for groups staying in Poland as part of a youth exchange programme. The department also organised a field game at Westerplatte en. "Westerplatte – find a key to history" [Westerplatte – znajdź klucz do historii] for primary school grades I-III – approximately 2220 students and 220 teachers took part in the spring and autumn editions, and the entire event was conducted in 80 groups. The aim of the educational game was to present the history of Westerplatte peninsula and to familiarise the participants with the facilities of the Westerplatte Military Transit Depot, with particular emphasis on its heroic defence in September 1939.



## ONE-TIME EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

- nationwide art competition "A Childhood Interrupted. War and Children" [Przerwane dzieciństwo. Wojna i dzieci] (the competition included artwork for year 4 to year 6 primary school pupils and a poster for year 7 to year 8 primary school pupils and year 3 lower secondary school pupils; in total, 2360 entries were submitted);
- an exhibition in the Museum space presenting the awarded and distinguished works from the Nationwide Art Competition "A Childhood Interrupted. War and Children" [Przerwane dzieciństwo. Wojna i dzieci];



- preparation of a promotional and educational publication with a working title: The Polish campaign of 1939 [Kampania polska 1939 roku] in connection with the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II (the publication consists of articles devoted to various issues related to the outbreak of the war and its duration, as well as a task-oriented part – there were plans to distribute publications to teachers, mainly those who would come to classes in September and October);
- classes en. "Irena Sendler and the Help Network" [Irena Sendlerowa i sieć pomocy] for the Polish-German group (13–15 year olds, 40 people) from the programme "Preserving Memory – Polish-German Youth Cooperation" [Zachować Pamięć – Polsko-Niemiecka Współpraca Młodzieży] with work sheets in two languages – Polish and German;
- classes en. "Rebelling Against Evil. Various Forms of Resistance Against Germans in Occupied Europe" [Bunt przeciw złu. Różne formy oporu wobec Niemców w okupowanej Europie] class in English for 56 students from the American School in Warsaw;
- classes en. "Nazism. The Root of Evil" [Nazizm. Korzenie zła] for a group of youths (22 people) from Germany along with work sheets in Polish and German;
- classes en "Nazism. The Root of Evil" [Nazizm. Korzenie zła] class for youths (48 people) from the Gustav Stresemann Institut Bonn E.V. in Bonn from the "Gdansk: Poland, Germany and Europe between yesterday and today";
- meetings with local and foreign history teachers (touring museum professionals from Belarus around the exhibition for children and a visit of participants of the international Euroclio conference – educational activities were prepared and presented in English for over 100 educators from all over the world, both at the exhibition for children and at the main exhibition);
- classes at the main exhibition for the participants of the 36th Symposium of the Westerplatte School Club [Symposium Klubu Szkół Westerplatte];
- classes at the main exhibition for a group of Polish diaspora teachers cooperating with the Institute of National Remembrance;
- classes for Museum volunteers;
- guided tours in English around the main exhibition devoted to works of young photographers from the project en. "In between? Image and memory" of the ENRS Foundation;
- classes for 2 groups of children from the campaign of the Pomorski Voivode en. "Summer in the City" [Lato w mieście];
- 5 lessons for children and youths from schools in Gdańsk to commemorate the unveiling of the Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki monument (multimedia lessons for 150 students together with teachers were conducted by educators and Prof. Tadeusz Wolsz and Prof. Danuta Jastrzębska-Golonka from the UKW in Bydgoszcz);
- tour around the exhibition for employees of the Museum of Remembrance of Citizens of the Oświęcim Land [Muzeum Pamięci Mieszkańców Ziemi Oświęcimskiej];
- tour around the exhibition for employees of the Museum of Independence Traditions in Łódź; [Muzeum Tradycji Niepodległościowych w Łodzi];
- tour around the exhibition for employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Poland.

## NIGHT OF MUSEUMS

Under the European Night of Museums, the Education Department organised a game en. "Polish Women in the Fight for Freedom and Survival" [Polki w walce o wolność i przetrwanie] in the main exhibition area. In addition, stations with educational activities for children, presentations by the women's reconstruction group BLUSZCZ (fashion show, historical quiz, workshops for children, pre-war scenography) were prepared, and film screenings were held in the cinema room. People could also share their experiences from the war with the employees of the Memory and Identity Foundation [Fundacja Pamięć i Tożsamość]. In total, approximately 3,000 visitors visited the Museum of the Second World War during the European Museum Night.



## ACTIVITIES OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DURING EVENTS ORGANISED OUTSIDE THE SEAT OF THE MUSEUM

- educational activities for children – participants of football tournaments in the town of Przyjaźń;
- educational activities at the Museum's stand at the Free Time Festival (undoubtedly, the employees of the Education Department contributed to the fact that the Museum's stand was considered the most attractive and won the prize, and the educational offer prepared by the department received a distinction);
- educational activities during the "A Match That Didn't Happen" [Mecz, który się nie odbył] event;
- educational activities during the Postmen Run [Bieg Pocztcowca];
- off-site lesson about Irena Sendler in Somonino;
- off-site classes for a day-camp at Gowidlino;
- cleaning the graves of Westerplatte defenders;
- visit to KL Stutthof on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the death of blessed priest Rogaczewski and a lecture for participants on Poles in the Free City of Danzig;
- work on the establishment of the Youth Council of the Museum of the Second World War.

## COOPERATION WITH THE FORUM OF MUSEUM EDUCATORS

- participation of Przemysław Zachulski in the NIMOZ Senior in the Museum training;
- participation of Tomasz Wojnowski in the IPN Pomeranian Genocide training;
- participation of Tomasz Wojnowski in the NIMOZ Museum Education training for persons with visual impairments.



## ACTIVITIES FOR DISABLED PERSONS AND EXCLUDED GROUPS

The Department conducted educational activities for persons with disabilities (Down's syndrome, Asperger's Syndrome, autism) and for deaf and hearing impaired persons:

- "Travel in time" activities for a socio-therapeutic group of 7-11-year-olds from the Primary School No 56 in Gdańsk (12 persons);
- guiding blind and visually impaired persons from Owiński near Poznań ("Help a Blind Child" Association and primary school) around the children's exhibition and permanent exhibition (57 persons);
- "Travel in time" activities and guiding children aged 6-12 with motor disabilities from the Active Rehabilitation Foundation around parts of the main exhibition;
- "Travel in time" activities for children with dysfunctions (ADHD, aphasia, psychomotor disorders) arriving individually at the Museum together with groups of able-bodied children;
- participation of Wiktoria Biezuńska in seminars in the Maritime Museum in Gdańsk "Disabled people are among us".

## PUBLICATIONS

- *Polish campaign of 1939 – educational brochure with exercises;*
- *Irena Sendler – educational brochure;*
- *educational offer.*

## LECTURES OF DEPARTMENT'S EMPLOYEES GIVEN AT CONFERENCES

- 19 November 2019 – Dr. Tomasz Wojnowski, Westerplatte in the contemporary life (recorded) during the Youth and Love Festival (Festiwal Młodzi i Miłość) in Gdańsk Letnica
- 12 December 2019 – Dr. Tomasz Wojnowski, discussion "panel" during the Congress of 108 Blessed Martyrs of the Second World War (Kongres 108 Błogosławionych Męczenników II Wojny Światowej) at the Museum of the Second World War.

Moreover, employees of the Education Department took part in the production of radio programmes "Pictures of war" broadcast by Radio Gdańsk:

- *Battle of Monte Cassino through the eyes of its participants; There could be no victory without women. Another look at the battle of Monte Cassino (Bitwa pod Monte Cassino oczami jej uczestników; Bez kobiet nie byłoby zwycięstwa. Inne spojrzenie na bitwę pod Monte Cassino)*(Elżbieta Olczak, Waldemar Kowalski, Wojciech Łukaszun);
- *Polish mathematicians vs. Third Reich. Learn the history of Enigma (Polscy matematycy kontra Trzecia Rzesza. Poznaj historię Enigmy)*(Łukasz Gurnfinklel);
- *With a pen, cunning, as well as beauty and elegance. Fight by women in conspiracy (Piórem, sprytem, a także urodą i elegancją. Walka kobiet w konspiracji)* (Kamil Rutecki).

# DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL EVENTS



The Department of Cultural Events deals with the organisation of concerts, performances, artistic evenings and special events. It cooperates with cultural institutions, cultural organisations and directly with artists, which results in many projects referring to Poland's prewar culture and commemorating important dates connected with events from the times of World War II.

The tasks of the Department also include taking care of the museum theatre groups (children's and youth's) which were established under two editions of the project "Changing perspective" and actively participate in activities undertaken by the Museum of the Second World War.

In 2019, the following events were organised:

## CONCERTS

- 6 April 2019 – "Like in the Days of Old" [Jak za dawnych lat] – concert celebrating the 2nd anniversary of the Museum. The Bellcanti band, accompanied by the Opera Quartet [Kwartet Opera] took us on a musical journey performing arrangements of the greatest Polish hits. The Museum stage brought about a unique atmosphere accompanying the works of Polish artists of the 1920s and 1930s, such as Hanka Ordonówna, Mieczysław Fogg or Eugeniusz Bodo.
- 2 May 2019 – "Polish Soul" [Polska dusza] – a concert by Zagan Acoustic band celebrating Polish Flag Day. Zagan Acoustic was created by four classically educated, unorthodox instrumentalists. The band is well known to fans on the Coast, and its repertoire includes mainly original compositions which were presented during the concert at the Museum.
- 11 May 2019 – "Cursed Maidens" [Panny Wyklęte] – concert organised on the square in front of the Museum of the Second World War as part of the project by Dariusz Malejonek and the Maleo Reggae Rockers band. Its main objective is to preserve the memory of the Cursed Soldiers. Well-known female artists of the Polish music scene were invited to participate: Halina Mlynkova, Olga Szomańska, Kasia Moś, Marika, Kasia Malejonek, Ifi Ude, Mona, Lilu, Zespół Dziewczyny (Ola Nowak and Ania Szafranec).
- 24 May 2019 – "Against the Trends" [Na przekór modom] – concert of the Warsaw Sentimental Orchestra. Songs and hymns from the repertoire of Adam Aston, Wiera Gran, or Mieczysław Fogg, arrangements by Henryk Wars and Rostworowski constantly inspire them. Touching waltzes, passionate tangos, lively polkas, exhilarating foxtrots, rumbas, and slow-foxes performed on the Museum's stage retained the style and timeless charm of these melodies, adding a bit of contemporary musical sensitivities.





■ 4 October 2019 – “My Piasnica” [Moja Piasnica] – concert performed by the band 4razywroku. It included reflective sung poetry which is a peculiar examination of conscience and a result of deep reflection, constituting a painful reckoning with history. The musical spectacle was created on the basis of poetic works by Mirosław Odynecki with musical arrangements of Szymon Kamiński, direction and visuals by Mariusz Sławiński. Guest performers included: Weronika Korthals-Tartas and Jakub Kamiński.

■ 28 December 2019 – “Around the Shed” [Wokoło Szopy] – Christmas carol concert by the Pospieszalski Family. The Christmas season with accompanying customs is a special time in our tradition. It was the same for generations, regardless of the circumstances. The event was an opportunity to re-experience the Christmas atmosphere and share the joy of carolling together. Moments for reflection were delivered by memories of those who came to celebrate the holidays under occupation.

## SHOWS

- 14–18 February 2019 – European tour of the They Overcame Evil with Good [Zło dobrem zwyciężali] show. Performing the play in Essen, Germany was the culmination of a theatrical and educational project “Changing Perspective. 1st Edition” [Zmieniając perspektywę. Edycja I]. An original performance created by the Museum of the Second World War, directed by Magdalena Gajewska, employee of the Cultural Events Department – was staged by a children’s group. The script tells the story of the menace of WWII showed from the point of view of the youngest people. It also presents some stories from the lives of historical figures who fought the titular “Evil”. They are: Janusz Korczak, Saint Father Maksymilian Kolbe and Irena Sendler.
- 25–26 May 2019 – 19th Festival of Radio Poland Theatre and Polish Television Theatre “Two Theaters” [“XIX Festiwal Teatru Polskiego Radia i Teatru Telewizji Polskiej, Dwa Teatry”] – Sopot 2019. The director of the festival is Ms. Joanna Strzemieczna-Rozen, Director of TVP SA Branch in Gdańsk. It is one of the most important theatre festivals in Po-

land. This year, the festival audience could watch 28 competition performances of the Television Theatre and listen to 34 Radio Poland radio dramas.

Some of them were broadcast at the Museum of the Second World War, which was a partner of this event.

- 15–16 June 2019 – pre-premiere performance of the Dream [Sen] play directed by Magdalena Gajewska, prepared as part of the second edition of the Museum’s original project titled “Changing Perspective” [Zmieniając Perspektywę]. The play tackles the subject of underground activity of young people during the occupation. The voice of the witness to history was provided by Prof. Jerzy Grzywacz, who also played the role at the pre-premiere performances. The official premiere of the play took place on 1 August 2019 as part of the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising. The play was staged four times more for Tri-City schools on 24 October and 29 November 2019.
- 17 November 2019 – premiere of the Red Winter [Czerwona zima] play directed by Artur Hofman was the end of the official celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, organised



by the Museum of the Second World War. The script written by Christian Orzeszko tells the fate of prisoners of Soviet labour camps. The protagonist, a Polish member of the anti-communist opposition, combines the experiences of numerous Poles as well as all the prisoners, who experienced the cruelties of the Soviet labour camps. The show was inspired by diaries of the labour camps' prisoners and literature of such authors as: Anatol Krakowiecki, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, Gustaw Herling-Grudziński, Varlam Shalamov, or Fyodor Dostoevsky. The event was held under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda on the Centennial of Regaining Independence and honorary patronage of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

- 8 December 2019 – broadcast of the play en. Scars of Memory – Story of Jan Karski [Bizny pamięci – rzecz o Janie Karskim] by the Museum of the Second World War for TVP Polonia. The play tells a story of one of the most fascinating figures of Polish history – Jan Karski. The story is told from two perspectives: that of a young boy thrown into the maelstrom of war (played by Sebastian Ryś) and an experienced man at the end of his life who still relives images of his tragic youth (Jerzy Zelnik). The show was based on the drama Scars of Freedom [Blizny wolności] by Jacek Ryś and a radio drama en. Stained Memory [Plamy w pamięci] by Jan Winch. The script was written by Jerzy Zelnik.

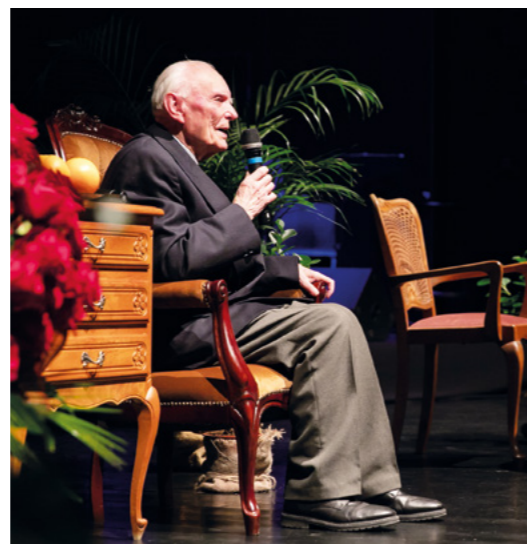
## ART EVENINGS

- 2 November 2019 – All Souls Day celebration concert "Elegia in obitum". In this special time encouraging reflection, the Museum's stage featured the less known patriotic poetry accompanied by selected poems by Zbigniew Herbert, Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński, and Teresa Bogusławska. The visual element of the event

included the original choreography presented by a couple of contemporary dancers and a painting multimedia visualisation. During the evening, audiences could reflect on the tragedy and sadness facing the victims of the cataclysm of war.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- 12 January 2019 – benefit concert on the occasion of the 90th birthday of Professor Jerzy Grzywacz. At the beginning of the year, the Museum celebrated the birthday of Jerzy Witold Grzywacz "Tapir", a soldier of the Home Army, a Warsaw insurgent, president of the Naval Branch of the Grey Ranks Association [Oddział Morski Stowarzyszenia Szarych Szeregów] president of the Pomeranian District of the World Association of Home Army Soldiers [Okręg Pomorski Światowego Związku Żołnierzy Armii Krajowej] and a member of the Museum Council with the Museum of the Second World War.



- 1 August 2019 – commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising. Ceremonies related to the "W" hour started with a memorial appeal at 5 pm, and immediately after, the New Technologies Zone – "A Postcard from the Uprising" [Kartka z Powstania] was inaugurated as part of the VR Museum. In connection with the celebrations, the play Dream [Sen] was staged, directed by Magdalena Gajewska. The play was the result of the Museum's original project. Youths from the project group "Changing Perspective. 2nd Edition" [Zmieniając perspektywę. Edycja 2] made their debut. The honorary patronage over the event was assumed by the Minister of National Education, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage through its representative – secretary of state at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage Jarosław Sellin, and the Pomorski Voivode Dariusz Drelich.

- 1 September 2019 – musical performance "This Is How War Began" [Tak zaczęła się wojna]. During the event, wartime poems and songs were presented, composed especially for this event, as well as new arrangements of contemporary works. The official celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, organised by the Museum of the Second World War included performances of stars of Polish music – Bovska, Krzysztof Cugowski, Piotr Cugowski, Grzegorz Hyży, Ralph Kamiński, Dawid Kwiatkowski, Michał Kowalonek, Margaret, Natalia Nykiel, O.S.T.R., Janusz Radek, The Dumplings, Warszawska Orkiestra Sentymentalna and Tomasz Szymuś Orkiestra. The event was held under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda on the Centennial of Regaining Independence. The honorary patronage over the event was assumed by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. The patron of the Museum of the Second World War was the Energa SA Group.





# FILM DOCUMENTATION DEPARTMENT

**MIA**



The Film Documentation Department is divided into two main sections. It deals first and foremost with creating a collection of audio-visual documentation – its archiving, elaboration and provision of access to its contents – and is responsible for the functioning the Museum Cinema, including preparation of the film repertoire.

The priority tasks of the department include collecting film notations with witnesses to history. In 2019, the collections were expanded to include 49 new materials produced both in Poland and abroad: 26 of them were recorded in Poland, 20 in Ukraine, and 3 were acquired thanks to the cooperation with the Polish community in the United States. Each of the notations constitutes a unique testimony to experiences and emotions, mostly in extremely hard situations. The subject matter of the recordings is extensive and touches upon many issues connected with life during the war – from the hardships of everyday life during the occupation to heroic activity in different organisations. The film material acquired, also thanks to the high quality of the production, is readily used by other departments of the Museum, as well as different institutions, including museum facilities and media. Extensive fragments

of the recordings have been used among other things in the popular cycle of radio programmes "Pictures of war" produced together with Radio Gdańsk. During notations, employees often managed to obtain also priceless historic mementos, copies of photographs and documents.

During 11 film notations carried out in the field, locations important for the history of Poland were also recorded. Among other things, locations of genocides in Ukraine (memorial to the pacification of the village of Kortelisy or Holocaust memorial near Ratne), old Catholic cemeteries (in Kamień Koszyrski and in Lubieszów) and the area of the former ghetto in Lubieszów. The department's collections were also expanded to include unique photos of Polecie Wołyńskie or Polish Kaszuby were recorded on film.





Current activities of the Museum were documented and archived in the form of several dozen short films. The materials include vernissages of exhibitions, conferences, author's meetings, promotion of publications, concerts, benefit concerts, multimedia shows, theatrical performances, and volunteering activities. The recordings were used in campaigns promoting the Museum and advertising spots, including one promoting the nationwide collection of exhibits "We'll Accept Your History" [Przyjmiemy Twoją historię]. The camera was also used to create four film portraits which were presented at the Lieutenant-Colonel Jan Kowalewski Award ceremony. Films devoted to the winners were shot in Poland, Japan, and Estonia. Among several special materials prepared in 2019, it is worth mentioning at least the short film form "Return to Janowa Dolina" [Powrót do Janowej Doliny] created in connection with the anniversary of the crime in Janowa Dolina in Volhynia.

The Film Documentation Department was also involved in the preparation of celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. Among other things, the spot Poland: First to Fight was created, along with a short film 1939. Memory and Message. [1939. Pamięć i przesłanie], starring, alongside the veterans and young people, the Polish President Andrzej Duda. Two projects presented at the end of the year were particularly important for the department. On 15 November 2019, the premiere of Gdańsk 1939 took place, which was later also shown in the European Parliament in Brussels. The documentary presents the events of 1939 in Gdańsk and the related history of the Free City of Danzig in an orderly and accessible manner. Numerous archival materials and fragments of film notations with witnesses to history were used.

On 22 November 2019, on the other hand, a portal of Oral History was launched, which provides notation resources. The website allows not only seeing the notation and reading the text, but also downloading

the edited transcription, including its translations into foreign languages. Further materials are added gradually, and the work is readily aided by volunteers. Additionally, some of the short films created by the department and radio programmes developed in cooperation with Radio Gdańsk were also included.

## MUSEUM CINEMA

Another important task of the Film Documentation Department is to manage the Museum Cinema. A small venue alluding to the tradition of arthouse cinemas, it draws audiences wanting to experience ambitious movies with high artistic and educational value.

Apart from regular shows, various types of reviews and meetings are organised. Besides film novelties, premieres, Academy Award winners, blockbusters, or local productions, classical films were also popular among audiences; "Cinemahistory" [Kinohistoria] (war and historical films) and "At the Old Cinema" [W starym kinie] (films from the interwar period). Moreover, the selected screenings were supplemented by discussions with film experts, historians, special guests (actors, filmmakers), which were eagerly participated by the audience.

In 2019, the Museum Cinema showed 63 films for during 427 events, attracting increasing numbers of people.



# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

**MUN**

As a result of work carried out by the International Relations Department, the Museum of the Second World War constantly increases the list of foreign institutions with it cooperates.



In 2019, during meetings with among others Director of the National Army Museum in London Justin Maciejewski, Director of the Estonian War Museum Hellar Lill, Director of the Museum of the History of Moldova Dr Eugene Sava, and Director of the Museum of Military Science in Moldova Alexandru Chirilenco, possibilities of cooperation between the facilities was discussed.

2019 abounded in business trips thanks to which the employees of the Museum of the Second World War had the opportunity of sharing experience with representatives of other institutions, acquire new contacts, as well as promote our Museum. It was also an opportunity to present the fruit of the museologists' work.

In May, at a ceremonial vernissage in the Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in Beijing, a temporary exhibition prepared by the Museum of the Second World War entitled "Poles saving Jews during German occupation" was opened.

In March, at a special invitation of MEP Anna Fotyga, a delegation composed of volunteers and employees took part in a study visit to Brussels. There, in the European Parliament library, a poetry evening devoted to the Polish poet and underground activist during World War II, Grażyna Chrostowska was presented, prepared by the Museum's employees. The delegation



also took part in a conference devoted to the 5th anniversary of illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation and the "Why Taiwan Matters" conference.

The Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk became a venue for a four-day (18-22 February) scientific internship conducted by museum professionals from the National Historical Museum in Minsk. At that time, guests had an opportunity, among other things, to visit museum warehouses, conservation workshop, and the library, as well as to meet the heads of the Exhibitions Department and Collections Department. So far, four editions of internships were held, attended by teams from Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan.

## SHOW "POLAND: FIRST TO FIGHT"

A large part of the activities of the International Relations Department focused on organising "Poland: First to Fight" – a modern and attractive multimedia show taking advantage of innovative technologies, such as 3D mapping, diode and large-scale projections, cooperating with specially prepared sound and large-format animation. The show was created to commemorate the Polish contribution to the victory over Nazism in a dignified, lofty, and attractive way, as well as to pay tribute, respect, and express gratitude to the heroes who sacrificed their lives for Poland's independence. The event took place on 23-25 August. In total, it was shown 9 times for a total audience of over 6,000 people.

The show's script was prepared by a team of historians from the Museum of the Second World War. The narrative starts with showing the 19th-century roots of the totalitarian ideas, the genesis of evil, the ideas of Marks and Engels, Nietzsche's "Übermensch" philosophy, and the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, which changed the history of Europe for long decades to

come and doomed millions of human beings. The show also depicted Westerplatte as a symbolic place where World War II began and discussed the Soviet invasion of Poland on 17 September 1939. It showed the terror and the extermination policy enforced by the German and Soviet occupiers towards the Polish citizens.

In December, the show won The Drum Experience Award 2019 in the Event Technology the Year category.





# SPOKESPERSON'S OFFICE

**M/W**

The Spokesperson's Office is responsible for communication between the Museum and the external world, as well as promotion of the institution's activity via electronic media. Besides information about current events organised by the Museum, the Office is also responsible for the media cooperation strategy.

The team consists of specialists dealing with promotion and communication as well as coordinators of volunteering and guiding. Employees of the Office take active part in all activities of the Museum through the implementation of graphic projects, promotion in social media, sending invitations, as well as preparing photo reports.



SPOKESPERSON  
Aleksander Masłowski



SPOKESPERSON  
Hanna Mik

Regular tasks of the Spokesperson's Office include:

- organisation of press conferences and daily cooperation with the media;
- preparation of photo-documentation covering all events held at the Museum for promotional needs and those of individual Departments;
- maintaining and updating the Museum's website in Polish and English, as well as the Museum's profile on social media: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube;
- editing, carrying out, and coordinating works on graphic designs of advertisements, invitations, leaflets, and posters created for the purposes of events organised by the Museum;
- distribution of promotional materials – leaflets, exhibition catalogues, invitations, calendars, etc.;
- preparation and distribution of the Museum's newsletter;
- supervising the coherence of the Museum's visual identification and the promotion of film materials created by the Film Documentation Department, informing (in cooperation with the Scientific Department and the Department of Collections), in an ongoing manner, about the most important historical events, interesting facts related to the history of World War II, the most important characters of that period, and, above all, Polish soldiers and their fate;
- preparing graphic designs of advertisements for the press, radio and television;
- cooperating with Tri-City schools, tourist information points and school youth hostels;
- creating a profiled address and e-mail database of institutions adapted to the Museum's diversified activities.

## SELECTED MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES

The most important tasks of the Spokesperson's Office were to coordinate the competition for creating a logo (graphic sign) referring thematically to the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, which was used as a promotional identification mark for tasks carried out as part of the prepared celebrations programme of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II at the Museum of the Second World War.

The logo was also made available to projects included in the celebrations calendar of the 80th anniversary supervised by the Office. It was a system of patronage and promotional oversight of undertakings implemented by various entities throughout Poland, as well as worldwide. We invited organisers of all events related to the anniversary celebrations to submit their projects. The submitted and approved projects obtained the right to use the logo of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, thus becoming part of the nationwide celebrations. The final version of the calendar available at the Museum's website covers over 450 anniversary events in Poland and 10 other countries. The list of anniversary events covered by the Museum's patronage was supplemented by an interactive map, showing the global coverage of anniversary events and enabling users to find events organised near their location. At the same time, the Office oversees maintaining a consistent visual identification of these events and promotional materials created in connection therewith, granting the right to use the logo of the celebrations selected by way of the competition.

Moreover, the Office undertook to prepare the "Calendar of 1939". Every day, on the basis of preserved Polish press materials from 80 years ago, press texts from the period were published on the Museum's website and in social media. The calendar was also supplemented with information about the most important events taking place on any given day of 1939.

Another important task participated by employees of the Office was the competition for the design of a monument of Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki in front of the Museum of the Second World War. The project coordinator has been appointed from among the department employees. Finally, the monument was officially unveiled on 17 September. The success of the undertaking may be evidenced by, among other things, data presented by Newspoint, a company conducting research and monitoring of domestic and international media. It indicates that the information about unveiling the monument of Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki reached 4,889,251 people.

A great challenge and success was the creation of a **New Technology Zone** – a special space at level – 2 of the Museum – by the Spokesperson Office, where visitors can experience virtual reality. It was equipped with 55 workstations with high-class computers and cutting edge VR goggles. The New Technologies Zone presents 3 projects:

- **"A Postcard from the Uprising" [Kartka z Powstania]** – cinematic VR experience; the first fictionalised historical show made with the VR technology in Poland. It tells the story of one of the Warsaw insurgents – Captain Władysław Sieroszewski "Sabała", who, before going out to fight in August 1944, received a piece of paper with a prayer from his daughter. At that time, he did not know that this sheet will affect his fate.



■ **"Virtual tour of Westerplatte" [Wirtualny spacer po Westerplatte]** – a service in the field of new technologies, consisting in making a specific number of 360° panoramas available to users, creating a virtual tour on the premises of the former Military Transit Depot at Westerplatte and the Museum of the Second World War. Archival photographs were incorporated into the current panorama of the area in order to present its historical shape. The collected iconographic material includes, among other things, postcards showing what the Westerplatte resort looked like at the end of the 19th century, photographs documenting the construction of the Military Transit Depot, and preparation for defence in spring and summer 1939, the fight on 1 September, as well as how the peninsula looked after capitulation.

■ **"AR Value Compass" [Kompas wartości AR]** – the latest project of the Museum utilising augmented reality. All it takes is to download the Museum app and point the phone towards the QR codes. The programme quickly recognises the scene and superimposes virtual, three-dimensional models on it, visible in the space only on the smartphone screen. The application allows you to take photos. So far, stage 1 of the project was completed, under which the application for the Android system was created. The plan involves successive development of the "AR Value Compass" [Kompas wartości AR] project.



The Spokesperson's Office was also responsible for preparing the historical and sports show – "A Match That Didn't Happen" [Mecz, który się nie odbył]. This unique project, organised on 7 September at the stadium at ul. Traugutta in Gdańsk, honoured the memory of Polish athletes who died during World War II. The main point of the event was the reconstruction of the potential football match between KS Gedania and Lechia Lwów. The players appeared in replicas of pre-war uniforms and played in accordance with the rules applicable at that time.

As part of the event, a patriotic family picnic was also organised, specifically for this occasion, the whole stadium was decorated with white and red, and simultaneously alluded to the 1930s style. Guests could try meals from the field kitchen and sweets. The youngest guests could participate in educational activities prepared by the Education Department of the Museum.



# VOLUNTEER WORK



Volunteering has constituted a regular element of operation of the Museum of the Second World War since 2017. So far, we have signed nearly 222 cooperation agreements, and each month the group of people willing to support our institution is growing.

Volunteers support the Museum's activities on the following basis:

- regular volunteering, i.e. daily cooperation with the Museum's departments;
- action volunteering as assistance in the organisation and conducting of events taking place in the Museum;
- e-volunteering consisting in carrying out tasks via the Internet.

Volunteers have their share in the functioning of the Museum of the Second World War. They support it in many areas – from minor office work to important support for activities connected with various types of events.

In 2019 the facility signed volunteering agreements with 127 persons. In the previous year volunteers became involved in helping organise 33 projects. The support for 7 central events organised as part of celebration of the 80th anniversary of outbreak of World War II, including an international science conference "Pact for war. Hitler-Stalin collusion of 23 August 1939 from the perspective of 80 years since the outbreak of World War II" and the concert "This is how the war started" also proved quite significant. Volunteers have also made a considerable contribution to the transcription of film notations with witness to history. In 2019, they visited the Museum library 619 times for this purpose and worked 1579 hours and 44 minutes.

The group of volunteers is composed of people of different ages. The youngest person is 13 years old, the oldest – 73. Thanks to this we can all carry out our activities together, looking at them from different perspectives and finding the best possible solutions based on creativity, knowledge, as well as kind and friendly relationship.

Tasks performed by volunteers:

- transcription and editing of film notations with witnesses to history;
- current tasks connected with archiving, creating, editing and distributing information and promotional materials
- photographic and graphic support;
- promotional and organisational activities connected with artistic and scientific events.
- translations of texts from Polish into English.

In addition, volunteers cooperate with the Museum for cyclical events, such as Night of Museums or commemoration of historical events. Volunteers also support the institution in events organised outside its registered office. The volunteers' representation took part in the celebrations of the International Volunteer Day held on 5 December 2019. On this occasion, a group of volunteers, together with the coordinator, took part in the Gdańsk Volunteers Parade [Parada Gdańskich Wolontariuszy i Wolontariuszek], and took part in a meeting organised in the Museum building, combined with integration games, refreshments and gifts.



muzeum1939.pl

# MARKETING AND SALES DEPARTMENT



The tasks of the Marketing and Sales Department includes selling Museum's goods and services, servicing visitors, and marketing activities. The most profitable activity is the sale of tickets to exhibitions, and then rental of conference centre rooms, running the museum shop, running the hotel part of the Museum, sale of advertising space and renting of commercial space.

## SUITES

Visitors have a very good opinion of the suites, which contributes to the growing interest in them. Very good ratings on booking portals are motivated by the high standard of rooms and the quality of service. The cohesive pricing policy helps fulfil the basic goal of our activity, which is to maximise the occupancy rate, and in consequence – higher profits.

The Department responds to the visitors' needs and in order to improve the comfort of their stay, additionally equipped rooms and the patio with necessary accessories. Thanks to the cooperation with a local cosmetic company, visitors have a supply of cosmetics in every room.

The best sales channels are still Booking.com – the suites receive ratings around 9.3 there – and Airbnb, and direct telephone and e-mail bookings. Last year, 1662 room nights were booked in the Museum's suites.

## MUSEUM SHOP

In 2019, the museum shop increased its revenues by as much as 70% compared to the previous year. It is all due to a varied and unique product range which is constantly supplemented with new items.

In the months during which the "Museum on Water" [Muzeum na wodzie] project operated, articles and memorabilia were also sold on the ship.

## CONFERENCE CENTRE

In 2019, the conference centre (conference room, cinema room, foyer, workshop rooms) achieved a five-percent increase in income in relation to 2018 due to lease of space. This was caused by the promotion of the centre during an industry meeting organised by the department en. "Discover Our Interiors" [Odkryj nasze wnętrza], intensive cooperation with the Gdańsk Tourism Organisation [Gdańska Organizacja Turystyczna], and the fact that customers gladly return to the centre to organise their events. In 2019, the department organised 41 commercial events, including: 3rd Edition of the Wind Farm Operators Forum [III Edycja Forum Operatorów Farm Wiatrowych] (March), Agile & Automation Days conference and workshop (October) and College on the Horizon [Studia na Horyzoncie] (December).

## MARKETING ACTIVITY

Culture of many dimensions – this concept was the assumption for the Marketing and Sales Department for 2019. The objectives of this campaign have been achieved, combining the multi-functionality of the facility with the needs of the guests. Visitors can learn about historical curiosities, take part in cultural events and conferences, watch the latest film

productions, try Polish cuisine, and take advantage of accommodation services – and all of that at the Museum of the Second World War.

During a single year, many lifestyle events have been carried out, we have become a member of the Gdańsk Tourism Organisation [Gdańska Organizacja Turystyczna], we have supported local sport organisations, actively participated in social campaigns, and developed and strengthened the position of the Museum's conference centre on the MICE (Meeting Incentive Conference Event) market.

One great success was winning the 2019 Polish Tourism Organisation Certificate for the Best Tourism Product. The prize is awarded to unique, innovative, and tourist-friendly facilities in Poland.

Additional activities pursued are a number of promotions in local and industry magazines – MICE, tourist, lifestyle, as well as on websites, and activities during national and foreign tourist fairs.

The Department also took care of promoting the Museum outside Europe, as a result of which specially created leaflets were sent to the Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in Beijing.

## SELECTED PROJECTS

- New Trends in Tourism – tourism fairs; promotional stand;
- Free Time Festival 2019 (April) – the Museum of the Second World War was recognised as one of the most attractive during the fair;
- "Museum on Water" [Muzeum na wodzie] – cruises to Westerplatte (July – September) – the department was involved in the interior design of the ship, exhibition, relaxation and children's zones, as well as equipping and operating the shop;
- Great WWII Test [Wielki Test o II Wojnie Światowej] – a project of TVP (August);



- creating the VR zone – design, implementation, and assembly of the entire zone (August);
- membership in the Gdańsk Tourism Organisation [Gdańska Organizacja Turystyczna] and partnership in the VisitGdansk project – we have created a personalised Tourist Card as part of the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II (September);
- The Rebellious, Unbroken, Cursed Festival [Festiwal Niepokorni Niezłomni Wyklęci] – sales stand promoting the Museum (September);
- advertising spot – implementation of the first commercial spot presenting all the services from our offer (September);
- "60+ Culture" [60+ Kultura] – effort to activate senior citizens (September);
- hockey match between Lotos PKH Gdańsk and GKS Tychy – partnership in creating the event (October);
- business catalogue – first edition of a catalogue with our offer for the MICE industry (December).

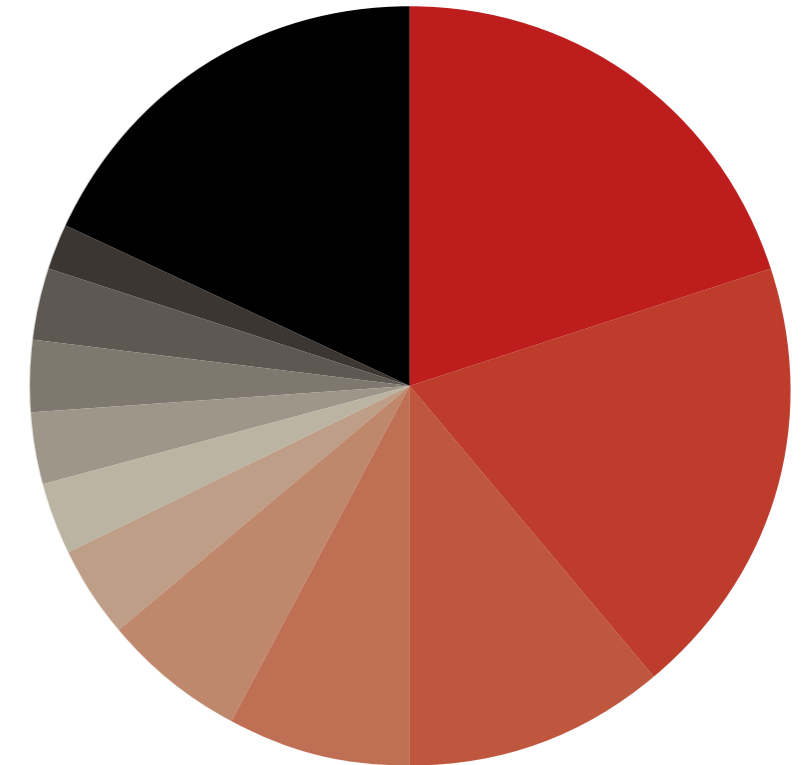
## STATISTICS

- 536 441 guests at the Museum in 2019;
- 487 674 guests at the Museum's main exhibition in 2019;
- 5403 participants of the "Museum on Water" [Muzeum na wodzie] cruises from July to September 2019;
- 7650 guests at the VR zone from August to December 2019;
- 1662 room nights booked in the Museum's suites in 2019.

In 2019, the Museum of the Second World War was visited by citizens of nearly 100 different countries. The vast majority were Norwegian (20% of the total number of foreign visitors) and Swedish (19%). Two other large groups are the Finns (11%) and Germans (8%). Others included the British (6%) and Russians (4%). Other notable numbers of visitors were from Ukraine (3%), Denmark (3%), Lithuania (3%), Spain (3%), and Italy (2%). The remaining countries are included in the "Other" category. Citizens of each of them account for 1-2% of the total number of foreign visitors.

## FOREIGN VISITORS IN 2019

- Norway / 20%
- Sweden / 19%
- Finland / 11%
- Germany / 8%
- UK / 6%
- Russia / 4%
- Ukraine / 3%
- Denmark / 3%
- Lithuania / 3%
- Spain / 3%
- Italy / 2%
- Other / 18%



# MUSEUM OF WESTERPLATTE AND THE WAR OF 1939



## ARCHAEOLOGY

- 4th stage of archaeological research at Westerplatte – archaeological research of the northern part of the building of the NCO mess hall along with archaeological prospect of the adjacent area combined with removing hazardous and explosive materials from the area between March and June 2019. In 2019, archaeological excavations were used to examine an area of approx. 630 m<sup>2</sup>. During the research, 12,963 movable historical objects were acquired (including 4,758 items of particular exhibition and historical value) contextually related to the history of Westerplatte, including the period of operation of the Military Transit Depot. Archaeological works related to stage 4 were completed on 14 June 2019. In total, during the 3rd and 4th stage of works (2018–2019), archaeological excavations covered all relics of the building of the NCO mess hall building (area of 1510 m), acquiring 26,816 movable items, of which 7594 artefacts were considered to be particularly valuable.
- 5th stage of archaeological works at Westerplatte – archaeological research of the burial sites of Polish soldiers killed during the battle of Westerplatte. Excavation works, conducted between, five undis-

turbed graves were discovered and documented, from which at least nine people were exhumed. During preliminary examination of the skeletons, forensic medicine specialists and anthropologists discovered large numbers of injuries resulting from explosions, shrapnel, and high temperatures. The context in which the remains were discovered, their state of preservation, and accompanying objects found – fragments of Polish uniforms, equipment and weapons, or Polish coins from the 1920s and 1930s – make it possible to conclude that these are the graves of Polish soldiers who fell in September 1939. In total, 1339 movable objects were acquired, including 714 with a special exhibition and historical value related to the discovered fallen defenders of the Military Transit Depot.

- Preparation of documentation and monuments obtained during the 3rd and 4th stage of archaeological research at Westerplatte (2018–2019). Selection of objects obtained during the 5th stage of works requiring urgent conservation (Filip Kuczma, Adam Dziewanowski, Piotr Kalka, Wojciech Samól).





## EDUCATION

- guided tours of Westerplatte – 2290 persons;
- off-site lessons – 702 students;
- student swearing-in ceremony – 155 students;
- participation in and lecture during a ceremony organised by the Education and Upbringing Complex in Pinczyn – Heroes of Westerplatte Public Primary School [Zespół Kształcenia i Wychowania w Pinczynie – Publiczna Szkoła Podstawowa im. Bohaterów Westerplatte], participation in ceremonies related to the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II and the fiftieth anniversary of the school; cooperation with reenactors from the FORT Association [Stowarzyszenie FORT]; conducting classes for 180 primary school students;
- participation in and lecture during celebrations organised by the School Complex in Dąbrówki [Zespół Szkół w Dąbrówkach]; a knowledge competition on Westerplatte.

## NIGHT OF MUSEUMS

In 2019, the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 invited visitors to the power plant located in the territory of the Naval Border Guard Branch. The 90-year-old building attracted over 850 people. The event was supplemented by inviting reenactors from the "Marienburg" Historical Reconstruction Association [Stowarzyszenie Rekonstrukcji Historycznych „Marienburg”] together with original military equipment and armaments.

The programme included:

- improvised conscription and military qualification of young recruits;
- learning the basics of military drills;
- learning the basics of firearm use;
- presentation of uniforms, equipment, and armaments of Polish soldiers during the Polish campaign, including the MTD crew and soldiers of the German army during the Polish campaign;

- elements of artillery training concerning operating heavy guns.
- In addition, the children took part in a target throwing competition, a quiz on the knowledge about Westerplatte, and educational games. The best students received commemorative diplomas.

## OTHER EVENTS

- 1 September 2019 – the ceremony of laying the cornerstone for the construction of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 and the opening of the "Polish Westerplatte" [Polskie Westerplatte] special exhibition – exhibits obtained during archaeological research conducted on the peninsula were presented;
- 10 October 2019 – a press conference in the power plant building, during which exhibits obtained during archaeological research carried out at Westerplatte were presented; re-installation of the "Polish Westerplatte" [Polskie Westerplatte] special exhibition.







# TECHNICAL AND INVESTMENT DEPARTMENT

**MW**

The activities of the Technical and Investment Department are twofold:

- investment activities – preparing, carrying out, and supervising construction investments connected with the development and modernisation of the building as well as its surrounding area and Westerplatte grounds;
- activities consisting in ongoing technical maintenance of the building – monitoring and removal of defects, optimisation of utilities consumption, enforcement of warranty claims, maintaining construction documentation, etc.

In addition, the department cooperates with other departments of the Museum, in particular when preparing new temporary exhibitions, cultural and other events. The department also responds on an ongoing basis in emergency situations that pose a threat to the security of the facility. It also makes sure that the temperature and humidity parameters are appropriate in order to ensure that the Museum's collections and employees are properly protected.

The most important projects carried out by the Technical and Investment Department include: expansion of parking terminals with contactless payment terminals, fencing off the transformer room in order to ensure safe operation of the premises, extension of entrance gates to the main exhibition with a mobile platform which can be quickly dismantled in order to carry through larger museum pieces for the permanent exhibition, expansion of the fire alarm system in the P+4 kitchen with additional detectors and sprinklers in connection with renting restaurant space, expansion of entrance doors with automatic control of the opening of the door according to a planned schedule (from the footbridge side), coordination of technical documentation together with the installation of the monument of cav. cpt. Witold Pilecki and assistance in laying the cornerstone in the power plant building at Westerplatte on 1 September 2019, together with coordination of the assembly of the special exhibition.

In addition, the Technical and Investment Department was involved, among other things, in the technical preparation of the "Poland: First to Fight" show, the "This Is How War Began" [Tak zaczęła się wojna] concert, and "Struggle and Suffering. Polish Citizens During World War II" [Walka i Cierpienie. Obywatele polscy podczas II wojny światowej] temporary exhibition, along with handovers, installation of the VR cinema and the "Growth. Western and Northern Territories. The Beginning" [Wrastanie. Ziemia Zachodnie i Północne. Początek] open-air exhibition.

## NUMBER OF SERVICING WORKS IN 2019

- general construction – 30 defects notified
- telecommunications technology – 69 defects notified
- electrical – 13 defects notified
- sanitary – 56 defects notified
- in total – 168 defects notified;
- number of services in the building – 152





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