

**2020 REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE MUSEUM OF THE
SECOND WORLD WAR**

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

2020 was exceptional for the activities of the Museum of the Second World War due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new situation prompted an alternative approach for our institution to the possibility of reaching our audience. In connection with the restrictions introduced which resulted in the closing of the WWII Museum to visitors, it became essential to carry out our statutory mission – to tell about the most tragic conflict in the history of civilization – via the Internet.

Each day, beginning from the 16th of March, interesting materials on the Second World War – including articles, virtual walks, films as well as various educational and cultural materials – were published on the Museum website and on its social media. Interest in these activities carried out under #M2Wswirtualnie exceeded our expectations – there were over 35 million views of the materials we presented.

During the hard times of the pandemic we did not forget about supporting the local community – including the “Mask and Book” [Maska i książka] project in which 18,000 free sets consisting of a protective mask and the WWII Museum publication were distributed to Gdańsk adult residents. Additionally, through an agreement concluded between our institution and the Pomeranian region, we carried out the “Hotel for Medics” [Hotel dla Medyka] action, thanks to which medical staff working in the Pomeranian region were able to use rooms in the hotel part of the Museum free of charge. In addition, our cooperation with the University Clinical Centre [Uniwersyteckie Centrum Kliniczne (UCK)] started – we allocated our underground car park for a drive-thru UCK COVID-19 testing centre.

Obviously, in periods during which we were able to welcome visitors, we organised exhibitions or cultural projects. We presented the exhibits within the “Entering History” [Wejście w historię] project, in which we organized celebrations connected with anniversaries (including the 81st anniversary of the outbreak of WWII, the 76th anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising, the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Warsaw, the 102nd anniversary of the regaining independence by Poland), and we also initiated the new outdoor exhibitions (“Poles in the Free City of Gdańsk” [Polacy w Wolnym Mieście Gdańsku] and “The Airmen”). In 2020, our Museum was visited by 243,883 guests which in such a difficult period, fraught with the restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic, should be considered a success.

The past year was also crucial in terms of the construction of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 – an outdoor museum, a kind of a national remembrance park, in which we intend to show our guests from all over the world that Westerplatte is the very place where the Second World War broke out. We are going to create a place focused around three symbols: the authenticity of the battlefield, Poles' stances during the Second World War and the beginning of outbreak of the tragic conflict. The programme objectives were presented in the Jan Olszewski conference room in the presence of architects, scientists, experts in the field of museology, representatives of the army and journalists on August 25th. An important event was the organization by the WWII Museum of a competition for the development of the urban and architectural concept of the military cemetery of the Polish Army Soldiers on Westerplatte. According to a decision of the Selection Board of the Competition, the best concept was prepared by the NM Architekci studio from Warsaw, which, as the winner, will draw up the complete documentation enabling implementation of the investment. Thanks to the construction of the cemetery, we will have an opportunity to bury with all due respects

the Westerplatte defenders, including nine soldiers found by the Museum archaeologists in autumn 2019. Among those soldiers, there are the remains of five people who were identified in collaboration of the WWII Museum, Pomeranian Medical University [Pomorski Uniwersytet Medyczny (PUM)] in Szczecin and the Branch Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation [Oddziałowa Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu (KŚZpNP, Oddz.)]. The President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda handed the identification documents of the fallen soldiers to the families of the defenders during the morning celebrations on Westerplatte on September 1st 2020. On the same day, a scientific conference "The Fallen of Westerplatte. The Graves and Remains of Westerplatte Soldiers in the Light of Archaeological, Genetic and Historical Research and in the Context of Legal Procedures." [Polegli na Westerplatte. Groby i szczątki westerplatczyków w świetle badań archeologicznych, genetycznych i historycznych oraz w kontekście procedur prawnych] was organized at the Museum. During the conference, based on archival materials and archaeological research, issues related to the identification of the remains, the exhumation process and the burial of the Westerplatte defenders were discussed.

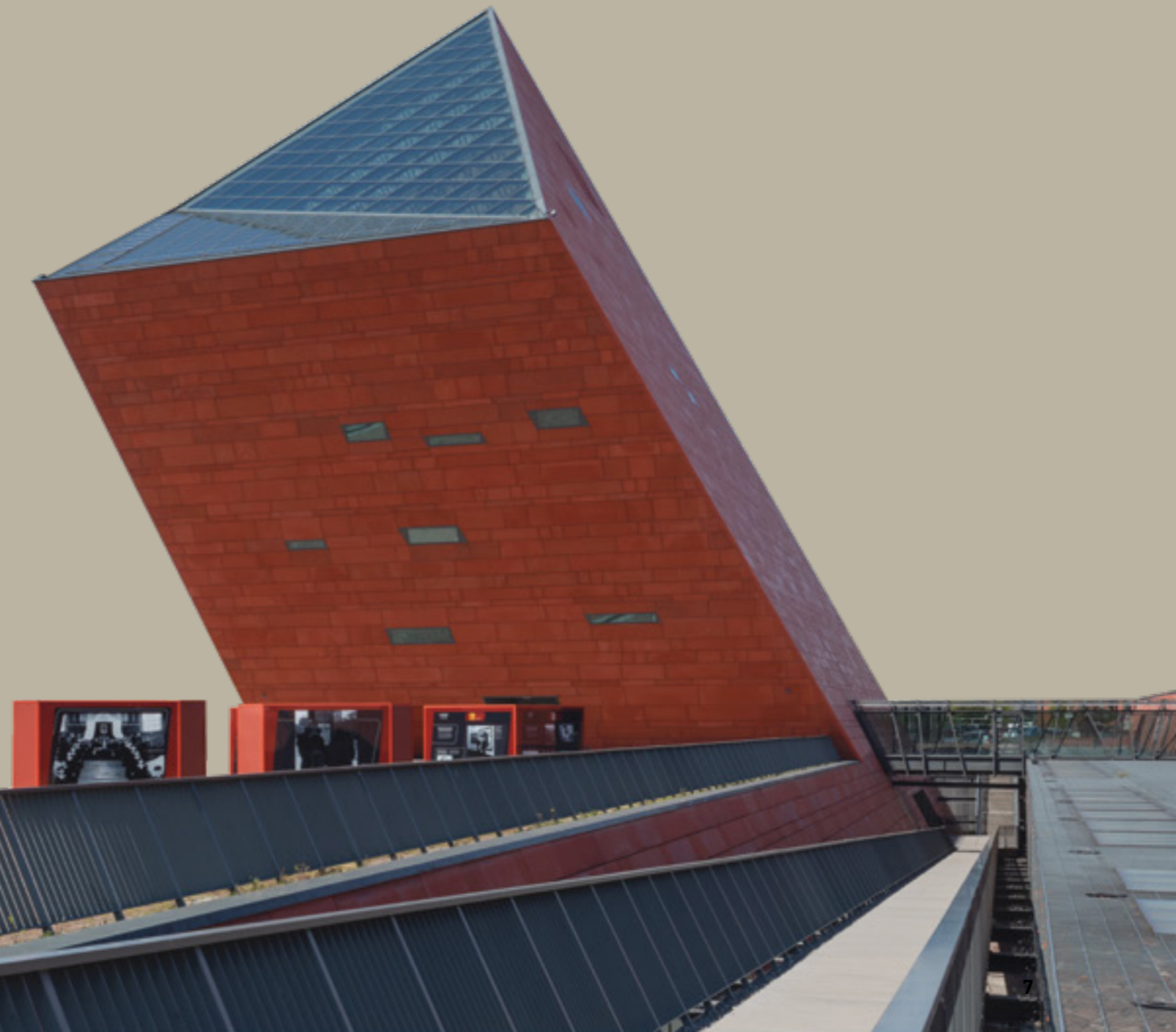
As employees of the Museum of the Second World War, we still intend to carry out our honourable mission with passion and a professional approach and inspire other cultural institutions at home and abroad through modern solutions we have implemented. We are going to tell all about the Second World War not only in the Museum itself but anywhere possible, cherishing the memories of the Polish history and its heroes globally. An overview and the broad scope of the WWII Museum activities in 2020 can be seen in the following report.

I would like to thank the friends of our institution, donors, veterans of the struggles for independent Poland but also the guests visiting us. Thanks to you, the work in the Museum of the Second World War has become of exceptional importance. I also express my gratitude to the whole staff of the Museum for their professionalism and persistence in performing such an important task.

Respectfully yours,

Karol Nawrocki, PhD

Director of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk



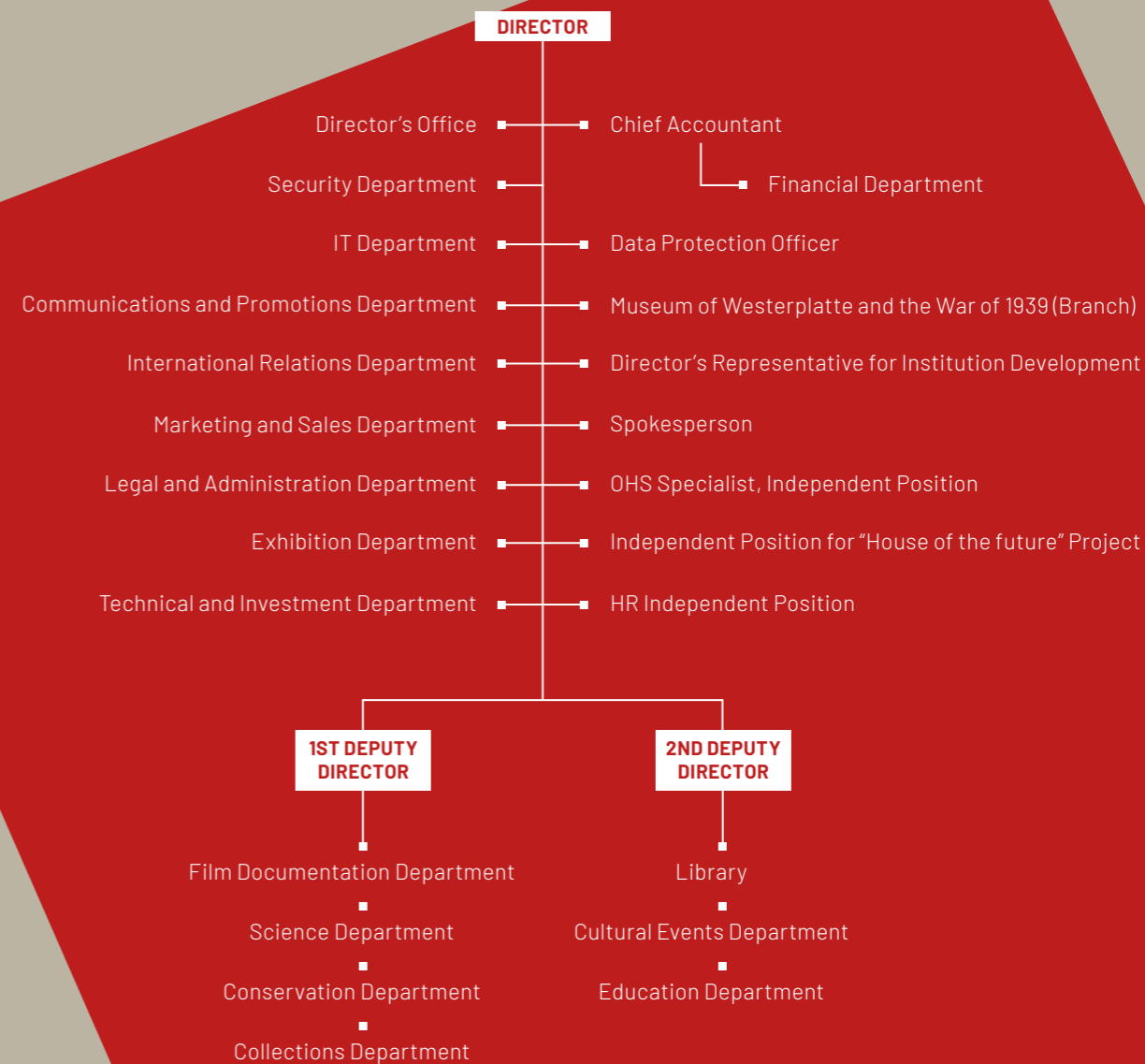


ABOUT THE MUSEUM

MJN

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

In order to optimize the work of the Museum of the Second World War and also in connection with new appearing challenges, Director, dr Karol Nawrocki, introduced by order No. 3/2020 of February 26th, 2020, the Organisational Regulations of the Museum of the Second World War establishing the new organisational structure of the institution.



MISSION

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

The narrative being created does not ignore the wartime fates of other nations involved in the largest armed conflict of the 20th century. Through our activities we aim to develop the awareness not only of Poles but also of our foreign guests. We are the only Museum in Europe which presents the course and the character of the conflict in a comprehensive manner. Our mission is to tell about the victims of World War II but also its heroes, often forgotten and marginalized in history.

DIRECTORS

- Karol Nawrocki, PhD – Director of the Museum of the Second World War
- Grzegorz Berendt, PhD, Prof. of the University of Gdańsk – 1st Deputy Director
- Tomasz Szturo, PhD – 2nd Deputy Director – until 2nd November 2020
- Waldemar Szulc – 2nd Deputy Director – since 3rd August 2020 has replaced Tomasz Szturo, PhD; appointed to the position upon approval of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage on 2 September 2020.

EMPLOYEES

WWII Museum employed on average 132.26 persons in the period between January 1st and December 31st, 2020.

WWII Museum employment as of December 31st, 2020 was 130 people which translates into 125 full-time and part-time employment schemes.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The budget of the WWII Museum in 2020 was the sum of the funds allocated by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage under a grant from the state budget, divided as follows:

- 20,089,000 PLN – earmarked subsidy for current expenditure, including:
 - protection, provision of access, digitalization and popularization of cultural goods and dissemination of knowledge on cultural heritage;
 - collection, storage and research of cultural goods;
 - restoration and conservation of sites and tangible cultural objects;
 - maintenance of national remembrance places as well as graves and war cemeteries;
 - commemoration of historical events.
- 1,154,734 PLN – “Construction of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939” [Budowa Muzeum Westerplatte i Wojny 1939] investment grant.

The budget of the WWII Museum also uses its own financial resources of the institution, of which 5,981,764 PLN was allocated to current expenditure and 265,706 PLN to investments.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

13TH JANUARY

prolongation of "We will Accept your History" [Przyjmiemy Twoją historię] – the national collection of exhibits for 2020

21ST JANUARY

WWII Museum delegation at the El Alamein Military Museum in Egypt



22ND JANUARY

"Meeting History" – promotion of the album *Krzywy obraz wojny. Armia Czerwona w Gdańsku i w Prusach w 1945 r.* by Tomasz Gliniecki and Dmitry Panto



1ST FEBRUARY

concert by the Polish Chamber Choir Schola Cantorum Gedanensis on the 100th anniversary of Poland's Wedding to the Sea



6TH FEBRUARY

meeting of the Board of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk

7TH-14TH FEBRUARY

6th Week of Marriage – lectures and screenings of the films

9TH FEBRUARY

"Cinemahistory" – screening of the film *Memory is our homeland* [Pamięć jest naszą ojczyzną], directed by Jonathan Durand

11TH FEBRUARY

inauguration of the "Entering History" cycle – presentation of a hand-made woollen scarf made by Lidia Gogolińska deported to Kazakhstan



12TH FEBRUARY

"Meeting History" – promotion of the book *Deportacje Polaków i obywateli polskich do Kazachstanu w latach 1936-1941. Dokumenty ze zbiorów Archiwum Prezydenta Republiki Kazachstanu* by Dmitry Panto



12TH FEBRUARY

visit of the WWII Museum delegation to Wellington



12TH FEBRUARY

visit of James Whitham from the Canadian Museum of War

28TH FEBRUARY

"Entering History" – presentation of the uniform of the second lieutenant of the National Armed Forces, a soldier of the post-war anti-communism underground



1ST MARCH

celebrations of the Cursed Soldiers National Remembrance Day



5TH MARCH

promotion of the periodical "War and Memory" [Wojna i Pamięć]. Publication of the WWII Museum in Gdańsk

16TH MARCH

launching the #M2Wswirtualnie action

5TH MARCH

visit of the President of Iceland Guðni Th. Jóhannesson with his wife Eliza Jean Reid



10TH MARCH

inauguration of the cycle of prof. Marek Kornat lectures: "About the History of the Free City of Gdańsk on the 100th Anniversary of its Establishment - "The Free City of Gdańsk: the Artificial Creation; the Origin and Structure" [O historii Wolnego Miasta Gdańska na stulecie jego utworzenia - Wolne Miasto Gdańsk - twór sztuczny: geneza i struktura]



7TH APRIL

2nd lecture of prof. Marek Kornat from the "About the History of the Free City of Gdańsk on the 100th Anniversary of its Establishment" cycle - "Between Germany and Poland and in the Politics of the Western Powers (1920-1925)" [Między Niemcami a Polską i w polityce mocarstw zachodnich (1920-1925)]

16TH APRIL

inauguration of the "Mask and Book" action

17TH APRIL

signing an agreement between the WWII Museum and Dariusz Drelich, Pomeranian region; provision of hotel rooms within the "Hotel for Medics" [Hotel dla Medyka] action

8TH MAY

international online conference - "The Burden of Victory. The Second World War and its Consequences from the Perspective of 75 Years since the End of the War." [Brzemie zwycięstwa. II wojna światowa i jej skutki z perspektywy 75 lat od jej zakończenia]

12TH MAY

3rd lecture of prof. Marek Kornat from "About the History of the Free City of Gdańsk on the 100th Anniversary of its Establishment" cycle - "Locarno and the German Hopes for the Peaceful Revision of the Treaty of Versailles and Gdańsk (1925-1930)" [Locarno i niemieckie nadzieje na pokojową rewizję traktatu wersalskiego a Gdańsk (1925-1930)]

13TH MAY

reopening of the Museum to visitors

25TH-26TH MAY

#ZniczDlaRotmistrza action



17TH JUNE

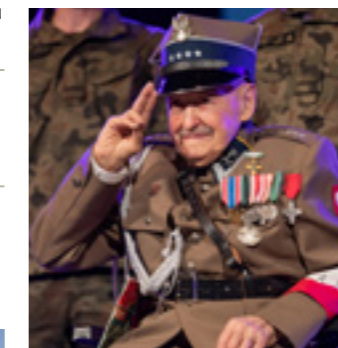
initiation of the competition for the members of the WWII Museum Youth Council [Młodzieżowa Rada Muzeum II Wojny Światowej w Gdańsku (MRM)]

24TH JUNE

inauguration of the competition for the vocal piece of music to the lyrics by Marian Hemar

24TH JUNE

state awards ceremony and the ceremony of the promotion for the next officer rank for Lieutenant Jan Kowalczyk nom de guerre "Śmiały"

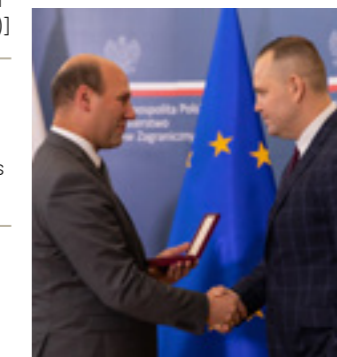


25H JUNE

"Meeting History" - discussion on the book *Polska - niespełniony sojusznik Hitlera* by Krzysztof Rak

9TH JULY

Bene Merito honorary award ceremony for dr Karol Nawrocki



15TH JULY

opening to visitors of the temporary exhibition "The Image of Treblinka Through the Eyes of Samuel Willenberg" [Obraz Treblinka w oczach Samuela Willenberga]



15TH JULY

selection of the winners of the musical competition for vocal compositions made to accompany texts by Marian Hemar

23RD JULY

donating an exhibit to the Museum – of potassium cyanide delivered by the Home Army to the family from Cracow who hid Jews during the war



24TH JULY

access to the Solidarity Corps Volunteer Card programme

28TH JULY

“Entering History” – presentation of the pilot jacket of Sergeant Stanisław Tołłoczko



30TH JULY

donating a replica of Lechia Lwów sports outfit to the Museum of Lechia Gdańsk



1ST AUGUST

celebrations of the 76th anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising



3RD AUGUST

dr Janusz Janowski nominated for the WWII Museum Director’s Adviser

6TH AUGUST

meeting with gen. bryg. dr inż. Sławomir Drumowicz, Commander of the Special Forces Unit

7TH AUGUST

press conference on the decision to allow the Museum of the Second World War to start preparatory work for the implementation of investments at Westerplatte



10TH AUGUST

press conference on the announcement by the WWII Museum of a competition for the development of the urban and architectural concept for the military cemetery of the Polish Army Soldiers on Westerplatte

11TH AUGUST

press conference on the organization of the celebrations for the 81st anniversary of the WWII outbreak on Westerplatte

15TH AUGUST

concert on the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Warsaw



25TH AUGUST

solemn presentation of the programme objectives for the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939

25TH AUGUST

opening of the WWII Museum online shop

28TH AUGUST

“Entering History” – presentation of the fragments of Danuta Siedzikówna’s, nom de guerre “Inka,” shoes



1ST SEPTEMBER

celebrations of the 81st anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War

1ST SEPTEMBER

celebrations at Westerplatte – identification documents of the fallen soldiers were handed to the families of the defenders by Andrzej Duda, President of the Republic of Poland and dr Karol Nawrocki, Director of the WWII Museum



1ST SEPTEMBER

a scientific conference "The Fallen of Westerplatte. The Graves and Remains of Westerplatte Soldiers in the Light of Archaeological, Genetic and Historical Research and in the Context of Legal Procedures"



1ST SEPTEMBER

pre-premiere of *Defenders* [Obrońcy] documentary with the discussion around the film



1ST SEPTEMBER

premiere of WBMF.online Internet platform

1ST SEPTEMBER

promotional meeting for the second edition of *Pierwsi w boju. Obrona Poczty Polskiej w Gdańsku*, comic by Jacek Przybylski and Mariusz Wójtowicz-Podhorski

4TH SEPTEMBER

meeting on the preparation of the agreement with por. dr Antoni Sołowiej Museum of Polish Army in Martin Coronado, Argentina

4TH SEPTEMBER

presentation of the exhibition "Fighting and Suffering. Polish Citizens during World War II" [Walka i Cierpienie. Obywatele polscy podczas II wojny światowej] in the Ulma Family Museum of the Poles Saving Jews during World War II in Markowa

10TH SEPTEMBER

inauguration of "Pro Bono Poloniae" competition for NGOs, choirs and music bands

10TH SEPTEMBER

visit of a delegation from the Museum of Memory of the 20th Century in Prague

17TH SEPTEMBER

concert of Luxtorpeda band commemorating Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki



21ST SEPTEMBER

jury session of "Pro Bono Poloniae" competition

24TH SEPTEMBER

"Meeting History" – promotion of the book *W cieniu obozu Stutthof: martyrologia więźniów w gdańskim obozie Neufahrwasser (1939–1940) i Aussenstelle Westerplatte (1939–1941). Wybór relacji i wspomnień* by Wojciech Turek

26TH SEPTEMBER

ceremonial gala of awarding prizes in the first edition of the "Pro Bono Poloniae" competition and a concert of "Requiem" by Wolfgang A. Mozart



30TH SEPTEMBER

announcing the competition for the Youth Council of the Museum

1ST OCTOBER

establishing a flower meadow at the WWII Museum

2ND OCTOBER

appointment of dr Karol Nawrocki for the next term in office as Director of the WWII Museum

2ND OCTOBER

Kaszubski Gryf Pomorski Rocky Boxing Night gala



6TH OCTOBER

opening of the outdoor exhibition "Poles in the Free City of Gdańsk"



6TH OCTOBER

4th lecture of prof. Marek Kornat from "About the History of the Free City Gdańsk on the 100th Anniversary of its Establishment" cycle - "Gdańsk in the Peak Phase of the Polish-German Tensions (1931-1934)" [Gdańsk w szczytowej fazie napięć polsko-niemieckich (1931-1934)]

13TH OCTOBER

5th lecture of prof. Marek Kornat from "About the History of the Free City Gdańsk on the 100th Anniversary of its Establishment" cycle - "Fall of the League of Nations and the Polish Concept of Stabilization Scheme for Gdańsk." [Upadek Ligi Narodów i polska koncepcja układu stabilizacyjnego w sprawie Gdańska (1935-1938)]

15TH OCTOBER

press conference on the verdict of the Regional Court in Gdańsk concerning changes introduced into the main exhibition of the WWII Museum



18TH OCTOBER

Concert "In tribute to Poles in the Free City of Gdańsk on the 100th anniversary of its establishment" [W hołdzie Polakom w Wolnym Mieście Gdańsku w 100-lecie utworzenia]



19TH OCTOBER

distinction for the WWII Museum in the Museum Event of the Year Sybilla 2019 competition, in the "Management" category for the "Coordination of the Celebrations of the 80th Anniversary of the Outbreak of World War II"

20TH OCTOBER

Landscape Day in the WWII Museum

23TH OCTOBER

support for Wisła 2020 rally



20TH OCTOBER

opening of the COVID-19 drive-thru UCK test centre at the Museum underground car park

20TH OCTOBER

first meeting of the Youth Council of the Museum

22ND OCTOBER

awarding of three WWII Museum films by the international and national jury of the 15th edition of FilmAT Festival

24TH OCTOBER

dr Karol Nawrocki awarded Radio Personality of Year 2019 by Radio Gdańsk

26TH OCTOBER

"Entering History" - presentation of the German map of Warsaw with the marked area of the ghetto



2ND NOVEMBER

dr Karol Nawrocki appointed to the Programme Board of the Museum of Sochaczew Land and the Battle of Bzura River

2ND NOVEMBER

inauguration of the #ZniczDlaBohatera action

4TH NOVEMBER

for the second time, free rooms provided for medical staff if the Pomeranian region

11TH NOVEMBER

"Tribute to Independence"[W Hołdzie Niepodległości] concert



15TH NOVEMBER

inauguration of a cycle of concerts accompanied by the lecture "Blessed Polish Priests in the Free City of Gdańsk"[Błogosławieni Kapłani polscy w Wolnym Mieście Gdańsku]



17TH NOVEMBER

last lecture of prof. Marek Kornat from "About the History of the Free City of Gdańsk on the 100th Anniversary of its Establishment" cycle - "German Demands and Offers. Towards the War (1938-1939)" [Niemieckie żądania i oferty. Na drodze do wojny (1938-1939)]



18TH NOVEMBER

"Digital Westerplatte" project awarded in "Eagle of Innovation" competition of the Rzeczpospolita daily

5TH DECEMBER

International Volunteer Day

6TH DECEMBER

presentation of "The Airmen" - the outdoor exhibition



6TH DECEMBER

the second event of the "Blessed Polish Priests in the Free City of Gdańsk" cycle

9TH DECEMBER

"Entering History" - presentation of Jan Bianga's boxing gloves

10TH DECEMBER

Jan Bianga Rocky Boxing Night gala

13TH DECEMBER

last event of the "Blessed Polish Priests in the Free City of Gdańsk" cycle

14TH DECEMBER

opening of the Competition Jury session - the competition for the development of the urban and architectural concept of the military cemetery of the Polish Army Soldiers on Westerplatte

21ST DECEMBER

announcement of the results of the competition for the development of the urban and architectural concept of the military cemetery of the Polish Army Soldiers on Westerplatte





HONOURED EVENTS AND PROJECTS

MUSEUM AT THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions resulting from it (including the temporary closing of the Museum to visitors), a decision to publish daily materials, drawn up by the WWII Museum, onto the Internet was taken. As part of the #M2Wswirtualnie action, initiated on March 16th 2020, interesting articles, virtual walks, online exhibitions as well as materials on education and culture with regards to World War II were uploaded onto our website and social media platforms. At the same time, visitors were encouraged to enter the "Spoken History" [Historia mówiona] portal, on which the memories of people remembering the most tragic conflict in the history of humanity were subsequently published. In addition,

a number of thematic cycles were created, including #PoznajWystawęGłówną, #PoznajWystawęCzasową, #CzyWieszŻe, #WirtualnePorankizHistorią and #ZajrzyjDoNaszejKsiążki. By the end of 2020, materials published as part of #M2Wswirtualnie were viewed over **35 million** times ↙.

The Museum also initiated the #M2Wbezpiecznie action. Within its framework, it has included a number of activities aimed at, among other things, members of the local community and guests visiting the institution. These initiatives express support and care in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of the activities constituting our social responsibility policy was the "Mask and Book" ↓ action. As part of this project, **18,000** free kits consisting of a protective mask and a book published by the Ministry of Internal Affairs were distributed among the adult residents of Gdańsk.

A big challenge was the preparation of the Museum for the reopening, which was arranged for May 13th 2020. Special measures were necessary in order to ensure safety of both guests and our employees performing their daily duties. New regulations on visiting the Museum buildings were presented at a special press conference on the day of the reopening of the institution.

In addition, the project "Hotel for Medics" → was carried out, in which the Museum of the Second World War provided free-of-charge to medical staff working in the Pomeranian region accommodation located in the hotel part of the institution. The project, carried out under an agreement concluded between the Museum and the Pomeranian Regional administration, was an expression of support for medical staff, who are on the front line in the fight against the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Another activity directly connected with the pandemic was allocating the Museum underground car park from October 2020, for the establishment of a COVID-19 drive-thru UCK test centre.

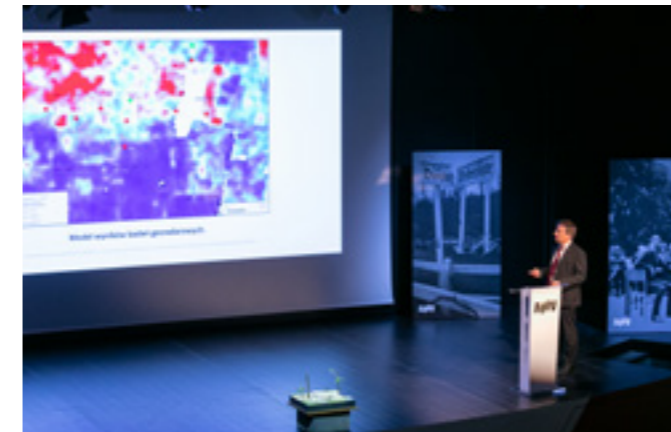


CELEBRATIONS OF THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR II – SEPTEMBER 1ST 2020

During the morning celebrations on Westerplatte on September 1st, 2020, the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda together with dr Karol Nawrocki, Director of the WWII Museum, handed identification documents of soldiers whose remains were unearthed during the 5th stage of the archaeological research carried out on the peninsula ↓. In autumn 2019, archaeologists **discovered nine skeletons of Westerplatte defenders from September 1939**. Thanks to the cooperation between MSWW with the Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin and the Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation, the remains of five soldiers were identified: Corporal Adolf Petzelt, Corporal Bronisław Perucki, Corporal Jan Gębura, senior rifleman Władysław Okrasa and private Józef Kita.



On the 81st anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, the WWII Museum organized a press conference **“The Fallen of Westerplatte. The Graves and Remains of Westerplatte Soldiers in the Light of Archaeological, Genetic and Historical Research and in the Context of Legal Procedures.”** ↓ The speakers raised in their lectures the issues related to the burials of the Westerplatte soldiers in the light of archaeological research and also the issues of identification of the remains and the exhumation process. The conference was organized under the honorary patronage of



identities was initiated this way. A discussion around the film took place in the Jan Olszewski conference room before a screening of the film.

The following event, organized by the WWII Museum on September 1st 2020, was the **presentation of WBMF.online platform** ceremonially launched by prof. Piotr Gliński, the Minister of Culture and National Heritage. The platform constitutes a virtual space which has become the hub of other museums and institutions – protectors of the battlefields from all over the world. Infographics and 3D ↓ models of particular



the Minister of Culture and National Heritage and the Institute of National Remembrance [Instytut Pamięci Narodowej (IPN)] in Gdańsk and PUM in Szczecin.

In addition, a **premiere of the film Defenders** took place in the WWII Museum. The documentary directed by Paweł Domański presents the tragic story of the soldiers of Westerplatte, killed and hidden in unmarked graves right next to the place where they died during the German attack in September 1939. After 80 years, their remains were unearthed by archaeologists from the WWII Museum. The process of restoring the soldiers'

battles, including Westerplatte in 1939, were published on the platform website.

A meeting promoting the second edition of Pierwsi w boju. Obrona Poczty Polskiej w Gdańsku, a comic by Jacek Przybylski and Mariusz Wójtowicz–Podhorski took place at the Museum on the same day. The publication depicts the heroic and tragic fates of the Poles opposing the German aggression in the Free City of Gdańsk and tells in a vivid way, the story of one of the first clashes of the Second World War – the defence of the Polish Post and Telegraph Office No. 1 in Gdańsk.

CEREMONIAL PRESENTATION OF THE INVESTMENT PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES FOR THE MUSEUM OF WESTERPLATTE AND THE WAR OF 1939

The investment programme objectives for the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 → were presented in Jan Olszewski conference room at the WII Museum on August 25th, 2020. The audience comprised of experts in general science of museology, representatives of the army, architects, scientists and journalists. During the speeches, the guests had an opportunity to learn about a planned new route for visitors, as well as plans to rebuild the destroyed buildings of the Military Transit Depot [Wojskowa Składnica Tranzytowa (WST)]. Guests also learned that the buildings will have new functions housing future exhibitions and will be part of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 complex, as well as got to know about a competition for the concept and design of the military cemetery of the Polish Army Soldiers in Westerplatte.





COMPETITION FOR THE URBAN AND ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT OF THE MILITARY CEMETERY OF THE POLISH ARMY SOLDIERS ON WESTERPLATTE

The press conference on the announcement of the Competition for the urban and architectural concept of the military cemetery of the Polish Army Soldiers on Westerplatte ↑ was held at the WWII Museum on August 10th. In the meeting with the journalists were:

- prof. Piotr Gliński – Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Culture and National Heritage, Chairman of the Public Benefit Committee,
- dr Karol Nawrocki – Director of the Museum of the Second World War,
- Dariusz Drelich – Pomeranian Region,
- prof. Stanisław Radwański – long-standing Rector of the Higher State School of Fine Arts in Gdańsk (Academy of Fine Arts), the member of the Competition Jury.

The aim of the competition was to select the best concept and design for the military cemetery of the Polish Army Soldiers on Westerplatte, which, appropriate to the historical and cultural importance of this symbolic place as the location where the Second World War began, will commemorate the fallen soldiers of the Polish Army, while at the same time be the basis for preparation of all documentation needed to enable future investments to be carried out. The aim of the concept to be selected was defined as creation of the place of remembrance, social interaction, culture, patriotic and historic education and the space in which state, religious and military celebrations will take place.

The best works were selected by the competition jury, whose deliberations began on December

14th, 2020. **27 works were submitted** to the competition, which were first verified and then assessed. The deliberations were chaired by Dr. hab. Eng. arch. Bolesław Stelmach, prof. Of the Lodz University of Technology – director of the National Institute of Architecture and Town Planning ↘. The advisory body for the competition was the competition jury.

The results of the competition were presented on December 21st, 2020 at the Museum of the Second World War. The winning work was by architects **Tomasz Marciniwicz, Zuzanna Szpocińska, Jerzy Grochulski** (the whole team of designers included: Tomasz Marciniwicz, Zuzanna Szpocińska, Jerzy Grochulski, Karolina Kayzer). The team was invited to the negotiations on the development of the detailed project documentation enabling the investment in the mode of the public procurement without a need to call a public tender.

The competition was held under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the Association of Polish Architects, Wybrzeże Branch.





CONCERT ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF WARSAW

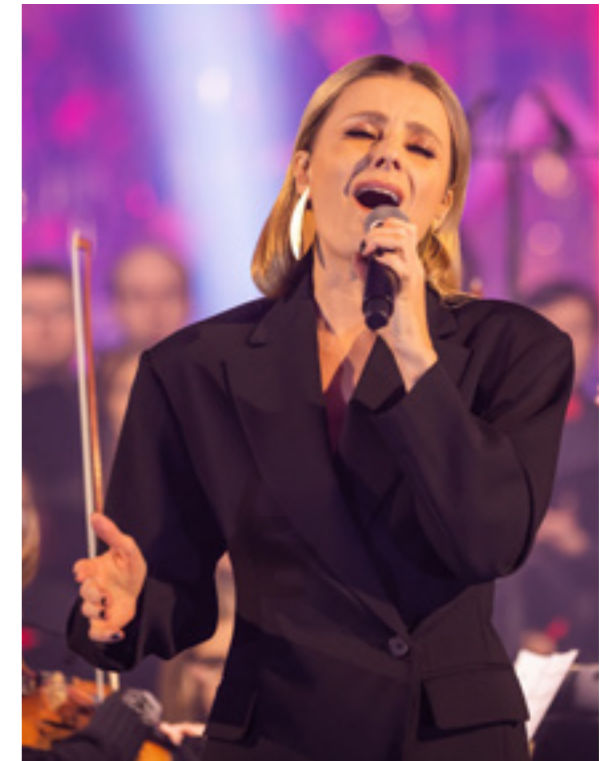
On the 100th anniversary of the great victory of the Polish Army in the Battle of Warsaw, on August 15th, 2020, the concert by the Polish Chamber Choir Schola Cantorum Gedanensis ↑ under the direction of conductor Jan Łukaszewski ←, accompanied by Zuzanna Lisiecka-Madeja was held.

It was the joint undertaking of the WWII Museum, the *National Centre for Culture* in Warsaw and the Polish Chamber Choir Schola Cantorum Gedanensis. The pieces of music inevitably associated with Poland and Polish identity were performed. Sounds of *Bogurodzica*, *Śpiewka 1920*, *Rota* and *Wojenka, wojenka* among others, but also compositions of Ignacy Paderewski and Krzesimir Dębski were performed on the stage.

"TRIBUTE TO INDEPENDENCE" [W HOŁDZIE NIEPODLEGŁOŚCI] CONCERT

The Museum, together with Dariusz Drelich, Pomeranian region, the "Independent" [Niepodległa] programme office and St. Bridget's Parish in Gdańsk, commemorated the 102nd anniversary of the regaining independence by Poland with a concert ↓.

During the event that took place in St. Bridget's Parish in Gdańsk on November 11th, 2020, the artists performed well-known patriotic songs in new, unique arrangements. On the stage appeared: Halina Mlynkova →, Zofia Tartas, the Music Everywhere Choir, the Discantus Chamber Choir, the Sea Orchestra, conducted by Sabrina Stachel, Małe TGD, Ewa Sarwińska-Kowalczyk - piano, Adam Tański - organs, Arkadiusz Krawiel - Vilnius dulcimer. In the concert, the audience could also listen to poems recited by Marcin Kwaśny.





COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

The Collections Department deals with all the issues connected with acquisition, registration, content-related processing, storing and provision of access to the collections.

The Department is responsible for the organization and management of the warehouses, including the supervision of the warehouse environment. It also conducts inquiries with regard to particular collections, provides access to the information on the collections and coordinates the process of photographs licensing. It also carries out the external inquiries. The digitalization workshop, a part of the Collections Department, is involved in the creation and post-production of the digital images of the objects.

The employees of the Department take an active part in the inter-department projects, primarily in exhibitions and publications.

In 2020, most of the above tasks were carried out remotely. During the periods when the Museum was closed to visitors, staff at of the department carried out periodic checks on the state of preservation of the exhibits in the storage spaces and the exhibitions.

WEALTH OF COLLECTIONS

There have been already over **54,000** exhibits in the collections of the WWII Museum and their number is growing systematically.



PURCHASES

The Collections Department purchased over 300 cultural goods. These included among other items:

- **Polish Non-Commissioned Officer sabre sword, 1921 pattern** ← - sabre sword with the blade decorated with the inscription "Nie rzucim ziemi, skąd nasz ród...", manufactured in the Warsaw factory of Gabriel Borowski. The finishing details were probably created in the twenties of the last century;
- **flag from Władysław Anders' car from the time he served as the Commander-in-Chief;** in 1945 General Władysław Anders acted as the Commander-in-Chief for General Tadeusz Komorowski nom de guerre "Bór";
- **Polish non-commissioned officer summer uniform jacket, 36 pattern** → - the jacket was a piece of the equipment of the 55th Poznań Infantry Regiment - the unit which during the Polish campaign of 1939 participated in the organization of the Great Poland [Wielkopolska] defence, the raid to Wschowa and next in the Battle on Bzura River. The jacket was introduced in the mid-thirties of the 20th century. It was the basic piece of the Polish Army equipment during the Polish campaign;
- **poster: 'Lets us go forward together'** - the propaganda poster of the forties of the 20th century. It shows Winston Churchill with fighters and tanks in the background, mobilizing the British people to national unity in the face of the German threat.



DONATIONS: "WE WILL ACCEPT YOUR HISTORY"

In 2020, the Museum received also 3,644 donations of which 1,319 were part of the national collection "We Will Accept Your History." Despite limitations resulting from the present epidemiological situation, many unique objects have been collected. The following are the most important of them:

- **vials with potassium cyanide** ← delivered by the Home Army to the family of Pelagia and Adolf Bergiel-Opala who hid Jews at their place. The family residing in Cracow at 19 Batorego Str. gave shelter to their neighbours during World War II; potassium cyanide was the agents of the cruel death the Bergiel-Opala family would have experienced if the fact of their hiding Jews had been discovered by the German occupation authorities. Hidden – Julitta and Maria Odrzywolski emigrated to Canada after the war and throughout their entire adult life kept in touch with Irena Kopyto – the daughter of the spouses and, at the same time, the donor of the exhibits. **Donation of Irena Kopyto;**
- **collection of over 200 documents from Konzentrationslager Dachau archive** ← owned by KL Dachau former prisoner Stanisław Kubalka. The collection included, among others: letters of the camp prisoners, copies of the reports on the escapes from Auschwitz, the description of the Dachau evacuation of 1945, accounts by ex-prisoners as well as ample documentation of the activity of the Disciplinary Commission at the Polish Committee in Dachau. **Donation of Wojciech Bielecki;**



- **Second Lieutenant, Reserve Officer Ignacy Kmieć collection** ↑ – embraces the collection of the correspondence, photographs and notes in the copy books from the time of stay in the POW camps – XII A Hadamar and VII A Murnau camps. Ignacy Kmieć, during the Polish campaign, served in the 2nd Company of „Jabłonowo” Battalion of the National Defence as the commander of machine gun platoon. After being taken captive he stayed in the above mentioned camps. While there, he kept diaries, in which he wrote the content of his letters to family, drew up biographical entries of the soldiers he got to know before the war and also took meticulous notes on distribution of the soldiers' pay and the supplies from the camp canteen. **From the collection of second-lieutenant Ignacy Kmieć;**

- **Gunner Józef Woźniak collection** ↑ – collection consists of photographs and documents from the pre-war and WWII periods. During the Polish campaign, Józef Woźniak fought in the Kraków Army. He was taken captive, but he escaped to come back near his home town Cracow. The Museum was given the photographs of Kraków Army units from September 1939 taken during a stay near Milówka. **Teresa Czogała donation.**

Most donations were sent to the Museum by mail. The collected exhibits will enrich the collection of the Museum and the most interesting and most valuable of them have the chance to appear in the temporary exhibitions at the institution.



CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

MJN

In 2020, as in previous years, the duties of the staff at the Conservation Department were mainly in the fields of both preventive and active conservation of the museum facilities and as well as the maintenance and refitting of the maintenance workshop with new equipment and machinery.

PREVENTIVE CONSERVATION

The everyday activities of the Conservation Department staff include constant supervision of the environmental conditions in the exhibition halls and storage spaces, periodic inspections of the state of preservation of objects and preparation of the necessary conservation opinions on the loan of exhibits to other museums and institutions. These activities are part of what is known as preventive maintenance. Moreover, in cooperation with the Collections Department, 954 objects made of organic materials - mainly of paper and leather - were prepared and transported for disinfection in a special fumigation chamber.



lead fillings before the conservation

CONSERVATION OF THE OBJECTS

Due to the epidemic situation and temporary closing of the seat of the Museum, the organization of the work in the Conservation Department faced a lot of challenges. Due to the need for remote working, activities of our staff focused more on preparation for research and documentation. Tasks carried out outside the site of the Museum, including many minor restoration works, whose degree of complexity allowed the work to be done from at home.



lead fillings after the conservation

Over 400 metal exhibits obtained from the Westerplatte site by archaeologists were preserved in the following way.

A method of cleaning and maintenance of a **large collection of lead seals** was developed, which consisted of:

- preparation of the photographic and descriptive documentation on the preservation state of the exhibits before starting conservation activities;
- initial cleaning of the items from loosely attached surface soil dirt with the use of manual tools;
- cleaning treatment of particular items with the electrolytic method with the use of sodium hydroxide aqueous solution as an electrolyte;
- cleaning stratified layers under a stream of running water with the help of the nylon bristle hair brushes;
- cleaning in distilled water with the use of an ultrasonic cleaner;
- acetone bath and drying on paper towels;
- final cleaning with the brushes of the proper shape and bristle hardness fixed to the dental micromotor;
- rinsing objects in toluene;
- applying 10% Paraloid B-44 solution in toluene as the coat protecting the objects against harmful environmental factors;
- drawing up the descriptive and photographic conservation documentation after completion of the works.

An interesting example of the conservation of an object of complex material structure was carried out in 2020. These were the works on the **German radio direction finder**, possessed by partisan units in the Vilnius region. Object in the state of destruction. Damages caused by corrosion, frost stratification and surface carbonization of lime mortar. The radio direction finder was completely dipped in lime mortar which caused enhanced electrochemical corrosion. Frost combined with wet lime was the cause for the burst of the case and internal capacitors' housings. Lime mortar after carbonization filled most of the space inside the device gluing its particular components and covering the bigger part of them with a hard, tight layer. Stainless steel screws fixing the front panel to the case were fractured. Works aimed at remedial conservation – preparing the object for exhibition and storage. Possible removal of dirt, corrosion layers and carbonized lime were assumed as well as corrosion stabilization and protection of the

object against further destruction. No fillings were accepted. The main aim was to prepare the exhibit for storage in the Museum environment.

After preparing the photographic documentation of the object preservation, the item was dismantled. Surface dirt and loose lime removal were performed next. Chemical (surfactants) and mechanical (dusting, brushing, chiselling) methods were applied. Despite moisturizing with water and diluted solutions, lime was not fully removed. Because of the bad condition of ZnAl substrate, mineral layers were not completely removed. Metal corrosion products from the case (box) and plastic components were removed mechanically: with the brushes and micro sandblaster. The anti-corrosion protection of the metal elements was carried out by the stabilization of the corrosion products with tannin; all the elements were coated with Paraloid B-44 and insulated with Cosmoloid H80 synthetic wax. The inventory numbers were inscribed and the post-completion conservation documentation was drawn up.

WORKSHOP ARRANGEMENT

In order to improve the conditions for the preparation of the conservation photographic documentation, one of the Museum rooms was adapted accordingly. It was equipped with furniture and a copy stand table with lighting and the software for photo processing. Thanks to this investment, the process for documenting the state of the preservation of items at various stages of conservation work has been significantly improved.



German radio before the conservation



German radio in the middle of the conservation



German radio after the conservation

Polacy wobec Zagłady
Poles in the face of the Holocaust

Historical photograph showing a group of Polish people, including women and children, standing in a field with sheep. The image is part of an exhibition panel.



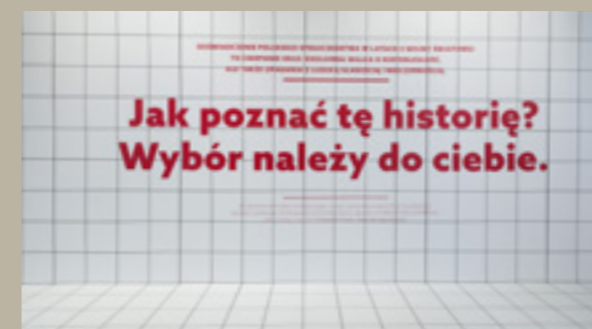
EXHIBITIONS DEPARTMENT



Exhibitions Department deals with dissemination of knowledge on World War II through the preparation and implementation of the exhibition projects, in cooperation with other WWII Museum departments. The duties of the employees embrace also the maintenance of the main exhibition, including the supervision of its technical state, and renewing licenses for iconographic and audiovisual materials.

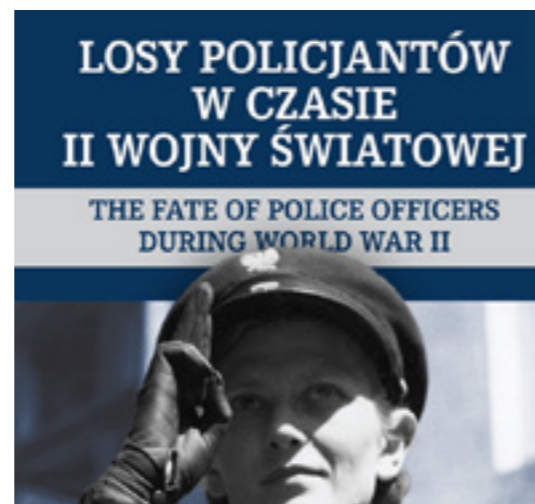
OWN TEMPORARY COLLECTIONS

- Preparation and presentation of **"The Airmen,"** → an outdoor exhibition, comprising unique portraits of the Polish Air Forces heroes by photographer Michał Solarski and the photographs of the pilots owned by the WWII Museum. The exhibition presents in an innovative and creative way the photographic project "The Airmen" by Michał Solarski, the aim of which was to include the largest possible number of Polish airmen who served during the war in the Polish Air Force in Great Britain. The exhibition has been on show in the square in front of the WWII Museum since 6th December 2020 and will be presented until June 2021.
- Presentation of the temporary exhibition **"Fighting and Suffering. Polish citizens during World War II"** ↘ prepared by a team from the Museum of the Second World War in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. The exhibition was opened on September 1st, 2019 and will be on display until February 2022.



OWN EXHIBITIONS ON THE WWII MUSEUM WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- Collaboration with the Research Department as part of the **#KnowTheMainExhibition** ↗ cycle implemented by members of staff.
- Preparation and the presentation of **"10 April 2010"** [10 kwietnia 2010], an exhibition commemorating the 10th anniversary of TU-154M President plane crash at Smoleńsk and paying tribute to 96 victims who lost their lives serving their country. The exhibition consisted of 18 boards with the photographs and biographical notes of the presidential couple – Maria and Lech Kaczyński and the victims of the catastrophe connected with the Pomeranian region: Anna Walentynowicz, Izabela Jaruga-Nowacka, Maciej Płażyński, Arkadiusz Rybicki, Leszek Solski, Przemysław Gosiewski and Andrzej Karweta. The exhibition was available on the WWII Museum website since 10th April to 10th May 2020.
- Making available the notice exhibition **"The Fates of Policemen during World War II"** ↘ [Losy policjantów w czasie II wojny światowej]. The exhibition – devoted to the fate of the officers of the State Police of the Second Republic of Poland during the Second World War – consists of 12 information boards with texts supported by photographs and other archival documents obtained from institutions, museums, archives, and private collections. The exhibition was made available on June 2nd, 2020.
- Presentation of the outdoor board exhibition titled **"Be merciless! Be brutal! Destruction of Poland is our first task; Aggression on Poland, 1939"** [Bądźcie bez litości! Bądźcie brutalni! Zniszczenie Polski jest naszym pierwszym zadaniem – agresja na Polskę 1939]. The exhibition shows the situation of Poland and its citizens in the face of the German and Soviet aggression and about the beginning of the occupation. The exhibition was made available on June 16th, 2020.



PRESENTATION OF TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS

- The exhibition **"Image of Treblinka through the Eyes of Samuel Willenberg"** ↑. [Obraz Treblinka w oczach Samuela Willenberga]. The sculptures showing the tragic fate of Treblinka German death camp were presented at the exhibition. The whole drama of humiliation of a human experienced by Samuel Willenberg was transformed into 15 bronze sculptures depicting human tragedy of which only death could become a liberation. Thanks to Ada Krystyna Willenberg – the widow of the artist and IPN that brought the sculptures from Israel and organized the nation exhibition, it was presented in the WWII Museum from 15th July to 16th August 2020.

LENDING OWN EXHIBITIONS

- Loan of the exhibition **"Yes, yes; no no. Zofia Kossak (Szczucka-Szatkowska)"** to the Institute of National Remembrance in Gdańsk. The exhibition is dedicated to a former prisoner of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp and co-founder of secret organizations in occupied Poland. With its national-Catholic elements, Protest! is one of the best-known expressions of opposition to the Holocaust. The exhibition was shown in front of the IPN building in Gdańsk between April 1st to August 3rd, 2020.
- Lending the outdoor board exhibition titled **"Be merciless! Be brutal! Destruction of Poland is our first task; Aggression on Poland, 1939"** to the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland at the EU in Brussels, presented in the Church of Our Lady of the Chapel from September 13th to 24th 2020.
- Presentation of the board exhibition **"Fighting and suffering. Polish citizens during World War II"** in the Ulma Family Museum of the Poles Saving Jews during World War II in Markowa from 3rd August to 28th September 2020.



OTHER

- Premiere of the **virtual walk round “Heritage Lost”** [Dziedzictwo utracone] exhibition on the Museum website. The curators of the exhibition focus on the phenomenon of the destruction of heritage by occupiers, but also recall the rescue of heritage too - a process that is never ending, and whose protagonists, such as Karol Estreicher or Stanisław Lorentz, still provide inspiration to people to take care of our common heritage. The walk took place in April 2020.
 - Completion, together with the Science Department of the **two-part virtual walk around the exhibition “Fighting and Suffering. Polish Citizens during World War II”** ←. The walk was made available on the WWII Museum You Tube channel.
 - Implementation of a **mobile phone mobile application** in the form of the audio guide to be used for visiting the WWII Museum main exhibition.
 - **Implementation of two projects of the cooperation between the Museum and the licensed guides.** One of them consisted in preparing two original studies on the main and the temporary exhibitions “Fighting and Suffering. Polish Citizens during World War II” in the form of a guided mini-walk. Another project consisted in preparing the special collections of the Library in order to provide the access to them for interested users.
 - **Adaptation of the multi-media devices at the WWII Museum main exhibition for the contactless use** due to epidemiological risk.
 - Carrying out specialist cleaning of the WWII Museum main exhibition embracing cleaning of scenography and display cases.
- “Entering History” cycle organized jointly with the Collections Department.
 - Preparing two additional boards for the outdoor exhibition “Fighting and Suffering. Polish Citizens during World War II” which is planned to be opened in Langeland Museum in Denmark in 2021.
- **Repair and modernisation works at the WWII Museum main exhibition.** The works aimed at the exchange of degraded elements of scenography, elimination of the detected content-related errors discovered during the use of the exhibition and additional protection of the displayed exhibits.



MJN
Museum II Wojny Światowej

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

MJN



SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

The scientific conference organized by the Science Department: **“The Fallen of Westerplatte. The Graves and Remains of Westerplatte Soldiers in the Light of Archaeological, Genetic and Historical Research and in the Context of Legal Procedures”** ← took place in the Jan Olszewski room in the WWII Museum on September 1st 2020. Four presentations were delivered on the burials and the remains of the Westerplatte defenders with a particular focus on the results of the latest research: historical (Wojciech Samół – WWII Museum), archaeological (Filip Kuczma – WWII Museum), genetic (dr hab. Andrzej Ossowski – Department of Forensic Genetics of PUM in Szczecin) and the legal procedures connected with the excavation of the remains of Westerplatte soldiers (Tomasz Jankowski, Prosecutor – KŚZpNP, Gdańsk Branch).

The conference under the honorary patronage of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, and the partners in organizing the event were the IPN and PUM in Szczecin.



The conference was accompanied by a few short films made by the Film Documentation Department and the Science Department and dedicated to the five identified Westerplatte defenders: Corporal Jan Gębura, Platoon Sergeant Adolf Petzelt, Corporal Bronisław Perucki, Senior Rifleman Władysław Okrasa and Legionary Józef Kita (fallen at the post in guard house No. 5 on 2 September 1939).

The representatives of the fallen soldiers' families, including the relatives of the identified soldiers honoured the conference with their presence.

Pre-premiere screening of the film *Defenders* ↗ by Paweł Domański and Marcin Majerski on the search, exhumation and the identification of the Westerplatte soldiers, took place in the Jan Olszewski conference room on the same day. The film was made in cooperation with the WWII Museum. It was preceded by a discussion led by dr Marek Szymaniak (WWII Museum) with the participation of dr Karol Nawrocki (Director of WWII Museum), prof. Bogusław Machaliński (Rector of PUM), Prosecutor Andrzej Pozorski (Director of IPN-KŚZpNP) and Paweł Domański (director of the film).

CHANGES AT THE MAIN EXHIBITION

Similarly to last year, no big changes or additions were introduced to the main exhibition of the WWII Museum. The only new element of the exhibition since February 2020 is an author's plaque, which lists the places of the changes and additions to the exhibition, as well as the names of the people responsible for its substantive preparation.

The 15th of October 2020, the Regional Court in Gdańsk, rendered a verdict on a case filed against the WWII Museum by the former management of the Museum requesting the removal of new elements of the exhibition introduced by the Exhibition Evaluation Team managed by dr Marek Szymaniak. The requests of the plaintiffs were in the vast majority dismissed. The court accepted only one of 17 claims and ordered to stop screening of the film *the Invincible* [Niezwyciężeni] but did not establish the need to return to the original version. The verdict is not legally binding.

SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY STAFF OF THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT IN 2020

- Westerplatte – fights, Polish soldiers and defenders' burials;
- Polish Armed Forces in the West – France (1939–1940);
- German death and concentration camps;
- German and Soviet deportations of Polish citizens;
- occupation of the eastern lands of the Second Polish Republic by the Soviet Union and the Third Reich;
- propaganda press in the General Government.

OUTDOOR EXHIBITION “POLES IN THE FREE CITY OF GDAŃSK”

On the 6th October 2020, in the square in front of the WWII Museum, the outdoor exhibition “Poles in the Free City of Gdańsk,” ↓ prepared by a team from the Science Department (Wojciech Grott, Wojciecha Samól, dr Marcin Kłodziński) and an employee of the Collections Department (Marek Zambrzycki). The exhibition focuses on the presentation of the fate of Polish minority in the Free City of Gdańsk, their cultivation of Polish traditions and preservation of their own identity in different dimensions, against the confrontation approach of the German majority.



CYCLE OF LECTURES BY PROF. DR HAB. MAREK KORNAT “ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE FREE CITY OF GDAŃSK ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT”

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Free City of Gdańsk, the Science Department, on the initiative of the Director, dr Karol Nawrocki, organized a cycle of six lectures titled : “The Free City of Gdańsk: the Artificial Creation – the Origin and Structure” [Wolne Miasto Gdańsk: twór sztuczny – geneza i struktura] (10 March) ↑; “The Free City of Gdańsk between Germany and Poland and in the Policy of the Western Powers (1920–1925)” [Wolne Miasto Gdańsk między Niemcami a Polską i w polityce mocarstw zachodnich (1920–1925)] (7 April, online); “Locarno and the German Hopes for the Peaceful Revision of the Treaty of Versailles and Gdańsk (1925–1930)” [Locarno i niemieckie nadzieje na pokojową rewizję traktatu wersalskiego a Gdańsk (1925–1930)] (12 May, online); “Gdańsk in the Peak Phase of the Polish–German Tensions (1931–1934)” [Gdańsk w szczytowej fazie napięć polsko-niemieckich (1931–1934)] (9 October, online); “Fall of the League of Nations and the Polish Concept of the Stabilization Arrangement for Gdańsk” [Upadek Ligi Narodów i polska koncepcja układu stabilizacyjnego w sprawie Gdańska] (13 October, online); “German Demands and Offers. Towards the War (1938–1939)” [Niemieckie żądania i oferty. Na drodze do wojny (1938–1939)] (17 November, online).





ONLINE ACTIVITIES OF THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Because of the restrictions connected with the coronavirus pandemic, part of the events organized by the Science Department were transferred to virtual reality. A **discussion around the book by dr Krzysztof Rak Polska – niespełniony sojusznik Hitlera** ↑ (Warszawa 2019, Bellona) with the participation of the author, dr hab. Sławomir Cenckiewicz and dr hab. Grzegorz Berendt leading the meeting was published on June 25th.

In 2020, as part of the #M2WSwirtualnie action, the employees of the Science Department prepared and presented several dozen materials shown in

thematic cycles, including among others: **#Poznaj-WystawęGłówną**, **#PoznajWystawęCzasową**, **#ZajrzyjDoNaszejKsiążki**, **#CzyWieszŻe**, **#Wojenny-Dzień**, **#WojenniDowódcy**, **#WojenneKonferencje**, **#WojenneKampanie**, **#ŻycieWCzasieWojny**, **#PoznajZofięKossak**, **#PoznajJanaKowalewskiego**, **#WGdańskuSłużyliPolsce**.

As part of a virtual walk, dr hab. Karol Polejowski and Bartłomiej Garba (from the Collections Department) arranged a **walk round the exhibition "Fighting and Suffering. Polish Citizens during World War II."**

In cooperation with the Communications and Promotions Department, **virtual walks prepared by employees of the Science Department**, including "Poles in the Free City of Gdańsk and "Let Your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and Your 'No' be 'No'." Zofia Kossak (Szczucka-Szatkowska)" were organised.



PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES

The WWII Museum carried out publishing and promotional activities in 2020. During this period, the following titles were published:

- Grott Wojciech, *Reason before force. Lieutenant Colonel Jan Kowalewski. Biography outline/Rozum przed siłą. Podpułkownik Jan Kowalewski. Zarys biograficzny*, Gdańsk 2020, ISBN 978-83-65957-23-8, pp. 192;
- Przybylski Jacek, Wójtowicz-Podhorski Mariusz, *Pierwszy w boju. Obrona Poczty Polskiej w Gdańsku*, historical supplement, Marcin Kłodziński, 2nd, revised edition, Gdańsk 2020, ISBN 978-83-65957-28-3, pp. 52;
- Sommer Tomasz, *Operacja antypolska NKWD 1937-1938. Geneza i przebieg ludobójstwa popełnionego na*

Polakach w Związku Sowieckim, Gdańsk 2020, ISBN 978-83-65957-30-6, pp. 528;

- *W cieniu obozu Stutthof: martyrologia więźniów w gdańskim obozie Neufahrwasser (1939-1940) i Aussenstelle Westerplatte (1939-1941)*, introduction and editorial work by Wojciech Turek, Gdańsk 2020, ISBN 978-83-65957-24-5, pp. 112;
- *Westerplatte w 7 odsłonach. Prezentacja zabytków pierwszego etapu badań archeologicznych na Westerplatte/Seven looks at Westerplatte. Presentation of the findings of the first stage of archeological research on Westerplatte*, editorial work by Filip Kuczma, Wojciech Samól, Karol Szejko, 2nd edition, Gdańsk 2019, pp. 28, ISBN 978-83-65957-19-1 [reprint].



WWII MUSEUM ONLINE PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES

Due to the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the publishing house took an active part in the promotion of its own publications on the Internet. **Within the #ZajrzyjDoNaszejKsiążki cycle, 10 fragments of the chosen books and monography: *Polityka zagraniczna Polski 1938–1939* by Marek Kornat were published on the WWII Museum website since 27 March to 26 November 2020 ↑.**

ACTIVITY OF THE WWII MUSEUM PUBLISHING HOUSE CONCERNING "MEETING HISTORY"

Throughout 2020, **five on-site promotions of own publications were successfully organized at the Museum:**

- *Krzywy obraz wojny. Armia Czerwona w Gdańsku i Prusach w 1945 r.* (22 January) ↙;
- *Deportacje Polaków i obywateli polskich do Kazachstanu w latach 1936–1941* (12 February) ↓;
- *Pierwsi w boju. Obrona Poczty Polskiej w Gdańsku* (1 September);
- *W cieniu obozu Stutthof: martyrologia więźniów w gdańskim obozie Neufahrwasser (1939–1940) i Aussenstelle Westerplatte (1939–1941)* (24 September);
- No. 1 of "War and Memory" [*Wojna i Pamięć*] annual. The periodical of the WWII Museum (5 March) ↗.



PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE WWII MUSEUM PUBLISHING HOUSE

As part of promotional activities, **the publishing section submitted 11 different own publications to the Virtual Historical Fairs.** The form of the presentation consisted of a detailed description of each book, access to the file with a cover and a link to the online shop. Three advertising banners of chosen publications were also displayed. The event took place between the 16th and 29th of November 2020.

In November 2020, the WWII Museum publishing house submitted the book *Materialne pozostałości konfliktów i zbrodni XX wieku w świetle najnowszych badań archeologicznych* to the contest "Collected History," 2020 [Historia Zebrana] 2020. The participation consisted of a presentation of the publication, a banner campaign of the book and also the internal promotional action on the Facebook profile of the Museum.

COOPERATION OF THE WWII PUBLISHING HOUSE WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF THE MUSEUM

Cooperation with the Communications and Promotions Department resulted in the launching of the website of the WWII Museum publishing house in December 2020: (www.muzeum1939.pl/wydawnictwo).

The WWII Museum publishing house together with the Marketing and Sales Department actively participates in the development of the WWII Museum online shop providing suitable texts and illustrations.

Undertaken in March and April 2020, the "Mask and Book" action, thanks to which **18,000** recipients from the Tri-City were successfully delivered parcels consisting of a protective mask and a book published by the publishing house, gained great popularity.





LIBRARY

The main tasks of the Museum Library is to gather the library collections and making them available to readers. The library enlarged its collection in 2020 by 2,155 inventory items, including 1,243 received as donations or in other ways and 912 purchases. The total of 32,192 items, published in over 30 languages, were gathered by the end of 2020.

The Library collections are thematically centred around World War II and its consequences. Additionally, the library collections include the publications on conservation, restoration and protection of exhibits. The Library also collects supporting materials for work in other Museum departments.

In 2020, **readers visited the Library 687 times and used over 935 publications.**

- In 2020, the Library tasks included:
- acquisition of publications by purchase, donations or otherwise;
 - selecting, cataloguing and protection of new acquisitions;
 - making the collections available to readers; providing bibliographic information and conducting inquiries for the Library users;
 - preparing several bibliographies on different topics related to World War II within the #M2WSwirtualnie action;
 - preparing and implementation of the new regulations of the access to the library collections based on the guidelines of the National Library, the Ministry of Development and the Chief Sanitary Inspectorate.



Additionally, in 2020, **volunteers who worked almost 494 hours on the transcription of film notations with witnesses to history**, visited the Library **163 times.**

In 2020, the Library faced the unusual situation in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. It was closed from March to June 2020 and the employees performed their duties remotely. Since the end of June, the Library collections have been made available again under the sanitary regime. The library was re-closed in November 2020 due to another wave of coronavirus. Despite difficulties, the Library continually carried out its activity, taking all the precautionary measures recommended during the pandemic.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE LIBRARY EMPLOYEES

- Zambrzycki Marek, *Nadmiar w muzeum, czyli krach myślenia liniowego*, Muzealnictwo.com, 2020;
- Zambrzycki Marek, *Wystawy i zagrożenia – para nieodłączna*, Muzealnictwo.com, 2020;
- Zambrzycki Marek, *W galaktyce wystaw dialogicznych*, Muzealnictwo.com, 2020;
- Zambrzycki Marek, *Topos utraty na wystawach narracyjnych. Jak pokazać coś, czego nie ma?*, "Studia i Materiały Lubelskie" 2020, vol. 22.



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

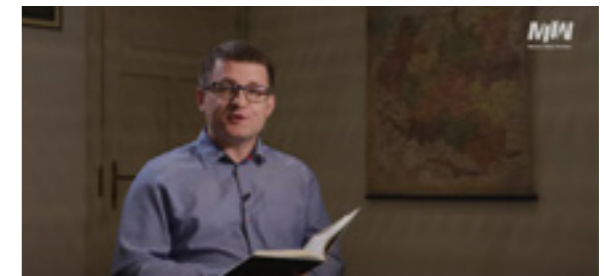
In total, offers from the Education Department in 2020, included 14 subjects of lessons and museum workshops carried out at the “Time Travel” [Podróż w czasie] exhibition and at the main exhibition. Throughout the year, due to legally binding COVID-19 restrictions, 56 classes were carried out with about 1,400 participants. The participants included children and schoolchildren from the region and the whole country.



As part of the “Remember about our Heroes” [Pamiętajmy o naszych bohaterach] project a few meetings with Brzostek Top Team Association took place. Thematic workshops from the Gdańsk Regional Branch of the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association (Chorągiew Gdańska ZHP) and classes in English for schoolchildren from the American School of Warsaw were also run. A curator guided tour round the main exhibition for employees of the Museum of Independence Traditions in Łódź was also organised. Within the framework of activities for the disabled and for disadvantaged groups, a cooperation with “Wake up Hope” Foundation [Fundacja „Obudź Nadzieję”] was initiated. There were also classes for children and schoolchildren from the Biskupia Górka neighbourhood in Gdańsk. On 25th May 2020, in front of the WWII Museum, at the memorial of Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki, **the celebration commemorating him on the 72nd anniversary of his murder** ← took place.

Students from the Westerplatte Heroes Maritime Schools Complex in Gdańsk took part in this meeting, along with others. During the anniversary celebrations of the Warsaw Uprising, the educational classes for the youngest children were run in the square in front of the WWII Museum – during the classes the uniforms and weapons used by the insurgents were shown with the group of the reenactors.

The **memorial roll call** ↓ was subsequently held with the youth at Home Army quarter at Łostowicki Cemetery, on August 2nd. In cooperation with the National “Westerplatte Schools Club” Association [Ogólnopolskie Stowarzyszenie „Klub Szkół Westerplatte”] the 9th meeting of Westerplatte Families in Gdańsk was organized. Its participants took part, with others, in the solemn morning assembly on Westerplatte, a visit to the German Nazi death and concentration camp, Museum Stutthof in Sztutowo as well as the WWII Museum conference: “The Fallen of Westerplatte. The Graves and Remains of Westerplatte Soldiers in the Light of Archaeological, Genetic and Historical Research and in the Context of Legal Procedures.”



#HISTORIECZYTANEM2WŚ

The project aimed at making children and schoolchildren more familiar with the difficult issues related to World War II with the help of selected books dedicated to this age group. The participants got acquainted with the broad fragments of *Jędrus. Chłopak ze Lwowa* ↑ by Andrzej Perepeczko and *Gdyby gwiazdy mogły mówić* by Batszewa Dagan.

#M2WSWIRTUALNIE

Within this action, interesting materials and curiosities were shown and new and valuable projects of the Museum were presented. The publications alluded to important anniversaries, historical figures and exhibits at the permanent and temporary exhibitions of the Museum of the Second World War.

Employees from the Education Department prepared the following subjects with student worksheets published on the Museum website: “Elżbieta Zawacka, nom the guerre ‘Zo’” [Elżbieta Zawacka, ps. „Zo”; “Kopernik Action” [Akcja Kopernik]; “Uniforms



and Equipment of Polish Soldiers in September 1939" [Umundurowanie i wyposażenie polskich żołnierzy we wrześniu 1939 r.]; "Pope that Used to Be Lolek" [Papież, który kiedyś był Lolkiem...]; "Wojtek the Bear" [Miś Wojtek]; "Polish Underground State - Underground Education" [Polskie Państwo Podziemne - tajne nauczanie]; "Polish Orders and Decorations" [Polskie ordery i odznaczenia]; "Poles in the Free City of Gdańsk" [Polacy w Wolnym Mieście Gdańsku]; "Battles of Polish Soldiers: Narvik 1940" [Bitwy polskich żołnierzy: Narwik 1940]; "Agnieszka Dowbor-Muśnicka"; "Cavalry against Tanks - the Lie which Became a Myth" [Kawaleria przeciw czołgom - kłamstwo, które stało się mitem]; "Fighting satire" [Satyra walcząca]; "Occupational Cooking" [Kuchnia w czasie okupacji]; "Enigma Secrets" [Sekrety Enigmy]; "Warsaw Uprising" [Powstanie Warszawskie]; "Street of the Pre-war City" [Ulica przedwojennego miasta].

Additionally, as part of the project, staff at the Education Department made video recordings on the education in two decades between the wars ↑, the fate of a Polish family under occupation and forced labour in the Third Reich.

CYCLE OF CONCERTS AND LECTURES DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF MARTYRED PRIESTS SERVING IN THE FREE CITY OF GDAŃSK

Each of the musical events was preceded by a lecture from a member of the museum's Education Department team devoted to a distinguished clergyman as well as the history of the parish in which he carried out his pastoral and patriotic duties: **15th November** - blessed priest Bronisław Komorowski and St. Stanislaus the Bishop and Martyr Parish in Gdańsk; **6th December** - blessed priest Marian Górecki and St. Hedwig of Silesia Parish in Gdańsk; and **13th December** - blessed priest Franciszek Rogaczewski and Christ the King Parish in Gdańsk ↑. The speech of the educator apart from the blessed priest profile and his priesthood, his patriotic and social activities included also the description

of the difficult situations of Poles in the Free City of Gdańsk. During the concerts, an acoustic folk group performed songs from their album *Piaśnicki lament* which included songs referring to poems from the book *Piaśnica through the eyes of the poets*.

WOJTEK THE BEAR THE TALE THAT REALLY HAPPENED. [NIEDŹWIEDŹ WOJTEK. BAJKA, KTÓRA WYDARZYŁA SIĘ NAPRAWDĘ]. THE PLAY

Employees of the Education Department in cooperation with the "Sport and Play" Foundation [Fundacja „Sport i Zabawa”] implemented an educational project for children, "History of Wojtek the Bear" [Historia niedźwiedzia Wojtka] ↑. As a result, a theatrical performance for preschoolers was staged in about 100 educational institutions.



CULTURAL EVENTS DEPARTMENT

MUN

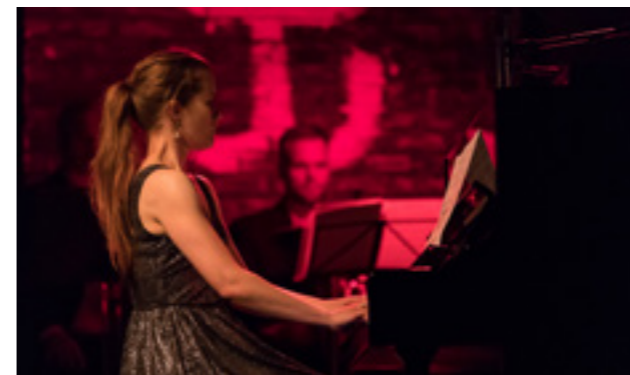
The Department of Cultural Events organizes all events related to culture. Its work focuses on the preparation of concerts, performances, exhibitions, author's evenings and special events. The Department cooperates extensively with many cultural institutions, as well as directly with artists. The undertaken activities result in numerous projects referring to the culture of pre-war Poland, which commemorate the dates of important events of World War II. During all of last year's projects, all of the restrictions in place at the time related to the COVID-19 pandemic were maintained. Each concert has been recorded and made available on the Internet channels of the WWII Museum. Some of the events were recorded on CD/DVD.



The following events were organized in 2020:

CONCERTS

- 1st February - concert on the occasion of **the 100th anniversary of Poland's Wedding to the Sea**. The repertoire included, among others: *Pomorski szumi wiatr* by Henryk Jabłoński, *Suita kaszubska* by Anna Ročławska-Musiałczyk, *Od morza jesteřmy* by Leon Łukaszewski and *Ave Maris Stella* by Paweł Łukaszewski performed by the Polish Chamber Choir Schola Cantorum Gedanensis.
- 1st March - concert performed by Lech Makowiecki with Zayazd band on the occasion of **the Cursed Soldiers National Remembrance Day** ⚔, a tribute to the soldiers of the Independence Underground for their bravery and unwavering patriotism.
- 1st August - **celebration of the 76th anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising** ⚔, a memorial roll call with a concert of insurgent songs. On the stage appeared Agnieszka Oszczyk, DownTown Brass quartet, Discantus Chamber Choir and pianist Ewa Sarwińska-Kowalczyk.
- 15th August - concert on the occasion of **the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Warsaw**. Performed by the Polish Chamber Choir Schola Cantorum Gedanensis under the baton of Maestro Jan Łukaszewski. The event was a joint undertaking between the Museum of the Second World War, the National Cultural Center in Warsaw and the Schola Cantorum Gedanensis Polish Chamber Choir in Gdańsk.
- 17th September - concert by the **Luxtorpeda** ⚡ band in memory of Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki, as part of the celebrations **commemorating the 81st anniversary of the armed attack of the USSR on Poland**. The event was organized jointly with the Młodzi dla Polski Trójmiasto Foundation.



- 18th October – concert **"Tribute to Poles in the Free City of Gdańsk on the 100th Anniversary of its Establishment"** [W hołdzie Polakom w Wolnym Mieście Gdańsku w 100-lecie utworzenia] in the church of Christ the King in Gdańsk ↓. Performed by: Agnieszka Tomaszewska – soprano, Cappella Gedanensis on historical instruments, conductor concertmaster Katarzyna Kowacz.
- 11th November – concert **"Tribute to Independence [W Hołdzie Niepodległości] on the occasion of the 102nd anniversary of Poland regaining independence**, in the Basilica of St. Bridget in Gdańsk. Performers: Halina Mlynkova, Zofia Tartas, Music Everywhere Choir, Discantus Chamber Choir, Sea Orchestra, conductor Sabrina Stachel, Małe TGD, Ewa Sarwińska-Kowalczyk – piano, Adam Tański – organs, Arkadiusz Krawiel – Vilnius dulcimer. The event was broadcast by TVP3 Channel Gdańsk.
- A series of concerts** combined with lectures **"Blessed Polish Priests in the Free City of Gdańsk"** [Błogosławieni Kapłani Polscy w Wolnym Mieście Gdańsku] on 15th November, 6th December and 13th December. The events took place in three churches in Gdańsk: of St. Stanislaus the Bishop and Martyr, St. Hedwig of Silesia and Christ the King.

SPECTACLES

In Jan Olszewski conference room at the Museum of the Second World War there was performed a monodrama, ***I am Reporting to You, Poland*** [Melduję Tobie Polsko], produced by the Polish Television Theatre Creation Agency and TVP3 Channel Gdańsk ↓.



SPECIAL EVENTS

- The project "Marian Hemar"** was launched – one of its elements will be recording an album with the Artist's music. For this purpose, research was done concerning the production: issues related to ZAiKS (royalties), writing musical arrangements, finding performers and musicians, recording preparation, mixing and mastering, CD pressing and packaging printing. These activities were accompanied by a composition competition ↑ for a vocal piece to lyrics by Marian Hemar, where three authors of the arrangements for the album were selected. The museum has plans to widely promote this project. Also planned is to recording of a music video and preparation of a concert promoting the album.
- In September, **"Pro Bono Poloniae" competition** was announced, addressed to NGOs, choirs and music groups promoting Polish culture at home and abroad, taking into account the history of Poland in 1939-1945. Its culmination was an award ceremony and the performance of "Requiem" by Wolfgang A. Mozart in memoriam late Dawid Krupej ↑. Performed by: Academic Choir of the Gdańsk University of Technology, Progress Chamber Orchestra, Anna Fabrello – soprano, Paulina Grabarz-Szmajda – alto, Leszek Holec – bass, Michał Jopek – tenor, Mariusz Mróz – conductor.



TASKS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- In June 2020, the rehearsals of the youth theatre group continued in the form of online classes. These were exercises aimed at developing the ability to convey emotions through voice, facial expressions and gestures, i.e. skills required in acting.
- Work was carried out on the events and projects planned for the third and fourth quarter of 2020: the festival of Polish animated films Young Animation, the concert "Cantata for 108 Martyrs of the Second World War" [Kantata dla 108 Męczenników II Wojny Światowej], European Night of Museums, "Changing the Perspective. Edition II" [Zmieniając perspektywę. Edycja II] – a youth theatre group, a concert with the Camerata Gedania orchestra. Activities related to the organization of these events were carried out, including: e-mail correspondence, telephone contacts, arrangements with other departments of the Museum, preparation of contracts, regulations and financial applications. In addition, contact was made with the National Film Archive – Audiovisual Institute (FINA) in order to use selected fragments of the film *Sewer* [Kanał] and *Forbidden Songs* [Zakazane piosenki] for the planned digital version of the event related to the celebration of August 1st – the anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising.
- Tasks related to the autumn edition of the European Night of Museums were planned and prepared. Most of the arrangements from the previous scenarios and four online meetings of the Education Department and the Cultural Events Department with the Deputy Director of the Museum, dr Tomasz

Szturo, were kept. After receiving information about the cancellation of this year's edition of the European Night of Museums, some of the projects from the scenario of the event were reformulated (a spatial visualization with the working title "World in Ruin" [Świat w ruinie], consisting of portraits of the WWII victims, and artistic spatial construction was rescheduled for the autumn).

- Actions were taken in order to enable live coverage (streaming) of events organized in the conference room, anticipating that even after returning to work after a period of remote work and the lifting of some of the restrictions, it will still often be necessary to make use of this form of exhibiting and to secure the institution for the future from the point of view of new technology.
- Documentation on temporary exhibitions carried out by the Department of Cultural Events in 2017–2018 was collected in order to provide exhibition
 1. "Let Your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and Your 'No' be 'No'. Zofia Kossak (Szczycka-Szatkowska)" [Tak, tak; nie, nie. Zofia Kossak (Szczycka-Szatkowska)];
 2. "Poles Saving Jews during the German Occupation" [Polacy ratujący Żydów podczas okupacji niemieckiej];
 3. "Boxers in the Hell of Camps" [Bokserzy w piekle obozów];
 4. Commemorative exhibition devoted to the soldiers of independent Poland as part of All Souls' Day in 2017;
- Work was carried out on the regulations for cultural events organized at the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, in consultation with other departments and under legal supervision;
- Active participation in the #M2WSwirtualnie project: the Department of Cultural Events prepared up to two feeds a week to be posted in the Museum's social media.

Three types of publications were prepared in social media:

- For this recording, the Film Documentation Department made a video with text to create a song in the form of a karaoke. So far, three songs have been released as part of this project: 'Uhlan, Uhlan', 'I'm Laughing Nonstop' and 'I've Made an Appointment With Her at Nine o'clock';
- a cycle called by the Department of Cultural Events 'Culture Under Occupation' [Kultura pod okupacją], in which staff prepared texts about the wartime fate of cultural artists, in which employees prepared texts about the wartime life stories of culture

creators. Articles were written introducing the figures of: Władysław Szpilman, Józef Szajna, Marian Hemar and Władysław Sebyła;

- the Department recalled the events to date, documented in the form of a video: the musical spectacle "This is How the War Began" [Tak zaczynała się wojna], the second birthday of the WWII Museum and the concert "Tribute to Freedom" [W hołdzie wolności].



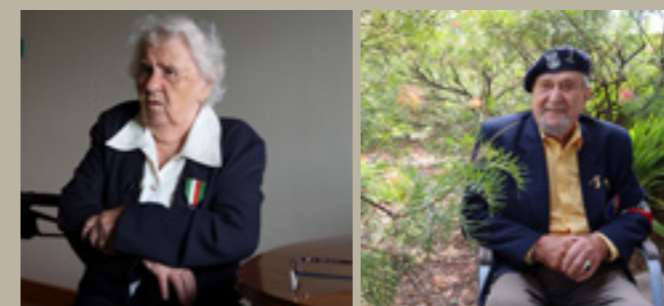
FILM DOCUMENTATION DEPARTMENT

MUN

The Film Documentation Department is responsible for the creation of audiovisual documentation, its archiving, processing and sharing. It is also responsible for running the "Oral History" website and the Museum Cinema, including the repertoire presented there and the organisation of other events.



One of the priorities of the Film Documentation Department is still the production and documentation of film accounts of witnesses to history. The prevailing COVID-19 pandemic has severely limited the options in this regard. The risk of infecting the elderly has resulted in the temporary suspension of this type of contact. Despite the difficulties, **24 film recordings** were made (3 in Poland, 12 in Australia, 8 in New Zealand and 1 in Great Britain). By the end of 2020, the Museum had made **464 documentations** of its own works. This collection was additionally enriched last year by the purchase of original film recordings of 49 witnesses to history made by prof. nadzw. dr hab. Zbigniew Wawer. The collection of the department also includes 46 film recordings obtained in



previous years from the Home Army Film Foundation. In total, the collection of the department includes 559 accounts of witnesses to history. There is also a separate catalogue: a collection of 76 film documentations made at places important for the history of Poland in the 20th century – basically abroad.

The documented witness accounts are widely used by the Museum staff, and above all in the current film productions of the department. The creation of the "Spoken History" portal in November 2019 also made it possible to familiarize a wider group of people with the films' content. Thanks to the promotion of the portal on social media, it enjoys great popularity and is eagerly visited. Its advantage consists not only in the possibility of listening to the recordings, but also to downloading the transcripts. By the end of 2020, **the portal had 65 film notations with witnesses to history with a total duration of 78 hours, as well as 16 short film forms and 39 radio broadcasts**. This year, employees of the Museum made 176 basic transcriptions (total recording time 206 hours), 101 first and second degree substantive corrections (total recording time 142 hours) and 55 language proofs (total recording time 58 hours). The transcripts were made by employees of the Film Documentation Department and employees delegated from other departments, mainly from the Marketing and Sales Department. Volunteer activities have been largely halted due to the prevailing pandemic and have been carried out on a limited basis only for the short periods permitted.

The necessity to transfer the Museum's activity to social media as a result of the pandemic have put a significant burden on the film section of the department. This year there have been **117 film projects completed**. These were interviews, lectures, educational lessons, announcements and reports from events, spots, reportages, promotional materials and other film forms. The following

documentaries production deserves special mention: *Close, Destroy, Sow Grass... The Warsaw Ghetto in the Memoirs of Stanisław Soszyński* [Zamknąć, zniszczyć, obsiać trawą... Getto warszawskie we wspomnieniach Stanisława Soszyńskiego], *Children of Soviet Deportations* [Dzieci sowieckich deportacji] and five film portraits of the fallen defenders of Westerplatte.

Two awards were granted by the international and national jury chaired by Zbigniew Żmudzki in the 15th edition of FilmAT Festival in recognition of the value and quality of film materials created by the department. In the international part, in the "Documentaries and TV Reportages" [Dokumenty i reportaże telewizyjne] category, the first prize in the "History and Heritage up to 30 Minutes" [Historia i dziedzictwo do 30 minut] sub-category went to the Children of Soviet Deportations. In the national part, the "Documentaries and TV Reportages" category, the "History and Heritage" sub-category, the first prize went to Return to the Janowa Valley [Powrót do Janowej Doliny].

In connection with the construction of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939, in the middle of the year three employees of the department were assigned to additional tasks related to the planned exhibition, and above all to search for film and other archives. The extensive research focused mainly on the issues of Westerplatte, Gdańsk and the Polish campaign in 1939. Due to the pandemic restrictions, foreign inquiries were conducted online where possible – mainly in archives in the United States, Germany and Switzerland. In Poland queries were successfully completed, among others, in the Office for Veterans and Victims of Oppression, in the Archives of the Institute of National Remembrance and in the National Film Archive, FINA, the latter being particularly important for the topics discussed. It was an opportunity to find out about and obtain vast collections. These activities are continuing.

MUSEUM CINEMA

One important task of the Film Documentation Department is the running of the Museum Cinema. This refers to the tradition of art-house cinemas. In recent years, it has gained recognition not only from the Tri-City viewers. In line with our objectives, ambitious film titles with only the highest of artistic and educational values are shown here, including premiere screenings held, through which visitors can get to know many new film titles. The series "Cinemahistory" [Kinohistoria] presents films on war and history, and the series "At the Old Cinema" [W starym kinie] introduces the achievements of Polish pre-war cinema. In addition to regular screenings, the cinema organizes various types of reviews and meetings in which film experts, historians, as well as special guests, including actors and filmmakers, participate.

In 2020, **33 films were shown at 191 screenings** at the Museum Cinema. In the period from 13th March to 18th June and from 1st November to 31st December 2020, the cinema was closed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The following special events took place in 2020:

- February: special screenings of the films *Marriage Story* [Historia małżeńska] and *Let's Meet Again* [Poznajmy się jeszcze raz], supplemented with lectures by psychologists. The screenings were held as part of the Week of Marriage;
- February: screening of the documentary *Memory is Our Homeland* ↗ [Pamięć jest naszą ojczyzną] and a meeting with Jonathan Durand, the film's director. The show was held as part of the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the Soviet deportations of Poles;



- March: screening of the documentary *The Silent Generation* [Milczące pokolenie] and meeting with the director and the main character of the film. The screening was part of the Cursed Soldiers National Remembrance Day;
- August: special film screenings: *7 Days to the Uprising, Pasta 1944 - 100 Years of History* [7 dni do powstania, Pasta 1944 - 100 lat historii], *Uprising and medicine. We wanted to live* [Powstanie i medycyna. Chcieliśmy żyć] organized to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising;

- September: solemn premiere of the film *The Defenders* (directed by Paweł Domański), with the participation of its makers. The screening and a discussion about the film were part of the 81st anniversary of the outbreak of World War II.
- November: closed screening of the film *Border Street* [Ulica Graniczna] (directed by Aleksander Ford) on the 80th anniversary of the closing of the Warsaw Ghetto. During the event, a short film *Close, Destroy, Sow Grass...* made by the Film Documentation Department was shown.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

The activity of the International Relations Department focuses on contacts with foreign partners - museums, archives and universities from all around the world. The implemented international projects also include cooperation with Polish and foreign diplomatic missions.

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 limited the possibility of contacts with external partners. The accompanying restrictions influenced the change of activities and the transfer of activities to the Internet. Similar changes took place in the field of international activities.

Projects with the participation of foreign partners planned for 2020 have been postponed. After the announcement of the first lockdown in March, a decision was made to postpone the second edition of the planned international WBMF (World Battlefield Museums Forum) to a later date (2021 or 2022). Also, the 2nd edition of col. Jan Kowalewski's '*Reason Before Force*' [Rozum przed siłą] promoting scientists and museologists from abroad and Poland had to be postponed. The first edition of the WBMF took place in 2018. Due to the planned investment of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939, representatives

of battlefield museums from Europe and the world were invited to Gdańsk and a discussion was initiated on the commemoration and management of battlefields - sites that build the historical identity of individual nations. Representatives from the USA, Turkey, Belgium, France, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Greece were hosted at that time.

Due to the epidemic, the 2nd edition of the event was moved online, which made it possible to continue the idea of the forum itself as well as the values of the WBMF motto: "Courage, Sacrifice, Heritage" [Odwaga, Poświęcenie, Pamięć]. Therefore, the following projects (completed or in progress) were initiated and carried out via the Internet:

WBMF.ONLINE PLATFORM

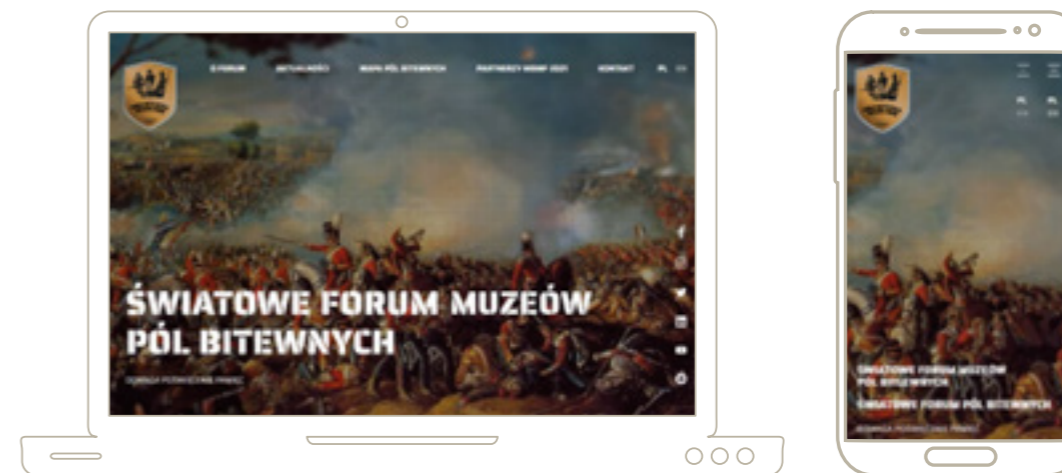
The WBMF.online platform is a virtual space that brings together museums and institutions - guardians of battlefields from around the world. It was created as an addition to the World Battlefield Museums Forum conference. It enables constant contact between conference partners, exchange of scientific information and sharing of both knowledge and experience gained in the process of creating memorials and historical battle monuments important to individual nations.

The scientific content published on the WBMF.online website is to promote the idea of the WBMF conference, as well as to stimulate the general increase of interest in the subject of battlefields, methods of their commemoration, and the awareness of their role in putting forth historical identity, considering the development of commercial tourism.

The platform was created in two language versions - Polish and English.

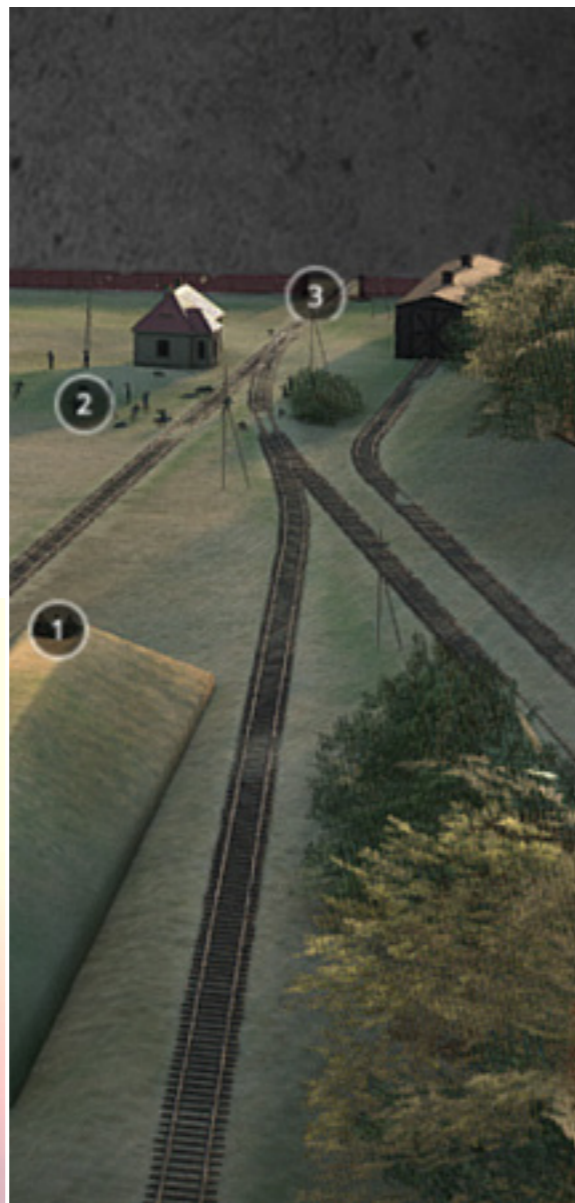
WORLD'S ICONIC BATTLEFIELDS INFOGRAPHICS

There is also a popular science and educational tab on the platform. A database of interesting information on groundbreaking historical battles has been created for history enthusiasts - both younger and older. The Battlefields Map takes its users into the world of battles with interesting, clear infographics, starting with the Battle of Marathon that took place in 490 BC, or the battles of the Germans with the Roman Legions in the Teutoburg Forest in AD 9 up until the battle struggles of World War I and II. The infographics are in two language versions - Polish and English.



3D VR MODELS ON SKETCHFAB.COM

In order to enrich and diversify information about great battles, a project was initiated to create 3D VR models of participants in individual battles shown in infographics on the WBMF.online website. 3D graphics available on the website or on the sketchfab.com platform were among the top ten best projects in the world in the Cultural and Historical Heritage in 2020 section. The Museum's presentation was seen by several thousand Internet users in the first three weeks after its publication. Models can be viewed on a computer, smartphone or with 3D VR goggles.



"DIGITAL WESTERPLATTE"

The International Relations Department together with the Communications and Promotions Department launched the "Digital Westerplatte" ↓ project (a part of a larger undertaking – WBMF.online platform). We are one of the first museums in the world to implement a project that uses both virtual and augmented reality technologies to digitally recreate historical scenes and places – in this case, the 1939 WST (Military Transit

Depot). Users can view and explore the station building, the area in front of the railway gate, warehouses and nearby buildings. In addition, they have a chance to get acquainted with a little-known, tragic episode from the defence of Westerplatte – the story of the Westerplatte train station manager, Sergeant Major Wojciech Najsarek. **The "Digital Westerplatte" project was granted a distinction in the "Startup. The Best Technological Solution" category in the "Eagle of Innovation" (Orzeł Innowacji) competition organized by the Rzeczpospolita daily.**





WORLD HERITAGE BATTLEFIELDS RADIO BROADCASTS

The idea of the World Forum of Battlefields Museums and the reference to a broad narrative about commemorating battlefields will return in a series of seven popular science broadcasts titled World Heritage Battlefields carried out by the Museum in cooperation with Radio Gdańsk. Preparation for implementation began in October 2020. The programmes will be directed to history enthusiasts and broadcast in English, which will add even more to their educational aspect. Voices will be cast by the WWII Museum historians, representatives of institutions cooperating with the Museum within the WBMF project, and independent experts-historians, authorities in the field of individual battles and the corresponding historical periods.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

As part of its daily activities, the International Relations Department actively cooperates with other departments of the MSSW as well as working with texts dedicated to the WBMF online platform. The department was involved in the translation and proofreading of English texts of two outdoor temporary exhibitions, displayed in the square in front of the Museum – "Poles in the Free City of Gdańsk" and "The Airmen". Moreover, language transcriptions were made for several documentary films in cooperation with the Film Documentation Department.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic closed the doors of museums across the world, the department undertook various activities, reaching the furthest corners of the world with a theme of Polish history. In January

2020, during a visit to the National Army Museum in London, the possibilities and areas of potential cooperation between the WWII Museum and the British institution were discussed. In the same month, cooperation was established with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Cairo and the El Alamein Military Museum. The main goal of the cooperation is to supplement the Egyptian section of the exhibition with a Polish thread, dedicated to the participation of Polish soldiers in the battles of World War II in North Africa. Another area of cooperation is the preparation of a special version of the temporary exhibition "Fighting and Suffering. Polish Citizens During World War II", which will be presented in Egypt. In 2020, the WWII Museum established cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tashkent to support the activities of the local Polish diaspora, as well as with museums in Australia and New Zealand. The Museum's international network of contacts was enriched, among others, with institutions such as: the Auckland War Memorial, the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, the Australian War Memorial, the Sydney Jewish Museum and the Darwin Military Museum.

In February 2020, **at the National Library in Wellington, New Zealand, the opening of the exhibition "Fighting and Suffering. Polish Citizens during the Second World War" took place**. The event was opened with a lecture presented by the Director, dr Karol Nawrocki, entitled "The Birth of Evil. Fight and Suffering" [Narodziny zła. Walka i Cierpienie].

Representatives of the WWII Museum participated in the "Meeting History" organized by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Sydney. During the event the Director, dr Karol Nawrocki, gave a lecture on the origin of World War II as well as Polish experience, struggle and suffering during World War II.

Despite the challenges in organizing face-to-face meetings in 2020, the Museum of the Second World War hosted many exceptional guests. Among them were: President of Iceland Guðni Th. Jóhannesson with his wife Eliza Jean Reid, Minister of Agriculture of the Slovenian Government Aleksandra Privec, Director of the Museum of the 20th Century Memory in Prague dr Jiří Šesták, Rector of the Polish Catholic Mission in Argentina, Father Jerzy Jacek Twaróg, and Deputy Director of the Canadian War Museum James Whitham.

The main results of the MSSW's extensive international activity in 2020 was the establishment of an international calling in the competition for the urban and architectural concept and design of the military cemetery of the Polish Army Soldiers in Westerplatte. The international voices on the jury were represented by: Jonathan Walker – historian and writer, Thierry Hubscher – director of the Verdun Memorial Museum, Justin Maciejewski – director of the National Army Museum, Sandra Thompson – director of the Alabama Veterans Museum and Archive.

SPOKESPERSON'S OFFICE

MJN

Since December 2019, the position of Spokesperson has been an independent position reporting to the Director of the WWII Museum. The Spokesperson's tasks include primarily building a strategy for cooperation with traditional media, coordinating and giving interviews to the media, ongoing press communication, organizing press conferences, coordinating the activities of patronage institutions and journalistic study visits, checking and correcting press releases and other texts.



SPOKESPERSON
Hanna Mik-Samól



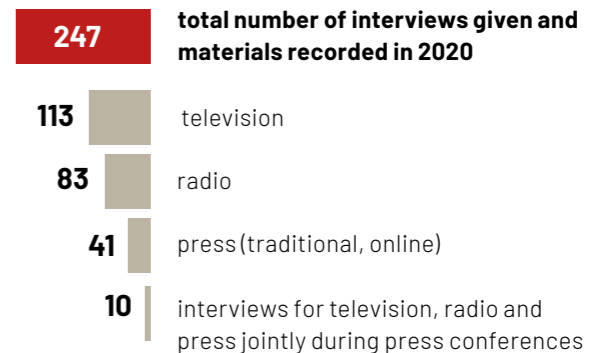
DEPUTY SPOKESPERSON
Adrianna Garnik

The Spokesperson is in continuous contact with the Communications and Promotions Department, they jointly implement a common communication strategy with the outside world. In addition, the Spokesperson systematically and constantly cooperates with all departments of the Museum, being up to date with projects and tasks carried out by the institution, especially in the aspects of construction of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939, acting as a member of the Steering Committee for the investment.

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

The main tasks of the spokesperson include coordination of cooperation with traditional media, including scheduling and giving interviews to television, radio, press and Internet portals. In the peculiar, pandemic year of 2020, **the management and employees of the WWII Museum gave a total of 247 interviews.** These were expert statements about ongoing projects, anniversaries related to both historical events and outstanding figures from the years of World War II, as well as comments on the current historical policy of Poland and other countries. **The voice of the Museum was present in the vast majority of national and regional media, as well as in the foreign press.** During interviews, the subject raised the most was implementation of the investment in Westerplatte: topics related to the programme objectives of the investment for the construction of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939, the transfer of Westerplatte plots No. 68 and No. 25/5 (within 062) to be at the disposal of the Museum, the competition for the concept of the military cemetery of the Polish Army Soldiers in Westerplatte, as well as the winning work. The prevailing issues

included also the celebration of the 81st anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, along with the announcement of the names of five identified Polish defenders of Westerplatte in September 1939.



Media representatives were also keenly interested in the #M2WSbezpiecznie action, as the Museum proactively implemented a number of security measures concerning the health protection of employees and guests of the institution in connection with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. These included, among others:

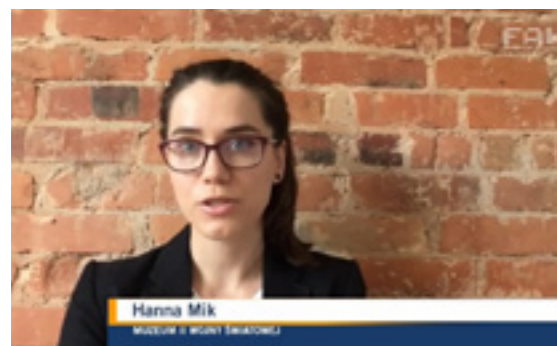
- the "Mask and Book" campaign, during which the WWII Museum distributed among Gdańsk citizens 18,000 sets consisting of a protective mask along with a Museum's own publication;
- the "Hotel for Medics" campaign, during which the institution provided free museum hotel accommodation for doctors in the frontline of fighting the virus;
- in cooperation with the UCK: the Museum allocated an underground car park for the operation of the COVID-19 drive-thru test centre;
- joining the campaign to promote vaccination as part of the #SzczepimySię campaign;
- activities carried out as part of the #M2WSwirtualnie action co-implemented by all departments of the

institution: materials about World War II were published every day on social media and on the Museum website www.muzeum1939.pl, in the form of interesting information, online exhibitions, accounts given by witnesses of history, virtual walks and other involving scientific materials, as well as educational and cultural content.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a significant number of interviews in 2020 were conducted remotely, online and by phone, without direct contact with journalists or actual presence in recording studios ↓.

PRESS CONFERENCES

In 2020, the WWII Museum **held a total of 10 press conferences with the participation of regional and national media**. All these events were an excellent opportunity to present and comment on the most important activities carried out by the institution, and above all, they were an opportunity for journalists to ask questions and interact with representatives of the Museum. All press conferences were reported live on the institution's social media.



As many as four press conferences organized in 2020 concerned the construction of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939, which proves the priority issue. The most important of these was that on the 25th of August, 2020 ↑, prepared by the Spokesperson and the Communications and Promotions Department. During this conference, experts related to the general science of museology, as well as representatives of the army, architects, scientists and journalists could get acquainted with the aims of the Westerplatte Museum and the War of 1939 investments. Guests gathered at the presentations had the opportunity to learn about the tour route, the plans to rebuild the WST buildings and their new functions that will be part of the Museum complex, as well as planned architectural and urban competitions.

An opportunity to inform the wider media about the plans of the institution was offered by the press conference organized on August 10th, 2020 with the participation of the Director of the WWII Museum, dr Karol Nawrocki, Minister of Culture and National Heritage, prof. Piotr Gliński, Pomeranian Voivode, Dariusz Drelich and prof. Stanisław Radwański ↗. At that time, a competition was announced for the development of an urban and architectural concept for the military cemetery of the Polish Army Soldiers

on Westerplatte. The competition was designed to create a space that, in a manner appropriate to the historical and cultural importance of the symbolic place where the Second World War began, will commemorate the fallen soldiers of the Polish Army, and at the same time will be the basis for the development of more complete documentation enabling further investments to be carried out. The symbolic finale closing this particular project was the conference organized on 21st December, 2020, during which the results of the settled competition were announced. The event was attended by the Director of the Museum, dr Karol Nawrocki and dr hab. inż. arch. Bolesław Stelmach, prof. of the Lodz University of Technology, Chairman of the Competition Jury. The winning design was prepared by the NM Architekci studio Tomasz Marciniwicz, Zuzanna Szpocińska, Jerzy Grochulski (a team of authors consisting of: Tomasz Marciniwicz, Zuzanna Szpocińska, Jerzy Grochulski, Karolina Kayzer). During the meeting, all winning works were discussed and the chosen concept was justified as aiming at the creation of a place of remembrance, social interaction, culture, patriotic and historical education, as well as a space where state, religious and military celebrations will be organized.

Opportunities for wider meetings with journalists also included:

- signing cooperation agreements (e.g. a partnership agreement on cooperation with the National Institute of Freedom – Centre for Civil Society Development as part of the Solidarity Corps Volunteer Card programme on 24 July, 2020) ↓;
- announcing the principles of safe visiting related to the reopening of the Museum, as well as announcing the results of the institution's activities in the virtual space (13 May, 2020);
- presenting special collections either on display or acquired by the Museum →.



PRESS RELEASES

In addition to coordinating and giving interviews, as well as organizing press conferences, the activities of the Spokesperson include constantly informing the media about activities, events and projects implemented by the WWII Museum. Despite the institution being closed to visitors for over six months in 2020, the Museum was actively pursuing its statutory mission. Thus, in the discussed year, **70 press releases and announcements were sent to the media, which means that approximately every 5 days, the press, radio and television were informed about further activities of the institution**, such as organization of scientific and cultural events, new openings of film and educational projects, meetings with authors, implementation of activities and breakthrough investment stages on Westerplatte, new Museum actions, announcing competitions and their results, etc.

STUDY VISITS OF JOURNALISTS

In accordance with the WWII Museum regulations, media representatives have free access to the main exhibition and temporary exhibitions. In 2020, despite more than six months of closure of the Museum to visitors, 86 journalists representing media from Poland and abroad participated in free journalistic study visits, from Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Spain, Israel, Lithuania, Germany, Russia, Romania, Serbia, Switzerland, Sweden, Ukraine, Hungary, the UK and Italy. The results of these visits were materials encouraging visits to the Museum of the Second World War, appearing in Polish and foreign press.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PROMOTIONS DEPARTMENT



The department is responsible for tasks related to the promotion of the Museum's activities through electronic media, as well as for both internal and external communications, in close cooperation with the press spokesperson. The team consists of specialists in promotion and communication, as well as a volunteer coordinator and the MRM. The employees of the department are actively involved in all the activities of the Museum through the implementation of graphic projects, promotion in digital media, sending invitations, as well as preparing photo reports.

The permanent tasks of the Communications and Promotions Department include:

- maintaining and updating the website of the Museum in Polish and English, as well as its profile on social networks: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn, as well as on Sketchfab;
- preparing photo coverage of all events carried out at the Museum for the promotion and also for individual departments;
- developing, conducting and coordinating works on graphic design of advertisements, invitations, leaflets, posters and other concepts, as required by the events organized by the Museum; graphic design of advertisements for the press, radio and television ↗;
- distribution of promotional materials - leaflets, exhibition catalogues, invitations, calendars and others →;
- preparation and distribution of the Museum newsletter;
- creating a profiled e-mail database of the institution, adapted to the diverse Museum's activities;



- ensuring consistency of the visual identification of the Museum and the promotion of film materials created by the Film Documentation Department, current information (in cooperation with core departments) about the most important historical events, interesting facts related to the history of World War II and the heroes of the events of that period, and above all about Polish soldiers and their fates;
- cooperation with schools, tourist information points, school youth hostels and NGOs ←.

SELECTED MORE IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of the Museum to visitors, the department faced the task of carrying on the statutory mission of the Museum, which is to cherish and promote history, via the Internet. In March 2020, the #M2WSwirtualnie action was launched, consisting also of regular publications of interesting and diverse materials about the most tragic conflict in history, as well as Polish heroes of World War II who gave their lives for their homeland. These included, among other things, articles, online exhibitions, testimonies of history witnesses published on the "Spoken History" portal, virtual walks, as well as other interesting scientific, educational or cultural content. **Materials shown as part of the #M2WSwirtualnie campaign had over 35 million views in 2020.**

The Communications and Promotions Department was also involved in an important project implemented in response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the "Mask and Book" campaign. Thanks to an effective promotional campaign, numerous Gdańsk residents filled out a form on the Museum website, which resulted in distribution of 18,000 free sets consisting of a protective mask and a book published by the Museum. This was one of the projects carried out within the framework of the Social Responsibility Policy of the Museum of the Second World War.

As part of the celebrations of the 72nd death anniversary of Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki, **the Communications and Promotions Department carried out the #ZniczDlaRotmistrza campaign.** A special website was created, where they published, among other things, the hero's biography, numerous articles,

audiobook *Raport Witolda* and materials from the exhibition summarizing the competition for the design of the monument to Cavalry Captain Pilecki. In addition, visitors to the were handed out a paper edition of *Raport Witolda*, as well as candles that could be placed at the monument located in the square in front of the main entrance to the Museum. Staff at the department as well as volunteers were involved in the campaign.



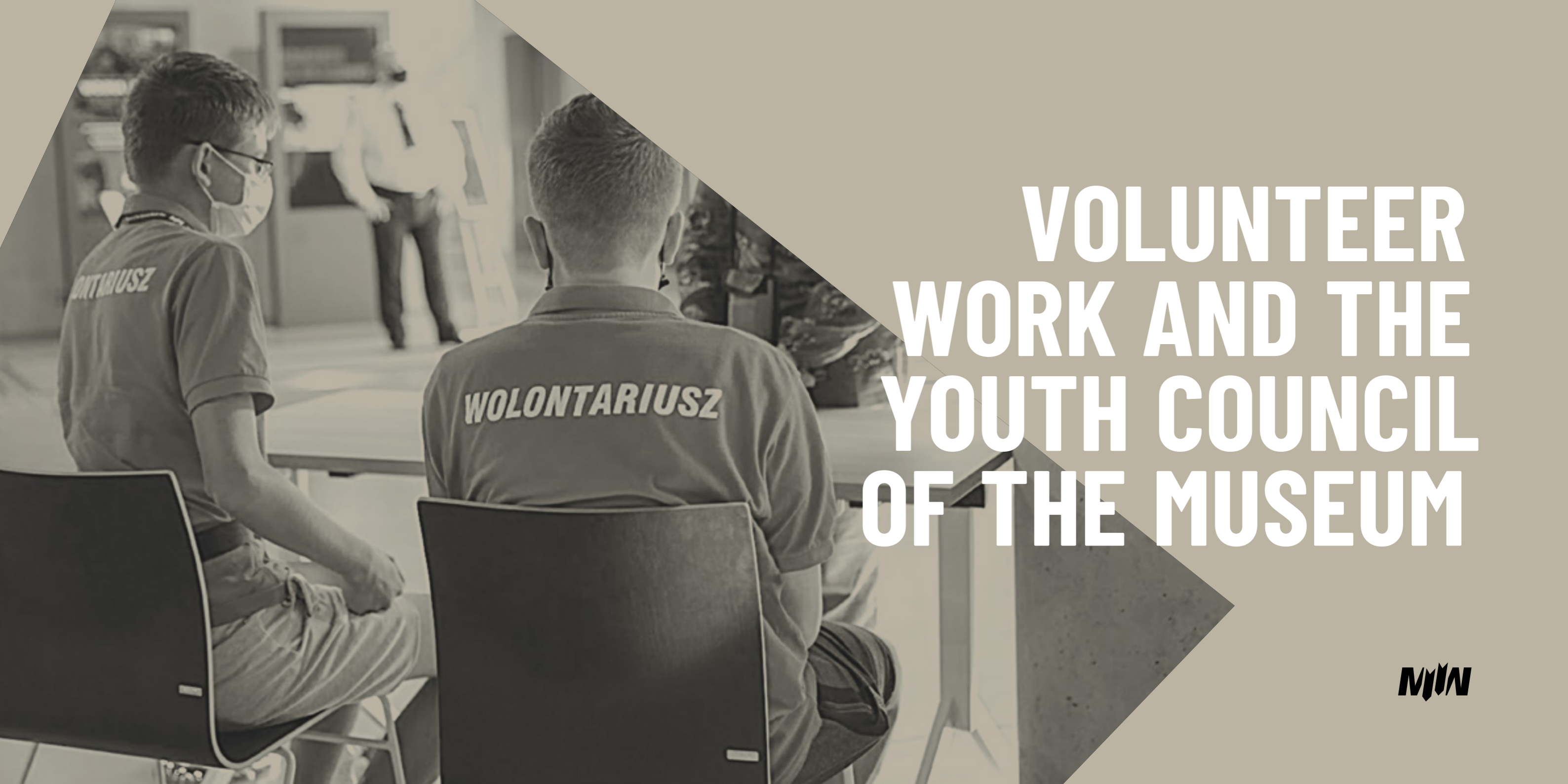
As part of the campaign on November 3rd and 4th, 2020, **employees and volunteers of the MRM visited the Tri-City memorial sites related to the victims of World War II** ↑ and laid symbolic flowers and candles as a testimony of their memory and tribute to their deeds.

In 2020, the department began work on the educational project "Westerplatte - the First Battle of World War II" [Westerplatte - pierwsza bitwa II wojny światowej], thanks to which one can learn more about the events of the first days of September 1939 on the peninsula. The project was prepared in Polish and English.

In addition, the department has been working on its **'Digital Westerplatte' project** ↓ (which is part of the WBMF.online project), in which a digitally recreated fragment of the JTS can be seen. Thanks to the use of modern technologies, each of the Internet users can visit, among other things, the station building, as well as watch the attack on the railway gate and the defence of the "Rampart" facility.



In 2020, the Communications and Promotions Department **started work on the new website of the Museum. Also, it developed the Book of Visual Identification** ↑ **thanks to which the attractiveness and consistency of the WWII Museum graphic identification as a brand is maintained.** It is intended to be applied in all communication channels: both online and traditional. The Book of Visual Identification specifies, among other things: the basic symbol and the rules for its use; supplementary mark in Polish and English versions and rules of its use; the label and rules of its use; colours of visual identification; headline typography with the main, distinctive and complementary typography; Key Visual, i.e. the main graphic theme of the Museum, along with the rules and examples of its application; stationery, i.e. business cards, e-mail footer and letterhead, along with the principles of design and the structure of multimedia presentations.



VOLUNTEER WORK AND THE YOUTH COUNCIL OF THE MUSEUM

Volunteering has been a permanent element of the WWII Museum operation since 2017. So far, we have signed 258 cooperation agreements with volunteers, and the group of people willing to support our institution is growing every month.



Volunteers support the activities of the Museum in a form of:

- regular volunteering, i.e. cooperation with the departments of the Museum on a daily basis ↑;
- action volunteering, i.e. organization and actual managing of events taking place at the Museum;
- e-volunteering consisting in performing tasks via the Internet.

Volunteers support the institution on many levels - from basic office work to more significant support for activities related to various types of events. 2020 was unique due to the pandemic, and many activities had to be paused or restricted to online implementation. Despite this, the Museum signed voluntary agreements with 52 people. Volunteers were present at the organization of a dozen or so cultural events.

The group of volunteers consists of people of different ages. **The youngest of them is 13, the oldest is 73.** Thanks to this, we can carry out activities together, view our tasks from different perspectives and find the best solutions based on creativity, knowledge and kind and friendly interactions.

Volunteers carried out the following tasks:

- transcription and processing of film notations with witnesses of history;
- current tasks related to archiving, creating, processing and distributing information and promotional materials;
- photographic and graphic support;
- promotional and organizational activities accompanying artistic and scientific events;
- translation of texts from Polish into English.

Furthermore, volunteers support the institution in events organized outside its site, such as during the *#ZniczDlaBohatera* ↑ campaign. On the 3rd and 4th of November, 2020, together with employees of the Museum and the councillors of the MRM, as part of the *#ZniczDlaBohatera* campaign, they visited the Tri-City memorial sites associated with the victims of World War II, where they laid flowers and candles, as a token of our remembrance.

MŁODZIEŻOWA RADA MUZEUM II WOJNY ŚWIATOWEJ W GDAŃSKU

In 2020, councillors of the first term of the Youth Council of the Museum (MRM) were elected. The Council consists of 14 people ↓ – 7 selected from among students and volunteers cooperating with the Museum, and 7 selected in a competition.

Thanks to the MRM, young people have an impact on the shape and development of the Museum of the Second World War, the opportunity to actively participate in events organized by the institution and submit motions and opinions regarding the current activities of the Museum. The council performs consultative and other functions in relation to the WWII Museum. One of the goals of this project is also to disseminate historical knowledge and promote participation in culture and public life among young people. The Museum expects the elected councillors to shape historical awareness in their peers and audiences, as well as to nurture the need to cultivate patriotic traditions.



The inaugural meeting of the MRM took place on 20th October. Due to the situation during the epidemic, meetings were organized in the form of videoconferences. During the meeting, the councillors introduced themselves and their interests. Moreover, they mentioned why they chose to run for the Council and presented ideas for the first term in office. An important part of the meeting was taking an oath by the councillors. Then, a vote was held for the president of the MRM – Mikołaj Sobański-Józwiak was elected by an absolute majority of votes. The culmination of the videoconference was the meeting of councillors with Piotr Mazurek, Undersecretary of State in the Chancellery of the Prime Minister and Government Representative for Youth Policy.

COUNCILLORS OF THE MRM (FIRST TERM)

- Mikołaj Sobański-Józwiak – president of the Council
- Maja Hnatów – deputy President of the Council
- Liwia Pabin – secretary of the Council
- Filip Drygalski
- Michał Kurdziel
- Maksymilian Lewandowski
- Julia Mazurek
- Paweł Raro
- Jan Siluk
- Mikołaj Tablewski
- Jakub Tkaczewski
- Iwo Ulański
- Olga Wiśniewska
- Antoni Wyligała

A collection of aviation-themed merchandise is displayed on a dark surface. In the foreground, a white t-shirt with a technical drawing of a biplane is partially visible. To its right, a white model airplane with black markings is mounted on a stand. Below the t-shirt, a notebook with two pages showing biplane illustrations is open. To the right of the notebook, a book titled "DAVID ASTER" is visible. In the background, several other t-shirts with various aviation designs and a stack of business cards are scattered. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark grey filter.

MARKETING AND SALES DEPARTMENT

The aim of the Department is, above all, to provide services to people visiting the Museum, as well as all marketing activities related to sales. The most profitable activity remains the sale of tickets for exhibitions, followed by the rental of conference center rooms, the sale of publications and gadgets in the museum shop and more recently in an online shop, as well as the running of the hotel part of the Museum, the sale of advertising space and the rental of commercial space.



When the Museum was closed to visitors and it was impossible to carry out the basic aims of its functions, the employees of the Marketing and Sales Department transcribed film materials and the testimonies of witnesses to history from the museum collections. **They prepared a total of 156 complete transcripts ←. In practice, this meant writing down notations with a total length of 185 hours, which translated into 11,100 minutes of film material.**

HOTEL SUITES

The Marketing and Sales Department is responsible for running the hotel part of the Museum ↓. The suites are very popular with guests from all over the world. The high standard of interior and service results in very good ratings on booking portals. One of them is **Booking.com, where apartments maintain a rating of 9.2 every year.** This service remains one of the best sales channels, next to direct and telephone bookings. Last year, 804 nights were booked.

The department aims at improving the comfort of guests, among others by properly equipping rooms, kitchens and a patio. WWII Museum suites participate in the "Hygienically Safe Facility" programme to ensure the safety of visitors.

In 2020, the "Hotel for Medics" action was organized to make WWII Museum accommodation available for the medical staff working in the Pomeranian Voivodeship.



MUSEUM SHOP AND ONLINE SHOP

In 2020, the department launched an online Museum shop, which became the extension of the existing stationery shop. The offer includes a large selection of gifts and gadgets for both adults and children. There are many publications from Poland and around the world, including numerous titles published by the WWII Museum publishing house.

In 2020, the shop's stock was increased by the addition of a thematic, self-designed series of gadgets referring to the topics discussed at the main exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War ↓. The collections include:

- Kapral Wojtek [Corporal Wojtek]
- Cichociemni [the Silent Unseen]
- Karaś
- M4 Sherman Firefly
- Łączy nas Westerplatte [Bonded by Westerplatte]
- Czerwone Maki na Monte Cassino



CONFERENCE CENTRE

In the conference centre, which includes a conference hall, a cinema room, a foyer and workshop rooms, seven events were organized in 2020, including:

- Polish National Energy Summit;
- classes in the English-language programme of the Gdańsk University of Technology, Master of Business Administration;
- another edition of the industry meeting "Discover our Interiors" ["Odkryj nasze wnętrza"] in cooperation with the Gdańsk Tourist Organization.

It is worth adding that the WWII Museum has been awarded the certificate of the Polish Tourist Organization - "Safe MICE Venue" ["Bezpieczny Obiekt MICE"].

products sold in the Museum shop - they have also become part of the interior design of the hotel suites.

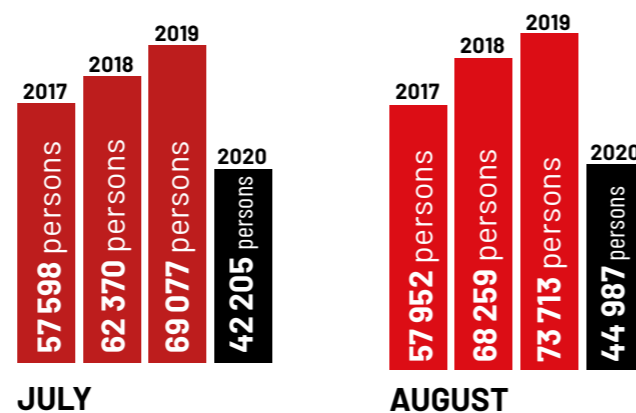
Due to the pandemic and the transfer of the WWII Museum activities to the network, the Marketing and Sales Department became involved in creating posts published on the Museum's social media. In 2020, the department created 88 entries exclusively related to sales.

STATISTICS

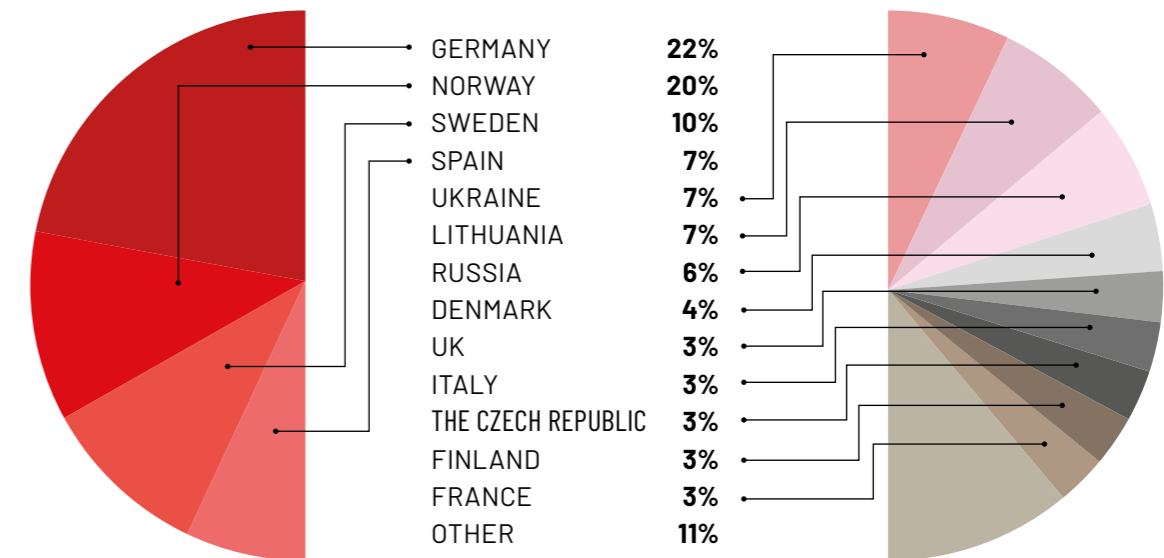
- 243,883** guests at the Museum in 2020
- 221,712** guests at the Museum's main exhibition in 2020
- 804** nights booked in the Museum's suites in 2020

Since the opening of the Museum of the Second World War in 2017, every year in July and August we have broken records for the main exhibition

MAIN EXHIBITION ATTENDANCE



FOREIGN VISITORS IN 2020



attendance. Considering that 2020 was different from other years and that due to safety reasons and as a result of the sanitary regime the number of visitors who could be at the exhibition was halved, there is still an upward trend.

In 2020, the WWII Museum was visited by citizens of over 70 countries. The most common were guests from Germany (22% of the total number of foreign visitors). The next two biggest groups are Norwegians (11%) and Swedes (10%). Spaniards, Ukrainians and Lithuanians (7% each) are in the next positions.

Subsequent positions are represented by the inhabitants of Russia (6%) and Denmark (4%) as well as Great Britain, Italy, the Czech Republic, Finland and France (3% each). Countries whose nationals account for 1% or less of the total number of foreign visitors are listed under the "Other" category. There is a noticeable change in the structure of foreign tourists due to the pandemic, since so far every year, visitors from Norway, Sweden and Finland were the top three.



MUSEUM OF WESTERPLATTE AND THE WAR OF 1939

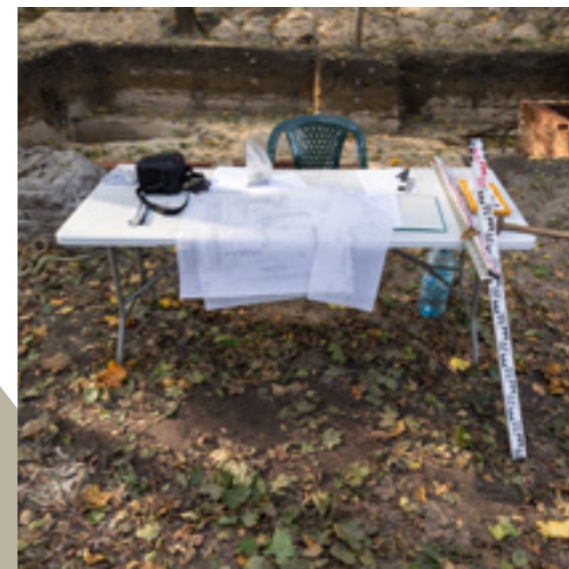
MJW



- Archaeological supervision on plot No. 68 at Westerplatte (11th August – 26th November, 2020)** ↘ – the scope of field work included archaeological supervision over the de-mining work carried out on an area of 32 752 m² constituting part of plot 68, section 62 on Westerplatte. The clearing of the area from hazardous and explosive materials was carried out by the 43rd Navy Sappers Battalion and the Sappers Company of the Engineering Battalion from the 2nd Sappers Regiment from Kazuń Nowy. During the works, 2,403 items recognized by the Polish Army sappers as hazardous and explosive materials of military origin were detected and disposed of. These were mainly artillery shells, mortar grenades, aerial bombs (including one weighing 500 kg) or small arms ammunition. The archaeological supervision over the sappers' work resulted in the acquisition of 950 items included in the inventory of separate monuments. In addition, during the

works carried out on plot No. 68, six archaeological sample excavations sites were opened in places of deep deposition of metal objects.

- Supervision and archaeological research at Westerplatte, plot No. 68, section 62 related to the investment "Construction of a pedestal with an information board along with lighting and hardening the area around the site" in 2020 (26 October – 27 November, 2020)** – the scope of field work included:
 - making a triangular-shaped excavation (8 × 8 × 9 m), with an area of 30 m² and depth of 30–40 cm; the works related to the replacement and hardening of the ground near the pedestal;
 - making an excavation 1.4 × 1.4 m and 1.3 m deep for the foundation of the pedestal;
 - making an excavation for an electrical connection, 60 cm wide, 0.8–1 m deep and 12 m long.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

- 6th stage of archaeological research on Westerplatte (3rd August – 7th November, 2020)** ↑ – the basis of the 6th season of archaeological research was to confirm or exclude the possibility of locating further burials of Polish soldiers in the area adjacent to the graves found in 2019 at Westerplatte. Analysis of archival sources and the results of research in 2019 indicated that the peninsula may still contain the burial sites of at least two known by name defenders of the WST. The

exploration was carried out across a total area of 384 m². During the works, no further graves of the fallen Polish soldiers were revealed but numerous archaeological artefacts related both to the period of the functioning of the WST and the previously operating sea resort were documented. During the research, almost 11,000 artefacts were obtained, of which over 6,000 were considered particularly valuable, historically and exhibition wise (including, for example, numismatic items, elements of uniforms, equipment and military weapons).



The works and the excavated soil material were monitored on an ongoing basis for the presence of objects of historical interest and bones. A metal detector was used to search for metal objects. After initial cleaning, the movable material obtained during the exploration was inventoried and packed into labelled string bags.

OTHER EVENTS

In 2020, items of historical value acquired during the excavations at Westerplatte, which lasted in 2017–2020, were processed. In addition, guidelines and specifications for tenders and purchases of equipment for the excavation research were prepared, as well as cooperation in the creation of the concept of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 took place. The Archaeological Department

also took care of the **preparation of materials for the scientific conference held at the WWII Museum, "The Fallen of Westerplatte. The Graves and Remains of Westerplatte Defenders in the Light of Archaeological, Genetic and Historical Research and in the Context of Legal Procedures."** The archaeological research results were presented by the head of the department, Filip Kuczma ↓. Another activity carried out was the preparation of articles with illustrations published on the Internet as part of the #M2WSwirtualnie campaign, as well as nine episodes of educational films about the excavations taking place at Westerplatte. In addition, photographic documentation of the monuments identified during archaeological research at Westerplatte was prepared, as well as the concept of an archaeological exhibition in the historic building of the former power plant. A catalogue of separated items of historical interest found with the skeletons of nine fallen Polish defenders and a report on archaeological research conducted in 2020 for the Provincial Office



for the Protection of Monuments [Wojewódzki Urząd Ochrony Zabytków] in Gdańsk was also prepared. Another task was to prepare the correlation of the contemporary plan of the Westerplatte peninsula with plans and aerial photographs from the end of the 19th century to the middle of the 20th century. Moreover, a model was made showing the destroyed guardhouse No. 5 (as of 15th September, 1939, scale 1:35). It is also worth mentioning the digitization and preparation of drawing documentation from the 5th stage of archaeological research (preparation of comprehensive plans and tables). The Department also prepared applications with presentations for the Sybilla 2019 and Pomeranian Museum Award 2019 [Pomorska Nagroda Muzealna 2019] competitions. The next tasks included: preparation of the department's work schedule for 2021-2026, conducting lessons at Westerplatte for students of the School Complex No. 3 in Gdynia and mentoring for a second-year MA student's museum internship in the Department.



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY

In January, Museum lessons were held on the defence of Westerplatte. In addition, during the winter holidays, 2 lessons on the defence of the peninsula and archaeology were conducted for pupils of Primary School No. 2 in Pruszcz Gdański (60 children in total) and 4 off-site lessons for pupils of the Primary School No. 47 in Gdynia (125 children in total). In July, 2 lessons on archaeology on Westerplatte were organized for the pupils of the Day Care Centre in Brzeźno (30 children in total). There was also a lesson for students of the School Complex No. 3 in Gdynia.

In addition, groups were shown around Westerplatte:

- in January – 1 group of participants of the contest in the knowledge of security and defence from Częstochowa;
- in June ↑ – 7th grade students from Bojkowo (20 people);
- in July – 2 groups: participants of summer camps from Pruszcz Gdański and Stegna (46 people in total);
- in August – 2 groups from the Day Care Centre (24 people in total);
- in September – 1 group of children from Wrocław (41 people).

The students of post-graduate studies at the War Studies University also participated in a guided tour as part of the battlefield workshops, and in October, the student swearing-in ceremony was held.

PUBLICATIONS BY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

- Kuczma Filip, Dziewanowski Adam oraz Samól Wojciech (z Działu Naukowego), *Powrót bohaterów Westerplatte* – popular science article about the discovery of the remains of Polish soldiers at Westerplatte, published in the *Sieci* weekly, 1.09.2020;
- Turek Wojciech, *W cieniu obozu Stutthof: martyrologia więźniów w gdańskim obozie Neufahrwasser (1939–1940) i Aussenstelle Westerplatte (1939–1941). Wybór relacji i wspomnień*;
- Przybylski Jacek, Wójtowicz-Podhorski Mariusz, *Pierwsi w boju. Obrona Poczty Polskiej w Gdańsku*;
- Paszko Sylwia, *Skarby Westerplatte* – educational guide on the history of Westerplatte and the power plant building.



TECHNICAL AND INVESTMENT DEPARTMENT

The activities of the Technical and Investment Department are divided into two areas: investment activities involving the construction of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 - a branch of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, and ongoing activities in the field of technical maintenance of the main Museum building which is in permanent operation.

INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES AT WESTERPLATTE

Recognizing that the battlefield at Westerplatte is of particular importance for the historic and collective memory of the Polish nation as a place that symbolizes the beginning of the Second World War, and in order to pursue the public interest of disseminating knowledge about the heroic defense of the peninsula in September 1939 as well as to ensure protection, maintenance and respect for the complex of military buildings located on the territory of the JTS, on July 19th, 2019, an act was passed to invest in the construction of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 - as a branch of the MSSW.

The act and the developed programme objectives define the investor's intentions in terms of the scope and form of the future investment.

In the first place, efforts were made to **acquire the two largest plots of land on the peninsula - No. 68 and 25/2** - which are the focal point for the entire investment. Their acquisition enables necessary preparatory works to be undertaken and development of pre-design documentation. In the time stage, there are, among others, geotechnical documentations for the foundation of building structures. The buildings are subject to technical expertise that will indicate the appropriate ways of preserving, securing and making available to the public, the historical relics of defensive architecture. At the same time, work on demining the area is underway - as a result, hazardous materials are removed - including missiles and bombs from the Second World War era.

Work is underway on the adaptation and reconstruction of the existing technical infrastructure in

order to provide future Museum facilities with supply systems. New solutions are developed to improve road and pedestrian traffic, as well as parking facilities on the peninsula.

The first object included in the scope of construction works is the building of the former power plant including the adjacent area. The area will be fenced in order to separate it from the land owned by the Border Guard and make it available to visitors. Next, renovation and adaptation works are planned, which will allow the implementation of an exhibition inside the facility, showing original archaeological monuments directly related to the creation and functioning of the JTS and the first battle of World War II. After more than 80 years, the power plant building will be open to visitors for the first time. A tender procedure was announced for the project to modernize the facility along with development of the adjacent area.

In December 2020, a competition was held for the urban and architectural concept of the military cemetery of the Polish Army Soldiers in Westerplatte. The winner will prepare the project documentation after completion of the procedure of public procurement without a need to call a public tender.

The entire investment project on Westerplatte has been agreed and is consulted on an ongoing basis with the Pomeranian Region Office for the Protection of Monuments, the Border Guard, the Military Property Agency and the Port of Gdansk Authority.

The schedule of the entire investment process is based on the MS Project platform.

Notwithstanding those already mentioned, works are also being prepared to improve the safety of visitors to the peninsula through repairs to the surfaces of roads, access routes, barriers and general security.

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE OF THE MAIN BUILDING

Technical activities consist in keeping the object in constant operation, fast tracking and removing defects, ensuring appropriate microclimatic conditions for the collections at exhibitions and in storage rooms. Providing comfortable conditions for visitors is a priority of the department, but we cannot forget about our employees who perform their duties in the offices every day – a total of 36 air handling units take care of it on an ongoing basis. The COVID-19 pandemic

has made it necessary to adapt the entire infrastructure to the requirements of the Chief Sanitary Inspectorate. Ensuring the safety of visitors was an overriding task. Stands of the information point, the Museum shop, hotel reception and cash desks are equipped with partitions ensuring safe transactions for employees and visitors. Additionally, intercoms were installed to facilitate communication. 32 dispensers with disinfectant liquid are available for public use.

Further experiences gained in everyday work while maintaining such a technically demanding and complex facility allow for the drawing new conclusions, thanks to which it is possible to constantly upgrade systems with new functions or options. Such improvements include, among others:

- limiting the connection capacity by replacing transformers in order to reduce electricity spending;
- installing a set of barriers at the unloading station in order to improve the safety of people walking around the premises of the Museum;
- improvement of marking of parking spaces for people with motor disabilities in the underground car park;
- installation of a counter above the entrance to the permanent exhibition hall in order to provide information on the current number of visitors/guests;
- extension of elevators options with VIP rides for special guests of the Museum;
- inspection of the cameras installed at the Westerplatte Peninsula;
- enhancing the people counting system with additional functions.



NUMBER OF MAINTENANCE WORKS IN 2020

- general construction – 22 defects reported;
- telecommunications technology – 65 defects reported;
- electrical sector – 28 defects reported;
- sanitary sector – 49 defects reported.

In total: 164 defects were reported and 202 maintenance works were carried out on the building.

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