

EXTRA THE Oflag DAILY BULLETIN EXTRA

Issue 5

 Polish-American Foundation
for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin

 Friends of Oflag 64

December 2024

Wishing you Peace and Joy this Holiday Season

From 1943-1945, the Oflag 64 POWs used their “Tin Store” building to stockpile the lifesaving food tins that arrived in their Red Cross parcels. In the 21st century, the renovated Tin Store will provide a museum space to share their remarkable and little-known POW experiences. What was once used to save the POWs’ lives, will now be used to save their history.

During this past year, our Foundation team of historians, experts, translators, and proof-readers have researched and written an engaging narrative that sets the scene for the POW camps of World War II and the details of the POWs’ survival and departure. **See page 2 for details.**

- Video monitors, audio headsets, and 100 artifacts (thanks to your generosity), will provide the roadmap for tracing this history.
- Quotes from POWs and others of the era will be placed above the narrative.
- Glass-wall dividers will be imprinted with original POW artwork.

At the entrance, a brief video will feature the men of Oflag 64 recalling their experiences. An adjacent wall will display the names of the thousands of Polish, French, British Commonwealth, and U.S. prisoners who occupied the camps in Szubin at different times from 1939-1945.

An adjacent wall will list all donors and partners, like you, who make the Tin Store Museum possible. Since 2020, thanks to your generosity, we’ve been able to hire talented professionals--a museum designer, exhibit fabricator, archivists, builders, lighting experts, and translators—**who have brought us closer to our goal of opening the museum in 2025, the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII.**

But, we can only reach this goal with your continued generous contributions.



Tin Store interior sections. Design: Małgorzata Gliwińska-Radwańska. Renderings: Littera, Gdansk, Poland

Private donations are currently 100% of our funding. We are thankful for the artifacts and funds you have donated toward renovation, design, overhead lighting installation, and purchase of our audio and visual equipment. An additional \$100,000 is needed to cover the installation of our video and audio equipment, exhibit lighting, the fabrication and installation of our customized shelving, glass walls, printed narrative, and the catalogue design and printing.

Please consider adding the Friends of Oflag 64 to your year-end donation plans.

We are grateful for your ongoing support. Please visit www.friendsofotlag64/donate, or see page 4 for the Friends’ mailing address in Herndon, VA, or donate here:

[DONATE HERE TO HELP US FINISH](#)

Thank you for your continued generosity.

WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER AT THE TIN STORE MUSEUM?

The exhibit narrative is written in Polish and English, and divides the history into ten sections:

- Overview of POW Camps in Szubin 1939-1945
- Contact with the Outside World
- Germans
- Spiritual Life
- Struggling with the Monotony of Camp Life
- Barbed-Wire Publications
- Escapes & Other Clandestine Activity
- Bearing Witness to the Site of the Katyn Massacre
- Living Conditions
- End of Captivity

Here are a few of its artifacts:



Many POWs wore uniforms outfitted with a button that contained a compass. Others received theirs from clandestine packages sent by Military Intelligence (MIS-X). Donated by Tony B. Lumpkin III, via Friends of Oflag 64, and Kay Godfrey Cruise and Brant Godfrey, via Friends of Oflag 64



Handmade shoe by POW Lt. Walter S. Parks, Jr. Donated by Janice Parks Brown, Vivian Parks David, and Walter Parks, via Friends of Oflag 64



Christmas Gazette prepared by German guards of Oflag XXI B Schubin. Foundation collection



Original barbed wire can still be found around the perimeter of the camp grounds



The three figures of the Foundation logo represent: the past POWs of Szubin; all of us today who learn from and share their history; and future generations who will continue to benefit from this knowledge.

LEAGUE OF POW REMEMBRANCE LAUNCHES INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

On November 15, 2024 in Warsaw, our Foundation participated in the 1st International Congress on Prisoners of War Memorial Sites: Heritage and Strategies for the Future. The full-day meeting included eighteen speakers and moderators from leading museums, archives, and foundations, who participated across four panels:

- Multidimensional Memory of POWs
- Practical Dimensions of the Treatment of POWs
- Prisoners in Social Space: Education, Pop Culture & Technological Innovations
- Heritage & Protection: Global Challenges in POW Memory.

Speakers included those from: Poland's War Studies University, the National Hellenic Research Foundation in Athens, the Research Center for the Economics of Memorial Sites, and the Katyn Museum. The conference welcomed more than 150 in-person and online attendees. It was organized by the League of POW Remembrance, of which our Foundation is a founding member, and was led by Poland's Central Museum of Prisoners-of-War in collaboration with SWPS University, Warsaw.



Foundation Board member Dr. Jan Daniluk moderates the first panel, "Multidimensional Memory of POWs." Photo: CMJW

Our Foundation historian and Board member Dr. Jan Daniluk led the opening panel on POW memory. Joining this panel, Foundation Board VP Susanna Bolten Connaughton spoke on "Descendant Discoveries" and their effects on future generations.



Board members of the League of POW Remembrance, include the Foundation's Dr. Mariusz Winięcki (2nd fr. L), and Dr. Jan Daniluk (4th fr. L). Photo: CMJW

Foundation Board President Mariusz Winięcki represented the Foundation in informal conversations and displays of our Tin Store Museum progress. All our Board members engaged with this vibrant and experienced group to discuss opportunities and best practices for collaborations, exhibits, funding sources, and exposure.

The conference was funded through a grant from the European Union's Investment A2.5.1 Development Plan, which supports the growth of organizations in the cultural and creative sectors. Our Foundation's mission is to research, educate, and commemorate, and is honored to be a part of this inspiring community: Central



Foundation Board VP Susanna Bolten Connaughton presents "Descendant Discoveries."

Museum of POWs (leading organization), Woldenberg Museum in Dobiegniew, Foundation Gross Born, the Memory, Education, Culture Foundation of Stalag VIII A Görlitz, and the POW Camps Museum at Stalag Luft III Żagań. The League plans to organize future conferences biennially. We look forward to the next one in 2026.



Friends of Oflag 64

MISSION: Friends of Oflag 64 supports the Polish-American Foundation by fundraising, collecting artifacts, publicizing and promoting the Museum of POWs in Szubin, so that the history of the POW camp in Szubin and the courageous Polish citizens who assisted them will be preserved for generations to come.

[friendsofotlag64.org](http://www.friendsofotlag64.org)

[@FriendsOfOflag64](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfOflag64)

office@friendsofotlag64.org

[donate to Friends of Oflag 64](#)

Mailing Address:

Friends of Oflag 64

12768 Turberville Lane

Herndon, VA 20171-2214 US

Cindy Sharpe Burgess, Chairman



The staff of "Headlines by the AP," (l-r) 1st Row: Leonard Feldman, Gerald Long, Seymour Bolten. 2nd Row: Richard Rossbach, Larry Allen. Photo taken January 1944 at Oflag 64. Photo courtesy of Susanna Bolten Connaughton.



Polish-American Foundation

for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin

MISSION: The Foundation contributes to the knowledge of World War II by studying and commemorating the experiences of Allied prisoners-of-war. In addition to the history and operations of the German POW camps, its projects focus on the thousands of POWs who the Germans incarcerated in Szubin, Poland, and the brave Polish citizens who assisted those prisoners. Its cornerstone project is the creation of a museum in Szubin at the original site of one of the camp's barracks.

[szubinpowcamps.org](http://www.szubinpowcamps.org)

[@oflag64altburgund](https://www.facebook.com/oflag64altburgund)

[@szubin_pow_camps](https://www.instagram.com/szubin_pow_camps)

[@pow_64](https://twitter.com/pow_64)

office@szubinpowcamps.org

[donate to Polish-American Foundation](#)
(via Friends of Oflag 64)

Mailing Address:

Polish-American Foundation for the
Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin
ul. Gen. Jarosława Dąbrowskiego 17/1
89-200 Szubin, Poland

Mariusz Winiecki, President



The Oflag 64 POWs hand-lettered this masthead for their daily news-sheet. U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center. Photo Susanna Bolten Connaughton.