



Report on the activities of the Museum of the Second World War in 2014



Museum of the Second World War

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of the Museum of the Second World War
in 2014**

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

In 2014 the Museum began to “grow” out of the ground. The construction of the vital elements of the underground section of the building had been completed. The future location of the permanent exhibition, the underground part is going to be the “heart” of the Museum. Walking on the bottom floor, which is a huge concrete slab placed 15 metres below the ground level, you can clearly see the outline of the future exhibition space, the individual rooms, and the main interior “avenue”, designed as a reflection of the main street of the Wiadrownia quarter — a Gdańsk quarter which used to be here until 1945 and whose remains were unearthed during the archaeological survey preceding the construction of the Museum.

Aside from the construction, efforts are being made to obtain valuable exhibits for the exhibition. Let us mention only two of which the Museum acquired in 2014. The Norwegian Armed Forces Museum presented us with a German Enigma coding machine, which is to serve as a reminder that it was the Polish mathematicians who broke its code back in the 1930s, greatly contributing to the later victory of the Allies. Visitors to our Museum will not only see it, but at the neighbouring multimedia stand they will also be able to encode and decode messages themselves using the Enigma system.

The other exhibit has an interesting history. It is a banner of the Sixth Heavy Artillery Regiment, which defended Lvov in September 1939. The banner was hidden when the Soviets marched into the city. During the post-war resettlements a Polish family transported it to Lower Silesia and hid it throughout the entire communist period only to donate it to the Museum of the Second World War last year. This story shows how very much alive the memory of the war remains and how much effort, and often also risk, it took for its tangible mementoes to survive and find themselves in the new museum.

Paweł Machcewicz
Director of the Museum of the Second World War



Important events of 2014



2 February

“Vilna Region in 1944”
educational re-enactment



13 February

“Routes of Liberation. European
Legacies of the Second World
War” exhibition opens in
the European Parliament

13 March

Discussion of *Zagłada Żydów
europejskich* – Polish edition of
Raul Hilberg's *The Destruction
of the European Jews*

6 April

“The Last Offensive in 1945”
outdoor educational project



11 April

The Museum of the Second
World War in Gdańsk and the
consortium of Warbud S.A.,
Hochtief Polska S.A., and
Hochtief Solution AG sign
a contract for the second stage
of the construction of
the Museum building



9 May

Opening of the “Stutthof – In
Black and White” photographic
exhibition



17 May

European Night of Museums on
Westerplatte

29 May

“The Soldier's Fate” exhibition
opens in the Malbork Castle
Museum

29 May

“Żuławy in 1945” academic
conference, co-organised by the
Museum of the Second World War

13 June

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



24 June

Presentation of the "Liberation Route Europe" history-tourism project during the Dutch Royal couple's visit to Warsaw



1–2 September

Shows of "The Explosion", film and multimedia performance by Andrzej Wajda and produced by the Museum of the Second World War, on the 75th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War



19 September

"So it is war then...! The experiences of civilians in 1939" exhibition opens in the National Museum in Szczecin on the occasion of the 19th General Convention of Polish Historians



26–28 June

Festival of totalitarian propaganda films



7 September

"Borderlands '39" educational re-enactment

7 October

Promotion of *Placz po Warszawie. Powstanie Warszawskie 1944. Dzienniki. Świadczenia* [Cry over Warsaw. The Warsaw Uprising 1944. Journals. Testimonies], edited by Wiktoria Śliwowska, Janusz Marszałc, and Artur Wodzyński

19 July

Neighbourly picnic for inhabitants of the Śródmieście district located near the Museum construction site

18 September

Presentation of Joanna Urbanek's album *Codziennosc w cieniu terroru* [Everyday life in the shadow of terror], published by the Museum, during the 19th General Convention of Polish Historians, co-organised by the Museum

12 November

Discussion of Dirk Brauns' book *Cafe Auschwitz*, organised in cooperation with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and European Solidarity Centre

17 December

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



Visualisations of multimedia presentations on the main exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War. Nolabel Ltd.

Work on
the permanent exhibition



The Museum staff working on the permanent exhibition focused its activity on preparing maps, scripts of multimedia and video presentations, as well as writing and translating the labels for illustrations and exhibits. The works on the multimedia and the documentary films for the exhibition were conducted in cooperation with Nolabel from Cracow, the winner of the 2013 competition for creating the multimedia part of the exhibition. The Museum staff was responsible for provision of the content (texts, iconography), while Nolabel was to graphically and functionally edit the material so that it could be presented on multimedia devices.

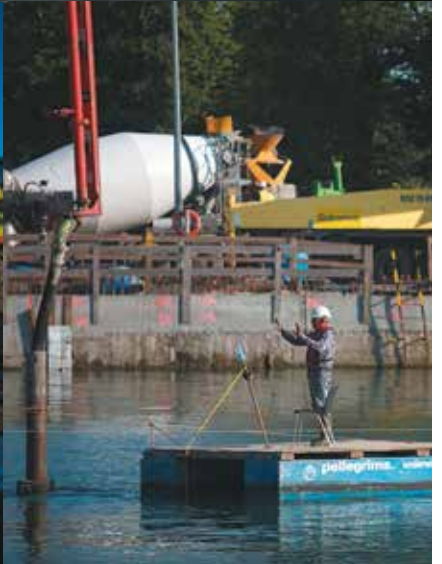
One of the tasks the Museum completed in 2014 was the finalisation of the loans of the exhibits for the permanent exhibition. The Museum negotiated, for instance, detailed loan conditions (time limits, insurance) and the signing of the agreements.



Visualisations of multimedia presentations on the main exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War. Nolabel Ltd.

As a result of a two-stage tender issued in 2014 Qumak S.A. firm was chosen. Its task will be the making of the permanent exhibition.

Early 2014 marked the beginning of the works on the conception of the permanent exhibition catalogue, which is going not only to discuss the most interesting exhibits, but also the Museum's programmatic premises and individual threads of the exhibition. The publication is to serve both Polish and foreign visitors.



Museum construction



Construction of the Museum of the Second World War. 21 January 2014. Photo: Roman Jocher.

January 2014 saw the end of the desilting process, that is, the removal of sediment and the deepening of the pit where the Museum building is to be set. The thus created reservoir became 16 metres deep, which was intended, as at this stage of construction water naturally guarantees the stability of the slurry walls. The next stage was the drilling of 914 22-metre-long micropiles into the bottom to stabilise the concrete “cork” and the building’s bottom plate placed on it. The reinforcement of the base of the building with a dense net of micropiles was necessary due to its susceptibility to powerful pressure of the groundwater. The installation of the micropiles was conducted with the use of barges and the highly specialised works were conducted with participation of divers.

28 May marked the end of the week-long construction of the concrete “cork” which, together with the slurry walls, will constitute a casing protecting the pit from ground water inflow. The concreting was conducted nonstop (24 hours a day), with special pumps pumping a total of nearly 26,000 cubic metres of concrete onto the bottom of the pit.





Once the concrete became durable enough, the water was pumped out and the pit was cleaned. At the same time, any leaks spotted were caulked.

The general contractor – the consortium of Warbud S.A, Hochtief Polska S.A, and Hochtief Solutions AG – began work on the construction site in October, starting with the construction of the bottom (foundation) plate. The main contractor's task is to construct the entire building of the Museum including the installations, finishing, and furnishings, except for the permanent exhibition elements. The main task is to construct six underground floors, which are to house the permanent exhibition, and ground floor with seven stories above it for the library, lecture rooms, conference rooms, etc., with the top floor planned to house a cafe and restaurant with a view of the panorama of Gdańsk. The construction works are scheduled to take 21 months from the moment of the takeover of the construction site.



Board of Trustees of the Museum of the Second
World War visiting the construction site.
17 December 2014. Photo: Roman Jocher.

Collection



Banner of the Sixth Heavy Artillery Regiment from Lvov.
Photo: Dominik Jagodziński.

*Transfer of an Enigma machine.
From left to right: Jeremy
Hutchings, director of the
Collection Department of the
Armed Forces Museum in Oslo,
Bartłomiej Garba,
Lt Col Stein Wilhelm Aasland,
and Daniel Chraniuk.
Photo: Jan Szkuclński.*



Currently, the Museum collection comprises approx. **33,000** items. In 2014 we bought 2,402 items and received 1,723 from donators, while another 32 items were loaned.

There have been continuous efforts to obtain new exhibits through both purchase and donation, the latter an extremely important source of increasing our collection. 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.

One extremely valuable acquisition is the banner of the Sixth Heavy Artillery Regiment from Lvov, which was regarded as lost. It was thought to have been hidden at the Ossolineum Institute following the Lvov mayor's advice. Over the last years, attempts were made to find it but they proved unsuccessful. Finally, in August 2014, the Museum received the banner from a donor, who had kept it at home as a family keepsake since the end of the war.

Another important exhibit is a German Enigma encrypting machine. Donated to the Museum by the Armed Forces Museum in Oslo, the specimen is the version used by the German Kriegsmarine. The machine was used by German military units occupying Norway during 1940–1945. Left there after the Germans' surrender, it eventually ended up in the Armed Forces Museum. The donated specimen is almost complete and requires only minor conservation. The Enigma machine shall be exhibited on the permanent exhibition in the Museum of the Second World War in a special room devoted to the Polish contribution to the breaking of the German codes, which had a tremendous



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influence on the course of the war. The Polish Embassy in Oslo helped the Museum acquire the machine.

Other noteworthy exhibits that have enriched the Museum's collection in 2014:

Components of soldiers' uniforms and equipment

- Combat knife used by members of the Home Army, manufactured in underground arms workshops in Warsaw. Knives of this type were produced on a mass scale and transferred to detachments of the Directorate for Subversion [1].
- Stretcher from the collection of mementoes of medical officer Captain Jan Orlicki, pre-war reserve officer, prisoner of the camp in Starobelsk, and soldier of the Polish II Corps in Italy [2].
- Razor of Colonel Jerzy Patuski, a prisoner of war, used in the Kozelsk II Soviet camp [3].

Everyday life, life in exile

- English Mickey Mouse gas mask for children [4].
- Substitutes (ersatzes) of German food products from the period of the Second World War [5].

Camps, the Holocaust

- Striped camp uniform of a Buchenwald concentration camp inmate, Leszek Dobrowolski, and his letters written during 1943–1945. Arrested in 1943 for underground activity, Dobrowolski was first imprisoned at Pawiak and then transferred to Buchenwald as a political prisoner. He returned to Poland after the camp had been liberated by the Americans in January 1945 [6].
- Empty Zyklon B can. Invented by Fritz Haber, the gas was used to exterminate inmates of German extermination centres and delouse clothes [7].



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Photograph collections, letters, and prints

- Belarusian collaboration periodicals issued during the German occupation of the country in 1944 [1].
- Ewa Fryszak's diaries and school notebooks written during the occupation, when she was a student of the Augustinian Sisters' primary school in Cracow [2].
- Announcement of the execution of death sentences on Poles issued by the Leader of the SS and Police in the Cracow District on 6 April 1944 [3].
- Announcement in Polish and Lithuanian issued by the Vilna Region Forest Department in Kaunas on 24 November 1939 [4].
- Playing cards made between September 1939 and the summer of 1940 by Polish officers interned in Lithuania; memento belonging to Colonel Jerzy Paluski. [5].





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2

OBWIESZCZENIE!

Za zamach morderczy dokonany na polskiej rodzinie MADRALA w dniu 31. 3. 1944 zastrzelono na podstawie wyroku Sądu Doraźnego 10 osób skazanych na śmierć zgodnie z ostrzeżeniem zawartym w moim obwieszczeniu z dnia 29. 1. 1944.

W nocy 4. 4. 1944 dokonano napadu na komendę policji w składowi Myśliwiec i zastrzelono kapłana i podporucznika policji DREKERA, 10 sierżanta (audymera) SZARAWA i 11-Unterstaabsführera Polizei Besondereinsatzabteilung RAUTA. Za to czynienie wymienionym czc- kartę na 30-ty dzień wymienionych osobom, skazanych na śmierć przez Sąd Doraźny.

Do wykonania powyższych 1112 wyroków w wykonaniu egzekucji zostały skierowane 10 osobom skazanych z dnia 1. 4. 1944 (Sąd Doraźny) i 1024 zostały skierowane na śmierć przez Sąd Doraźny przy Kommando der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD für den Distrikt Krakau następujące osoby:

1. Józef Władysław...	101. Józef Władysław...	201. Józef Władysław...
2. Józef Władysław...	102. Józef Władysław...	202. Józef Władysław...
3. Józef Władysław...	103. Józef Władysław...	203. Józef Władysław...
4. Józef Władysław...	104. Józef Władysław...	204. Józef Władysław...
5. Józef Władysław...	105. Józef Władysław...	205. Józef Władysław...
6. Józef Władysław...	106. Józef Władysław...	206. Józef Władysław...
7. Józef Władysław...	107. Józef Władysław...	207. Józef Władysław...
8. Józef Władysław...	108. Józef Władysław...	208. Józef Władysław...
9. Józef Władysław...	109. Józef Władysław...	209. Józef Władysław...
10. Józef Władysław...	110. Józef Władysław...	210. Józef Władysław...
11. Józef Władysław...	111. Józef Władysław...	211. Józef Władysław...
12. Józef Władysław...	112. Józef Władysław...	212. Józef Władysław...
13. Józef Władysław...	113. Józef Władysław...	213. Józef Władysław...
14. Józef Władysław...	114. Józef Władysław...	214. Józef Władysław...
15. Józef Władysław...	115. Józef Władysław...	215. Józef Władysław...
16. Józef Władysław...	116. Józef Władysław...	216. Józef Władysław...
17. Józef Władysław...	117. Józef Władysław...	217. Józef Władysław...
18. Józef Władysław...	118. Józef Władysław...	218. Józef Władysław...
19. Józef Władysław...	119. Józef Władysław...	219. Józef Władysław...
20. Józef Władysław...	120. Józef Władysław...	220. Józef Władysław...
21. Józef Władysław...	121. Józef Władysław...	221. Józef Władysław...
22. Józef Władysław...	122. Józef Władysław...	222. Józef Władysław...
23. Józef Władysław...	123. Józef Władysław...	223. Józef Władysław...
24. Józef Władysław...	124. Józef Władysław...	224. Józef Władysław...
25. Józef Władysław...	125. Józef Władysław...	225. Józef Władysław...
26. Józef Władysław...	126. Józef Władysław...	226. Józef Władysław...
27. Józef Władysław...	127. Józef Władysław...	227. Józef Władysław...
28. Józef Władysław...	128. Józef Władysław...	228. Józef Władysław...
29. Józef Władysław...	129. Józef Władysław...	229. Józef Władysław...
30. Józef Władysław...	130. Józef Władysław...	230. Józef Władysław...
31. Józef Władysław...	131. Józef Władysław...	231. Józef Władysław...
32. Józef Władysław...	132. Józef Władysław...	232. Józef Władysław...
33. Józef Władysław...	133. Józef Władysław...	233. Józef Władysław...

Na osobach wymienionych od 1-33 wyrok został już wykonany.

Kraków, dnia 6. 4. 1944.

Der 44- und Polizeibereich
im Distrikt Krakau.

3

SKELBIMAS

Sąsiedzi! Niechciecie, aby wasze rodziny zostały zamordowane, jak to stało się z rodziną Madrala? Niechciecie, aby wasze rodziny zostały zamordowane, jak to stało się z rodziną Madrala? Niechciecie, aby wasze rodziny zostały zamordowane, jak to stało się z rodziną Madrala?

OBWIESZCZENIE

W nocy 4. 4. 1944 dokonano napadu na komendę policji w składowi Myśliwiec i zastrzelono kapłana i podporucznika policji DREKERA, 10 sierżanta (audymera) SZARAWA i 11-Unterstaabsführera Polizei Besondereinsatzabteilung RAUTA. Za to czynienie wymienionym czc- kartę na 30-ty dzień wymienionych osobom, skazanych na śmierć przez Sąd Doraźny.

MŠKU DEPARTAMANTAS

Kraun, 2012 m. 4. 6. 1944.

DEPARTAMENTAS LASŲ

Kraun, 2012 m. 4. 6. 1944.

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Conservation

Objects received in poor condition undergo conservation, the main purpose is to stop the process of disrepair 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 2014 1,421 items of various sizes underwent conservation. Depending on the material the individual exhibits are made of and their condition, they underwent full, partial or protective conservation.

Among the conserved items were **objects retrieved during exhumation of the mass graves of the Katyn massacre victims**. The collection of 129 items and their fragments was deposited in the Museum of the Second World War by the Council for the Protection of Struggle and Martyrdom Sites. The purpose of the conservation of all those objects was to stop their progressive disrepair and corrosion. To retain the items' authenticity the conservators chose methods and chemicals whose use ensured that the conserved objects' appearance would change as little as possible.

- Badly damaged pocket standard issue compass, used by officers of the Polish Army in the Second Republic of Poland, and metal lighter with the Polish Motorcycle Union logo [1].
- Order of Polonia Restituta and Cross of Merit [2].
- Metal crucifix – cross with crucified Christ and 36-centimetre-long chain [3].
- Pair of cavalry spurs with fragments of leather straps and metal buckles [4].

BEFORE

AFTER

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Retrieved during earthworks, the highly valuable collection of artefacts from the former German extermination centre in Kulmhof am Nehr (Chełmno nad Nerem) also underwent conservation. The artefacts were deposited in our Museum by the Regional Museum in Konin in September 2011.

This collection includes mostly possessions of the victims of the Kulmhof camp, such as, enamel dishes (mugs, bowls, lids), cutlery, toiletries for personal hygiene and objects of personal use (safety razors, razors, pocketknives, nail scissors, combs, toothbrushes), pieces of footwear, belt buckles, buttons, necklace beads, drug and cosmetic packaging, keys, as well as pistol bullet cases and fragments of barbed wire. The collection comprises a total of 192 objects, 450 beads or their fragments, and 384 buttons or their fragments.

The main aim of the conservation was again to retain the objects' authenticity.

When we take these documents and objects in our hands we almost touch the most tragic, final moments of the lives of the people murdered at Chełmno. Even the items, which do not seem particularly significant, surviving in varied condition, give testimony not only to the individual persons' lives, so tragically discontinued in the extermination centre, but also to the tragedy of the entire Jewish nation. They say a lot about their former owners – people in various age, and with various occupations and interests. They also testify to the intentions of the extermination of the Jewish population conducted by the German government. There is no doubt that one of them was to loot the murdered victims' property.

Świadectwa Zagłady. Obóz w Chełmnie nad Nerem. Getto wiejskie Czachulec [Holocaust testimonies. The extermination centre in Chełmno nad Nerem. Czachulec rural ghetto], ed. Lucja Pawlicka-Nowak, Jolanta Adamska (Gdańsk, 2014), p. 349.

- Forks before and after conservation. The melted glass at the bottom of the fork might suggest that the forks were burned with other objects after the closure of the camp to conceal the crimes committed there [1].
- Enamel bowl before and after conservation [2].
- Aluminium mug [3].
- Electric kettle [4].
- Glass medicine bottles [5].

BEFORE

AFTER

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Photo: Dominik Jagodziński

Inventory of the collection

The collection is inventoried in the ZEUS Electronic System of Museum Collection Inventory designed in 2010 and 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

So far, 123 film recordings have been made. The 31 video recordings made in 2014 discuss everyday life under the German and Soviet occupations, German and Soviet terror, Czech-German relations, Polish-Ukrainian relations, massacres in Volhynia, pacification campaigns, persecutions and forced deportations, German aggression on France, the Holocaust, medical experiments on concentration camp inmates, activity of Serbian partisan detachments, Red Army's arrival in Pomerania, post-war communist repressions, etc.

The video recordings were made in Poland, Germany, Serbia, Ukraine and Lithuania.

We also received 30 video interviews with Home Army soldiers on the basis of an agreement with the Home Army Film Foundation signed in March 2014.

The Museum also collects memoirs, diaries, and journals of participants of the war. This collection consists of approx. 105 items.

*Alfreda Lipska talked about the horrifying experiences during her stay in the Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen-Belsen camps.
Photo: Dominik Jagodziński.*



*Camp number on Alfreda Lipska's arm – remnant of her stay in the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.
Photo: Dominik Jagodziński.*





Obóz w Chelmnie nad Nerem
Gatki wiejskie Czachulec
Gdańsk 2014

...ska krew
Główny Urząd Rasy i Osadnictwa SS
i nowy porządek rasowy Europy
Gdańsk 2014
MWN
Museum of World War II

**CODZIENNA
W CIENIU TERRORU**
OKUPACJA NIEMIECKA W POLSCE 1939-1945

Wiktor Śliwowski
**Płacz
po Warszawie**
Wstanie Warszawskie 1944.
Dzienniki, Świadczenia
MWN
Museum of World War II
Gdańsk

Marcin Westphal
**Walka o panowanie
w głębinach**
Historia powstania U-Boota typu XXI
Gdańsk 2014
MWN
Museum of World War II

Antysowieckie podziemie w Europie
Środkowo-Wschodniej w latach 1945-1956
Gdańsk - Warszawa 2014
USP
IPAN

Scholarly activity and publications

Publications

Museum publications in 2014:

- Artur Wodzyński, **W odwrocie i walce. Codziennosc polskich żołnierzy podczas kampanii 1939 roku** [In retreat and in battle. The everyday lives of Polish soldiers in the 1939 campaign]

Artur Wodzyński's monograph is a very worthwhile study depicting the everyday life of Polish Army soldiers during the 1939 campaign. Polish military historiography wants for such works.

Prof. Waldemar Rezmer

- Isabel Heinemann, **Rasa, ziemia, niemiecka krew. Główny Urząd Rasy i Osadnictwa SS i nowy porządek rasowy Europy** [Polish edition of *Rasse, Siedlung, deutsches Blut. Das Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamt der SS und die rassenpolitische Neuordnung Europas* (Race, settlement, German blood: The SS Race and Settlement Main Office and a new racial order in Europe)]

The German scholar's book is a fascinating and horrifying read. [...] Heinemann shows us Nazism as an ideological enterprise and crusade. Nazism treated the racially inferior worse than animals.

Adam Leszczyński, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, "Ale Historia" supplement

- **Płacz po Warszawie. Powstanie Warszawskie 1944. Dzienniki. Świadcstwa**, [Cry over Warsaw. The Warsaw Uprising 1944. Journals. Testimonies], ed. Wiktoria Śliwowska, Janusz Marszałec, Artur Wodzyński.

Those who expect a one-dimensional, exclusively heroic presentation such as during anniversary celebrations shall be disappointed. This is more like a story about purgatory. It does not end on the last day of the partisan combat but drags on for months of captivity and adversity.

Dr Janusz Marszałec

- Joanna Urbanek's album **Codziennosc w cieniu terroru. Okupacja niemiecka w Polsce 1939–1945** [Everyday life in the shadow of terror. German occupation in Poland 1939–1945]

This is undoubtedly a successful publication. It can be successfully used by school teachers in their work, as an aptly selected image often appeals to students more than a text. Hence, this album should find its way onto a shelf of every teacher and/or person interested in this subject matter.

Prof. Krzysztof Ruchniewicz





■ **Wojna na Kaszubach. Pamięć polskich i niemieckich świadków,**

[War in Kashubia. The memory of the Polish and German eye-witnesses], ed. Katarzyna Madoń-Mintzer, Roland Borscher

Inhabited by Poles, Germans, Kashubians and Jews, Kashubia had been a multi-ethnic region for centuries. This book records stories of those who still remember that multi-ethnicity, which was an element of their world, so radically changed as a result of the Second World War.

from the introduction



■ Anna Zapalec, **Druga strona sojuszu. Żołnierze brytyjscy w Polsce w czasie II wojny światowej**

[The other side of the alliance. British soldiers in Poland during the Second World War]

This monograph on the fate of the British soldiers in Poland during the Second World War undoubtedly deserves recognition. This topic is not only important, but also equally fascinating, with some of its threads being simply sensational.

Prof. Mieczysław Nurek



■ Marcin Westphal, **Walka o panowanie w głębinach. Historia powstania U-Bootu typu XXI**

[Struggle for domination in the depths. History of the construction of the type XXI U-boat]

For decades Polish scholars had avoided taking up topics connected with the type XXI U-boats mass-produced and assembled in the Gdańsk shipyards. [...] Luckily, Marcin Westphal overcame this barrier of impotence, thus adding to Polish historiography this valuable study on the later wartime production of German U-boats in Gdynia and Gdańsk.

Prof. Jan Kazimierz Sawicki



■ **Świadectwa Zagłady. Obóz w Chełmnie nad Nerem. Getto wiejskie Czachulec,**

[Holocaust testimonies. The extermination centre in Chełmno nad Nerem. Czachulec rural ghetto], selection of documents, ed. Łucja Pawlicka-Nowak, Jolanta Adamska

This is a valuable supplement to the available publications on this topic. Describing and quoting various Holocaust testimonies, the publication encompasses them as a defined whole [...] Despite its extremely tragic subject matter the book is bound to interest the reader, with the accessibility of its style its additional virtue.

Dr Danuta Drywa



Promotion of Piotr M. Majewski's book in Prague. From left to right: Dr Adrian Portmann von Arburg, Dr Piotr M. Majewski, and Dr Jiří Friedl.
Photo: Knihovna Václava Havla.

Publications in cooperation with other institutions

- **Żuławy w 1945. Materiały z konferencji „Żuławy w 1945”** [Żuławy in 1945. Materials from the “Żuławy in 1945” conference], ed. Andrzej Gąsiorowski; in cooperation with Museum Stutthof in Sztutowo.
- Piotr Majewski, **Sudetští Němci 1848–1948. Dějiny jednoho nacionalismu – Czech edition of Niemcy sudeccy 1848–1948. Historia pewnego nacionalizmu** [Sudeten Germans 1848–1948. History of a certain nationalism], published by the Conditio Humana civic association in cooperation with the Czech-Polish Forum and the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk. The Polish version was published in 2008 by the Warsaw University Press.

Co-authors of "Wojna po wojnie"
[War after the war], Prof. Rafał Wnuk
and Dr Adam Baran, receiving the
Jerzy Giedroyc Award from the
Maria Curie Skłodowska
University president.
Photo: Maciej Przysucha.



Award for our publication

In 2014 Grzegorz Motyka, Rafał Wnuk, Tomasz Stryj, and Adam F. Baran's book **Wojna po wojnie. Antysowieckie podziemie w Europie Środkowo-Wschodniej w latach 1944–1953** [A war after the war. The anti-Soviet underground in East-Central Europe in 1944–53], published by our Museum, was awarded the Jerzy Giedroyc Award. Established by the Senate of the Maria Curie Skłodowska University, the Award has been awarded since 2001, among others, for creative continuation of Jerzy Giedroyc's message in the sphere of science. Professor Jerzy Kłoczowski, historian and professor at the Catholic University of Lublin, wrote the following in the nomination substantiation:

This is a pioneering comparative approach to the history of the underground in East-Central Europe. [...] All the texts have the virtue of being based on thorough archival search quest, with most of them incorporating vast innovative [...] material of an informative and interpretative character. Another virtue of this monograph is that it discusses several aspects of the issue: on the one hand it is a synthetic, comparative lecture on the history of the underground, and on the other hand an analogously comparative lecture on the history of the fight against the underground.



Collection of the library of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk.
Photo: Dominik Jagodziński.

Museum library

At this point the Museum collection comprises approx. **13,100** publications connected with the subject matter of the Second World War and its consequences. The library includes books, periodicals, audiovisual and electronic documents, and maps. It acquired nearly **1,500** items in 2014 alone.

The collection includes texts in Polish, English, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Finnish, Flemish, French, Korean, Lithuanian, Luxembourgish, Latvian, German, Norwegian, Russian, Romanian, Serbian, Slovakian, Ukrainian, and Italian.

Research projects

In 2014 the staff of the Museum of the Second World War have worked on the following research projects:

1) Continuation of the research project on the history of the Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation. It 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.

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 is also going to be compared with analogous efforts following other historical watersheds, such as, the First World War, the Spanish Civil War, the fall of communist dictatorships, etc. Prof. Paweł Machcewicz is in charge of the project.

Both projects will continue during 2014–2017 within the framework of a grant from the National Science Centre, with the Institute of Social Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences as its coordinator and main executor.

3) “Everyday life during the Second World War in Poland and other European countries.” Published in 2014, the album *Codziennosc w cieniu terroru. Okupacja niemiecka w Polsce w latach 1939–1945* [Everyday life in the shadow of terror. German occupation in Poland 1939–1945] was prepared within the framework of this project. It shows everyday life during the occupation as captured through camera lenses of German, Polish, and Jewish photographers, not failing to present the differences in the living conditions between these ethnic groups in occupied Polish lands. A few dozen collections of photographs amassed in Poland and abroad were looked through for the purpose of this publication. Finally, 400 photographs from over 40 archives, museums and private collections were selected. Joanna Urbanek is in charge of the project.

4) “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, which is to be published within the framework of this project, will be an attempt at analysing the activities, development and ideological profile of the underground organisations operating in the two different occupation systems. The issue will be presented against an extensive background of the individual countries histories. The publication will be based on a search query in the Baltic States’ archives and reference books (Estonian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Russian and in English). The search queries in Vilna and Riga were conducted in July. The aim of the project is also to compare the pro-independence underground in the Baltic States and in Poland. Heading the project is Prof. Rafał Wnuk.

5) “Monte Cassino.” The project is to conclude with a publication on the fighting to break the Gustav Line in 1944. The project is to take into consideration the point of view of both the most important Allied contingents and the Germans. A search quest was conducted within the framework of the project in the Department Military Archives of the Freiburg branch of the Federal Archives (23 March–2 April). Dr Jan Szkudliński is in charge of the project.



Exhibitions



Exhibition "The Soldier's Fate. The Everyday Life of Soldiers during the Second World War."
Photo: Ewelina Dragosz.

"So It Is War Then...! The Experiences of Civilians in 1939"

The exhibition presents the fate of the civilian population during the military operations in September and October 1939 and during the first period of the German and Soviet occupations until the end of that year. Using around 100 exhibits from museum collections, documents and mostly previously unpublished photographs from the collection of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, the exhibition shows the tragedy of civilians, dying as a result of bombardments of Polish towns or fleeing from the German or Soviet armies seizing Polish territory. The exhibition also discusses Polish public institutions, such as, the health service, the fire service, or the police, as well as volunteers who in the face of the danger risked their lives to aid the public services.

The exhibition opened on 19 September 2014 during the 19th General Convention of Polish Historians in Szczecin and it was presented in the local branch of the National Museum until 11 January 2015.

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

This exhibition depicts the humdrum aspects 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. It also demonstrates various military attitudes, both those which led to war crimes and brutal treatment of civilians and those which resulted from heroism and nobleness. The exhibition was prepared in two language versions: Polish and English.



A WIĘC WOJNA...

LOSY LUDNOŚCI CYWILNEJ
W 1939 ROKU

*Stała się piękna
w ciągu 8 iu dni*

**POŻYCZKA OBRONY
PRZEZ WWOLOTNICZĘ**

KASCADY

**B i a
Tyoz**

KREISAMT



*"Routes of Liberation" exhibition
in St John's Centre
in Gdańsk. 4 March 2015.
Photo: Roman Jocher.*

Between 29 May and 15 September 2014 the exhibition was presented in the Malbork Castle Museum, while from 3 October 2014 to 15 June 2015 it may be seen in the Naval Museum in Gdynia.

"Routes of Liberation. European Legacies of the Second World War"

The exhibition discusses the causes, course, and complex heritage of the Second World War as well as its consequences for European countries, separated by the Iron Curtain as its result. It was prepared by an international team, which included representatives of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, Liberation Route Europe Foundation from the Netherlands, Allied Museum Berlin, Mémorial de Caen Museum, National Liberation Museum 1944–1945 in Groesbeek and the D-Day Museum in Portsmouth. The exhibition has been prepared in five language versions: English, French, Dutch, German and Polish. Its official opening was organised on 13 February 2014 in the building of the European Parliament with the participation of the President of the Parliament, Martin Schulz. The exhibition then began its tour of the partner institutions, which show it in their own countries. In Poland, the exhibition was presented in Warsaw and Gdańsk in February and March 2015.

Opening of the "Stutthof – In Black and White" exhibition.
Photo: Grzegorz Mehring



"Stutthof – In Black and White"

Prepared in cooperation with Museum Stutthof, the exhibition is a summary of the photographic workshops organised in the second half of 2013 in Sztutowo. It presents around a hundred photographs taken by the participants, who, supervised by a professional photographer, tried to capture the local landscape, on which history has left its tragic imprint. The exhibition was displayed in Museum Stutthof between 9 May and 30 September 2014.



The Museum director giving a speech before "The Explosion" performance. Photo: Mateusz Ochocki/Kosycarz Foto Press

**“The Explosion” film and
multimedia performance**



*Andrzej Wajda, "The Explosion" originator.
Photo: Mateusz Ochocki/Kosycarz
Foto Press.*

*Polish and German presidents during the
performance.
Photo: Maciej Kosycarz/Kosycarz
Foto Press.*

*Minister of Culture and National Heritage
Małgorzata Omilanowska.
Photo: Mateusz Ochocki/Kosycarz
Foto Press.*

"The Explosion" film and multimedia performance on the 75th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War, 1–2 September 2014

This event was organised by the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk in cooperation with the City of Gdańsk. Prepared according to Andrzej Wajda's idea, the performance was presented on a large screen (80 by 5 metres) placed inside an old gas tank at the Polish Gas Company. The over 20-minute-long performance used unique archival films and photos, some previously unpublished, as well as footage of Andrzej Wajda's films *Speed* and *Katyn*.

"The Explosion" is in a way a contemporary equivalent of the Raclawice Panorama – it uses modern means of expression to show one of the most dramatic pages in history, from the moment of Hitler's takeover of power in Germany until the outbreak of the war and the fighting in September 1939.

The animation was created by the Cracow Nolabel studio, which is preparing the films and multimedia presentations for the permanent exhibition in the Museum of the Second World War.

On 1 September the screening was attended by the Polish President Bronisław Komorowski and his wife, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany Joachim Gauck, and the Minister of Culture and National Heritage Małgorzata Omilanowska.

Throughout the two days the series of free screenings was attended by a total of 5,500 spectators.



"The Explosion" film and multimedia performance. Photo: Maciej Kosycarz/Kosycarz Foto Press.



Educational activity



Propaganda film festival.
26 June 2014.
Photo: Roman Jocher.

Film screenings

1st edition of the totalitarian propaganda film festival, 26–28 June 2014

The programme of the three-day festival included two Soviet productions, *Battleship Potemkin*, directed by S.M. Eisenstein, and *Do zavra* [Till tomorrow], directed by Yuri Tarich, two German ones, *Triumph of Will*, directed by Leni Riefenstahl, and *Our Flags Lead Us Forward*, directed by Hans Steinhoff, an Italian one, *Camicia Nera* [Black shirt], directed by Giovacchino Forzano, and a Polish one, *Three Stories*, directed by Czesław Petelski, Konrad Nałęcki, and Ewa Poleska.

Every film was preceded with a historical comment by Professor Eugeniusz Cezary Król, a historian and political scientist, the director of the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and a translator of German historical literature.

Public lectures and book presentations within the framework of the “Meetings with History” series

Since its inauguration the Museum of the Second World War has been organising a series of public lectures. Meetings organised in 2014:

- 8 January 2014, lecture by Dr Winson Chu “Pomiędzy małą ojczyzną a narodem: mniejszość niemiecka w międzywojennej Polsce” [Between a local homeland and a nation: German minority in interwar Poland],
- 20 February 2014, promotion of Artur Wodzyński’s book *W odwrócie i walce. Codziennosc żołnierzy*

Presentation of "Dzienniki",
the Polish edition of
"Joseph Goebbels' diaries".
9 April 2014.
Photo: Magdalena Ubysz.

Discussion on Raul Hilberg's book
"The Destruction of European Jews".
13 March 2014.
Photo: Roman Jocher.



polskich podczas kampanii 1939 roku [In retreat and in battle. The everyday lives of Polish soldiers in the 1939 campaign], published by the Museum,

- 13 March 2014, discussion of *Zagłada Żydów europejskich* (Polish edition of Raul Hilberg's *The Destruction of the European Jews*) with the participation of Dr. Grzegorz Berendt, Dr. Dariusz Libionka, the scientific editor of the Polish edition, and Jerzy Giebułtowski, the translator; moderated by Dr. Rafał Wnuk, the head of the research department of the Museum of the Second World War,
- 9 April 2014, presentation of *Dzienniki* (Polish edition of Joseph Goebbels's diaries); moderated by Professor Eugeniusz Cezary Król, a historian, political scientist, translator, and the editor of *Dzienniki*,
- 7 May 2014, promotion of Agnieszka Jaczyńska's book *Sonderlaboratorium SS. Zamojszczyzna – „Pierwszy obszar osiedleńczy w Generalnym Gubernatorstwie”* [Sonderlaboratorium of the SS. The Zamość region – "The first settlement area in the General Government"]],
- 7 October 2014, promotion of *Placz po Warszawie. Powstanie Warszawskie 1944. Dzienniki. Świadectwa* [Cry over Warsaw. The Warsaw Uprising 1944. Journals. Testimonies], edited by Wiktoria Śliwowska, Janusz Marszał, and Artur Wodzyński; the promotion took place at the History Meeting House in Warsaw,
- 15 October 2014, promotion of Joanna Urbanek's album *Codziennosc w cieniu terroru. Okupacja niemiecka w Polsce 1939–1945* [Everyday life in the shadow of terror. German occupation in Poland 1939–1945], with the participation of Professor Eugeniusz Cezary Król,
- 12 November 2014, discussion of Dirk Brauns' book *Cafe Auschwitz*, co-organised by the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, the European Solidarity Centre, the Akcent Publishing House, and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.



"Westerplatte – Find a Key to Its History" outdoor game.
Photo: Roman Jocher.

"Secrets of the Enigma" workshops.
Photo: Roman Jocher.

Classes, projects, educational workshops

"Westerplatte – Find a Key to Its History" outdoor game on Westerplatte for primary school pupils

A project addressed to pupils from grades 2–3 of primary school. The participants play the outdoor game with re-enactors, learning about the genesis of the Military Transit Depot and the course of the defence operations in September 1939. In 2014 the number of pupils who took part in the game on Westerplatte was 2,305.

"Outdoor School of Freedom"

An educational project carried out in cooperation with the European Solidarity Centre. Addressed to students of secondary schools, this educational offer includes: a sightseeing programme (the European Solidarity Centre – the Museum of the Second World War – the Polish Post Museum – Westerplatte), educational materials and publications, and workshops promoting knowledge about the most important events in modern history and the history of Pomerania. Another objective of this project is to familiarise the students with the activities of two institutions: the Museum of the Second World War and the European Solidarity Centre. In 2014 the number of students who participated in the programme was 125.

"Secrets of the Enigma" educational workshops

Workshops for students of grades 1–2 of upper secondary school. The workshops' topic is the work of Polish mathematicians and their contribution to the breaking of the code of the German Enigma

*"Soldier's fate" workshops.
Photo: Roman Jocher.*

*European Night of Museums
on Westerplatte. 17 May 2014.
Photo: Dominik Jagodziński.*



coding machine, as well as the influence of that fact on the course of the Second World War. The workshops supplement and develop the information from the history syllabus. The teaching aids prepared especially for this project included coding machine models with rotors, which enabled the students to code messages independently, thus making it easier for them to learn how the Enigma worked and understand the challenge the Polish cryptologists faced. Last year 563 students took part in the workshops.

"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, the workshops are connected with the temporary exhibition prepared by the Museum of the Second World War, on display in the Naval Museum in Gdynia until 15 June 2015. During the classes the students learn about the everyday life of the soldiers (including those aspects not connected with combat) and the difficulties they had to face. By doing the exercises during the workshops the students become familiar, among others, with the uniform and equipment of soldiers of various armies fighting during the Second World War. 394 students took part in the workshops in 2014.

Active visits to the Westerplatte battlefield

Devoted to the history and topography of the peninsula, the programme is addressed to students of secondary schools. During the classes on Westerplatte the students learn about the topography of the peninsula, the location of the objects, which in 1939 made up the defence system of the Army Transit Storehouse, and the course of the defence operations during the first seven days after the



*"Vilna Region in 1944."
Photo: Roman Jocher.*

outbreak of war. An important point in the programme is the outdoor exhibition "Westerplatte: a Spa, a Bastion, a Symbol," prepared by the Museum of the Second World War. Last year 317 students participated in the workshops.

"Bringing Westerplatte Closer to the Young" workshops

The intention of these classes, prepared for students with special educational needs, was to teach them about the history of Westerplatte. The students saw fragments of archival films and iconographic elements of "Westerplatte: a Spa, a Bastion, a Symbol" permanent outdoor exhibition and used other teaching aids such as maps and uniform and equipment replicas. The number of students who participated in the workshops in 2014 was 70.

Outdoor events

"Vilna Region in 1944" 2 February 2014

A multi-plot outdoor-historical project with historical re-enactments in the background. Its intention was to present and commemorate the extremely complex situation in the Vilna region during the Second World War, with particular attention given to the history of the Polish Underground State. The project was carried out in cooperation with the Folk Architecture Museum –the Ethnographic Park in Olsztynek.

*"The Last Offensive in 1945."
6 April 2014.
Photo: Roman Jocher.*

*European Night of Museums on
Westerplatte. 17 May 2014.
Photo: Dominik Jagodziński.*



"The Last Offensive in 1945" 6 April 2014

This outdoor-historical project used animated dioramas, re-enactments, and presentations to discuss the final period of the Third Reich, including the Allies' race for German technical achievements and looted cultural goods. The main element of the presentation was the balance of losses in post-war Europe. The project was undertaken in the building of the Old Paper Factory in Łapino (Kolbudy municipality).

European Night of Museums on Westerplatte, 17 May 2014

Within the structure of the European Night of Museums on Westerplatte the Museum of the Second World War organised, for instance, an outdoor game about the 300-year history of the peninsula, with particular attention paid to the years 1939–1945, stands with historical re-enactment groups from the period of the Second World War and the Polish People's Army, whose members demonstrated the vehicles and military equipment, a presentation of the Sherman Firefly tank (one of the Museum's exhibits) and also outdoor screenings of films, including film chronicles.

Baltic Festival of Science, 23 May 2014

Included in the framework of this event the Museum of the Second World War organised educational classes to teach young people about an important aspect of the war – the breaking of the code of the German Enigma coding machine by Polish cryptologists. The classes had an interactive character, as they employed Enigma replicas and cryptological brain-twisters, providing the children with an



*Neighbourly picnic.
19 July 2014.
Photo: Museum of
the Second World War.*

opportunity to learn about the procedures of coding German signal transmissions used before and during the Second World War. An original machine was presented in the Museum.

Neighbourly picnic for inhabitants of the Śródmieście district of Gdańsk, 19 July 2014

The intention of that event was to familiarise inhabitants of Gdańsk, particularly those of the Śródmieście district, with the activity of our institution, present our achievements so far, and talk about the future home of the Museum and planned initiatives.

The program included workshops (“Occupation: Museologist and Conservator” and “Secrets of the Enigma – You Too Can Break the German Code!”), presentations of the most interesting exhibits from the Museum’s collection, and lectures on the history before the Second World War and subsequently of the Wiadownia quarter, where the Museum is being built.

Moreover, the Museum organised a stand to collect memories and mementoes, a re-enactors’ stand, a board game tournament, contests, and screenings of films about the activity of the Museum of the Second World War.

*"Borderlands '39,"
7 September 2014.
Photo: Roman Jocher.*



"Borderlands '39," 7 September 2014

This re-enactment referred to the events which took place on Polish lands during the first days after the outbreak of the Second World War. The historical background was the battles fought by the Łódź Army in September 1939 and the situation on the border between the Second Republic of Poland and the Third Reich. The main theme was the logistic support to the front line. Great stress was laid on presentation of the functioning of the auxiliary force, everyday life of the soldiers, command, and maintenance of discipline.

More than a hundred re-enactors participated in the event. The Museum of the Second World War created a unique formula for preparing the grounds and staging the mock battles to allow the viewers to move independently on the site of the re-enacted military operations. The entire re-enactment programme was prepared in such a way so as to enable families with children to participate. The event was organised in cooperation with the Museum of Folk Architecture – the Ethnographic Park in Olsztynek.



*Łabiszyn Meetings with History,
June 2014.
Photo: Michał Katzer.*

Cooperation, patronage of educational projects

The Museum of the Second World War supports initiatives intended for cultivation of the memory of the Second World War. This year the Museum took part, for instance, in the March training for re-enactors, during which classes were organised on safe use of historical fire arms. By supporting such initiatives, the Museum seeks to promote ethical standards, deepen animated history enthusiasts' knowledge, and increase safety of both re-enactors and spectators.

At the turn of June and July the Museum co-organised the 6th rally in the footsteps of the soldiers of the 5th Vilna Brigade of the Home Army commanded by Major "Łupaszko." The purpose of the rally is to spread knowledge on the activity of the Home Army detachment commanded by Major Zygmunt Szendzielarz „Łupaszko” and other pro-independence partisan detachments active in the Vilna region and Pomerania during 1939–1946 as well as to shape ethnics and civic attitude. The Museum also participated in the preparation of another edition of the Łabiszyn Meetings with History. Many presentations, dioramas, shows and workshops were organised within the framework of that event, which has been held for a few years. The main theme of the last year's edition was Operation Market Garden of 1944. Especially for this event, the Museum prepared informational brochures explaining the historical background of the events presented during the re-enactments. It also presented one of its exhibits – a Sherman Firefly tank.

Debate "Between Independence and Obedience. Let Us Talk about Education."
25 October 2014.
Photo: Roman Jocher



In August the Museum helped the Alternative Promontory Association organise an orienteering race at the fortifications on the Hel Peninsula, an initiative intended for combining active tourism with learning about the history of the peninsula.

Another event co-organised by the Museum was the October debate "Between Independence and Obedience. Let Us Talk about Education," in which way the Bolesław Srocki Association, in cooperation with our Museum, the European Solidarity Centre, and the Gdańsk Educational Foundation put into practice an idea of students and teaching staff of the Gdańsk Autonomous Schools. Moderated by Father Krzysztof Niedałowski, the founder of the Gdańsk Areopag, the debate proceeded with the participation of Alicja Pacewicz, a social activist, Professor Henryk Samsonowicz, a historian, Robert Gliński, a director, Piotr Pacewicz, a publicist, and Jan Wróbel, a journalist and teacher. It was preceded with a screening of a film devoted to Bolesław Srocki, who was a member of the Polish parliament in the Second Republic of Poland, social activist, member of the presidium of the Union of Polish Youth, and educator of the young people from Warsaw who were members of the "Zośka" and "Parasol" battalions. The discussion was directed, among other objectives, at confronting the pre-war educational ideas of the Union of Polish Youth with the current social situation.

National and international cooperation



*"Routes of Liberation" exhibition in Brussels.
Photo: Liberation Route Europe Foundation.*

Liberation Route Europe

Liberation Route Europe is an international history-tourism project co-financed by the European Union and undertaken by the Museum of the Second World War and its partners from the Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain and France. The aim of the project 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. By promoting the shared historical and cultural heritage, the project is also to support international tourism and promote the towns and regions that participate in it. The project was undertaken between September 2013 and February 2015.

Designed within the framework of the project, the 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 also persons connected with the course, the end, and consequences of the Second World War in Europe. Aside from historical information, the Liberation Route Europe website also contains information useful to tourists, for whom it is to serve as a kind of guidebook. The official launch of the website took place on 6 June

Presentation of the Liberation Route Europe project during the visit of the Dutch royal couple. 24 June 2014.
Photo: Dominik Jagodziński.



2014 in Arranches in connection with the anniversary celebrations in Normandy. On 24 June the project was presented in Warsaw in the presence of the Dutch Royal couple and the Polish presidential couple.

With the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, the project was undertaken by the Liberation Route Europe Foundation, Arnhem Nijmegen Region Tourist Office, Arnhem Nijmegen City Region, Mémorial de Caen Museum, Rureifel-Tourismus, Région Basse-Normandie, Visit Kent, Allied Museum Berlin, National Liberation Museum 1944–1945 in Groesbeek, and other partners who supported the project, for instance, the Imperial War Museums and the D-Day Museum in Portsmouth. The partners made a decision to continue the cooperation, which resulted in a submission of an application for funding of the second stage of the project in October 2014.



*Estonian Minister of Culture handing over a suitcase to the deputy director of the Museum of the Second World War, Dr Piotr M. Majewski.
Photo: Grzegorz Mehring/European Solidarity Centre Archive*

Cooperation in obtainment of exhibits

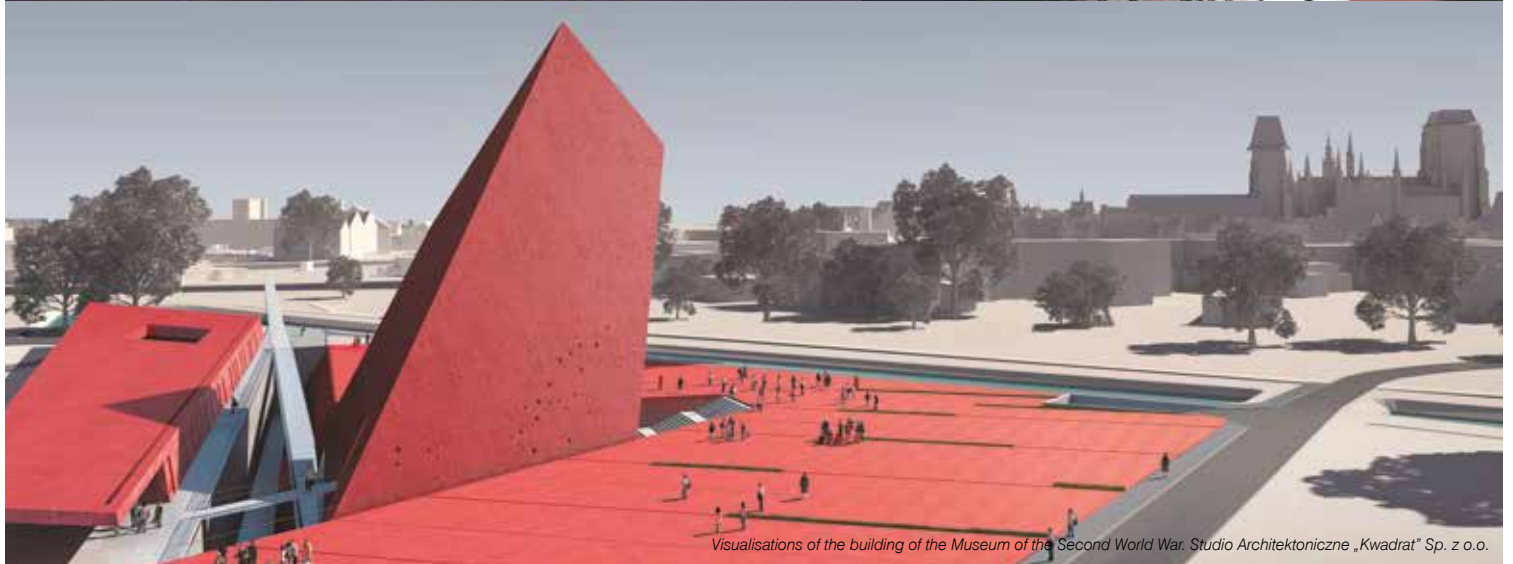
Obtainment of exhibits is an important aspect of our cooperation with other institutions. Last year it enabled us to acquire two unique objects for our collection. The first one is a suitcase made by an Estonian man deported during the war into the interior of the USSR and imprisoned in a labour camp. The suitcase, which he had all that time, is a testimony to the suffering of thousands of people who during the Second World War were deprived of their homeland and freedom and deported to distant parts of the USSR. The exhibit came to Gdańsk from the Estonian Museum of Occupations in Tallinn and was handed to the Museum of the Second World War by the Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Iivies during his visit to Poland.

Another valuable object obtained last year is an Enigma coding machine. Donated to the Museum by the Armed Forces Museum in Oslo.

*Exhibits at the Museum
of the Second World War.
Photo: Jacek Balk*



Other noteworthy initiatives undertaken in cooperation with other institutions include our Museum's financial contribution to the launch of the historical-informative website (<http://www.studium.org.uk>) of the Polish Underground Movement Study Trust in London and our co-founding of a monument of General Elżbieta Zawacka, unveiled in September 2014, in cooperation with the "Archive and the Pomeranian Museum of the Home Army and Polish Women's Military Service" Foundation of General Elżbieta Zawacka. In September the Museum was the patron of the 19th General Convention of Polish Historians in Szczecin, organised by the Szczecin branch of the Polish Historical Society.



Visualisations of the building of the Museum of the Second World War. Studio Architektoniczne „Kwadrat” Sp. z o.o.

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 activities 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.

Management

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

Staff

In 2014 the Museum had 42 employees.

That year there were also three interns, two volunteers, and one intern sent by the County Labour Office.

Board of Trustees members.
Left to right:
Professor Jack Lohman,
Dorota Zawacka-Wakarecy,
Professor Krzysztof Mikulski,
Dr Piotr M. A. Cywiński,
and Jacek Taylor.
Photo: Roman Jocher.



Financial information

The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage provides funding for the Museum of the Second World War. The Museum's 2014 budget totalled 55,103,119 zlotys, and its expenses were as follows:

- Out-of-pocket expenses (exhibitions; enrichment of the collections; preservation and digitalization of the objects in the collections; educational, research and publications activities; and public relations) 7,224,355 zlotys
- Ear-marked appropriations granted in accordance with the Council of Ministers' 31/2011 resolution of 4 January 2011 regarding establishment of the "Construction of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk" multi-year programme and the Council of Ministers' 174/2013 resolution of 8 October 2011 which amended the resolution regarding the establishment of the said programme 47,826,876 zlotys

Furthermore, the Museum also used a designated subsidy for investment expenses connected with the on-going activity of the Museum in the amount of 51,888 zlotys.

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 and also museum specialists, lawyers, journalists and veterans.

Minister of Culture and National Heritage Bogdan Zdrojewski appointed the Board of Trustees on 13 April 2012. Its current members are:

- Professor Bogdan Chrzanowski, University of Gdańsk lecturer, Museum Stutthof employee, chairman of the Board,
- Dr 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, *30 Dni* periodical editor-in-chief,
- Dr Jarosław Krawczyk, art historian,
- Professor Jack Lohman, art historian, museologist, chief executive, Royal British Columbia Museum,
- Professor 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,
- Professor Zdzisław Najder, historian of literature,
- Jacek Taylor, lawyer, representative of the Minister of the Treasury on the board of the Foundation for Polish-German Reconciliation, and
- Dorota Zawacka-Wakarecy, chair, General Elżbieta Zawacka Foundation, Archive and the Pomeranian Museum of the Home Army and of the Polish Women's Military Service.

The Advisory Board was appointed on 18 May 2008. Its current members are:

- Professor Norman Davies, British Academy, chairman of the Board,
- Professor Jerzy W. Borejsza, Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences,
- Professor Włodzimierz Borodziej, Institute of History of Warsaw University,
- Professor Andrzej Chwalba, Institute of History of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow,

Members of the Advisory Board. Left to right: Professor Ulrich Herbert, Professor Krzysztof Pomian, Professor Timothy Snyder, Professor Włodzimierz Borodziej, and Professor Norman Davies.
Photo: Roman Jocher.



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- Professor Ulrich Herbert, University of Freiburg, School of History of the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies,
 - Professor Pavel Polian, Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Academic Library of the Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow,
 - Professor Krzysztof Pomian, Museum of Europe in Brussels,
 - Professor Henry Rousso, Institute for Contemporary History in Paris, National Centre for Scientific Research in Paris, Paris West University Nanterre La Défense,
 - Professor Timothy D. Snyder, Yale University,
 - Professor Tomasz Szarota, Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

In 2015 we bid farewell to two eminent historians and members of the Advisory Board Professor Władysław Bartoszewski and Professor Jerzy Holzer.



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