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# MEMORIA

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## 82ND ANNIVERSARY OF DEPORTATION OF THE FIRST POLES TO KL AUSCHWITZ – NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE DAY

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STORIES FOR THE  
UK HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL

THE  
INSTALLATION  
“FIRST  
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We invite all of you to work closely with us. We would be grateful to receive information about events, projects, publications, exhibitions, conferences or research that we should share with our readers. We also accept proposals for articles.

Paweł Sawicki, Editor-in-Chief

Our e-mail: [memoria@auschwitz.org](mailto:memoria@auschwitz.org)

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# STONES AND STORIES

## FOR THE UK HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

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Combining the tactile power of commemorative stones with an immersive digital experience, the Foundation Stones Map demonstrates the depth of the British public's connections to the Holocaust

Over the past three years, more than 10,000 people across the UK have painted a commemorative stone for the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre to be built in London. The project, called Foundation Stones, invites everyone to paint a stone that will become part of the Memorial's foundations. Inspired by the Jewish custom of laying small stones on headstones and graves, every stone is a promise to remember the past and to build a future free from antisemitism and all forms of hate. At its heart it fosters a creative and meaningful connection with the new Memorial, which aims to tell the British story of the Holocaust, a narrative not well known or understood by many.

On Yom HaShoah, the Foundation Stones Map was launched online. It is an immersive trail of 27 stones and the stories behind them. The stones, which in real life are strikingly beautiful objects, have been painstakingly rendered in 3D by being photographed hundreds of times. The effect is striking: when you view them in the map, you feel as though you can touch them and hold them in your hand.

To explore the Foundation Stones Map visit: [www.foundationstones.uk](http://www.foundationstones.uk)

Dr Virginia Crompton, CEO of Big Ideas, which runs the Foundation Stones project on behalf of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation said: "It's the marrying of the fundamental simplicity of a painted stone with an immersive digital space that I find incredibly moving. It translates the tactile

experience of holding a stone, turning it and seeing it from all angles to a compelling virtual experience that is both poignant and profound."

The trail begins in Liverpool at the Everton Football Club stadium where a woman who accompanied young Premier League players on an educational trip to the Auschwitz Memorial Museum transformed her stone into a small shoe. The woman was inspired by the stone's natural shape and size to replicate a child's shoe. It is a moving tribute to the 1.5 million children who were murdered, a connection you hear narrated with gravitas and warmth by award winning actor Juliet Stevenson.

The trail ends next to the Houses of Parliament in London, with a beautiful stone covered in brightly coloured paint and created by a 98 year old woman for her mother who was murdered in Auschwitz.

Lord Pickles, Co-Chair of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation, explains, "Every stone on this trail has a story or message for our new UK Holocaust Memorial in London." Fellow Co-Chair Ed Balls, adds "By exploring the trail you discover the British public's emotional connections to the history of the Holocaust, from families lost to the resilience of survivors." And it's the mapping of these stories in the places they connect to, that shows a rich tapestry of connections across every corner of the UK to this history.

The Foundation Stones Map was made



# Foundation Stones

Start Trail ▶

## 1. The child's shoe stone

*Goodison Park Stadium, Liverpool*

The trail begins with a stone transformed into a child's shoe. It was painted by a woman from Everton Football Club who accompanied young academy players on a trip to Auschwitz.

## 2. A stone for Eleanor Rathbone

*The Royal Liver Building, Liverpool*

This stone is dedicated to MP Eleanor Rathbone who tirelessly campaigned for the rights of refugees and for government to do more to stand up to Nazi



The Foundation Stones Map was made possible with the support of Google.org. Rowan Barnett, Director of Google.org, Europe, Middle East & Africa, said: "The story of so many families, including my own, is intertwined with the history of the Holocaust. We all have a shared responsibility to promote Holocaust remembrance, and it's vital that we work together with governments and civil society to do that, as well as striving to combat antisemitism and ensuring a future free from hate."

By releasing a series of curated trails on the Foundation Stones Map, the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation will bring the power of these beautiful commemorative objects to a wider audience. Foundation Stones is built on the idea that sharing thoughtful and emotional connections to history helps ensure its enduring legacy. The Foundation Stones Map takes this into an immersive digital space with great impact.

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# 82ND ANNIVERSARY OF DEPORTATION OF THE FIRST POLES TO KL AUSCHWITZ – NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE DAY

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14 June 1940 is considered the date when German Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz began its functioning. On that day, the Germans deported from the prison in Tarnów to the Auschwitz camp the group of 728 Poles. Among them were soldiers of the September 1939 campaign, members of underground independence groups, high-school and university students, and a small group of Polish Jews. They received numbers 31 to 758.

Events commemorating the 82nd anniversary of this event took place under the National Patronage of Andrzej Duda, the President of Poland. Upon the decision of the Polish Sejm, 14 June is commemorated as the National Day of Remembrance for the Victims of German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camps.

A visual symbol of commemorative events was constituted by the original boxing glove that Tadeusz Pietrzykowski, prisoner of the first transport from 14 June (no. 77), used to wear while fighting at Auschwitz, and a secret message sent by him from the camp to his family.

13 Auschwitz Survivors took part in the events commemorating the anniversary at the Memorial, together with the representatives of state and self-government authorities, the diplomatic corps, clergy, delegations of organizers, members of numerous institutions and community organizations as well as all those who intended to honour the memory of the victims of German Nazis.

In his letter addressed to the participants of commemorative event Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Culture and National Heritage Prof. Piotr Gliński wrote: "Today we express the words of our utmost honour to all victims of KL Auschwitz-Birkenau, in particular to camp prisoners present during today's events as witnesses of history sharing dramatic testimony

of their lives, as well as to their families, descendants and relatives".

'I would also like to thank the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Oświęcim, custodian of the Memorial, for its persistent efforts in securing and making available the proofs of German crimes perpetrated within the KL Auschwitz camp complex. Numerous Museum staff members today honour the members of their own families who experienced the suffering and martyrdom in this camp. This year, the Museum celebrates a great anniversary of 75 years of its activity consisting in titanic work on preserving the memory of this place, storing this painful heritage and making it publicly available', Prof. Piotr Gliński wrote.

The letter by Elżbieta Witek, Marshal of the Sejm was also read during the commemorative events: "On 14 June 1940, a cruel Nazi extermination machine was launched, born out of hatred and desire to rule the world. It took millions of lives, becoming the source of unimaginable pain and suffering, trampling dignity and choking hope. Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp became the site where the Nazi made the attempts to finally annihilate the Jewish nation, exterminate Poles, Roma and the representatives of other nations. The enormity of tragedy that took place here, extending beyond the borders of perception and understanding, continues to raise questions on preserving the values and on the essence of

# National Remembrance Day for Victims of the German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camps

14 June 2022



preserving the values and on the essence of humanity.

In his speech Dr. Piotr M. A. Cywiński, Director of the Auschwitz Museum, addressed Auschwitz Survivors present during the ceremony: 'By expressing my words of thanks for the participation of so many of you I would like, on behalf of the entire Museum staff, to pay homage to all those who perished here, who were tortured, but I also refer to all those who, after WW2, tried to save the peace using different methods. Even in the toughest communist times. May we be able to appreciate peace'.

'We are standing here together with those who lived their nearly entire lives under the pillory of the words "Never Again". And we see what is happening beyond our eastern border, in Ukraine. Half a year ago, we all used to think that in Europe, the war on such scale is impossible. Dozens of thousands or more civilian victims. May this anniversary make us realize deep implications of lessons from the tragic past which, however, after WW2 formed the foundations of post-war reality, the time

when we managed to live safely without the threat of war', Piotr Cywiński emphasized.

National anthem was played in front of Block 11 and under the Death Wall in the courtyard of Block 11 and the participants of commemorative events laid wreaths and candles in order to commemorate all victims of the German Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz.

Wreaths were also laid under the plaque devoted to the first transport on the building of the former Polish Tobacco Monopoly, in the vicinity of the current Auschwitz Memorial site. This is where on 14 June 1940, the SS men placed the prisoners for the period of quarantine, and today, it is the seat of the Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki State University of Małopolska in Oświęcim.

Official ceremony finished with the Holy Mass celebrated at Saint Maximilian's Center in Harmężę, where the exhibition by Marian Kołodziej, former prisoner of the first transport number 423 entitled "Negatives of Memory. Labyrinths" is presented. The Mass was led by





number 423 entitled "Negatives of Memory. Labyrinths" is presented. The Mass was led by Bishop Ordinary Roman Pindel of the Bielsko-Żywiec diocese.

'We have gathered in this very special church, not far away from the Auschwitz camp on 14 June in order to commemorate the first transport of prisoners from Tarnów. It is also the date when we commemorate the National Day of Remembrance for the Victims of German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camps. For years, we have been referring here to specific elements of this event that is considered a starting point for the operations of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp in 1940. It is good that here, in the shadow of Auschwitz-Birkenau, but also in many other places in Poland, we remember. We do remember as expressed in

the text to be found at the entrance to the famous cemetery of the distinguished in Zakopane: motherland is the soil and graves. Nations that lose memory, lose life', Bishop Pindel said.

One of the events accompanying the commemoration was the inauguration of the exhibition "Stolen Memory" created by Arolsen Archives displayed in front of the entrance to the Memorial until 30 June as well as the conference devoted to the fate of Polish foresters involved during WW2 in the activities of the resistance movement and the history of first transports of Poles to German Nazi camp Auschwitz. The agenda also included a discussion panel with the participation of the families of camp Survivors.





### **Organizers of commemorative events:**

- Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum
- Saint Maximilian's Center in Harmężę
- Jewish Center in Oświęcim
- Bielsko-Żywiec Diocese
- Movart Foundation
- The Memorial Foundation for the Victims of Auschwitz-Birkenau
- Foundation of Memory Sites near Auschwitz-Birkenau
- Foundation-Memorial Hospice for the City of Oświęcim
- Oświęcim Municipality
- Cracow Foundation Center for Information, Meetings, Dialogue, Education and Prayer in Oświęcim
- Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki State University of Małopolska in Oświęcim
- The City of Oświęcim
- The City of Tarnów
- International Youth Meeting Center in Oświęcim
- The Remembrance Museum of Land of Oświęcim Residents
- Castle Museum in Oświęcim
- Department of the Institute of National Remembrance in Cracow
- Province of Saint Anthony and Blessed Jakub Strzebię of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual Franciscans
- Oświęcim County Office
- Auschwitz Memento Association
- Roma Association in Poland
- Society for the Care of Oświęcim
- Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression

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# THE INSTALLATION "FIRST TRANSPORT" AT CSW IN WARSAW

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The Ujazdowski Castle Center for Contemporary Art in Warsaw (CSW) presents the installation by Wojciech Korcuć entitled "The First Transport". It is devoted to the group of 728 Poles deported on June 14th 1940 by the Germans to the Auschwitz concentration camp, under construction at the time, from the prison in Tarnów. This event marks the beginning of the functioning of the camp.

The installation constitutes the continuation of the project initiated by the artist in 2020. He was inspired by the conversation with Barbara Wojnarowska-Gautier, Auschwitz Survivor deported to the camp from the fire of Warsaw during the Uprising in August 1944 together with her parents Eugeniusz and Irena. She was three and a half years old at the time. Upon registration she received number 83638. She was liberated together with her mother on January 27th 1945. Today she holds the function of honorary custodian of the project. Daniel Echaust is its curator.

"I've been taking part in this project since the beginning of creation of the exhibition. From the moment when the Ujazdowski Castle was visited by Barbara Wojnarowska-Gautier and when the artist, together with the management, offered me the function of curator. However, I didn't know what I would be supposed to coordinate", Daniel Echaust said.

In the years 2020-21, Wojciech Korcuć performed within the urban space the project within the framework of which the files including the names, surnames and preserved photographs of first Polish prisoners of Auschwitz were displayed. This year, the artist concentrated on the youngest victims of the transport, also making an attempt to eliminate time-related distance thanks to the application of modern visual techniques, thus bringing it closer to today's audience.

According to Dr. Piotr M. A. Cywiński, Director of the Auschwitz Museum, the installation strikes with its simplicity: "It consists of the list of 728 prisoners from the first transport, with preserved camp photographs accompanying some of the

names. They lead to a monumental red triangle with the letter "P" – the marking of a Polish political prisoner at the concentration camp. The route that visitors follow is accompanied by the sound of a train".

"Walking along the lists and portraits, in the very middle, a powerful reference to current times is visible: the figures of selected prisoners were not only coloured by the authored, but also "dressed" in the outfits currently worn by the young. It results in very interesting elimination of distance between the generations", Piotr Cywiński added.

Exhibition curator admits to have been unaware of huge emotional load of this subject: "Wojtek Korcuć allowed me to take part in the project in terms of its subject matter and to some extent artistic layer, but no one had warned me that after more than a month, the date of June 14th 1940 would be haunting me while falling asleep. I went very deeply into the topic, in a literally tangible way, and I know that God gave me a great life. The life with which I need to bear witness".

Director Cywiński emphasized that the installation presented at the Ujazdowski Castle constitutes one more piece of evidence of the power of minimalism in art: "Instead of outtalking the history including its various aspects and details it is possible, in a simple and powerful way, to present its essence: concrete individuals. This creates a strong bridge of empathy and visitor's identification with the victim's humanity."

The installation is available for visitors at the Ujazdowski Castle Center for Contemporary Art in Warsaw (CSW) until August 14th 2022.



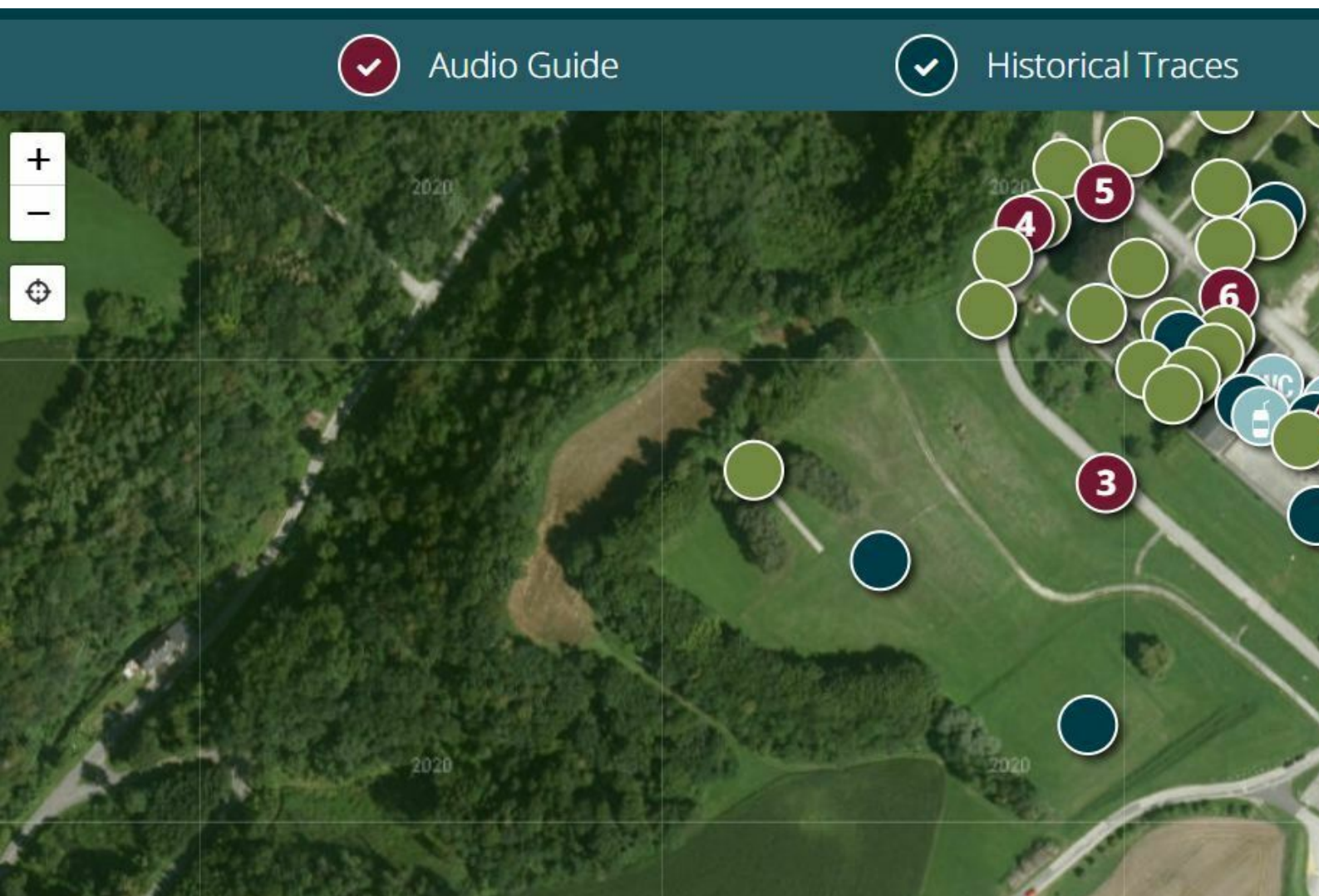


# THE MAUTHAUSEN MEMORIAL VIRTUAL GUIDE GOES ONLINE

A new module on the Gusen concentration camp makes its architectural remains visible. A module for the Mauthausen Memorial offers a self-guided audio tour. Further modules on the camps' regional environment are in progress.

While many architectural remains of the Mauthausen concentration camp are still preserved, the former Gusen branch camp was widely destroyed after 1945 and partially displaced by a housing project. For visitors to the site today, the original dimensions of the Gusen concentration camp are therefore difficult to determine. With the new Virtual Guide, the site can

be explored independently. Visitors can interactively track the still existing remains of the Gusen camp, its extension during the time of the National-Socialist regime as well as present-day monuments and memorials commemorating its history. Using GPS, users can orient themselves on site using their mobile phones.





From a technical point of view, the Virtual Guide is a Progressive Web App (PWA). This innovation combines the advantages of a conventional app with those of a website. The content can be changed and adapted dynamically. The Mauthausen Memorial is also no longer dependent on the big app stores of the tech giants.

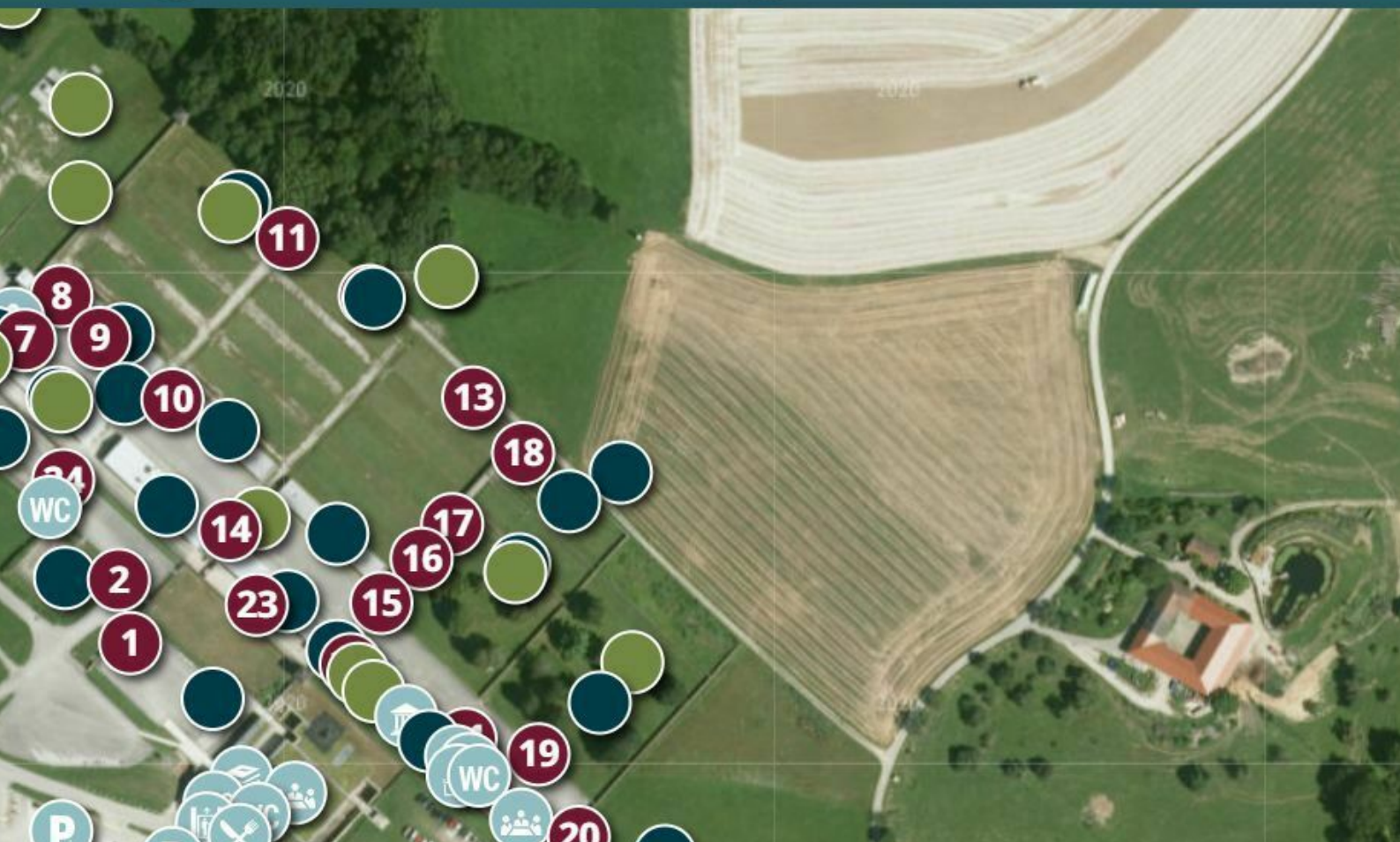
The already tried and tested Mauthausen Memorial app has been migrated entirely to this new technical format and continues to offer visitors the option of self-guided audio tours of the memorial site.

Further extensions of the Virtual Guide are currently being developed. In cooperation with "Bewusstseinsregion Mauthausen - Gusen - St. Georgen", two further modules will soon give visitors insights into the regional environment of the Mauthausen and Gusen concentration camps.

**The virtual guide and its first two modules on the Gusen and Mauthausen concentration camps can be found on the website [www.mm-tours.org](http://www.mm-tours.org)**

✓ Memorials

✓ Infrastructure



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# SOME WERE NEIGHBORS. THE USHMM EXHIBITION IN CRACOW

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The Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow opened an exhibition *Some Were Neighbors: Choice, Human Behavior & The Holocaust* created by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The *Some Were Neighbors* exhibition examines some of the central questions about the Holocaust: How was the Holocaust possible? The paramount role of Adolf Hitler and other Nazi Party leaders is indisputable, but why did so many ordinary people throughout Europe support the Nazis' crimes or remain silent? Why did so few aid those at risk?

"I am glad that this important exhibition will be available for visitors at the Galicia Jewish Museum. The topics it deals with are extremely important to us. It describes processes the understanding of which allows us not only to learn about the situation during the war, but also the behaviors that shape contemporary Polish-Jewish relations. Questions of help, indifference or betrayal are themes that constantly recur in Polish and Polish-Jewish discussions of the past. But the context in which the exhibition is opened also gives it special significance. The war in Ukraine, the cruel crimes committed by Russian soldiers against civilians and, finally, the unprecedented reaction of Polish society, make it clear that the themes touched upon in the exhibition are not only important, but also, unfortunately, still very relevant," says Jakub Nowakowski, director of the Galicia Jewish Museum.

"Examining history helps us

understand how people at another time in another set of circumstances made important choices, and the consequences of those choices." says Sara J. Bloomfield, director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. "*Some Were Neighbors* challenges visitors to reflect on the full range of behaviors that made the Holocaust possible. It is a stark reminder of the power of individuals to make a difference – for better or for worse. Today we are also living in a great historical moment. Every day, the war in Ukraine is a reminder of the warning signs we all saw but failed to appreciate in Vladimir Putin's various attempts over many years criminalizing historical truth to control the national narrative and mythologizing history to justify a political — and now a brutal military — agenda. Inspired by the resilience and resistance of the Ukrainian people and the wholehearted response of the Polish people, we rededicate ourselves to the principle of preserving, teaching and publicly discussing historical truth and its pivotal role in democracy."

The exhibition will be on display at the Galicia Jewish Museum to January 31, 2023.

## About the Some Were Neighbors Exhibition

In conjunction with the 20th anniversary of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2013, a special exhibition Some Were Neighbors was created and ran through 2017.

After the original exhibit closed in Washington, the Museum created an easy-to-display traveling version for

international use. A number of European and international educators indicated the exhibition would be helpful in teaching their students that individuals have agency. By examining the choices that ordinary people made in the past, students can reflect on their roles and responsibilities today.

The traveling version of

the exhibition has been translated into 10 languages and has so far been presented in 21 countries. In Poland it opened for the first time in January 2022 at the Ulma Family Museum of Poles Saving Jews During World War II in Markowa. To date, the exhibit has also been shown in Warsaw and Wrocław.

# BYLI SĄSIADAMI

LUDZKIE WYBORY I ZACHOWANIA W OBliczu ZAGŁADY

30.06.2022-31.01.2023

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# FIND FROM THE ŁÓDŹ GHETTO SEWER

The ghetto in Łódź (Litzmannstadt) was characterised by its strict isolation, which was influenced, among other things, by the lack of a sewage system. Up until the outbreak of war, the municipal water and sewage system did not serve the Old Town and Bałuty, where a "closed district" was created in 1940. This ruled out the possibility of its prisoners having contact with the outside world through underground communication, as in the Warsaw Ghetto. However, inconspicuous artefacts discovered in the canal of the Bałutka River may shed new light on the issue.

In 2019, the Łódź Waterworks and Sewage Company (ZWiK) donated the hinges and metal locking elements of the grating to the Museum of Independence Traditions in Łódź. They were found in the canal of the Bałutka river (in the vicinity of today's Piekarska Street), near the borders of the former ghetto. This stream was the only one of the local watercourses that flowed within the ghetto. Like other rivers in Lodz, as early as the 1920s and 1930s, the Bałutka was hidden in an underground sewer, only occasionally emerging to the surface. For this reason, it was never etched in the memory of the forced inhabitants of the ghetto. However, it

can be assumed that during its existence, it was used as a sewer - as was the case with the hospital buildings at 37 Łagiewnicka Street.

However, on a map of the sewerage network dating back to 1935, we do not find such a facility. The metal grate inside the sewer was only mentioned on a map produced in July 1940 (i.e., after the ghetto was closed at the end of April 1940) by the Water and Sewerage Department (Department IV) of the German Municipal Administration. Therefore, this unique piece of technical infrastructure only found its way underground during the occupation.







Its supposed purpose was brought to Tatiana Berenstein's attention when the plans of the sewer network were submitted to the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw in 1960. In the protocol, the researcher pointed out that the documentation "testifies to the existence of a grating shutting off the sewer clearance to prevent underground communication for the ghetto inhabitants". The opinion given at the time is all the more plausible as it makes no sense from the viewpoint of the sewer system's operation to install such elements inside the sewers. As a rule, they are located at their outlets, protecting them from unwanted entry while allowing them to be cleaned efficiently. Installation in the interior makes it difficult to clean the sewers of accumulated waste, which could block sewage flow over time. Therefore, all indications are that the Bałutki sewer grating was installed intentionally to prevent people from passing through the underground sewer. It should be assumed that it was intended to

close off any possible way of communication between the ghetto inhabitants and the so-called Aryan section of the city (including preventing escape from it).

It is without a doubt that the grating must still have been in the canal after 1945. At present, however, it is difficult to establish the circumstances under which it was dismantled or what happened to it. The field investigation carried out by ZWiK employees revealed the existence of only fixing elements. However, they provide evidence of the cutting off of a possible communication route. It is an open question whether its placement by the Germans was a preventive measure or whether the grating was intended to interrupt an already existing contact route. Regardless of the answer, the find points to a hitherto unknown aspect of the ghetto's functioning and extremely oppressive nature - a tight separation from the rest of the city.

# CALL FOR PAPERS: LESSONS & LEGACIES EUROPE

Taking place in Prague, Czech Republic, the 2023 Lessons & Legacies Conference will be the first to be conducted in East-Central Europe, a region in which Nazi occupation and racial policies intersected with competing nationalisms, shifting borders, and the sovereignty of new nation states. It will be the second European iteration of the conference series, after the 2019 Lessons & Legacies Conference in Munich.

Taking its location as a point of departure, but not limiting the geographical scope of conference presentations, proposals are invited that investigate the crossings of boundaries of various kinds, including national and group or community histories as well as scholarly disciplines. Combining a thematic and a methodological track, the Prague Lessons & Legacies Conference aims to promote scholarly debate on the manifold divides and connections that exist in Holocaust studies.

Sponsored by the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University,

Center for Holocaust Studies at the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History, the German Federal Agency for Civic Education, Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences, and the Charles University, the conference invites proposals for papers, panels, and workshops. Proposals should relate to recent issues and advances in Holocaust scholarship, Holocaust education, and Public History and should conform broadly to the two tracks of the conference:

1. Situating the history of the persecution, exclusion and flight,



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of Northwestern University

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AND ARCHIVES

deportation, and murder of Jews and Roma on a broader map of ethnic and other cleavages and conflicts in East-Central Europe and beyond, remains a research challenge and a point of contention in public debate. Probing sites of competing victimhood, the study of the Holocaust faces the question of how to fruitfully integrate the histories of occupation, national histories of antisemitism, racism and ethnic conflict. We welcome proposals that address and incorporate the histories of migration, including refugees and displaced persons, or which challenge the often prevalent methodological nationalism of history writing. This thematic track aims to place the Holocaust and its aftermath in its wider contexts and to engage with the variety of histories of exclusionary processes and mass violence in diverse societies. It may include analyses of how this troubled past is used or weaponized in recent conflicts.

2. The methodological track aims to probe and challenge disciplinary boundaries in order to advance multidisciplinary inquiries into the Holocaust. We invite proposals

examining the connection of Holocaust Studies to a variety of other research fields and disciplines, including, but not limited to social sciences, culture, and memory studies. This track includes the exploration of methodological connections when it comes to placing the Holocaust into the context of social, cultural, linguistical, and ethnic diversity to colonial, postcolonial and decolonial studies. We welcome contributions from the field of digital humanities, digital history, and the emerging quantitative studies on the Holocaust, using large prosopographic and other datasets. We also welcome papers that challenge both established and new disciplinary approaches to the study of the Holocaust.

**Submission Deadline: 15 December 2022**

You can find the details about the formats of conference sessions at the website of the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences. Questions regarding registration and submission can be addressed to [lessons@mua.cas.cz](mailto:lessons@mua.cas.cz).



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