



Museum of the Second World War

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY

of the Museum of the Second World War
for 2017

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**DR. KAROL NAWROCKI**

Director of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

For the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, 2017 was a breakthrough year. It was in 2017 that the long-term project, initiated by Prof. Paweł Machcewicz, to build this unique museum in the heart of Gdańsk came to fruition. The opening of the „new” Museum became even more important due to the fact that, following the decision of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Deputy Prime Minister, Prof. Piotr Gliński, as of 6 April 2017, the Westerplatte and the War of 1939 Museum, whose employees have been responsible for a special landmark in Polish history - the Westerplatte battlefield - became part of our Museum. The cultural institution established under these decisions - the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk and its branch in Westerplatte - combines the modernity of the new building with the heritage of Polish national symbols. Over nine months our Museum was visited by over half a million visitors from Poland and abroad. This demonstrates that although many decades have passed since the Second World War ended, it is still alive in public consciousness.

But 6 April 2017 is also a milestone in my career. Since that day, I have had the honour of being the director of the Museum of the Second World War. As the museum was far from being ready to function, together with the entire staff we decided to introduce a number of solutions to ensure that our

visitors receive safe and comfortable welcome. Employment issues also needed our attention. In 2017, the Museum created 27 new positions, established new organizational units such as Exhibition Department, Cultural Events Department and Film Documentation Department, which significantly improved the work organization and efficiency of our activities. Thanks to our efforts, we are an effective cultural institution, carrying out statutory activities not only in Poland, but also around the world.

In 2017, we presented two temporary exhibitions, which significantly broadened the offer addressed to our visitors – “Polish Army through the lens of Henryk Poddębski” [“Wojsko Polskie w obiektywie Henryka Poddębskiego”] and “Seven looks at Westerplatte” [“Westerplatte w 7 odsłonach”]. The second exhibition summarised the first stage of archaeological works carried out in Westerplatte, a symbolic landmark for the Poles. Around 5,000 objects were obtained during the research. We also continued to enlarge our collections through both donations and purchases. In 2017, around 2 000 new items were added to the collections of the Museum. There are more than 50,000 items in the museum collection. Considering that the permanent exhibition presents only about 2000 items, the Museum has started to display items that are usually hidden as part of the „Exhibit of the Month” [“Ekspонат

miesiąca”] programme in the main hall of the Museum, just behind the entrance to the building.

Apart from the exhibition activity, the Museum of the Second World War also hosts numerous conferences, lectures and meetings on the history of the Second World War. We have also organised dozens of cultural events - from the promotion of publications and meetings with authors, through concerts, to theatrical performances, making the Museum an important cultural centre in the region. We also made use of the previously unused infrastructure and opened a studio cinema, where we screen movies about the war as well as pre-war Polish cinematography and the latest productions. In addition, a hotel part was opened to support the organisation of events, as well as to accommodate the guests. The visitors can now use a buffet and a shop, where they can buy not only souvenirs, but also scientific and popular science publications on World War II. On top of this, we have significantly expanded our educational offer for our youngest guests.

Our staff is looking forward to the next year and its challenges. ■

Dr. Karol Nawrocki

Director of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk

**ABOUT
THE MUSEUM**

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The Museum of the Second World War was established in Gdańsk at Władysław Bartoszewski Square, by the Motława River, close to the historical city centre. The museum is located close to symbolic landmarks - 200 m from the historic building of the Polish Post Office in Gdańsk and 6 km by waterway from the Westerplatte peninsula, which was attacked by the Germans in September 1939.

The Museum area, covering 17,000 m², borders on the Radunia Canal from the west and opens onto the panorama of Motława River from the south, the outskirts of the Old Town, soon to be the centre of a modern district located on the area where a shipyard used to be.

The Museum of the Second World War borders:

- from the west, on what used to be Piekary Street;
- from the north, on a section of Wałowa Street;
- from the east, on Stara Stocznia Street;
- as a result, the area of Wiadrownia took the shape of a small, triangular island.

In the Middle Ages this area was part of the fortification of the castle built by the Teutonic Knights on the site of the duke's castle. Since the mid-15th century, only modest buildings belonging to the guild of buckets existed here, from which the area eventually took its name. On the other side of the moat, the oldest shipyard of medieval Gdańsk, Brabank, was located. In the middle of the 17th century, the area underwent a significant transformation. New

bastion fortifications were erected to protect Gdańsk from the side of the Vistula riverbed. Using the moat of the demolished castle, a new riverbed of the final section of the Radunia Canal was dug, which since then has been flowing into the Motława; whereas before it used to flow into the Vistula. As a result, the area of Wiadrownia took the shape of a small, triangular island. The road system included the following streets: Wiadrownia (*Eimermacherhof*), Stara Stocznia (*Brabank*), Piekary (*Grosse Bäcker Gasse*), Wielka (*Grosse Gasse*), Mała (*Kleine Gasse*), Kowale (*Schmiedegang*).

The buildings where the Museum is located today, although partly made of brick, were low and simple in form, inhabited by the impoverished. On the area between Stara Stocznia Street and the Radunia Canal, there was a building site and a timber yard. Between 1942 and 1944, a small anti-aircraft shelter was erected in the area, which still exists today. After the city was destroyed in 1945, the area was significantly transformed. Of the old street layout, only the Stara Stocznia remained. The other roads were cleared to make way for a bus depot and squares.

The idea of creating the Museum was conceived in December 2007. The initial conception was to create the Westerplatte Museum and locate it near the 1939 Battlefield. At the end of 2008, the institution that was being created was renamed the as Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk. The planned Museum location was also changed. Office space at 81-83

” THE MUSEUM BUILDING HAS AN AREA OF 33,425 M². THE MAIN EXHIBITION WILL HAVE AN AREA OF ABOUT 7,000 M².

Długa Street in Gdańsk was chosen as a temporary seat. The foundation stone for the construction of the Museum was laid on 1 September 2012. The unfinished building was presented to the public for the first time in January 2017. In March, the seat was moved and the official opening of the Museum took place on 23 March 2017.

On 5 April 2017, the Museum of the Second World War was merged with the Museum of Westerplatte and War 1939, forming a new institution, which since then has been known as the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, with the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 as its branch.

The Museum building has an area of 33,425 m². The main exhibition will have an area of about 7,000 m². The Museum also has over 1,000 m² available for temporary exhibits. In addition to holding exhibitions, the Museum also serves as the centre of education, culture and science. ■

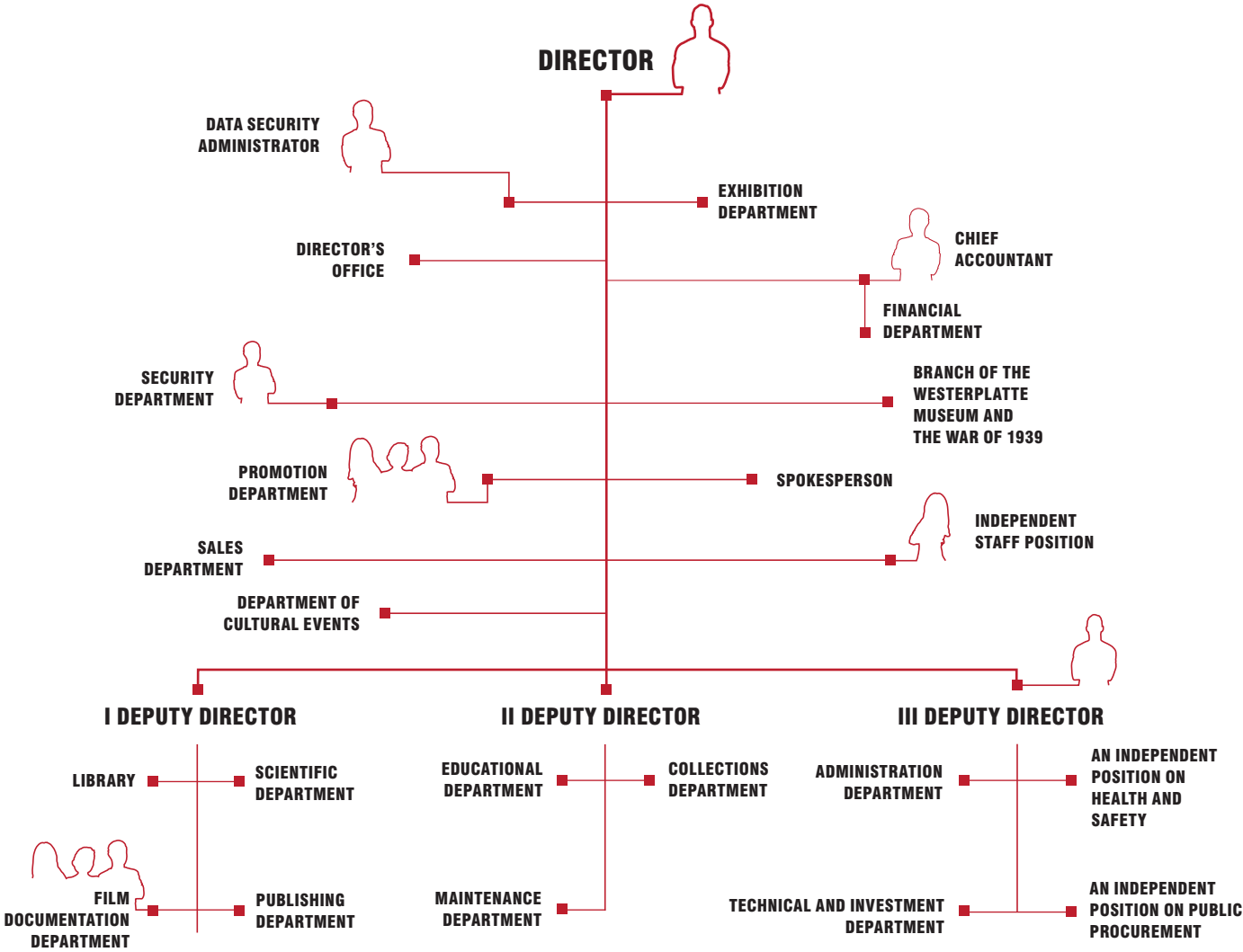
ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

In response to new challenges that the Museum faces as a result of the opening of its new building and the merger of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk with the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939, new organizational regulations have been drafted. On 4 September 2017, the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Prof. Piotr Gliński, approved the draft regulations. The Museum Director, Dr. Karol Nawrocki, by order No. 34/17 of 25 September 2017, introduced the Organisational Regulations of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, which changed the organisational structure of the Museum in accordance with the structure below, among others by introducing new organisational units reporting to the Director and his three deputies.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

MUSEUM OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN GDANSK

Gdańsk, 25 September 2017.



MISSION

The mission of the Museum of the Second World War is to shape the historical narrative so that Second World War is presented in a modern way, from the perspective of the unique experience of the Poles and Poland, taking into account the world of politics at the time, and above all people's attitudes towards the realities of war and horrors of the occupation of Poland by two totalitarian regimes as well as the fate of other nations involved in this greatest armed conflict of the 20th century.

DIRECTORS

- Director of the Museum of the Second World War **Karol Nawrocki**, PhD - acting from 6 April 2017, on 19 October 2017 nominated as the Director;
- First Deputy Director **Grzegorz Berendt**, PhD, Prof. at the University of Gdańsk – since 4 May 2017;
- Second Deputy Director **Tomasz Gliniecki**, PhD - from 1 June 2017 to 13 November 2017;
- Third Deputy Director **Julia Katarzyna Olechno** - from 14 November 2017.

EMPLOYEES

Until December 2017, the average employment (in full-time equivalents) funded from an earmarked subsidy for current activity was 88 FTEs. At the end of December 2017, the Museum employed 118 people. Fifteen people cooperated with the Museum on a voluntary basis. The institution was also supported by a group of 20 students-volunteers from the Gdańsk University of Physical Education and Sport.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In 2017, the budget of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk consisted of funds allocated by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage under a grant from the state budget, which was divided as follows:

PLN 13,091,764 - earmarked subsidy for current expenditure, including:

- protection, provision of access to, digitisation and dissemination of cultural goods, and promotion of knowledge about cultural heritage;
- collection, safekeeping, and study of cultural goods;
- restoration and conservation of objects and material cultural goods;
- preservation of national memorial sites as well as war graves and cemeteries;
- commemoration of historical events;

PLN 643,616 - earmarked subsidy for current expenditure, including:

- second stage of archaeological works at Westerplatte;
- preservation of objects acquired;
- creating 3D models of the Westerplatte Military Transit Depot structures;

PLN 201,770 - earmarked investment grant for the construction of the Westerplatte Museum and restoration of the 1939 Battlefield;

- Museum's own revenue. ■



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



28-29 JANUARY 2017

– making the Museum available for visitors during open days.

20 MARCH 2017

– relocation of the Museum of the Second World War to the newly built building at Bartoszewski Square 1.

23 MARCH 2017

– opening of the main exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk.

5 APRIL 2017

– merging of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk and the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939.

6 APRIL 2017

– the appointment of Karol Nawrocki, PhD, as the Director of the Museum of the Second World War.



11 APRIL 2017

– visit of representatives of veteran organisations of the Pomeranian Province.

23 APRIL 2017

– visit of General Anders' daughter, Senator Anna Maria Anders, Secretary of State in the Chancellery of the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister's Plenipotentiary for International Dialogue.

4 MAY 2017

– appointment of Grzegorz Berendt, PhD, Prof. at the University of Gdańsk, as Deputy Director.

8 MAY 2017

– consecration of the new seat of the Museum.

12 MAY 2017

– Opening of the exhibition *Scene One. German occupation in Kashubia and Kociewie in 1939 [Pierwsza odsłona. Okupacja niemiecka na Kaszubach i Kociewiu w 1939 r.]*



17 MAY 2017

– 100,000th visitor to the Museum.

20 MAY 2017

– European Night of Museums - a record number of visitors - 2,600.

25 MAY 2017

– meeting between the Museum directors and representatives of patriotic organizations popularising the history of World War II.

27 MAY 2017

– opening of the temporary exhibition *Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki 1901-1948 [Rotmistrz Witold Pilecki 1901–1948]*.

1 JUNE 2017

– the hotel part opens.



1 JUNE 2017

– nomination of Tomasz Gliniecki, PhD, and Przemysław Kowalczyk, M.Sc. Eng. for the position of Acting Deputy Director of the Museum.

8 JUNE 2017

– the Museum receives a donation of a radio direction finder probably used by Home Army soldiers of the Vilnius Region.

11 JUNE 2017

– delegation from the Museum of the Second World War visits Volhynia, Ukraine, to record witness history.

18 JUNE 2017

– opening of the temporary exhibition *Stefan Rowecki - Grot*.

30 JUNE 2017

– visit of the French Ambassador to Poland, Pierre Lévy, Honorary Consul of France, Alain Mompert, and the Director of the French Institute in Poland, Stanislas Pierret.



6 JULY 2017

– broadcasting of the first programme *Images of War – from the Museum of World War II Collection* [Obrazy wojny – ze zbiorów Muzeum II Wojny Światowej], starting a series of Radio Gdańsk broadcasts produced in cooperation with the Museum.

10 JULY 2017

– appointment of Adam Koperkiewicz, long-term director of the Historical Museum of the City of Gdańsk (now the Gdańsk Museum), as an advisor to the director of the Museum of the Second World War.

11 JULY 2017

– laying a wreath in the presence of the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda at the Gdańsk Monument to the Polish Victims of Massacre in Volhynia.

11 JULY 2017

– presentation of photographs of exhibits related to the Volhynian massacre – to be displayed at the main exhibition - on the Museum's website.

15 JUNE 2017

– a delegation from the Museum of the Second World War visits Belarus to record witness history.



1 AUGUST 2017

– commemoration of the 73rd anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising (opening of the Warsaw Rising exhibition, screening of the Warsaw Uprising motion picture and projection of the Fighting Poland sign on the Museum building).

1 AUGUST 2017

– participation in the *HeroON – turn on history! [BohaterON – włącz historię!]* project commemorating participants of the Warsaw Uprising.

1 AUGUST 2017

– start of the second stage of archaeological research on Westerplatte carried out by the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939, branch of the Museum of the Second World War.

1 AUGUST 2017

– opening of a museum shop.

11 AUGUST 2017

– *Ad memoriam* meeting dedicated to the victims of the anti-Polish operation of NKVD in 1937-1938.



1 SEPTEMBER 2017 – state commemoration of the 78th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II at the Monument to the Defenders of the Coast on Westerplatte with the participation of the Museum delegation; opening of the temporary exhibition *Seven looks at Westerplatte [Westerplatte w 7 odsłonach]*, presenting artifacts acquired during the first stage of archaeological work on Westerplatte; signing an agreement on cooperation with the Museum of Cursed Soldiers and Political Prisoners of the Polish People's Republic in Warsaw; co-organising the 2nd Westerplatte Independence Concert [*II Koncert Niepodległości Westerplatte*].

8 SEPTEMBER 2017

– organisation of the *Hope* concert performed by Nahorny Trio.

14 SEPTEMBER 2017

– promotion of Jerzy Plataj's book *Zbrodnia katyńska. Zeznania świadków przed polskimi sądami wojskowymi (1943–1946)* published by the Museum.



15 SEPTEMBER 2017

– commemoration of the 78th anniversary of the Soviet Union's invasion of Poland with a concert by Lech Makowiecki and the Zayazd band.

16 SEPTEMBER 2017 – commemoration of the victims of the genocide conducted by the Soviets in 1937-1940 with the screening of a documentary *Rozstrzelać Polaków. Zmilczana historia pierwszego ludobójstwa II wojny światowej popełnionego na Polakach w Związku Sowieckim w latach 1937–1938* (directed by Mirosław Majeran, written by Tomasz Sommer) and the presentation of Tomasz Sommer's book, *Operacja Antypolska NKWD 1937–1938. Geneza i przebieg ludobójstwa popełnionego na Polakach w Związku Sowieckim*.

22 SEPTEMBER 2017 – co-organization of the 75th anniversary of the formation of the National Armed Forces; opening of the temporary exhibition *Polish Army through the Lens of Henryk Poddębski [Wojsko Polskie w obiektywie Henryka Poddębskiego]*.

23 SEPTEMBER 2017 – participation in *Senior Citizen's Weekend with Culture [Weekend Seniora z kulturą]*; meeting with Kajetan Rajski From Home Army to "Freedom and Independence" [*Od Armii Krajowej do Zrzeszenia "Wolność i Niezawisłość"*].



28 SEPTEMBER 2017 – co-organising of the commemoration of the 78th anniversary of the establishment of the Polish Underground State, during which a lecture was given by Dr. Marek Lasota, Director of the Home Army Museum in Kraków named after general Emil Fieldorf; signing of a co-operation agreement between the Museum of the Second World War and the Home Army Museum in Kraków.

29 SEPTEMBER 2017 – the first change at the main exhibition - supplementing the multimedia presentation on the persecution of Jews in the Free City of Gdańsk with information on German repression against Poles.

6 OCTOBER 2017 – launching an educational-theatrical project *Changing Perspective [Zmieniając perspektywę]*.



8 OCTOBER 2017 – presenting selected artifacts from the second stage of archaeological work at Westerplatte.

11 OCTOBER 2017 – meeting of the Museum delegation with Mukatjev Daniyar, director of the State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Almaty.

16 OCTOBER 2017 – inauguration of the *Exhibit of the Month* programme with the participation of the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Jarosław Sellin - presentation of the rudder of the Polish light bomber and reconnaissance aircraft PZL.23 „Karaś”; co-organisation of an international scientific conference *War and Remembrance. Cultural Memory of World War II in Poland, Germany and Russia [Wojna i pamięć. Pamięć kulturowa o II wojnie światowej w Polsce, Niemczech i Rosji]*.



19 OCTOBER 2017 – Karol Nawrocki, PhD, was nominated to the position of Director of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk.

20 OCTOBER 2017 – Conference *Polish Experiences During World War II [Polskie doświadczenie podczas II wojny światowej]*.

26 OCTOBER 2017 – artistic evening *Prisoner No 918 [Więzień nr 918]* dedicated to Kazimierz Piechowski.

27 OCTOBER 2017 – creating a database of volunteers cooperating with the Museum.

31 OCTOBER 2017 – signing a cooperation agreement with the Military Historical Office (Wojskowe Biuro Historyczne).



8 NOVEMBER 2017 – opening of the poster exhibition *Cavalry Captain Pilecki – Undeclared Hero. Report from Auschwitz [Rotmistrz Pilecki – Bohater Niezwykły. Raport z Auschwitz]* and presentation of the book *Raport Witolda* published under the honorary patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda, and with his foreword.

11 NOVEMBER 2017 – celebration of the National Independence Day with presentations and a parade of re-enactment groups inspired by military traditions from the years 1918-1945 and a demonstration of a cannon salvo and an honorary salvo; musical spectacle *Bal u Pana Boga* with songs by Jacek Kaczmarski and Przemysław Gintrowski celebrating the 99th anniversary of Poland regaining its independence.

14 NOVEMBER 2017 – nomination of Julia Katarzyna Olechno as deputy director of the Museum.



15 NOVEMBER 2017

Bartosz Januszewski's lecture *Losses of Polish Culture During World War II* [Straty kultury polskiej w czasie II wojny światowej].

16 NOVEMBER 2017

– a poetic evening *...czy sny się jeszcze nam wyśnią?* dedicated to Chrostowska Grażyna.

20 NOVEMBER 2017

– a special screening of a documentary *Józef Zator Przytocki, pseudonim "Czeremosz"*.

21 NOVEMBER 2017

– Museum's cinema starts its activity.

23 NOVEMBER 2017

– opening of the exhibition *Preserving Memory. Forced and Slave Labour of Polish Citizens for the Third Reich in 1939-1945* [Zachować pamięć. Praca przymusowa i niewolnicza obywateli polskich na rzecz III Rzeszy w latach 1939–1945].



24 NOVEMBER 2017

– presentation of Piotr Langenfeld's book *Wojna oszukanych*.

28-29 NOVEMBER 2017

– a meeting of the Museum delegation with the Polish community in England in the Polish Social and Cultural Centre Library, and with the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in London, Arkady Rzegocki.

29 NOVEMBER 2017

– the final concert of the *Bards of Freedom* [Bardowie wolności] competition.

1 DECEMBER 2017

– presentation of the relics of the Administrative Building and the Old Barracks unearthed as part of the second stage of archaeological works at Westerplatte.

5 DECEMBER 2017

– commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Józef Piłsudski; participation in the Szlachetna Paczka project.



7 DECEMBER 2017

– commemoration of the United States of America's joining the Second World War under the slogan *Westerplatte – Polish Pearl Harbor* [Westerplatte – polskie Pearl Harbor], presentation of Virtual Tour of Westerplatte [Wirtualny spacer po Westerplatte] using VR technology and the Museum's new website.

11-12 DECEMBER 2017

– adoption of a resolution establishing 2018 as the year of *Solidarność dla Niepodległej* during the meeting of the National Committee of NSZZ "Solidarność" in the Museum.

12 DECEMBER 2017

– presentation of Artur Jendrzejewski's book *Polsko, ile Ty mnie kosztowałaś...* Wywiadowcza działalność oficera Armii Krajowej Stefana Ignaszaka "Nordyka" published by the Museum.



16 DECEMBER 2017

– donation of the revenue from the Museum's ticket sales to children's hospices in Gdańsk.

18 DECEMBER 2017

– presentation of Tadeusz Plużański's book *Oblawa na wykłetych. Polowanie bezpieki na Żołnierzy Niezłomnych*.

28 DECEMBER 2017

– the Museum published a book by Tomasz Gliniecki *Echa pancernego rajdu. Propaganda wojenna i kreacja mitów wyzwoleniczych na podstawie operacji mławsko-elbląskiej Armii Czerwonej w 1945 roku*, Gdańsk 2017.

SINCE APRIL 2017

the Museum has acquired **2,418** collections, **673** archival and library collections and purchased **62** items.

COMMEMORATION OF ANNIVERSARIES





73RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF THE WARSAW UPRISING

The Museum of the Second World War commemorated the events of 1 August 1944. On this occasion, the Museum hosted the exhibition *Warsaw Rising*, the screening of the film *Warsaw Uprising* [Powstanie Warszawskie] and the pro-

jection of the emblem of the Polish Underground State on the Museum building.

At 6.30 p.m. the temporary exhibition *Warsaw Rising*, prepared by the Warsaw Rising Museum, was inaugurated. The guests were greeted by the Director of the Museum of the Second World War, Karol Nawrocki, PhD. Anna Fotyga, MEP, was one of the authors of the foreword to the event. Participants of the Warsaw Uprising recounted their war experiences.

This was followed by the screening of *Warsaw Uprising* [Powstanie Warszawskie] - a fictionalised documentary based on newsreels, produced by the Warsaw Rising Museum in co-operation with the Polish Film Institute - in the cinema room.

In the evening, the emblem of the Polish Underground State was projected on the Museum building. The unique setting of this event was provided by the scouts from the Baltic branch of Polish Scouting and Guiding Association Gdańsk-Portowa, named after the Defenders of Westerplatte, and the national women's rugby team.

On that day, the *HeroON – turn on history!* [BohaterON – włącz historię!] project was launched. As part of the programme, the Museum provided postcards honouring participants of the Warsaw Uprising. The postcards with messages were thrown into special urns and delivered through the organizer to the veterans of the Uprising. The project lasted until 2 October 2017.

On that day, the Museum also promoted Krzysztof Mital's book *Powstanie Warszawskie. Pierwsze dni*. The publication is an interactive story for the youngest. ■

78TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR II

The Director of the Museum, Karol Nawrocki, PhD, together with his employees participated in the official commemoration of the 78th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II at the Monument to the Defenders of the Coast at Westerplatte.

On the same day, the temporary exhibition *Seven looks at Westerplatte* [Westerplatte w 7 odsłonach], presenting the results of archaeological works on the peninsula. The inauguration of the exhibition was attended by Jarosław Sellin, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Kazimierz Smoliński, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Construction, and Mariusz Łuczyk, deputy governor of Pomerania.

The curatorial tour of the exhibition *Seven looks at Westerplatte* [Westerplatte w 7 odsłonach] was led by Mariusz Wójtowicz-Podhorski, Director of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 (Museum branch).

An important part of the event was the signing of a cooperation agreement with the Museum of Cursed Soldiers and Political Prisoners of the Polish People's Republic in Warsaw. After the ceremony, Director Karol Nawrocki laid flowers under the plaque commemorating the first victim of World War II, scoutmaster Jan Oźdzyński. He also commemorated the defenders of the Polish Post Office in Gdańsk by laying a wreath at the monument dedicated to them.

The last part of the event was the *2nd Westerplatte Independence Concert* [II Koncert Niepodległości Westerplatte], co-organized by the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939. The concert was dedicated to young people fighting for the independence of the Republic of Poland. The starting point of the narrative was the heroism of three young soldiers of the „Wał” Post - Edmund Szamlewski, Ignacy Zatorski, Ignacy Pokrzywka, who alone repelled the first German infantry attack on the Military Transit Depot at dawn on 1 September 1939. ■





99TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLAND REGAINING INDEPENDENCE

On 11 November 2017, on the National Independence Day, in front of the Museum, historical presentations inspired by the tradition of the Polish Army in the interwar period took place. There was also a demonstration of a cannon salvo, a parade of historical re-enactment groups, which re-enacted the Blue Army of General Józef Haller, Polish units from 1920, cavalry, air force and armoured forces, paratroopers from the 1st Independent Parachute Brigade of Major General Stanisław Sosabowski. The commemoration culminated with a concert *Bal u Pana Boga*. ■

76TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES JOINING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Under the slogan: Westerplatte – Polish Pearl Harbor [Westerplatte – polskie Pearl Harbor], the Museum celebrated the anniversary of the United States of America joining the Second World War. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., American Army historic military vehicles from the World War II period could be viewed in front of the Museum building. Visitors could see the uniforms and equipment of the U.S. Army soldiers from World War II and soldiers of the Polish Army stationed in Westerplatte in 1939.

The most popular event was the premiere of a VR tour: Virtual Tour of Westerplatte [Wirtualny spacer po Westerplatte]. Virtual reality made it possible for visitors to walk around the Military Transit Depot.

Mariusz Wójtowicz-Podhorski, director of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939, gave a lecture entitled Pearl Harbor and Westerplatte – Places-Symbols of the Outbreak of World War II

[Pearl Harbor i Westerplatte – miejsca symbole rozpoczęcia II wojny światowej]. The next speaker was Piotr Langenfeld, president of the historical association Wielka Czerwona Jedyńka (Great Red One) and a war correspondent, who introduced the audience to the profiles of Poles fighting in the ranks of the U.S. army.

After the historical introduction, the head of the Promotion Department, Marek Krzemiński, presented the Museum's new website to the audience.

The celebrations concluded with the coordinator of the Rotmistrz Pilecki – bohater niezwykły project, Małgorzata Kupiszewska, presenting Raport Witolda, a book containing Witold Pilecki's famous notes from the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. ■





COLLECTIONS

COLLECTIONS

The Museum Collections Department deals with the acquisition, registration and collection of exhibits, which include donations, purchases and deposits. It cooperates with the Exhibition Department in order to present items at exhibitions and other exhibition projects. It also participates in other activities connected with the Museum's statutory tasks.

ACQUIRED COLLECTIONS

From 7 April to 31 December 2017, The Museum acquired 2,418 museum collections. The items purchased included:

- an entry card for the hearing in the trial of Artur Greiser, gauleiter of the Wielkopolska region, before the Court of Appeal in Poznań,
- ceramic shells of a Japanese grenade Type 4,
- Polish government notices placed on walls and advertising pillars regarding the mobilisation of Polish Army units in 1939,
- a collection of documents belonging to the military doctor, Tadeusz Welfli,
- the rudder of a Polish light bomber and reconnaissance aircraft PZL.23 „Karaś” used by the bombing and reconnaissance squadrons during the Polish campaign in September 1939.

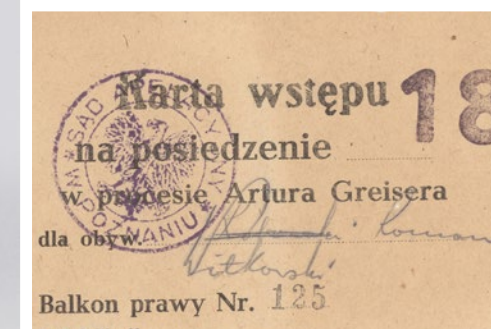
In March, the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939, a branch of the Museum, purchased four historic Mauser 98k rifles from the Lodz Film Centre. ■



■ Documents T. Welfego, fot. Wojciech Kiepiński.



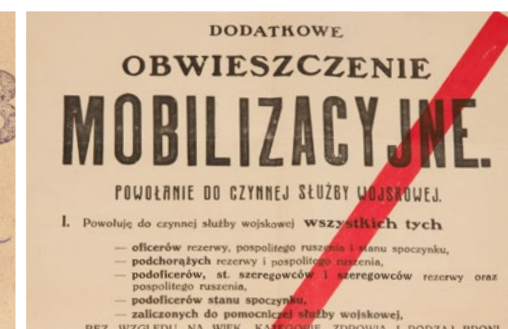
■ Ceramic grenade, fot. Wojciech Kiepiński.



■ Boarding pass, fot. Wojciech Kiepiński.



■ The rudder of a Polish plane PZL.23 „Karaś”, fot. Mikołaj Bujak



■ Mobilization announcement, fot. Wojciech Kiepiński.



RECORDS OF COLLECTIONS

Records of collections are kept in the ZEUS Electronic System for Records of Museum Collections adapted to the needs of the Museum. This software maintains a comprehensive database and makes it possible, among other things, to describe exhibits in accordance with the Polish law, edit the museum inventory and create inventory sheets. The solutions applied allow the topographical location of objects, as well as registration of all conservation processes that a given object undergoes. The database is also a platform for future publication and sharing of information about collections on the Internet.

RECURRING EVENT EXHIBIT OF THE MONTH

On 16 October 2017, the Museum started the *Exhibit of the Month* project; under the project, a unique item that is not usually displayed in the Museum is presented in the main hall every month.

The project was inaugurated by the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Deputy Minister of Culture, Jarosław Sellin, who presented the first acquisition of the Institution in this series - the rudder of a Polish light bomber and reconnaissance aircraft PZL.23 „Karaś”; The Museum owes the acquisition of this exhibit to the support of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, in particular, the efforts of Deputy Minister of Culture, Jarosław Sellin.

After the ceremony, visitors could view the first exhibit of the month - the rudder of the Polish light bomber and reconnaissance aircraft PZL.23 „Karaś”, designed in the early 1930s and used, among other things, in the interwar period and in the September Campaign of 1939. This exhibit is the only „Karaś” rudder preserved almost entirely and in its original colouring. On the exhibit, a red and white chequerboard can be seen – the insignia of the Polish air force, as well as a fragment of the aircraft marking.

Other exhibits presented as a part of the *Exhibit of the Month*:

- The Polish Navy uniform jacket and cap belonging to Captain Antoni Kasztelan (a donation from the Kasztelan's family and the School Complex No. 1 in Wejherowo). From 1934, Captain Antoni Kasztelan served in the Independent Information Department of the



Fleet Command in Gdynia. He took active part in counteracting German intelligence and disinformation activities. In September 1939, he was the head of counter-intelligence of the Coast Defence Command. After the capitulation of the Hel Peninsula, he was taken captive and, in violation of war conventions, transferred to the German secret police, Gestapo. Then, Captain Kasztelan was imprisoned in Stutthof, Gdańsk and Königsberg. In order to hide his prisoner of war status, his jacket and hat were deprived of officers' distinctions. He was brutally interrogated and tortured. He was sentenced to death by a German court for his activities in the interwar period, in violation of international prisoner-of-war regulations. Antoni Kasztelan was executed by guillotine on 14 December 1942 in Königsberg.

- Polish flag from Lviv (donation of Prof. Wiesław Gruszkowski, member of the Grey Regiments, architect, urban planner, co-author of the reconstruction of the Gdańsk city centre, lecturers at the Gdańsk University of Technology). At the end of September 1939, the Red Army began the occupation of Lviv. The city and the neighbouring regions were incorporated into the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. The new authorities ordered residents to decorate the streets with Soviet flags. Residents were also ordered to tear Polish flags and hang their red part. The members of the Gruszkowski family living in Lviv, to protect their flag from being destroyed, hid it in a home coal store. When the Gruszkowski family left the territory taken away from Poland after the war, they took the flag with them to Gdańsk, where they finally settled. In remembrance of the events described above, they decided to never remove coal smudges from the flag. ■



▼ IMAGE MILITARY EAGLE WZ. 19 FOR A GARRISON CAP; BEFORE AND AFTER CONSERVATION

RESTORATION

Items that are brought to the Museum in poor condition undergo restoration. The items are restored mainly in order to stop their deterioration and prepare them for being displayed. The Museum uses restoration processes that do not affect the historical value of items.

In 2017, the Museum restored 1,327 movable items unearthed as a result of archaeological works conducted at Westerplatte in 2016 and 2017 (513 items obtained in 2016, and in 2017 - 814 items). The restoration was carried out by an external company. The conservation works were financed thanks to a special grant awarded to the Museum by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. The most interesting objects restored include:

- Military eagle wz. 19 used on a garrison cap, made of copper, oxidized to imitate old silver. A closed crown on the eagle's head, topped with an apple and a cross; the eagle resting on the Amazons' shield; the corners of the shield ending with rosettes (right rosette missing); 21 nails on the lower edge of the shield; the wings of the eagle are spread (right wing missing), and raised, three layers of feathers; the neck and trunk covered with feathers; legs supported on the upper edge of the amazon shield; on the reverse side, a metal pin, 2 cm long and 0.3 cm thick, for attaching the eagle to the

cap; height 5.8 cm, width 4.2 cm, thickness 0.2 cm; the conservation involved cleaning with ultrasound in a bath of 10% disodium versenate solution, then mechanical cleaning with a copper brush and treating with appropriate solutions and a wax layer.

- Protective insert wz. 1933 for Mauser rifle wz. 98a, made of steel, inserted in the place of the removed lock when the weapon was



◀ IMAGE PROTECTIVE INSERT WZ. 1933 FOR MAUSER RIFLE WZ. 98A; BEFORE AND AFTER CONSERVATION

” IN 2017, THE MUSEUM RESTORED 1,327 MOVABLE ITEMS...

being cleaned; the body of the protective insert was originally empty inside; length 21.5 cm, diameter 1.7 cm, length of the handle 6 cm (handle ended with a 2 cm diameter ball), weight 307 g. Conservation was difficult as the item was highly corroded. Part of the insert was cleaned of dirt and layers with manual tools: steel brushes, scalpel, brushes mounted on the micromotor, etc. The remaining elements were cleaned with a bath in a solution of 10% orthophosphoric acid. After cleaning, the item was treated against corrosion with special solutions and placed in an incubator. The surface of the item was treated with acrylic resin and covered with a layer of microcrystalline wax. ■



EXHIBITING





EXHIBITING

The current work of the Exhibition Department focuses on the preparation of temporary exhibitions, which are presented not only in the Museum, but also outside its walls. The exhibitions are created upon the Department's own initiative and in cooperation with employees of other Museum departments. Last year, the Department started cooperating with many cultural institutions in Poland and abroad. This cooperation will result in exhibitions which are currently being worked on.

One of the chief tasks of the department is the preservation of the Museum's main exhibition; its tasks include monitoring its technical condition, supporting its evaluation, as well as updating the licences for iconographic and audiovisual materials. The department's team actively participates in presentations of the Exhibition of the Month, the aim of which is to make the Museum's offer more attractive, commemorate selected historical events and popularise the collections.

The Exhibition Department also runs courses for candidates for Museum guides. In 2017, nearly 60 new guides were trained.

As part of the inter-institutional cooperation, the team receives guests from Poland and abroad during the so-called study visits, which include visiting the main exhibition.



MUSEUM'S TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS:

- *Seven looks at Westerplatte [Westerplatte w 7 odsłonach]* - prepared in cooperation with the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 - Branch of the Museum. The exhibition presents objects acquired during the first stage of archaeological works at Westerplatte in 2016, which covered the area of Officer's Villa and Guardhouse No. 5. During the works, the foundations of the Officer's Villa and the floor of Guardhouse No. 5 were uncovered.

Archaeologists unearthed more than 4,000 objects from both sites, of which about 700 were selected for restoration. More than 200 of them were shown at the exhibition. Unique, large-format archival photographs and charts with the history of the places from which the items were acquired completed the exhibition. An exhibition catalogue in Polish and English was published. The exhibition was open from 1 September 2017 to 30 September 2018.

- *Polish Army in the Lens of Henryk Poddębski [Wojsko polskie w obiektywie Henryka Poddębskiego]* - the exhibition presented

100 photographs from the collection of over 260 unique photographs taken by the pre-war Warsaw photographer Henryk Poddębski. The materials are unique not only because of their special artistic values, but above all due to the fact that they present Polish armoured troops, cavalry, air force and sapper units during the last exercises carried out just before the outbreak of World War II. Until then, they had not been presented to a wider audience either before or after the war. The exhibition was open from 22 September 2017 to 6 May 2018.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS PREPARED BY INSTITUTIONS COOPERATING WITH THE MUSEUM:

- *Scene One. German Occupation in Kashubia and Kociewie in 1939* [*Pierwsza odsłona. Okupacja niemiecka na Kaszubach i Kociewiu w 1939 r.*] – A board exhibition borrowed from the Institute of National Remembrance, Gdańsk Branch, available from 12 to 25 May 2017;
- *Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki 1901-1948* [*Rotmistrz Witold Pilecki 1901-1948*] – board exhibition borrowed from the Institute of National Remembrance, Gdańsk Branch, presented from May 27 to June 11, 2017,
- *Stefan Rowecki – Grot* – board exhibition borrowed from the Main Medical Library, available from 18 June to 26 July 2017,
- *Warsaw Rising* – board exhibition in English borrowed from the Warsaw Uprising Museum, presented from 1 to 31 August 2017;
- *Cavalry Captain Pilecki – Undefeated Hero. Report from Auschwitz* [*Rotmistrz Pilecki – Bohater Niezwyciężony. Raport z Auschwitz*] – temporary board exhibition borrowed from the Gdzie foundation, open from 8 to 22 November 2017,
- *Preserving Memory. Forced and Slave Labour of Polish Citizens for the Third Reich in 1939-1945* [*Zachować pamięć. Praca przymusowa i niewolnicza obywateli polskich na rzecz III Rzeszy w latach 1939-1945*] - board exhibition borrowed from the Polish-German Reconciliation Foundation, presented from 23 November to 30 December 2017. ■



PUBLISHING AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Propaganda wojenna i kreacja mitów wyzwoleniczych
na podstawie operacji mławsko-elbląskiej
Armii Czerwonej w 1945 roku



Tomasz Gliniecki Echa pancernego rajdu

CHANGES TO THE MAIN EXHIBITION

On 30 October 2017, at a press conference convened in the Museum building, Director Karol Nawrocki announced that the process of introducing changes to the main exhibition would be sped up. Such a decision resulted primarily from the need to supplement the many threads illustrating exceptional Polish experiences during World War II, which were omitted in the original version of the exhibition. Another issue was the necessity to respond to letters, opinions and complaints received by the Museum, containing critical comments on specific errors in the exhibition, e.g. the letter of Professor Leszek Żukowski, President of the World Association of Home Army Soldiers, in which he strongly protested against the lowering of the number of sworn Home Army soldiers at the exhibition.

Even before the evaluation team started work, the exhibition was supplemented with information on the persecution of Poles by Germans in the Free City of Gdańsk. Until then,

this subject was limited to the presentation of the problem of repressions against Jews.

Moreover, due to the domination of the narrative by propaganda motifs in the section devoted to totalitarianism in the state of Lenin and Stalin (until 1939), a new exhibit in the form of a Nagant revolver was added to it. Soviet executioners killed hundreds of thousands of people with such weapons during the Great Terror.

The last change introduced in 2017 was adding a new film which concluded the visit to the main exhibition, replacing the previous production, which was politically and ideologically charged and marginalised many threads of fundamental importance for the story about the shaping and functioning of the post-war era. The new film introduced to the exhibition is the production of the Institute of National Remembrance *Niezwyciężeni*. In the future, it will be replaced by an original film prepared by the Museum.

Karol Nawrocki, Ph.D., established a permanent exhibition evaluation team. For its chairman he appointed Marek Szymański, PhD, Head of the Scientific Department. It was composed of, among others: Tomasz Gliniecki, PhD, Deputy Director of the Museum for Education and Collections, Marcin Westphal, Head of the Collections Department, and Bartłomiej Garba, Head of the Exhibitions Department. The supervision over the work of the team was held by the Deputy Director for Scientific Affairs, Grzegorz Berendt, PhD, Prof. of the University of Gdańsk.

During the first stage of changes being introduced, the Chairman of the Team announced supplementing and introducing the following themes to the exhibition:

- In the section devoted to the pre-war history of the Soviet Union, the right balance between displaying propaganda and the issues of terror will be restored. There will be new content concerning, among other things, the anti-Polish NKVD operation and other „national operations”. At the same time, the concept of genocide will be introduced in the exhibition with regard to this period.



- In different parts of the exhibition, according to their subject matter, there specific characters will be presented separately: Captain Antoni Kasztelan, Major Henryk Dobrzański, Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki, Father Maksymilian Kolbe, Marian Rejewski.

- The exhibition will emphasize very clearly, in the foreground, the theme of Poles saving Jews during World War II.

- A separate place will be dedicated to the Cichociemni.

- The section dedicated to guerrilla activity during World War II will highlight the fact that in Poland this kind of armed struggle against the occupier started from the very beginning of the war (as opposed to Soviet, French and Yugoslavian guerrillas) and will introduce a new content concerning the number of sworn soldiers in the Home Army (in spring 1944, the number of partisans was indeed about 35,000-40,000 people, but at the same time the Polish underground army had at least 350,000 people).

- A very important change will be the removal of the plaque on which German soldiers are considered victims of war and the introduction of a new form of presentation of the topic of personal losses of individual countries during the Second World War. It will involve presenting the problem in relative terms, comparing losses with the pre-war population of a given country.

- A separate place will also be dedicated to the topic of the stigma of war, i.e. the psychological crippling of hundreds of thousands of people who survived the nightmare the war. ■



SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND BOOK PRESENTATIONS

- **27 May 2017** – co-organization of the presentation of the temporary exhibition *Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki 1901-1948* [Rotmistrz Witold Pilecki 1901–1948] and accompanying lectures: Jacek Pawłowicz, PhD, *Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki. Unblemished Hero* [Rotmistrz Witold Pilecki. Bohater bez skazy] and Prof. Krzysztof Szwagrzyk's *In Search of Graves of Victims of Communism in Poland* [W poszukiwaniu miejsc pochówku ofiar komunizmu w Polsce];
- **26 June 2017** - co-organization of a meeting with Prof. Jan Żaryna and promotion of his book *Polska pamięć. O historii i polityce historycznej*;
- **16 September 2017** - meeting with Tomasz Sommer, author of the book *Operacja Antypolska NKWD 1937–1938. Geneza i przebieg ludobójstwa popełnionego na Polakach w Związku Sowieckim*;

- **16 September 2017** - screening of the film *Rozstrzelać Polaków. Zamęczona historia pierwszego ludobójstwa II wojny światowej popełnionego na Polakach w Związku Sowieckim w latach 1937–1938*, directed by Mirosław A. Supruniuk;
- **22 September 2017** - celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of the creation of the National Armed Forces;
- **23 September 2017** - lecture by Kajetan Rajs-ki *From Home Army to "Freedom and Independence"* [Od Armii Krajowej do Zrzeszenia "Wolność i Niezawisłość"];
- **28 September 2017** - lecture by Marek Lasota, PhD (Home Army Museum in Kraków) *Underground Army of Occupied Poland (SZP-ZWZ-AK) [Podziemne Wojsko okupowanej Polski (SZP-ZWZ-AK)]* delivered as part of the celebration of the 78th anniversary of the creation of the Polish Underground State;
- **16 October 2017** - international scientific conference *War and Remembrance. Cultural Memory of World War II in Poland, Germany and Russia* [Wojna i pamięć. Pamięć kulturowa o II wojnie światowej w Polsce, Niemczech i Rosji];
- **8 November 2017** - opening of the poster exhibition *Cavalry Captain Pilecki – Undeclared Hero. Report from Auschwitz* [Rotmistrz Pilecki – Bohater Niezwyciężony. Raport z Auschwitz];
- **7 December 2017** - presentation of the audio-book *Witold Pilecki, Witold's Report from Auschwitz*, transl. K. L. Potocka, W. Wybrański and A. Bohdanowicz, with a foreword by the President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda;
- **18 December 2017** - presentation of Tadeusz Płużański's book *Oblawa na wyklętych. Polowanie bezpieki na Żołnierzy Niezłomnych*.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

(to be implemented in 2017–2020)

SCIENTIFIC BRANCH

Part I Before the outbreak of war:

- *Poland and the expansion of the Third Reich before the outbreak of World War II (against the background of changes in the power balance in Europe).*
- *The fate of the Polish minority in the Soviet Union before 1939.*

Part II

Crimes and repressions against the Polish nation during World War II:

- *Map of German occupation terror on Polish territories incorporated into the Reich (catalogue of places of execution of the Polish nation: geography and scale of killings, organization of terror and the executioners).*
- *Terror in German concentration camps.*
- *Catholic Church and Catholics against the occupation terror.*
- *Deportations of Poles by the Soviet and German occupiers.*

Part III

The impact of the occupation on the social transformations on the Polish lands incorporated into the German Reich:

- *Germanisation, ethnic cleansing and extermination, crimes against the elites, plundering of the occupied territories.*
- *Communists on pre-war Polish territory during World War II.*
- *The extermination of Polish Jews.*

Part IV:

Poles against the occupants and on the fronts of World War II:

- *Anti-German and anti-Soviet underground on Polish lands incorporated into the Reich (people, structures, struggle).*
- *Creation and evacuation of General Władysław Anders's Army from the Soviet Union.*
- *Polish armed forces during World War II.*

Part V:

Long-lasting social, political and cultural impact of World War II:

- *Communist crimes and repressions against members of anti-German underground.*
- *Post-war justice system and German war criminals.*
- *Resettlements and political migrations after World War II.*

PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND BY THE MUSEUM OF WESTERPLATTE AND THE WAR OF 1939

- *Jews in the structures of Polish military underground organizations in the Warsaw district in the years 1939-1945* - carried out by Wojciech Łukaszun;
- *Indigenous population in the Gdańsk Province on the example of sztumski district 1945-1959* - carried out by Bartłomiej Garba;
- *Gdańsk Bay 1943-1945* - carried out by Marcin Westphal, PhD;
- *Martyrdom of Gdynia policemen during the Second World War* - a project carried out in cooperation with the University of Business and Administration in Gdynia; coordination - Tomasz Chinciński, PhD;
- *German occupation on the incorporated lands as seen from the perspective of documents and exhibits collected in the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk* - a project carried out by Tomasz Chinciński, PhD, and Tomasz Rabant, PhD
- *Polish armed effort during World War II* - carried out by Wojciech Turek, PhD;
- *Research project on the history of the Main Commission for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes in Poland 1945-1989* - the project was carried out by a former employee of the Scientific Department, Łukasz Jasiński; the manuscript was submitted to the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences as a doctoral thesis;
- *Second stage of archaeological works at Westerplatte 1 August - 22 December 2017* - a project

carried out by the Archaeological Department of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939;

- *Restoration and description of items unearthed during the first stage of archaeological works at Westerplatte* - carried out by Filip Kuczma;
- *Digitalization and creation of an inventory of relics of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939, Branch of the Museum of the Second World War* - carried out by Adam Dziwanowski.



OPINIONS, NOTES, SCIENTIFIC MATERIALS PREPARED ON REQUEST:

- *Catholic Church clergy at the main exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War* - prepared by Wojciech Grott;
- *Concentration and extermination camps at the main exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War* - prepared by Wirginia Węglińska;

- *Estimating the number of Home Army partisans* - prepared by Marcin Kłodziński i Marek Szymaniak, PhD;
- *Adolf Butenandt (1903-1995): biochemist, Nobel Prize winner; active member of the German Nazi party NSDAP, most likely collaborating with Josef Mengele* - prepared by Marek Szymaniak, PhD
- *The list of defenders of Westerplatte* - prepared by Wojciech Turek, PhD. ■

PUBLICATIONS

The Museum of the Second World War published nearly 50 publications. In 2017, the following works were published by the Museum:

■ Artur Jendrzejewski, *Polsko, ile Ty mnie kosztowałaś...* Wywiad-owcza działalność Stefana Ignaszaka "Nordyka", Gdańsk 2017.

The book is an in-depth biography of Stefan Ignaszak- an officer of the Polish Army, cichociemny, soldier of the Home Army intelligence, participant of the Warsaw Uprising, repressed by the authorities of post-war Poland.

■ Tomasz Gliniecki, *Echa pancernego rajdu. Propaganda wojenna i kreacja mitów wyzwoleniczych na podstawie operacji mławsko-elbląskiej Armii Czerwonej w 1945 roku*, Gdańsk 2017.

The publication is a multifaceted description of the propaganda image of events that were episodic and yet symptomatic for combat operations, that for decades had an impact on the social perception of World War II in Poland, resulting in a false interpretation of the elements of conflict resolution, as well as on the territorial and demographic transformations in this part of the continent.

■ *Westerplatte w 7 odsłonach. Prezentacja zabytków pierwszego etapu badań archeologicznych na Westerplatte*, Gdańsk 2017.

Catalogue of the temporary exhibition *Seven looks at Westerplatte [Westerplatte w 7 odsłonach]*, which presents the results of the first stage of works at Westerplatte. It includes a short historical note on the Westerplatte peninsula, calendars of the most important objects of the Military Transit Depot, photographs of the unearthed items and many previously unpublished archival photographs showing, among others, the work of Polish civilian prisoners on Westerplatte after the capitulation in 1939.

Publications produced in cooperation with other institutions:

■ Witold Pilecki, *Witold's Report from Auschwitz*, transl. K. Linda Potocka, W. Wybrański, A. Bohdanowicz, z przedmową Prezydenta Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej dr. Andrzeja Dudy, Wydawnictwo Apostolicum–Muzeum II Wojny Światowej, Ząbki–Gdańsk 2017.

AWARDED PUBLICATIONS

The Museum has received the following awards and nominations:

The Historical Award by the "Polityka" weekly in 2017:

■ for the début in the research and popular science category for the publications: Sebastian Pawlina, *Praca w dywersji. Codziennosc żołnierzy Kedywu Okręgu Warszawskiego Armii Krajowej*, Gdańsk 2016.

Nominations in the Historical Book of the Year competition 2017:

■ in the category of the best scientific book dedicated to the history of Poland and Poles in the 20th century: Sebastian Pawlina, *Praca w dywersji. Codziennosc żołnierzy Kedywu Okręgu Warszawskiego Armii Krajowej*, Gdańsk 2016.

■ in the category of the best source publication dedicated to the history of Poland and Poles in the 20th century: Jerzy Platajs, *Zbrodnia katyńska. Zeznania świadków przed polskimi sądami wojskowymi (1943–1946)*, Gdańsk 2016.

EMPLOYEES' PUBLICATIONS

■ Chinciński T., Gmurczyk-Wrońska M., Jarząbek W., Libera P., Mada-jczyk P., Mazur G., Piątkowski S., Przeglęta M., Skibiński P., *Totalitaryzm: edukacja, kultura, upamiętnienie – dyskusja [idem] II wojna światowa. Historia, która nie chce przeminąć. Dyskusje o polskim doświadczeniu w wieku XX i polityce pamięci*, koncepcja W. Kozłowski, T. Stefanek, edited by L. Zaborowski, Warsaw 2017, p. 125–141,

■ Chinciński T., *Niemiecka dywersja (1938–1939) – rosyjska wojna hybrydowa (2014–2016). Podobieństwa i różnice [idem:] Bezpieczeństwo państwa we współczesnej Europie. Zagrożenia i przeciwdziałanie*, red. M. Chrabkowski, C. Tatarczuk, J. Tomaszewski, W. Wosek, Gdynia 2017, p. 74–89,

■ Daniluk J., *Funkcje Sopotu w latach II wojny światowej, "Rocznik Sopotki"*, 2017, vol. 28, p. 117-137,

■ Gliniecki T., Album fotografii Arkadija Szajcheta z ofensywy na Prusy Wschodnie w 1945 r. jako przykład dokumentacji wojennej i propagandowej, "Zapiski z Pogranicza", 2017, Journal No. 4, p. 19–43,

■ Gliniecki T., "Czerwona gwiazda" jako filar informacji wojskowej i wojennej (1924–2016) [idem] Konflikty zbrojne po 1945 r., vol. 4, edited by Ł. Nadolski, Bydgoszcz 2017, p. 11-37,

■ Gliniecki T., *Forsowanie Nogatu i ofensywa żuławska jednostek 42 Korpusu Strzeleckiego Armii Czerwonej w marcu 1945 roku*, "Zeszyty Muzeum Stutthof", 2017, Journal No. 15, p. 87–116,

■ Gliniecki T., *Fotokorespondenci wojenni Armii Czerwonej w zdobytym Elblągu w lutym 1945 roku [idem] Żuławy w 1945 roku. Źródła z niedalekiej przeszłości*, edited by . A. Gąsiorowski, J. Hochleitner, Sztutowo 2017, p. 85–104.

■ Gliniecki T., *Miejsca upamiętniające żołnierzy polskich z II wojny światowej*, "Magazyn Elbląski", 2017, No. 1, p. 17–22,

■ Gliniecki T., *Ostatnie walki, negocjacje kapitulacyjne i wzięcie do niewoli jednostek niemieckich z Mierzei Wiślanej w maju 1945 roku [idem] Kapitulacje w dziejach wojen. Z dziejów wojskowości polskiej i powszechnej*, edited by A. Niewiński, Lublin 2017, p. 457–470,

■ Gliniecki T., *Personalizacja bohaterstwa żołnierzy Armii Czerwonej podczas walk o Olsztyn w styczniu 1945 r. Przypadek szeregowca Piotra Diernowa*, "Echa Przeszłości", 2017, vol. 18, p. 281–299,

■ Gliniecki T., *The Entry of the Armoured Warfare of the Red Army into the Breakthrough of the German Front in the North of Masovia in January 1945*, "Zeszyty Naukowe OTN", 2017, Journal No. 31, p. 293–309,

■ Gliniecki T., *Zdobycie Działdowa w styczniu 1945 r. w świetle dokumentacji nagrodowej żołnierzy Armii Czerwonej*, "Komunikaty Mazursko-Warmińskie", 2017, Journal No. 2 (296), p. 307–328,

■ Garba B., *Niemcy w powiecie malborskim w 1945 r.*, [idem:] *Żuławy w 1945 roku. Źródła z niedalekiej przeszłości*, Sztutowo 2017, p. 97-108,

■ Jasiński Ł., *Główna Komisja Badania Zbrodni Niemieckich/Hitle-rowskich w Polsce: narzędzie rozliczeń i propagandy [w:] Rozliczanie totalitarnej przeszłości: instytucje i ulice*, edited by A. Paczkowski, Warszawa 2017, p. 49–70,

■ Kowalski W., *Adam Dedio (1918–1947). Dobry syn.*, Gdańsk 2017,

■ Panto D., *Radzieccy partyzanci kazachskiej narodowości na terytorium II RP [w:] Беларусь и Германия, Лингвистический университет в Минске, Минск 2017, p. 87–101,*

■ Szymaniak M., *Bydgoscy Niemcy strzelali do sąsiadów*, "Tygodnik Bydgoski", 7 IX 2017, p. 6,

■ Szymaniak M., *Całe życie z Polską w sercu. Janina Wasil-jć-Smołeńska "Jachna"(1926–2010)*, "Wykłęci. Mokem, „Zamojski

Kwartalnik Kulturalny", 2017, No. 4, p. 66-67.

■ Szymaniak M., *Pomnik ofiar niemieckich mordów*, "Tygodnik Bydgoski", 7 IX 2017, p. 18,

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LIBRARY

The Museum's library collection includes 20,682 publications related to World War II and its aftermath. These include books, magazines, audiovisual documents, electronic documents, cartographic documents, special collections and accounts and memoirs. In 2017, the library acquired 1270 publications, including 862 donations, 378 purchases and 30 publications acquired by other means.

Apart from strictly historical publications, the Museum Library also collects publications in the field of conservation, restoration and protection of the museum collections, as well as numerous auxiliary materials used in the Museum departments.

The Library contains publications in more than 30 languages, including English, German, French, Italian, Czech, Slovak, Russian, Belarusian, Ukrainian, Kyrgyz, Kazakh, Croatian, Serbian, Romanian, Spanish, Turkish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian, Finnish, Flemish, Norwegian, Korean and Luxembourgish.

In 2017, the Library's tasks included:

- transfer of the collections to the new building;
- segregation and classification of the Library collection (almost 20,000 items, including books, magazines, audiovisual documents, electronic documents, maps, special collections, accounts and memoirs);
- preparing the Library for opening to all readers;
- preparing and implementing magnetic security measures;
- making the collections available to Museum employees - 831 items were lent in total;
- purchase of additional equipment: magnifying glasses, scales and magnifying film for visually impaired readers, additional hytherographs and headphones for listening to audiovisual documents;
- acquiring publications for the Library through purchases and donations, as well as their registration and description;
- ongoing library tasks. ■

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES



EDUCATIONAL
ACTIVITIES

From the opening of the Museum until the preparation of the educational offer (13 September 2017) The Department of Education focused on teaching at the exhibition for children *Time Travel. The History of A Family (1939-1945)* [Podróż w czasie. Historia pewnej rodziny (1939–1945)]. During this period, 1028 children, mainly from the Tricity, participated in the Museum classes. One of the tasks of the museum's educators was also to organize and coordinate the European Night of Museums. During the Night of Museums,

an educational project was also carried out at the exhibition for children, which commemorated the anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising and consisted in writing cards to its veterans (102 cards were written as part of the HeroON! [BohaterON!] project). The Museum also organized a presentation of Krzysztof Mital's book *Powstanie Warszawskie Pierwsze dni* for the youngest participants. The Museum has also become a member of *Akademia Gdańskich Lwiątek*.

In September, the educational offer for schools was presented. The materials were sent to educational institutions in four provinces: Pomorskie, Zachodniopomorskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie and Kujawsko-Pomorskie. The Museum offers 12 topics for museum lessons and workshops. There is a great interest in the classes: *Time travel. The history of a family (1939-1945)* [Podróż w czasie. Historia pewnej rodziny (1939–1945)], *Secrets of the Enigma. An invaluable contribution of Polish mathematicians to the victory of the Allies over the Third Reich* [Sekrety Enigmy. Bezcenny wkład polskich matematyków w zwycięstwo aliantów nad III Rzeszą], and *September 1939. Hardships endured by civilians* [Wrzesień 1939. Trudne losy cywilów]. ■

RECURRING
EDUCATIONAL EVENTSEUROPEAN NIGHT OF MUSEUMS AT THE MUSEUM
OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

In 2017, the institution's offer for the European Night of Museums was broadened to include events held at its new seat. During the event, the institution was visited by more than 2,600 people, and the main exhibition saw about 2,050 people. The panoramic path was also very popular among visitors – it was used by 550 people. This path enables the visitors to learn the architectural secrets of one of the most modern buildings in Poland.

From 7 p.m. to 1 a.m., for a symbolic zloty, the Museum guests could view the main exhibition on their own or participate in a group guided tour along thematic paths. The paths enabled visitors to get acquainted with selected parts of the main exhibition and the history of the site on which the Museum was built, see the educational rooms, the Library and take the panoramic elevator to the highest part of the building. In addition, visitors could watch short promotional films and reports from educational events held by the Museum.

Thematic paths during the European Night of Museums:

- *Everyday life during World War II* [Życie codzienne w czasie II wojny światowej] - visitors saw the most interesting exhibits and multimedia concerning everyday life and the fate of civilians during the war. The guide discussed the harsh realities of life in different countries.
- *The comic book path* [Ścieżka komiksowa] - visitors followed in the footsteps of three figures from the main exhibition, who became the heroes of comic books published by the Museum (*Akcja Kopernik, Katyń, Jachna*). The guests learned history of Alek Dawidowski - involved in the underground activity of the Grey Ranks, Stefan Wąsowski - the victims of the Katyn Massacre, and Janina Wasilójć-Smoleńska - a Home Army nurse, and, after the



war, an anti-communist activist in the underground. Visitors also had the opportunity to purchase museum comic books.

■ *Panoramic path* [Ścieżka panoramiczna] - guests were shown around the archaeological exhibition *There Was Once Wiadownia* [Była sobie Wiadownia], getting acquainted with the history of the district where the Museum had been built. Then, using panoramic lifts located in the tower, they moved to the Library, educational rooms and to the highest floor of the building, where they could admire the night panorama of the Old Town. The tour of the building was free of charge.

■ *Time travel* [Podróż w czasie] - workshops at the exhibition for children. The participants visited the reconstructed classroom of a Polish school from the 1930s, and then moved to a reconstructed Warsaw apartment, presented in three successive stages of the war, where they learned about the fate of a Polish family and changes in their living conditions. Visitors also completed tasks prepared on the so-called work cards.



EUROPEAN NIGHT OF MUSEUMS AT WESTERPLATTE

The Museum of the Second World War together with the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 invited visitors to the Westerplatte Peninsula. Thanks to the hospitality of the Maritime Unit of the Border Guard in Gdańsk, guests could see the historic building of the power plant of the Military Transit Depot (not open to visitors). The place was visited by more than 600 people.

At the power plant building, visitors could see re-enactors of the Polish Army of the Second Polish Republic, who presented original military equipment and armament from the period. The children could enjoy the presentation of the 100-year-old field cannon wz. 26 and the anti-tank cannon Bofors wz. 36, which were used during the defence of Westerplatte. About 100 guests received commemorative diplomas.

CLASSES, PROJECTS, EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

In 2017, the Education Department conducted 456 lessons and workshops attended by a total of 5303 people. The classes were attended by school groups from the Tricity and: Bytów, Elbląg, Gniewino, Gowino, Kiełpino, Kolbudy, Kolonia k. Sianowa, Kowale, Lębork, Łęgowo, Malbork, Olsztyn, Ostrołęka, Przodkowo, Pruszcz Gdański, Puck, Rokity, Rzeczenica k. Chojnic, Rakowiec, Sierakowice, Słupsk, Somonino, Straszyn, Sztum, Szemud, Tczew, Warszawa, Wejherowo (158 groups from 55 towns and villages)). Other classes were attended by students from the University of Gdańsk and pupils from various types of educational institutions: kindergarten, 85 primary and junior high schools and 16 secondary schools. ■



EDUCATIONAL OFFER OF THE MUSEUM OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The institution carries out its educational mission by running various activities, prepared for different groups, including people with disabilities. The Museum also organises workshops in modern educational rooms and at exhibitions: the main one, for children, and temporary ones, as well as in the cinema room. During the classes participants can gain knowledge through information from various sources: museum exhibits, memoirs, scientific publications, literature, and visual arts. Above all, however, they have the opportunity to reflect on what is important for them, for their communities and for places where they live and where their descendants will live.

THE EDUCATIONAL OFFER INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING LESSONS:



▲ **Time Travel - the History of A Family (1939-1945) [Podróż w czasie – historia pewnej rodziny (1939–1945)]** – the lesson takes place in the reconstructed living room of a Warsaw apartment covering three different periods: a few days after the outbreak of World War II, during

the German occupation, and just after its end. Pupils learn about the hardships of war through everyday problems of the Jankowski family. This convention makes it easier for students to identify with the fate and experiences of the exhibition's protagonists, and thus help them understand the history. The project is addressed to grades I-VI of primary school and kindergartens. Classes are given separately for grades I-III and IV-VI.



▲ **Young Archaeologist [Mały archeolog]** - lessons are held at the temporary exhibition hall based on the materials of the exhibition *Seven looks at Westerplatte [Westerplatte w 7 odsłonach]*. As part of the classes, children learn the basics of archaeologists' work, among others by visiting an archaeological site for young exploration apprentices. Under the supervision of educators from the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939, the Branch of the Museum of the Second World, and using the tools used by archaeologists, participants look for objects related to the history of Westerplatte defence and learn what real artifacts look and smell like. Classes are addressed to grades I-III of primary school and kindergartens.

” **PUPILS LEARN ABOUT THE
HARDSHIPS OF WAR THROUGH
EVERYDAY PROBLEMS OF THE
JANKOWSKI FAMILY.**



▲ **Old Chest. What Does the Museum Hold? [Stara skrzynia. Co skrywa muzeum?]** - the aim of these classes is to familiarise students with the museum as a place whose main task is to collect, preserve and present material traces of history. Classes take place in an educational room, where children can see and touch the true „treasures of the museum”, i.e. the exhibits. Participants also visit selected parts of the main exhibition - where objects connected with everyday life are located. The pupils' task is, among other things, to spot and describe differences between historical objects and their contemporary counterparts, and to design their own museum collection. Classes are addressed to grades I-IV of primary school and kindergartens.

convey the knowledge about the soldier's everyday life, which is very different from the commonly held idea of serving in the army. Most school-age children associate a soldier with the fight on the front. The programme is intended to draw attention to the fact that the fight against the enemy took place sporadically. The service was mostly filled with arduous daily activities such as: preparing meals, maintaining equipment, washing etc. All these activities usually took place in difficult frontline conditions. The lesson also covers problems of living in captivity, in which prisoners spent many years and often in very difficult conditions, as well as the psychological strain to which the soldier was subjected during frontline service. Classes are addressed to grades VI-VIII of primary school and II-III of junior high school.

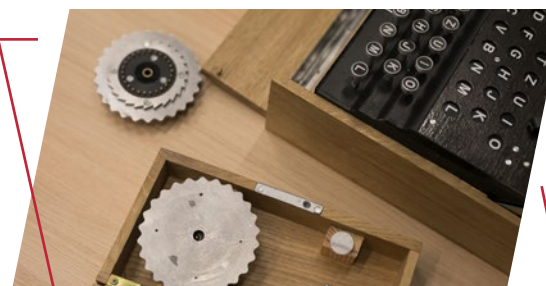


▲ **From Rubble and Ashes. Rebuilding Cities Destroyed in Warfare [Z gruzu i popiołu. Odbudowa miast zniszczonych przez działania wojenne]** - the idea behind this educational meeting is to familiarise participants with the subject of the planned destruction of cities during the Second World War, and then their rebuilding, as well as restoring everyday life. Various methods of destruction used by the fighting sides are presented: planned demolitions, carpet raids, siege, urban fighting. Particular attention is given to Gdańsk, which was turned into rubble in March and April 1945. Various concepts of post-war reconstruction of the city are considered: reconstruction of the destroyed city centre, building on the ruins a completely new centre (modernism, social realism), leaving the rubble as a living monument of war. Classes are intended to encourage reflection and discussions. Lessons are addressed to grades VI-VIII of primary school and II-III of junior high school.

▲ **Soldier's Fate. Everyday Life of Soldiers on the Fronts of the Second World War [Żołnierska dola. Życie codzienne żołnierzy na frontach II wojny światowej]** - the main idea of the lesson is to



▲ **September 1939. Hardships Suffered by Civilians [Wrzesień 1939. Trudne losy cywilów]** - the lesson takes place in several rooms of the main exhibition on the attack on Poland in 1939, the policy of Germans and Soviets both during and just after the campaign, and the attitudes of Poles towards aggressors and occupants. Pupils learn about hardships of war and occupation on the example of specific people. This convention makes it easier for students to identify with the fate and experiences of the exhibition's protagonists, and thus help them understand the history. By viewing and analysing the exhibition under the guidance of an educator, children gain knowledge and have an opportunity to reflect. Classes are addressed to grades VII-VIII of primary school and II-III of junior high school.



▲ **Enigma Secrets. The invaluable contribution of Polish mathematicians to the victory of the Allies over the Third Reich [Sekrety**

Enigmy. Bezcenny wkład polskich matematyków w zwycięstwo aliantów nad III Rzeszą] - children learn about the success of a team of Polish mathematicians who were the first to break the Enigma codes. It determined the outcome of the war. Passing on the methods developed by Poles to the British helped the United Kingdom survive the first critical stage of the war in 1939-1943. During the classes, the participants will learn about Marian Rejewski, Henryk Zygalski and Jerzy Różycki, as well as the basics of cryptography and how the German Enigma encryption machine works. The classes are conducted with the use of rotor mock-ups and a replica of the Enigma. The Enigma Secrets educational project was awarded a distinction in the Sibilla 2015 Competition organised by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. The classes are addressed to grades VII-VIII of primary school and II-III of junior high school.



▲ **Nazism. Roots of Evil [Nazizm. Korzenie zła]** - the aim of this lesson is to teach about the ideology of Nazi Germany and the emergence of the idea of extermination of various groups (e.g. Jews, people with disabilities). Participants will learn the logical, organised cause and effect sequence of events that lead the Germans to commit crimes during World War II. The students are introduced to the term „genocide”. In summary, participants learn that the genocide organised in concentration camps was the final result of a long-term social process. Classes are addressed to grades I-IV of secondary school, as well as to students and other organised groups of adults.



▲ **“...to Defend the Departed. Literature and the Holocaust” [“... stanąć w obronie zmarłych”. Literatura wobec Zagłady]** – students learn about the reality of the Jewish ghetto and concentration camp as well as a variety of human attitudes towards the tragedy of the Holocaust, which were later reflected in literary depictions by Tadeusz Borowski, Zofia Nałkowska and Hanna Krall. Classes take place in parts of the exhibition dedicated to terror and the Holocaust. The discussion of the abovementioned topics and viewing the exhibits amplifies the literary message and helps to better understand the issues addressed by the authors. Classes are addressed to grades I to IV of the secondary school.



▲ **Volhynia. Human and Inhuman Attitudes [Wołyń. Postawy ludzkie i nieludzkie]** - classes focus on dramatic events in Volhynia in the years 1943-1944, when Ukrainian nationalists,

supported by the local population, murdered around 60,000 Poles. The lesson will present the Vohlynia tragedy and the humane attitudes of some Ukrainians during the slaughter of Poles by their compatriots. The concept of the „righteous” is introduced, as well as the issue of attitudes towards the „evil”, along with the discussion of the ability to identify the national interest. During the classes, surveys are used to examine opinions. Classes are offered to grades I - V of the secondary school and university students.

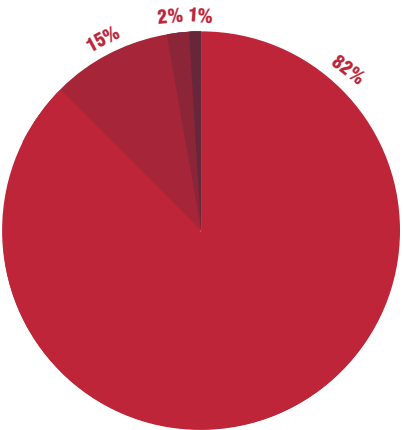


▲ **History on a Board: Creating Historical Board Games [Historia na planszy: tworzenie historycznych gier planszowych]** - the main theme of the lesson is to familiarize participants with various activities of the resistance movement in the German-occupied countries of Europe. During the visit to the exhibition, participants, divided into groups, learn about forms of resistance, the history of guerrilla formations of various countries or special operations, and about the Polish Underground State. Next, in the education room, they learn the principles of creating modern board games, which, combined with what they have learnt at the exhibition, enables them to design a simple historical game. Workshops stimulate creativity, teach teamwork, help participants absorb and understand the presented historical content. Lessons are addressed to students and other organized adult groups. ■

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN NUMBERS

PERIOD 13.09 – 30.12.2017	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	SUM
NUMBER OF LESSONS	13	36	57	34	140
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	173	888	1275	680	3016
NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS	0	12	19	17	48
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	0	337	442	346	1125
OTHER ACTIVITIES	3	1	9	12	23
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	100	6	15	13	134
TOTAL NUMBER	16	49	85	63	213
TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	273	1231	1714	1039	4275

PARTICIPANTS OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES (NUMBER OF VISITS FROM A GIVEN CITY/SCHOOL)	
TRICITY	OTHER THAN TRICITY
Gdańsk, Gdynia, Sopot	Bytów, Elbląg (3), Gniewino (2), Gowino, Kiełpino, Kolbudy (4), Kolonia k. Sianowa, Kowale (5), Łębork (8), Łęgowo (2), Malbork, Olsztyn, Ostrołęka, Przodkowo, Pruszcz Gdański, Puck, Rokity, Rzeczenica k. Chojnic, Rakowiec, Sierakowice, Słupsk, Somonino (3), Straszyn, Sztum, Szemud (2), Tczew (2), Warszawa, Wejherowo (5)
Total 158	Total 55



- primary and junior high schools
- high school
- university
- kindergarten

Numbers above concern:

- 86 primary and junior high schools;
- 16 high schools;
- 2 student groups from the University of Gdańsk;
- 1 kindergarten group.

EDUCATIONAL OFFER OF THE MUSEUM OF WESTERPLATTE AND THE WAR OF 1939

Guided tours through the area of the „Battlefield Westerplatte” History Monument by employees of the Museum Westerplatte and the War of 1939, Branch of the Museum - the aim of the classes is to acquaint participants with the history of the peninsula and facilities of the former Military Transit Depot on Westerplatte. Classes are addressed to various age groups. Various sightseeing paths are available the participants, adapted to their age and needs, combining learning with recreation. From April to September 2017, groups were guided through the Westerplatte, and in the winter months - the temporary exhibition *Seven looks at Westerplatte [Westerplatte w 7 odsłonach]*. The table below shows the statistics of classes:

MONTH	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	TOUR LOCATION
APRIL	Two groups of 42 people + a group of the Land Forces Command Battalion 30 people	Westerplatte
MAY	Group of 54 people + lesson in Primary School No. 23 for 35 people	Westerplatte
JUNE	Three groups of 18, 42 and 43 persons + group from Unit 5644 30 persons and group from 7th Coastal Defence Brigade 24 persons	Westerplatte
JULY	Groups of 76 and 28 persons	Westerplatte
SEPTEMBER	The Westerplatczyk family 43 persons. High School No. 1 in Pruszcz Gdański 22 persons School and Educational Centre in Nowy Dwór Gdański 9 persons Military Centre of Citizenship Education 40 persons. High School No. 1 in Wrocław 49 persons. Textile School Complex in Nowem 48 persons VI grade in Przodkowie 50 persons.	Westerplatte
OCTOBER	Primary School in Barłomin 50 persons High School in Wrocław 34 persons VII grade from Primary School No. 21 in Elbląg 29 persons. CSW Łaźnia 17 persons High School No. 1 in Wrocław 60 persons Primary School in Suchy Dąb 40 persons Junior High School No. 33 in Gdańsk 38 people VII grade Primary School in Sztum 30 persons.	Temporary exhibition and educational zone Westerplatte
NOVEMBER	Primary School in Glincza 76 persons Primary School No. 49 in Gdańsk 12 persons	Temporary exhibition and educational zone
DECEMBER	Primary School No. 35 in Gdańsk 29 persons 3rd grade from Primary School No. 56 in Gdańsk	Temporary exhibition and educational zone

INTEGRATIVE EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

The Educational Department of the Museum meets the interest in history of various groups. It helps people with special needs in viewing the main exhibition and integrating with society. It uses the contents of the exhibition and the museum space to discuss the painful past and contentious issues, and creates opportunities for young people from different countries to meet and integrate. This is reflected, among other things, in integrative educational workshops, which, in 2017, included:

- **September:** a visit of a 60-strong group of adults with disabilities. The group included 10 people in wheelchairs and 5 people on crutches, as well as people with intellectual disabilities. Our guests were divided into three groups of 16-17; they viewed the selected parts of the main exhibition that were the most important in terms of content and scenography.
- **October:** a visit of 55 young people participating in the MULTI project. Students from Germany, Poland (Gdańsk) and Ukraine were shown around parts of the main exhibition dedicated to the consequences of Nazi racial policy and Soviet social engineering - persecution on the grounds of ethnicity and nationality, forced resettlement, or mass murder The second part of the visit was a workshop on stereotypes and prejudices. The youth dis-

” **THE EDUCATIONAL
DEPARTMENT OF THE
MUSEUM MEETS THE
INTEREST IN HISTORY
OF VARIOUS GROUPS.**

cussed stereotypes in their own countries and tried to understand the victims and perpetrators of discrimination. The MULTI project is an international initiative organised by the city of Oberhausen in Germany. During their stay in Germany, young people also visited the concentration camp in Bergen-Belsen.

▪ **December:** a visit of a student group as part of the IX *Cogito Ergo Sum Academic Workshops. Ukraine Near and Far [Ukraina bliska i daleka]*. In connection with the event, educators from the Museum prepared and held workshops *Volhynia. Human and Inhuman Attitudes [Wołyń. Postawy ludzkie i nieludzkie]* for 120 Polish high school students from the Pomorskie Province and the youth of Ukrainian origin from the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Province. They also gave guided tours through parts of the main exhibition related to the topic of workshops. ■

A photograph of a band performing on a stage. The scene is bathed in blue light. In the foreground, a male singer in a white suit stands at a microphone. Behind him, several other band members are visible, some seated and some standing, playing instruments like brass and drums. The stage floor is reflective, and there are stage monitors in the foreground. The background is dark with some stage equipment visible.

CULTURAL EVENTS



CULTURAL EVENTS

The organization of cultural events is carried out by the Department of Cultural Events established in 2017. The Department organises concerts, performances, exhibitions, meetings with authors, and special events. The department cooperates with cultural institutions, cultural organizations and directly with artists, creating projects related to Polish culture in the years preceding the Second World War and commemorating important dates associated with the war time. The department also oversees the Museum's volunteers.

In 2017, the following events were organised:

CONCERTS:

- *Hope Concert* - September 8, 2017, as part of the commemoration of the 78th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, performed by the Nahorny Trio, composed of Włodzimierz Na-



horny, Mariusz Bogdanowicz and Piotr Biskupski. The repertoire included pieces from the album *Hope* released in 2014. About 300 spectators took part in the event..

- Concert by Lech Makowiecki and the band Zayazd on 15 September 2017, commemorating the 78th anniversary of the Soviet Union's invasion of Poland. Lech Makowiecki is an artist who for years has been following his vision of patriotic-historical education of the young generation. His latest albums include modern ballads inspired by Polish history. The concert was a part of events commemorating Polish victims of the Soviet genocide in the period 1937-1940. The event was attended by about 200 spectators..

- A musical spectacle *God's Ball [Bal u Pana Boga]* organised on 11 November 2017, on the 99th anniversary of Poland's regaining independence and on the 60th birthday of Jacek Kaczmarski. The event included songs by Jacek Kaczmarski



and Przemysław Gintrowski and was directed by Olga Czyżykiewicz. The performing artists included: Piotr Cugowski, Sebastian Karpiel-Bulecka, Marika, Dariusz Malejonek, Dorota Kopka-Broniarz (Mike Skowron), Damian Ukeje, Monika Urlik. The event was co-organized by the Museum, Róbmę swoje dla kultury Foundation and Polish Television. About 600 spectators attended the concerts. The event was recorded and retransmitted on TVP2 and TVP Kultura channels.

- Final of the *Bards of Freedom [Bardowie wolności]* music competition on 29 November 2017, together with a recital by Mirosław Czyżykiewicz and Witold Cisko. Participants competed by interpreting a song by Jacek Kaczmarski and a song by another artist-bard who addressed the issues of freedom. The event was co-organized by the Foundation Róbmę swoje dla kultury and the Museum of the Second World War. About 100 spectators attended the concerts.

ARTISTIC EVENINGS:

- *Ad memoriam*, 11 August 2017, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the „Polish operation” conducted by NKVD in 1937-1938; the programme of the event included a lecture by Piotr Szubarczyk from the National Education Bureau of the Institute of National Remembrance in Gdańsk *This was not a cruel mistake... [To nie była okrutna pomyłka...]*, a screening of fragments of Alina Czerniakowska's film *Musieli zwyciężyć* and witnesses account in Krzysztof Bartoszewicz's interpretation.

- *Prisoner No. 918 [Więzień nr 918]* 26 October 2017, an event dedicated to Kazimierz Piechowski, the hero of one of the most brave escapes from Auschwitz, a Home Army soldier, a prisoner from the Stalinist period. Piechowski's story was told through fragments of the film, fragments of memories interpreted by actors, in the form of songs and dancing. The event was attended by about 300 spectators.

- *...will we dream dreams again? [...czy sny się jeszcze nam wyśnią?]* 16 November 2017, an event dedicated to Grażyna Chrostowska, poet, scout, member of the underground organisation, prisoner of the concentration camp in Ravensbrück, where she was murdered in 1942. The programme included a screening of the film *a kratą są zielone drzewa* by Magdalena and Rafał Kłodziejczyk, an artistic interpretation of Grażyna Chrostowska's poems *Pamiętam, były gwiazdy na niebie*, a lecture *Dalekie są wczorajsze sny delivered* by Barbara Oratowska, head of the Museum of Martyrdom, Branch of the Lublin Museum. The event was attended by about 100 spectators.





SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Public reading of *Kamienie na szaniec* on 27 September 2017, on the 78th anniversary of the creation of the Polish Underground State. The event was attended by people known in the cultural and sports circles, including Jerzy Zelnik and Jakub Wawrzyniak.
- Temporary exhibition on the occasion of All Souls' Day, dedicated to soldiers fighting for independent Poland under German and Soviet occupation. The exhibition consists of 12 photographs, 196 cm x 100 cm, retouched and coloured, presented from 31 October to 6 November 2017, depicting soldiers, including Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki „Witold”, General

August Emil Fieldorf pseud. „Nil”, Major Henryk Dobrzański pseud. „Hubal”, General Leopold Okulicki pseud. „Niedźwiadek” and General Stefan Rowecki pseud. „Grot”.

- Special screening of the documentary *Józef Zator Przytocki, pseudonim „Czeremosz”*, 20 November 2017, co-organized with TVP3 Gdańsk. The screening ended with a discussion about the film's protagonist, Lt. Colonel Józef Zator Przytocki, Knight of Virtuti Militari, recipient of the Cross of Valour, Golden Cross of Merit with Swords, an eminent clergyman, chaplain and soldier of the Home Army, a political prisoner of Stalinist period. The event was attended by about 350 spectators. ■

VOLUNTEERING

In 2017, the Museum created the position of coordinator for volunteering, who is responsible for recruiting people interested in short and long-term cooperation with the institution. The support of volunteers is especially needed during the organization of large recurring events, such as: European Night of Museums, anniversaries of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the Warsaw Uprising, the outbreak of World War II and the National Independence Day.

The Museum enables volunteers to cooperate with one of the most modern museums in Poland, participate in interesting events, work in a young and creative team, gain experience in working for a public institution, obtain a certificate of voluntary work, accident insurance, and receive training. ■

Persons interested in volunteering can work in:

- Museum Cinema - organizing shows and collecting tickets;
- Department of Cultural Events - organizing and preparing artistic setting for special events, concerts and artistic evenings;
- Promotion Department - current tasks related to archiving, distribution of information and promotion materials and assistance in managing social media;
- Science and Film Documentation Department - preparing records of witnesses of history;
- Library - archiving and updating databases;
- Press Spokesperson - tasks involving photography and graphics. ■





FILM DOCUMENTATION



FILM DOCUMENTATION

At the beginning of October 2017, the creation of the Film Documentation Department commenced. The process of staff building and completing technical equipment was concluded in December 2017. At the same time, the documentation collection was systematically described and archived. Despite its short period of activity, the team has produced several short films to promote the Museum, including two short documentaries: *Christmas in a Concentration Camp* [Święta Bożego Narodzenia w obozie koncentracyjnym] and *Losses of Polish Culture During World War II* [Straty kultury polskiej w czasie II wojny światowej]. In documentary materials, the historical background is created by footage with witnesses of history as well as archival films and photographs.

An important part of the department's work is coverage of the most important events organized by the Museum. These

included material from the National Independence Day and a recording from the anniversary event *Westerplatte – Polish Pearl Harbor* [Westerplatte – polskie Pearl Harbor]. The video reports from the events present guests, participants of meetings and employees of the Museum of the Second World War.

A SERIES OF RADIO BROADCASTS IMAGES OF WAR - FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MUSEUM OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN GDAŃSK [OBRAZY WOJNY – ZE ZBIORÓW MUZEUM II WOJNY ŚWIATOWEJ W GDAŃSKU]

The Department coordinated collaboration with Radio Gdańsk, as part of which a weekly series of programmes entitled Images of War [Obrazy wojny] was created. The series, launched in July 2017 and planned until February 2018, included over 30 radio broadcasts, which also used film footage with witnesses of history from the collection of the department and referred to the exhibits from the main exhibition and other exhibits from the Museum collection which were not displayed. Topics discussed included the aggression against Poland on 1 and 17 September 1939, the „bloody Sunday” in Bydgoszcz, the internment of Polish soldiers in 1939, the Sovietization of Polish lands in 1939-1941, German deportations of Poles in 1939, Soviet deportations of Poles in 1940,

the martyrdom of Gdynia policemen in 1939-1945, Germanization of Polish children and the fate of Poles conscripted into the Wehrmacht. Other events discussed included Poland regaining independence in 1918, the „Polish Operation” conducted by the NKVD in 1937-1938, the Volhynia Massacre, the „Gate of Dawn” Operation, the Warsaw Uprising and the Stutthof Concentration Camp death march. Dedicated broadcasts included such figures as Józef Piłsudski, Kazimierz Sosnkowski, Antoni Kasztelan, Franciszek Witaszek and Witold Pilecki. Three of the broadcasts were dedicated to the tragic fate of Jews, including the liquidation of ghettos in the Eastern Borderlands of the Second Polish Republic. Several other broadcasts focused on the Westerplatte. The broadcasts also included lighter topics, e.g. cuisine and fashion during the war, and the everyday life of soldiers and sailors. Of particular interest were the broadcasts about Christmas celebrations and the production of objects of applied art in concentration camps. Employees of the scientific, publishing, film documentation, collections and education departments as well as representatives of the management of the institution took part in all the broadcasts. While preparing selected topics, scientific staff from outside the Museum was also employed, e.g., Piotr Niwiński, PhD, Piotr Semków, PhD, Jarosław Tuliszka, PhD, and Wojciech Wosek, PhD.

Participation of the Museum's employees in the preparation of broadcasts *Images of War* (in the chronological order of the broadcasts):

- Waldemar Kowalski, Operation „Ostra Brama” [Operacja „Ostra Brama”];
- Grzegorz Berendt, PhD, Prof. of UG, Waldemar Kowalski, Józef Piłsudski and Kazimierz Sosnkowski – special prisoners of the Gdańsk Prison [Józef Piłsudski i Kazimierz Sosnkowski – więźniowie specjalni gdańskiego więzienia];
- Grzegorz Berendt, PhD, Prof. of UG, Waldemar Kowalski, Volhyn Massacre [Zbrodnia Wołyńska];
- Tomasz Gliniecki, PhD, Marcin Westphal, PhD, Waldemar Kowalski, Warsaw Uprising (two broadcasts);
- Marek Szymaniak, PhD, Marcin Westphal, PhD, Waldemar Kowalski, „Polish Operation” of NKVD (1937–1938) [„Operacja Polska” NKWD (1937-1938);

- Jan Daniluk, Wojciech Łukaszun, Waldemar Kowalski, *Repressions against Poles and Jews in the Free City of Gdańsk*, [Represje wobec Polaków i Żydów w Wolnym Mieście Gdańsku];
- Jan Daniluk, Wojciech Łukaszun, Waldemar Kowalski, *Repressions against Polish community in Gdańsk in September 1939* [Represje wobec Polonii w Gdańsku we wrześniu 1939 r.];
- Mariusz Wójtowicz-Podhorski, Filip Kuczma, *Westerplatte – archaeological research* [Westerplatte – badania archeologiczne],
- Tomasz Chinciński, PhD, Tomasz Rabant, PhD, Waldemar Kowalski, „Bloody Sunday” in Bydgoszcz [„Krwawa niedziela” w Bydgoszczy];
- Dmitriy Panto, Wojciech Łukaszun, Waldemar Kowalski, 17 September 1939 – Soviet aggression on Poland [17 września 1939 r. – agresja sowiecka na Polskę];



- Tomasz Chinciński, PhD, Tomasz Rabant, PhD, Waldemar Kowalski, *Germanization of Polish children by the Third Reich [Germanizacja dzieci polskich przez III Rzeszę]*;
- Wiktoria Biezuńska, Magdalena Jaszcza, Monika Soloduskiewicz, Waldemar Kowalski, *War from the kitchen [Wojna od kuchni]*;
- Wiktoria Biezuńska, Magdalena Jaszcza, Monika Soloduskiewicz, Waldemar Kowalski, *War fashion [Moda wojenna]*;
- Tomasz Chinciński, PhD, Tomasz Rabant, PhD, Waldemar Kowalski, *Displacements of Poles from Gdynia and Pomerania [Wysiedlenia Polaków z Gdyni i Pomorza]*;
- Dmitriy Panto, Wojciech Łukaszun, Waldemar Kowalski, *Fates of the September 1939 Campaign soldiers interned in Lithuania [Losy żołnierzy września 1939 r. internowanych na Litwie]*;
- Grzegorz Berendt, PhD, Prof. of UG, Waldemar Kowalski, *Soviet partisans and Jews and Polish partisans in the Eastern Borderlands of the Second Republic of Poland [Partyzanci sowieccy wobec Żydów i partyzantki polskiej na Kresach Wschodnich II RP]*;

- Marcin Westphal, PhD, Wojciech Łukaszun, *The fight, service and everyday life of Polish Navy and Commercial Navy sailors [Walka, służba i życie codzienne polskich marynarzy Marynarki Wojennej i Marynarki Handlowej]*;
- Karol Nawrocki, PhD, Marek Szymaniak, PhD, Wojciech Łukaszun, *11 November - independent and undefeated [11 listopada – niepodległa i niepokonana]*;
- Dmitriy Panto, Wojciech Łukaszun, Marcin Westphal, *Everyday life of soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces in the West [Życie codzienne żołnierzy Polskich Sił Zbrojnych na Zachodzie]*;
- Tomasz Chinciński, PhD, Tomasz Rabant, PhD, Magdalena Jaszcza, *Fates of Poles in the Wehrmacht [Losy Polaków w Wehrmachcie]*;
- Tomasz Chinciński, PhD, Tomasz Rabant, PhD, Marek Szymaniak, PhD *Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki [Rotmistrz Witold Pilecki]*;
- Dmitriy Panto, Wojciech Łukaszun, Waldemar Kowalski, *Sovietisation of Polish lands in 1939-1941 [Sowietyzacja ziem polskich w latach 1939–1941]*;
- Tomasz Chinciński, PhD, Tomasz Rabant, PhD, Waldemar Kowalski, *Captain Antoni Kasztelan [Kpt. Antoni Kasztelan]*;
- Bartłomiej Garba, Wirginia Węglińska, Waldemar Kowalski, *Christmas and Art in Concentration Camps [Boże Narodzenie i sztuka w obozach koncentracyjnych]* (two broadcasts)
- Tomasz Chinciński, PhD, Tomasz Rabant, PhD, Waldemar Kowalski, *Dr Franciszek Witaszek*;
- Tomasz Chinciński, PhD, Waldemar Kowalski, *Martyrdom of Gdynia policemen 1939–1945 [Martyrologia gdyńskich policjantów 1939–1945]*;
- Mariusz Wójtowicz-Podhorski, Filip Kuczma, *Westerplatte 31.08.–07.09.1939*;
- Tomasz Gliniecki, PhD, Wirginia Węglińska, Waldemar Kowalski, *Death march of KL Stutthof prisoners [Marsz śmierci więźniów KL Stutthof]*;
- Grzegorz Berendt, PhD, Prof. of UG, Marcin Westphal, PhD, Waldemar Kowalski, *Liquidation of Borderlands ghettos and ghetto revolts in 1942 [Likwidacja gett kresowych i bunty w nich w 1942 r.]*;
- Grzegorz Berendt, PhD, Prof. of UG, Dmitriy Panto, Waldemar Kowalski, Wojciech Łukaszun, *Soviet deportations of the Poles on 10 February 1940 [Sowieckie deportacje Polaków w dniu 10 lutego 1940 r.]* ■



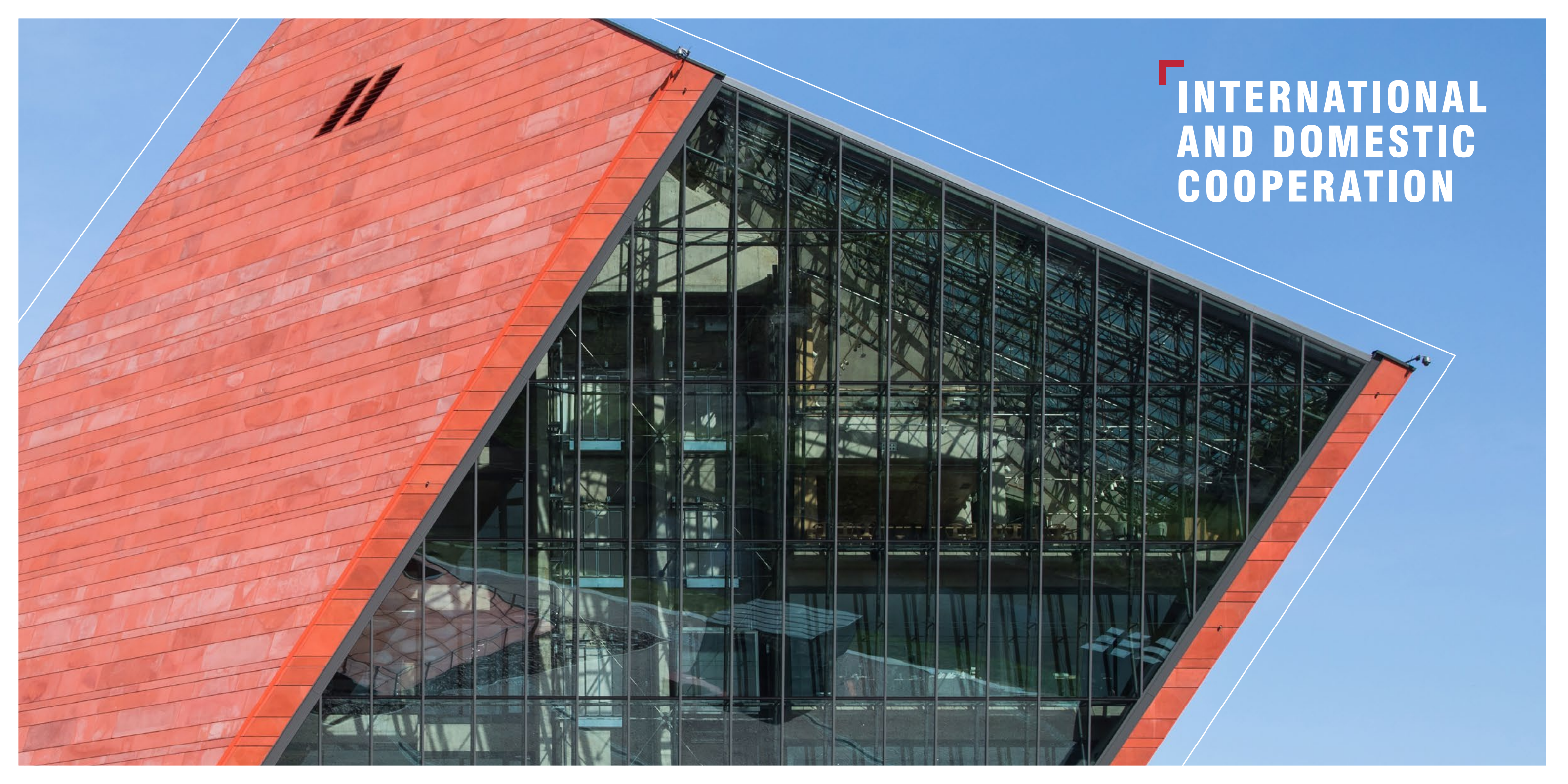
MUSEUM CINEMA

The Film Documentation Department oversees the Museum Cinema opened in November 2017. Regular film screenings take place on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, as well as on selected Sundays. The repertoire includes films typical of local and studio cinemas, but, in line with the Museum's mission, it will also include war-related productions. The cinema also screens classic pre-war Polish movies. The end of the year was a pilot period for the cinema. A more complete evaluation of its activities will only be possible in subsequent years. However, the Museum cinema has already gained popularity among movie-goers and has found its niche in the Tricity cinema network.

ACCOUNTS OF WORLD WAR II WITNESSES

Between 7 April 2017 and the end of 2017, 54 film recordings with witnesses of history from Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Germany were made. The topics documented included, among other things, German and Soviet aggression against Po-

land in 1939, Soviet and German occupation, Katyn Massacre, underground and guerrilla activities (in particular, the collection of records of partisans from the 77th Infantry Regiment of the Home Army), Holocaust, concentration camps, forced labour, defence of Stalingrad, crimes of Ukrainian nationalists against Poles, deportation and repatriation of Poles from the Eastern Borderlands of the Second Polish Republic, soldiers on the fronts of World War II, Polish Armed Forces in the West, communist repression against the post-war underground, communists' treatment of the Polish indigenous peoples of Pomorze from 1945. By the end of 2017, the Museum made 291 film recordings with witnesses of history. In the discussed period, 22 field film recordings were made in Belarus and Ukraine, at the places where important events in Polish history and that of the last war took place. Most field recordings include places of burial of Polish soldiers and civilians located outside Poland. A separate project carried out in this respect concerns the Holocaust memorial sites. ■



INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC COOPERATION



INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC COOPERATION

COOPERATION WITH THE MUSEUM OF CURSED SOLDIERS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS OF THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC IN WARSAW

One of the most important elements of the commemoration of the 78th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II was the signing of a cooperation agreement with the Museum of Cursed Soldiers and Political Prisoners of the Polish People's Republic in Warsaw. The parties agreed to cooperate in the substantive and promotional areas. The agreement was signed by Karol Nawrocki, PhD, and Jacek Pawłowicz, director of the Museum of Cursed Soldiers and Political Prisoners of the Polish People's Republic.

COOPERATION WITH THE MILITARY HISTORICAL OFFICE

On 31 October 2017, in the Museum of the Second World War, director Karol Nawrocki, PhD, and the director of the Military Historical Bureau Sławomir Cenckiewicz, PhD, Prof. of the College of Social and Media Culture (CSMC), signed a cooperation agreement.

The cooperation with the MHB will enable the Museum to obtain materials that document the valour of the Polish armed forces during World War II. During the ceremony after signing the agreement, Sławomir Cenckiewicz, PhD, Prof. of CSMC, donated an exhibit to the Museum - a white and red armband and a portrait of General Kazimierz Sosnkowski, the patron of MHB.

COOPERATION WITH THE HOME ARMY MUSEUM

On 2 October, the Director of the Museum of the Second World War and Director of the Home Army Museum in Krakow, Marek Lasota, PhD, signed an cooperation agreement in order to implement joint scientific and educational projects, aimed at supporting museum units working on similar subjects.

INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC COOPERATION

COOPERATION WITH VETERANS

- Meeting of the director and Grzegorz Berendt, PhD, Prof. of UG, with the representatives of veterans of Pomorskie Voivodeship. The meeting of 11 April 2017 was attended by members of the Pomeranian District of the World Association of Home Army Soldiers, including its president, Prof. Capt. Jerzy Grzywacz, and the president of the Gdańsk Branch Cpt. Ryszard Kozubowski.
- A meeting of the Museum management with representatives of patriotic organizations popularising history. The meeting held on 25 May 2017 was attended by members of the Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression of the Pomorskie Province, the Union of Veterans and Former Political Prisoners, the Sybirak Association of the Pomeranian Province, the Piłsudski Association, the Kashubian-Kociewie Association of The Secret Military Organisation „Pomeranian Griffin”, Association of the Piaśnica Family, Katyń Families Association, Ponarska Families Association, Combatants Association of the Polish Armed Forces in the West - Gdańsk District, Association of War Veterans of the Republic of Poland - District Board, Association of Displaced People of Gdynia, Association of Former Political Prisoners 1944-1956, World Association of Home Army Soldiers - Volyn District, Association of Soldiers of the 27th Volyn Infantry Division of the Home Army, Władysław Anders Association of Polish War Veterans Defenders of the Homeland, Association of the Polish Victims of the Third Reich - Pomorskie Board. After the meeting with representatives of the Museum, the veterans were invited to visit the main exhibition.

FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS WITH WHICH THE MUSEUM COOPERATED IN 2017.

Polish diplomatic missions abroad:

- Embassy of the Republic of Poland in London;
- Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Minsk;
- Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Beijing;
- Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Lutsk, Ukraine;
- Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Almaty, Kazakhstan;

- Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Grodno, Belarus;
- Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Brest, Belarus;
- Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

MUSEUMS AND ARCHIVES:

- State Historical Museum in Dubno, Ukraine;
- National History Museum in Młyn, Ukraine;
- National History Museum in Krzemieniec, Ukraine;
- State Museum of History and Archaeology in Grodno, Belarus;
- Museum of Painting and History in Lida, Belarus;
- War and Historical Museum n.a. P.I. Bagration, Volkovysk, Belarus;
- Memorial Complex „Brest Fortress” in Belarus;
- Historical and Ethnographic Museum in Bereza, Belarus;
- Museum of Belarusian Polesie in Pinsk, Belarus;
- Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, Beijing, China
- Central Municipal Archive in Almaty, Kazakhstan;
- Central State Archive of the Ministry of Culture and Sport of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Almaty, Kazakhstan;
- Presidential Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Almaty..

POLISH DIASPORA ORGANIZATIONS:

- Ewa Felińska Association of Polish Culture in Volhynia
- The Juliusz Słowacki Society for the Rebirth of Polish Culture in Krzemieniec, Ukraine;
- Polish Cultural and Educational Association „Zbaraż”, Zbarazh, Ukraine;
- Association of Home Army Soldiers in Belarus. ■

” THE COOPERATION WITH THE MHB WILL ENABLE THE MUSEUM TO OBTAIN MATERIALS THAT DOCUMENT THE VALOUR OF THE POLISH ARMED FORCES DURING WORLD WAR II.



**PROMOTIONAL
ACTIVITIES**

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Promotion Department deals with a wide range of activities concerning marketing, promotion of the Museum and its activities in various areas, as well as communication. In performing the latter task, the department cooperates with the Museum Spokesperson.

REGULAR TASKS OF THE PROMOTION DEPARTMENT:

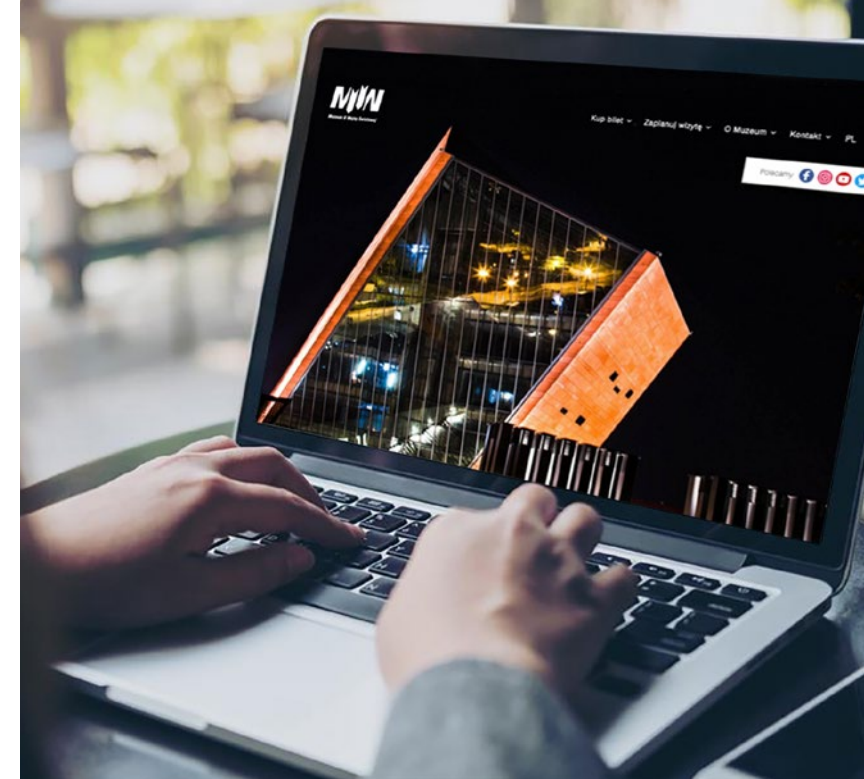
- maintaining and updating the Museum's website (Polish and English language ver-

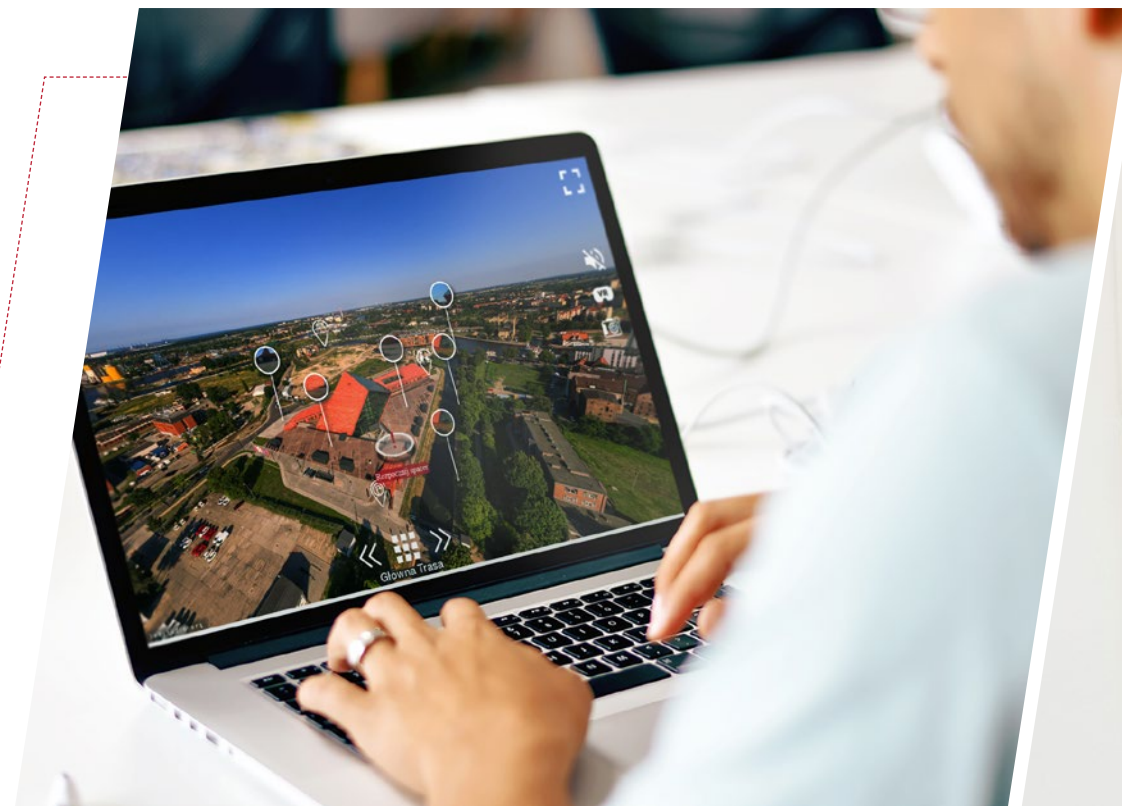
sion) as well as the Museum's profile on social media: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, Google+;

- preparing texts and carrying out and coordinating work on graphic designs of advertisements, invitations, leaflets, posters created for the purposes of events organized by the Museum;
- distribution of promotional materials, e.g. leaflets, exhibition catalogues, invitations, calendars;
- overseeing the consistency of the Museum's visual identity and the promotion of film materials produced by the Film Documentation Department;
- coordination and ordering photographic documentation of events, exhibits, publications, places related to the Museum, including digitization of the Museum's collections, photographic documentation of the second stage of archaeological works at Westerplatte, preparation of photographs for the catalogue of the temporary exhibition *Seven looks at Westerplatte* [*Westerplatte w 7 odsłonach*];
- presenting on Facebook any items from the Museum's collections which are not displayed at the main exhibition in order to promote the rich collection of the institution;
- presentation of the marketing offer, including educational activities, Museum publications, repertoire of the Museum Cinema, conference centre, hotel part and museum shop on social

media in order to encourage visits to the Museum and the use of additional services offered by the institution;

- providing information (in cooperation with the Scientific Department) about the most important events, interesting facts related to the history of World War II, the most important characters of that period, and, above all, Polish soldiers and their fate;
- promotion of a series of historical programmes entitled *Images of War* [*Obrazy wojny*], co-created by the Museum of the Second World War and Radio Gdańsk, a programme presenting interesting figures and events from the Second World War on the basis of witness records collected by the Museum, expert commentaries, archival materials and photographs of exhibits; a popular scientific programme is promoted in social media and on the website;
- preparing texts and graphic design of advertisements for the press, radio and television;
- cooperating with Tricity schools, tourist information points and school youth hostels;
- creating a profiled address and e-mail database of the institution adapted to the Museum's activities;
- coordination of the Museum's cooperation with local and regional institutional partners and the veterans' community, as well as other patriotic, historical or public benefit organizations and associations, e.g. co-organization of events and patronage over competitions, festivals, etc.





” AN IMPORTANT TASK OF THE PROMOTION DEPARTMENT WAS CREATING A VIRTUAL WALK AS AN INNOVATIVE MULTIMEDIA FEATURE FOR MUSEUMS.

are left nowadays. The virtual walk of the Museum also has the feature of buying tickets via an online ticket sales system, provides information on how to get to Westerplatte and enables you to take a virtual walk to the Piasnica Museum in Wejherowo (a branch of the Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo). The virtual walk has been integrated into the new website of the institution: www.muzeum1939.pl, and adapted for viewing on mobile devices.

▪ **Visual identification** – the Promotion Department has updated graphic elements in accordance with current graphic design trends. The final argument for redesigning the graphic materials was the wish to give the Museum a coherent and modern image.

▪ **Change of promotion strategy** – the change involved limiting costly and less effective advertisements of the institution in the press, radio and television in favour of online marketing and social media, including promotion of posts directly from the fanpage and utilising AdWords campaigns as reliable and less costly promotion methods. A different approach to outdoor advertising that involves renting advertising space in key locations (due to the number and type of recipients and the nature of the medium - advertising pillars, multimedia screens, billboards, advertising boards) without purchasing advertising packages.

PRIORITY TASKS

▪ **New website** – launched in 2017. The main reason for its implementation was to improve communication with visitors and optimise costs. The new website has a completely new user interface - more attractive, minimalist, responsive, clear and communicative; the website also includes rich animations, videos, better typography, and hierarchical structure of information. It meets the needs of the information service of a modern museum. The home page contains the most important information about visiting the Museum, such as ticket

prices with a link to the Internet sales system, opening hours with the rules of visiting the museum, the address of the institution with a link to an interactive map. Its main element and the biggest innovation is the 360° virtual tour of the Museum and the Westerplatte peninsula - a constantly developed feature that uses virtual reality technology.

▪ **Virtual Tour of Westerplatte** – an important task of the Promotion Department was creating a virtual walk as an innova-

tive multimedia feature for museums. The undeniable educational value of a virtual walk is supported by numbers: 100 original panoramas of Westerplatte (also from the bird's eye view), 40 archival photographs meticulously composed into them, over 30 historical recordings and soundtracks, among other things, the accounts of the defenders of the Military Transit Depot. This enables any person to take a virtual walk on the Westerplatte peninsula, get to know its history and discover the original shape of places where only a few traces

TASKS OF THE PROMOTION DEPARTMENT IN 2017:

- **May:** coordination of promotional activities related to the European Night of Museums, promotional activity in connection with the visit to the Museum by a hundred thousand visitors; information on expanding the collections; report from the meeting of the Museum management with representatives of several patriotic organizations, promotion of the Museum Conference Centre.
- **June:** preparing promotional campaign on the occasion of Children's Day, beginning of the promotion of the Museum's hotel part, provision of information about further expansion of the collection, report on the commemoration of the third pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II by the Museum Director, report on the memorabilia donated by Waleria Baran, participant of the Warsaw Uprising, reporting on the activities of the Museum delegation in Volhynia in Ukraine, organising a blood donation near the Museum together with Regional Centre for Blood Donation and Chemotherapy in Gdańsk, promoting the visit of the French ambassador to Poland, Pierre Lévy, in the Museum.
- **July:** beginning of the promotion of a series of broadcasts entitled *Images of War [Obrazy wojny]*, information about the U.S. President's speech about World War II and heroic stances of Poles, presentation of exhibits related to the Volhynian Massacre that are absent at the main exhibition, informing about the visit of the President of Poland to the Gdańsk Monument to the Polish Victims of Massacre in Volhynia, beginning of publication of photos of exhibits absent from the main exhibition on the website and in social media, report from the visit of the NBA basketball player Marcin Gortat with the Washington Wizards team to the Museum, provision of information about film recordings with witnesses of history of made in Belarus, promoting the

HeroON – turn on history! [BohaterON – włącz historię!] project and holding the related press conference.

- **August:** promoting the celebrations 73. the anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising, preparing, together with the Department of Film Knowledge of the University of Gdańsk, a historical notation with Tadeusz Keller, informing about the start of archaeological works at Westerplatte, promoting the competition of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the best publications on the history of Poland and Polish diplomacy, coordinating the work of the Republika Television studio in the Museum in connection with the *Republic for Summer Holidays [Republika na wakacje]* programme, covering the visit by the Museum's oldest donor - Józefa Krośnicka, and her family, promoting ceremonies commemorating the victims of the NKVD anti-Polish operation, informing about the Museum's patronage over the *22nd Westerplatte Meeting*, covering the celebration of the 37th anniversary of signing the Gdańsk Agreement.

- **September:** promoting the commemoration of the 78th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, reporting on the visit of the Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, Stanisław Karczewski, to the main exhibition, providing information about the commemoration of the Fallen Post Workers by the Museum, a note about the visit of Westerplatte families, co-execution and participation in TVP Kultura *Stacja kultura* programme, informing about the visit of Zygmunt Wisniewski, son of the defender of the Polish Post Office in Gdańsk and a group of veterans from Scotland, to the Museum, promoting the *Senior Citizen's Weekend with Culture* project, promoting the concert of *Hope*, announcement of a meeting with board war and historical games, coordination of a series of three events commemorating the victims of the Soviet genocide in 1937-1940, promoting a concert by Lech Makowiecki and the Zayazd band, providing information about the visit of veterans from the Oder-Niemen Association, promoting the temporary exhibition *Polish Army in the Lens of Henryk Poddębski [Wojsko polskie w obiektywie Henryka Poddębskiego]*, providing information about the 75th anniversary of the creation of National Armed Forces, promoting the lecture by Kajetan Rajski *From Home Army to "Freedom and Independence" [Od Armii Krajowej do Zrzeszenia „Wolność i Niezawisłość”]*, promoting the screening of *The Unconquered, Wielka droga*, and public reading Kamienie

na szaniec in the Museum, commemorating the 78th anniversary of the establishment of the Polish Underground State together with the Pomeranian District of the World Association of Home Army Soldiers, coverage of the signing of a cooperation agreement with the Home Army Museum, informing about the possibility of visiting the Museum by people with disabilities.

- **October:** informing about the inauguration of the Exhibit of the Month project, promoting the international scientific conference *War and Remembrance. Cultural Memory of World War II in Poland, Germany and Russia [Wojna i pamięć. Pamięć kulturowa o II wojnie światowej w Polsce, Niemczech i Rosji]*, promoting the artistic evening entitled *Prisoner No. 918 [Więzień nr 918]* dedicated to Kazimierz Piechowski, providing information about the presentation of the album Anna Walentynowicz 1929-2010 with the participation of the authors: Sławomir Cenckiewicz PhD, Prof. of CSMC and Adam Chmielecki.

- **November:** popularising the book *Raport Witolda* combined with the opening of the exhibition of posters and the screening of the documentary *Tatusiu*, informing about the celebration of the National Independence Day, promoting re-enactment groups and the music spectacle *Bal u Pana Boga*, informing about the lecture *Losses of Polish Culture during WWII [Straty kultury polskiej w czasie II wojny światowej]* by Bartosz Januszewski from the Institute of National Remembrance, promoting a poetic evening ...czy sny się jeszcze nam wyśnią? dedicated to Grażyna Chrostowska, promoting the screening of *Józef Zator Przytocki, pseudonim „Czeremosz”*, taking care of the visuals of the Museum cinema, informing about the opening of the Museum cinema and systematic promotion of cinema screenings, announcing a course for candidates for Museum guides, promoting of the opening of the temporary exhibition *Preserving Memory. Forced and Slave Labour of Polish Citizens for the Third Reich in 1939-1945 [Zachować pamięć. Praca przymusowa i niewolnicza obywateli polskich na rzecz III Rzeszy w latach 1939–1945]*, promoting Piotr Langenfeld's book *Wojna oszukanych*, reporting from a meeting popularising the Museum in the Polish POSK Library, promoting the final of the *Bards of Freedom [Bardowie wolności]* competition.

- **December:** announcement of the fourth edition of the conference *Żuławy in 1945. Half-closed Books [Żuławy w 1945 roku. Niedomknięte książki]* organized in the Museum, commemoration of the

150th anniversary of the birth of Marshal Józef Piłsudski, promotion of a scientific conference *Polish-German historic seminar [Polsko-niemieckie seminarium historyczne]* devoted to the history of Gdańsk, organization of the *Westerplatte – Polish Pearl Harbor [Westerplatte – polskie Pearl Harbor]* event and presentation of the new website of the Museum1939.pl with a *Virtual Tour of Westerplatte*, providing information about the meeting with partners from Liberation Route Europe, promotion of Artur Jendrzewski's book *Polsko, ile Ty mnie kosztowałaś...* published by the Museum, promoting of a conference devoted to the de-communisation of street names in the Pomorskie Region, reporting from the NSZZ Solidarność National Committee meeting in the Museum, *A day for Gdańsk hospices in the Museum of Second World War [Dzień dla gdańskich hospicjów w Muzeum II Wojny Światowej]* campaign, promoting *Christmas in a Concentration Camp [Święta Bożego Narodzenia w obozie koncentracyjnym]*, film produced by the Film Documentation Department. ■



COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES



COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Apart from the activities connected with its statutory tasks, the Museum, having at its disposal an appropriate infrastructure, also conducts commercial activities, offering a whole range of services. The performance of tasks within this scope is carried out by the Sales Department with its sales specialists, visitors' service coordinators, cashiers, salesmen and receptionists. It is responsible for the ticket sales for the main exhibition and temporary exhibitions, the sale of publications and museum gadgets, the rental of rooms and suites as well as conference and cinema rooms.

As part of this activity, on 26 April 2017 - the first commercial event took place, on 1 June 2017, the hotel part was opened, on 1 August 2017 the museum shop was opened, and on 10 August 2017 the bar (called "Bistro Museum") was opened – it is run by a company selected in a competition for the lease of premises.

The museum shop, which has been operating since 1 August 2017, offers souvenirs and publications published by the institution

and other publishers with whom the Museum has signed a cooperation agreement.

The department organized a competition for the lease of a food outlet: a bar on levels -3 and -2. The restaurant on level +4 and the café on level +5 will be leased on the basis of a separate competition. The commercial areas will be leased for a rent. On 15 August 2017, the Bistro Museum bar on levels -3 and -2 was opened. At that time, a lease agreement and rental regulations for the Conference Centre of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk were also drafted. The Centre includes a conference room, cinema room, foyer, temporary exhibition room and teaching rooms.

On 1 June 2017, the hotel part was opened; it is also managed by the Sales Department. After a detailed analysis of the hotel market in the Tricity, the Sales Department has prepared a price list of room and apartment rental, broken down into low and high season. Since the beginning of June, the Museum has started renting rooms and suites through its website and other Internet sales channels, including leading booking portals. ■



SKLEP MUZEALNY





**MUSEUM OF WESTERPLATTE
AND THE WAR OF 1939,
BRANCH OF THE MUSEUM OF
THE SECOND WORLD WAR**



MUSEUM OF WESTERPLATTE AND THE WAR OF 1939, BRANCH OF THE MUSEUM OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

PROGRAMME CONCEPT

Westerplatte is one of the most characteristic and at the same time the most recognizable places in the history of the Polish army. The battlefield on Westerplatte is a symbol, a monument whose historical value is particularly well recognised by the Polish nation. The area of the Military Transit Depot on Westerplatte is associated by the Poles with heroism and tenacity in the fight against the German invader.

The most important reference planes around for the main historical narrative of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 are:

- the history of the Polish struggle for the peninsula, started by the activities of the General Delegate of the Ministry of Provisions, Mieczysław Jałowiecki, and the purchase of land on the territory of the Free City of Danzig, until the end of the fighting and capitulation of the Military Transit Depot;
- wartime and post-war fates of the defenders of the Military Transit Depot at Westerplatte, which show how complicated and difficult the years spent in prisoner-of-war camps and then



life in the communist Poland were for Westerplatte soldiers,

- armament and equipment of the Polish Army in the years 1918-1939, with the emphasis on various types of war material found in the Military Transit Depot;
- the history of Westerplatte inscribed more broadly in the geopolitical processes in the reborn, independent Republic of Poland as an example of the struggle to become independent from neighbouring countries.

The narrative of the Westerplatte Museum, which refers to the past, present and future, is built around the aforementioned reference points. In order for the Westerplatte Museum to carry out its programme, there are several planes that will ensure that the objectives and tasks assumed by the organisation are achieved. The combination of its roles as a museum and a remembrance site with informational, educational, recreational and park functions will enable the Westerplatte Museum to undertake activities in the field of scientific research, education, culture, art, and organise outdoor events, thus filling the empty space in Westerplatte

One of the most important tasks of the Westerplatte Museum is the preservation of monuments of military architecture (existing ruins and discovered fragments), which constitute the physical, tangible part of the Westerplatte Museum. Architectural monuments left after the heroic defence against the German aggression are a testimony to the past. The buildings will be reconstructed and the Westerplatte area will be revitalised. The physical plane, consisting of preserved buildings of exceptional historical importance, together with reconstructed or visible objects, will be part of the Westerplatte landscape, which will link the past with the present and the future. According to the Westerplatte revit-

alisation concept, the architectural elements of the former Military Transit Depot are to be displayed in the form of archaeological digs, preserved or reconstructed foundations, exposed or partly reconstructed - where possible - earthworks and masonry objects that have been renovated.

The physical plane of the Westerplatte Museum is to be the basis for the informational and educational plane, whose main tasks are education, scientific and research activities, popularization of history and acquisition of collections. The functioning of the informational and educational sphere focuses on the fundamental goal of presenting the history of Westerplatte and the soldiers who served there against a broad historical, social, economic and military background, in relation to the history of the Second Polish Republic. The Westerplatte Museum wants to serve as an educational centre promoting the history of Poland, especially its special role during the Second World War. The branch is also striving to become one of the centres promoting independence, patriotic and civic traditions.

Westerplatte Museum can also host conferences, workshops, meetings, lectures and debates. It will be an open area for historians, history enthusiasts, students, as well as tourists who are more and more willing to visit places connected with Polish history. ■

THE MOST IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MUSEUM OF WESTERPLATTE AND THE WAR OF 1939

■ **20 May 2017** - European Night of Museum at Westerplatte. All projects related to this event took place in the historic building of the Power Plant of the Military Transit Depot. The Museum organised historical re-enactment shows presenting the units of the Polish Army of the Second Polish Republic, original pre-war military equipment and weapons, as well as the screening of the archival film. Children will have an opportunity to see the 100-year-old field cannon wz. 26 and the anti-tank cannon Bofors wz. 36 produced in 1939. (the same model was used during the defence of Westerplatte).

■ **1 August 2017** - start of the second stage of archaeological works on Westerplatte. From the first day of the excavations, archaeologists from the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 presented items unearthed around the relics of the Administrative Building and the Old Barracks. The purpose of this part of the archaeological works carried out at Westerplatte is to confirm the location and documentation of the condition of the remains of two buildings erected at the end of the 19th century. These buildings were built to meet the needs of the then existing resort. After 1926, after the area of Westerplatte was granted to Poland, the buildings became part of the Military Transit Depot. One of them was used as barracks (the so-called Old Barracks) until 1936, and the other as an Administrative Building. The assessment of the conservation status of these objects is necessary to prepare a concept for their reconstruction or permanent protection and exposition of these sites. This will take place within the framework of the planned restoration of the history monument „Battlefield of Westerplatte”. The next element of the works is the documentation of the crater after the explosion of the air bomb, located on the northern side of the remnants of Guardhouse no. 5. This was partly accomplished during research carried out by the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 in 2016. The planned works are carried out in the historical area, entered in the register of monuments.

■ **1 September 2017** - opening of the temporary exhibition *Seven looks at Westerplatte [Westerplatte w 7 odsłonach]*. The Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 presented in the temporary exhibition hall of the Museum of the Second World War items collected during the first stage of archaeological works at Westerplatte. In December 2017, the Museum of the Second World War also published a catalogue of the exhibition. The catalogue presented the results of the first stage of archaeological works. There is also a short historical note of the Westerplatte peninsula, calendars of the most important objects of the Military Transit Depot, photographs of the unearthed items and many previously unpublished archival photographs showing, among others, the work of Polish civilian prisoners on Westerplatte after the capitulation of the Military Transit Depot in 1939.

■ **1 September 2017** – *1st Westerplatte Independence Concert [Koncert Niepodległości Westerplatte]*. An event entirely devoted to young people fighting for the independence of the Republic of Poland. The starting point of the narrative was the heroism of three young soldiers of the „Wał” Post - Edmund Szamlewski, Ignacy Zatorski, Ignacy Pokrzywka, who alone repelled the first German infantry attack on the Military Transit Depot at dawn on 1 September 1939. The concert was an exceptional event on the Polish music scene. Its repertoire included contemporary arrangements of patriotic songs.

■ **7 December 2017** - VR show – *Westerplatte – Polish Pearl Harbor [Westerplatte – polskie Pearl Harbor]*. Mariusz Wójtowicz-Podhorski, director of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 in connection with the event organized by the Museum of the Second World War, gave a lecture entitled: *Pearl Harbor and Westerplatte – Places-Symbols of the Outbreak of World War II [Pearl Harbor i Westerplatte – miejsca symbole rozpoczęcia II wojny światowej]*. The idea behind the meeting was to commemorate an important anniversary of the United States of America's joining the Second World War and to present to a wider audience an innovative solution in the field of museum multimedia – *Virtual Tour of Westerplatte [Wirtualny spacer po Westerplatte]*. ■

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Besides the Archaeological Department, the core of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 is the Educational Department. In June, preparations were underway for the introduction of the educational offer of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939 to be provided in the new branch office. In September, the Museum of Westerplatte team participated in the official celebrations on the peninsula and the opening of the *Seven looks at Westerplatte [Westerplatte w 7 odsłonach]* and organized viewing of the former Military Transit Depot and of the temporary exhibition. In June, employees of the branch participated in a seminar *It is before I die that I want to know more [A ja właśnie przed śmiercią chcę wiedzieć więcej]* organized by the Stuthof Museum in Sztutowo and took part in the ceremony of naming the Primary School No. 7 in Gdańsk after Major Mieczysław Słaby. At the end of the year, the Museum also started cooperation with the director of the Library in Sadki (preparing a contest about Westerplatte for primary and secondary school students *The Peninsula of Glory – Westerplatte [Półwysep Chwały – Westerplatte]*).

■ **Young Archaeologist [Mały Archeolog]** – lesson at the temporary exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War *Seven looks at Westerplatte [Westerplatte w 7 odsłonach]*. The children learned the basics of archaeological works. Under the care of the branch educators, using tools used by archaeologists, they would search for items related to the history of the Westerplatte



defence. They also visited a temporary exhibition. The project was aimed at children aged 5 to 10 years.

GUIDED TOURS OF WESTERPLATTE

In 2017, more than 1,200 people were guided around the Westerplatte battlefield by employees of the Museum of Westerplatte and the War of 1939. ■



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of the Museum of the
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