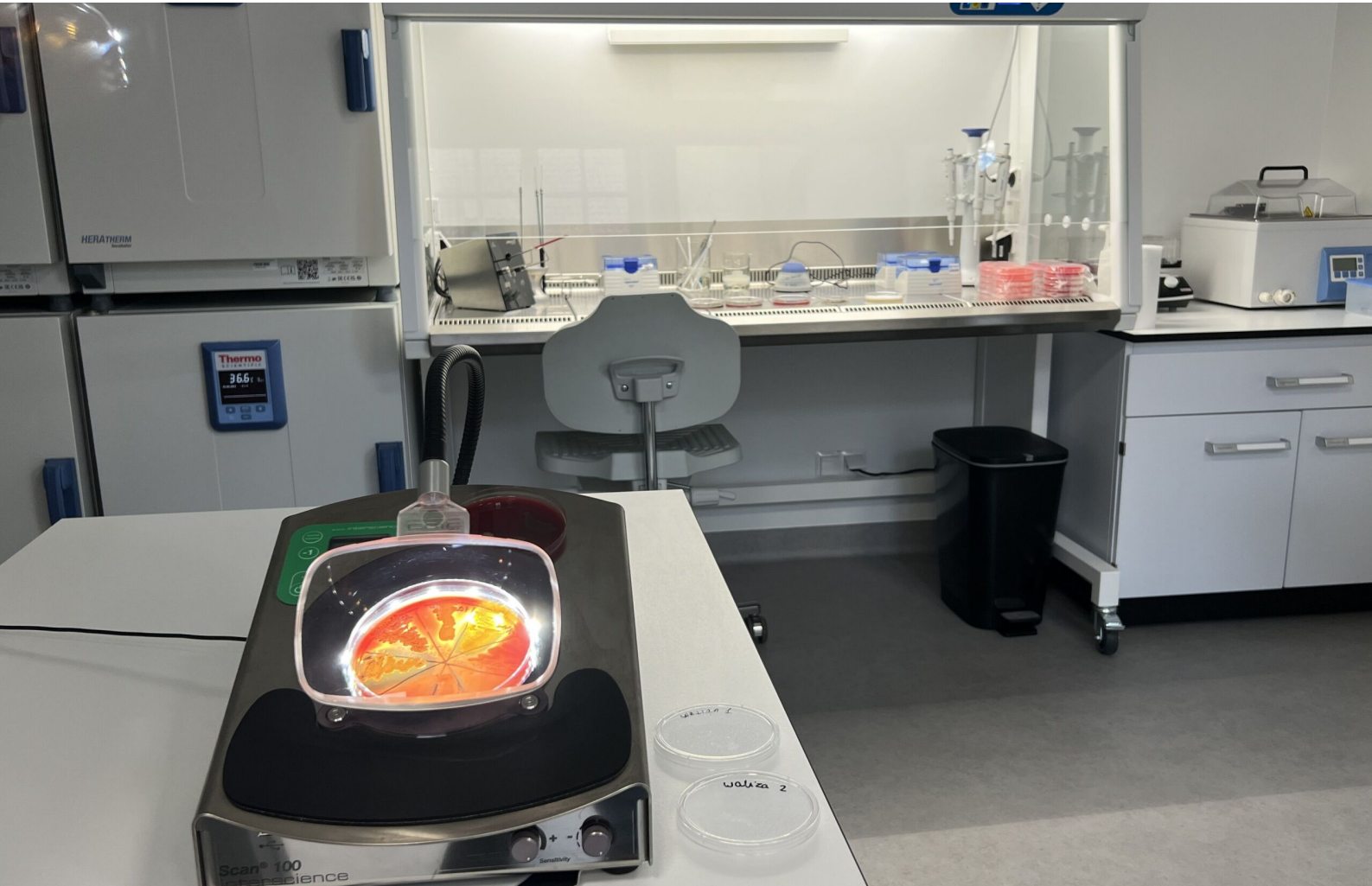


73 (09/2023)



MEMORIA

MEMORY • HISTORY • EDUCATION



NEW RESEARCH LABORATORY OF THE MUSEUM CONSERVATORS AT THE AUSCHWITZ MEMORIAL

BEATIFICATION
OF THE ULMA
FAMILY

RELATED
UKRAINIAN
ARCHIVES
AVAILABLE
ONLINE

SYNAGOGUE

STORIES OF
CONCENTRATION
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PRISONERS"

HOLOCAUST

BAR MITZVAH AT
THE OŚWIĘCIM

"RESEARCH
STORIES.
TRACING THE

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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

Please do share information about this magazine with others, particularly via social media.

All editions: memoria.auschwitz.org

THE EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEYS OF ORDINARY OBJECTS

What socks are you wearing? White, or black, or mismatched? Maybe no socks at all, depending on where you are in the world. Socks are a part of our everyday life, so when you look at photos of these hand-knitted cotton socks which used to belong to Eda de Botton, the main thing you may notice is how ordinary they are. Despite not looking so different from ours, though, these socks were knitted in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

They are currently in the Jewish Museum of Greece, in Athens, where the everyday person, certainly a person who doesn't live in Greece, would never get a chance to see them. But thanks to the IHRA-funded website Ordinary Objects, Extraordinary Journeys, they're accessible to anyone who wants to see them. Anybody can have a deep look at the socks, imagining the weave and the texture in their hands, as they learn about the life of Eda de Botton and the terrible journey that led her to knit them.

Eda knitted these socks for her daughter, Reina, from whom she'd been separated. Seeing as yarn was a rare commodity in the ghetto, Eda would have had to make hard choices to source it, possibly by swapping her already-limited food allowance.

This pair of socks is one of four items presented on the website, each one retracing the steps of a person whose life was irreversibly altered during the Holocaust, and exploring their story through the possessions that meant the most to them. The website, which was launched last year by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and the National Holocaust Centre and Museum in the UK, in collaboration with the Jewish Museum of Greece, is an attempt to maintain stories of the Holocaust as the survivor generation passes.

In their absence, it's both crucial and urgent to maintain these stories, and to find ways of keeping them alive for future generations. Dr Rachel Century, Director of Public Engagement and Deputy Chief Executive at the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, says that choosing to highlight artefacts like this is an important strategy to "future-proof" Holocaust education, "because when the survivors leave us, we'll still have the artefacts."

Working with an international partner is a requirement of an IHRA grant, and the collaboration with the Jewish Museum in Greece, says Rachel, led to a much richer outcome. After all, working together and collaborating is a crucial part of the field. "We've all got the same common goals in terms of education and commemoration. We also have different resources — let's use them together." Working in this way meant that they were able to show these objects to people who would have never heard these stories. British audiences wouldn't know much about the experience of Greek Jews in the Holocaust, and Greek audiences wouldn't necessarily know how many came to Britain before the Second World War.

...diary written by Julius Feldman, which was found in a hidden compartment in Poland after the war. Julius himself is 70 years old. Rachel says, "We didn't just want to tell an anomaly. More people were murdered than





NEW RESEARCH LABORATORY OF THE MUSEUM CONSERVATORS

On 25 September, a new research laboratory was opened at the Auschwitz Museum. Specialized research will be conducted there on objects from the German Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz stored and protected in the Museum's Archives and Collections.

The new laboratory is equipped to carry out physicochemical research and molecular biology analysis, including microbiology and genetics. This will allow for a better understanding of construction of historical objects and the causes of damage from a broader. It is invaluable support for conservation efforts aimed at preserving the authenticity of this Memorial.

In the physicochemical section, research will be conducted on the analysis of

pigments, salinity, porosity, and absorbency, as well as non-invasive studies of material and elemental composition. The molecular biology laboratory will focus on the quantitative and qualitative assessment of microbiological contamination on the surfaces of historical objects and in storage and exhibition spaces.

The opening of the laboratory was attended not only by the Museum's management and staff but also by experts who have





"I have a background in physics, but I am actually a representative of a new field of science that is developing. It is called heritage science. This is an entirely new trend. The Museum is contributing to the development of this scientific discipline," he said.

"The challenge is what the entire conservation world faces: how to protect objects that are not only specific in terms of materials but are also stored in places where some of the protection methods developed for museums are not possible. Placing this in this context and searching for protective methods, not only the best ones but also those that can be applied in this particular place, is very important," emphasized Prof. Bratasz.

"I congratulate the opening of this magnificent laboratory. I must also say a few kind words about the whole team. I recently attended a scientific conference organized by the conservation department in Torun. Your colleagues dominated the conference not only in terms of the number of lectures and presentations but also in terms of quality. This stands out not only in terms of equipment but also in terms of the competencies you have built here," he added.

The possibilities of cooperation between conservators and scientists were also discussed by Dr. Aleksandra Papis, head of the Conservation Laboratories: "Due to the need to adapt research methods to the specificity and condition of objects under the protection of the Museum, expanding the laboratory offers a unique opportunity for scientific cooperation. This will enable us to implement the highest standards in protecting historical objects from degradation and biodeterioration."



BEATIFICATION OF THE ULMA FAMILY

Józef and Wiktorja Ulma hid eight Jews during the occupation: Saul Goldman and his sons Baruch, Mechel, Joachim and Moses, as well as Gołda Grünfeld and Lea Didner and her daughter Reszla. Following a denunciation on 24 March 1944, all those in hiding and the entire Ulma family were murdered. They were beatified by the Catholic Church on Sunday, 10 September 2023.

Some twenty Jewish families lived in Markowa before the war. In 1942, most were deported and murdered in the Belzec extermination camp or shot on the spot. From August 1942 onwards, "hunts" were conducted for those in hiding who sought shelter in the forests and fields and with inhabitants of the surrounding villages, although they were rarely successful. In Markowa, a dozen Jews survived the war with the help of several Polish families. Wiktorja and Józef Ulma took the largest group under their roof, hiding eight Jewish acquaintances for over a year: Saul Goldman and his sons: Mechel, Joachim and Moses, as well as Gołda

Grünfeld and Lea Didner and her daughter Reszla. However, they were denounced - most likely by Włodzimierz Lesia, a blue police constable from Łańcut. On 24 March 1944, German gendarmes entered their farm, murdering first the hiding Jews and then the entire Ulma family - Wiktorja and Józef and their seven children.

On Sunday, 10 September, the Catholic Church beatified the Ulma family, establishing them as a model for all believers. "There is a vital element in this story. It is the value of welcoming a fellow person and extending hospitality. Regardless of whether



Victoria Ulma with her children
Digital Collection of the Museum of Poles Saving Jews During World War II in Markowa



Jews helping on the Ulma farm
Digital Collection of the Museum of Poles Saving Jews During World War II in Markowa

YAD VASHEM AWARDED THE TITLE OF RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS TO THE POLISH KOPACZ FAMILY

On 10 September, Yad Vashem awarded the title of Righteous Among the Nations to the Polish Kopacz family, who risked their lives to save the lives of Jeffrey Cymbler's family: his mother, uncle, aunt, grandparents, great-grandfather and two other Jews from the Usher family. Before the war, his family lived in Kruhel Pelkin. Here is a transcript of the speech that Jeffrey Cymbler gave at the synagogue at Yad Vashem.

Chairman Dani Dayan, Ms. Agata Czaplińska, Chargé d'affaires ad interim at the Polish Embassy, Dr. Joel Zisenwine - Director of the Righteous Among the Nation Department of Yad Vashem, members of the Kopacz and Nadel families and dear friends, thank you all for being here today — a day that I have dreamed about for many years.

Let me take you back in time to 1910, when two young girls who living in small neighboring villages in Austrian partitioned Poland started grade one in the same school. The school was located in a village named Trzcieniec. One girl was a Polish Catholic named, Rozalia Duda. She lived in Lacka Wola. The other girl was a Polish Jewish girl, named Mincia Berg. She lived in Trzcieniec. Rozalia was the grandmother of Barbara, Stanisława and Boguslaw, who are here with us today, together with their children, Tomasz, Lukasz and Piotr.

Mincia was my grandmother, the mother of my uncle, Tully, and the grandmother of my cousins Mark, Renaand Avi, who are all with us here today, together with their children and grandchildren. Rozalia came from a poor home. Mincia's father, my great grandfather, Kopel Berg, after whom I am named, owned the general store in Trzcieniec. Rozalia and Mincia became friends. Mincia often gave Rozalia half of her lunch sandwich because Mincia saw that Rozalia's parents often did

not give her enough food for lunch. Some years after World War I, when Poland reappeared on the map of Europe, Rozalia married Michal Kopacz, a young man from Lacka Wola. Mincia married a young man who had recently been discharged from the Polish Army. His name was Majer Nadel. He was my grandfather. Rozalia and Michal had 4 children. Mincia and Majer had three children. Michal got a job working for Mincia's father. They were all friends.

84 years ago, on September 1, 1939, their lives changed forever. Germany attacked Poland from the west. 17 days later, the Soviet Union attacked Poland from the east. Hitler and Stalin agreed to carve up Poland. The quiet villages of Trzcieniec and Lacka Wola came under Soviet occupation.

Majer Nadel was inducted into the Soviet army. While in the Soviet army, a Polish man, named "Punio" Serwaczak, was accused by the Soviets of espionage. Majer told the Soviets that Punio is just a simple Polish man. Majer saved Punio's life.

On June 22, 1941, Germany attacked the Soviet Union and captured Trzcieniec and Lacka Wola. The Germans set up a labor camp in Trzcieniec where the Nadel and Berg families were imprisoned. Punio was appointed by the Germans as the village head.

פולין
POLAND

2020

MALECKI WACLAW & ZOFIA
MILEWICZ JAN & ELA
MILEWICZ WLADYSLAW & LUDWIKA &
CHILDREN ALEKSANDER & WLADYSLAWA
OCHENDUSZKO WLADYSLAW
OKUNIEWICZ WERONIKA
REFORMAT TERESA (MOTHER SUPERIOR)
RYBICKI MARIAN
RYGALSKI MIECZYSLAW
SENDLAK STEFAN
SOCHACKI EUGENIUSZ & ANIELA
STALSKA ANTONINA
STANGRET ANTONI & WERONIKA
STEPA TERESA (MOTHER SUPERIOR)
SZELAG JAN & ANIELA
SZTYFTER MARIANNA
TROSZYNSKI ZYGMUNT
WALEGA ROMAN
WARDECKI KAZIMIERZ
WISNIEWSKI FELIKS & KAZIMIERA
WISNIEWSKI WLADYSLAW & PETRONELA
WOJDYLA ANZELMA
WOLSKA JANINA
WOZNIAK HELENA
ZBIKOWSKI STEFAN & ZOFIA
CZAPRAN JOZEF
ROSTWOROWSKA RENATA
NEE BRENSTJERN-PFANHAUSER
WOJEWODZKA KRYSZYNA

2022

DZIEDZIAK ZYGMUNT
KOPACZ MICHAL & ROZ





for attempting to save someone's life! Such a law is a crime against humanity.

Today is a very special day for the Kopacz family and for the Nadel family. It is the day that we, the Nadel family, can affirm in public that none of us would be alive today if not for the dangerous risks that the Kopacz family took upon themselves 81 years ago. Neither I, nor my three cousins, nor their 20 children and 12 grandchildren should have been born if Hitler had his way with our parents.

The Kopacz's were indeed Righteous Among the Nations, the Kopacz's were our saving angels. The Kopacz's are Polish national heroes, and they will go down in history books as such.

It is very auspicious that Yad Vashem chose today to honor the Kopacz family, because today in Poland another Polish family, the Ulma family, which was bestowed the honor of Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem on September 15, 1995, are being recognized by the Vatican and beatified.

Beatification in the Catholic Church is a declaration by the Pope that a dead martyr is just step away from before being declared as a saint.

Only approximately 50 kilometers away from the Kopacz family farmhouse, there existed another farmhouse in the village of Markowa. In that village, Victoria and Jozef Ulma, another Polish Catholic family with 6 children, were hiding 8 members of the Goldman family.

The Germans found out and on March 24, 1944, the Germans caught all the Jews and shot them. Then the Germans took Victoria, who was 7 months pregnant, and Jozef and shot them. The 6 Ulma children began to scream at the sight of their parents' dead bodies. The German police then shot all 6 of the children.

My uncle and I, together with my cousins and some of their children, visited the Ulma Family Museum of Poles Saving Jews in Markowa last year. Looking at the enlarged photograph of the Ulma farmhouse, my uncle pointed to the side of the building and showed us where he was hiding in the Kopacz house.



לאות תודה
מאת עם ישראל
Rozalia & Michal

Kopacz

LE PEUPLE JUIF
RECONNAISSANT

QUI CONQUE SAUVE UNE VIE SAUVE L'UNIVERS TOUT ENTIER

HOLOCAUST-RELATED UKRAINIAN ARCHIVES AVAILABLE ONLINE

For over 25 years, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has partnered with the Ukrainian State Archives to copy more than 10 million pages of its Holocaust-related records. Now, in a critical moment in Ukraine's history amid Russia's unprovoked invasion, digital copies are being posted online for the first time and made available to scholars, historians, family researchers and the public.

The first one million pages of records are now easily searchable at ushmm.org/ukrainearchive. The Museum plans to make additional records available every month until all of its Ukrainian archives are accessible.

"After four months of war in Ukraine and the potential of even more targeted destruction of Ukrainian cultural sites, including museums and archives, it is a historical imperative to make these materials digitally available," says Rebecca Boehling, director of the Museum's David M. Rubenstein National Institute for Holocaust Documentation. "We want to facilitate access and ensure these records remain available even if the originals are destroyed."

These archives include historical materials from before, during and after the Holocaust. They include collections topics such as:

- the activities of Jewish political, cultural, educational and philanthropic organizations;
- information about individuals, census data, vital statistics, lists of names, personal files, etc.;
- pogroms during the Russian civil war, closure of synagogues and dissolution of Jewish communities by the Soviet authorities, demographic and statistical information and other documentation;
- the Nazi German administration in occupied Ukraine and Ukrainian auxiliary police;
- Jewish ghettos;
- postwar developments, such as Soviet investigations of war crimes committed by Germans and their allies on the occupied territories, return of evacuated populations, restitution of Jewish property and war crimes trials and Soviet antisemitism.

With one of Europe's largest pre-war Jewish populations, Ukraine was the site of critical events in Holocaust history, including the beginning of Nazi Germany's systematic mass killings of Jews after the invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941. At least 1.5 million Jews were killed within Ukraine's current borders.

At Babyn Yar, a ravine on the outskirts of Kyiv, more than 33,000 Jews were shot and killed in just two days. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited the Museum last September to commemorate the 80th anniversary of this tragic event.

The Museum began working in Ukraine after the fall of the Soviet Union. It was the first time

РАХІВСЬКИЙ РАЙОННИЙ НОТАРІАТ

с. Рахів

Свідоцтво про факт вступу до громади
на території громади Рахівського району
приналежності громади

Почато: _____ 19 39 р.

Закінчено: _____ 19 39 р.

На _____ листах.

ЗАКАРПАТСЬКИЙ
ОБЛАСНИЙ ДЕРЖАВНИЙ АРХІВ

Фонд № 143

Опис № 1 Одн. збер. № 2

TWO SIDES OF THE WALL

In 1940, a ghetto wall was erected in Warsaw, isolating the Jewish population from the rest of the city's residents. It became a symbol of oppression, loneliness, despair and brute force against defenceless people. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The testimonies were more lasting than the wall, which no longer exists - the diaries and notes of several people hiding in the burning ghetto. The symbolic wall - an installation erected on 6 September 2023 at the junction of Grzybowska and Żelazna Streets in Warsaw, on the historical border of the ghetto - evokes the memory of these tragic events from the participants' perspective.

The installation "Two Sides of the Wall", prepared by the POLIN Museum in collaboration with the Saatchi agency & Saatchi, aimed to recall the history of hundreds of thousands of Jewish women and men confined to the ghetto.

"Our installation is a symbolic wall, on one side of which is a Venetian mirror that allows us to observe what is happening behind the wall. The other side of the installation is a mirror in which people passing by and observing are reflected," - says Marta Dziewulska, POLIN spokesperson. "The same as those who lived and died in the ghetto. It is time to get to know their stories. Stories of those rescued from a sea of fire," - says a sign addressed to passers-by.

"This is one of those projects that is truly touching. We considered how to draw the attention of busy passers-by to the theme of the exhibition <<Around us a sea of fire>>. We found the idea of building a symbolic wall that permits the freedom to observe one's surroundings from a single perspective incredibly poignant. - says Malgorzata Wajdziak, Integrated Communication Director Saatchi & Saatchi.

The installation "Two Sides of the Wall" is also combined with the premiere of the podcast "Jakby nas ziemia pochłonęła" (As if the earth had swallowed us up) by writer and journalist Katarzyna Kobylarczyk. The podcast, compiled from the diaries of those in hiding during the uprising, is a moving literary reportage in six episodes. It interweaves the fates of six characters fighting for survival during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising: Stella Fidelseid, Mieczysław Baruch Goldman, the anonymous girl from the bunker on Miłej Street, Mr Maura, Luke Menes and Krystyna Budnicka. They are all protagonists of the exhibition "Around us a sea of fire. The fate of Jewish civilians during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising" is on display at the POLIN Museum until 8 January 2024.

"The fact that the starting material comprises diaries is of great significance to me.

Personal stories about oneself. Something incredibly intimate. For some people, this is the only thing left. Words. Letters on paper. What remains of Engineer Goldman is not at all the

WOKÓŁ
NAS
MORZE
OGNIA

Fot. M. Jaźwiecki / Muzeum Historii Żydów Polskich

EHRI SEMINAR IN PRAGUE

'ENGAGING EDUCATORS': "RESEARCHERS ENGAGING EDUCATORS VICE VERSA"

From August 7th to 11th, the Jewish Museum in Prague in partnership with the Center for Holocaust Studies at the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History, organized the first international EHRI Seminar tailored to educators teaching the Holocaust in educational institutions like schools, museums, and memorial sites. Seventeen educators from twelve countries gathered in Prague's historic Josefov quarter, kindly hosted by the Jewish Museum, to discuss challenges in Holocaust education and explore ways in which EHRI and its network could enhance innovative teaching practices.

EHRI's digital resources

The first day of the Seminar focused on EHRI's digital resources, including the newly launched Geospatial Repository, the EHRI Portal, the Podcast series "For the Living and the Dead", and the Online-Editions.

Participants engaged in lively discussions about the usability of these tools in their teaching and their relevance for classroom settings. Additionally, Zuzana Pavlovská, the head of the Jewish Museum Prague's Educational Department, introduced the IHRA's Recommendations for Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust. This session was followed by presentations from Kiera Fitzgerald (The Wiener Holocaust Library London) and Martin Liepach (Fritz Bauer Institut Frankfurt am Main), who introduced their institutions' educational initiatives. The day ended with a guided tour of Prague's historic Jewish quarter, including visits to the Old-New Synagogue, Klausen Synagogue, Pinkas Synagogue, and the old Jewish Cemetery.

Terezín

On the second day, the group went on an excursion to Terezín, a former garrison town that was used by the National Socialist Regime as a Ghetto, mainly for Jews from the "Protectorate" and the Reich. There, the

participants were introduced to the Memorial's remodeling plans and its educational programme. During a tour to the former compound, the group took a closer look into the history of the Theresienstadt Ghetto, gaining insights into the daily life aspects of the inmates.

The following day, participants delved deeper into the utilization of primary sources and teaching materials. Under the guidance of Jana Turanska, an interactive session explored the educational resources offered by Centropa. Russell Alt-Haaker (IfZ) presented the Edition "The Persecution and Murder of the European Jews by Nazi Germany, 1933–1945" and underscored the value of this unique source edition, particularly for educators. Furthermore, Jan Štefl (Jewish Museum in Prague) gave insights in his PhD project that concerns biomedical considerations after the Nuremberg Trials. The day's programme concluded with a return visit to the Jewish Museum in Prague, followed by a tour of the Klausen and Maisel Synagogues.

Lidice

On the fourth day of the Seminar, the group visited Lidice, a historical site in the Czech Republic. In 1942, German police forces



Fot. Muzeum Żydowskie w Pradze

HISTORIC EVENT

NOT FAR FROM AUSCHWITZ: BAR MITZVAH AT THE OŚWIĘCIM SYNAGOGUE

In early September, a momentous event occurred at the Chevra Lomdei Mishnayot synagogue in Oswiecim - the only surviving synagogue in the city - the Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Simony from New York. The traditional ritual was held in a temple in the city centre, just a few kilometres from the Auschwitz Memorial. The only surviving Jewish house of prayer is a poignant witness to the Holocaust and a lesson on the city's multicultural past.

A bar mitzvah is a traditional rite of passage for a 13-year-old boy in Judaism - a reminder of the strength of the Jewish spirit and traditions that have stood the test of time, even in the face of the most unimaginable adversity - the attempted murder of the entire Jewish people by the German Nazis.

Tomasz Kuncewicz, director of the foundation that runs the Oshpitzin Jewish Museum, draws attention to the event's significance: - Ethan's bar mitzvah is a beacon of hope in a place marked by a tragic history. It symbolises our commitment to remembering the past while celebrating the life and continuity of Jewish traditions. This event is a compelling testimony of the human spirit's unwavering strength and determination to overcome even the darkest of times - Kuncewicz notes, and expresses his sincere gratitude to all those who celebrated this special day in Ethan Simony's life while

honouring the memory of the Auschwitz victims.

It is worth recalling that the first Jews settled in Oświęcim as early as the 16th century and soon named their town Oshpitzin (Yiddish for guests). In 1939, 8,000 Jews (60%) lived in the town, almost all of whom were murdered during the Holocaust.

The Jewish Museum is part of a memorial complex, along with the only surviving historic Chevra Lomdei Mishnayot synagogue in the city, Cafe Bergson, the Jewish cemetery and the Oświęcim Great Synagogue Memorial Park. The complex is run by the Polish-American Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation, based in Oświęcim and New York. More information can be found at oshpitzin.pl and on social media.



“RESEARCH STORIES. TRACING THE STORIES OF CONCENTRATION CAMP PRISONERS”

Even today, people from around the world send inquiries to memorial sites each and every day. They want to find out what happened to relatives who were imprisoned in concentration camps. Are there perhaps documents that could provide information about their persecution and fate? *Research Stories*, a new digital platform for historical research and personal stories, provides some insights into the scholarly work at the memorial sites.

The digitalization of German Nazi concentration camp documents has changed the way the archives at memorial sites work. Research no longer takes place in depots these days, but is usually conducted by searching databases. Some prisoners' fates could be clarified using these searches, something that previously seemed almost impossible.

The Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial began building a digital research platform on victims of the Nazi regime back in 2012: the Memorial Archives. The online database shows all the documents and information available about a prisoner at a glance, making it easier to trace a person's pathway of imprisonment. The Memorial Archives are a huge help to staff of the memorial in dealing with inquiries from relatives and researchers. Since 2020, there has been a joint cooperation project with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum to create a new database for the Auschwitz concentration camp holdings based on the Memorial Archives.

To show how digitalization of the archives helps in finding out what happened during the Nazi era, decades after the camp's liberation, and working with Zoff, a collective for visual communications, the project team from the two memorials developed *Research Stories*, a digital platform for historical research and personal stories. Using specific cases, archival staff explain the sometimes detective-like methods they apply every day when trying to clarify what happened to prisoners. However, their research stories also illustrate the fragmentary nature of possible findings since many documents were destroyed by the SS when the camps were cleared and liquidated.

Research Stories allows people to participate in research and thus responds to an interest expressed in many inquiries to the archives. Online databases have changed the way information is obtained and many people who contact memorial sites have often done some research themselves beforehand. Therefore, the inquiries often have scans of documents attached. Relatives sometimes also have a portrait of the person or information about the circumstances of their arrest. The inquirers contribute their knowledge to the research and thus help give a face to the people behind the names in the databases.

Research into those persecuted by the Nazi regime has become possible for everyone thanks to the information available online. However, those who do their own research often come up short in finding answers. That's because the databases of the museums, archives, and memorial sites are usually not fully accessible to private individuals for privacy and data-protection reasons. Furthermore, special knowledge is required to fully understand the documents found such as registry office cards, transport lists, or prisoner registration forms.

The research stories therefore deal with topics that regularly recur in inquiries to the archives at memorial sites: How can a relative's grave be found? Is it possible to find out how a prisoner died? Why are there hardly any documents? The website additionally provides a guide for doing your own research with useful links, addresses, and suggestions.

“*Research Stories. Tracing the Stories of Concentration Camp Prisoners*” is a digital offering of



MURDER OF DISABLED INMATES OF UWZ LAGER LEBRECHTSDORF

On the night of 7/8 and 8 September 1943, about 70 disabled people from UWZ Lager Lebrechtsdorf (Potulice near Nakło on the river Noteć) were murdered in the gas chambers of the German Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.

After the attack on Poland in September 1939, Germany set about eliminating German citizens deemed 'unworthy to live' (Aktion T4). Over time, the action was transferred to occupied Poland. This made it all the easier for the German occupiers to murder Polish prisoners. The elimination of prisoners deemed incurably ill and thus unfit for work was carried out in most German concentration camps from April 1941 under the code name "14f13". Himmler issued a secret order to "kill all mentally retarded and mutilated prisoners". The SS believed it was an effective approach to combating epidemics and eliminating those unfit to work. Following the defeats at the fronts in 1942 and 1943, the lives of camp inmates became extremely valuable. They were destined to die, but only after being physically exploited by all sorts of arms companies operating on behalf of the Third German Reich. Consequently, on 27.04.1943, Himmler gave an order to the commanders of the concentration camps to select only mentally ill prisoners in the future as part of operation "14f13".

As a result of hunger, hard work, and the large number of people, various epidemics broke out in UWZ Lager Lebrechtsdorf. Some sick inmates exhibited no signs of recovery and reinstatement to work. Additionally, dozens of individuals were unfit for work because of innate physical and cognitive impairments. The fate of the latter was cruel. The German 'superhumans' separated most of them from the other prisoners and confined them in the palace basement (adjacent to the main hall where the penal company prisoners were quartered). They were killed there through starvation and lack of care. - These people were not allowed out, poorly fed and sentenced to death by starvation - stresses Edmund Nitkiewicz, a former prisoner. The prisoners often vehemently demanded aid. - I heard moans and screams every morning walking from the camp to the castle, as did others. In the summer, with the windows open in these cellars, one could even see these people lying and dying on their bunks - adds former prisoner Adam Groblewski. TB patients were incarcerated in separate isolated barracks, commonly referred to as the 'death barracks'.

The slow deaths, which also posed an "inconvenience" for the German oppressors in the guise of screaming, brought about the murderous decision in mid-1943 to annihilate the disabled, unfit-for-work individuals. The plan's deceit was in its declaration to the inmates that those who were ill or disabled could come forward and would be granted release for additional medical attention. A majority of the prisoners did not fall for it. Some Germans from the administrative staff even warned their Polish acquaintances. The list of prisoners "released" was personally compiled by the camp chief (Lagerführer) Waldemar Tennstaedt, assisted by nurse Charlotte Jaworek. This happened in the summer of 1943.

One evening (probably 6.09.1943), the prisoners were summoned for roll-call, and a list of about 70 individuals was read out and ordered to prepare for a journey. At about 22:00, they

Waga: Do propagandy!!!

nr	imię i nazwisko	urodzona	rodzina
7 9 43.	- Bromberg		
61 184	Szydłowska Helena	31.12.99	Mroszentko, chwał
61 185	Masini Lucja	12.10.13	Herthaim, Landau
61 186	Rebarczyk Iofia	24.1.05	Meindorf, Landau
61 187	Katowicki Wiktorja	23.12.01	Prinzer Landau
61 188	Gorny Paulina	10.1.72	Koto Erby, Arbeit
61 189	Gorny Anna	21.7.05	Kosulero, Hirschman
61 190	Gorny amelia	22.2.09	Schönsee
61 191	Gorny Agnes	3.2.34!	Schönsee
61 192	Gorny Barbara	14.3.36!	Thorn
61 193	Gorny Eleonora	2.1.42!	Schönsee
61 194	Niemcewki Stanisława	20.12.02	Schönsee
61 195	Niemcewki Helena	29.9.12!	Briesen
61 196	Gackowicki Jadwiga	23.2.15	Bischofsverder
61 197	Dombrowski Bronisława	28.7.17	Zrenitz
61 198	Jasicki Stefania	28.8.28!	Zrenitz
61 199	Leas Bronisława	27.4.03	Gneidan
61 200	Kowalska Pelagia	29.1.25	Bromberg
61 201	Kilarska Antonia	16.5.10	Hony Jasina
61 203	Fasemowska Kazimiera	8.7.24!	Niemce

P.W.O.K. solowia!

Lista transportowa kobiet, które 7 września 1943 r. zostały przywiezione z Bydgoszczy do Auschwitz



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