



Polish-American Foundation

for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin

Concept

The Museum of Prisoner of War Camps in Szubin will study and preserve the memory of a little-known aspect of the region's 20th-century history: the thousands of POWs from Allied nations held in the local German camps during World War II. The history will be told within the broader context of the establishment and functioning of the German POW camp network in German-occupied Poland; the stories and camp life of the Allied prisoners; and, the relationships between the Szubin locals and the prisoners.

The museum will provide a separate space for research-related events (conferences, lectures, discussions), educational activities (museum lessons) and cultural events (concerts, temporary exhibitions).

Already designated as a Place of National Memory, the site will become an important spot on the map for all those who are interested in World War II, and the experiences of the POWs: their descendants, academic researchers, and those with a keen interest in history.

A monument adjacent to the building will commemorate the prisoners. Individual plaques will bear the names and ranks of the thousands of POWs who were imprisoned in the Szubin camps during World War II.

Place

The museum will be located in the [north-western part of the former Szubin POW camp](#), on a plot that the State Treasury gave to the Szubin municipality in September 2018.

The new structure will replace an original camp barracks building, whose poor condition prevented further use. The bricks acquired from the de-construction of the barracks will be reused, including for the purposes of building parts of the permanent exhibition.



Exhibition

The permanent exhibition will follow a chronological and thematic layout. It will begin with Szubin and the surrounding territories, focusing on the outbreak of World War II, and the German occupation of the area. The exhibits will introduce the establishment and development of the German POW camp network in the Polish lands incorporated into the Reich.

The middle (and largest) part of the exhibition will be devoted to the Szubin camps and the imprisonment of those held there. It will be divided into thematic sections related to nearly all aspects of life, work, and death behind the barbed wire.

The final part of the exhibition will deal with the final months of World War II, the post-war memory of the camps, as well as the activities of the individuals and associations responsible for establishing the Museum.

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