



**Report on the activities  
of the Museum of the Second  
World War in 2016**



*Museum of the Second World War*

**Report on the activities  
of the Museum of the Second  
World War in 2016**

.....  
**G d a ñ s k 2 0 1 7**

---

## Table of contents

The history of the creation of the Museum of the Second World War	6
Important events of 2016	10
Merger of the museums	14
Museum construction	38
Work on the permanent exhibition	44
Exhibitions	50
Collection	54
Academic and educational activity	70
Educational activity	82
National and international cooperation	96
About the Museum	102



*Professor Paweł Machcewicz,  
director of the Museum of the Second  
World War in Gdańsk.  
Photo: Renata Dąbrowska/Agencja Gazeta.*

So the Museum is completed. It could receive its first visitors at any moment! It is the effect of many years of cooperation of historians, architects, scenographers, engineers and people of other professions that are impossible to mention. The Museum's heart is the permanent exhibition, which was created due to the generosity of thousands of donators, who very often gave us the most precious family mementos. Referring to Gothic towers of the brick churches that dominate the Main and Old Town, the Museum's building, whose modern architecture of the highest quality has become an inherent part of the landscape of Gdańsk, has also a symbolic meaning. It is constructed in the same place where the Wiadownia district was located until 1945 when it was destroyed during military actions. Today, the Museum overcomes the legacy of the war and brings this part of the city that was wiped off the map back to life.

The Museum presents the story of the war in which the experience of Poland and our part of Europe is restored to the right place. It is very often not well-known and understood in the dominant international narrations about the most tragic conflict in history. In the Museum of the Second World War, we show the brutal character of the German occupation of Poland and other countries in Eastern Europe, incomparable with the events in the West. We remind about the criminal alliance between the two totalitarian regimes of the Third Reich and the Soviet Union that together invaded Poland and only then turned against each other. Furthermore, we describe disparate experiences of the end of the war: for some nations it meant a complete liberation, whereas for others it was the end of German crimes, but at the same time the beginning of a new oppression at the hands of the Soviet Union. In our part of Europe, the consequences of the war were not overcome until 1989 when the Eastern Bloc collapsed. A focal point of our story is the civilian population, who was both the main victim of the war and its collective hero. We want to revive the memory of ordinary people who fought for freedom, dignity or simply for survival.

We do hope that the Museum will become an important voice in Polish and international debates about the Second World War and its consequences and will show the disastrous results produced by hatred and violence. This is not only a historical but also a truly universal and timeless message, because those phenomena and feelings accompany us until today; they are around us and inside us. Visitors will judge the final effect, since the Museum has been established for them.

Paweł Machcewicz  
Director of the Museum of the Second World War

# THE HISTORY OF THE CREATION OF THE MUSEUM OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

1 September 2009

Signing of the foundation act of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk



24 October 2009

Announcement of the winner of the contest for the design of the Museum's permanent exhibition



12 July 2011

Commencement of the archaeological works



1 September 2012

Cornerstone laying ceremony



24 October 2014

Completion of the first stage of the construction of the Museum building, that is, the underground section



15 September 2016

Opening of the "Time travel" exhibition for children



2009

2010

2011

2012

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

9 December 2009

Signing of the donation act of the plot



1 September 2010

Announcement of the winner of the contest for the architectural design of the Museum building



1 August 2012

Commencement of the construction of the Museum of the Second World War



5 March 2013

Announcement of the winner of the contest for the multimedia and films for the permanent exhibition



10 December 2015

Topping-out ceremony at the Museum building



January 2017

Completion of the construction and the installing of the permanent exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War





Installing tiebacks to stabilize the walls of the dry pit

**08.2013**



Deepening the pit with suction excavators

**10.2013**



Forming, reinforcing and concreting walls, posts and ceilings

**03.2015**



Laying the structural ceiling and constructing the tower

**08.2015**



Cleaning and levelling the pit bottom after the water was pumped out

**08.2014**



Placing large-size exhibits, including an American Sherman Firefly, at the bottom of the pit

**01.2015**



Construction of the Museum tower is finished — preparing the installation of a glass skylight and the façade

**01.2016**



Museum building covered with red lining

**10.2016**

# IMPORTANT EVENTS OF 2016



5–6 March

“All in Your Hands” handicraft workshops

16 March

“Meetings with history” – promotion of Katarzyna Minczykowska’s book *Cichociemna. General Elżbieta Zawacka „Zo”* (1919–2009) [Special force paratrooper. General *Elżbieta Zawacka „Zo”* (1919–2009)]



31 March – 6 April

“Special force paratroopers — discover the legend of Fighting Poland” educational workshops in Łapino



13 April

“Meetings with history” — promotion of the book *Druga wojna światowa w pamięci kulturowej w Polsce i w Niemczech. 70 lat później (1945–2015)* [The Second World War in cultural memory in Poland and Germany. 70 years later (1945–2015)]

15 April

Announcement of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Piotr Gliński, of an intention to merge the Museum of the Second World War and the Museum of Westerplatte and War of 1939 and to create a new institution — Museum of Westerplatte and War of 1939



17 April

“Operation Tempest” historical re-enactment at the Museum of Folk Architecture — the Ethnographic Park in Olsztyniek

18 April

Meeting of the Director of the Museum of the Second World War with the Minister of Culture regarding the two institutions’ merger

19 April

Announcement of members of the Advisory Board regarding the announcement of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage expressing incomprehension of and opposition to the Ministry’s decision

5 May

Minister of Culture Piotr Gliński decides to merge the Museum of the Second World War and the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 into a new institution named the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk

11 May

Letter from the Museum director to the Chairman of the Council for Museums with his stance on the necessity for the Council to opine the merger



18 May

The Museum receives an award in the Education category of the Pomeranian Museum Award contest

19 May

“Meetings with history” — promotion of Kazimierz Kummer’s book *Opowiadania i sluchowiska. Klatka* [Stories and radio plays. The cage]



21 May

European Night of Museums on Westerplatte



23 May

The Museum receives an award in the Education category of the 2016 ‘Sybilla’ Competition for the Museum Event of the Year for its “Secrets of the Enigma” workshops

25 May

Resolution of the International Auschwitz Council operating at the Polish Prime Minister regarding the Museum of the Second World War



6 June

The museum publishes a series of historical comic books

16 June

“Meetings with history” — promotion of the book *Sprawiedliwość, zemsta i rewolucja. Rozliczenia z wojną i okupacją w Europie Środkowo-Wschodniej* [Justice, revenge, and revolution. Settling accounts with the war and occupation in Central and Eastern Europe] edited by Andrzej Paczkowski



17 June

Meeting of the Board of Trustees concluded with an appeal to the Minister of Culture and National Heritage to consider making the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 a branch of the Museum of the Second World War

24–26 June

14th rally in the footsteps of the soldiers of the Fifth Vilna Brigade commanded by Major Zygmunt Szendzielarz ‘Łupaszko’ organized with the Gdańsk branch of the IPN and the Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression



29 June

Meeting of the Advisory Board concluded with a resolution consistent with the stance of the Board of Trustees, lack of consent to changing the exhibition and merging the Museum with a different institution



29 June

Press conference at the Museum held with participation of Advisory Board members, Gdańsk Mayor Paweł Adamowicz, Museum director, and donors



29 June

Publication of *Museum of the Second World War Catalogue of the Permanent Exhibition* in Polish and English language versions

14 July

Revelation of the content of the reviews of the Museum's permanent exhibition, commissioned by the Minister of Culture, written by Piotr Niwiński, Jan Żaryn, and Piotr Semka

5 August

The Advisory Board issues an announcement regarding the reviews and states that it would be a mistake to use them as a basis for any steps regarding the Museum

11 August

"History in the Field" camp in Piaski on the Vistula Spit, organized in cooperation with the Scouting Association of the Republic of Poland

13 August

Andrzej Nowak and Timothy Snyder's letter in support of the Museum



2 September

Westerplatte soldiers' families visit the Museum construction site

6 September

The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage issues an ordinance to merge the Museum of the Second World War and the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 and establish a new public cultural institution — the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk. It also appoints a representative for the actions connected with the merger.

7 September

The Director of the Museum of the Second World War calls on the Minister of Culture to remove the violation of the Act on Museums resulting from the ordinances issued



15 September

Completion of the "Time travel" section of the permanent exhibition addressed to children below the age of 12

21 September

The Museum files a complaint to the Provincial Administrative Court in Warsaw against the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage's ordinance regarding the museums' merger

23 September

The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage issues a new ordinance shifting the date of the merger of the Museum of the Second World War and the Museum of Westerplatte and War of 1939 to 1 February 2017



5–7 October

The partners cooperating on the Liberation Route Europe project meet in Gdańsk



7 October

The building of the Museum is awarded with the Tricity Wings (*Skrzydła Trójmiasta*) award in the category of the Best Tricity Building.



16 October

Participants of the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Constitutional Tribunal visit the Museum of the Second World War



19 October

A history lesson for students on the heroes' cemeteries — the summing up of the Year of the Special Force Paratroopers

19 October

Promotion of Franz Neumann's book *Behemot. Narodowy socjalizm: ustrój i funkcjonowanie 1933–1944* [English title: *Behemoth: The Structure and Practice of National Socialism*], translated into Polish by Jerzy Giebułtowski

20 October

Ombudsman Adam Bodnar files a complaint to the Provincial Administrative Court against the ordinance of the Minister of Culture regarding the merger of the Museum of the Second World War and the Museum of Westerplatte and War of 1939

16 November

The Provincial Administrative Court in Warsaw decides to stop the merger of the museums until the examination of the complaint filed by the Museum of the Second World War



18 November

Fernando Bravo's performance "The Sinking of Europe. On Lost Homelands and Human Tragedies" outside the Museum building



19–20 November

"Onward to Berlin" educational meeting within the framework of the Historical Board Games cycle at the Fun and Games Fair



16 December

Board of Trustees' meeting



## MERGER OF THE MUSEUMS

### The situation of the Museum after the decision of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage to merge the Museum of the Second World War and the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939.

On **15 April**, the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Piotr Gliński, declared an intention to merge two public cultural institutions: the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk and the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939. According to the announcement publicized in *Public Information Bulletin*, “the merger shall result in the establishment of a new public cultural institution: the Museum of Westerplatte and War of 1939.” The management of the Museum of the Second World War had not been informed about that intention and it learned about it from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage’s website already after the publication of the Minister’s announcement. The Board of Trustees of the Museum of the Second World War had not been informed about those plans either. The merger of the museums would lead to the liquidation of the existing Museum of the Second World War and the establishment of a new cultural institution.

On **18 April**, the Minister of Culture and National Heritage met in Warsaw with Museum Director Paweł Machcewicz to discuss the future of the Museum of the Second World War. Minister Piotr Gliński expressly stated that he had not yet made any decisions regarding the future of the Museum of the Second World War. He stressed that he was considering the possibility of merging the two museums but had not made the decision yet.

Minister Gliński expressed his hope that the Museum of the Second World War would present the Polish historical experience and the Polish perspective of the war. At the same time, he mentioned the criticism of the concept of the Museum voiced in the past and expressed in four reviews of our Museum’s exhibition commissioned by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. Gliński declared that he would make those reviews known to the Museum of the Second World War, agreeing that the public opinion had a right to read them.

In reply, the Director of the Museum of the Second World War, Paweł Machcewicz, explained that from the very beginning the Museum’s main objective had been to inscribe the Polish historical experience in a broader European and international context, as this was the best way to make the international public opinion familiar with the specificity of Polish history. He presented the exhibition’s main principles to the Minister, informing him, for instance, that the narration about Westerplatte, Pomerania, and the war of 1939 were its very important part. He also explained that the accusation that our exhibition did not present the massacre of Poles in Volhynia was untrue, as the Museum of the Second World War is to be the first museum in Poland and in the world to have an entire section devoted to the Ukrainian massacres of Poles in Volhynia and Galicia.

In reply, Minister Gliński said that if that was the actual shape of the Museum’s exhibition, it would serve as a good basis for further discussions.

At the press conference held on **18 April**, Gdańsk Mayor Paweł Adamowicz appealed to the Minister of Culture to change his decision about the Museum. He made a reference to the resolution of the City Council and the notary deed with which Gdańsk donated the plot exclusively for the construction of the Museum of the Second World War. Paweł Adamowicz stressed that the Minister’s decision would negate the accomplishments of the institution which had been created for years, whose objective was to talk about the war from a global and not only Polish perspective. “With a resolution of the City Council the city of Gdańsk assigned that plot by way of a donation to one objective only — the Museum of the Second World War — and not to any other purpose, such as, the Museum of the Westerplatte Battlefield or the Museum of the Defensive War of 1939. [...] In Gdańsk, where the most tragic of wars began. And it is in Gdańsk that we wish to tell ourselves and the world about this war from the perspective of not only Poles, but also other nations that also suffered atrocities during that conflict.”

On **18 April**, the Facebook community showed a strong reaction to the Minister of Culture’s decision. The “NO to the liquidation of the Museum of the Second World War” fanpage posts and comments on the current information about the Museum’s situation. The page has almost three thousand likes and has been actively managed since its creation. The fanpage community engaged, for instance, in the drafting of motions for the Ombudsman’s intervention regarding the Museum.

On **19 April**, members of the Museum's Advisory Board issued an announcement regarding the Minister of Culture and National Heritage's decision to merge the Museum of the Second World War and the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939. The Board praised the current activity of the Museum and expressed its conviction that it "would attract keen interest on the part of visitors from Poland and abroad." At the same time, the Board members stated: "We understand neither the intention to merge the Museum of the Second World War with the actually non-existent Museum of Westerplatte nor the limitation of the scope of the exhibition to the year 1939. The war in Poland lasted six years and not four months." The letter was signed by: Norman Davies (Oxford), Timothy Snyder (New Haven), Élie Barnavi (Tel Aviv), Jerzy W. Borejsza (Warsaw), Włodzimierz Borodziej (Warsaw), Andrzej Chwalba (Cracow), Ulrich Herbert (Freiburg im Breisgau), Pavel Polian (Moscow), Krzysztof Pomian (Warsaw/Brussels), Henry Rousso (Paris), Tomasz Szarota (Warsaw), and Anna Wolff-Powęska (Poznań).

On **5 May**, the Minister of Culture, Piotr Gliński, issued another decision to merge the Museum of the Second World War and the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 into one institution named the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk. That decision was published on the next day in the second Announcement of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage "regarding the intention to and reasons for the merger of two public cultural institutions: the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk and the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939," thus substituting the Announcement of 15 April this year and extending until 5 August this year the deadline for the preparation of the statute and detailed program of the operation of the new museum named the Museum of the Second World War."

On **6 May**, the Director of the Museum of the Second World War, Paweł Machcewicz, issued an official statement about the decision given by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Piotr Gliński, on 5 May 2016. The statement read: "The new institution shall be named the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, but from a formal point of view it shall be a completely new institution, with its statute and detailed program of activity yet to be prepared. This shall result in automatic dismissal of the current management, and consequently make it possible to change the entire concept of the Museum, particularly of its permanent exhibition." Director Paweł Machcewicz stressed that the shape of the permanent exhibition met all the requirements listed by the Minister of Culture. At the same time, he also invoked article 5 of the Act on Museums, pursuant to which the Museum of the Second World War could be merged with the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 on condition that the Minister's decision would be positively opined by the Council for Museums. He expressed his

concern that "the organizational changes planned by the Minister could paralyze the process of the production and installation of the permanent exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War, which is currently at a very advanced stage." The Director also reminded that the Minister of Culture had promised to publicize the four reviews of the Museum's permanent exhibition commissioned by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. He also announced that if the reviewers came forward, he would propose a substantive debate with historians of the Museum of the Second World War and members of its Advisory Board.

On **9 May**, in reply to his assessment of the situation, Museum Director Paweł Machcewicz received a letter from the Director of the Department of Cultural Heritage, Jacek Miler. According to the letter, the merger procedure was conducted as per articles 18 and 19 of the Act on Organization and Conducting of Cultural Activity of 25 October 1991 and the ordinance issued by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage. Director Miler stressed that the merger of the two museums did not require a positive opinion of the Council for Museums given as per article 5a of the Act on Museums of 21 November 1996, which pertained only the mergers of museums with other kinds of cultural institutions.

On **11 May**, after the exchange of correspondence with the Chairman of the Council for Museums, Michał F. Woźniak, regarding the necessity for the Council to opine the merger, Museum Director Paweł Machcewicz asked the Chairman to give a negative opinion about the merger of the two museums planned by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage. The Director invoked the lack of any rationale that would justify the merger of the Museum with a newly established institution, the rebuilding of the permanent exhibition, the change of the existing concept of the Museum, the institutional restructuring at the moment when the construction and the exhibition are almost finished as well as the threat of a dissolution of the exhibit collection.

The Museum's Board of Trustees met on **17 June**. Having analysed the report on the advancement of the construction and exhibition works, the Board deemed that at this stage of the investment — at the final stage of the construction works and during the production and installation of the permanent exhibition — the merger of the two institutions would cause an unbelievable organizational chaos and paralyze the Museum's operation.

The decision to merge the two institutions would make it necessary to take full inventory as of the last day of the Museum operation, close the account books, prepare a financial statement including

the balance, loss and profit account, and additional information, including an auditor's opinion. The inventory of the documentation, the assets, including 39,000 exhibits and the collection of 20,000 books, would take many months. The Museum would also have to take inventory of its assets at the Museum construction site. This would paralyze the construction investment due to the suspension of the works, and this would result in stoppages in the carrying out of the contracts, for which the contractors could claim penal sums from the Treasury.

The Council stated that even if the current name were to be retained, the actual liquidation of the Museum of the Second World War in its current shape would lead to a crisis in the society's trust in public cultural institutions (for instance, among those who donated their most precious family tokens to the Museum). Taking all these arguments into account, the members of the Council appealed to the Minister of Culture and National Heritage to consider a different mode of merging the two institutions, that is, to transform the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 into a branch of the Museum of the Second World War.

On **27 June**, the Council for Museums adopted a resolution, in which it expressed its opinion that pursuant to article 5a of the Act on Museums the Council should submit its opinion about the merger to the Ministry of Culture. The Council stressed that decisions so important for Polish museums should be made after consultation with it.

On **29 June**, the Museum's Board of Advisors adopted a resolution in line with the position of the Board of Trustees. It expressed the lack of consent to altering the exhibition and merging the Museum with another institution. It also proposed to transform the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 into a branch of the Museum of the Second World War. The Board of Advisors highly praised the activity of the Museum's management and staff and the permanent exhibition's substantive level.

The press conference held after the meeting was attended by the Advisory Board members, Gdańsk Mayor Paweł Adamowicz, Museum Director Paweł Machcewicz, and the donors. The conference participants had a chance to see selected exhibits donated to the Museums by the invited donors. Mayor Paweł Adamowicz announced that as per the Act on Access to Public Information he requested that the Minister of Culture and National Heritage reveal the names of the reviewers of the permanent exhibition and the content of their reviews commissioned by the Ministry. He also expressed his support for the proposition to transform the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 into a branch of the Museum of the Second World War.

On **29 June**, the Museum published *Museum of the Second World War Catalogue* of the Permanent Exhibition in Polish and English language versions. The catalogue not only presents the exhibits, but also contains historical commentary and constitutes a concise compendium of knowledge about the Second World War. To quote Museum Director Paweł Machcewicz: "The exhibition already inspires keen interest. We decided to make this catalogue available to the public before the opening of the Museum of the Second World War to ensure that the ongoing discussions have a substantive character and refer to the actual shape of the exhibition."

On **6 July**, pursuant to Gdańsk Mayor Paweł Adamowicz's request filed as per the Act on Access to Public Information, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage publicized the three reviews of the permanent exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War.

On **14 July**, the Museum of the Second World War publicized the reviews of the permanent exhibition commissioned by the Ministry of Culture and written by Piotr Niwiński, Piotr Semka, and Jan Żaryn. It occurred that the revealed reviews were written exclusively on the basis of the exhibition's summary entitled "Functional-Utility Program of the Permanent Exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War." It is a 75-page overview of the main sections of the exhibition, supplemented with photographs of selected exhibits. At the beginning of that summary, it was stressed that "the functional-utility program of the exhibition cannot be fully presented without appropriate technical documentation," which was submitted to the Ministry of Culture but which the reviewers failed to familiarize themselves with.

In response to the reviews, the Museum management observed that most accusations regarding the lack of certain threads were ungrounded as they were indeed included in the exhibition, only that the reviewers were unable to find them because they failed to use all the materials submitted by the Museum. Moreover, the Museum reviewers criticized it for the lack of certain elements, which are in fact included in the concise document, which they failed to read carefully enough tough.

The Museum management appealed for the discussion about the Museum of the Second World War to be as transparent to the public opinion as possible and to enable evaluation of both side's arguments. Consequently, it was suggested that the reviewers take part in a public debate with the Museum creators.

On **5 August**, the Advisory Board issued a statement regarding the reviews in which it declared that it would be a mistake for the Ministry of Culture to make any decisions on their basis. The Advisory Board members observed: "The reviewers present their metaphysical opinions about the essence of war. Disputes in such matters are something natural. The most important voice belongs to those who experienced the war themselves, and the exhibition gives them an opportunity to speak. As historians, we are honoured that so many Poles donated their family tokens to the Museum, as this makes the history of the war become a sphere of collective experience, discussion, and memory."

On **29 August**, Piotr Nawiński, Piotr Semka, and Jan Żaryn, the three authors of the reviews of the Museum's permanent exhibition, issued a statement in which they rejected the invitation to participate in the public debate, extended by Museum Director Paweł Machcewicz and then by Gdańsk Mayor Paweł Adamowicz. Originally, the Museum management hoped that a similar discussion would be organized by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, but contrary to his initial promises he failed to undertake that initiative.

On **6 September**, Minister of Culture and National Heritage Piotr Gliński issued two ordinances defining the future situation of the Museum. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 53 regarding the appointment of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage's representative for the execution of the merger of two public cultural institutions — the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk and the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939, and establishment of a new public cultural institution — the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, the representative was appointed to undertake all necessary actions to prepare and carry out the merger of the two institutions. His duties include supervision and coordination of the process of preparing balances and protocols of delivery and acceptance, the Museum's takeover of the documents which are in possession of the two institutions, the assets, and the rights and obligations regarding the two museums' collections, as well as the realization of the obligations of the employers towards the employees, and cooperation with the directors of the two institutions. That position was given to Zbigniew Wawer, former Director of the Polish Army Museum in Warsaw.

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 54 regarding the merger of two public cultural institutions: the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk and the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 and the establishment of a new public cultural institution — the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, 1 December 2016 was to mark the merger of the two institutions, with the Museum being granted a new statute in the mode specified by the Act on Organization and Conducting of Cultural Activity of

25 October 1991 and the Act on Museums of 21 November 1996 (Dziennik Ustaw [Journal of Laws] 2012, item 987, as amended). The subject of the Museum's activity was significantly narrowed down, specified in § 4, point 2 of Ordinance No. 54 as:

"compiling of a collection and dissemination of knowledge on the 1939 Polish Defensive War as the beginning of the world conflict — the Second World War, the military and patriotic traditions, and the history and accomplishments of the Polish Army of the Second Republic of Poland, with particular attention paid to:

- a) the history of the Army Transit Storehouse from its beginning to the end of the 20th century, including its heroic defence in September 1939,
- b) the resistance of the Polish Soldier against the invaders: the Third Reich and its allies on the one hand and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the other hand."

On **7 September**, the Director of the Museum of the Second World War called on the Minister of Culture and National Heritage to remove the violation of the law. In the Museum's opinion, the Minister's ordinance of 6 September 2016 regarding the merger of two public cultural institutions: the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk and the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 and the establishment of a new public cultural institution — the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, was issued in violation of the law, particularly Article 5a, sections 1 and 2 of the Act on Museums. Pursuant to these regulations the Museum can be merged with other cultural institutions operating under the regulations regarding the organization of cultural activity on condition that the merger would not hamper the performance of the current tasks. Moreover, the merger can take place only after it was positively opined by the Council for Museums.

The Ministry had announced that it would not apply for the Council's opinion about the planned merger, thus violating Article 5a, section 2 of the Act on Museums. At the same time, in the substantiation of the appeal, the Museum presented a board argumentation, which had been presented to the Ministry since the announcement of the plans to merge the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk with the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939. It regarded the detriment to the performance of the current tasks of the Museum of the Second World War during the planned process of the merger of the institutions, for instance, due to the threat to the integrity of the collection and the finished permanent exhibition, on which the Museum staff had been working for the past eight years.

It was also indicated that there would be no savings on the part of the Treasury, which were planned by way of the merger as stated in the Minister's ordinance. On the contrary, the merger, particularly

shortly before the end of the construction of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, would lead to unjustified public spending due to the liquidation of the Museum and the necessity to take inventory of the works, which would generate additional costs due to the potential stoppage of the works for an unspecified period and the delay in the realization of the investment.

On **21 September**, the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk filed a complaint with the Provincial Administrative Court in Warsaw about the Minister of Culture and National Heritage's ordinance of 6 September 2016 regarding the merger of the museums. The complainant accused the Minister of violating the law, specifically sections 1 and 2 of Art. 5a of the Act on Museums, manifested in the Minister's failure to request the Council for Museums' positive opinion about the merger.

The Museum filed a motion to suspend the execution of the said ordinance until the Provincial Administrative Court settled the complaint. The motion was motivated with the fact that with the advent of 1 December 2016 that ordinance could have irreversible financial, legal, and organizational consequences. The Minister's decision would have a detrimental effect on the ongoing investment of the construction of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, the Treasury, and the Museum as an institution. It could also lead to a dissolution of the collection of exhibits compiled by the Museum, as many of the benefactors threatened to take back their tokens, including some which are a part of the permanent exhibition. Their decision would be motivated with the realization of the plans to merge the museums, that is, the formal liquidation of the Museum in its current shape. That would threaten the integrity of the permanent exhibition and deprive the public of a possibility to familiarize itself with unique objects of great historical value.

On **23 September**, the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Piotr Gliński, issued a new ordinance shifting the date of the merger of the Museum of the Second World War with the Museum of Westerplatte and War of 1939 to 1 February 2017.

According to the announcement on the website of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Minister's decision was "to satisfy the postulates and the explicit and public declarations of the management of the Museum of the Second World War that the date of the merger of the institutions had to be postponed in order to facilitate the completion of the construction of the Museum and the organization of its exhibition."

The day before, the Museum Director wrote a letter to the Minister of Culture with information about the financial losses which the merger as of 1 December 2016 would cause. This would make it necessary to stop the construction and the exhibition production for at least a month in order to take inventory of the assets of the Museum of the Second World War, which is required under the Act on accounting in the case of a liquidation or merger of institutions. The Museum Director also transferred to the Minister of Culture the documents from the construction companies and the exhibition producer with the estimated cost of such an inventory. Stopping the construction would also result in an inability to spend several dozen million zlotys allocated to complete the construction works and the exhibition in 2016. These sums would have to be returned to the state budget, which would jeopardize the completion of the construction and the opening of the Museum of the Second World War in 2017.

On **20 October**, Ombudsman Adam Bodnar filed a complaint with the Provincial Administrative Court in Warsaw about the Minister of Culture's ordinance of 6 September 2016 regarding the merger of the Museum of the Second World War with the newly established Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939. The Ombudsman indicated that the Minister of Culture had violated the following regulations:

1. The Act on Organization and Conducting of Cultural Activity of 25 October 1991
2. The Act on Public Finance of 29 August 2009
3. The Act on Museums of 21 November 1996
4. The Minister of Culture and National Heritage's ordinance of 9 May 2008 regarding the scope of the activity of the Council for Museums
5. The Building Code Act of 7 July 1994

The Decision of the Minister of Culture also violated the Polish Constitution, for instance,

1. The principles of social dialogue and subsidiarity resultant from the Preamble, which guarantee the rights of citizens and their communities.
2. The principle of the citizens' trust in the state and the law (Art. 2).
3. Local authorities' ownership and property rights (Art. 165).
4. The freedom to use cultural assets (Art. 6 and 73).

In the substantiation of the complaint, the Ombudsman indicated, for instance, that the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 “was established to keep up appearances. *The actual objective of this ordinance was to liquidate the Museum of the Second World War, which has been functioning for the last eight years, and totally change the profile of the museum established in that way.*” In the Ombudsman’s opinion, the Minister of Culture stated an untrue reason for the merger. The optimal use of the two institutions’ potential, which the Minister invoked, could not take place, because when the announcement was made “the museum called the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 had no potential to be optimally used.” In the Ombudsman’s opinion, such steps undermine the citizens’ trust in the state and the law, thus violating Article 2 of the Polish Constitution.

The Ombudsman stressed that the process of the merger of the museums would result in unjustified public spending, which constituted a violation of the Act on Public Finance. He also emphasized the risk of the City of Gdańsk Municipality’s revoking its donation of the land on which the Museum building was built, which could have further negative consequences for the Treasury.

The Ombudsman then indicated that the establishment of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 was in conflict with the activity of the already existent Historical Museum of the City of Gdańsk, one of whose branches is Guardhouse 1 on Westerplatte. With the Historical Museum of the City of Gdańsk being an institution of the local government, in the Ombudsman’s opinion this could be an illegal encroachment on the sphere of ownership rights of the local government. Thus the decision of the Minister of Culture violates section 1 of Art. 165 of the Polish Constitution, which guarantees inviolability of the local government’s ownership rights.

The Ombudsman also indicated that the Minister of Culture had failed to consult the content of his ordinance regarding the merger of the two Gdańsk institutions with the Council for Museums even though he is obliged to do so under the Act on Museums and the ordinance of 9 May 2008, which regard the scope of the activity of the Council for Museums and the manner of appointment of its members and the chairman.

He also indicated that the Minister of Culture’s ordinance also violated Articles 6 and 73 of the Polish Constitution, which impose an obligation on public authorities “to create conditions for promotion of and equal access to cultural assets, as culture is the source of the Polish nations’ identity, continuity, and development” and ensure all citizens’ “freedom to use cultural assets.” According to the Ombudsman, if the merger were to take place, the planned removal of the most precious family

tokens donated to the Museum of the Second World War by the benefactors would depreciate the national heritage, thus limiting access to the cultural assets.

The filing of the complaint about the Minister of Culture’s ordinance regarding the two museums’ merger was motivated with the scale of the violation of the law and the approximately one thousand private appeals for the Ombudsman’s intervention.

On **16 November**, the Provincial Administrative Court in Warsaw suspended the execution of the 6 September 2016 ordinance of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage regarding the merger of the state cultural institutions of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk and the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939. In the substantiation, the Court stated that the execution of the Minister’s decision could inflict substantial losses on the institution and also result in legal effects difficult to reverse. Moreover, the Provincial Administrative Court stated that the execution of the Minister’s ordinance would result in the existing Museum of the Second World War’s loss of its legal existence, which is undoubtedly a very harmful consequence and one that is difficult to reverse. The Court observed that the ordinance’s results which would be difficult to reverse and which call for suspension of its execution stem from the content of the Minister’s decision. This concerns the transition of employees to the other workplace as a result of the museums’ merger in the mode regulated by Article 23(1) of the Labour Code. As the Court also observed, it is important that the Museum is currently installing its permanent exhibition. This means that the merger of the museum, which immanently calls for stocktaking, would lead to suspension of the works and consequently cause tremendous financial losses connected with the suspension of the works and the stocktaking.

On **29 November**, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage filed a complaint against the decision issued by the Provincial Administrative Court in Warsaw about the suspension of execution of ordinance regarding the merger of museums.

On **1 December**, by the decision of the Provincial Administrative Court in Warsaw, the city of Gdańsk was admitted as an intervenor in the legal proceedings, joining with the Museum, regarding the ordinance of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage on the merger of the museums.

On **16 December**, during the session of the Board of Trustees of the Museum of the Second World War, the representative of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage informed that the Minister refused to comply with the Provincial Administrative Court’s decision as it had not become legally valid yet.

## Letters of support and protests against the liquidation of the Museum

Since mid-April 2016, Minister of Culture and National Heritage Piotr Gliński has received letters concerning the Museum and the plans to merge it with the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939. Numerous institutions and academics from around the world expressed their support for the Museum of the Second World War and opposition to its liquidation. The selected fragments of the letters are available below.

On **18 April 2016**, many eminent scholars from Poland and abroad expressed opposition to the liquidation of the Museum:

**“We protest against the liquidation of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk. Due to the enthusiasm, diligence and specialist knowledge of its employees led by Paweł Machcewicz, the Museum was well placed to become an institution of international importance, as the Museum of the History of Polish Jews or the future Polish History Museum, that would provide a platform for dialogue between the contemporary audience. It was supposed to present the history of the greatest armed conflict of the 20th century and the role of Poland in it in an effective, yet truthful and honest way. The Museum’s architectural and exhibition plans as well as its publishing activity deserve recognition. It is hard not to get the impression that the decision of liquidation conforms to the logic of political battle that consists in destroying institutions which have been established by the former government, irrespective of their merits. As historians, scholars and museologists, we can hardly accept this act of vandalism that is being performed thoughtlessly on our culture.”**

The letter of protest was signed by:

Jan Claas Behrends (Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam/Humboldt Universität zu Berlin), Włodzimierz Borodziej (Institute of History, University of Warsaw), Błażej Brzostek (Institute of History, University of Warsaw) Wiesław Caban (Institute of History, Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce) Andrzej Chojnowski (Institute of History, University of Warsaw), Antoni Dudek (Cardinal Wyszyński University in Warsaw), Gregor Feindt (University of Bremen), Jiří Friedl (Institute of History, Czech Academy of Sciences), Andrzej Friszke (Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences), Marek Gensler (Institute of Philosophy, University of Lodz), dr Justyna Górny (University of Warsaw), Maciej Górny (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences), Barbara Holzer (University of Warsaw/Collegium Civitas), Agnieszka Janiak-Jasińska (Institute of History, University of Warsaw), Maciej Janowski (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute

of History, Polish Academy of Sciences), Natalia Jarska (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences/Institute Of National Remembrance), Marcin Jarząbek (Jagiellonian University in Kraków), Agnieszka Jezierska-Wiśniewska (Institute of German Studies, University of Warsaw), Jerzy Kałużny (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań), Dobrochna Kałwa (Institute of History, University of Warsaw), Basil Kerski (European Solidarity Centre in Gdańsk), Edmund Kizik (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences/University of Gdańsk), Tomasz Kizwalter (Institute of History, University of Warsaw), Jerzy Kochanowski (Institute of History, University of Warsaw), Jan Kofman (Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences), Jacek Koltan (European Solidarity Centre in Gdańsk), Adam Kożuchowski (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences), Cezary Kuklo (University of Białystok), Wojciech Kriegseisen (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences), Sylwia Kuźma-Markowska (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw), Anna Landau (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences), Włodzimierz Lengauer (Institute of History, University of Warsaw), Dariusz Libionka (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences), Olga Linkiewicz (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences), Ewa Manikowska (Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences), Adam Manikowski (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences), Artur Markowski (Institute of History of the University of Warsaw) Małgorzata Mazurek (Columbia University, New York), Magdalena Micińska (Institute of History of the University of Warsaw), Maciej Mycielski (Institute of History of the University of Warsaw), Sławomir M. Nowinowski (University of Lodz), dr Joanna Nalewajko-Kulikow (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences), Andrzej Paczkowski, Krzysztof Pomian (École des hautes études en sciences sociales), Jerzy Pysiak (Institute of History of the University of Warsaw), Paweł Rodak (University of Warsaw), Anna Rosner (University of Warsaw), Krzysztof Ruchniewicz (Willy Brandt Center for German and European Studies of the University of Wrocław), Małgorzata Ruchniewicz (Institute of History of the University of Wrocław), Szymon Rudnicki (University of Warsaw), Magdalena Saryusz-Wolska (University of Lodz/German Historical Institute in Warsaw), Katarzyna Sierakowska (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences), Krystyna Stebnicka (Institute of History of the University of Warsaw), Rafał Stobiecki (University of Lodz), Dariusz Stola (Museum of the History of Polish Jews), Jan Surman (Herder Institute in Marburg), Anna Szczepańska-Dudziak (Institute of History and International Relations of the University of Szczecin), Jan Szemiński (Hebrew University of Jerusalem ) Henryk Szlajfer (University of Warsaw), Piotr Szlanta (Institute of History of the University of Warsaw), Andrzej Szwarc (Institute of History of the University of Warsaw) Jacek Tebinka (University of Gdańsk), Tomasz Torbus (Institute of Art History of the University of Gdańsk), Jan Trynkowski (University of Warsaw), Jacek Walicki (University of Lodz), Marek Węcowski (Institute of History of the University of Warsaw), Tobiasz Wege (Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg), Ewa Wiatr (University of Lodz), Przemysław Wiszewski (University of Wrocław), Aleksander Wolicki (Institute of History of the University of Warsaw), Mariusz Wołos (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of

History of the Polish Academy of Sciences), Zofia Wóycicka (Centre for Historical Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Berlin), Hanna Węgrzynek (Warsaw), Andrzej Zakrzewski (Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw), Krzysztof Zamorski (Jagiellonian University in Kraków), Hanna Zaremska (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences), Antoni Ziemba (National Museum in Warsaw), Elżbieta Zybert (University of Warsaw), Paweł Żmudzki (Institute of History of the University of Warsaw).

In addition, the letter of protest was signed by:

Hubert Bilewicz (Institute of Art History of the University of Gdańsk), Jochen Böhrer (Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena), Tadeusz Cegielski (Institute of History of the University of Warsaw), John Connelly (University of California, Berkeley), Jacek Chrobaczyński (Institute of History and Archival Studies of the Pedagogical University of Cracow), Mirosław Filipowicz, Paulina Gulinska-Jurgiel (Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies, Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg), Dariusz Jeziorny (Institute of History of the University of Lodz), Mirosław Piotr Kruk (Institute of Art History of the University of Gdańsk), Łukasz Niesiolowski-Spano (Institute of History of the University of Warsaw), Adam Puławski (Institute Of National Remembrance), Anna Sobecka (Institute of Art History of the University of Gdańsk), Krystyna Szelągowska (University of Białystok), Philipp Ther (University of Vienna), Romuald Turkowski (Institute of History of the University of Warsaw), Machteld Venken (University of Vienna), Piotr Witek (Institute of History of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin), Anna Wolff-Po-węska (Institute for Western Affairs in Poznań), Piotr Wróbel (University of Toronto), Anna Zapalec (Institute of History and Archival Studies of the Pedagogical University of Cracow).

On **26 April 2016**, the Polish National Committee of ICOM released a letter of support for the Museum:

“The Museum of the Second World War was established as an institution whose aim is to preserve the memory of this tragic conflict and its dramatic heritage in the form of material remains and in the whole complexity of political and social problems and cultural losses. The name of the insti-



tution — the Museum of the Second World War — opens up many opportunities of presenting these issues with educational, documentative and research purposes. More importantly, the Museum’s name, combined with its location in Gdańsk, reminds clearly of the fact that the Second World War started with the German attack on Poland on 1 September 1939 and it affected our country in a particular way through mass crimes on the civilians, deportations organised by the occupants or the genocide against the Jews and other nations. We thereby request that the Minister maintain the name and the structure of the exhibition that the Museum has already prepared and that will be available to the public in 2017. [...]

As museologists, we would also like to express our concern that the merger of both institutions could cause the dispersion of the collection of exhibits, gathered with a tremendous amount of effort and financial resources, that would lose its purpose in an institution devoted solely to the Polish defensive war of 1939.”

Dorota Folga-Januszewska  
President of the Polish National Committee of ICOM

On **4 May 2016**, the World Society of Home Army Soldiers released a letter of support for the Museum:

“We were full of hope that the Museum of the Second World War would duly commemorate — not only in the memory of the Poles, but also in the broadly defined historical memory of the world’s nations — the knowledge of the most bloody struggles in the history of humankind that were triggered by the two criminal regimes, which had brought death to millions of people and changed the fate of many nations. Today, the concept behind the Museum of the Second World War arouses great interest of historians and researchers. [...]





In the middle of the previous year, the Society donated the film collection of the Home Army Film Foundation to the Museum being an institution of the highest standard of competence [...]. This collection, created by the effort of the whole community, cannot be left unused in even the smallest part, since it is an indispensable element of patriotic education and our national tradition.

Therefore, we are keeping alive the hope that the permanent exhibition will be opened as soon as possible in the Museum's building of amazing and original architecture, built due to the laborious work of museologists, historians, builders and donors, including the soldiers of the Polish Underground State, and located in Gdańsk.”

Chairman of the executive board of the World Society of Home Army Soldiers  
Leszek Żukowski

On **4 May 2016**, international historians released a letter of support for the Museum:

“The exhibition shows indelibly the costs Poland bore as the first nation to say no to Hitler, but also highlights Poland's contributions to victory on innumerable fronts: military, diplomatic, intellectual and moral. Each episode is treated in dispassionate professional terms, and will make Poles proud of the nation's heroism, but also of its willingness to confront difficult questions that emerge from its past. The museum does justice to the history of a people that has suffered under regimes of propaganda and distortion, and knows perhaps better than any other that truth sets us free.

Foreign audiences will flock to this museum because it is about World War II across the globe. But precisely its global reach permits visitors to encounter inspiring deeds of Poland's past on a background in which they can be seen and understood.”

excerpt from the letter

The letter of support was signed by:

Bob Abzug (University of Texas at Austin), Damir Agičić (University of Zagreb), Natalia Aleksiu (Touro College, New York), Keith Allen (History Associates), Tarik Cyril Amar (Columbia University), Patryk Babiracki (University of Texas-Arlington), Jordan Baev (Bulgarian Association of Military History), Frank Bajohr (Institute of Contemporary History, Munich), Dilek Barlas (Koç University), Jan C. Behrends (Centre for Con-

temporary History, Potsdam), Csaba Békés (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest), Jakub Benes (University of Oxford), Paul Betts (University of Oxford), Frank Biess (University of California, San Diego), Guenter Bischof (University of New Orleans), Henrik Björck, (University of Gothenburg), Jim Bjork (King's College, London), Monica Black (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), David W. Blight (Yale University), Robert Blobaum (West Virginia University), Ingrid Boehler (University of Innsbruck), Jochen Boehler (Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena), Andras Bozoki (Central European University), Gregg Brazinsky (George Washington University), Paulina Bren (Vassar College), Ulf Brunnbauer (University of Regensburg), Chad Bryant (University of North Carolina), Malcolm Byrne (National Security Archive, George Washington University), Holly Case (Cornell University), Johann Chapoutot (Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris), George Chauncey (Yale University), Winson Chu (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee), Patricia Clavin (University of Oxford), John Connelly (University of California, Berkeley), Sarah Cramsey (Tulane University), David Crew (University of Texas at Austin), David Crowley (Royal College of Art), Barbara Czarniawska (University of Gothenburg), Patrice Dabrowski (University of Vienna), Roumen Daskalov (Central European University), Michael David-Fox (Georgetown University), Norman Davies (University of London), Istvan Deak (Columbia University), Brian Delay (University of California, Berkeley), Ruud van Dijk (University of Amsterdam), Jozef Dodziuk (Queens College of CUNY), Grzegorz Ekiert (Harvard University), Melissa Feinberg (Rutgers University), Malgorzata Fidelis (University of Illinois at Chicago), M. Stephen Fish (University of California, Berkeley), Paul Freedman (Yale University), Joanne Freeman (Yale University), Max Paul Friedman (American University), John Gad-dis (Yale University), Charles Gati (Johns Hopkins University), Jens Gieseke (Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam), Ewa A. Golebiowska (Wayne State University), Jan Grabowski (University of Ottawa), Maximilian Graf (University of Vienna), Andrea Graziosi (University of Naples Federico II), Emily Greble (City College of New York), Udi Greenberg (Dartmouth College), Bettina Greiner (Berlin Center for Cold War Studies), Anna Grzymala-Busse (University of Michigan), Gábor Gyáni (Hungarian Academy of Sciences), Lars Peder Haga (Royal Norwegian Air Force Academy), William W. Hagen (University of California, Davis), Paul Hanebrink (Rutgers University), Jussi Hanhimaki (Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies), Robert Harms (Yale University), Hope Harrison (George Washington University), Jonathan Haslam (Princeton University), Maria Heller (Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest), Jeffrey Herf (University of Maryland), James G. Hershberg (George Washington University), Christina von Hodenberg (Queen Mary University of London), Stefan-Ludwig Hoffmann (University of California, Berkeley), Sándor Horváth (Hungarian Academy of Sciences), Holly Robertson Huffnagle (Westmont College), Robert Hutchings (University of Texas at Austin), Bogdan C. Iacob (New Europe College), Viviana Iacob (New Europe College), Matthew Jacobson (Yale University), Tvrko Jakovina (University of Zagreb), Konrad Jarausch (University of North Carolina), Francisco Javier Rodriguez Jimenez (University of Extremadura), Alison Frank Johnson (Harvard University), A. Ross Johnson (Woodrow Wilson Center), Tom Junes (Human and Social Studies Foundation, Sofia), Wolfram Kaiser (University of Portsmouth), Tomasz Kamusella (University of St.

Andrews), László Karsai (University of Szeged), Jesse Kauffman (Eastern Michigan University), Dane Kennedy (George Washington University), Paul Kennedy (Yale University), Padraic Kenney (Indiana University), Jeffrey P. Kimball (Miami University, Ohio), Axel Klausmeier (Berlin Wall Museum), Jennifer Klein (Yale University), Piotr Kosicki (University of Maryland), Éva Kovács (Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust), Claudia Kraft (University of Siegen), James Krapfl (McGill University), Peter Mario Kreuter (Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg), Ireneusz Krzemiński (University of Warsaw), Markus Krzowska (University of Giessen), Jan Kubik (University College London), Mikołaj Kunicki (University of Oxford), Ana Lalaj (Cold War Albanian Study Center), Naomi Lamoreaux (Yale University), Katherine Lebow (Vienna Wiesenthal Institute), Thomas W. Laqueur (University of California, Berkeley), Melvyn P. Leffler (University of Virginia), Stephan Lehnstaedt (Touro College Berlin), Erica Lehrer (Concordia University), György Lengyel (Corvinus University of Budapest), Noel Lenski (Yale University), Tony Levitas (Brown University), Tatjana Lichtenstein (University of Texas at Austin), Thomas Lindenberger (Centre for Contemporary History), Olga Linkiewicz (Polish Academy of Sciences), Daniel Logemann (Friedrich Schiller University Jena), Torsten Lorenz (Charles University), Andrea Löw (Institute of Contemporary History, Munich), Igor Lukes (Boston University), Christoph Lüthy (Radboud University), Charles S. Maier (Harvard University), Joseph Manning (Yale University), Juergen Martschukat (Erfurt University), Małgorzata Mazurek (Columbia University), Allan Megill (University of Virginia), Michael Meng (Clemson University), Sonya Michel (University of Maryland), Miroslav Michela (Charles University, Prague), Anna Muller (University of Michigan, Dearborn), Magdalena Najbar-Agičić (University North Koprivnica, Croatia), Norman Naimark (Stanford University), Benjamin Nathans (University of Pennsylvania), Mary Neuberger (University of Texas at Austin), John Neuberger (University of Texas at Austin), Cathal J. Nolan (Boston University), Leopoldo Nuti (Roma Tre University), Stanisław Obirek (University of Warsaw), Burkhard Olschowsky (Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg), Andrea Orzoff (New Mexico State University), David Ost (Hobart and William Smith Colleges), Christian Ostermann (Woodrow Wilson Center), Jerry G. Pankhurst (Wittenberg University), Neal Pease (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Peter C. Perdue (Yale University), György Péteri (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), Hans-Christian Petersen (Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg), Martin Piaček (Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Bratislava), Steven Pincus (Yale University), Antonio Costa Pinto (University of Lisbon), Andrew Port (Wayne State University), Sergey Radchenko (Cardiff University), Janos M. Rainer (Eszterházy Károly University), Sabrina P. Ramet (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), Alfred Joseph Rieber (Central European University), Peter Romijn (University of Amsterdam), Bernd Rother (Berlin), Henry Rousso (French National Center for Scientific Research, Paris), Pål Thonstad Sandvik (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), Daniel Sargent (University of California, Berkeley), Wolfgang Schmidt (Berlin), Thomas Schwartz (Vanderbilt University), Steven Seegel (University of Northern Colorado), Douglas Selvage (Berlin), Marci Shore (Yale University), Polina Sinovets (Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University), Timothy Snyder (Yale University), Tadeusz Sobolewski (Gazeta Wyborcza), Jörg Später

(Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg), Stephan Stach (Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic), Krzysztof Stala (University of Copenhagen), Sybille Steinbacher (University of Vienna), Beate Störtkuhl (Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg), Bernhard Struck (University of St. Andrews), Svetlana Suveica (Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg), John C. Swanson (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga), Ole Magnus Theisen (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), Philipp Ther (University of Vienna), Gregor Thum (University of Pittsburgh), Vladimir Tismaneanu (University of Maryland), Stefan Troebst (Leipzig University), Oldrich Tuma (Institute for Contemporary History, Prague), Tobias Weger (Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg), Jason Wittenberg (University of California, Berkeley), Sharon L. Wolchik (George Washington University), Larry Wolff (New York University), Piotr Wrobel (University of Toronto), Charles Wynn (University of Texas at Austin), Kimberly Elman Zarecor (Iowa State University), Jürgen Zarusky (Institute of Contemporary History, Munich), Jonathan R. Zatlín (Boston University), Marina Zavacká (Slovak Academy of Sciences), Philip Zelikow (University of Virginia).

On **24 and 25 May 2016**, the 30th session of the International Auschwitz Council under the Prime Minister of Poland was held. Members of the Council adopted a resolution concerning the Museum of the Second World War, which reads as follows:

**“The International Auschwitz Council cherishes the hope that the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk will continue its existing activity and its permanent exhibition will be opened in the shape which had been given by the most prominent historians and museologists in the course of years. Presenting the martyrdom and fight of the Polish nation as well as the Holocaust of Jews and other national groups which were exterminated by the Third Reich, the permanent exhibition at the Museum of the Second World War is probably the first attempt, made on a grand scale and in an organised way, to connect different issues that form a full picture of the Second World War.**

**The Council recognises the achievements of historians, managed by Paweł Machcewicz, who are preparing the permanent exhibition. The Council also appeals to the Polish authorities to do everything in their power so as the imminent opening of the exhibition planned at the beginning of 2017 will take place. The Museum in its designed shape has a possibility to become a crucial part of Polish and global cultural heritage, that is an institution of great importance to the memory of the biggest tragedy in the history of humankind.”**

On **28 June 2016**, Jerzy W. Borejsza, a member of the Advisory Board of the Museum of the Second World War, made a statement:

“I made a written appeal for the founding of a museum of the Second World War in 1985. I suggested it be located in the Wolfsschanze — Hitler’s headquarters near Kętrzyn. The idea didn’t receive approval in Warsaw at that time. Now I think that both the Wolfsschanze and Westerplatte ought to function as branches of the Museum of the Second World War, portraying extremely important episodes of history. But the museum itself — its exhibition — is built around a universal idea: presenting the entire Second World War and its threat to the civilian populations of many countries. Such an exhibition is entirely appropriate in the centre of Europe, in a place that Norman Davies, a member of the Advisory Board, called the ‘heart of Europe’. Our exhibition shows the community of fate in occupied Europe. It also shows the differences in the treatment of civilians and prisoners of war in Western Europe as compared to the East of the continent. No European museum has ever created such a large-scale panorama. [...]

I am the only living witness to the notorious mass murder of Jews committed in Copernicus Street, Lwów (Lviv, now Ukraine) in the summer of 1941 by German and Ukrainian fascists immediately after the city’s capture by Hitler’s troops. I was six then. My mother saved me. I was meant to be recording my recollections for the museum right now. But the member of the academic staff who had discussed the issue with me is extremely uncertain about their job and future. The museum staff have been under great stress for several months. [...]

So I make an appeal: it is the last possible moment — and high time — to leave in peace the staff who are about to open what is in my opinion one of the best museums in Poland. Two hundred historians recently declared their support for the museum. Who, then, is against it?

I don’t wish to compare the idea of a Museum of the Second World War with a Museum of the History of Poland. I also support the idea for the latter museum — as having key importance. There is enough room in Poland for various museums and for historical truth, but they ought not to be places for Herostratuses.

The Temple of Artemis was never rebuilt in Ephesus.”

On **13 August 2016**, Andrzej Nowak and Timothy Snyder released a joint letter of support for the Museum:

“It is natural that historians differ in interpreting the past and assessing the present, which also concerns the below-signed. Analogically, historical museums in Poland and other countries present very different images of the past. None of us would have designed the exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War exactly as it looks today. We both recognize, however, that the exhibition reflects both the historical truth in the dimension of the overall image of the war and Poland’s special place within it. We agree that the Museum of the Second World War, in its present form, would create a unique opportunity for Poles to learn about the war beyond Polish borders as well as for foreign visitors to learn about the Polish history.

As a member of the Advisory Board of the Museum of the Second World War (Snyder) and as a Polish historian not engaged in this undertaking (Nowak) we would like to express our hope that both the Museum and its exhibition will be finished and opened as it has been planned.”

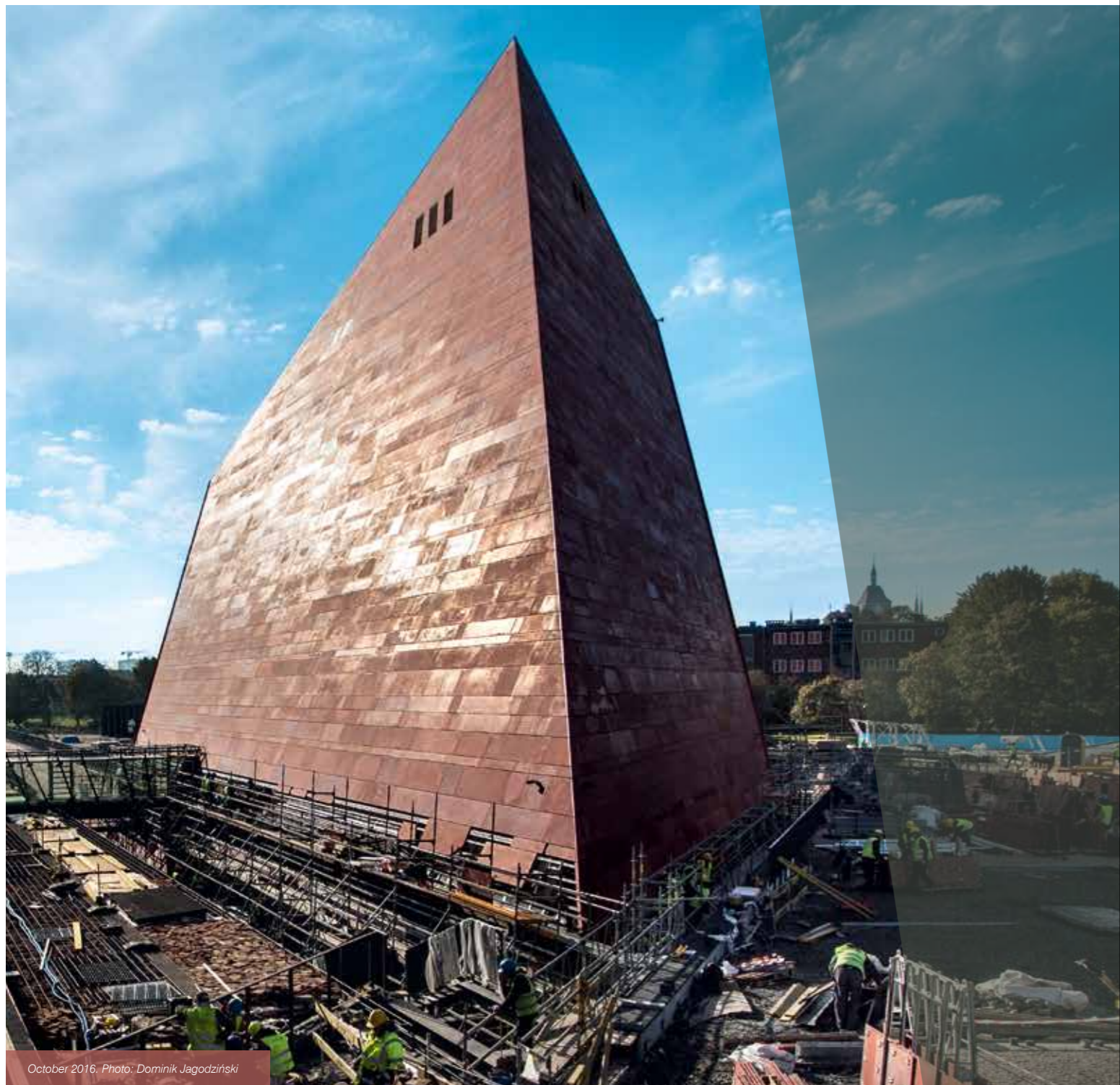
Moreover, letters of support for the Museum were sent by Polish and foreign institutions:

The Pomeranian branch of the World Society of Home Army Soldiers, the Pomeranian branch of the Council for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression, the Liberation Route Europe Foundation, the General Zawacka Foundation, the President of the American Historical Association, Airbone Museum (Oosterbeek, the Netherlands), the Allied

Museum (Berlin, Germany), the War Museum Eyewitness (Beek, the Netherlands), the Liberation Museum Zeeland (Nieuwdorp, the Netherlands), the Overloon War Museum (the Netherlands), the Airborne Feelings Foundation (the Netherlands), the National Liberation Museum (Groesbeek, the Netherlands), the Conditio Humana (Brno, the Czech Republic), the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies (Amsterdam, the Netherlands), the National Fund for Peace, Freedom and Veterans Care (the Netherlands), the Historiale of Cassino (Italy), the Gustav LiNe Association (Italy), the General Maczek Museum in Breda (the Netherlands), historians Jiří Friedl and Keith Lowe, the Mayor of Eijsden-Margraten, the Mayor of Beuningen (the Netherlands), the Visit Brabant (Oisterwijk, the Netherlands), the NTBC Holland Marketing, BUITEN Consultancy (Utrecht, the Netherlands).







October 2016. Photo: Dominik Jagodziński

---

## Museum construction



Between January and May 2016, the construction crew mainly conducted work inside the building, in the underground section and the tower, as well as in the administration building. The work included, for instance, the production of structural and architectural elements, the installation of flooring and internal walls and the fitting of electrical, tele-technical, sprinkler, sanitary and air-conditioning and ventilation installations. Moreover, the crew carried out finishing works, that is plastering, painting, tile laying, assembling interior fittings such as rails, subconstructions of suspended ceilings, elements of toilets, the cinema auditorium and conference hall (stage system technology), lighting, installing ironwork and joinery, and assembling lifts and platforms, the majority of which was notified for acceptance procedure executed by the Office of Technical Inspection.

Simultaneously with the work performed in all sections inside the Museum the crew was also performing other tasks outside the building connected with installing the façade (on the tower and administration building), the steel construction of the tower façade and glass skylights, assembling decorative gabions in the moat, reconstructing Stara Stocznia Street, laying the main square with paving blocks, and preparing the electric installation and heating network.

In the second half of the year the already mentioned works continued. It was also the time when first as-built documentations (devoted to the reconstruction of Stara Stocznia Street) were accepted, the commissioning of selected rooms in the building and the start-up of installations was performed, and when the final works connected with sealing the diaphragm walls and their acceptance. In the last quarter the general contractor continued its works related to furnishing and the production of other structure components that were necessary to obtain the occupancy permit. Moreover, the Museum staff were trained in the use of devices and control systems in the building.

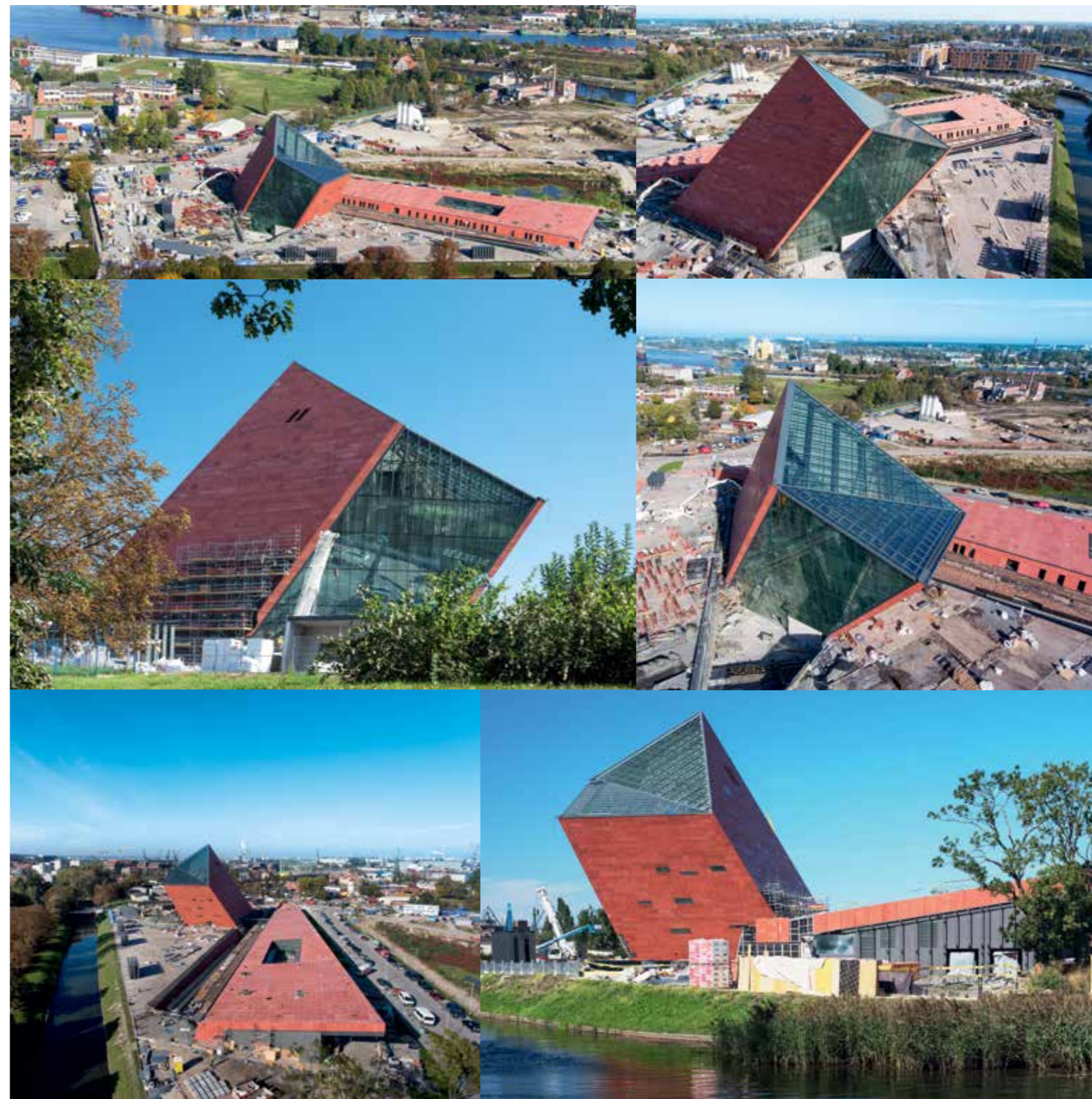


Photo: Dominik Jagodziński

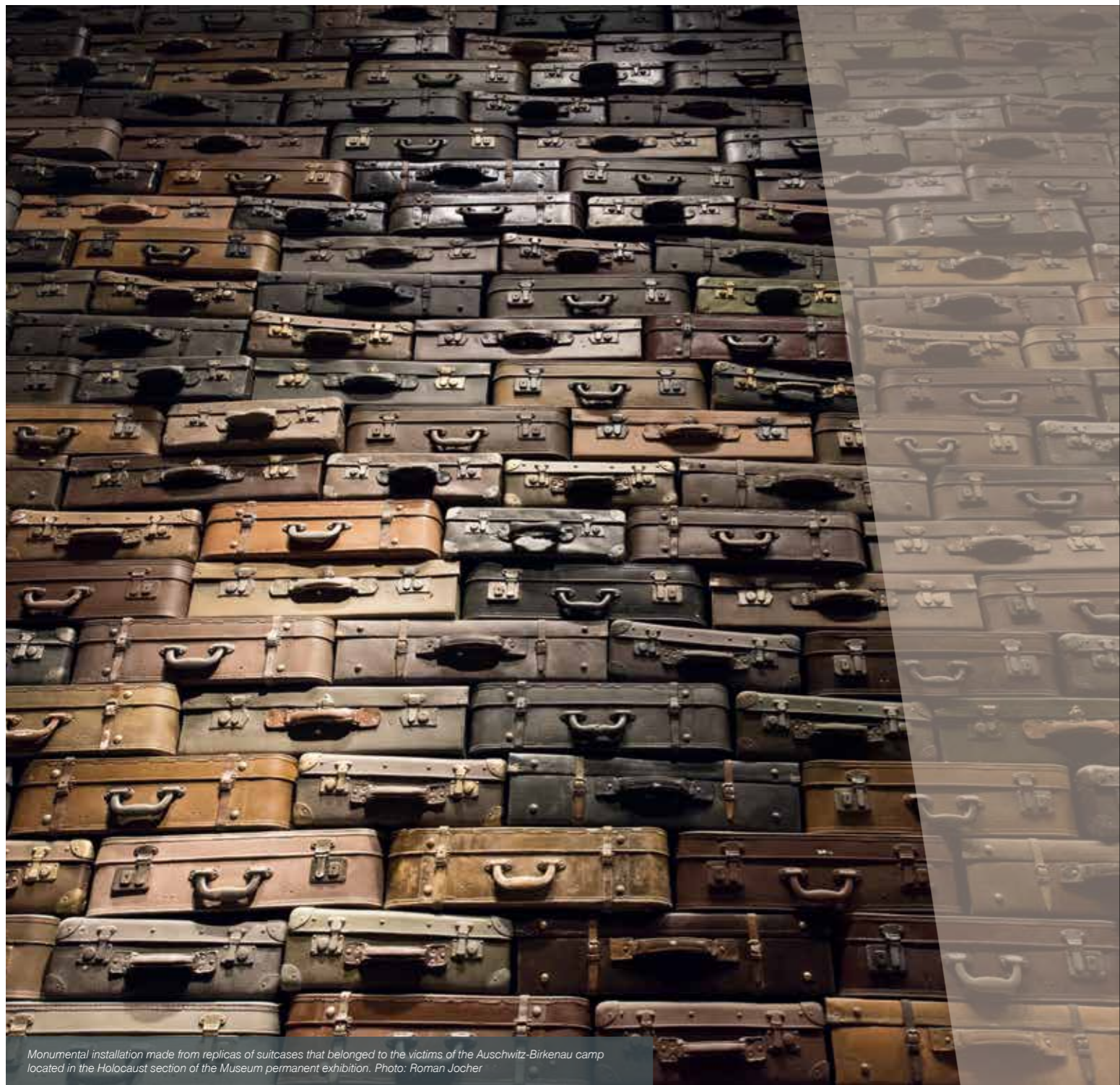
#### THE TRICITY WINGS (SKRZYDŁA TRÓJMIASTA) AWARD FOR THE MUSEUM BUILDING

On 6 October, the building of the Museum of the Second World War won the award in the category of the Best Tricity Building in the architectural competition the Tricity Wings organised by the website [Trojmiasto.pl](http://Trojmiasto.pl). The award was collected by Bazyl Domsza on behalf of the 'Kwadrat' Architecture Studio, which designed the building.

The Museum was nominated for its "modern construction and the unique architectural design of the museum building, where the things most important from the historical perspective are not above the ground but underneath it." In the online voting, **the project received 5,331 votes.**



October 2016.  
Aerial photographs: Dominik Werner.  
Remaining photos: Roman Jocher



## Work on the permanent exhibition

*Monumental installation made from replicas of suitcases that belonged to the victims of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp located in the Holocaust section of the Museum permanent exhibition. Photo: Roman Jocher*





Permanent exhibition's room devoted to deportations. November 2016.  
Photo: Roman Jocher



As a result of a limited tender a consortium led by the Qumak Company from Warsaw was chosen in April 2015 to execute the Museum's permanent exhibition.

In the beginning of 2016, the work was focused on the production of the exhibition (display cases and furniture, elements of the scenography and equipment, multimedia devices) and preparation of shop drawings as well as on arrangements between the Tempora Company, which had designed the exhibition, and the Museum. Apart from the advanced production of elements of the scenography (stored in a storehouse and reported to be collected), construction work was still being performed, which included the assembly of anchors and subconstructions of partition walls with facing, the fitting of electrical and tele-technical installations and the assembly of lighting.

In the first half of 2016, the Museum's activity concentrated on the final corrections and verification of the films and multimedia presentations prepared by the NoLabel Company. The texts that would accompany the said materials were verified, corrected and translated into English. We were also obtaining the copyright for the film materials and images which suit the needs of the exhibition.



Works on the permanent exhibition.  
June–November 2016.  
Photo: Roman Jocher

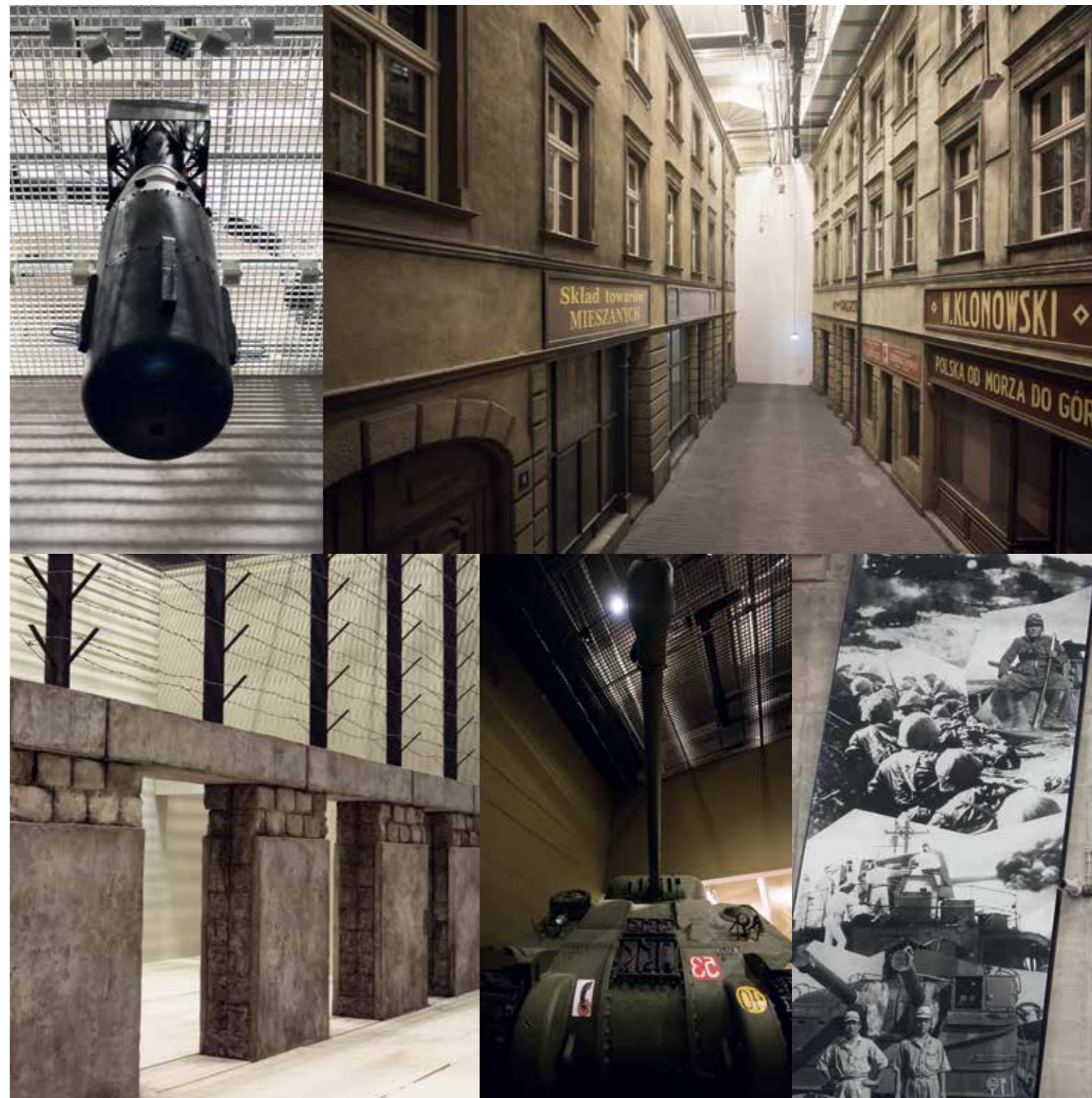


Permanent exhibition.  
December 2016.  
Photo: Roman Jocher

In the third quarter, the elements produced by the contractor were collected by the Museum. At this stage, the advanced production process of the scenography continued. The exhibition for children "Time travel" was finished and the production and assembly of scenography in other sections of the permanent exhibition began. Moreover, we finally obtained the copyright for the film materials and images.

In the last quarter, the contractor in cooperation with the investor's supervisor and the designer continued to produce the permanent exhibition: in its rooms both the assembly of the scenography and advanced construction work (finishing coats on walls and finishing layers on floors, subconstructions to assembly the devices and equipment, low-current installations) were performed. Towards the end of the year, additional construction works started that were necessary to obtain normative parameters connected with the Voice Alarm System (acoustic plaster and graphics).

In January 2017, work on the permanent exhibition came to an end. It consists of 18 finished and equipped rooms, where the display cases to present the exhibits and multimedia stands are located.



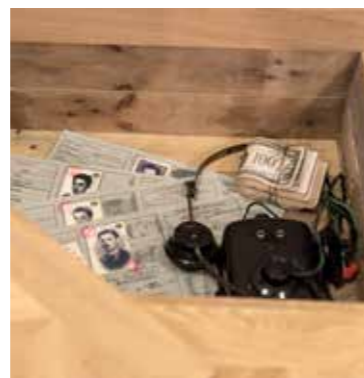
Permanent exhibition.  
December 2016.  
Photo: Roman Jocher



---

## Exhibitions

*"Time Travel" — exhibition for children. A reconstruction of the flat in Warsaw after the end of the war.  
Photo: Roman Jocher*



*"Time travel" — exhibition for children. A reconstruction of the flat in Warsaw several days after the outbreak of the war and during the German occupation; a secret hiding place for documents in the floor.  
Photo: Roman Jocher*

## The exhibition for children "Time travel"

In September 2016, the "Time travel" exhibition addressed at children below the age of 12 was finished. It is a reconstruction of a flat of a Warsaw family during three periods: on 5 September 1939 — several days after the outbreak of the Second World War, 15 March 1943 — during the German occupation, and 8 May 1945 — immediately after its end. These interiors reconstruct the living conditions of a Polish family. The changing elements of the interior design reflect the changing political, social and economic situation in the occupied and fighting country.

They make the visitors aware of the gradually worsening living conditions, such as, the shortages of necessities and the restrictions imposed by the occupier and the ways of dealing with those difficulties. The exposition focuses on presenting the stances of the family members, describing their engagement in the anti-German underground and civil forms of resistance, including clandestine education. Another important thread in the narration is the fate of the Jewish population, presented with the example of the fate of the family's pre-war neighbours. The visitors travel through the occupation years with the Jankowski family of five. The story was constructed with the use of elements typical of wartime biographies of Polish intellectuals. An important element of the narration are the testimonies made in each period by the youngest members of the family, Andrzej and Halina, and

illustrated with archival photos. The multimedia presentations installed in the scenography show the most characteristic elements of Warsaw street life and supplement the story about the changing reality of Poland and Poles during the Second World War and after the end of the German occupation.

## Archaeological exhibition "There once was Wiadrownia"

In the Museum, there is an archaeological exhibition "There once was Wiadrownia". It demonstrates the past of the district which used to be called Wiadrownia where the Museum is built. With the objects unearthed during the excavation works, the exhibition presents the history of this place, which dates back to the 16th century, and its inhabitants. The exhibition is situated in the Museum tower and it will be widely available for visitors.

The archaeological excavations, which preceded the construction of the Museum of the Second World War, revealed the remains of Wiadrownia, a district that had been wiped off the map of Gdańsk due to military actions of 1945. The unearthed fragments of the forgotten microworld that used to be inhabited by the former residents of the district connected the Museum with the place where it was being constructed. Once again, one could walk along the non-existent paved Wielka Street (Grosse Gasse), among the buildings that used to stand there. Some of its pavement stones were used to pave the main alley of the Museum permanent exhibition.

## Virtual exhibition

To commemorate the 77th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War, *Gazeta Wyborcza Trójmiasto* prepared at the beginning of September a multimedia reportage, based on the materials from the *Catalogue of the permanent exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War*, which presented the history of Museum construction as well as the most important events to be displayed in the respective rooms of the exhibition. Apart from historical texts prepared by a team of the Museum staff, the reportage included the archival photos and exhibits from the Museum collection. It consisted of the history of the Museum construction and three sections whose subjects corresponded to the division of the permanent exhibition. Four days since its upload, the multimedia reportage was viewed by more than 200,000 people.



---

## Collection



Currently, the Museum collection comprises **more than 40,000 items**. In 2016, **we obtained 2,936 items**, including **1,696 items received from donators**.

This process has been facilitated by our close contacts with combatants and veterans as well as our cooperation with many institutions in Poland and abroad.

Some of the most precious items obtained in 2016 are:

■ Metal standing cross with the image of crucified Jesus Christ, donated by Halina Kopacz. The memento was rescued from Yanova Dolina on Easter day in 1943, when the Ukrainian nationalists brutally murdered a few hundred Poles and burnt the village to the ground. Halina Kopacz's close relatives were sheltered by a German family, whose house was not attacked by the Ukrainians. With the sense of powerlessness, they were watching this tragedy through the windows.

■ Silver-plated painting of Our Lady of Częstochowa, made in wood, given to Aniela Berwertz's great-great-grandmother as a wedding gift around 1841. As a family memento, it has been handed down from generation to generation in the donator's family. During the Warsaw Uprising, the painting was rescued and carried away from the house at Mokotowska Street by Cecylia Zaleska 'Tancerka', who served as a Home Army nurse in a sanitary centre at Opaczewska Street 1.

Other noteworthy exhibits that enriched the Museum's collection in 2016 are:

#### Components of soldiers' uniforms and equipment

■ Burberry raincoat of propaganda and education officer Antoni Stelmach, who served in the Polish Armed Forces in the West. Before the war, he was a teacher in the Belarusian and Polish frontier. After 17 September 1939, he was repeatedly interrogated by the NKVD and accused of trying to polonize the Belarusian population. He was sentenced to three years of forced labour camp in Siberia and deported to a gulag in Kotlas, where he worked building a railway track. When the Sikorski-Mayski Agreement was signed in 1941, he was released and enlisted in the Polish Army.

■ French MAS-36 rifle. The Polish detachments were equipped with rifles of this kind during the 1940 military campaign in Norway and France.

■ British metal ammunition box used as a suitcase by Piotr Bazyliko, soldier of the Polish II Corps in Italy.

■ Sleeping bag and shirt of Adam Stachowicz, a soldier of communication detachments of the Polish II Corps in Italy. The mementos were donated by Pawel Stachowicz.

■ British leather flying gloves used by the RAF Bomber Command crews.

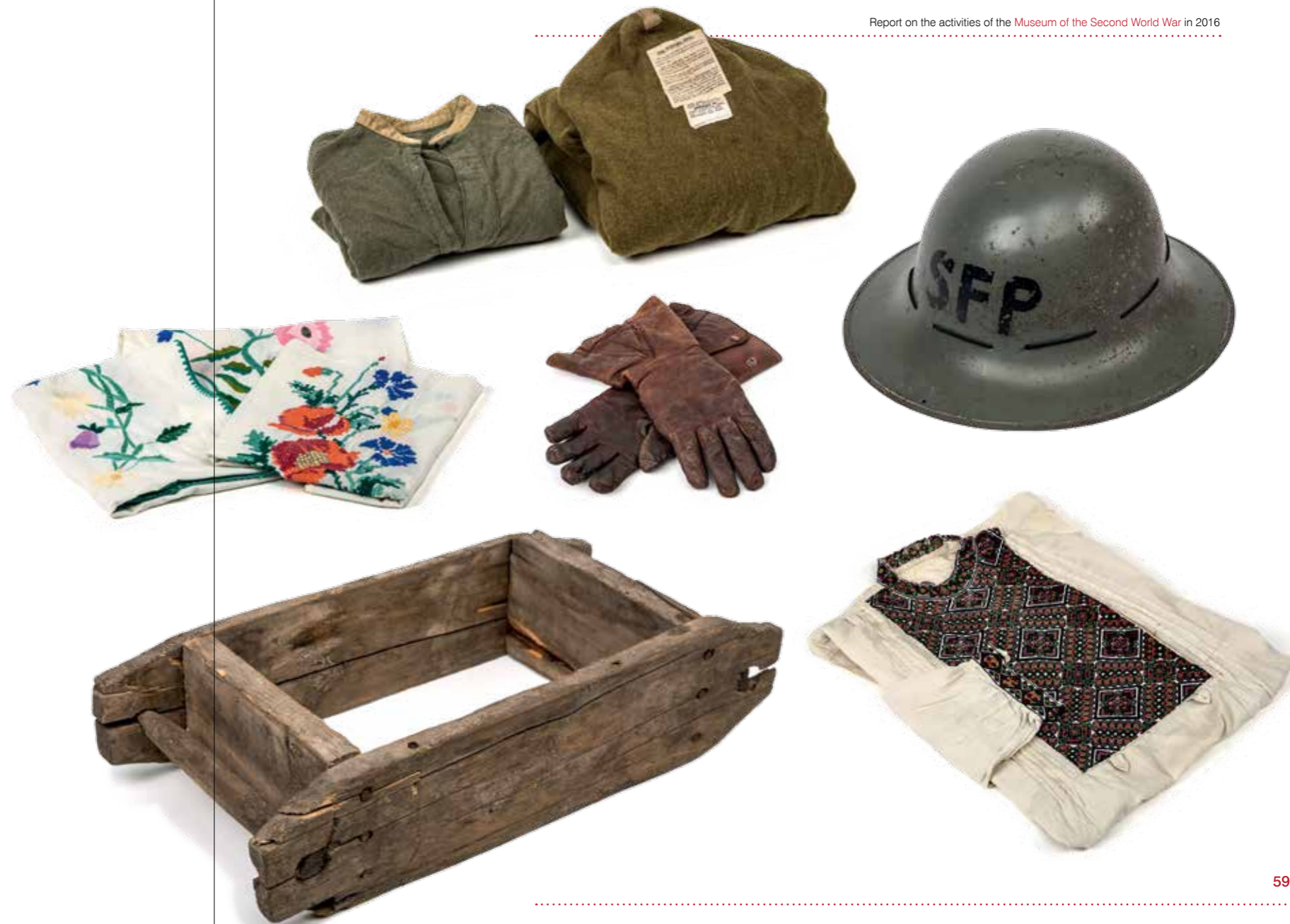
■ British helmet used by personnel of voluntary fire brigade, Street Fire Parties, between 1941 and 1945.

#### Everyday life, life in exile

■ Three towels embroidered by hand by Kazimiera Bartyszewska's mother, who was deported with her family by the Soviet authorities from Ukraine to Kazakhstan in 1936. The family was forced by the Soviet soldiers to pack all their belongings and leave within twenty-four hours. The father died in 1944 leaving the mother alone with her four children. Embroidered before the deportation, the towels are a memento of Bartyszewska's mother.

■ Wooden form to produce 'samans', that is blocks used to build houses and outbuildings in Kazakhstan. 'Samans' were made of clay and straw, sometimes cow manure was added. This wet mixture was trodden in forms by women and children. Then, blocks were dried in the sun. This popular production of building material was characteristic of almost all places where the deportees were sent. The memento from Kransodolsk in the northern Kazakhstan was donated by Dmitriy Panto.

■ Linen shirt of a Ukrainian peasant, Ilya Baliya, deported with his family from village Szychowice (Hrubieszów county) to town Rozhyshe in Volhynia. Some elements of the shirt were ornamented with simple, very small hand embroidery stitches. In the Museum collection thanks to the generosity of Nadia Stasiuk.





### Camps, the Holocaust

■ Inmate Eugenia Durys's ring made at the camp in Stutthof. During the war, she worked in the office of the Port of Gdynia and participated in the organisation of transferring people to Sweden. Among them was, for instance, Jan Nowak-Jeziorański. She probably helped him obtain the necessary documents so that he could enter the port. In 1943, she was arrested and sent to the Stutthof concentration camp. With the liquidation of the camp due to the approaching front line, she walked in a column of the death march. Having managed to run away, Durys returned to Gdynia after the war. She was repressed for her involvement in the anti-communist activity. On the ring, there are her initials 'GD' (Gienia Durys), camp number 24924 and a red badge (triangle), a symbol worn by political prisoners. The ring was made of horsehair and engraved plastic fragments (probably from toothbrushes) that although were forbidden in the camp, some women managed to keep them.

■ Camp blanket of a Mauthausen (and before Auschwitz) concentration camp inmate, Marcin Mleczak. One of the things he took away from him in 1945 when the camp was liberated by the American troops. The memento was donated by his son, Eugeniusz Mleczak. According to the testimony, the coarse, grey blanket with blue stripes was made, for instance, from human hair. The specialised examination commissioned in the spring of 2016 confirmed that it consisted of a mix of cotton as well as animal and human hairs. Probably, the hair was obtained during the compulsory shaving of the newly arrived to the camp.

■ Camp cap of an Auschwitz, Dachau and Buchenwald concentration camps inmate, Czesław Stachurski. Before the war, he was a teacher and headmaster in Chmielnik. He participated in the Polish campaign of 1939. Next year, he was arrested by the Gestapo whom found the underground-related materials hidden in the bedding during the search. He was deported in one of the first transports to Auschwitz, from where he would be soon transported to Dachau and then Buchenwald, where he stayed until the camp liberation by the American troops in April 1945.



Photograph collections, letters, prints

■ Insurance card number 244914665, issued in Ostrowiec (General Government) on 11 July 1940 to Krystyna Strachanowska. Born in Czerniki property in Kashubia, Krystyna Strachanowska finished the Ursuline Sisters' primary school in Kościerzyna and then studied in a secondary school and high school in Tczew. After the German troops' invasion of Poland, her father and older brother were arrested and executed in Skarszewy, whereas Krystyna with her mother and sister were displaced. Since they were defined as landowners, they could not return to Czerniki when the war ended and they were banned from approaching their former property that had been nationalised.

■ *Personalausweis* (German identification card) number 367, issued to Dr Witold Tylusiński on 31 December 1943. The document of the medical doctor who worked in a hospital in Kielce. In the autumn of 1940, Dr Tylusiński and Dr Kamiński were appointed by the German Army medical service to give Wehrmacht soldiers preventive vaccination against tropical diseases. Having passed on the information to the Polish intelligence service, they contributed to the discovery of a plan to redeploy the Afrika Korps, a German expeditionary corps formed in order to support the Italian Army, to North Africa.

■ Album with portraits of nine officers of the Gdynia III Battalion of National Defence made during German captivity by Lieutenant Tadeusz Dworzański on the occasion of the name day of Major Franciszek Piotrowiak in 1942.

■ Black and white photo of the footbridge over Zgierska Street in the Łódź ghetto.

■ Black and white photo of the Jews forced to work at the market square in Zamość.

■ French poster "Revolution nationale" (national revolution) with the image of Marshal Philippe Pétain and the French flag, printed by the collaborationist Vichy regime. Author: Philippe Henri Noyer, 1940.

■ Drawings made by Ludwik Nowakowski in 1940 from his stay in Soviet captivity and a labour camp in 1939. The drawings were donated by Magdalena Nowakowska-Sieroszevska.





Field gun caisson from the equipment of the artillery of the Polish Army of the Second Republic of Poland after conservation. Some pre-war signs were partially preserved.  
Photo: Marcin Westphal

## Conservation

Objects received in poor condition undergo conservation, the main purpose of which is to stop the process of deterioration of the individual items and make them exhibition-worthy. All conservation is conducted with respect for the signs of the passing of time and antiquity value.

In 2016, 175 items underwent full conservation, including a caisson of the French 75mm field gun, model 1897/16 (known as the French 75), which underwent conservation and reconstruction of some of its parts. Moreover, 553 items underwent fumigation, that is a protective conservation. We also made 132 facsimiles of metal, paper and cloth items, which are to be displayed on the permanent exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War.

A caisson to the French 75 was designed in France at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. The Polish Army was equipped with the French guns and caissons during the period of the Second Republic of Poland. The caisson that is in the Museum collection was found in 2012 in the place where on 2 September 1939 the Polish VI Armoured Division fought with the 5 Panzer Division of the Wehrmacht, that is near Pszczyna, in the vicinity of Wiklice village. When found, it was the wreckage of caisson. Many elements were missing. The aim of the performed work was to conserve the preserved elements, reconstruct the missing fragments and secure the whole item to such an extent that it would be safe to display it in museum conditions.

Ammunition box and tubes of the field gun caisson before and after conservation.  
Photo: Marcin Westphal



Last year, a gondola car from the brickyard where Stutthof inmates were forced to work also underwent conservation. During the war, similar cars were used by the inmates to transport loose building materials. Due to its construction, it was easy to empty out the car on its both sides. Because of its poor condition with active corrosion, the gondola car underwent a thorough process of renovation. When it was disassembled, the corrosion processes were impeded. Then all elements of the car were painted with primer and two layers of finish coat. Finally, the car was assembled and covered with a patina. Two fragments of narrow-gauge rails, attached to the car, also underwent renovation. As an exhibit of great value that testifies to gruelling work of concentration camp inmates, it has been displayed on the Museum permanent exhibition.

Gondola rail car from the brickyard where prisoners of the Stutthof concentration camp worked during the war.  
Photo: Dominik Jagodziński





Meetings of the Museum staff with the eyewitnesses: Stanisław Dąbrowski and Lucja Świchtowska-Lysakowa.

## Inventory of the collection

The collection is inventoried in the ZEUS Electronic System of Museum Collection Inventory, tailored to our needs. The ZEUS programme is a comprehensive database, which enables us, for example, to describe the exhibits in accordance with Polish law and at the same time edit our museum inventory and create filing cards for items. The implemented solutions enable not only topographic location of the objects, but also registration of all conservation of a given item. The database is also a platform for future publication and exchange of information about the collection on the Internet.

## Second World War eyewitness accounts

Our collection also includes video recordings. In 2016, **67 recordings of interviews with eyewitnesses** were made, 24 of which were made in Poland, 26 in Ukraine, 12 in Kazakhstan and 5 in Germany. The interviews conducted in Poland were recorded, for instance, in Gdańsk, Gdynia, Warsaw, Olkusz, Żukowo and Starogard Gdański. Some of the broad spectrum of topics of the recordings made in Poland:

- the events of September 1939,
- the occupier's terror toward the Polish and Jewish populations,

Recording the interview with eyewitnesses of the war in Kazakhstan: Ebulakir Abilajew, a Tatar deported from the Crimea to the Ural Mountains, and Zaksalyk Erdesowa, a deported Pole living in Taraz.



- clandestine teaching,
- forced labour of Polish children in Germany,
- camps: KL Stutthof, KL Ravensbrück and others,
- deportations of Poles into the interior of the Soviet Union in 1940 and 1941 as well as post-war deportations from Kociewie,
- Polish underground and partisan activity on the occupied territories,
- the Warsaw Uprising,
- the Free City of Danzig — the post-war fate of the Polish community,
- the liberation of Gdańsk and Pomerania,
- plundering and acts of terror toward the population performed by the Soviet soldiers,
- post-war underground activity,
- Soviet repressions in Poland after 1944 against members of the post-war pro-independence underground,
- the combat trail of the Polish Armed Forces in the West.

The recordings made in Kazakhstan regarded the fate of Polish families and other nations deported in 1936 to the country and the creation of the Polish Armed Forces in the USSR under General Władysław Anders' command in Kazakhstan. Among the interviewed were 6 Poles, 2 Koreans, 2 Crimean Tatars and 2 Turks. Moreover, the video recordings were made in the field in such towns as Merki, Lugovoy and Shokpak, that were connected with the Anders Army stay in Kazakhstan.



Meetings with eyewitnesses and recording the interviews.



The recordings made in Ukraine regarded, for instance, the issue of terror of the Soviet and German occupiers on the eastern frontier of the Second Republic of Poland, including the crimes on the Polish and Jewish population; the criminal activity of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (including the crimes committed, for instance, in Yanova Dolina and Plaucha Velka); the fate of population during the front line changes (for instance in Tarnopol and Rivne); the post-war terror of the NKVD and deportations related to it.

The recordings made in Germany regarded, for instance, Germanisation of children from the countries occupied by the Germans; victims of the Holocaust; testimonies of German crimes and trials related to them; the fate of the civilians during the war, including the victims of bombardments.

Since its establishment, the Museum has made **237 video recordings of interviews with eyewitnesses.**

Meetings with eyewitnesses and recording the interviews.



## Academic and educational activity

## Scientific conferences

Conferences organised and co-organised by the Museum

### Historical debate “How to Talk about War?” in Gdańsk

On 6 October 2016, the debate “How to Talk about the War?” was organised at the Faculty of Languages of the University of Gdańsk. The project was realised within the framework of activities of the “Film Library of Democracy” and under the patronage of the Museum of the Second World War. The debate was accompanied by the fragments of documentaries such as *War Neuroses: Netley Hospital, 1917* (1918) and *Let There Be Light* (1946) that showed the impact of the war on the soldiers who had returned from the front line. The screening of the films was preceded with lecture by Deputy Director of the Museum of the Second World War Janusz Marszalec. After the screening a discussion oscillating between such issues as how to show war and how to talk about war was initiated. It was moderated by film expert Mirosław Przyłipiak.

### Scientific conference “The Special Force Paratroopers. The Histories of the Heroes” in Toruń

It was the 26th time that the General Zawacka Foundation from Toruń organised the scientific conference „The Special Force Paratroopers. The Histories of the Heroes” in cooperation with the Museum of the Second World War and the Centre for Culture of the Artus Court in Toruń to celebrate the Independence Day. During this edition of the conference 11 papers were delivered and educational workshops were conducted. The guest of honour was the last living Special Force Paratrooper, Captain Aleksander Tarnawski.

### Debate “For Poland. Between Pride and Complexes” in Gdańsk

On 19 November 2016, the Bolesław Srocki Association, the Museum of the Second World War and the European Solidarity Centre organised the debate “For Poland. Between Pride and Complexes” with Olga Krzyżanowska, Maciej Wierzyński, Paweł Machcewicz, Stanisław Ciosek as the panellists and Father Krzysztof Niedałowski as the moderator. It was the third meeting in the series of debates initiated by the Bolesław Srocki Association, during which the invited guests, authorities in different fields, had discussed about problems of the present time, treating as the starting point slogans formulated in the 19th and 20th centuries in the milieu of the ‘Zet’ Association of the Polish Youth.



## Publications

### *The Catalogue of the Permanent Exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War*

The Museum presented to the future visitors the catalogue of the permanent exhibition. The catalogue not only presents the exhibits, but also contains historical commentary and constitutes a concise compendium of knowledge about the Second World War.

The catalogue opens with the introduction by Museum Director Paweł Machcewicz. It presents the message of the permanent exhibition that is connected with the necessity of preserving the memory of events of the Second World War and their victims. Furthermore, it explains why the Museum presents the Polish, and more widely the Central European, experience of the war as a tragedy provoked by two totalitarianisms: the German Nazism and the Soviet communism. Simultaneously, it underlines the necessity of keeping the perspective of ordinary people, whom the war and its consequences touched the most.

The catalogue consists of 18 chapters that are related to the most important sections of the permanent exhibition. It is based on the archival photos and exhibits from the Museum collection or from other institutions as well as from donors. The narration is supplemented by “Did you know...?” sections that include lesser-known facts related to various aspects of the Second World War.

The catalogue describes, for instance, the development of totalitarianisms in the pre-war Europe, the terror of war, including the occupier’s terror, the Holocaust, the ethnic purges and social resistance, and finally the end of the war and its consequences in the form of the Iron Curtain and the division of Europe into free West and the Soviet sphere of influence.

It closes with the chapter “From Wiadrownia to our Museum” being a timeline representing the most important events of the place where the Museum is being built and where until 1945 a historic part of Gdańsk, the Wiadrownia district, used to be located. The timeline also includes the post-war years to the construction of the Museum.

The catalogue in Polish and English language versions can be bought in bookshops and online at [motyleksiążkowe.pl](http://motyleksiążkowe.pl)

***Muzeum II Wojny Światowej w Gdańsku. Katalog wystawy głównej***, Rafał Wnuk, Paweł Machcewicz, Oliwia Gałka-Olejko, Łukasz Jasiński, współpraca Jan Daniluk, Gdańsk 2016, 252 pages, ISBN 978-83-63029-61-6.

***Museum of the Second World War. Catalogue of the permanent exhibition***, Rafał Wnuk, Paweł Machcewicz, Oliwia Gałka-Olejko, Łukasz Jasiński, assistance: Jan Daniluk, Gdańsk 2016, 252 pages, ISBN 978-83-63029-65-4.

In 2016, the Museum also published:

■ **Sprawiedliwość, zemsta i rewolucja. Rozliczenia z wojną i okupacją w Europie Środkowo-Wschodniej** [Justice, revenge and revolution. Settling accounts with the war and occupation in Central and Eastern Europe], ed. Andrzej Paczkowski, Gdańsk 2016, 266 pages, ISBN 978-83-63029-79-1.

*This publication makes a valuable contribution to learning about the issue of post-war settling accounts with the occupation and wartime collaboration.*

prof. dr hab. Wojciech Roszkowski

■ Piotr M. Majewski, **Zmarnowana szansa? Możliwości obrony Czechosłowacji jesienią 1938 roku** [A wasted chance? Opportunities to defend Czechoslovakia in the autumn of 1938], Gdańsk 2016, 360 pages, ISBN 978-83-63029-58-6.

*Could Czechoslovakia defend itself against the German attack in the autumn of 1938? Having made the decision to accept the Munich Diktat, did the authorities of this country waste a chance of victory that could have stopped Hitler's future expansion?*

from the introduction

■ **W kręgu Bolesława Srockiego. Ludzie „Petu”. Relacje – wspomnienia – polemiki** [In Bolesław Srocki's circle. 'Pet' members. Testimonies — Memories — Polemics], selection, compilation and introduction Waldemar Stopczyński, Gdańsk 2016, 496 pages, ISBN 978-83-63029-67-8.

*This work shows not only the not much emphasised diversity of youth underground associations in occupied Warsaw, but also — in this case — the effective activity performed in order to consolidate in the name of the highest aim..*

Adam F. Baran

■ Jiří Friedl, **Žoldnierze banici. Brygada Świętokrzyska Narodowych Sił Zbrojnych w Czechach w 1945 roku** [Exile soldiers. The Świętokrzyska Brigade of the National Armed Forces in 1945 in Bohemia], trans. Grzegorz Gąsior, trans. of documents in the annex Marek Piotr Deszczyński, Gdańsk 2016, 189 pages, ISBN 978-83-63029-91-3.

*Relatively many materials about the Brigade were preserved in the Czech archives, which can be proved by this publication. Not least important is its aim to present the perspective on the Świętokrzyska*



*Brigade provided by a Czech historian, who is not burdened with sometimes very emotional involvement in the dispute over the role of this unit.*

from the introduction to the Polish edition

■ Jerzy W. Borejsza, **Śmieszne sto milionów Słowian. Wokół światopoglądu Adolfa Hitlera** [A laughable hundred million Slavs. Adolf Hitler's world view], Gdańsk 2016, 176 pages, ISBN 978-83-63029-64-7.

*The word "anti-Slavism" appears repeatedly in different configurations, but not as a separate phenomenon in works dedicated to racial theories of national socialists or in studies of the invasion of Eastern Europe. In discussions about Hitler's different practices in the East, the clear anti-Slavic motivation behind them is still underestimated.*

fragment from the foreword to the second edition

■ Jerzy Platajs, **Zbrodnia katyńska. Zeznania świadków przed polskimi sądami wojskowymi (1943–1946)** [The Katyń massacre. Witness testimonies given before Polish courts martial (1943–1946)], Gdańsk 2016, 443 pages, ISBN 978-83-63029-75-3

*This book concerns the lesser-known issue of interrogations of the Polish former prisoners of war, survivors of three NKVD special camps located in the Soviet Union: Ostashkov, Starobilsk, and Kozelsk, conducted before Polish courts martial in Great Britain.*

Wojciech Materski

■ Sebastian Pawlina, **Praca w dywersji. Codziennosc żołnierzy Kedywu Okręgu Warszawskiego Armii Krajowej** [Working in sabotage. The daily life of soldiers of the Directorate for Subversion of the Warsaw District of the Home Army], Gdańsk 2016, 402 pages, ISBN 978-83-63029-60-9.

*Unquestionably, it is the only work in the Polish historiography which I know that discusses a wide and diverse spectrum of problems connected with the daily life in the underground, starting from conditions of joining the movement, through broadly defined material concerns (money, flat, clothes, food) and relations with the command and inside the group, ending with ethical issues and stress [...].*

Jerzy Kochanowski



### A series of historical albums

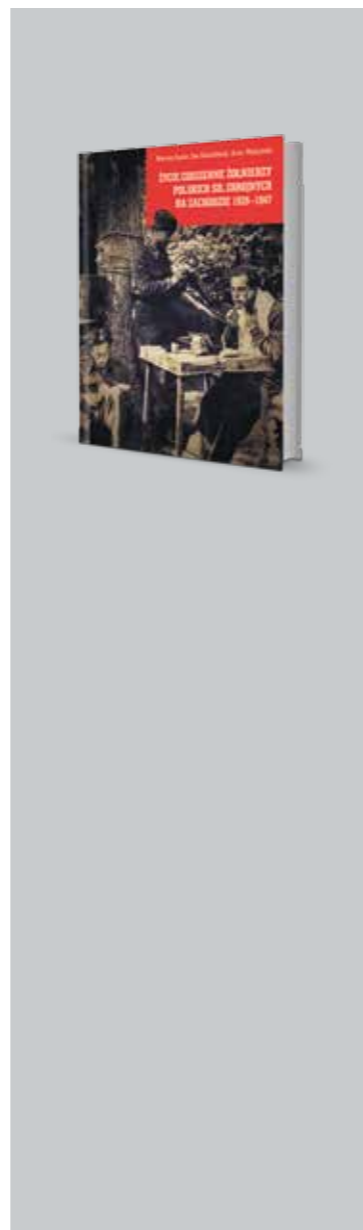
**Życie codzienne żołnierzy Polskich Sił Zbrojnych na Zachodzie 1939–1947** [Everyday life of the soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces in the West 1939–1947] is the third album with archival photos from the Second World War published by the Museum. The photos included in the album come from the collections of the Imperial War Museum in London and the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk. The graphic narration is supplemented by fragments from soldiers' testimonies connected with the presented aspects of life in the army.

“Our goal was to present general phenomena and situations that the soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces in the West experienced during their duty. According to this basic division of soldier's life in the army, the album is composed of two sections entitled ‘on duty’ and ‘off duty’,” the authors explain in the introduction.

Each chapter includes photos presenting the housing conditions of quarters, soldiers going into the army and in the battlefield, everyday exercises, eating, the hygienic conditions, group celebrations of holidays, stay in hospital and treatment. In the “off duty” section, there are photos of soldiers practising sports, meeting with soldiers of the allied forces, attending social gatherings and also playing with animals that were owned by soldiers or the unit.

Furthermore, the album contains information about women serving in the army since within the Polish Armed Forces such units were established as the Women's Auxiliary Service, the Women's Air Force Auxiliary Service and the Women's Naval Auxiliary Service. In one of the chapters, the life of children and youth is described since while leaving the Soviet Union, the army, commanded by General Władysław Anders, was accompanied by several thousand young people. In the final chapter entitled “In a dilemma,” the situation of the Polish soldiers after the war is presented, the fate of those who decided to return to the country as well as of those who stayed abroad.

Mariusz Gąsior, Jan Szkudliński, Artur Wodzyński, **Życie codzienne żołnierzy Polskich Sił Zbrojnych na Zachodzie 1939–1947** [Everyday life of the soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces in the West 1939–1947], 247 pages, Gdańsk 2016, ISBN 978-83-63029-57-9.



### A series of historical comic books

In 2016, the Museum published for the first time comic books dedicated to historical events: **Akcja Kopernik** [Operation Copernicus], **Katyń** [Katyn] and **Jachna**. The series was designed for young people. Apart from pages with drawings, comic books also contain a history section which presents the historical background of the presented events, biographies of the characters as well as descriptions of items from the Museum collection that were inspiration for the script.

■ Elżbieta Olczak [script], Sławomir Kielbus [art], **Akcja Kopernik** [Operation Copernicus], Gdańsk 2016, 32 pages, ISBN 978-83-63029-78-4.

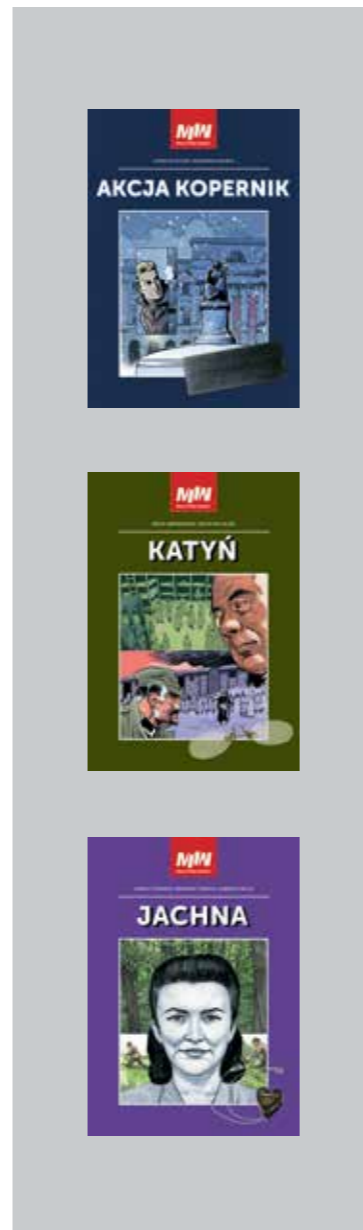
*Akcja Kopernik* is an illustrated story about a famous operation of removing the German plaque, with which the occupiers covered the Polish inscription on the monument of Nicolaus Copernicus in Warsaw. The operation was carried out by Maciej Aleksy Dawidowski ‘Alek’. This main character in the book *Stones for the Rampart: The story of two lads in the Polish underground movement* by Aleksander Kamiński was one of thousands of young people who offered resistance to the Germans during the occupation organising minor-sabotage operations. We were inspired to describe the fight of young people against the German occupier not only by the feat of ‘Alek’ and his admirable conduct, but also by the copy of the plaque from the Copernicus monument that is displayed on the permanent exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War.

■ Agata Abramowicz [script], Jacek Michalski [art], **Katyń** [Katyn], Gdańsk 2016, 32 pages, ISBN 978-83-63029-81-4.

*Katyń* is dedicated to the fate of Polish doctor and soldier Stefan Wąsowski, who was murdered by the Soviets with 4,400 other Polish officers in the Katyn massacre in the spring of 1940. It is also a story about the lie that accompanied this crime to the beginning of the 1990s. We were inspired to present this painful episode in the Polish history not only by the figure of Stefan Wąsowski, but also by a few unusual objects — his personal mementos — that are stored in the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk. Among them, there is, for instance, a formal shirt that his wife kept with great care hoping that her husband would put it on one more time and doctor's glasses that were found in the mass grave in Katyn.

■ Daniel Chraniuk, Zbigniew Tomecki [script], Gabriela Becla [art], **Jachna**, Gdańsk 2016, 32 pages, ISBN 978-83-63029-74-6.

*Jachna* is a story about Janina Wasiljów-Smoleńska ‘Jachna’. She was a nurse in the partisan units of the Home Army in the Vilna region during the Second World War and in the 5th Vilna Brigade of the Home Army that fought against the communist authorities after the war. For her active resistance to the communists she spent 10 years in prison. We were inspired to present the partisan and prison





chapters in 'Jachna's' life not only by her turbulent fate and conduct, but also by a few amazing items — her personal mementos — that are in the Museum collection. Among them, there is, for instance, a rosary box donated by her fellow inmate.

#### Award for our publication

Audrius Žulys's book *Polska w polityce zagranicznej Litwy w latach 1938–1939. Studium z historii dyplomacji* [Poland in Lithuania's foreign policy 1938–1939. A study in diplomatic history], published by our Museum, was among the ten books nominated to the Kazimierz Moczarski History Prize of 2016. The Moczarski Prize features the best book dedicated to Poland's history after 1918 and is the most prestigious competition in the Polish book market.



## Museum library

The Museum collection comprises **over 19,000 items** connected with the subject matter of the Second World War and its consequences. It includes books, periodicals, audio-visual and electronic documents, maps, special collections, testimonies, and memoirs. The library acquired **more than 3,000 items** in 2016 alone.

The Museum also collects publications on conservation, restoration, and preservation of museum collections as well as numerous materials that aid the operation of our departments, for instance, the education one. It also subscribes to 14 Polish and foreign periodicals.

The collection includes texts in more than 20 languages: English, Croatian, Czech, Finnish, Flemish, French, Kazakh, Korean, Lithuanian, Luxembourgish, Latvian, German, Norwegian, Polish, Russian, Romanian, Serbian, Slovakian, Ukrainian, Turkish, and Italian.

## Research projects

In 2016 the staff of the Museum of the Second World War worked on the following research projects:

■ **Jews in the structures of Polish underground military organizations in the Warsaw District during 1939–1945.** This project is to investigate the activity of individuals of Jewish nationality in the Polish underground and present the fate of the Jews who in various circumstances entered the ranks of the Polish underground and participated in the underground activity and armed combat. This project is also devoted to the relations between the Jewish population and members of the Polish underground detachments. It shows the everyday life of the Jewish members of the underground until and during the Warsaw Uprising and until the end of the occupation. Search queries in the collections of the State Archives of New Records (*Archiwum Akt Nowych*) in Warsaw, the Jewish Historical Institute (*Żydowski Instytut Historyczny*) in Warsaw, and the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews (*Muzeum Historii Żydów Polskich Polin*) were conducted within the framework of the project. Supplementary search queries, conference presentations, and publications are planned in Poland and abroad. The project is to conclude by the end of 2017. Heading the project is Wojciech Łukaszun, an employee of the Exhibition Department.

■ **Native population in the Gdańsk Province as exemplified by the Sztum county in 1945–1959.** This project is to show the situation of the native population in the context of the post-war reality and the process of the establishment of the communist regime. It is focused on depicting the relations between the various population groups that made up the new society of the Western and Northern Territories against the background of the national and social policy in communist Poland. The project is headed by Bartłomiej Garba, an employee of the Exhibition Department.

■ **Gdańsk Bay 1943–1945.** The objective of this project is to show the military location of this area, its importance for the war and economic machine of the Third Reich and for the preparations to the defence at the turn of 1944 and 1945 as well as the course of the military operations at sea and on land during the final period of the war. A search query in archives was conducted during the reporting period. The project is headed by Marcin Westphal, an employee of the Exhibition Department.

■ **The History of the Main Commission for the Investigation of German/Nazi Crimes in Poland** This project is to result in a publication presenting the Commission's structure and activity as well as its importance in bringing Nazi war criminals to justice in post-war Poland and its role of a scholarly and opinion-forming centre. The project is headed by Łukasz Jasiński, a member of the Research Staff.

■ **Special (diversion and sabotage) operations in the policy of European states and military conflicts in the 20th and 21st centuries.** This project is to focus on the engagement of the civilian population in special and sabotage operations during the Second World War. Tomasz Chinciński, the director of the Exhibition Department, is in charge of the project.

■ **Selbstschutz — ethnic Germans' self-defence in Poland in 1939.** The project is to investigate the activity of the paramilitary organization made up of *Volksdeutsches* after the arrival of the German troops. During the first half of 2016, library studies and source search queries were conducted within the framework of the project. The following scholarly articles were published: Tomasz Chinciński, "Zbrodnie Selbstschutzu jako obiekt muzealnej narracji," in *Zapomniani kaci Hitlera. Volksdeutscher Selbstschutz w okupowanej Polsce 1939–1945. Wybrane zagadnienia*, ed. Izabela Mazanowska, Tomasz Ceran (Bydgoszcz–Gdańsk, 2016), pp. 282–288; Tomasz Rabant, "Harry Schulz — niemiecki zbrodniarz Selbstschutzu," in *ibid.*, pp. 227–248. The project is headed by Tomasz Chinciński and Tomasz Rabant from the Exhibition Department.

■ **Work on a comparative analysis of the legal and political settlement of accounts for Second World War crimes and collaboration in individual European countries.** The project is to conclude with a cross-sectional scholarly study on the post-war process of coming to terms with the past, which will also be compared with analogous efforts made at other historic moments, for instance, after the First World War, after the Spanish Civil War, after the fall of communist dictatorships, etc. The project is headed by Paweł Machcewicz, the director of our Museum.

■ **Prisoners of war in German captivity on Polish territories incorporated into the Reich (1939–1945).** Continuation of earlier research, for instance, the search query conducted during 11–15 April 2016 in the Federal Military Archives (*Bundesarchiv-Militärarchiv*, Freiburg im Breisgau). The topics currently studied include: the German administration, libraries and reading, and POW periodicals. Moreover, the Museum is cooperating with USHMM Washington on an encyclopaedia of German POW camps (reviewing of entries written by other authors). The project is headed by Jan Daniluk, a member of the Research Staff.

■ **The German police and the SS on Polish territories incorporated into the Reich (1939–1945).** Continuation of earlier research, for instance, the search query conducted during 21–25 February 2016 in the State Archive in Poznań, the finalization of the search query concerning *Thorer Freiheit* and *Ostdeutscher Beobachter*. The topics currently studied include: Allgemeine-SS structures on the Polish territories incorporated into the Reich, and the SS and police judiciary. Moreover, the Museum is cooperating

with USHMM Washington on an encyclopaedia of German police camps and prisons and police stations (writing of selected entries). The project is headed by Jan Daniluk, a member of the Research Staff.

■ **Resistance and the underground in the Baltic States in 1941–1953.** The intention of this project is to create a monograph on the pro-independence underground active in the Baltic States during the German and Soviet occupations. The book shall attempt to analyse the activities, development, and ideological profile of the underground organizations operating in the two different occupation systems. The issue will be presented against an extensive background of the individual countries' history. The research continued in the first half of 2016. The project was headed by Rafał Wnuk, a member of the Research Staff.

■ **Monte Cassino.** This project is to describe the battle of Monte Cassino from the perspective of all its participants. The search queries during the first half of 2016 were conducted in the Library of the Bundeswehr Institute of Social Sciences and the Military History Research Office in Potsdam and the Raczyński Library in Poznań. The topics were also discussed in a presentation given at a scholarly symposium. The project is to conclude with a publication on the fighting to break the Gustav Line in 1944. Jan Szkudliński, a member of the Research Staff, is in charge of the project.

■ **Deportations of Poles into the interior of the USSR during 1936–1941.** The search queries in libraries and archives were conducted during the first six months of 2016. The project is headed by Dmitriy Panto, a member of the Research Staff.

■ **Protectorate of Czech and Moravia — collaboration, adjustment strategies, resistance.** This project is to result in a monograph devoted to the German occupation of the Czech territories, and particularly the stance of the political elites and the society. The work is based on a search query in Czech and German archives, which is to continue in 2017. The project is headed by Piotr M. Majewski, deputy director of the Museum.



## Educational activity

*Educational workshops "Special force paratroopers — discover the legend of Fighting Poland" in Łapino.  
Photo: Roman Jocher*



Opening of the exhibition  
"The Soldier's Fate. The Everyday  
Life of Soldiers" in the Wieluń Region  
Museum,  
18 November 2015.

## Temporary exhibitions

"The Soldier's Fate. The Everyday Life of Soldiers during the Second World War", Wieluń Region Museum in Wieluń, 18 November 2016–6 April 2016.

This exhibition depicts the humdrum of everyday life on the front line and the fate of soldiers who fought in different armies during the largest military conflict of the 20th century. Using exhibits, documents, and mostly previously unpublished photographs, the exhibition shows the less known aspects of military service, seen not only from the perspective of the battlefield. The exhibition was prepared in two language versions: Polish and English.

## Outdoor events

"Operation Tempest" Historical and Educational Reenactment, 17 April 2016

The second edition of the "Operation Tempest" re-enactment about the activity of the Polish Underground State took place on 17 April 2016 at the ethnographic park in Olsztynek. In cooperation with the Folk Architecture Museum — the Ethnographic Park in Olsztynek, the Museum of the Second World War prepared a living diorama presenting the Home Army detachments in combat in the Vilna region in 1944. That day there were four re-enactments concerning the history of the 77th Infantry Regiment of the Home Army and the German-Soviet combat in the Vilna region in 1944.



Historical re-enactment  
of Operation Tempest in Olsztynek.  
Photo: Roman Jocher



European Night of Museums  
on Westerplatte.  
Photo: Roman Jocher



Within the framework of the celebrations of the Year of Special Force Paratroopers, the participants became familiar with the paratroopers operating in the structures of the detachments presented. The event was prepared with the participation of reenactors, a large number of historic military equipment: three tanks, assault guns, trucks, cars, motorcycles, and pyrotechnics. A partisan camp was also set up in the ethnographic park, where one could have a warm meal cooked in an original cookhouse. The guests of honour were veterans from the Home Army. The event was attended by **1,500 people**.

#### European Night of Museums on Westerplatte, 21 May 2016

Within the framework of the European Night of Museums the Museum of the Second World War once again invited visitors to Westerplatte, where it prepared a range of attractions in two educational zones on the peninsula. The first educational zone, devoted to Coastal Ground Defence and the defence of the Army Transit Storehouse during the first days of September 1939, featured re-enactment shows. Connected with the Year of Special Force Paratroopers, the other educational zone had stands with workshop and tasks for all age groups, which familiarized the participants with selected special operations in which Home Army paratroopers were involved. The event was attended by **approx. 2,500 people**.



European Night of Museums  
on Westerplatte.  
Photo: Roman Jocher



*"Westerplatte — Find a Key to Its History" outdoor game for pupils on Westerplatte.  
Photo: Roman Jocher*

## Classes, projects, educational workshops

### *"Westerplatte — Find a Key to Its History" outdoor game for pupils on Westerplatte*

**Organised since 2013**, the game has a spring and autumn edition. So far, nearly **8,700 pupils from Pomerania** have taken part in this project, carried out in cooperation with re-enactment groups, which play the Polish Army during the September Campaign. The objective is to familiarize younger children, pupils from grades 2–3 of primary school, with the history of the Army Transit Storehouse on Westerplatte and the course of the defence in Pomerania. The pupils are given tasks, prepared in such a way that they combine learning and fun, and at the same time teach teamwork and collective solving of historical puzzles. Trolley rides along the historic railway at the old Storehouse provide additional entertainment. In 2016, the total number of pupils and guardians who participated in the game amounted to **2,700**.

### *"The Soldier's Fate. The Everyday Life of Soldiers during the Second World War" workshops*

Addressed to students of grades 4–6 of primary school, these workshops are connected with the temporary exhibition prepared by the Museum of the Second World War, on display in the Wieluń Region Museum in Wieluń. The main objective was to interest the students in topics connected with the history of the Second World War. The participants learned about the everyday life of soldiers, the difficulties they had to face, and that the service involved not only combat. Doing the exercises, the students found out about, for instance, the uniforms and equipment of soldiers of various armies

fighting during the Second World War. **The workshops were first organised in 2014**. In 2016, they took place in Wieluń. Within the framework of the cooperation, the first round was conducted by employees of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, while the subsequent ones were continued by employees of the Wieluń Region Museum in Wieluń. **The number of participants amounted to 345**.

### *"Secrets of the Enigma" educational workshops*

Addressed to school students and prepared by the Museum, these workshops regard the breaking of the code of the German Enigma coding machine by Polish mathematicians and the influence of that fact on the history of the Second World War. Held in schools, these 40-minute workshops are free of charge and they supplement and develop the information from the history syllabus. This project's uniqueness consists in the combination of a presentation of the historical background with solving cryptographic brain teasers using cyphers from different eras.

The teaching aids prepared especially for this project include coding machine models with rotors, which enable the students to code and decode messages independently, electronic copies and simulators of the Enigma machine, rotor models, which make it easier for the participants to understand the coding principles used in the machine, and workbooks. The workshops had **186 participants**.





**AWARDS FOR THE MUSEUM'S EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY**

On 18 May 2016, our Museum's "Secrets of the Enigma" workshops won it an **award in the Education category of the Pomeranian Museum Award competition**. The project was prepared and conducted by Mateusz Jasik from the educational department.

On 23 May 2016, **the Museum received an award in the Education category of the 2016 'Sybilla' Competition for the Museum Event of the Year**, also for its "Secrets of the Enigma" workshops. The 'Sybilla' competition is an all-Polish competition organized since 1980, currently by the National Institute for Museums and Public Collections.



*"All in Your Hands" and "Special force paratroopers — discover the legend of Fighting Poland" educational workshops.  
Photo: Roman Jocher*

#### **"All in Your Hands" educational workshops, 5–6 March 2016**

Addressed to adults, these workshops were to show the importance of ingenuity and thrift during the Second World War. They concerned the skills which women had to master to provide for their families during those difficult times. The participants learned about the everyday life of women and wartime women's fashion. Using items from the Museum collection, the participants also found out how women coped during the occupation: how they planned meals, prepared useful household items, and made clothes from the fabrics available at that time. They also listened to a presentation about the program and mission of the Museum of the Second World War. The workshops had **80 participants**.

#### **"Special Force Paratroopers — Learn About the Legend of Fighting Poland" historical field project, 31 March–6 April 2016.**

Prepared for students of lower secondary schools, these workshops regarded four selected special operations in German-occupied Europe. The thread of the special force paratroopers appeared in the presentations of the attempt to blow up the train with Governor General Hans Frank, conducted on the night of 29–30 January 1944, and special operation "Kutschera," that is, the execution of Franz Kutschera, the SS and Police Leader in the Warsaw District of the General Government, conducted on 1 February 1944 by soldiers of a special detachment of the Home Army. The project was carried out in cooperation with the Old Paper Mill Association (*Stowarzyszenie Stara Papiernia*) in Łapin. The number of participants (school students and their guardians) amounted to **265**.

*History lessons for children and young people on cemeteries in Gdańsk and Sopot combined with meetings with veterans and historians.  
Photo: Bartosz Odorowicz*



#### **A history lesson for students on heroes' cemeteries — the summing up of the Year of the Special Force Paratroopers, 26 September 2016**

**Since 2011**, the Museum of the Second World War **has organized unique history lessons right before the All Saints' Day**. Students visit the graves of Home Army soldiers accompanied by veterans and historians. It is an occasion to learn about the wartime fate of the heroes buried there, clean their graves, and show them the respect they deserve.

This year, the Museum broadened the formula and prepared a history lesson using as many as three Tricity cemeteries. The meeting was also an occasion to conclude and sum up the "Special Force Paratroopers — Learn About the Legend of Fighting Poland" project. The participants included Captain Ryszard Kozubowski, the Chairman of the Gdańsk Circle of the World Society of Home Army Soldiers, and Jerzy Grzywacz, the Chairman of the Pomeranian District of this organization, who told the assembled Tricity students, teachers, and scouting troops about their wartime experiences.

#### **Meetings with historical board games**

The purpose of this long term project is to build a group of enthusiasts associated with the Museum. Organised under the aegis of the Museum, these weekly meetings are attended by Tricity fans of historical and war board games. During these meetings the host (our Museum's representative) familiarises the participants with the rules of the games and initiates discussions about the historical aspects of the given titles and the current activity of the Museum.



Museum stand during the Fun and Games Fair and the presentation of "History on the board: 'Onward to Berlin!'" project, 19–20 November 2016.  
Photo: Bartosz Odorowicz

#### History on the board: "Onward to Berlin!" 19–20 November 2016

This project's objective is, on the one hand, to teach its participants about the important episodes of the Second World War, and, on the other hand, to promote modern board games as an excellent educational tool. At a stand specially prepared by the Museum, the participants could take part in the Allied armies' strategic race to Berlin, with the outcome of each game affecting the course of the whole campaign. The military operations were displayed on a backlit military map. The educators from the Museum explained the rules and familiarised the participants with the details of the events presented through the mechanics of the individual games. The workshops were accompanied with a presentation of unique photographs and music from that epoch. The meetings took place during the Fun and Games Fair, held at the AmberExpo Exhibition and Convention Centre during 19–20 November 2016, with the number of participants estimated at **300**.

#### Workshops on historical board games design

Prototype workshops organised at the Exchange Education Centre (*Centrum Edukacji Wymiennikownia*) in Gdynia and the Salesian School Complex in Rumia for secondary school students. During the four months of the duration of this project, its participants were introduced to the mechanisms used in modern board games and the principles of their design, and then worked in groups on their own historical games. The workshops resulted in games devoted to, for instance, the Polish Underground State and Westerplatte. The workshops were attended by **approx. 24 participants**.

Workshops prepared by the Museum during the "History in the Field" scouting camp, Piaski-Krynica Morska, August 2016.



## Cooperation on educational projects

#### 14th rally in the footsteps of the soldiers of the 5th Vilna Brigade commanded by Major Zygmunt Szendzielarz 'Łupaszko', 25–29 June 2016

The main purpose of this rally is to introduce its participants to the activity of the pro-independence underground in Poland after 1944, with particular attention paid to Pomerania, offer them a chance to encounter 'living' history, that is, meet the last living veterans of the pro-independence underground, promote knowledge about the struggle for the Polish independence and sovereignty, and restore the memory of the war victims and the post-war period.

During the rally, the participants learn about the history of the anti-communist underground, its heroes, and the territory of the activity of the squadrons commanded by Major Zygmunt Szendzielarz 'Łupaszko', one of the greatest partisan officers. They also learn about how the repression apparatus acted against the underground. The patrols follow indicated routes, performing tasks and trying to avoid the state security's special operational groups. The event is addressed predominantly to school children.

#### The 2nd edition of the "History in the Field" scouting camp, Piaski-Krynica Morska, August 2016

The objective of this enterprise was to promote knowledge about the Polish Underground State during the Second World War and the post-Home Army underground during 1944–1956 among cub





"Westerplatte — Find a Key to Its History" outdoor game for pupils on Westerplatte.  
Photo: Roman Jocher

scouts and scouts as well as the Vistula Spit inhabitants and the tourists staying there. On 10 August, the Deputy Director of our Museum, Janusz Marszalec, gave a historical lecture about the Warsaw Uprising. A race and the "Special Force Paratroopers — Learn about the Legend of Fighting Poland" workshops took place on 11 August. That specially modified edition included classes about, for instance, the special force paratroopers, Elżbieta Zawacka 'Zo', the assassination of Franz Kutschera, the failed assassination of Governor General Hans Frank, and the contact between the Home Army and London. In an attempt to make the message attractive, the organisers used modern educational methods, such as, drama, technical workshops, and logical games.

#### 51. Racewalking Festival, Polish Post Office Cup, 27 August 2016

Organized in the centre of Gdańsk in commemoration of those who perished in defence of the Polish Post Office, the annual racewalking festival was enriched with our educational zone. Within the framework of the event the festival guests could participate in open-air film screenings of historical films (*Westerplatte Resists* [1967] and *Free City* [1958]) accompanied with historians' comments, see the "1939 Land Defence of Pomerania" mobile exhibition, and take part in our Museum's educational workshops for children and young people.

Participants of public lectures "Meetings with History."  
Photo: Roman Jocher



## Public lectures and book promotions within the framework of the "Meetings with History" series

Since the beginning of its operation the Museum of the Second World War has been organising a series of public lectures. The meetings organized in 2016 were:

- **16 March 2016** – promotion of Katarzyna Minczykowska's book *Cichociemna. General Elżbieta Zawacka „Zo”* [Special force paratrooper. General Elżbieta Zawacka 'Zo'],
- **13 April 2016** – promotion of the book *Druga wojna światowa w pamięci kulturowej w Polsce i w Niemczech. 70 lat później (1945–2015)* [The Second World War in cultural memory in Poland and Germany. 70 years later (1945–2015)], edited by Jerzy Kałużny, Amelia Korzeniewska, and Bartosz Korzeniewski,
- **19 May 2016** – promotion of Kazimierz Kummer's book *Opowiadania i słuchowiska. Klatka* [Stories and radio plays. The cage],
- **16 June 2016** – promotion of the book *Sprawiedliwość, zemsta i rewolucja. Rozliczenia z wojną i okupacją w Europie Środkowo-Wschodniej* [Justice, revenge, and revolution. Settling accounts with the war and occupation in Central and Eastern Europe] edited by Andrzej Paczkowski,
- **19 October 2016** – promotion of Franz Neumann's book *Behemot. Narodowy socjalizm: ustrój i funkcjonowanie 1933–1944* [English title: Behemoth: The Structure and Practice of National Socialism], translated into Polish by Jerzy Giebuttowski,
- **16 November 2016** – promotion of the book *W kręgu Bolesława Srockiego. Ludzie „Petu”. Relacje – wspomnienia – polemiki* [In Bolesław Srocki's circle. 'Pet' members. Testimonies — memories — polemics], selection, editing, and introduction by Waldemar Stopczyński.



*Meeting of the Museum staff with the representatives of Deported Crimean Tatars Association in Almaty, Kazakhstan.*

---

## National and international cooperation



*Trip and a meeting with the veterans in the Warsaw Rising Museum co-organised by the Museum of the Second World War.*

*Partners engaged in the Liberation Route Europe project meeting in Gdańsk.*

#### Cooperation with the Pomeranian District of the World Society of Home Army Soldiers

Within the framework of this cooperation the Museum employees participate in meetings of the milieu of former Home Army soldiers and help prepare funerals and celebrations (for instance, the anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising, the anniversary of the establishment of the Polish Underground State, and the National Independence Day). Members of the Society take part in Museum's enterprises, for instance, they were guests of the "Operation Tempest" historical re-enactment and history lessons on heroes' cemeteries. The Educational Department also helps arrange meetings between secondary school students and the veterans. Moreover, video recordings of interviews with former soldiers of the Home Army are being made for the purpose of the permanent exhibition, future temporary exhibitions, and documentaries.

#### The second stage of the Liberation Route Europe international historical and tourist project

The Museum of the Second World War is a partner in the Liberation Route Europe international tourist and historical project. While popularizing historical tourism, the Museum presents the specificity of the liberation of Poland from the German occupation, which — unlike in Western Europe — was connected with communist oppression. In the course of the work on the second stage of the project, the Museum organised a general meeting of the partners during 5–7 October 2016 to discuss the progress of the works on the substantive content of the LRE website, the directions of the educational activity, and the organisation of the tourist offer. The participation in this project strengthens the position of the Museum and Poland on the historical tourist map of Europe, thus promoting knowledge about Polish history among foreigners.

*Meeting of the Museum staff with canon priest Władysław Czajka, the dean of SS. Peter and Paul in Rivne, Ukraine.*

*Meeting of the Museum staff with the Polish community in the Polish Club in Lutsk. Photo: Dominik Jagodziński*



Liberation Route Europe is a project undertaken by the Museum of the Second World War and its partners from the Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain, France, and Belgium. Its purpose is to collect in one place information about the events connected with the Second World War in Europe and its end, and to present the often disparate experiences of inhabitants of the countries it affected. Designed within the framework of the project, the [www.liberationroute.com](http://www.liberationroute.com) website and the mobile app are available in the languages of all the partners. Both of them enable their users to quickly access information about the most important events, places, and persons connected with the Second World War in Europe.

#### Educational and promotional meeting during the official trip to Ukraine

Held on 19 October 2016 at the Polish Club in Lutsk, the meeting was moderated by Bartłomiej Garba and Waldemar Kowalski, the Museum representatives delegated upon request of the Polish Consulate General in Lusk. The approx. 70 participants were representatives of the local Polish community associated with the Polish Club in Lutsk and students of Polish studies at the local university. The participants could learn about the Museum's concept, the history of its establishment, and its planned future activity. Using selected multimedia presentations, the Museum representatives also showed the value of video recordings in the Museum's narration. The organisers of the meeting planned further cooperation in the scope of promotion of Polish history and culture in Volhynia during the next meetings.

#### International cooperation for the obtainment of exhibits and video recordings

In 2016, the Museum continued the development of its international cooperation to obtain exhibits



Meetings of the Museum staff with the chief editor of *Monitor Wolyński* *Walenty Wakoluk* and consul of the Republic of Poland in Lutsk *Krzysztof Sawicki*.

and record interviews with eyewitnesses. The contacts with museums in Lithuania, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan and those established with the Polish consulates general in Lutsk (Ukraine) and in Almaty (Kazakhstan) proved particularly helpful in the performance of those tasks, and so did the help provided by the local Polish organizations and parishes. During the official trips, the Museum representatives also conducted educational meetings for the local Polish communities.

The Museum of the Second World War maintains contacts with a number of museums and archives all over the world for the purpose of obtaining visual materials, exhibits, and the rights to display them at the permanent exhibition.

## Special events

[On the occasion of the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Constitutional Tribunal its representatives visited the Museum of the Second World War](#)

The approx. 40 guests at the Museum construction site included Andrzej Rzepliński, the President of the Tribunal, Stanisław Biernat, the Vice-President of the Tribunal, Małgorzata Gesdorf, the first President of the Tribunal, and retired Justice Jerzy Stępień. During the meeting, Museum Director Paweł Machcewicz presented the mission and objectives of our institution and the construction stages. The guests visited the "Journey in Time" children's exhibition, selected rooms of the permanent exhibition, including one with the reconstructed pre-war Warsaw street and another with a symbolic presenta-

Fernando Bravo during his performance "The Sinking of Europe. On Lost Homelands and Human Tragedies" in front of the Museum's building. Photo: Roman Jocher



tion of the ruined city with the T-43 tank. They also went onto the square and saw the panorama of Gdańsk from the top floors of the tower.

[Pomeranian District of the World Society of Home Army Soldiers' study trip to Warsaw](#)

Upon an invitation of the Special Missions Unit Grom "Unseen & Silent," the veterans and their families went to Warsaw, assisted by Girl Guides from two scouting troops of the Scouting Association of the Republic of Poland. The enterprise was supported by the Warsaw Rising Museum, which organised a guided tour of its permanent exhibition. The Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk was responsible for the substantive and organisational aspects of the trip. An important part of the study trip were the Girls Guides' conversations with the Home Army soldiers, who spoke about their memories of the Second World War.

[Spanish artist Fernando Bravo's performance "The Sinking of Europe. On Lost Homelands and Human Tragedies."](#)

The performance took place on 18 November outside the future Museum building on Wałowa Street. It was a metaphor of the fate of migrants, who were looking for a safe home and a better life but met a tragic end... The event was to attract attention to the issue of immigrants arriving in Europe from the war-torn countries in search of a safe haven. It was organised by the Gdańsk Community Foundation (*Fundacja Wspólnota Gdańska*) and its partners: the city of Gdańsk, the Museum of the Second World War, and the European Solidarity Centre.



---

## About the Museum

## Its creation

The idea of setting up a museum that would present the history of Poland during 1939–1945 against a broad European background was presented by Prime Minister Donald Tusk in December 2007. Gdańsk — the city where the war broke out — was chosen to be the seat of the institution.

The Museum of the Second World War came into being with a directive of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage Bogdan Zdrojewski and began its operation on 1 December 2008. Less than a year later, on Westerplatte, during celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War, the Polish Prime Minister signed the Museum's foundation act.

The Museum of the Second World War is a national institution of culture subordinate to the minister of culture and national heritage and listed in the State Museum Register.

## Mission and objectives

The mission of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk is to create a modern institution presenting the history of the war as the biggest catastrophe of the 20th century. One of the main objectives of the Museum is to show the world the war experiences of Poland and other countries in Central-Eastern Europe, in many ways different and largely unknown in Western Europe and non-European countries.

## Management

Paweł Machcewicz serves as the director of the Museum, with Janusz Marszalec and Piotr M. Majewski as his deputies.

## Staff

In 2016, the average employment calculated as full-time jobs and remunerated within the framework of specific subsidy for the ongoing activity was 47.

Throughout the year, we had three interns, one of whom was sent by the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń.

## Financial information

The Museum of the Second World War is funded by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. The Museum's budget for 2016 was:

■ **8,907,000 PLN** of subsidy spent on the ongoing activity:

- enrichment of the collections;
- conservation, preservation, and digitalisation of the objects in the collections;
- educational, research, and publishing activity;
- exhibitions;
- popularisation of the Museum's activity,

■ **175,449,000 PLN** of subsidy spent on investments granted on the basis of the Act 207/2015 of 30 October 2015, which amended the Act on the establishment of the long-term programme "Construction of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk,"

■ **200,000 PLN** of subsidy within the framework of the Cultural Heritage Programme — Cultural Heritage Protection Abroad for the "Digitization of the files of the Sixth Division of the Commander-in-Chief's Staff in the collection of the Polish Underground Movement Study Trust in London."



Board of Trustees' meeting,  
16 December 2016.  
Photo: Roman Jocher

## Board of Trustees and Advisory Board

The operation of the Museum of the Second World War is supported by two mutually independent advisory bodies – the Board of Trustees and the Advisory Board, which are composed of eminent historians from Poland, Great Britain, the United States, France, Germany, and Russia, as well as museologists, lawyers, journalists, and combatants.

The Board of Trustees was established on 13 April 2012 by Minister of Culture and National Heritage Bogdan Zdrojewski. Its current members are:

- **Bogdan Chrzanowski**, University of Gdańsk lecturer, Museum Stutthof employee, chairman of the Board,
- **Piotr M.A. Cywiński**, Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum director,
- **Lieutenant-Colonel Tadeusz Filipkowski**, deputy chairman of the executive board of the World Society of Home Army Soldiers, chairman of the board of the Home Army Film Foundation,
- **Grzegorz Fortuna**, editor-in-chief of the *30 Dni* periodical,
- **Jarosław Krawczyk**, art historian,
- **Jack Lohman**, art historian, museologist, Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM) director,
- **Krzysztof Mikulski**, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń lecturer,

- **Jacek Miler**, director of the Department of Cultural Heritage in the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage,
- **Zdzisław Najder**, literary historian,
- **Jacek Taylor**, lawyer, representative of the Minister of the Treasury on the board of the Foundation for Polish-German Reconciliation, and
- **Dorota Zawacka-Wakarecy**, chairwoman of the General Elżbieta Zawacka Foundation, Pomeranian Archive and Museum of the Home Army and Polish Women's Military Service.

The Advisory Board was appointed on 18 May 2009. Its current members are:

- **Norman Davies**, British Academy, chairman of the Board,
- **Élie Barnavi**, Museum of Europe in Brussels, Faculty of Humanities of the Tel Aviv University,
- **Jerzy W. Borejsza**, Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences,
- **Włodzimierz Borodziej**, Institute of History of the Warsaw University,
- **Andrzej Chwalba**, Institute of History of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow,
- **Ulrich Herbert**, University of Freiburg im Breisgau, School of History of the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies,
- **Pavel Polian**, Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Academic Library of the Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow,
- **Krzysztof Pomian**, Museum of Europe in Brussels,
- **Henry Rousso**, Institute for Contemporary History in Paris, National Centre for Scientific Research in Paris, Paris West University Nanterre La Défense,
- **Timothy D. Snyder**, Yale University,
- **Tomasz Szarota**, Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and
- **Anna Wolff-Powęska**, Faculty of Political Science and Journalism of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

---

Publisher:

**Museum of the Second World War**

PL 80-831 Gdańsk, Długa 81-83  
tel. +48 58 323-75-20, fax+48 58 323-75-30  
sekretariat@muzeum1939.pl  
[www.muzeum1939.pl](http://www.muzeum1939.pl)

Editors:

Alicja Bittner  
Bogumiła Brant

English translation:

Jerzy Giebułtowski

Graphic design:

Magdalena Błażków – Kreacja Pro, Art Director – Andrzej Pałowski

ISBN 978-83-63029-51-7





[www.muzeum1939.pl](http://www.muzeum1939.pl)