



## MAŁOPOLSKA

**Capital of the region:** Krakow  
**Large cities:** Tarnów, Nowy Sącz, Oświęcim  
**Area:** 15,182 km<sup>2</sup> (ca. 5% of the area of Poland)  
**Population:** 3.286 million (ca. 8% of Poland's entire population)  
**Landscape:**

- Highest peak – Mt Rysy 2,499 m above sea level
- Mountains: Tatras, Beskids, Pieniny and Gorce
- Foothills: Carpathian Foothill
- Uplands: Krakowsko-Częstochowska Upland
- Lowlands: Vistula Valley
- Main rivers: Vistula, Dunajec, Poprad, Raba, Skawa, Biała
- Water reservoirs: Czorsztyński, Rożnowski, Czchowski, Dobczycki, Klimkówka
- Highest situated and cleanest lakes: Morskie Oko, Czarny Staw, Valley of Five Polish Lakes
- Largest and deepest cave: Great Snowy Cave: over 22 corridors, 824 m deep
- 14 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- 252 Wooden Architecture Trail Sites
- 50 First World War's Eastern Front Trail Sites

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Concept design by Anna Niedźwiedzka

Project coordinated by Małgorzata Czapla in cooperation with Małgorzata Kozak

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ul. Stolarska 13/7, 31-043 Krakow  
tel./fax: +48 4229922  
biuro@polskaturystyczna.pl  
www.polskaturystyczna.pl

Texts by Krzysztof Bzowski (Chapter 1, Chapter 3 – part 2, 3, 4), thematic page: "Małopolska Path to Independence" (thematic boxes); Dr Krzysztof Mroczkowski (Chapter 2, Chapter 3, part 1; thematic pages: "War through the Eyes of the Soldiers," "Air Force," "War Cemeteries," historical boxes)

Historical consultation: Dr hab. Michał Baczkowski, Dr Krzysztof Mroczkowski, Dr hab. Andrzej Olejko

Translation by Agnieszka Legutko  
Production coordinated by Ewelina Wolna

Proofread by Aurelia Hołubowska, Agnieszka Szmac

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# Małopolska

The First World War's Eastern Front Trail



REGIONAL  
PROGRAMME

NATIONAL COHESION STRATEGY



EUROPEAN UNION

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DEVELOPMENT FUND

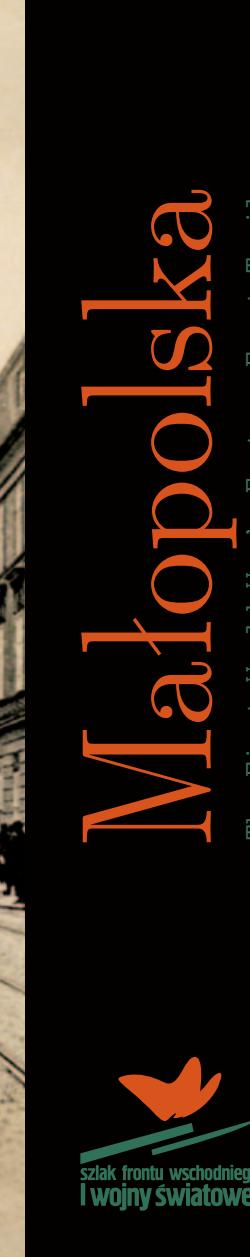
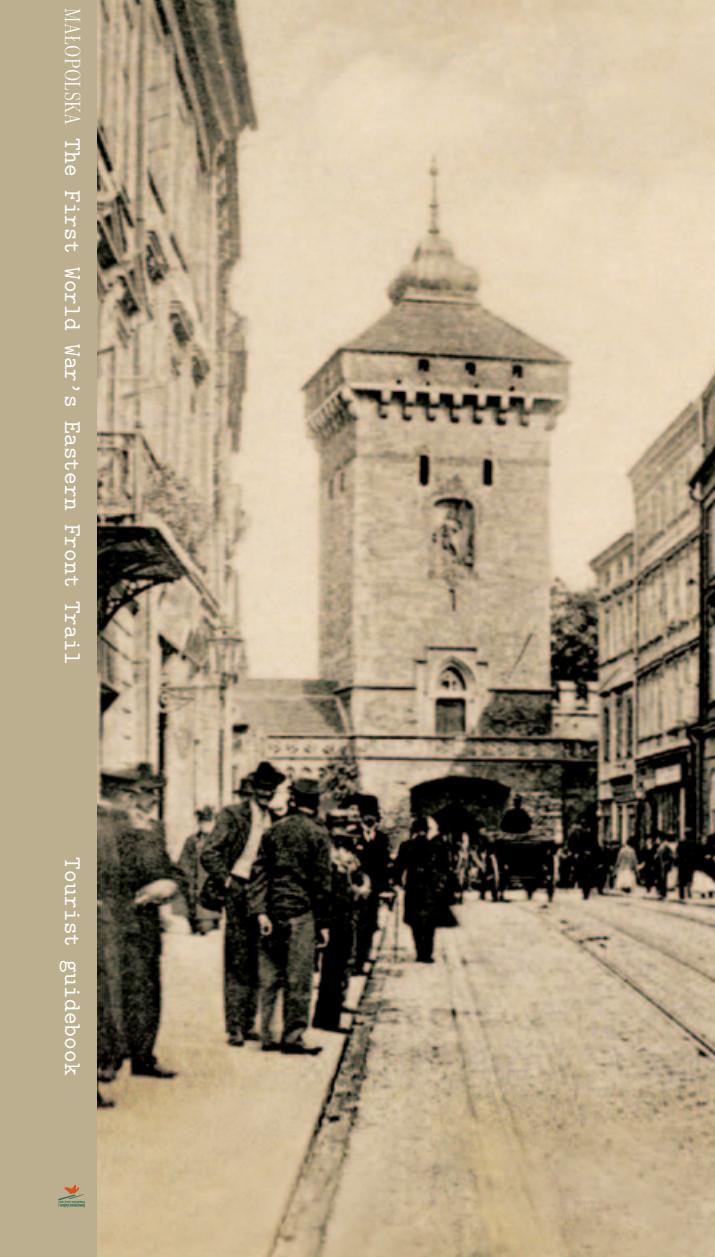


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**T**he First World War's Eastern Front Trail in the Małopolska Region encompasses places, which were a theatre of key military operations on the Eastern Front of the Great War in the years 1914–1915. The hike along the trail begins in Krakow. Krakow Fortress, which played a crucial role in the battles fought in the late 1914 north and south of the capital of Małopolska, impresses with the grandeur of design until this very day. Krakow also boasts the Polish Aviation Museum featuring examples of authentic military aircraft dating from the First World War. The famous First Cadre Company headed by Józef Piłsudski set off to war from Krakow as well, and following the company's traces, one can reach the battlefield locations of the Polish Riflemen's units and then of the Polish Legions formed by Józef Piłsudski. The trail routes run to the battlefields located north of Krakow to the Jura Krakowsko-Częstochowska Upland, where battles were fought in November of 1914, and then south, to the battlefields around Łapanów and Limanowa, and further east to the area of the decisive Battle of Gorlice, which brought victory to the Austro-Hungarian and German forces in the early May of 1915. The picturesque ranges of the Low Beskid Mountains are full of war relics. Tarnów also features buildings dating from the Great War, such as old barracks or garrison hospital. Heading south of Tarnów, it is worth visiting the field of the Battle of Łowczówka fought in December of 1914, and the charming war necropolises of the Tarnów Land.

MAŁOPOLSKA The First World War's Eastern Front Trail

Tourist guidebook



Malopolska  
The First World War's Eastern Front Trail



LEGEND OF MAP SYMBOLS IN THE GUIDEBOOK



monument/obelisk



palace



battlefield/army departure site



military hospital



barracks/garrison



war cemetery



fort/fortress

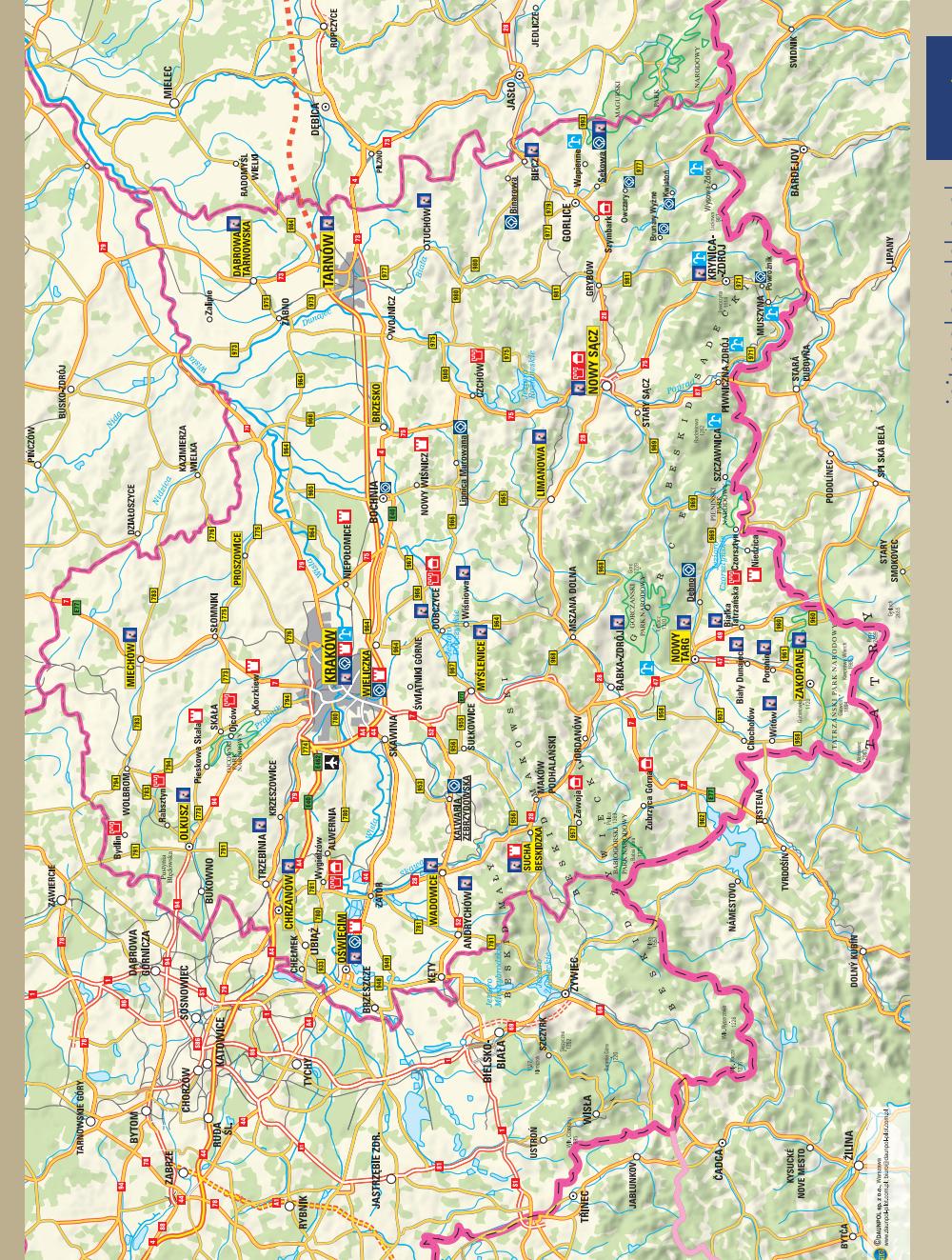
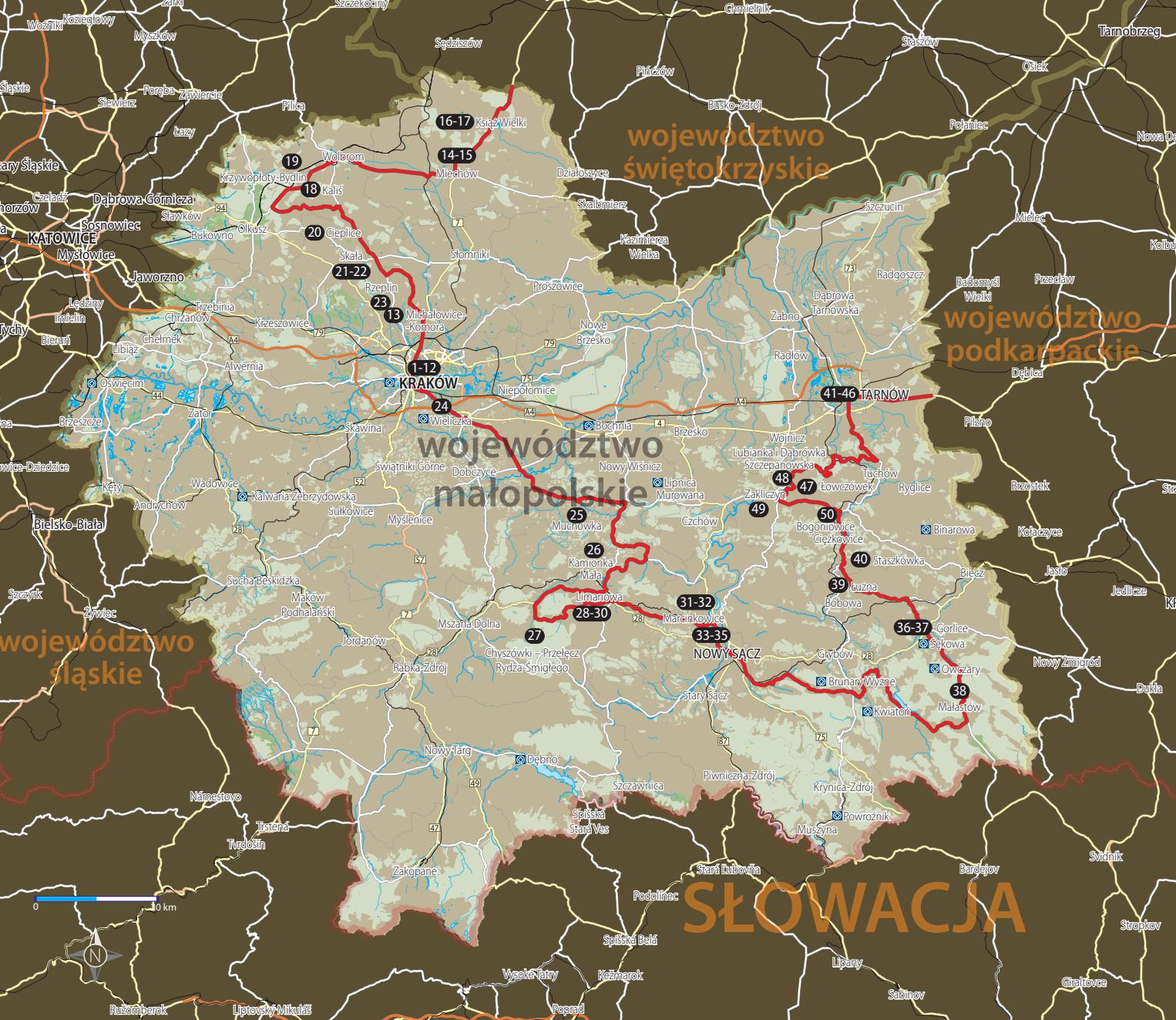
## THE FIRST WORLD WAR'S EASTERN FRONT TRAIL IN MAŁOPOLSKA

- CHYSZÓWKI – THE RYDZ-ŚMIGŁY PASS  
 ① Obelisk on Kaim Hill  
 ② Monument of Encounter of Generations  
 LIMANOWA  
 ③ War Cemetery no. 366  
 ④ Mieroszewski Family House – Józef Piłsudski's Quarters  
 ⑤ Kosocice Fort  
 ⑥ Rajsko Fort  
 ⑦ Polish Aviation Museum  
 ⑧ Grębałów Fort  
 ⑨ Krzesławice Fort  
 ⑩ Tonie Fort  
 ⑪ The Storage-Technical Complex of the Royal-Imperial Army  
 ⑫ Oleandrzy – First Cadre Company Departure Site  
 MICHałOWICE-KOMORA  
 ⑬ Obelisk on the border of the Austrian- and Russian-occupied parts of Poland  
 GORLICE  
 ⑭ Monument of the Independence Fighters  
 ⑮ War Quarter on the Parish Cemetery  
 KSIĄŻ WIELKI  
 ⑯ Palace in Mirów  
 ⑰ War Quarter on the Parish Cemetery  
 KALIS  
 ⑱ Ogonek War Cemetery  
 KRZYWOPLÓTY – BYDLIN  
 ⑲ Battlefield of Krzywoploty and the Legionaries' Quarter on the Parish Cemetery  
 JANGROT – CIEPLICE  
 ⑳ War Cemetery  
 SKAŁA  
 ㉑ War Quarters on the Parish Cemetery  
 ㉒ Monument of the Victims of the First World War  
 RZEPiLN  
 ㉓ War Cemeteries in Rzeplin  
 WIELICZKA  
 ㉔ War Quarter no. 381 on the Communal Cemetery  
 MUCHÓWKA  
 ㉕ War Cemetery no. 308  
 KAMiONKA MAŁA  
 ㉖ BOGONiOWiCE  
 ㉗ War Cemetery no. 138

# THE FIRST WORLD WAR'S EASTERN FRONT TRAIL IN MAŁOPOLSKA



sztuk frontu wschodniego wojny światowej



[www.visitmalopolska.pl](http://www.visitmalopolska.pl)

**Nowy Sącz**  
ul. Szewczenki 2, 33-300 Nowy Sącz, tel.: +48 18 4442422,  
it.nowy-sacz@msit.malopolska.pl, www.visit.com.pl

**Nowy Targ**  
Rynek 1, 34-400 Nowy Targ, tel.: +48 18 2660306,  
it.nowy-targ@msit.malopolska.pl, www.visit.targi.pl

**Olkusze**  
ul. Floriańska 8, 32-300 Olkusze, tel.: +48 32 2109251, +48 32 6421926,  
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ul. Parkowa 2, 34-700 Raków-Zdrój, tel.: +48 18 2691553,  
it.rakow-zdroj@msit.malopolska.pl, www.visit.rakow.pl

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ul. Zamkowa 1, 34-200 Skawa Beskidzka, tel.: +48 33 8742605,  
it.skawina@msit.malopolska.pl, www.visit.skawina.pl

**Tarnów**  
Rynek 7, 33-100 Tarnów, tel.: +48 14 5839909, it.tarnow@msit.malopolska.pl,  
www.visit.tarnow.pl

**Treblinka**  
ul. Kościuszki 74, 32-540 Treblinka, tel.: +48 32 6121497,  
it.treblinka@msit.malopolska.pl, www.visit.treblinka.pl

**Tuchów**  
ul. Chropina 10, 33-170 Tuchów, tel.: +48 14 6525436, it.tuchow@msit.malopolska.pl,  
www.visit.tuchow.pl

**Wadowice**  
ul. Kościuszki 4, 34-110 Wadowice, tel.: +48 33 8732365,  
it.wadowice@msit.malopolska.pl, www.visit.wadowice.pl

**Wisianowa**  
ul. Wifla 301, 32-412 Wiśniewa, tel.: +48 12 2714493,  
it.wisianowa@msit.malopolska.pl, www.visit.wisianowa.pl

**Zakopane**  
ul. Kościelska 7, 34-500 Zakopane, tel.: +48 18 2071998, it.wiwiow@msit.malopolska.pl,  
www.visit.zakopane.com.pl

**Myslenice**  
Rynek 27, 32-400 Myslenice, tel.: +48 12 2722312, it.myseric@msit.malopolska.pl,  
www.visit.myslenice.pl

**Nysleńce**  
Rynek 27, 32-400 Nysleńce, tel.: +48 12 3331311,  
it.nysleniec@msit.malopolska.pl

**Przedbórz**  
ul. Kościelna 1, 32-200 Przedbórz, tel.: +48 41 3831311,

# Małopolska

The First World War's Eastern Front Trail



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# INTRODUCTION

The First World War's Eastern Front Trail in the Małopolska Region encompasses places, which in the years 1914–1915, were a theatre of key military operations between the Austro-Hungarian and German forces against the Russian army on the Eastern Front of the Great War. Travelling along the trail, one can see historic monuments dating from that time: forts of Krakow Fortress, Krakow's Oleandry, the starting point of the First Cadre Company, museums, and numerous military cemeteries, designed by eminent contemporary artists. The trail route also includes former military buildings, such as barracks, headquarters of the fighting armies, and military hospitals. Some locations feature surviving traces of entrenchments and other field fortifications. However, they are not easy to find. It is no wonder, as even famous Hungarian writer Ferenc Molnár, war correspondent from the Eastern Front, struggled with finding them a year after the fights...

An entire century has passed since the outbreak of the Great War and its history has been overshadowed by the memory of another world war. The First World War's Eastern Front Trail has been created in order to commemorate the events that a century ago shaped the world we know today.

The guidebook presents the sites on the trail, as well as an overview of political and social situation in the region before the outbreak of the Great War and the course of military operations on the Eastern Front in the years 1914–1915. The text is complemented by thematic pages devoted to significant issues associated with the First World War, and information about tourist attractions located in the vicinity of the trail.

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# GALICIAN MAŁOPOLSKA



Kraków. Ul. Sławkowska.  
Hotel - SASKI

Krakow, Sławkowska Street, Saski Hotel (1914), MLP Archives

# MAŁOPOLSKA ON THE EVE OF THE GREAT WAR

## – Great Politics and Everyday Life

If one had a look at a political map of Europe in 1914, e.g. the map issued in the famous Berlin publishing house Pharus Verlag G.m.b.H. Berlin, instead of several contemporary independent states in its middle part, one would see only a few but large countries. Among the states established after the First World War, and nonexistent on the political map of 1914, is also Poland – then

divided between the three great monarchies.

### THE WAR OF THREE GREAT POWERS

Most of the Polish territory, including Warsaw, was annexed to the powerful Russia, ruled absolutely by Tsar Nicholas II of the Romanov Dynasty. After the fall of the January Uprising in 1864, the tsar authorities eliminated the remainder of autonomy enjoyed by the Kingdom

of Poland and soon afterwards they also liquidated the entire Congress Poland, the strange creation established in 1815 during the Congress of Vienna. All signs of Polish national life were brutally crushed and the mandatory Russification was imposed on the country. Poles had no influence on the authorities whatsoever. At the outbreak of the Great War Russia had been allied with France for several years, and with Great Britain, standing in opposition to the two other countries that ruled the Polish lands.

On the other side of the barricade were the so-called Central Powers, i.e., the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the German Empire. The southern part of the Polish territory remained in the hands of the Danube Monarchy, as the Austro-Hungarian Empire was also known. This vast country, ruled for over half a century by the aging Francis Joseph I of the Habsburg Dynasty, was a conglomerate of very diverse provinces, inhabited by numerous ethnic groups and nations. Poles were one



## GALICIAN MAŁOPOLSKA



The building of the National Parliament (Sejm) in Lemberg, Wikimedia Commons Archives

enjoyed freedom unparalleled in other parts of the occupied Poland.

As of 1867 Austria-Hungary had been a constitutional dual monarchy, i.e. consisting of two countries that were united by the monarch and several other institutions, such as for instance, the joint army. Galicia, as part of the first of the two countries, was a province with a rather vast autonomy, eventually established in 1873, with its own National Sejm (Parliament), and an advanced system of local authorities.

The entire country enjoyed numerous civil freedoms, while Poles could hold highest office not only in the autonomous Galicia but also in the central authorities of the monarchy: since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century until the outbreak of the First World War, three Poles even held the office of the Prime

### GALICIAN AUTONOMY

Thus, the entire present Małopolska Region was located within the borders of two enemy states. Although both parts, Galicia and the southern territories of the former Kingdom of Poland were poor and backward, Poles in Congress Poland lived literally under the whip of the tsar authorities, while Galicia

Minister of the Austrian government. Unlike in the Russian- and Prussian-occupied parts of Poland, the Polish language was not only not suppressed in the period preceding the outbreak of the Great War, but in fact it had a status of the official language! Polish education operated on all levels, including the Polish universities in Krakow and Lemberg. Polish cultural and political life also flourished, while many Polish activists from the Russian Partition, such as Józef Piłsudski and Roman Dmowski to name a few, found refuge in Galicia. Therefore, the autonomous Galicia offered a true enclave of freedom for Poland. Although the poverty was enormous, thousands of people emigrated, the industry was developed only on a small scale, and the government institutions (apart from those determined by military reasons) steered clear of the entire province, nonetheless, the region became the forge of the experienced Polish cadres for the future independent Polish Republic and the centre of Polish national and independence activity: the true "Polish Piedmont" so to speak.

## MAŁOPOLSKA RESIDENTS

The San River was a traditionally acknowledged border between the eastern and western parts of the province. Polish population dominated in its western part: 96% of the population declared Polish as their native tongue in the 1910 census, while in the entire province Polish was spoken by slightly over 60% of the population. Jewish population was not as large in the west as it was in the east, and the majority of the Jews resided in cities and towns, e.g. in Krakow Jews constituted 30% of the entire population, while in Dąbrowa Tarnowska over 50%. Fewer of them resided in the villages. Lemkos resided in the southeast

Carpathian outskirts of the region. These highlanders of the Ruthenian origin lived in the Low Beskid and Sądecki Beskid Mountains up to Szczawnica-Zdrój; they sometimes considered themselves Ukrainians, but often simply referred to themselves as "local." Apart from the language and specific culture, religion differentiated them from the Polish population. The Greek Catholic Church (and the Roman Catholic Church elsewhere) dominated here, although the Orthodox Church gained influence as well since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. On the other side of the border, the Russian-occupied part of northern Małopolska was inhabited almost exclusively by Poles of the Roman Catholic denomination, except for the large percentage of Jewish population residing in towns and cities.

## POLITICAL LIFE IN GALICIA

Then came the moment which Poles who dreamt of freedom prayed for for generations. The occupying countries, hitherto crushing all Polish attempts of regaining independence in solidarity, now fought against one another. Poles had to take a side in the forthcoming conflict, and what eventually happened in 1918 – the fall of all three partitioning powers – had in fact been entirely unthinkable four years earlier.

Thanks to the constitutionally guaranteed civil freedoms, since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Galicia boasted the flourishing development of political life. The great commotion on the hitherto rather stable political scene resulted in the emergence of mass political parties, completely unknown until then. Thanks to the not very democratic electoral system, the former conservative, democrat and liberal parties still operated. However, they had to give way to the new political creations in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.



*Franz Joseph I  
Emperor of Austria-Hungary  
With my regards to General Cieszyński  
May 28, 1914*

Franz Joseph I Emperor of Austro-Hungary,  
MLP Archives

The People's Party operated in Galicia since 1895 (as of 1903 as the Polish People's Party) with Wincenty Witos as an emerging activist of the Party. The socialist movement, developing mostly among the urban population, had less influence. As of 1897 the movement operated under the sign of the Polish Social Democratic Party of Galicia and Cieszyn Silesia (PPSD). Ignacy Daszyński was an eminent member of the party in the years preceding the war. Last to emerge was the nationalist movement. It gained largest influence in the eastern Galicia, especially in Lemberg, where such figures as Roman Dmowski and Stanisław Grabski were active. This is where the National Democratic Party was established in 1904. As opposed to the former parties, the latter circles, although operating in the Austro-Hungarian

Monarchy, more and more decisively perceived Russia as the guarantee of protection of Polishness against the German invasion. Among the strongest advocates of the Danube Monarchy were the conservatives of the Krakow Group called the Court Jesters (*Stańczycy*). They propagated the so-called tri-state concept, aiming for the transformation of the Austro-Hungary into the Austro-Hungarian-Polish state, which would encompass the incorporation of the Russian-occupied parts of Poland into the borders of the new state.

The last prewar years witnessed the emergence of yet another political power: the independence movement associated with the political emigré from the Congress Kingdom of Poland, Józef Piłsudski. The coalition with Austro-Hungary in the

## HAŠEK UNDER THE SIGN OF THE TELEGRAPH

Twenty-year-old Jaroslav Hašek, a graduate of the Prague Trade Academy and the employee of the Prague Slavia Bank was arrested on July 28, 1903 and thrown into a Krakow prison located in the building "Under the Sign of the Telegraph" (at the corner of Kanonicza and Podzamcze Streets). The later author of *The Good Soldier Švejk* was charged with vagrancy and the attempt of illegal crossing of the Russian border. After the emotions caused by the excessive alcohol consumption wore off, the arrestee asserted that his journey to the north was only driven by the desire to deepen his knowledge about the local ancient tumuli. Hašek's three-month stay in jail resulted in the short stories, "A Walk across the Border" and "Among Vagrants."



A photographic session on Błonia before the First World War, National Archives in Krakow  
29/635/934/07, 133

forthcoming war that he proposed was supposed to be only a passing alliance, directed against Russia.

Pilsudski's principal goal was not some form of autonomy in the expanded Galicia, but the independent Poland. Therefore, he aimed to create the foundation of the Polish military forces. This is how the Rifleman Association was established (in 1911 in Krakow): a legal paramilitary organization headed however by the secret Union of Active Struggle that had formed a year earlier and united independence activists in Galicia. In the course of time other political parties also established their own riflemen organizations: the anti-Russian nationalists created the Polish Rifle Squads, while the People's Party – the Bartosz Squads and Podhale Squads. The Temporary Commission of Confederated Independence Parties, established in Vienna in the late 1912, was meant to politically support the military and treasure initiatives of the independence activists. Apart from the Polish Socialist Party from Congress Poland, it also consisted of Polish Social Democratic Party of Galicia

and Cieszyn Silesia, Polish People's Party and some National Democracy circles.

### CULTURAL LIFE IN GALICIA

Not only political life dominated Galicia but cultural life also flourished in towns and cities; and Krakow and Lemberg became main centres of Polish culture. The years preceding the outbreak of the war were the time of Young Poland and Art Nouveau movements. The former refers to the literary movement, then expanded to other arts, which came into being in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in the opposition to the previous movement of Positivism. The works of great Polish Romantic artists regained favour, while young artists were also inspired by philosophical works of Arthur Schopenhauer and Friedrich Nietzsche. Their "Gypsy" lifestyle among the conservative-minded bourgeois residents of e.g. Krakow – evoked disgust and outrage, but their works have permanently marked Polish culture.

Such well-known poets as Jan Kasprowicz or Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer, active

in Galicia, stemmed from the Young Poland movement. Music compositions, inspired by new trends in the arts, by Mieczysław Karłowicz or Karol Szymanowski, were also created here. Soon, the true revolution in the theatre was brought on by the unique dramas, including the famous *Wedding* by Stanisław Wyspiański, who resided in Krakow until his death in 1907.

The most famous theatre premieres attracted crowds to the auditorium of the magnificent Juliusz Słowacki Municipal Theatre. The mighty building at Świętego Ducha Square, erected in the 1890<sup>s</sup>, is not only a testimony to the city's affluence but also a fabulous historic monument of the period. But Krakow residents attended not only



St. Witkiewicz, Sketch of the Town Hall in Zakopane, 1899,  
the Tatra Museum Collection

the Słowacki Theatre; who knows, if the popular vaudevilles, such as the famous *Queen of the Suburbs* performed for years after its premiere in 1898, did not attract larger audiences. At first, the *Queen of the Suburbs* was performed in a small theatre in the park, and then

*Motherhood* by Stanisław Wyspiański, Wikimedia Commons Archives



in the larger People's Theatre at Krowoderska Street.

Polish Art Nouveau also emerged and developed in Krakow in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It quickly gained followers and drove away the hitherto dominating Eclectic Historicism. Stanisław Wyspiański was one of the main creators of the movement. This versatile artist was also a painter, stained-glass designer, architect and interior designer. The probably best internationally known Polish Art Nouveau artist, Józef Mehoffer, creator of the famous stained-glass windows (e.g. in the Cathedral in the Swiss Fribourg), also worked in the capital of Małopolska.

Also created at that time were the unique works

by Stanisław Witkiewicz, founder of the so-called Zakopane style, inspired by the architecture and ornaments of the Podhale highlanders (Witkiewicz wanted to create the Polish national style in architecture). Buildings designed in the Zakopane style were erected not only in Zakopane, but also in other towns, such as Nałęczów, Poreba Wielka, and Wiśla.

Witkiewicz was not the only artist active in Zakopane at the time. This small town at the foot of the Tatra Mountains became one of the most important centres of Polish culture at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century!

The fantastic Tatra landscape attracted painters, poets, actors and writers, and its austere beauty ideally fitted the Young Poland artistic concepts, which is best illustrated by the excellent Tatra short stories by Witkiewicz, poetry by Franciszek Nowicki or the great glorifier of the Tatras, Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer, and unique paintings by Leon Wyczółkowski. The artists were fascinated not only by the Tatra Mountains but also by the original culture of the Podhale highlanders. The highlander was almost perceived as an archetype of the Pole, and Podhale was regarded as

the mainstay of the authentic Polish folk culture. Less serious creativity, which is by no means low-brow, also introduced a great commotion in the lives of respectable conservative town people. The famous Krakow café and confectionary, today known as Jama Michalika (Michałik's Cave), regularly featured cabaret shows admired by the Krakow bohème. The Jama Café was established in 1895 at Floriańska Street by Jan Apolinary Michałik, who arrived from Lemberg, and it was first called Lemberg Confectionary, but soon it became the favourite meeting place of writers,

actors, painters and other artists. The dark interior without windows contributed to its name, Jama (cave), and the artists, often struggling to make ends meet, sometimes paid the bills by decorating the café walls with improvised drawings and satirical poems. This is where the main ideas of Young Poland were born, this is where the main ideologist of the movement, Stanisław Przybyszewski, used to hang out, accompanied by poets Lucjan Rydel and Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer, and such painters as Stanisław Wyspiński, Włodzimierz Tetmajer, Józef Mehoffer, Leon Wyczółkowski and Jacek Malczewski.

Soon the Jama Café began featuring the Green Balloon Cabaret and Theatre. The scoffing texts and songs not only mocked the Krakow conservative bourgeoisie class but also made fun of the pompous attitude of the Young Poland literature with its neo-Romanic vision of artist as the priest of the arts. The café also presented equally famous satirical shows, mocking above all the contemporary Galician politicians. Many texts were written by a representative of the enormously respectable and staid profession, Doctor Tadeusz Boy-Żeleński. His *Little Words*, collected and published for the first time in Lemberg in 1913, evoked a great scandal.

In the meantime, thanks to the popularity of the cabaret, the Jama Café was expanded by a new room, designed in the Art Nouveau style by Karol Frycz and Franciszek Mączyński. Its beautiful interior can be admired until this very day. Another café, Paon, opposite the Słowacki Theatre, once equally popular among the bohème, has unfortunately not survived until the present day. Many famous Young Poland artists, who left numerous satirical drawings and facetious poems on the hanging canvas, were often seen there.

Jama Michalika Café, photo by M. Zaręba



## THE TIME OF CHANGE

However, one month after the Sarajevo Assassination of June 28, 1914, everything changed. The above-described world gave way to the new order. The war was greeted in Małopolska with enthusiasm: it was widely believed, especially in Western Galicia, that the time had come to fight for the new division of the Polish lands. The patriotic mood is evidenced in the accounts of the enthusiastic farewell given to the mobilized soldiers at the railway stations, often not only under the Austro-Hungarian banner, but also under the Polish flags and with the sounds of Dąbrowski's Mazurka (the present National Anthem). Everybody believed in a quick victorious war, and almost no one thought this was the beginning of the over four years of struggle...

## DECLARATION OF WAR

Count Leopold von Berchtold, Imperial-Royal Foreign Minister of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy to the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Serbia:

*Vienna, July 28, 1914.  
The Royal Government of Serbia has not responded in a satisfactory manner to the note of July 23, 1914, presented by the Austro-Hungarian Minister in Belgrade. The Imperial-Royal Government finds it necessary to provide the defense of its rights and interests, and, as a result, must resort to the force of arms. In consequence, as of now Austro-Hungary considers itself in the state of war with Serbia.*

*- Count Berchtold*

# 2

## THE TIME OF THE GREAT WAR



Russian infantry (1915), MLP Archives

# THE GREAT WAR IN MAŁOPOLSKA

## – the Tribute of Blood and the Time of Glory

"The news of the death of Archduke Franz Ferdinand [Habsburg], the heir to the throne, and his wife reached the local Imperial-Royal correspondence office after 3 pm. The office sent it out immediately to the editorial offices of all daily newspapers," wrote the Krakow Time daily newspaper, having received the information about the assassination committed on June 28, 1914 before the eyes of the crowds in the Bosnian

Sarajevo. Despite the nervous atmosphere of the following days, the situation was not clear: it was believed that the war hanging in the air would be another local conflict; however, the military strategists had long ago written different scenarios...

### THE OUTBREAK OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The Austrian government declared war with Serbia

on July 28, 1914, triggering the actions of other countries, which resulted from the complicated system of international alliances. A day later, Russia ordered mobilization, to which Germany reacted with an ultimatum presented to Russia, demanding demobilization. The ultimatum was rejected and Germany declared war with Russia on August 1, 1914. On August 2, Germany demanded that Belgium (a neutral country) permits

### I SHOT TWICE...



The arrest of Gavrilo Princip, 1914, Wikimedia Commons Archives

When the next automobile approached, I recognized the Archduke [Franz Ferdinand Habsburg]. But when I saw that a lady [Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg] was sitting next to him, I hesitated for a moment: should I shoot, or not. At this moment, a strange feeling overwhelmed me and I aimed at the heir to the throne from the pavement. It was all that easier as the automobile slowed down at the road turn... I think I shot twice, maybe more times, because I was very excited," this is how the Serbian assassin, Gavrilo Princip, who shot seven times to the Austro-Hungarian heir to the throne, testified a few quarters of an hour after the assassination. Like many of his contemporaries, he absolutely did not expect that the assassination would be the direct cause of the outbreak of the World War.

## THE GREAT WAR IN MAŁOPOLSKA



Emperor Wilhelm I of Germany attempting to devour the world, a French caricature of 1915, Wikimedia Commons Archives

the march of the German army through the Belgian territory but it did not receive the permission. The following day Germany declared war with France, and on August 4, its army crossed the Belgian border, which resulted in England declaring war with Germany. While on August 6, 1914, Austro-Hungary started the war against Russia...

In the course of several months Europe was thrown into the fire of war – the fighting on the land, the sea and in the air went on from Flanders to Serbia and from the Baltic Sea to the Dardanelles. The two main European fronts – the Western Front on the territory of France and Belgium, and the Eastern Front running from the Baltic Sea shore to the Carpathian Mountains – became the

arenas of the war drama. The old world had never until then seen the fighting on such a scale: the Eastern Front was about 1,770 km long, not including the Caucasus region; in contrast the Western Front in France was 643 km long.

### MILITARY OPERATIONS IN MAŁOPOLSKA

At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the headquarters staff of the Imperial-Royal army perceived Galicia as the territory which should potentially serve as the base for the Austrian offensive against Russia, or as the buffer zone, which would be attacked first in case of the Russian army's offensive. This was because this area boasted the most convenient operational axes running from the Kingdom of Poland and the territories located further east: through Galicia and the Carpathian passes deep into the territories of the Habsburg Monarchy. After many revisions of the plans, it was decided that the principal fortification elements of the defensive of the Habsburg Empire from the Russian side would consist of two strategic fortresses of the first degree: Krakow Fortress enclosing the Viennese direction – the protection of the Moravian Gate, and Przemyśl Fortress enclosing the Budapest direction – the "Gate of Hungary."

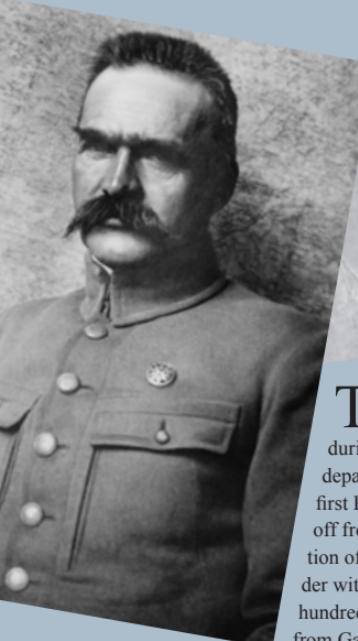
The main task of the Russian commander of the southwest front at the beginning of the military operations in 1914 was to carry out a hurricane attack, aimed to conduct the double envelopment of the Imperial-Royal Army and to cut it off from the side of the Vistula River by the Russian Fourth Army, and from the side of the Dniester River and the Carpathian connections by the Eighth Russian Army, and finally to destroy the enemy imprisoned in the Eastern Galicia. Soon, a significant part of the Eastern Galicia fell into the Russian hands, and the failures of the

The political atmosphere of Galicia in the years preceding the outbreak of the First World War was very heated. One of the trends which gained greater and greater influence at the time was the independence movement headed by Józef Piłsudski. Born in 1867 in Lithuania (in the vicinity of Vilnius), he joined the Russian revolutionary movement during his university years in Charkov, and for his alleged participation in the preparation of the tsar assassination attempt, he spent five years in exile in Siberia. After his return, he became involved in the socialist activity but soon began regarding socialist ideas as only a means to an end in the goal of Polish independence. As he himself put it, he got off the "Socialism" train at the "Independence" station. Threatened with arrests on the territory of Russian-occupied Poland, he moved to Galicia, where he lived and worked – mostly in Krakow.

## A VILNIUS SOCIALIST



A badge of the First Cadre Company,  
drawing by S. Kwieciński



On August 3, 1914, Józef Piłsudski gave the following speech to the Riflemen's Associations and Rifle Squads now merged into the Cadre Company:

"From now on there are no more Riflemen, no more Rifle Squads. All of you, standing here, are the Polish soldiers. ... You have the immense honour of being the first ones to go to the Kingdom of Poland and cross the border with the Russian-occupied part of Poland as the front column of the Polish Army that goes fighting for the independence of our fatherland."

Józef Piłsudski, Chief of State (1930), Wikimedia Commons Archives

The symbolic beginning of the Polish path to independence during the First World War was the departure of the First Cadre Company of the Riflemen from Krakow. This first Polish military formation since the time of the January Uprising, set off from Krakow's Oleandry on the day of the Austro-Hungarian declaration of war against Russia, August 6, 1914, heading toward the nearby border with Russia in Michałowice, and then marched to Kielce. Fewer than two hundred members of the Riflemen's Association and other Rifle organizations from Galicia, poorly armed with outdated Austrian rifles, were charged with a task to start an anti-Russian insurrection in the Congress Kingdom of Poland.

## FIRST COMPANY



### Józef Piłsudski's Proclamation to the Nation

#### NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

The decisive time has come! Poland has ceased to be a slave and now decides about her fate alone, she wants to build her future, throwing her own armed forces on the scale of events. The cadres of the Polish Army have entered the territory of the KINGDOM OF POLAND on behalf of the Chief Command of the National Government. They have seized the land for the sake of the appropriate, true and the only host - THE POLISH NATION, who has fertilized and enhanced this soil with its own blood. We are casting off the shackles of our Nation's bondage, and are bringing conditions of normal development to each strata of society.

As of today, the ENTIRE NATION should unite in one camp under the command of the NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. Only traitors will remain beyond the camp, and we can be ruthless toward them.

Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Army,  
Józef Piłsudski

Soon, the First Company was followed by other riflemen's units together with Piłsudski. Unfortunately, his plans of starting an uprising in Congress Poland turned out to be unrealistic, which was soon noticed by the Austrian command, who even demanded that the riflemen's unit are dissolved and incorporated into the Austro-Hungarian Army. But the political parties operating

in Galicia prevented this from happening and thanks to their influence, the Polish Legions were formed in Vienna on August 16, 1914, in order to fight against Russia on the side of Austro-Hungary. Piłsudski reported to the Polish Legions together with his riflemen's units, declaring his willingness to join them, in subordination to the Galician Supreme National Committee.

Instead of the intended two legions: Eastern Legion and Western Legion, only the latter was eventually established in the summer of 1914. However, soon afterwards, the growing forces of the Western Legion entered the fights, incorporated into one regiment headed by Józef Piłsudski. In the middle of December of 1914, thanks to the continuing influx of volunteers, the First Brigade of the Polish Legions was established, and Piłsudski, who was now promoted to Brigadier, was put in its command.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLISH LEGIONS

An appeal to enlist in the Polish Legions, 1920, MLP Archives

Meanwhile, the new legion regiments (Second and Third), formed in September of 1914, were transferred by the Austrian command to the Eastern Carpathians, where they fought fierce battles in the fall and winter. This is also where the **Second Brigade**, the so-called Carpathian Brigade, was formed in May of 1915. The **Third Brigade** was also established at the same time and consisted of the Fourth and Sixth Regiments of the Legion Infantry.

All three brigades were united only in October of 1915, when they were transferred to the front in Volhynia. They then constituted the total of about 16,500 soldiers. In the middle of 1916, the brigades were officially incorporated into the Polish Auxiliary Corps, and then into the Polish Armed Forces that fought not on the side of the Austro-Hungarian forces but on the side of the German army.

A legionary, 1914, MLP Archives

In July of 1917 Piłsudski invoked the so-called Oath Crisis: the legionaries of the First and Third Brigades declined to swear allegiance and obedience to the Emperor Wilhelm II of Germany. Some of them were interned, Piłsudski was imprisoned in Magdeburg, and the remainder of the soldiers originating from Galicia were incorporated into the Austro-Hungarian Army. Most of the Second Brigade did make the oath but in February of 1918, when the Central Powers gave the Chełm region away to the emerging independent Ukraine, these soldiers forced their way through the front near Rarańcza to Russia. This was the end of the legion epic whose memory was carefully maintained by the elites of the Second Polish Republic. Although in fact, many members of these elites, especially the military elites, themselves served in the ranks of the Legions.

## MOST SIGNIFICANT BATTLES FOUGHT BY THE POLISH LEGIONS IN WESTERN GALICIA AND THE KINGDOM OF POLAND IN THE YEARS 1914-1915

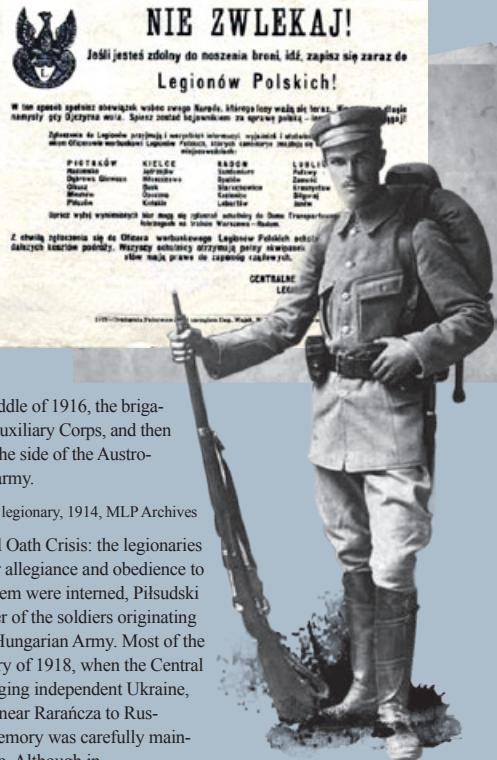
1914:

- Battle of Anielin (October 22) and Battle of Laski (October 23–26) during the German-Austrian offensive on Dęblin
- Battle of Krzywopłoty (November 16–19)
- Fights in the vicinity of Limanowa (e.g. Chyszówka, Marcinkowice, the Kamienica River Valley), during the Battle of Łapanów and Limanowa (November and December)
- Battle of Lowczówka (December 22–25) during the Russian "Christmas" offensive

1914-1915

1915:

- Fights at the Nida River (March)
- Battle of Konary (May 16–25) during the Central Powers' offensive in the Kingdom of Poland
- Battle of Jastków (July 31–August 2) and Battle of Kamionka (August 4–7) in the Lublin region





The Krakow Blonia, September 1914, MLP Archives

**Tadeusz Kasprzycki** (1891–1978) – independence activist, member of the Riflemen's Association, in August of 1914 Commander of the First Cadre Company, and then Staff Officer in the First Brigade, one of the organizers of the Polish Military Organization.



## LEGION COMMANDERS

**Edward "Śmigły" Rydz** (1886–1941) – member of the Union for Active Resistance and the Riflemen's Association, Commander of the Third Legion Battalion, he is credited for the surprise attack on the Cossacks in Chyszówka in the late November of 1914, since the middle of December of 1914 until the summer of 1917 Commander of the First Regiment of the Legion Infantry, and Commander of the Polish Military Organization.

The "Maciejówka" fiddler-style cap of the Polish legionaries, drawing by S. Kwieciński

The "Beliniak" soldiers, 1915, MLP Archives

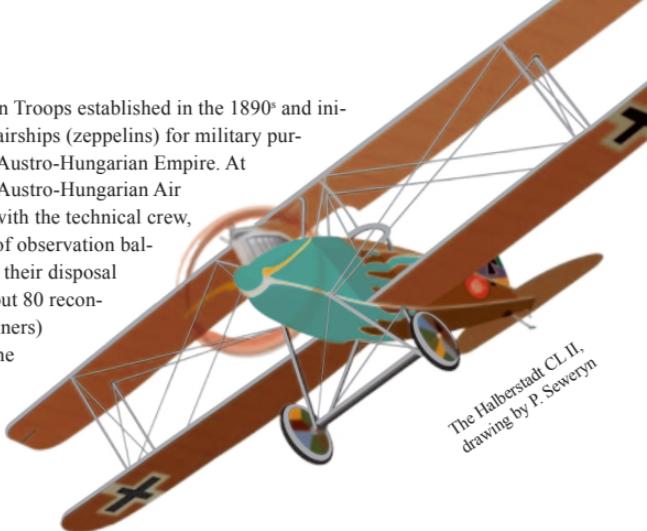
The Legions before departing for the front, September 1914, Krakow, MLP Archives

**Władysław "Belina" Prażmowski** (1888–1938) – member of the Union for Active Resistance and the Riflemen's Association, commander of the first seven-man patrol sent out on August 2, 1914 by Piłsudski from Krakow to the Russian-occupied part of Poland, then founder and Commander of the Legion Cavalry, first in the squadron, and then in the First Uhlan Regiment, called "Beliniaks."

**Kazimierz Sosnkowski** (1885–1969) – one of the closest associates of Józef Piłsudski, founder of the Union for Active Resistance, Chief of Staff of Piłsudski's First Regiment, then in the First Brigade of the Polish Legions, personally commanded the First Brigade in the Battle of Łowczówek.



The Imperial and Royal Aviation Troops established in the 1890<sup>s</sup> and initially deploying balloons and airships (zeppelins) for military purposes, were an integral part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. At the outbreak of the Great War, the Austro-Hungarian Air Force consisted of an airship unit with the technical crew, 15 aircraft divisions, and 12 units of observation balloons. The aircraft divisions had at their disposal the total of over 100 airplanes (about 80 reconnaissance aircraft and about 30 trainers) with the range of ca. 150 km and the speed of 90–100 km per hour. The air fleet consisted mostly of aircraft manufactured domestically and aircraft models imported from Germany and manufactured on the German license. The Austro-Hungarian air force had at their disposal in the years 1914–1915 such aircraft models as the Lloyd C.II, reconnaissance aircraft and at the same time a light bomber; the Fokker A.III, monoplane fighter aircraft with a machine gun synchronized with the propeller speed; the Aviatik C.I, a reconnaissance biplane, and the Hansa-Brandenburg B.I. biplane trainer.



The Halberstadt CL II,  
drawing by P. Seweryn

## AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN AIR FORCE IN THE YEARS 1914–1915

Several military airports were created on the territory of the Danube Monarchy in order to meet the demands of the growing air force of the Royal-Imperial Austro-Hungarian pilots, including the stronghold airport in Krakow Fortress. It was established in 1912 on the area of 55 hectares purchased from the Dominican brothers, and located east of the Uhlan barracks in Rakowice, Krakow. The Austrian headquarters established there Flugpark 7 (airpark) with the entire operational base.

Photographic evidence shows that another airfield, located in the vicinity of Wawel Hill, on Błonie Park, also operated in Krakow in 1914. First flights took off from the airfield in 1914.

During the First World War airplanes operating from the Rakowice airport played an important logistical role: Austro-Hungary provided mail services to the besieged Przemyśl Fortress, made reconnaissance, coordinated artillery fire, attacked the Russian forces, as well as fought aerial duels with tsarist airplanes. In 1917 Krakow was incorporated into the regular airmail line between Vienna – Krakow – Lemberg – Kiev, later extended to Odessa. This airmail line operated efficiently until the fall of the Royal-Imperial Monarchy.

## AIRPORTS IN KRAKOW FORTRESS

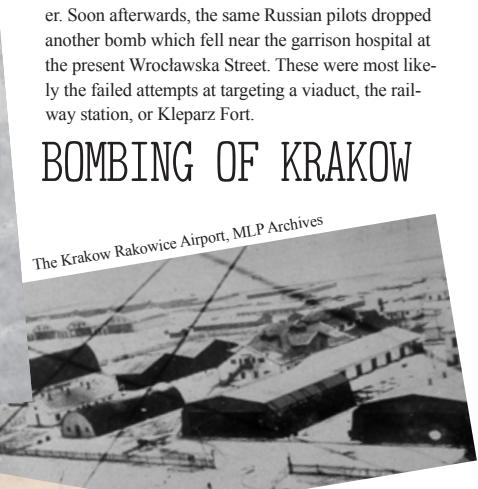




MLP Archives

#### AEROPLANES ABOVE KRAKOW

The Krakow Time newspaper reported on November 13, 1914: "The Krakow news review of today would not be complete without a mention of the aeroplanes hovering above the city. The first aeroplane appeared this morning, in the beautiful chilly weather, after 9 a.m. it soared into the sky from the west and flew off to the south. Two aeroplanes circled above the Main Market Square at the height of 1,000-1,500 metres. One of them circled the main post office building, and the other - the Main Market Square and St. Mary's Tower and lowered on the western side of the market to the height of ca. 60 metres. At first, there was an alarm. Some passengers thought these were Russian aeroplanes."



The Krakow Rakowice Airport, MLP Archives



A crashed German airplane, MLP Archives

**O**n Thursday, December 3, 1914, two tsarist pilots, flying in the French-constructed Voisin aircraft, several hundred metres above Krakow, dropped the first aircraft bomb in the history of the city. It hit the annex building of the mansion at the present 6 Boguslawskiego Street (then Jasna Street) at 11 a.m. The bomb went through the roof and exploded in the attic, which housed the storage of the I. Meisels Trade-Installation Company. The exploding enemy missile completely destroyed the warehouse of porcelain toilet bowls, closets, and tubs. The mansion, bombed in December of 1914, became famous for another reason as well – Czesław Miłosz, Nobel Prize winner, resided there several decades later. Soon afterwards, the same Russian pilots dropped another bomb which fell near the garrison hospital at the present Wroclawska Street. These were most likely the failed attempts at targeting a viaduct, the railway station, or Kleparz Fort.

## BOMBING OF KRAKOW

**T**he fortress balloon units became an organizational and structural part of the fortress artillery in 1902. Heavy artillery played a key role in the Battle of Krakow in December of 1914, and the artillery fire was directed from the observation balloons located above the forts of Krakow Fortress. In total, 20,000 missiles were fired then.

## BALLOONS IN THE BATTLE OF KRAKOW

#### AVIATION FASHION

War correspondent for the Hungarian press, Ferenc Molnár, described the appearance of the crew of a Hungarian aircraft returning from a reconnaissance flight in the following way: *"Two bears jump out. The figures are twice as fat as a man, hairy from head to toe, no nose or eyes are visible from beneath the furs and leathers. The soldiers tear off the furry sacks of them ... and finally from the pile of furs and leathers emerges an officer pilot. His eyes shine, his face is red as an apple. In addition, beneath the furs he is wearing a winter hat and pilot helmet, and a large shawl around his neck."*

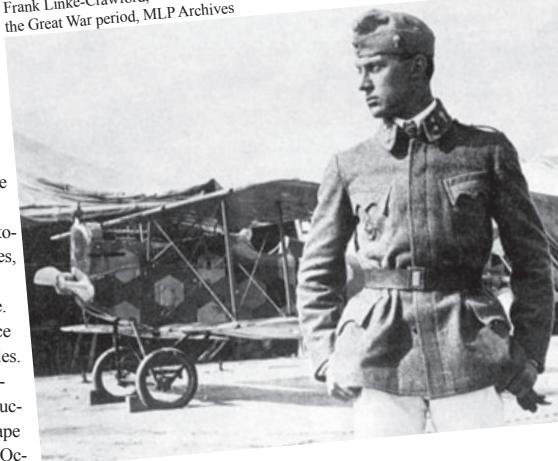
One needed a lot of imagination to predict the development of aviation fashion. However, in January of 1915 Molnár wrote down the prophetic words: "Somebody said that in the future air force would be the most elegant kind of weapons."



An ID card of a Krakow Rakowice pilot, 1919, MLP Archives

**I**n the fall of 1918 new logos, the first marks of Polish Air Force, were painted on the airplanes captured from the German and Austro-Hungarian airports, after the black crosses, the hitherto symbol of nationality status, were covered with paint. The so-called Krakow logo, co-created by Roman Florer, were given to the First Combat Escadrille, the first Polish Air Force unit. The Krakow logo consisted of the red letter Z against a square white background, and it was painted both on the aircraft fuselage and on the wings.

Frank Linke-Crawford, ace of the Austro-Hungarian Air Force from the Great War period, MLP Archives



## RAKOWICE IN THE POLISH HANDS

The Albatros C.I, Wikimedia Commons Archives



etc.), helicopters, gliders, as well as aircraft engines, and anti-aircraft missile weapons. The Krakow Aviation Museum collection is considered one of the most interesting collections of this type in the world, and the machines from the time of the First World War are truly unique.

Relatively few German airplanes dating from the years 1914–1918 have been preserved in the world, since the Treaty of Versailles that ended the First World War forced the defeated Germany to completely destroy all its military airplanes. The Polish Aviation Museum in Krakow boasts the unique German fighter Halberstadt CL.II dating from 1917, the LFG Roland D.VI and the Albatros H.I from 1918. A bit older than the above-mentioned planes, the Albatros C.I is a reconnaissance two-seat aircraft made entirely of wood. The DFW C.V was also used for observation and photographic reconnaissance. The Krakow model dating from 1917 is the only aircraft of this type preserved in the world. The LVG B.II biplane dating from 1917 is an example of a trainer aircraft.

The Russian machines dating from the First World War are represented by the Grigorovich M-15 dating from 1917, reconnaissance flying boat, used for observation in the military maritime aviation. Also worth noting is the model of the most famous British fighter of the First World War: Sopwith F.1 Camel from 1917, renowned for its manoeuvrability and combat efficiency.

The Krakow Aeroclub organized the Great Aviation Exhibition in 1964 on the area of the former airport in Rakowice. The exhibits put together for the purpose of the exhibition became the origin of the collection of the Aviation Museum established a few years later. Nowadays, the museum uses the preserved airport buildings, such as a large historic hangar. Among the exhibits are all kinds of aircraft (fighter, reconnaissance, trainer, ambulance, agricultural airplanes,

## POLISH AVIATION MUSEUM



**POLISH AVIATION MUSEUM IN KRAKOW –**  
Cultural Institution of Małopolska Region,  
al. Jana Pawła II 39, tel: +48 12 6409960,  
[info@muzeumlotnictwa.pl](mailto:info@muzeumlotnictwa.pl), <http://www.muz->  
[eumlotnictwa.pl](http://eumlotnictwa.pl); open: Tue-Sun 9am-7pm;  
tickets: PLN 14, reduced price: PLN 7, Tue  
admission free of charge.

A fragment of the exhibition of the Polish Aviation Museum in Krakow, photo by J. Gorlach

## THE GREAT WAR IN MAŁOPOLSKA



Imperial-Royal Army sealed the fate of Lemberg. Przemysl Fortress, hitherto the headquarters of the Austrian army, was encircled.

The November of 1914 was the month of the greatest Russian successes on the Galician

A legionary unit, MLP Archives

front. The Russian front was then moved into the region of villages of Wolbrom and Słomniki in the vicinity of Krakow, and then east of Brzesko and Nowy Sącz, it ran towards the Carpathian Mountains, where only a few points hindered the tsarist army's passage to the south. Around November 11 1914 r., before the commencement of the new Austro-German offensive, the Russian army reached the positions located furthest to the west during the Great War, and occupied almost six seventh of the territory of Galicia and almost the entire Kingdom of Poland, nearly reaching the border with Germany. The Battle of Krzywoploty was fought November 16-19 in the northern part of Małopolska. Polish legionaries and Austro-Hungarian soldiers managed to stop the Russian advancement to the northwest of Krakow.



Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, 1917, MLP Archives

decided to counterattack and after a several-hour-long intense battle with bayonets, not only did they drive out the enemy from Biežanów but they also conquered the entire range of hills separating Krakow from Wieliczka.

The Battle of Krakow stopped the main Russian attack and the Austro-Hungarians now planned to definitively stop the advance of the "steam roller" as the Russian offensive was called, and the battles fought south of Krakow December 2-12, 1914, i.e. the Battle of Łapanów and Limanowa, were supposed to decide about the result.

The group of legionaries that also participated in the battle, was soon transformed into the First Brigade of the Polish Legions. In the early December of 1914, an over 60-km wide gap was formed between the Russian army units, and the

Austro-Hungarian reserves entered the gap on December 3, 1914. The units concentrated in the region of Chabówka, Mszana Dolna and Dobra began to encircling the Russian wing, heading toward Rajbrot, but the maneuver was noticed and the Russians began to prepare the defence so efficiently that it was only on December 7 that they were driven away beyond the Stradomka River. The Battle of Limanowa began on December 8, 1914, and despite the exhaustion the legion units conquered Zalesie, Kamienna and Łącko.

The First Brigade of the Polish Legions also fought December 22-25, in the Battle of Łowczówek, the so-called Christmas Battle. This encounter temporarily stopped the Russian forces advancing to the west, which allowed the Austrians to expand the

### SHOTS IN THE WEST

Maria Kromkayowa, resident of Biecz, left the following entry in her journal: "Jan 14, [1915]. Shots heard in the distance to the west. Ours shoot energetically in the south. ... 14 degrees of frost. Winter is coming. It would be good, since the Russian army brought along cholera and there were already three dangerous cases of illness, as there are horses and dirt around the houses. People live in want of salt. The Moskals promise to go away to Hungary, as soon as the earth freezes. - The question is if the Austrians will let you. - We'll go. They have nice castles there, so we'll spoil them, just like the Magyars spoilt ours in Russia."

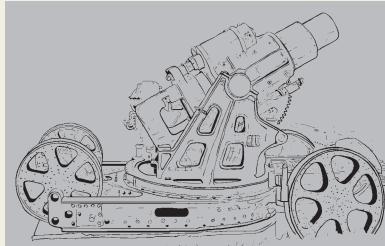
front on the Tarnów – Gorlice line. The front remained at these positions for long months and for the first time in history, it took on the form of developed defensive positions with the lines of rifle pits, shelters, reserve positions, trenches, and so on. The change of the situation occurred only after the Battle of Gorlice fought May 2–5, 1915. It was one of the most significant battles of the First World War, since

it led to the one of the largest breakthroughs of the front in the history of Europe. As a result of the Battle of Gorlice, the Austrian and German forces finally drove the Russian army out to the east and forced it to retreat.

After the Gorlice breakthrough in May of 1915, the Corps of the Austro-Hungarian First Army, headed by General Viktor Dankl, operating on the northern bank of the Vistula

### TIMELINE OF WAR OPERATIONS IN MAŁOPOLSKA 1914–1915

July 28, 1914 . . . . .	Austro-Hungary declares war with Serbia
Aug 3, 1914 . . . . .	First Cadre Company formed in Krakow
Aug 6, 1914 . . . . .	First Cadre Company sets off from Oleandry
Aug 23–25, 1914 . . . . .	the Battle of Kraśnik
Sept 4–14, 1914 . . . . .	the Russian army reaches the Pilica – Wolbrom – Skała – Słomniki – Proszowice – Nowe Brzesko line on the left bank of the Vistula River
Sept 17–Oct 10, 1914 . . . . .	first siege of Przemyśl
Nov 5, 1914–Mar 23, 1915 . . . . .	second siege of Przemyśl
Nov 10, 1914 . . . . .	the Russian army enters Tarnów
Nov 16–22, 1914 . . . . .	the First Battle of Krakow
Nov 16–19, 1914 . . . . .	the Battle of Krzywopłoty
Dec 2–11, 1914 . . . . .	the Battle of Limanowa and the halt of the Russian army offensive
Dec 4, 1914 . . . . .	Wieliczka conquered by the Russians and the beginning of the Second Battle of Krakow
Dec 5, 1914 . . . . .	fights for Kaim Hill and Biežanów
Dec 13, 1914 . . . . .	Russians retreat from Krakow
Dec 22–25, 1914 . . . . .	the Battle of Łowczówek
Mar 1915 . . . . .	a failed attempt to retrieve Przemyśl Fortress besieged by the Russians
Mar 22 1915 . . . . .	the Capitulation of Przemyśl, captured by the Russian forces the following day
May 2–5, 1915 . . . . .	the Battle of Gorlice and the Austro-Hungarian Army's breakthrough of the Russian front
May 5, 1915 . . . . .	the Austro-Hungarian forces enter Tarnów
May 15, 1915 . . . . .	the Russian forces retreat to the Nowe Miasto – Sandomierz – Przemyśl – Stryj line
June 6, 1915. . . . .	the Austro-Hungarian forces enter Przemyśl



"Skinny Emma:" Skoda 30,5 cm M. 11. howitzer, equipment of the Austro-Hungarian Army,  
drawing by S. Kwieciński

River followed the retreating Fourth Russian Army forces. This attack, after recapture of Przemyśl and Lemberg, almost led to the collapse of the Russian front in the south. During the council of war in Baranowicze, attended by Tsar Nicholas II himself, the decision was reached to retain the Kingdom of Poland as long as possible, and to focus on the northwestern front. However, on August 5, in order to avoid the threat of encirclement, the Russians had to desert Warsaw.

Thus, as a result of the spring-summer offensive of the Central Powers, almost the entire Galicia, Kingdom of Poland, Lithuania and Courland fell into the hands of Germans and Austrians. What was achieved after the year of struggles and at the enormous expense, could have been achieved in the first month of fighting, had the plans of old Fieldmarshal von Moltke been realized, instead of the unrealistic Schlieffen Plan, which focused on concentrating the majority of German troops in the fight against France, and only then on facing Russia. The events of the first year on the Eastern Front caused enormous damage and losses on the Polish lands, which now were entirely in the hands of the Central Powers.

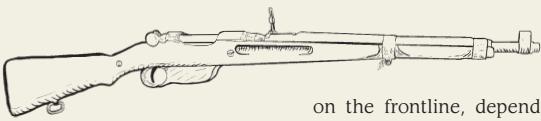
### PROGRESS BRINGING DEATH

Many innovative solutions were implemented for the first time during the First World War in order to... kill more efficiently. The heavy machine guns and rapid-fire artillery cannons brought devastation. The European fronts featured aircraft, tanks, flamethrowers, and terrifying chemical weapons in the form of gas.

### GREAT ARMIES

In the summer of 1914, the armies of three powers confronted one another at the Eastern Front. The mighty Russian army was above all countered by the much smaller Austro-Hungarian forces, since the Germans concentrated the majority of their forces on the Western Front. However, the Russian superiority in numbers was evened out by their poorer armament and training, which took its toll especially in the subsequent war years.

Although, the basic weapon of the Russian infantry, the Mosin-Nagant rifle, was almost equal to the Austro-Hungarian Mannlicher-Schönauer rifle, or the German Mauser rifle, the Austrians and Germans possessed much more artillery and machine guns. The superiority of artillery, especially the use of the heavy cannons, was clearly visible in particular during the Battle of Gorlice. At the beginning of the Great War, the air force did not have much combat significance on the Eastern Front, and it mostly functioned as the military intelligence. In fact, the Russians had at their disposal many airplanes, but these were the French constructions and they soon ran out of spare parts, and had too few trained pilots. The situation of the Austro-Hungarian and German air force was much better. Apart



Steyr-Mannlicher M1895 rifle  
(Austro-Hungarian Army),  
drawing by S. Kwieciński

from the aircraft, the observation air balloons were used for gathering intelligence at the battlefield, while the Russians used their numerous cavalry on a large scale.

The land forces of the Austro-Hungary Army consisted of the joint army (*Ge-meinsame Armee*), national defense units and the reserve force of general mobilization (*Landsturm*). The army conscription encompassed men aged 19 to 50, and in the Hungarian part of the empire men aged 19 to 55. The time of service

Austro-Hungarian artillery, 1915, MLP Archives



on the frontline, depending on the formation, lasted between 2 and 4 years. The official language was German, but the army naturally reflected the complicated ethnic structure of the Habsburg Monarchy: the army featured the Austrian Germans, Czechs, Poles, Ukrainians, Hungarians, Romanians, Slovaks, Croatians, Serbs, Slovenes, Italians, and numerous Jews. The basic uniform of the Imperial-Royal infantry at the beginning of the First World War consisted of the uniform jacket, simple trousers and a hat in the *Hechtgrau* (grey-blue) colour. The German Army, that is the *Deutsche Kaiserliche Armee* (the Imperial German Army), consisted of

The Imperial Russian Army, colloquially known as the tsarist army, was among the largest armies in number in Europe. Organizationally, it encompassed 14 military divisions. The army consisted not only of Russians, but also of representatives of other nationalities and ethnic groups, such as the Tartars, Cossacks, Lithuanians, Poles, Ukrainians, or Finns. The official language was Russian. The basic uniform of the Russian infantry in 1914 consisted of the

## THE GREAT WAR IN MAŁOPOLSKA

### KÜSTENHAUBITZE M.14

In 1914 the Austro-Hungarian army began using the "42 cm L/15 Küstenhaubitze" howitzer (barrel length - 6,290 mm, weight - 117,000 kg, shell - 800/1,000 kg). A special independent unit was formed to operate the Howitzer on the battlefield: Battery No. 1, which consisted of 8 officers and 200 soldiers (the direct combat operating of the howitzer battery involved 27 people). It underwent the baptism of fire in the January of 1915, when the first shots were fired at the Russian-occupied Tarnów. During the fire, the detailed bearing was sent via telephone from the observation balloon and via radio (for the first time in the military history!) from the board of the Muzzl Aircraft type Albatros D III. It allowed for a point destruction of military targets, at the same time saving the devastation of the civil substance of the city, which at the time was unprecedented.

uniform jacket, simple trousers and a side cap in the brown-olive colour.

### AFTERMATH OF THE GREAT WAR

The Great War was one of the largest conflicts in the history of the world: in total, over 65 million people fought on all sides. It was also another factor, after the French Revolution and the transformations of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, that determined the departure of the old world into the past. The great monarchies: Russian, Germany, and Austro-Hungary collapsed in the fall of 1918, and new countries were created on their ruins: the Czechoslovak Republic, Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, i.e. the first Yugoslavia. Independent Poland was reborn, and the map of Europe now featured Finland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

The war, lasting for more than four years, incurred monstrous and unprecedented losses. The number of civil casualties reached 10 million, while the soldier casualties – over 8 million. Economy of the European countries, ruined by the war, was recovering with great difficulty, the unemployment rates were skyrocketing, as was the inflation, famine, and pandemics, including the influenza

pandemic, the so-called Spanish flu. In addition, the great migrations of the population were not conducive to the economic development. Moreover, the arms industry no longer operated, and no other industry existed. Most of the cities, towns and villages on the frontline were in ruins, and some of them were never rebuilt.

The specific legacy of the Great War are the war cemeteries. Małopolska features over 400 of them, with over 60,000 soldiers of all fighting armies buried there. War cemeteries, located in the vicinity of the battlefields in Galicia, were established by the Krakow Unit of War Graves. The unit member architects and craftsmen transformed the necropolises into unique historic works of art. The most interesting cemeteries are located on Pustki Hill, in Staszówka and Łowczówka.

### THIS IS NOT A PEACE...

In 1919 as the peace conference in Versailles was coming to an end, one of the great French commanders, Marshal Ferdinand Foch made a prophetic statement: "This is not a peace. It is an armistice for twenty years."

# 3

## THE FIRST WORLD WAR'S EASTERN FRONT TRAIL



The Tadeusz Kościuszko Mound, photo by P. Krawczyk, UMK Archives

# KRAKOW AND THE VICINITY

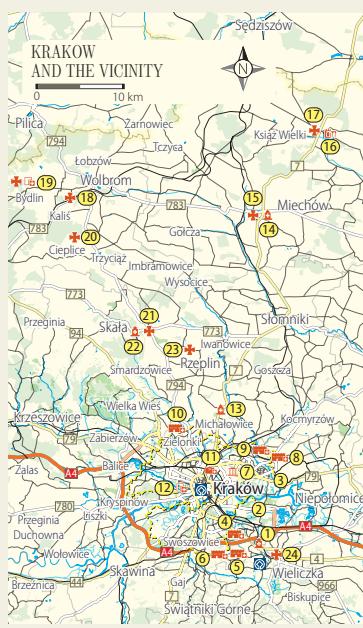
## – The Austrian Stronghold and the Cradle of the Legions

Krakow – the capital of the region – is an extremely important site on the Małopolska First World War's Eastern Front Trail. The famous First Cadre Company departed from the city, which was transformed into the mighty stronghold in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. North of Krakow the trail retraces the footsteps of the legionaries, who headed toward Kielce. Further on, you can head toward the hills of the Jurassic Krakowsko-Częstochowska Upland, which in the fall of 1914 witnessed the fights aiming to prevent the Russian offensive of the so-called "steam roller," which was supposed to pass by Krakow from the northwest. The Austro-Hungarian and Russian forces clashed against each other at Skala, Rzeplin, Trzciąż, Jangroć and in the vicinity of Wolbrom, while the Polish legionaries fought a difficult battle at Krzywopłoty.

### KRAKOW

Kaim Hill (265 m above sea level) rises near the city border, at the entrance to Krakow from the side of Wieliczka. The Austrians established field fortifications on the hill, which were the largest external unit of the Krakow Fortress. During the fights in 1914 many bloody bayonet clashes with the Russian infantry invading the trenches took place on the site. Eventually, the Austrians forced the Russians to retreat toward Wieliczka. A year later, in commemoration of the victory on Kaim Hill an **obelisk [1]** was erected, funded by the command of Krakow Fortress. It featured the inscription: "This is where the Austro-Hungarian Army defeated the farthest reaching units of the Russian forces on December 6, 1914".

Other historic monuments on the trail are part of the fortification system that constituted **Krakow Fortress** (German *Festung Krakau*). This unique complex of military structures was created in several stages in the years 1848–1916. The first stage was completed on May 26, 1856, and on that day Austrian authorities officially recognized Krakow as a stronghold. On the eve of the outbreak of



### KRAKOW AND THE VICINITY



Na Groblach Square (ca. 1890), photo by the Ignacy Krieger Photography Studio, MHK Collection

the Great War, it was the largest stronghold in Central and Eastern Europe and its basic operational crew consisted of 12,000 people, mostly Poles. 176 structures, such as forts, military shelters, artillery batteries, as well as barracks, storage units, and military hospitals, were scattered on the area of over 500 square km. A military airport was established in Rakowice in 1912, as one of the first airbases in Europe. The road network with bridges was also an integral element of the

stronghold. While preparing the fortress for the war, the military authorities ordered the construction of field fortifications, indispensable for the fort functioning under war conditions. In order to facilitate the fort operation, it was necessary to create not only a network of trenches and abatises in front of and between the forts of the external ring, but also to destroy the existing buildings located on

### LIFE IN THE FORTRESS

In the late January of 1915, Ferenc Molnár described Krakow Fortress as follows: "Mightily armed, the fortress guards the German-Austro-Hungarian border. Beyond the forts, everyday life full of temperament goes on in this wonderful Polish city during the day. If you have seen the crowded afternoon course of events, fully packed confectionaries and the public arriving at the theatre, you would hardly believe that you are so close to the Russian border, in the stronghold in the time of war. You are reminded of the war only by a terrible noise on the street caused by the mortar battery passing by, and the army marching south. ... Half past nine in the evening, all grows dark and quiet. Then Krakow truly becomes a fortress. Life and commotion only go on in the military headquarters."

WAWEL FORT

Every visitor to the Krakow Royal Castle and Cathedral passes by the mighty brick walls while entering Wawel Hill. But most people are not aware of the fact that these fortifications with magnificent oval caponiers are not medieval in origin but date from the modern era. The fortified Wawel Hill, occupied by the emperor's army and transformed into barracks, became the central point of Krakow Fortress: a fort-citadel.

the forefront – this is how many houses and farmsteads were demolished in 1914, including the Mansion in Pękowice, located in front of Fort no. 44a.

The citadel – Wawel Hill – constituted the centre of the fortress, which was surrounded by a ring of fortifications. The first ring of fortifications was established in the 1860s

A view of Wawel, UMWM Archives



and was located merely 600–800 m away from the Main Market Square, and included III Kleparz Bastion, and the course of this ring is now reflected in the outline of Trzech Wieszczyw Avenues. The external lane of the fortifications, built at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, was located about 11 km away from the city centre, and included such forts as Kosocice, Pasternik, Tonie or Grebalów.

The Krakow Fortress Trail was outlined in Krakow, in order to link most of the buildings of the former fortress located on the outskirts of the city. The trail runs mostly along the so-called front military road, i.e. a road providing connection between particular parts of the fortress. The trail is marked with the colours of the Habsburg Monarchy: yellow and black. The trail consists of two sections: **southern [2]** (41 km) and **northern [3]** (60 km). The latter runs along the northern bank of the Vistula River from Mogila Fort, along the forts located north of the city, to the west toward Bielany, where it returns through

## KRAKOW AND THE VICINITY



The Wolski Forest and Sikornik Hill to Salvator. Whereas the southern section links the forts located south of the Vistula River: from Lasówka Fort, along the forts of the southern part of the external fortress ring, to the west, where it turns back along the Vistula toward Krzemiąonki in Podgórze, and ends in the unique St. Benedict's Fort. The entire trail features 38 large forts, and also many smaller fortification structures and other buildings of military character.

**Prokocim Fort no. 50 [4]** is located about 4 km away from the foot of Kaim Hill, at the conjunction of Medyczna and Kostaneckiego Streets. It was erected in the years 1882–1886 as a typical artillery fort and its main task was protecting the so-called Lemberg Route, that is, the road leading toward Lemberg. The fort actively participated in the fights against the Russians in December of 1914, together with the neighbouring forts, since the Russian offensive took place

Prokocim Fort,  
photo by J. Gorlach



displayed as part of the "Wings of the Great War" Exhibition.

Heading toward the northern outskirts of Krakow, you reach other fortifications, such as **Grębałów Fort no. 49½ [8]**. It was erected in the years 1897–1899. Four cannons located in the rotating armoured turrets determined the strength of the fort fire – today one can admire their tin reconstructions – and four other cannons in the casemates of the flanking battery. This fort participated in the so-called First Battle of Krakow fought November 20–22, 1914, providing fire support for the counteroffensive of the Fourth Austro-Hungarian Army fighting against the Ninth Russian Army encroaching the fortress. At present, the fort houses a Local Culture Centre.

**Krzesławice Fort no. 49 [9]** is located about 800 m further to the west. It was built in the 1870s but its current appearance

is a result of reconstruction carried out in the years 1881–1886. It is a typical one-embankment artillery fort. This fort fired at the forefront of the fortress in the direction of the so-called Proszowice Route in November of 1914, when the Russian forces approached Krakow from the northeast. Nowadays, the fort houses a Local Culture Centre.

In order to reach the next fort on the trail, you need to head about 18 km to the east. **Tonie Fort no. 44 [10]** was built in 1879 as the earth entrenchment, and then as a result of reconstruction, it received the contemporary shape of the large armoured fort. Its main task was the protection of the northwest corner of the external ring of the Krakow Fortress fortifications and the so-called Olkusz Route. The fort was equipped in the Senkpanzer M.2 type extendable–rotatable gun turrets. They have been preserved almost

St. Benedict's Fort, photo by J. Gorlach



Polish Aviation Museum in Krakow, photo by J. Gorlach

along the axis of the Lemberg Route. At present, the building is not in use.

**Kosocice Fort no. 50½ [5]** is located merely 2 km further south. It was erected

Krzesławice Fort,  
photo by P. Jasion



in the years 1897–1899 as a small armoured fort, and was equipped with two armoured towers with 8-cm cannons model 1894 and an observation tower. Together with the auxiliary fort located about 200 m away and the neighbouring buildings, this fort received the main blow of the Russian attack on Krakow in December. At present, the fort is in use and is not open to the public.

**Rajsko Fort no. 51 [6]** is located further 2 km away to the west. The artillery fort built in the years 1881–1884 was one of the largest forts of this kind in the entire Habsburg Monarchy – its area is about 2,600 square metres. It was located on Rajsko Hill, the highest hill

in the area (349 m above sea level), thanks to which it was an excellent observation point. Rajsko Fort was one of the first forts to be built with the use of cast concrete.

Heading from Rajsko Fort to the city centre of Krakow, after about 10 km you reach the **Polish Aviation Museum [7]**. It is located on the area of the historic Rakowice Airport and it boasts one of the largest collections of unique airplanes from the time of the First World War, such as the Albatros C.I, DFW C.V or the Aviatik C.III., the reconnaissance flying boat Grigorovich M-15, as well as the Halberstadt CL.II, LVG Roland D.VI and the famous British Sopwith F.1 Camel. These machines are



Home Army Museum in Krakow, Home Army Museum Archives

intact in the right-wing block, and in a slightly worse condition in the left-wing block. They are unique buildings of highest historic value on a European scale.

Apart from the forts, Krakow boasts many other buildings that were built for the needs of the fortress garrison, such as the

**Storage-Technical Complex of the Royal-Imperial Army [11]**, built in the years 1888–1915 north of the main railway station at Rakowicka Street. Among noteworthy buildings of the complex is Building no. 4 that was completed in 1911. The underground part of the building is much more spatial than



The Main Market Square, photo by M. Zaręba

#### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

The Old Town, the centre of the historic mediaeval city of Krakow, with the Main Market Square, Wawel – the Royal Castle and Archcathedral on Wawel Hill, and Kazimierz – once a separate town, today a district of Krakow with its unique “Jewish town” – all of them have been included on the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List.

## KRAKOW AND THE VICINITY

the part located on the surface. The underground area features reinforced vaults, a very efficient mechanical and gravitational ventilation system, and even a special tunnel to the nearby ramp at the rail siding. These safety measures were necessary since this is where the Krakow Fortress headquarters were located. Nowadays, the building houses the **Home Army Museum** and although its collection is mostly associated with the history of the Polish underground state from the time of the Second World War, nonetheless, the exhibits include many rifles, bayonets, or sabres used also during the First World War.

The Krakow Błonia Park – a large meadow in the middle of the city – stretches in the close vicinity of the Old Town. The First Cadre Company departed from the nearby location: a group of about 150 legionaries spent the night near Błonia Park at the garden theatre called **Oleandry [12]**, and some of the legionaries departed toward Kielce on Aug. 6, 1914. According to Józef Piłsudski's plans, they were in charge of starting an anti-Russian insurrection in the Kingdom of Poland. The monumental **Józef Piłsudski House** was erected for the headquarters of the Polish Legionaries Association on the site of a theatre that burnt down in the interwar period. Nowadays, it houses e.g. the **Independence Activity Museum**. Its collection boasts objects associated with famous Polish commanders, legionary memorabilia, exhibitions devoted to the Second World War, the political opposition of the Polish People's Republic, and so on.

## MICHAŁOWICE

Main National Road 7 leads north of Krakow to the village of Michałowice, once located in the close vicinity of the **border between the Austrian- and Russian-occupied parts of Poland**. In 1936 an **obelisk [13]** was placed there bearing the inscription: “At the order of

Commander Józef Piłsudski, the First Cadre Company of the Polish Legions, on their way to fight for honour and the independence of the fatherland, demolished the border poles of the former occupiers of Poland on this site on August 6, 1914.” This way the legionaries symbolically rejected the division of Poland among the partitioning monarchies that had been established over 100 years earlier. This gesture was supposed to emphasize the fact

The obelisk in Michałowice-Komora,  
photo by J. Gorlach



## WHERE DID MARSHAL PIŁSUDSKI'S KASZTANKA HORSE COME FROM?

The village of Czaple Małe lies southwest of Miechów. The local manor (at present housing a school) dating from the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries belonged to Eustachy Romer in 1914. On August 9, 1914, Romer gave the four-year-old mare, which later became the famous Kasztanka [Chestnut Lady], to Józef Piłsudski, who passed through Czaple with a unit of riflemen.



Józef Piłsudski on his horse Kasztanka,  
NAC Archives

that their fight aimed not only at the removal of the occupying powers, but also at the unification of the Polish lands and regaining of independence. The annual March along the First Cadre Company Trail begins on this site.

## MIECHÓW

National Road 7 leads from Michałowice through Słomniki to Miechów, which features two monuments of the First World War's Eastern Front Trail. The **Monument of the Independence Fighters** [14] erected in 1916 at the permission of the Austrian commander of the town, Lieutenant F Preveaux is located in the very heart of the town, on the large market square. The sculpture of an eagle taking off and flying upward was located on the top of the tall stone obelisk. It features

a cross in the laurel wreath and an inscription in Polish and German: "In memory of the heroes of all nationalities killed in action in the Miechów district in the years 1914–1915."

The intelligence units of the First Cadre Company entered Miechów on August 7, 1914. On August 9, the First Cadre Company was joined here by another unit that had departed from Krzeszowice together with Józef Piłsudski three days earlier. In Miechów, the two groups of riflemen were transformed into a battalion, marked as number III in the subsequent months and commanded by Edward Rydz-Śmigły. Immediately afterwards, on August 9, the riflemen clashed with a unit of the Russian cavalry outside the town, but the Russians quickly retreated northeast.

A large parish cemetery lies in the southern outskirts of the town, about 500 metres away

## OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

### Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre

Miechów, one of the most significant pilgrimage centres in Małopolska since the Middle Ages, featuring an exact copy of the Holy Sepulchre from Jerusalem.



The Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, photo by J. Gorlach

from the market square. It features quarters of the 1863 January Uprising fighters, as well as of the soldiers who were killed in action in September of 1939. The **war quarter** [15] dating from the First World War – or in fact its remnants since most of the military graves were used for civil burials after the Second World War – is located near the southern fence of the cemetery, at the end of a long alley. At least 520 Russian and 124 Austro-Hungarian soldiers were buried there but only a wooden cross and a memorial plaque have been preserved until this day.

## KSIĄŻ WIELKI

Following the footsteps of the First Cadre Company, you head from Miechów to Książ Wielki. The riflemen of the First Cadre Company arrived there on August 7, 1914. 144 riflemen of the First Cadre Company stationed in the nearby **palace in Mirów** [16], the beautiful Renaissance residence of the Myszkowski

and Wielopolski Families, and Józef Piłsudski himself arrived there on August 9, 1914. The Renaissance building was erected in the years 1585–1595 according to the design of the famous architect Santi Gucci, while the neo-Gothic attic was added during the reconstruction in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The **war quarter** [17] on the parish cemetery is another site on the trail in Książ Wielki. The cemetery is located several hundred metres away from the town centre, on the right-hand side of the main road toward Kielce, behind the line of the houses. Soldier graves dating from the time of the First World War are located to the left of the entrance near the western wall of the cemetery. A contemporary granite tombstone with a memorial plaque was placed on the site of the original earth grave, certainly much larger than the present one. 16 soldiers were buried in the grave: 9 from the Austro-Hungarian army, 5 from the Russian army, and two of unknown origin.

The palace in Mirów, photo by J. Gorlach





Ogonów War Cemetery in Kaliś, photo by J. Gorlach

## STRATEGIC TUNNEL

The hills of the Miechowska Upland stretch to the southwest of Książ Wielki. A railway line from Zagłębie Dąbrowskie to Dęblin (and then the route from Kielce to Krakow) was laid out there in the Russian-occupied part of Poland. Although the hills could be circumvented by another route, the tsarist authorities decided to build a tunnel that was 756 metres long, so that in case of war it could be blown up in order to block an important railway connection. During the two world wars the tunnel was blown up twice but the traffic was resumed very quickly. Nowadays, the trains from e.g. Krakow to Warsaw use the tunnel.

## KALIŚ

The trail then leads toward the battlefields of November 1914. The Russian offensive on Krakow and Silesia, the aforementioned so-called "steam roller," approached the Jurassic Krakowsko-Częstochowska Upland at that time. However, the units of the Ninth Russian Army commanded by General Plato Leczycki encountered the Austro-Hungarian forces of the First Army commanded by General Viktor Dankl ready for defence at the line of the limestone hills. A part of the Fourth Austro-Hungarian Army commanded by Archduke Joseph Ferdinand was also getting ready to counterattack in the vicinity of Krakow.

Heading from Książ Wielki back to Miechów, and then turning into Road 783 toward Olkusz, you soon reach Wolbrom. This small town found itself at the back of the front in November of 1914, and survived six weeks of artillery fire. Fierce battles were fought in the vicinity: the charging Austrian forces marched along the Przemsza River Valley toward Wolbrom, and then fought off several Russian counter-attacks. 855 soldiers who were killed in action in battles fought November 18–27, 1914, and who later died in the military hospital in Wolbrom are buried on the **Ogonów War Cemetery [18]** in Kaliś.



The castle in Rudno, photo by B. Czerwiński

Among the 773 Austro-Hungarian soldiers of the First Army headed by General Viktor Dankl are the Czechs, Austrians, Poles, Hungarian, and Slovaks. A Polish legionary was also buried there. The graves of 81 Russian soldiers of the Ninth Army commanded by General Plato Leczycki are located nearby. The cemetery is located in a small pinewood a few kilometres behind Wolbrom in the direction of Olkusz, on

The legionaries' quarter on the parish cemetery in Bydlin, photo by J. Gorlach



## Eagles' Nests Landscape Park

protecting the Jurassic landscape of the limestone upland with numerous outliers and forests of high natural value with abundant flora.

**Blędów Desert**, the only area of quicksand in Central Europe, resembling in character the genuine sand desert, which now is partially overgrown.

## OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

the northern side of the railway line running parallel to the main road.

## THE LOCATION OF THE BATTLE OF KRZYWOPŁOTY: BYDLIN

The forested Świętego Krzyża Mount encloses the view to the west from the road between Wolbrom and Bydlin. This is the location



Jangrot - Cieplice War Cemetery, photo by J. Gorlach

of the Battle of Krzywopłoty that was fought November 16–19, 1914. The Polish legionaries clashed there with the forces of the Ninth Russian Army commanded by General Leczycki. Józef Piłsudski, the commander of the legionaries, left two battalions from the First Infantry Regiment at Krzywopłoty and himself marched fast to Krakow, together with the remaining three battalions and cavalry – between the retreating

up in success – the nearby Domaniewicki Forest was conquered and the defeated Russian forces had to retreat to the east.

The large **Legionary Quarter [19]** with a magnificent stone cross is located on the Parish Cemetery in Bydlin, on the east side of Świętego Krzyża Mount. Lieutenant Stanisław Paderewski, step-brother of the famous pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski is buried there among 46 fallen soldiers of the Polish Legions. A war quarter with three mass graves of 284 soldiers from the Austro-Hungarian and Russian armies is also located on this cemetery. The ruins of a small castle with visible **trench remnants** are located above on the other side of the road on the forested hill.

## JANGROT – CIEPLICE

**Jangrot – Cieplice War Cemetery [20]** is another site on the trail. In order to get there, you need to head back from Bydlin toward Road 783, turn in the direction of Olkusz, and then head along a side road through the villages of Troks and Michałówka in the direction of Jangrot. At the end of the village of Michałówka, you can turn right toward Cieplice. The road steeply descends to the Biała Przemsza River

Valley. A fragment of a well-preserved large war cemetery is located there on the edge of the forest, right next to the road bend. 2,014 Austro-Hungarian and 561 Russian soldiers are buried there. In terms of the number of the buried, it is the largest cemetery dating from the First World War on the Jurassic Krakowsko-Częstochowska

The war quarter on the parish cemetery in Skała,  
photo by J. Gorlach



## CEMETERIES IN THE VICINITY

Many fallen soldiers of both armies who fought on the Galician front were buried on the war cemetery in Zadroski Forest to the south of the village of the same name. The cemetery, hard to find in the northwest part of the forest, is the only war cemetery on the Jurassic Upland, which has retained the original architectonic layout. At least 1,054 soldiers, mostly from Austro-Hungary, are buried there.

Upland. The **trench lines** have been preserved in the forest to the east and north of the cemetery, while fragments of the **reserve lines** can be found to the west of the necropolis.

The vicinity of Cieplice and Jangrot were the arena of fierce fights between the Austro-Hungarian and Russian forces in November of 1914. Repeated attacks and counterattacks brought severe losses to both sides, while the village of Jangrot passed from hands to hands several times: the Fifth Corps of the First Austro-Hungarian Army fought against the elite Russian Guard divisions. The Austrian attack, carried out on November 17, 1914 in the forest north of Cieplice, was successful and allowed the capture of the village of Golačewy located on the northern side of the forest. Battles were also fought on the vast Sułoszowa Plateau between Sułoszowa, Jangrot, Trzyciąż and Zadroż.



The war cemetery in Rzeplin at the road to Krasienice, photo by J. Gorlach

## SKAŁA

Heading back from Cieplice to Jangrot, you then continue through Trzyciąż along Road 794 in order to reach the town of Skała. It is located on a plateau above the Prądnik River Valley. It was supposed to be another important point of the Austro-Hungarian defence in November of 1914, but the tsarist army managed to conquer it before the Austrian defence grew strong. The battles fought afterwards in the vicinity of the town were among the bloodiest fights on the Jurassic Upland.

The legacy of these fights can be found on the **war quarters** [21] on the Parish Cemetery in Skała. The necropolis is located in the southern part of the town, next to the intersection of the road toward Krakow with a field road to Smardzowice. One of the quarters at present features a small wooden roof protecting the cross, while the other quarter features a cross, made of artillery

shells welded together. 63 Austro-Hungarian and 240 Russian soldiers are buried there.

The intersection in front of the cemetery entrance features the **Monument of the Victims of the First World War** [22], erected after the war in order to commemorate the residents of Skała who were killed in action fighting for independence and were murdered during the January Uprising and the two World Wars. At least four legionaries, who were killed in the autumn and winter of 1914 on the Eastern Front of the Great War, e.g. at Krzywopłoty, originated from Skała. A plaque dedicated to their memory is also placed on the monument.

## RZEPLIN

Rzeplin, located 4 km southeast of Skała, is a small village situated in the shallow valley beneath the highest part of the Krakowsko-Częstochowska Upland, between the Prądnik River Valley to the west and the Dłubnia River



The monument at the war quarter on the cemetery in Wieliczka, photo by R. Korzeniowski

Valley to the east. Thanks to this location, the vicinity of Rzeplin was one of the key positions of the Austro-Hungarian defence. Battles against the elite Guard Divisions of the Russian Army, including many bayonet clashes, were fought there November 16–18, 1914. Every farmstead in the village, which had not been burnt down or bombed by the artillery, was the object of fighting.

The legacy of these fierce fights can be found on **two war cemeteries** [23]. The first one

is located on the west side of the village at the road from Cianowice to Rzeplin. It is in fact a mass grave, at present resembling a burial tumulus topped with a small concrete cross.

The second cemetery with a monument in a form of a small chapel is located on the opposite edge of the village, at the road to Krasienice, among the trees on the slope above the road. The exact number of the fallen soldiers buried on each of these cemeteries is unknown; it is only known that the total of



St. Kinga's Chapel in the Salt Mine in Wieliczka, photo by J. Gorlach

**Wieliczka and Bochnia Royal Salt Mines and the Saltworks Castle in Wieliczka**, inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List, a complex of unique salt mines used incessantly since the Middle Ages and the Saltworks Castle, which housed the offices of the royal management of the Wieliczka-Bochnia Salt Mines.

## OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

## IF ONLY THEY STOPPED SHOOTING...

Milena Róg who lived in Wieliczka wrote about the battles fought in the vicinity of her town: "Yesterday the Moskals (Russians) reached Rzeszotary. ... No matter where you were, you heard the canons. All day long, without a break. ... Sometimes, it seems to me that I've gone deaf. I cannot hear anything but this noise, is it possible to hear nothing else but canons? Mother cried that she wanted nothing else in life but that they should only stop shooting, or else she would go mad. But I know that they have to [shoot]. The Austrians won at Kaim near Wieliczka. The counteroffensive was successful."

the soldiers buried there is 583 Austro-Hungarian and 461 Russian soldiers.

## WIELICZKA

Heading southwest from Krakow along Road 966, it is worthwhile to stop in Wieliczka, famous above all for its salt mine (UNESCO). The large communal cemetery (at the corner of Piłsudskiego and Czarnochowska Streets) features **War Quarter no. 381** [24] with a magnificent monument dedicated to the *'Pro Patria Mortuis'*, i.e. those who died for the fatherland during the First World War. This is one of the cemeteries of Western Galicia – no. 381. Among the soldiers buried there are: 71 Austro-Hungarian soldiers from various units, 7 German and 8 Russian soldiers. The entire cemetery was designed by Hans Mayr, who also designed cemeteries in the vicinity of Gorlice. The characteristic metal crosses are located around the quarter beneath the encircling wall.

War Quarter no. 381 on the communal cemetery in Wieliczka, photo by J. Gorlach



# THE VICINITY OF LIMANOWA AND NOWY SĄCZ

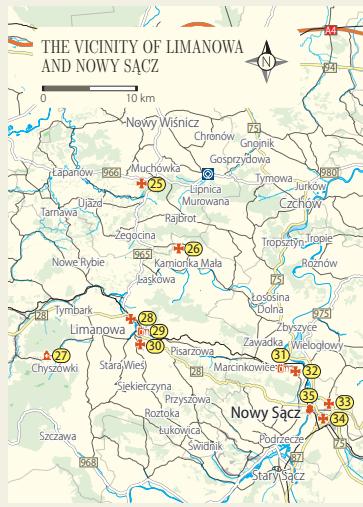
## – Through the Battlefields to the Oak of Freedom

In the late autumn of 1914, the Russian attack toward Silesia omitting Krakow from the northwest broke down thanks to the desperate Austro-Hungarian counteroffensive on the Jurassic Krakowsko-Częstochowska Upland. It was possible only thanks to the transfer of the majority of the forces from the front line between the Vistula River and the Beskid Mountains. The Russians decided to take advantage of that and their Third Army commanded by General Radko Dimitriev began marching to the west of the Dunajec River line toward the Raba River, and then to the southeast edges of Krakow. Soon the Russian divisions reached the Wieliczka – Dobczyce line. In December of 1914, during the series of fights in the Carpathian Foothills, called the Battles of Łapanów and Limanowa, the Austro-Hungarian army managed to stop and beat off the Russians.

### THE SIEGE OF BOCHNIA

During the First World War, the town was captured on November 24, 1914 by the Russian forces of the Third Army headed by General Radko Dimitriev. The next day, the Russians celebrated the name day of the Tsarina on the Bochnia market square. However, the repressions began after December 4, 1914, when the Austro-Hungarian plane appeared above the town throwing down leaflets. In the subsequent days, the civilian population was harassed, the shops and houses were destroyed and plundered. The Russians began operating the salt mine and wastefully exploiting it for their own benefit. Fortunately, the occupation ended soon, when the Bochnia residents happily greeted the Austro-Hungarian forces entering the town without a fight on December 15.

Bochnia – the second centre of salt mining in Małopolska after Wieliczka – where you turn south onto Road 965 running through Nowy Wiśnicz to Muchówka.



## THE VICINITY OF LIMANOWA AND NOWY SĄCZ



A tombstone on War Cemetery no. 308 in Muchówka,  
photo by J. Gorlach

### MUCHÓWKA

One of the larger war necropolises in the vicinity of Łapanów, **War Cemetery**

no. 308 [25] of the 9<sup>th</sup> Bochnia cemetery district, is located 800 metres south of Road 966 from Muchówka to Łapanów, in the Dębny Forest on the slope next to a forest road. The fights were very bloody

Lipnica Murowana, a town known for its Easter Palm Competition held annually on Palm Sunday, and for the wooden cemetery Church of St. Leonard, inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List.

Wiśnicko-Lipnicki Landscape Park encompassing the picturesque area of the Wiśnickie Foothills south of Bochnia with the castle in Nowy Wiśnicz.

### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

because the Germans brought there from the Western Front were unable to handle the defence without the field fortifications, while the Russians continuously attacked. The battles were also fought on December 10, when the Dmitriev Army began counterattack against the Roth forces.

The soldiers who were killed in action during the fights December 7–10, 1914 are also buried on the nearby

War Cemeteries nos. 305, 306 and 307.

### KAMIONKA MAŁA

Another site on the trail, **War Cemetery no. 357 [26]** on Jastrzębka Hill (545 m above sea level), stands out with its beautiful location. You can reach the cemetery by a very narrow and very steep asphalt road from the pass between Jastrzębka and the

ridge of Łopusza Mount. The hill is the burial site of the Austro-Hungarian, German and Russian soldiers who were mostly killed on the nearby Kobyla Mount above Rajbrot, where bloody battles were fought December 8–13, 1914. The peak of this strategic mountain repeatedly changed hands, and each attack left hundreds of killed and wounded. The Russian units of the Eight Corps commanded by General Brusilov were the enemy of the allies of the Royal-Imperial Army (first, the Germans from the 47<sup>th</sup> Prussian Infantry Regiment, and then, Hungarian Hussars). The cemetery, encircled by a wooden fence, was designed by Gustav Ludwig. The cemetery features both individual graves and mass graves with concrete steles with three kinds of crosses melted in – a different cross for each of the fighting armies. The cemetery also features a stone mound with a cross and concrete plaques bearing the names of the fallen soldiers. A magnificent wooden chapel based on a stone pedestal located further down in the cemetery was placed on the Wooden Architecture Trail thanks to its high artistic value. The cemetery is the burial site of 92 Austro-Hungarian, 11 German and 157 Russian soldiers.



A monument on the Rydz-Śmigły Pass,  
photo by J. Gorlach

### CHYSZÓWKI – THE RYDZ-ŚMIGŁY PASS

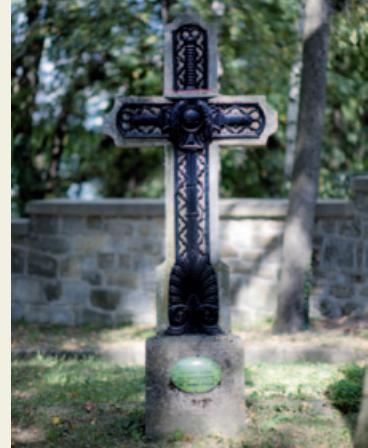
Heading from Kamionka Mała along Road 28 toward Mszana Dolna, and then through the village of Słopnice you reach Chyszówki. The upper part of the village is located in a vast col between the high forested peaks of Łopień and Mogielica of the Island Beskid Mountains – the **Edward Rydz-Śmigły Pass**.

On the night of November 23, 1914 a legionary unit commanded by Edward Rydz-Śmigły ambushed the Cossacks from the 10<sup>th</sup> Russian Cavalry Division. The Cossacks sent from Limanowa captured by the Russians, were supposed to reach the rear of the Austro-Hungarian forces unseen, and then wreak havoc at the front's base, disorganize the communication and destroy a smaller units of the enemy. At the same time four battalions of the First Regiment of the Polish Legions commanded by Józef Piłsudski arrived in Dobra. Piłsudski sent

the Third Battalion headed by Edward Rydz-Śmigły to take up night quarters in Chyszówki, however, marching through Jurków, the legionaries found out that the Russians were already stationed in Chyszówki. With a bold ambush attack, they defeated the Cossacks, took 89 prisoners of war, and most of all, captured 86 horses. It was an extremely precious trophy for the legions since thanks to it the hitherto symbolic unit of the First Regiment Ulhans commanded by Władysław Belina-Prażmowski could be expanded.

The Rydz-Śmigły Pass features a cross dating from 1928 and an obelisk from 1938, located next to the road, along the green hiking trail to Łopień. A monument commemorating the Home Army Soldiers was also placed there in 1998. All three objects constitute **the Monument of Encounter of Generations [27]** fighting for the independent Poland. The trail then leads from Chyszówki through Słopnice to Limanowa.

War Cemetery no. 368 in Limanowa-Jabłoniec,  
photo by J. Gorlach



## LIMANOWA

Located in a wide basin between the peaks of the Island Beskids, Limanowa is a county town. The road from Rabka-Zdrój from Mszana Dolna to Nowy Sącz crosses through the town. It can be easily reached from the Rydz-Śmigły Pass through the village of Słopnice, and then along a side road through Słopnice Szlacheckie – this way you descend from the mountain straight into the town centre.

In the autumn of 1914, Limanowa and its vicinity were the arena of fierce fights between the Austro-Hungarian Army (with the Polish Legions incorporated into the army) and the forces of the tsarist Russia. This is where the fate of the Russian offensive on Krakow was decided, when it was halted

by the army of Emperor Franz Joseph I. The town fell into the enemy hands of General Dragomirov's Corps of the Third Russian Army on November 20, 1914. A few days later, after the Cossacks were chased away from Chyszówki, the Polish Legionaries entered Limanowa briefly and then the Russians approached again. In the first days of December, they were pushed away by the Hungarian Hussars from the 11<sup>th</sup> Honwed Regiment (Hungarian national defence). As of December 6, 1914, these relatively small forces had to defend themselves, with the help of some of the Polish Legions, against the attack of the overwhelming enemy forces, since the 8<sup>th</sup> Corps of the Eight Army commanded by General Aleksiej Brusilov came to the rescue of the Third Russian Army – from Nowy Sącz.

## THE RED DEVILS AT JABŁONIEC

The terror evoking Hungarian Hussars were nicknamed the Red Devils, since their uniform consisted of the red trousers and caps. The 9<sup>th</sup> Linear Hussar Regiment, the oldest regular Hussar Regiment in the Austro-Hungarian Army formed in 1688 was the crème de la crème. After the fierce fights of December 9, 1914, the Hussars of the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment were sent away from the front line, however, not for long, at midnight of December 11, they received the order to release the land forces bleeding out on Jabłoniec. The Hungarians set off to fight for Jabłoniec Hill charged at by the Russians. Ferenc Molnár wrote: "Those Hungarian boys in the night dark as tar received an order to leave the horses in the village, reach the trench stretching across the steep hill until its ridge and release the soldiers fighting there. The Hussars with their officers at the head, moving forward on all fours, carefully approached the trench. However, the enemy had the supremacy on the hill, so before the Hussars reached the trench, the Russians had already captured it and our boys were awaited by the enemy machine guns in the middle of this dark night. When the Russian shooting began, the officers immediately understood the situation and led the Hussars to attack. The Hungarian youngsters with the butts of rifles faced the Russian Army equipped in bayonets and machine guns. From midnight to eleven in the morning they were in action, fighting against the enemy bayonets and shot putters." The Hussars won eternal glory and fame in the annals of the military history but they suffered very heavy losses. Out of 21 officers 13 died – including the commander leading his soldiers to charge with the pistol in the hand; the rest were wounded. The regiment lost 40% of their personnel count in the killed and wounded soldiers.



The chapel on War Cemetery no. 368 in Limanowa-Jabłoniec, photo by J. Gorlach

The most dramatic moment took place on December 11, 1914 when the Russians unexpectedly captured the trenches of the defenders on Jabłoniec Hill (624 m above sea level) towering over Limanowa from the east. The heroic attack of the Hungarians – infantry Hussars of the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment commanded by Lieutenant Othmar Muhr – then drove the Russians out from Jabłoniec.

Several places in Limanowa are affiliated with these fights. Near the town centre, the old Parish Cemetery (ul. Szwedzka) features the soldier quarter, that is, **War Cemetery no. 366 [28]** of the Limanowa cemetery district. 28 Austro-Hungarian and 8 Russian soldiers are buried there. The cemetery was designed by Gustav Ludwig, while the image of Christ leaning over the wounded soldier was painted by Franciszek Mrażek.

A wooden one-story house with a glass porch located on Matki Boskiej Bolesnej Street (then Mordarska Street) exiting the market square to the east, in 1914 belonged to the

county doctor, Kazimierz Mieroszewski (the father of Juliusz, the famous journalist who died in 1976). During the fiercest battles for Limanowa, he brought medical assistance to the wounded soldiers. It was there, in the **Mieroszewski Family House [29]**, where Józef Piłsudski and his chief of staff, Kazimierz Sosnowski, took up quarters on December 7, 1914 after the Battle of Marcinkowice. Later, the

The plaque on the Mieroszewski Family House in Limanowa, photo by J. Gorlach





A field kitchen of the Riflemen, 1914, NAC Archives

Ignacy Krowiak, who served in the Austro-Hungarian Army, recalls the training period in the barracks preceding going to war:

"After the headcount, i.e. after we were counted and the reports were made to the company commander, we left for the Blonia field to practice. ... At 11 am we finished the exercises and returned from the field to the barracks. Lunch was served at noon. Before lunch we all had to wash ourselves and clean our uniforms from dirt and mud. For lunch we usually got a litre of soup, a piece of meat, and some dessert. ... The meat was accompanied interchangeably by dry rice, buckwheat, beans, peas, corn cream or potatoes. After lunch we washed mess-tins and cleaned the rifles."

The provisions complex of the Austrian Army was located in Krakow, north of the main railway station at Rakowicka Street. It consisted of the canned meat factory (equipped with icehouse and cold store), bakery, and... the marmalade manufacture. The storages housed the stocks of wheat, buckwheat, rice, vegetables, potatoes, sugar, seasonings, etc., as well as petrol and equipment for several thousand soldiers.

## CANNED FOOD FACTORY AND STORAGES

However, it often happened that the soldiers lacked basic items. So they had to apply various – often strange in the eyes of their contemporaries – methods to cope. The *Poznań Daily* of September 24, 1914 offered the following advice to the families wishing to send a parcel to the front:

"I would like to remind all of you whose loved ones are at the battlefield and to whom you cannot send warm socks that socks can be substituted with paper. You simply wrap the foot clad in a regular sock with a piece of paper (newspapers are best) and you put the shoe on. This method was used by soldiers fighting in the French war of 1870/1871."

## A TYPICAL DAY IN THE BARRACKS

107-mm gun model 1910 used by the Russian Army, drawing by S. Kwieciński



## PAPER SOCKS AND ANTS AGAINST LICE

Another piece of advice on the remedy against lice pestering the soldiers suggested... ants. The *Poznań Daily* of June 3, 1917 reported:

"The fastest and cheapest way of cleansing the soldier uniforms and underwear of lice is to put them on an anthill. ... The industrious ants will exterminate the lice much faster and more efficiently than other toxic agents. The lice-free underwear can be washed with soap in cold water."

Thousands of soldiers spent the Christmas of 1914 in the trenches, without a slightest chance of seeing their families. Waclaw Pobóg-Pabudziński writes in his memoir, *Among Blood and Fire*:

"Oh, the star! The first star appeared in the sky, so our soldiers gathered in a trench. Somebody brought a white *strucla*, sweet white bread, and even a herring, ha! A packet of gingerbread and nuts! Oh, Jesus! It was such a feast! The shooting quieted down somehow, as if the enemy also felt the significance and holiness of the moment. ... The Polish soldiers broke the white *strucla* with each other, took to the herring, snacked with whole-wheat bread, divided the gingerbread and nuts among themselves, and only then Piotrek Sadzon ... hummed, moved with emotion:

– 'God is Being Born' (Polish Christmas Carol)

And, surprisingly, a moment later in the enemy trenches a chorus of strong male voices picked up the words of the carol and both trenches resounded with the ancient song...

– 'And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us!'

## CHRISTMAS IN THE TRENCHES

Death is an inseparable part of war. During the bloody battles fought at the Eastern Front people died en masse.... The Red Cross Doctor Stefan Boguslawski, wrote: "Moans, screams, curses, broken words... Bullet, bayonet – the death is near – the strain of the power of self-preservation instinct bursts like a bubble, while the hitherto paralyzed memory cinematographically moves before the mind's and soul's eyes the images of memories dating from the earliest moments of childhood.... And the last image of the memory before the last breath is drawn and the cold death comes, twists the face with astonishment, serenity and nostalgic smile, anger, sorrow, despair, and the lips are quietly put together to utter the names of the dear, loved, and loving ones."

The Russian infantry in the trenches, the second row without weapons..., 1915, MLP Archives



A Russian leaflet, 1915, MLP Archives

## AT THE HOSPITAL

The front hospitals were bursting at the seams. Doctor Boguslawski described the hospital-war reality as follows: "They bring another batch of the wounded — two hundred people. ... All these soldiers — dirty, covered with lice, hungry, extremely exhausted, covered with muddy greatcoats, with severe head injuries, frostbitten legs, crashed bones of arms and legs in plaster casts, resembling more shadows than people, fainting of exhaustion and pain — desire above all rest in a warm, clean bed and a warm meal."

In front of the Austrian hospital, 1915, MLP Archives



Private soldiers and lower-rank commanders fought in the battlefields of the First World War. However, the key decisions about the offensives, sieges, and marches were made by marshals and generals – the architects of the Great War.

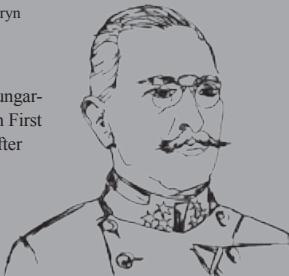


**August von Mackensen (1849–1945)** – German Field Marshal. In May of 1915, he commanded the forces during the Russian front breakthrough offensive at Gorlice. In August and September of 1915, the forces commanded by Mackensen inflicted a serious defeat on the Russian army at Brześć and Pińsk, which resulted in driving the Russian forces out of the Kingdom of Poland.

August von Mackensen, drawing by P. Seweryn

**Viktor Dankl von Kraśnik (1854–1941)** – Colonel General of the Austro-Hungarian army. In August of 1914, he was put in command of the Austro-Hungarian First Army and during the First World War, he commanded the fights in Galicia. After the war, he assumed chancellorship of the Maria Theresa Order.

Viktor Dankl von Kraśnik, drawing by P. Seweryn





**Hans von Seeckt (1866–1936)** – German military officer. In 1914 he commanded the German III “Brandenburg” Corps Army attacking in the direction of Paris, and then was transferred to the Eastern Front. After the end of the Great War and the dissolution of the imperial army, he was charged with the task to organize the new apolitical army.

Hans von Seeckt, drawing by P. Seweryn



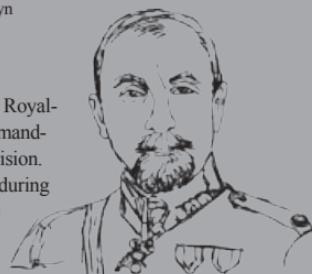
**Radko Ruskov Dimitrijev (1859–1918)** – General in the Russian army, of Bulgarian origin. During the Great War, he was in command of the Russian First and Third Armies, among others. In September of 1918, he was captured by the Red Guards units and shot to death in Pyatigorsk together with other officers of the tsarist army.

Radko Ruskov Dimitrijev, drawing by P. Seweryn



**Aleksei Alekseevich Brusilov (1853–1926)** – Russian General in cavalry. Since the beginning of the Great War, he was in command of the Eighth Army fighting in Galicia. As a commander of the front, he planned and implemented a successful offensive in July of 1916 in Volhynia (the so-called Brusilov Offensive). Since 1919 he served in the Red Army.

Aleksei Alekseevich Brusilov, drawing by P. Seweryn



**Tadeusz Jordan-Rozwadowski (1866–1928)** – *Feldmarschalleutnant* of the Royal-Imperial Army, General of Arms in the Polish Army. In 1914 he was the commanding officer of the 12<sup>th</sup> Artillery Brigade of the Krakow-based 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He played one of the key roles in the Battle of Gorlice in May of 1915. Even during the First World War, he made attempts at creating the Polish army. In 1918 he became the Chief of Staff of the General Staff of the Polish Army.

Tadeusz Jordan-Rozwadowski, drawing by P. Seweryn

The Great War took a terrible toll. About 500,000 Polish soldiers died, fighting in the foreign armies, and about 900,000 were wounded in the years 1914–1918.

#### Casualties in the Foreign Armies during the First World War

Country	Population	Drafted army	Dead and wounded
Austro-Hungary	58,600,000	9,000,000	1,100,000
Germany	67,800,000	13,200,000	2,037,000
Russia	167,000,000	15,798,000	1,811,000

DEATH TOLL  
OF THE  
GREAT WAR



A cross designed by Dušan Jurkovič,  
Sękowa County Office Archives

The Great War rolled through the Malopolska Region in the years 1914–1915 and took a terrible toll among the soldiers of the Austro-Hungarian and Russian armies. Those killed in action and those who died in the hospitals were buried in temporary field graves or makeshift cemeteries. Society soon began appealing for the dignified resting places in commemoration of the dead. The issues of establishing and ornamenting war cemeteries were discussed in the press and in separate publications. It was assumed that every fallen soldier should be, if possible, identified and then buried with honours becoming of heroes, regardless of whether he belonged to one's own or the enemy army. Necropolises were supposed to be an expression of gratitude for the soldiers and in a sense monuments erected in their honour. How seriously the idea of establishing war cemeteries was treated is manifest in the words chosen for the slogan of the action: "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5).

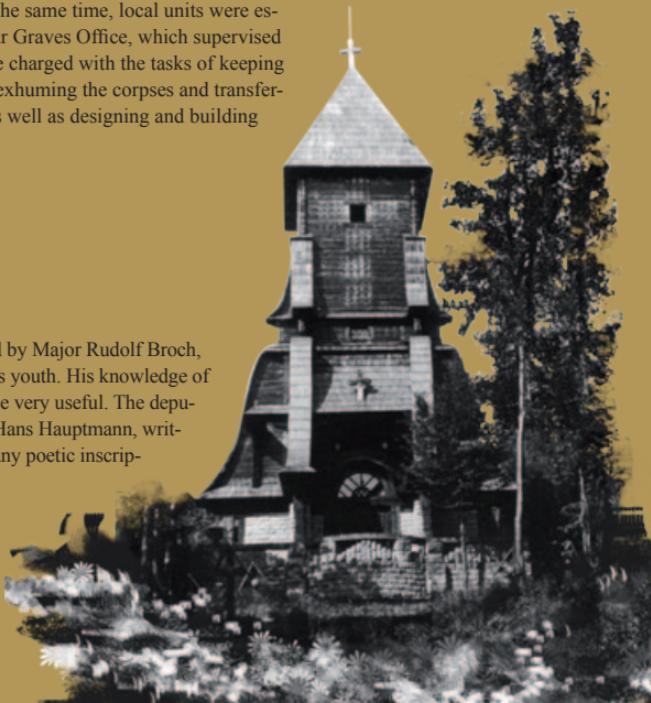
## THE ORIGIN OF WAR CEMETERIES

In the second half of 1915, the Austro-Hungarian military command began to tidy up the battlefields and to liquidate the makeshift graves. The situation on the front was conducive to these actions, since the enemy Russian army had just been driven out from most of Galicia. On November 3, 1915, the Viennese Ministry of War established the War Graves Department, which was to supervise the entire action. At the same time, local units were established, such as the Krakow War Graves Office, which supervised Western Galicia. These units were charged with the tasks of keeping records of the deceased soldiers, exhuming the corpses and transferring them to selected locations, as well as designing and building war cemeteries.

## WAR GRAVES DEPARTMENT

The Krakow Office was headed by Major Rudolf Broch, who studied architecture in his youth. His knowledge of art and architecture turned out to be very useful. The deputy head of the office was Captain Hans Hauptmann, writer and poet. He is the author of many poetic inscriptions at the cemeteries.

Lužna-Pustki, Chapel designed by D. Jurkovič on War Cemetery no. 123 (it burnt down in 1985), Archives of the PTTK Museum in Gorlice



Over 3,000 people, both soldiers and civilians, of various nationalities were sent to work in the Krakow War Graves Office. Among them were stonemasons, carpenters, gardeners, as well as painters, draughtsmen, and photographers. Major Broch decided that war necropolises should constitute great works of architecture and therefore, architects or sculptors became appointed artistic directors of the cemetery districts. Among them were Johann Jäger, Dušan Jurkovič, Emil Ladewig, Gustav Ludwig, Hans Mayr, Franz Mazura, Robert Motka, Gustav Rosmann, Heinrich Scholz, Franz Stark, Jan Szczepkowski, and Johann Watzal.

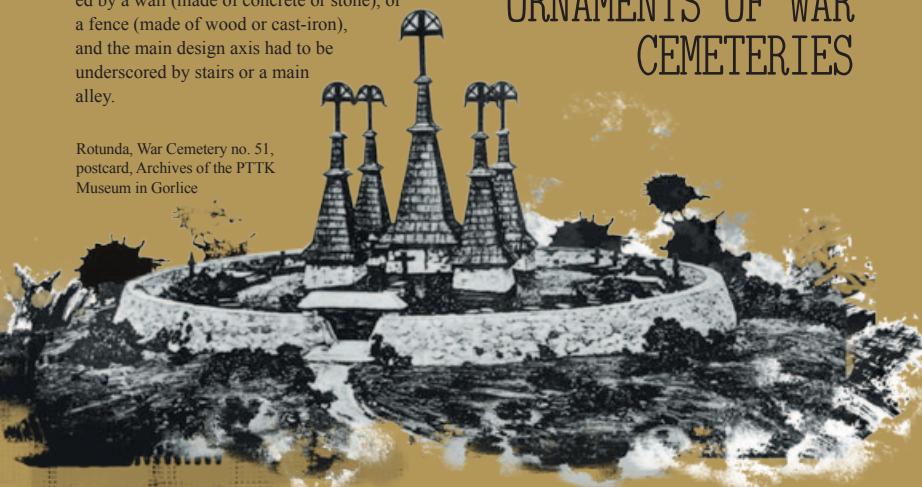
The war-scarred area of Western Galicia was divided into 11 cemetery districts: Nowy Żmigród (31 cemeteries), Jasło (31 cemeteries), Gorlice (54 cemeteries), Łużna (27 cemeteries), Pilzno (27 cemeteries), Tarnów (62 cemeteries), Dąbrowa Tarnowska (15 cemeteries), Brzesko (50 cemeteries), Bochnia (40 cemeteries), Limanowa (29 cemeteries), Krakow (22 cemeteries).

During the three years (1915–1918) of its existence, the Office established over 400 cemeteries on the area of nearly 10,000 square kilometres. The remains of over 60,000 soldiers were buried there (as many as 42,000 corpses had to be earlier exhumed and transferred). The tombstones – with Catholic and Orthodox crosses, Stars of David, or turbans – until this day feature the names of representatives of all nations living in Central and Eastern Europe. Buried together and joined in the eternal rest are the Germans, Austrians, Poles, Turks, Croatians, Hungarians, Czechs, Bulgarians, Bosnians, Slovenians, Russians, Ruthenians, Lithuanians, Tartars, Baltic Germans, Kalmyks, Cossacks, Bashkirs, Finns, Armenians, and Jews.

Cemeteries were established in the vicinity of the battlefields and front lines, locations where the battles were fought and soldiers died. The creators of the necropolises attempted, whenever possible, to establish the cemeteries in picturesque locations, where they would be visible from a distance, e.g. on hilltops, and would harmonize with the surroundings. Some of the war cemeteries were adjacent to the already existing parish or communal necropolises.

Special guidelines applied to the design of the cemetery complexes. They had to have a representative entrance, had to be surrounded by a wall (made of concrete or stone), or a fence (made of wood or cast-iron), and the main design axis had to be underscored by stairs or a main alley.

Rotunda, War Cemetery no. 51, postcard, Archives of the PTTK Museum in Gorlice



## KRAKOW WAR GRAVES OFFICE

The central element of the complex was supposed to be a pedestal topped with a cross, a tall wooden cross, obelisk, or a chapel. Earth graves were formed in the shape of mounds or embankments, and were topped with wooden or cast-iron crosses, although tombstones made of concrete or stone were also used. Regardless of the selected concept, the necropolis design was supposed to be uniform, and the tombstones were to be modest, made of local materials, and were not supposed to differentiate between the soldiers of one's own or the enemy army.

Kamionka Mała, War Cemetery no. 357, photo by K. Bzowski



Małopolska war cemeteries feature a multitude of funeral motifs dating from various epochs and styles. This diversity perfectly reflected the character of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, the country of many cultures and religions. Colonnades, pylons, pyramids, or open-air altars were inspirations borrowed from antiquity. On the other hand, the cross-monuments refer to the folk tradition and to the customs of placing huge crosses on the battlefields in the German-speaking countries. Local traditions gave inspirations for small, shingled chapels made of wood or field stone. Among the popular sculpting motifs were a hoplite's helmet, dragon's head and a soldier's cap.

War Cemetery in Bogoniowice, photo by J. Gorlach

Inscriptions engraved on the stone plaques also played a significant role. They served as reminders that death ends all struggle and hatred, and that the fallen gave the living the precious gift of peace. There are also many stanzas about the Mother Earth taking in all of her children, stars looking down on the battlefields, or the shadows of the dead wandering back to their homelands. The entirety of the texts is complemented by inscriptions stylized as soldiers' words, e.g. "Tough like this mountaint, we pushed back the enemy; now we lie in the faithful embrace of the land we defended."

Wieliczka, Communal Cemetery, Quarter from the First World War, photo by K. Bzowski

Over 40 architects and sculptors worked on the creation of the Galician war cemeteries. Among them were personalities of such a calibre as:

**Dušan Jurkovič** (1886–1947) – Slovak architect, designer, cultural and social activist. He designed and realized about 35 war necropolises, considered the most beautiful necropolises in the entire Galicia. In addition to the cemetery complexes, he also designed its particular elements and details, e.g. several versions of wooden grave crosses. He drew inspiration from local architecture, both in terms of form and materials (he often used wood). Some of the most interesting cemeteries he authored include Beskidzkie no. 46 Cemetery in Konieczna, Cemetery no. 51 on Rotunda Mound near Regietów, and Cemetery no. 52 in Zdynia.

CEMETERY  
CREATORS





A chapel design on War Cemetery no. 80 in Sękowa (unrealized), Sękowa County Archives

**Gustav Ludwig** (1876–1952) – Munich architect originating from Moravia, artistic director of the Limanowa Cemetery District. He designed such projects as the vast Cemetery no. 368 on Jabłoniec Hill near Limanowa and the folk-stylized chapel on Cemetery no. 361 in Krasne-Lasocice. He was also renowned as the creator of many types of iron-

cast crosses characterized by rich ornamentation and used in most of the cemetery districts.

**Hans Mayr** (1877–?) – German architect and construction engineer, artistic director of the Gorlice District. He designed e.g. War Cemeteries nos. 89 and 90 in Gorlice, no. 66 in Małastów, no. 70 in Owczary, nos. 79 and 80 in Sękowa. He also designed the very common tall central cross, made of logs, with a semi-circular tin cover.

**Heinrich Karl Scholz** (1880–1937) – versatile and multi-talented sculptor, artistic director and chief designer of the Tarnów District. He authored most of the sculptures and reliefs in the district, and he sculpted both in wood and stone. He designed e.g. Cemetery no. 193 in Dąbrówka Szczepanowska, nos. 185–187 in Lichwin, and no. 191 in Lubcza.

**Jan Szczepkowski** (1878–1964) – Polish sculptor, artistic director of the Lużna district. He authored the tombstone monuments in the Hungarian soldiers' plot on Cemetery no. 123 in Lużna-Pustki, as well as the entire spatial design of that necropolis. Szczepkowski also designed Cemetery no. 138 w Bogoniowice with the characteristic symbolic towers.

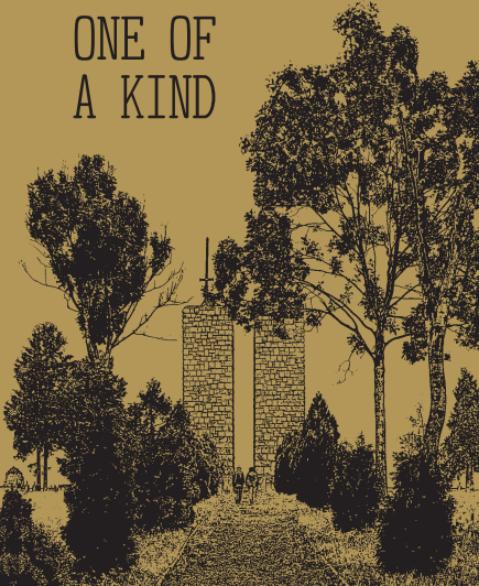
Gorlice Cemetery no. 91 on Cmentarna Mount, photo by K. Bzowski

**G**alician war cemeteries are a unique phenomenon. According to the existing documents, similar actions aiming to establish war cemeteries were supposed to take place on other areas where the battles were fought; however, for many reasons, these plans were never realized. After the fall of the Habsburg Monarchy, units such as War Grave Offices simply ceased to exist on the former Austro-Hungarian territory.

Nowadays, more and more people appreciate the unique nature of the cemeteries dating from the Great War. They are being catalogued and renovated, depending on the needs and resources. Their memory is being restored, and we are reminded that they are not only the remains of a terrible war, but also unique monuments of architecture.

Staszówka Cemetery no. 118, photo by K. Bzowski

ONE OF  
A KIND



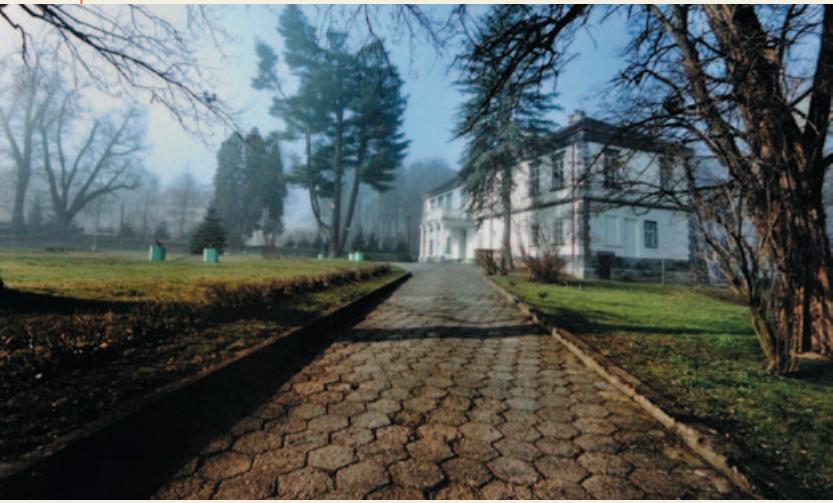
## FERENC MOLNÁR IN LIMANOWA

The former inn near the exit road toward Nowy Sącz (ul. Kościuszki) is the place where the famous Hungarian writer Ferenc Molnár (1878–1952), author of the novel, *The Paul Street Boys*, stayed after the Battle of Limanowa. He then served as a war correspondent. Molnár's reports collected and published also in Polish are an incredible source of knowledge about Galicia of the time of the Great War.

future marshal fondly remembered this convenient accommodation – for the first time in a long time he could sit at a table covered with a tablecloth and sleep in the clean sheets.

Beyond the town an asphalt road heading right from the main road toward Nowy Sącz, behind the last buildings, ascends steeply to

The manor in Marcinkowice, photo by M. Piotrowski, the "Treasures of Małopolska" Competition Archives



**Jabłoniec Hill.** Hidden among the trees there is **War Cemetery no. 368 [30]** – the largest representative necropolis of the 10<sup>th</sup> Limanowa cemetery district. The road divides the cemetery into two parts. The main part of the necropolis with the chapel-mausoleum of Lieutenant Muhr in the shape of an artillery shell is located on the right, southern side. At present, the tomb in the chapel is empty, since before the Second World War, the family took the remains of the hero back to his fatherland. A monument with a concrete shell stands beneath, among the soldiers' graves, located on the site of the lieutenant's death. 161 Austro-Hungarian, 1 German, and 247 Russian soldiers are buried in the individual and mass graves. An obelisk with a cross on a round stone terrace is located on the other side of the road. Once a view of the town spread from there but after the Second World War the Red Army cemetery was created there. One more monument



Nowy Sącz (ca. 1900), postcard. Issued by S. Landau Bookstore in Nowy Sącz, Collection of the Regional Museum in Tarnów

located slightly below the main part of the cemetery on the fields from the side of the town is a slender stone obelisk commemorating Rittmeister Count Leonard Thun-Hohenstein. The family founded the monument on the alleged site of his death.

## MARCINKOWICE

Heading from Limanowa, you continue along a side road in the Smolnik Stream Valley through Mordarka, Pisarzowa and Męcina. In the first days of December of 1914, the Polish legionaries commanded by Józef Piłsudski distinguished themselves in action during the battle by holding off the overwhelming enemy forces for several hours, which gave the defenders of Limanowa time to prepare the positions. The next two sites on the trail are associated with the battles fought by the Polish Legions in Marcinkowice.

Józef Piłsudski, in command of several battalions of the First Brigade of the Polish

Legions on December 5, 1914, during a brave march after the retreating Russians, managed to overtake the remaining Austro-Hungarian forces by several kilometres and reach Marcinkowice. Together with his staff, he took up quarters in the **manor [31]** of Alfred Fauck (after the war the manor belonged to the Morawski Family). At present, the building houses a school and a small "Legionaries in Marcinkowice" Historical Museum.

The next day, the legionaries were attacked by the overwhelming Russian forces of the 8<sup>th</sup> Corps of the Eight Army commanded by General Brusilov. The Poles avoided the encirclement and the total defeat by withdrawing toward Limanowa. However, 12 legionaries were killed in this battle and many became wounded. Nine of them are buried at **War Cemetery no. 352 [32]** located above the village next to the parish cemetery. The graves of 25 other Austro-Hungarian and 5 Russian soldiers are located



A sculpture of a knight on War Cemetery no. 350 in Nowy Sącz, photo by R. Korzeniowski

next to the monument commemorating the legionaries, erected by the residents of Marcinkowice in 1915. It is worth noting the shells built in the pedestal of the legionary obelisk – the legionaries are said to have died of the Russian artillery fire.

### NOWY SĄCZ

Nowy Sącz is the most important town of the southeast Małopolska.

The Old Town of Nowy Sącz, located at the confluence of the Dunajec and Kamienica Nawojowska Rivers, had a great strategic significance as an important road and railway junction for both armies fighting in Western Galicia in 1914. This is where the commander in chief of the entire Austrian Army, General Conrad von Hötzendorf relocated with his staff from Przemyśl threatened by the Russians on September 12 of that year. However, due to the front advance another relocation to the west – to Cieszyn – soon turned out necessary. Nowy Sącz was captured by the Russian forces on November 18, 1914. The Russians remained in town for almost a month. The next day after the fierce Battle of Limanowa with a dramatic fight on Jabłoniec Hill on December 11, 1914, the tsarist army had to leave Nowy Sącz,

since it was followed by the Austro-Hungarian forces approaching from the direction of Limanowa: the Hungarian Hussars and Polish Legions, while from the south, General Szurmay's forces, separated from the Third Austrian Army commanded by General Boroević, approached along the Poprad and Kamienica Nawojowska River Valleys. His divisions attacked Russians in the vicinity of Żmigród and Dukla, while the attack in the direction of Nowy Sącz was supposed to force the Eighth Russian Corps charging at Limanowa to retreat at the threat of being cut off from the remainder of General Brusilov's army, involved in the fights in the east.

The Polish Legionaries with Józef Piłsudski entered the town right after the Hungarian Hussars on December 13, 1914. This is also when the news arrived with the order creating the First Brigade under the command of Józef Piłsudski out of the First Regiment of the Legions. Unfortunately, due to the new Russian offensive the Poles again had to go into fight – the difficult battle of Łowczówka was in store for them. In the subsequent months, the town constituted a base for the nearby front. The staff of August von Mackensen stationed briefly in Nowy Sącz right before the Battle of Gorlice in April of 1915, while throughout the entire war an important field airport operated in Nowy Sącz.

Three sites of the First World War's Eastern Front Trail are located in Nowy Sącz. The southwest part of the communal cemetery at Rejtana Street is taken by the large war quarter, that is, **War Cemetery no. 350 [33]** of the 10<sup>th</sup> Limanowa cemetery district, designed by Gustav Ludwig. Initially, the cemetery was much larger, but it was partially taken over by private, newer burials. The semi-circular colonnade surrounding the tall central obelisk with a sculpture of the knight leaning on a large sword is the most characteristic element of the cemetery that is visible



The market square in Nowy Sącz, photo by J. Gorlach

### The Old Town in Nowy Sącz with OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

a market square and numerous historic monuments, the town hall, the Gothic Basilica of St. Margaret, old synagogue, the Sącz District Museum in the Gothic House and the remains of the town walls and the royal castle.

The outskirts of the town boast the **Sądecki Ethnographic Park**, the largest heritage museum in Poland, which features hundreds of wooden buildings collected from the region, representing the architecture of four ethnographic groups: the Sącz Lachs, Western Pogorzans, Sącz Highlanders, and the Poprad Region Lemkos; the heritage museum also features the Galician Small Town with the reconstructions of the traditional small town Galician architecture.

## OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

### Popradzki Landscape Park

encompassing two high ridges of the Sądecki Beskid Mountains, separated by the picturesque Poprad River Gorge.

from afar. The cemetery is the burial site of 905 Austro-Hungarian, 119 German and 252 Russian soldiers who were killed in battle in November and December of 1914, and who also died in the subsequent months in the hospitals of Nowy Sącz.

**The Legionaries' Quarter [34]** is located several dozen metres further down. It stands out along the long wall with a figure of the soldier in a legionary uniform and the "Maciejówka" fiddler-style cap on the head, and the inscription, "For you, Poland, and for your glory 1914-1918." It is the burial site of 19 legionaries killed during the war, and the legionaries originating from Nowy Sącz who died in later years. It was founded by the Legionaries' Association in 1927.

Another site on the trail is located near the centre, in the beautiful park called Municipal Planty Park. An enormous lonely tree grows in its northwest part – the **Oak of Freedom [35]**. It commemorates Poland's regaining independence after the over-century-long slavery – the Nowy Sącz patriots spontaneously planted it on November 11, 1918. The tree survived the years of the Nazi German occupation and the communist times, and in 1988 a memorial rock was placed next to it bearing the inscription: "The Oak of Freedom – 1918."

Heading from Nowy Sącz toward Gorlice, you come across other sites on the First World War's Eastern Front Trail.



War Cemetery no. 350 in Nowy Sącz,  
photo by J. Gorlach

# GORLICE AND ITS VICINITY

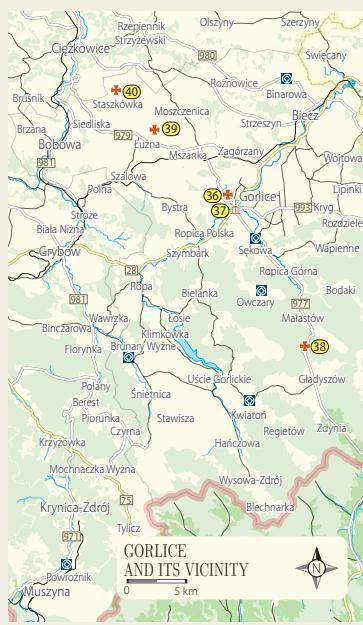
## – A Kerosene Lamp and the Battle That Changed the Course of History

One of the most important battles of the First World War was fought in 1915 in the vicinity of Gorlice – a small town located at the foot of the Low Beskid Mountains. The battle led to the breakthrough of the front and to the tsarist forces being finally driven out from Galicia. However, the vicinity of Gorlice was an arena for heavy fights earlier on – the front halted for several winter months at the turn of 1914 and 1915, north of town in the Biala Tarnowska Valley, and fierce battles were fought in the south among the elevations of the Low Beskid Mountains. The testimony of these fights can be found in numerous war cemeteries scattered in the vicinity. The legacy of the Great War, associated above all with the Battle of Gorlice, can also be found in the town itself.

Heading south from Gorlice, you can visit war cemeteries located on battlefields of the Low Beskid Mountains. However, the battles crucial for the Gorlice operation were fought north of town, e.g. near and on Pustka Hill in Łużna.

### CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF MAŁOPOLSKA

For centuries Małopolska was home not only to Poles but also to other ethnic communities. Jews were a significant percentage of the population in many Galician towns and small towns. The many remnants of the Jewish heritage can be found in synagogues, cemeteries, or town architecture. Whereas the south of the region located among the not very tall hills of the Low Beskid Mountains is home to the Lemkos of the Greek Catholic or Orthodox persuasion. The best-known traces of the centuries-long presence of the Lemkos in Małopolska are the beautiful wooden Greek Catholic and Orthodox churches. Four of them (in Brunny Wyżne, Kwiatoń, Owczary and Powroźnik) have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List.



## GORLICE AND ITS VICINITY



A general view of Gorlice (ca. 1909), postcard. Issued by A. Lecker in Gorlice, Archives of the PTTK Museum in Gorlice

### GORLICE

The town was established in 1354 on a tall slope above the Ropa River. For centuries, important trade routes – running from east to west at the foothills of the Beskid Mountains, and routes toward the south leading through the mountains to Slovakia and Hungary – crossed in Gorlice. The region was the oil-field industry since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Gorlice was severely affected during the war acts of 1914 and 1915. The Russians captured the town on November 15, 1914. At the beginning of December the Austrian counteroffensive

brought a temporary recapture of Gorlice (December 12), but on the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month it was again conquered by the tsarist army forces. During the fierce battles fought in the Low Beskid and Bieszczady Mountains in the winter of 1915, the Austro-Hungarian forces did not manage to capture the town. They also failed during the offensive in March of 1915, undertaken for that particular purpose. However, soon, with the help of the German forces, the plans

The Austrian mortars firing at Gorlice (1915), MLP Archives



## OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

The reconstructed world's first kerosene lamp, invented by Ignacy Łukasiewicz, is now lighting a street intersection in Gorlice.

**The Karwacjan Family Mansion**, that is, the reconstructed Renaissance fortified manor of the former owners of Gorlice, destroyed during the 1915 town bombardment. Nowadays, the building houses an art gallery.

**Szymbark** with an interesting heritage museum and a unique Renaissance fortified manor. The staff of the 11<sup>th</sup> German Army commanded by General Mackensen stationed there in April and May of 1915.



The fortified manor in Szymbark,  
photo by P. Fabijański

of the offensive against the forces of the Third Russian Army commanded by General Radko Dimitriev were back on the table.

The great battle commenced on the night of May 1, 1915 with the artillery preparation. In the morning, a rain of iron fell on Gorlice – such a hurricane mass of fire on the Eastern Front had not been seen before during the First World War. Apart from artillery cannons and heavy mortars, the attack was reinforced by the planes bombarding e.g. the refinery in Glinnik (at present a district of Gorlice). Finally, the infantry charged – from the north the town was encircled by the regiments of the 82<sup>nd</sup> German Infantry Division of the 41<sup>st</sup> Reserve Corps commanded by General Hermann von François. Despite the losses, the infantry soldiers, among them many Poles from Greater Poland, managed to quickly capture Cmentarna Mount (357 metres above sea level), towering above the town from the north. This allowed the outflanking of the Russians defending in the centre and firing at the town buildings and the roads entering Gorlice from the east, thanks to the cannons hauled to the peak of the mount.

This way, all the Russian attempts at counterattack that would bring help to the defenders were thwarted. Nonetheless, the town was eventually conquered only after several hours of bloody street fights.

The Russians defended themselves for a long time on the area of the Jewish cemetery

A tombstone on War Cemetery no. 91  
in Gorlice, photo by J. Gorlach



The gate of War Cemetery no. 91 in Gorlice, photo by K. Bzowski

at the foot of Cmentarna Mount. Nowadays, the large **war cemetery no. 91 [36]**, a representative cemetery of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Gorlice cemetery district, is located on the top of the mount. The flattened area, divided into four large grave fields, can be accessed through the enormous gate with three arcades. The centre of the cemetery features a monumental cross with a plaque commemorating the fallen soldiers of Polish origin that was placed in 1928. The necropolis was initially the burial

site of 427 Austro-Hungarian, 139 German, 287 Russian soldiers. Later on, as a result of the transfer of corpses from smaller liquidated cemeteries and temporary graves – the total number of people buried here rose to 1,441.

**The PTTK Regional Museum [37]** has collected many exhibits associated with the Battle of Gorlice. The museum building is easily recognizable thanks to a large graffiti on the elevation depicting the soldiers from the First World War period. The museum



Biecz, photo by P. Fabijański

## OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

**Biecz**, a medieval town that survived the fights to capture it in 1915, with a magnificent Gothic parish church, a Renaissance town hall tower, and the Franciscan Church and Monastery, where Waclaw Potocki, the most eminent poet of the Polish Baroque is buried. Biecz also features war cemeteries dating from the First World War (nos. 106, 108 and 109).

### THE WAR IN GORLICE

Reverend Bronisław Świejkowski of Gorlice recalled the autumn of 1914 as follows: "There is a perfect order in the general hospital, temporarily, a field hospital, thanks to the heroic sacrifice of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent De Paul located there, and especially Mother Superior Amelia Bukowska: cholera takes a smaller toll, but the hospital is overcrowded with patients suffering from dysentery and typhus - the number of patients ranges between 100-120, since this is the capacity of this building. A second hospital for the wounded was established in the grammar school, and the number of patients cared for daily is on average 80..."

features e.g. a model of the battle with the marked positions of the fighting armies, as well as many elements of the uniform, military and combat equipment (rifles, bayonets, cartridge bags, mess-tins, and so on). Also noteworthy are memento items, made after the battle from the fragments of the military equipment; a monstrance made of Mauser rifle bullets and artillery shells stands out among them. The basement features an exhibition presenting the uniforms of the armies

fighting in Galicia during the First World War. Among the wax figures are Emperor Franz Joseph and General Mackensen.

### MAŁASTÓW

Heading south from Gorlice along Road 977 toward the border with Slovakia, through Sękowa and Małastów, you can reach Magura Małastowska, a Low Beskid Mountain range. The road climbs up to the

War Cemetery no. 60 in Małastów, photo by J. Gorlach



Małastowska Pass (604 metres above sea level), featuring one of the most beautiful cemeteries from the time of the First World War.

Similarly to all cemeteries in the 1<sup>st</sup> Żmigrod cemetery district, [War Cemetery no. 60 \[38\]](#) on Małastowska Pass was designed by Dušan Jurkovič. Surrounded by a wooden fence, the necropolis was carefully renovated. It is the burial site of 174 soldiers from the Austro-Hungarian Army, including many Poles. The cemetery features wooden grave crosses, characteristic for Jurkovič's designs, and the uniquely original wooden *matzevah* on the grave of Mendel Brod, an



A museum exhibition of wax figures in the PTTK Museum in Gorlice, Archives of the PTTK Museum in Gorlice

Austro-Hungarian soldier of Jewish origin. Further down in the cemetery, a soaring building with shingled roofs and a cross composition, at first resembling a chapel, also attracts attention.

Battles were fought in the vicinity not only during the

Battle of Gorlice but also during the earlier winter months, when the Eight Russian Army commanded by General Brusilov repeatedly charged on the Carpathian line, in order to force their way through the mountain passes to the Hungarian Plane. During the

### WAR CEMETERIES IN THE VICINITY OF GORLICE

Numerous war necropolises dating from the time of the First World War are located in Gorlice and in the town's vicinity as well as in the region of the Low Beskid Mountains stretching south of Gorlice. Almost 100 war cemeteries can be found in Gorlice County. They belong to several cemetery districts. The town and its vicinity feature necropolises of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Gorlice district that were mostly designed by Lieutenant Hans Mayr. His works were characterized by a lavishness and monumentalism, while retaining at the same time a simple form. War Cemetery no. 80, located on the ridge of Zagórze, right above the village of Sękowa, is especially noteworthy. According to the initial plans, it was supposed to be a cemetery representative of the entire Gorlice district. The hills above the village feature two more necropolises (nos. 78 and 79). Also worth seeing is War Cemetery no. 90 situated on the area of the Jewish cemetery at the foot of Cmentarna Mount and Cemetery no. 98 in the district of Gorlice - Glinnik. Six other War Cemeteries (nos. 92-97) located exactly along the old front line are situated north of the town, in Stróżówka. Another interesting war necropolis - no. 125 in Zagórzany - is part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Łužniański cemetery district. Cemeteries of this district were designed mostly by Polish sculptor Jan Szczepkowski, but there are also cemeteries designed by Hans Mayr, Anton Müller, Prof. Hermann Kurt Hosaeus, and Dušan Jurkovič.

Battle of Gorlice, the 10<sup>th</sup> Austro-Hungarian Corps from the Third Army commanded by Svetozar Boroević charged at the Russian positions in the vicinity of Małastów and the Pass, thus supporting the battle's crucial offensive of the German Corps commanded by General Kneussl who operated south of Gorlice. The Austro-Hungarian soldiers, fighting in the difficult mountain area, managed to capture Russian fortifications on the peaks on the eastern side of Małastów, on May 2.

### ŁUŽNA – PUSTKI HILL

The forested Pustki Hill (446 metres above sea level) rises above Łužna, a large village located at Road 977 from Gorlice to Ciężkowice. The hill's southern slope features two war cemeteries dating from the time of the First World War. Turn right from Road 977 behind the signposts directing to war cemeteries. The road leads to the other side of the Łužnianka Stream Valley, and then a narrow



War Cemetery no. 122 in Łužna,  
photo by K. Bzowski

### CEMETERIES DESIGNED BY DUŠAN JURKOVIČ

Traversing the trails of the Low Beskid Mountains, one can encounter many unique war cemeteries, often hidden among the mountain forests and decaying in oblivion among the abundant greenery, though more and more often renovated and exposed. Unusual wooden towers, chapels, beautiful crosses, and picturesque locations characterize the necropolises designed by the largest artistic individuality among the designers of Galicia war cemeteries - Dušan Jurkovič (1886-1947) of Slovak origin. In 1915 he was appointed artistic director and designer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Źmigrod cemetery district, for which he designed over 35 necropolises. In his works, he used above all wood, and only sporadically stone. He drew inspiration from the regional architecture and also cared about the appropriate incorporation of the cemetery into the Beskid landscape. Traversing the Low Beskids, it is worth noting the necropolises of his design. Some are located very high on the mountain ridges and can be reached only by the hiking trails, e.g. Beskidek War Cemetery no. 46 in Konieczna, situated on the ridge of Beskidek Mountain on the border with Slovakia, or War Cemetery no. 51 on Rotunda Mount (771 metres above sea level) above Regietów Wyżny, considered the most interesting cemetery. Other necropolises are easily accessible: they are located along the main roads or in their vicinity, e.g. War Cemetery no. 52 in Zdynia or War Cemetery no. 55 in Gładyszów.

asphalt road leads steeply uphill to the cemeteries located at the edge of the forest.

In the spring of 1915, during the Battle of Gorlice, Pustki Hill was one of the key positions of the first and strongest line of Russian fortifications. Its capture would significantly contribute to the faster breakthrough of the front. The fights began on April 30 – the Austro-Hungarian 12<sup>th</sup> Krakow Infantry Division charging here had to first approach the Russian trenches to a distance allowing the infantry's attack. The Division, part of the Sixth Austro-Hungarian Corps of General Arz, consisted almost exclusively of Poles. Poles were also among the defenders of the hill in the Russian Army. The fratricidal fight – despite the first successes of the attackers – turned out to be very bloody. The artillery fire did not damage the Russian fortifications on the steep slope of the mount above the first trenches. There were plenty of hidden gun machine stations and sharpshooters. Nonetheless, the Galician regiments from Wadowice and Cieszyn pushed upward and in an hour and a half managed to plant the imperial black and yellow flag on the top of the mount.

The small walled **War Cemetery no. 122 [39a]**



War Cemetery no. 60 in Małastów, Sękowa County Archives



The church in Sękowa, photo by P. Witosławski

is located at the edge of the forest near the end of the asphalt road under the hill. 154 Russian soldiers, killed on May 2, 1915, are buried there. The largest of the war necropolises in Western Galicia dating from the time of the First World War, **War Cemetery no. 123 [39b]** is located several hundred metres higher in the beech forest on the steep slope of the mount. This representative cemetery of the 4<sup>th</sup> Łużna cemetery

district was designed by Jan Szczepkowski. It is unique not only because of its size but also because of its free and unimpeded layout on the steep slope. Particular quarters are located asymmetrically among the beech forest, and are linked by paths and stone steps winding on the slope. Stone monuments and wooden crosses stand in several places. The cemetery is the burial site of over 909 Austro-Hungarian, 65 German, and

### A SMALL CHURCH IN SĘKOWA

Sękowa boasts the wooden Church of SS. Philip and Jacob, inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List. The church miraculously survived the years of the First World War - the front Czech regiments of the Austro-Hungarian Army stationing here, turned the church into a horse stable in 1915. The soldiers used the majority of walls, roof thatch, armatures, and the larger part of the tower (except for the construction elements) for fuel and for the wooden fortifications in the trenches and dugouts. The Baroque altars were looted, and the polychrome of high artistic value - destroyed. Who knows if the church would survive at all, if the Gorlice operation had begun a few days later. The church was reconstructed in the interwar period, although the attempt to recreate the historic elements of the interior furnishing was unsuccessful. Another church located nearby - the neo-Gothic Church of St. Joseph - features the bullets from the time of the Battle of Gorlice in its walls.

**The Wooden Architecture Trail** linking over 250 diverse buildings of wooden architecture in the entire Małopolska Region: Greek Catholic, Orthodox, and Catholic churches, heritage museums, old village and town houses. The wooden **Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Binarowa** (one of the five UNESCO sites in the Gorlice County region), located about 20 km east of Łużna, is famous for its beautiful polychrome.

The wooden Greek Catholic and Orthodox Lemko churches in Owczary, Brunnary Wyżne and Kwiator, located in the mountain valleys of the Low Beskids in the vicinity of Gorlice and the Małastowska Pas, have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List.

Once renowned as a Hassidic centre, **Bobowa** with a preserved **synagogue** and the **Jewish cemetery** with Tsadik Halberstam's Ohel, the shrine; Bobowa is also known for the local laces. **Magurski National Park** encompasses the wildest part of the Low Beskid Mountains, e.g. the tall Magura Wątkowska Range with interesting sandstone rocks in **Kornuty Reserve**.

226 Russian soldiers, killed not only during the Battle of Gorlice, but also during the first four months of 1915 in trench warfare.

### STASZKÓWKA

The village of Staszówka is located on the hills northwest of Łużna and can be reached by turning into a side road leading to Ciężkowice in Łużna. **War Cemetery no. 118 [40]** is located less than a kilometre before Staszkówka on the vast flattened ridge of Patria Mount (432 metres above the sea level).

On May 2, 1915, the Russian fortifications on the hill, surrounded by abatises with barb-wire entanglement and minefields were attacked by the German infantry units of the Second Division of the Prussian Garde du Corps.



War Cemetery no. 122 in Łużna, photo by J. Gorlach

It turned out that the several-hour-long artillery fire by mistake omitted this part of the Russian lines and the First Regiment of Prussian Grenadiers, crossing through the minefields, was caught under the enemy gun machine fire. Finally, thanks to the advances of the division on the remaining sections, this hill was captured but the regiment was decimated and suffered the loss of over 600 killed or wounded soldiers. Many of them were buried on Cemetery no. 118 with four large stone pylons – two of them are topped with the iron swords sticking out to the sky. The cemetery is the burial site for the total of 439 German, 281 Austro-Hungarian and 43 Russian soldiers.

### SOMEWHERE IN GALICIA...

"Somewhere in Galicia  
a silent cemetery lies on a hill,  
With twelve soldiers in a grave  
for eternity sleeping still..  
Don't cry, mother, that your child  
decays in the strange land,  
True, mother, your son died,  
but alive is the fatherland."

Lyrics of a Hungarian soldier song.

War Cemetery no. 118 in Staszówka,  
photo by J. Gorlach



# TARNÓW AND ITS VICINITY

## – The Pearl of the Renaissance and the Most Beautiful Necropolises

Second only to Krakow, the Tarnów city complex of Małopolska Region is renowned today for its beautiful Old Town called the "Pearl of the Renaissance." During the First World War, Tarnów, as the important railway junction, served as the headquarters of the Austro-Hungarian garrison, and then became the base for the Russian army charging against Western Galicia. The Russian forces occupied the city for several months: from the autumn of 1914 until the Battle of Gorlice in May of the following year. Since December of 1914, the front line ran next to Tarnów. A fierce battle, called the "Christmas Battle" was fought in the vicinity of the city in the late December of 1914. This was also when the soldiers of the First Brigade of the Polish Legions fought the Battle of Łowczówek.

Tarnów itself is home to numerous war cemeteries and other sites associated with the events of the First World War, while the vicinity of the city features other war necropolises, e.g. in the aforementioned Łowczówek.

### TARNÓW

The Russian army pushed through Galicia to the west in the autumn of 1914. When the tsarist soldiers reached Tarnów in November – the city officers ran away from the city in panic, the documents were destroyed, and the garrison was evacuated. The first Russian units – the Cossack Cavalry – entered Tarnów on November 10, 1914. There was no contribution imposed on the city authorities but the occupiers imposed on them numerous obligations, such as maintenance of the

military barracks and hospitals, electricity, water and fuel supply free of charge – which ruined the city budget of Tarnów. The residents became subject to many repressions, resulting from the discovery of alleged or true evidence about the contacts with the Austro-Hungarian forces. The Russians repeatedly took hostages as a security against the potential subversion. The heroic city mayor, Tadeusz Tertil, remained in Tarnów, despite the threat of arrest by the tsarist Ochrana, the Public Security Department, and tried to take



### TARNÓW AND ITS VICINITY



Sobieskiego Square in Tarnów (ca. 1900), postcard. Issued by Kamil Baum in Tarnów, Collection of the Regional Museum in Tarnów

care of the city and its residents, often intervening with the Russian military authorities.

Tarnów became the front city after the Battles of Łapanów and Limanowa – the Austro-Hungarian forces managed to drive the Third Army commanded by General Radko Dimitriev out to the east of the Dunajec River. After the fierce Christmas Battle, fought in the last days of December of 1914, the front froze for four months merely several kilometres west of the city. The artillery fire was an additional threat

for Tarnów. The Austro-Hungarian batteries ravaged the city from time to time, e.g. in January of 1915, the fire of the heavy 30.5 and 42 cm mortars destroyed the railway station. The artillery fire in the beginning of May of 1915, preceding the Gorlice offensive, was particularly devastating. It was also a harbinger of the city's liberation from the onerous occupier, since the Austro-Hungarian forces entered Tarnów in the morning of May 6, 1915, which by then was a town abandoned by the

### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

**The Market Square in Tarnów** with the Town Hall and tenement houses constitute one of the most beautiful Renaissance architecture complexes in Poland. The soaring Gothic cathedral with a complex of the Renaissance and Mannerist tombstones, e.g. of the famous Hetman Jan Tarnowski.

**The Tarnów Diocesan Museum** – the oldest museum of this kind in Poland located in the Renaissance tenement houses dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century near the cathedral.

**The Regional Museum** with an interesting exhibition on display in the old tenement houses on the Market Square and in the Tarnów Renaissance Town Hall, boasting unique collections devoted to the Roma culture in the ethnographic section of the Museum.

The remaining legacy of the once large Jewish population of Tarnów, including the vast Jewish cemetery.

**The General Józef Bem Mausoleum**, the hero of two nations – Polish and Hungarian.



The courtyard of the Higher State Vocational School in Tarnów, the former Austrian barracks,

last units of the Cossacks. Unfortunately, the liberation did not mean the end of repressions, this time the residents were accused of collaboration with the Russians – even Major Tertil and his associate in the first days of the occupation, Wincenty Witos, were not spared.

However, one had to wait for the true liberation until the autumn of 1918. Tarnów was liberated on the night of October 30, 1918, as one of the first cities on the Polish lands. The Austrian soldiers were disarmed and the takeover of the civilian power began. Only after the news about the events in Tarnów reached Krakow, the disarmament of

the Austrians began there on October 31.

The **Monument of the Unknown Polish Soldier** [41] dating from 1931 is the first of the Tarnów sites on the trail. It is located almost in the heart of the city, on the square at the intersection of Kopernika and Piłsudskiego Streets. The man-made stone mound features a sandstone monument bearing the inscription: "To the Unknown Soldier who died for the Fatherland 1914–1920." The monument is crowned with an urn of the ashes of the unknown fallen soldiers.

Descending from the monument, down to Piłsudskiego Street with large buildings of the high school and

theological seminary, you can see a one-storey pavilion located at the corner of Słowackiego Street, at number 24, and further down, the building of the **former military hospital** [42] in the large garden. The monumental neo-Roman building was erected in 1855 especially for the needs of the military health service. Previously, the main garrison hospital was located at Mickiewicza Street (and later the barracks were located there). During the war, Tarnów as the front city was home to many military hospitals, and the most important one was located exactly there. Nowadays, the building houses the Youth Palace.

Archives of the Higher State Vocational School in Tarnów

Returning toward Mickiewicza Street, you come across the **Austro-Hungarian barracks** [43]. Initially (since 1833), the building housed the main military hospital, but

The Sanguszko Family Palace, photo by J. Gorlach



in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the building was designated as barracks. It is the largest, but not the only building of the type in Tarnów, since before the war part of the 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Galician Uhlan Regiment were stationed in the city. The building also served as the **head-quarters of the Austrian garrison** [44]. Nowadays, the building is much larger than in the times of the Royal-Imperial Monarchy – in the interwar period, it was made higher by one floor and the façade was reconstructed in the neo-Classical style. After the capture of Tarnów, the Russian occupying forces took over the barracks. Nowadays, this is the main building of the Higher State Vocational School.

It is worth heading from the city centre to the eastern suburbs formed by the former village of Gumniska. A vast park is located there, at Braci Saków Street (extension of Gumniska Street), on the eastern side of the railway

line to Rzeszów. The neo-Classical **Sanguszko Family Palace** [45], dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and reconstructed around 1834 and in the interwar period, is located inside the park on a hill. The palace, which after the November Uprising became the headquarters of Władysław Sanguszko, in the autumn of 1914, served as the quarters of General Chełmicki, the commander of the Cossack Cavalry Division of the 10<sup>th</sup> Corps of the Third Army commanded by General Radko Dimitriev, and then of other commanders of the Russian garrison.

The Tarnów legacy of the First World War also includes the war cemeteries of the 6<sup>th</sup> Tarnów cemetery district. In order to reach the first one, return from Gumniska to the city centre along Gumniska and Konarskiego Streets. The so-called Old Cemetery stretches at the intersection of Konarskiego and Turowska Streets, the latter being the exit road from the city to the south. Its southern part, several metres behind the magnificent tomb

A mound on War Cemetery no. 202a in Tarnów,  
photo by J. Gorlach



War Cemetery no. 202 in Tarnów,  
photo by J. Gorlach

chapel of the Sanguszko Family, features the quarter of the Polish legionaries originating from Tarnów, who were killed during the First World War, or died right after the war. A tall wooden cross stands in the centre of the legionaries' quarter. This is **War Cemetery no. 202a** [46a], surrounded by a chain of stone poles. The nearby stone mound and the cross commemorate the heroes of the 1863 January Uprising. There are also graves of the soldiers fighting in the Polish underground during the Second World War.

The large **Jewish Cemetery** stretches in the northern part of the city between Szpitalna, Słoneczna and Starodąbrowska Streets. Its southern part, near the main gate (at Szpitalna Street) and the Monuments of the Holocaust Victims, features the graves of the Austro-Hungarian soldiers of Jewish origin who were killed in action or died of wounds. They are buried in 43 graves marked with concrete slates in the shape of *matzevot* with the Hebrew inscriptions. They constitute **War Cemetery no. 201** [46b].

A small square encircled by small poles joined with iron rods is located a kilometre away to the north, next to the intersection of Szpitalna Street with MB Fatimyńska Avenue. It features a large sandstone monument. The fence and the monument are the only traces left after **War Cemetery no. 202** [46c]. The remains of the soldiers buried there were transferred to Cemetery no. 200 in the interwar period.

The necropolis called the New Cemetery is located further down at Krzyska Street. Its northeast part used to feature **War Cemetery no. 203** [46d]. The only remnant of the cemetery today is the tall concrete cross with two crossbars. The plinth of the

cross bears a plaque commemorating the Ukrainian General Mykola Yunakiv, a minister in the Ukrainian People's Republic, who died in Tarnów in 1931, and was buried there.

The last of the Tarnów cemeteries dating from the time of the First World War is located in the western suburb of Chyszów. It is the largest **War Necropolis** of Tarnów, marked **no. 200** [46e]. A large concrete

cross is placed at the end of the lime tree alley, constituting the axis of the cemetery complex, while the grave fields with mass graves and numerous individual graves are located along the alley. The Russian graves bear crosses with two crossbars, the

## ŁOWCZÓWEK

The field of the Battle of Łowczówek fought December 22–25, 1914, is located in the vicinity of Tarnów. The First Brigade of the Polish Legions commanded by Lieutenant

War Cemetery no. 171 in Łowczówek, Archives of the Starost County Office in Tarnów



## THE CEMETERIES OF THE TARNÓW LAND

The Tarnów County region features over 110 war cemeteries dating from the First World War. More than half of them belong to the 6<sup>th</sup> Tarnów cemetery district. Heinrich Scholz was the artistic director and the main designer of the necropolises in this district. His designs stood out with diversity and location: many cemeteries were established on the peaks and ridges of the hills, so that from one cemetery you could see others. Other necropolises in the district were designed by his commander, Lieutenant Siegfried Haller, while the large chapel on Cemetery no. 192 was designed by Gustav Rossman. The remaining war necropolises belong to the 7<sup>th</sup> Dąbrowa Tarnowska district with Hans Watzal as main designer, and to the 8<sup>th</sup> Brzesko district with some of the cemeteries also designed by Watzal, while the remainder of the cemetery complexes, including the very interesting Jewish Cemetery no. 293 in Zakliczyn, were designed by Robert Motka. Several cemeteries situated in the vicinity of Tarnów were also part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Jasło district and were designed by Johann Jäger.

Apart from the necropolises located in Tarnów, Łowczówek, Lubinka, Dąbrówka Szczepanowska and Zakliczyn, especially noteworthy is the large Cemetery no. 185 on Gródek Hill, and Cemeteries: no. 167 in Ryglice on the hills of the Brzanka Ridges, no. 175 in Poręba Radlna, no. 150 in Chojnik, no. 184 in Brzozowa. The vicinity of Łowczówek also features Cemeteries no. 158 and 159, where the soldiers of Polish Legions who died in the Battle of Łowczówek are buried.

Kazimierz Sosnkowski distinguished itself during that battle. Heading south along Road 977 in the direction of Tuchów, you pass by elevated ridge of Słona Mount, behind which in Zabłędza you turn into a side road to Pleśna, running along the Biala Tarnowska Valley. Then from Pleśna, following a steep ascend through Rychwałd you can reach the ridge of Rychwałdzki Wał – where you turn left into a side asphalt road leading to the hamlet of Kopalina, which constitutes the upper part of the village of Łowczówek. **War Cemetery no. 171 [47]** is located below the peak of Kopalina Mount (394 metres above sea level, access via dirt road), where 113 out of 128 legionaries killed in action from the First and Fifth Infantry Regiments of the First Brigade are buried. The brick Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary the Queen of Poland is located in the centre of the large necropolis, which is also the burial site of 159 other Austro-Hungarian and 239 Russian soldiers (mostly Poles from the Russian-occupied part of Poland). To the right of the chapel stands the noteworthy tombstone of General Gustaw Dobiesław Gryf Łowczowski, Anders' Army veteran, who also fought at Łowczówek in the Fifth Infantry Regiment and wished to be buried (he died in 1984) among his former brothers in arms.

## LUBINKA AND DĄBRÓWKA SZCZEPANOWSKA

The front stopped for several months from December of 1914 to May of 1915 on the tall ridges between the Biala and Dunajec River Valleys. This is where the battles were fought during the Russian counteroffensive that began on December 20, 1914 and lasted almost to the end of 1914. On February 18–20, 1915, the Austro-Hungarian forces of the Fourth Army commanded by Archduke Joseph Ferdinand charged against the Russian positions in the vicinity of Dąbrówka and Lubcza Szczepanowska but the Russians bloodily fended off their attack. During the Gorlice offensive



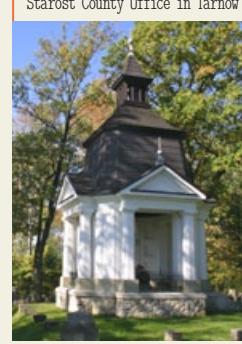
War Cemetery no. 193 in Dąbrówka Szczepanowska, Archives of the Starost County Office in Tarnów

on May 2–3, 1915, the soldiers of the Austro-Hungarian forces fiercely attacked the enemy positions from Dąbrówka Szczepanowska until the peak of Wał (523 metres above sea level) above Lubinka, suffering heavy losses. The Russian positions were well-prepared but eventually they had to leave them on May 4, threatened by the encirclement due to the breakthrough of the front near Tuchów.

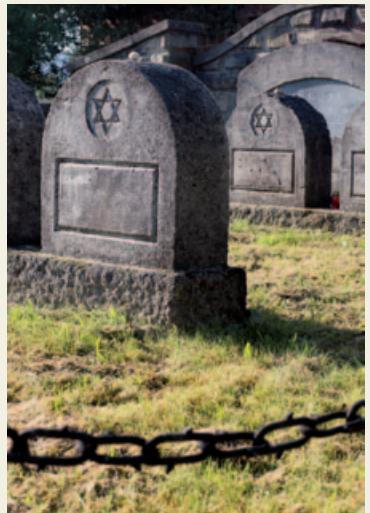
It is worth returning from the cemetery in Łowczówek along the ridge to the pass in order to reach Lubinka Hill (also called Podkowa Hill, 412 metres above sea level), where **War Cemetery no. 191 [48a]** is located at the edge of the forest. It was designed by Heinrich Scholz and features a characteristic tall stone obelisk

with a relief depicting the ancient Greek helmet in the lower part and the laurel wreaths at the top. 93 Austro-Hungarian and 111 Russian soldiers are buried there.

**War Cemetery no. 192 [48b]**, also designed by Heinrich Scholz, is located near the bend of the road running in the direction of Dąbrówka Szczepanowska in the forest. The large necropolis on the flattened ridge stands out above all with the central neo-Renaissance chapel designed by Gustav Rossmann. Located on the stone pedestal between three magnificent oaks, it is topped with a high shingled helmet with a lantern. The grave fields on both sides of the chapel are the burial site of 358 Austro-Hungarian and 217 Russian soldiers.



The chapel on War Cemetery no. 192 on Lubinka, Archives of the Starost County Office in Tarnów



War Cemetery no. 293 in Zakliczyn,  
photo by J. Gorlach

were fought there during the First World War. **War Cemetery no. 193 [48c]** is located at the very top of the ridge – 419 metres above sea level. This interesting necropolis is yet another design of Heinrich Scholz. It consists of two separate quarters, located 100 metres away from each other, and established directly on the battlefield among the trench lines and craters made by artillery shell explosions.

### THE CEMETERY ON THE "SUGAR HEAD"

Gródek Hill, also called "Głowa Cukru" [Sugar Head] is located several kilometres south of Lubinka, in the village of Lichwin. Its peak is topped with a magnificent stone – pylon topped with laurel wreaths. This is the central element of the large War Cemetery no. 185, designed by Heinrich Scholz. The peak of the hill was taken by the strongly fortified Russian positions, the object of the bloody battles fought there May 2–4, 1915: the trenches on the top of the hill changed hands several times. 273 Austro-Hungarian and 341 Russian soldiers are buried on the cemetery.

The quarter of 358 Austro-Hungarian soldiers is located at the forest edge near the very top of the hill with the magnificent central monument bearing commemorative inscriptions. A fragment of the trench with the earth shelter has been preserved right behind it. The quarter of 235 Russian soldiers is located in the forest east of the peak.

### ZAKLICZYN

The small town of Zakliczyn is located southwest from the battlefields in Lubinka and Dąbrówka Szczepanowska, in the vast valley of the Dunajec River. After the Russians were driven out during the Battles of Łapanów and Limanowa in December of 1914, the town found itself in the direct vicinity of the front, running among the Rożnowskie Foothills northeast of Zakliczyn.

The unique **War Cemetery no. 293 [49]**, belonging to the 8<sup>th</sup> Brzesko cemetery district and designed by Robert Motka, is located at the edge of the town, several dozen metres south of Road 980 (heading from the intersection with Road 975 in the direction of Gromnik, you turn right immediately behind the school). This is the only cemetery among the war cemeteries in Western Galicia that was established from the start exclusively for soldiers of Jewish origin (other Jewish quarters were established on the already existing Jewish cemeteries). The tombstones made of cast

### KĄSNA DOLNA – THE IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI MANOR

A beautiful manor in a small park in Kąsna Dolna is located near the Skamieniałe Miasto Reserve. The manor was the property of Ignacy Jan Paderewski in the years 1897–1903. Nowadays, the manor – the only preserved property of the pianist – houses a museum devoted to his life and work – Paderewski was not only a musician but also a merited activist for the independence of Poland. During the First World War, using his popularity in the West, he was involved in vast diplomatic activity propagating the idea of the rebirth of Poland. He even personally presented it to the President of the USA, Thomas Woodrow Wilson. At the same time, Paderewski raised funds for the aid to the war victims. In 1919 he was even appointed Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the independent Poland and he also represented the Second Republic of Poland at the peace conference that concluded with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.

War Cemetery no. 138 in Bogoniowice,  
photo by J. Gorlach



concrete bear the shape of the *matzevot* with the Stars of David, and the entire cemetery is enclosed with the stone wall bearing the memorial inscription in German. 1 Russian and 11 Austro-Hungarian soldiers are buried here.

### BOGONIOWICE

The small village of Bogoniowice is located in the Biała River Valley between Gromnik and Ciężkowice. It can be reached from Zakliczyn by following Road 980 toward Gromnik and then Road 977 to the destination. The very interesting **War Cemetery no. 138 [50]** designed by Jan Szczepkowski is located in the village, right next to the main road. Established on

**Ciężkowicko-Rożnowski Landscape Park** and **Brzanka Range Landscape Park**, encompassing the most beautiful parts of the Rożnowskie and Ciężkowickie Foothills, known for the original sandstone rocks, whose largest agglomeration is located near Ciężkowice in **Skamieniałe Miasto Reserve**.

### OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

a plan of a trapezium on the steep slope with graves on several terraces cut out in the slope, the cemetery is surrounded by a wall on three sides, and enclosed (at the top) with a taller wall of a chapel character. The lower corners near the road feature bulgy cylindrical pseudo towers, topped with shingled roofs. The cemetery is the place of eternal rest for 87 fallen soldiers from the Austro-Hungarian and German armies.

In the spring of 1915, the front ran in the vicinity of Bogoniowice on the line of the hill in the east side of the Biała River Valley, above the village of Tursko. This is where the Prussian Garde du Corps units of the 11<sup>th</sup> Army commanded by General Mackensen attacked the Russian positions on May 2, 1915, that is, on the first day of the Battle of Gorlice. Thanks to the excellent artillery preparation, the First Division of Garde du Corps Infantry fighting above Tursko managed to conquer the Russian lines on Hill 358 within mere 15 minutes. Further south, fierce battles were fought for other hills: nos. 382 and 405, and this is where many of the German soldiers buried on the Bogonice Cemetery were killed in action. The forces of the 11<sup>th</sup> Austro-Hungarian Corps of the Fourth Army commanded by Archduke Joseph Ferdinand, fighting on the left wing of the First Division of Garde du Corps, had the objective of capturing the Russian positions north of Hill no. 358 above Rzepliennik Marciszewski.

The journey along the First World War's Eastern Front Trail can be continued in Podkarpackie Region, starting in the village of Wola Cieklińska located on the border with Małopolska Region. The Podkarpackie section of the trail runs from Ożenna near the border with Slovakia to Nowiny Horynieckie at the border with Ukraine, and features numerous war cemeteries, museums, monuments, former barrack buildings, and unique fortifications of Przemyśl Fortress.

War Cemetery no. 171 in Łowczówek, Archives of the Starost County Office in Tarnów



# 4

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION



# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## – Getting there, Currency, Consulates

### BY PLANE

The Krakow-Balice airport is located only 11 km west of the city centre of Krakow and has a good transport connection with the city. City buses (daily bus nos. 208 and 292 and night bus no. 902) run between the city and the airport, and special trains run from the Krakow Główny Railway Station to the airport. The airport can also be reached via local roads, and it has a special exit from A4 Highway.

More information: **The John Paul II International Airport Krakow-Balice**, tel: +48 12 2955800, [www.krakowairport.pl](http://www.krakowairport.pl).

### BY TRAIN

Małopolska features direct railway connections with all major cities in Poland, and it also boasts international connections with Budapest, Prague, Vienna and Lvov, and other cities.

Most cities and towns of the region are accessible via train: the main railway lines run from Krakow through Miechów toward Kielce and Warsaw, from Krakow through Trzebinia toward Katowice and Wrocław, from Krakow to Zakopane, and from Krakow through Tarnów toward Rzeszów and Przemyśl. Nowy Sącz and Krynica-Zdrój can also be reached by train, thanks to the line running from Tarnów through Grybów.

Information about schedules, railway stations and connections is available on: [www.pkp.pl](http://www.pkp.pl).

### CURRENCY AND MONEY

The Polish Złoty (PLN) is the official currency of Poland; however, in selected stores (mostly large supermarkets) and some petrol stations Euro is accepted. The easiest way to obtain cash is to exchange it in numerous currency exchange offices, conveniently located in the centres of all large cities and towns. The currency exchange offices charge no commission.

There is no problem with an ATM access in Małopolska: ATMs are located not only in the town centres, but also on the outskirts and in large country villages. Non-cash payments are widespread. Visa and Mastercard are most commonly accepted.

### BY CAR

The Małopolska Region boasts a well-developed network of national and local roads. The most important road is Highway A4, running from the national border with Germany, through Wrocław, Katowice and Chrzanów to Kraków (tolls) and then up to Tarnów (toll free), and then as National Road 4 through Rzeszów to the border with Ukraine. Another important route of the region is National Road 7, running from the border with Slovakia in Chyżne to Krakow and then through Miechów toward Kielce, Warsaw and Gdańsk. The most important border crossings with Slovakia are located in: Chyżne, Jurgów, Konieczna, Łysa Polana, Muszynka, and in Piwniczna.

### BY BUS

Krakow and other towns and cities of Małopolska are accessible by bus and minibus from other Polish cities, such as Katowice, Wrocław, and Warsaw, and from many European countries.

The network of local connections is very dense. Buses and minibuses of the PKS [Public Transportation Company] and other companies run on the roads of the region. Bus stations are usually located in the town centres, e.g. in Krakow it is located next to the Main Railway Station. Information about the connections running from the Krakow Bus Station is available on: [www.mda.malopolska.pl](http://www.mda.malopolska.pl); bus and minibus schedules are also available on: [www.e-podrozniak.pl](http://www.e-podrozniak.pl).

### GENERAL CONSULATES

**France:** ul. Stolarska 15, 31-043 Krakow, tel: +48 12 4245300, [www.cracovie.org.pl](http://www.cracovie.org.pl)

**Germany:** ul. Stolarska 7, 31-043 Krakow, tel: +48 12 4243000, [www.krakau.diplo.de](http://www.krakau.diplo.de)

**Russia:** ul. Biskupia 7, 31-144 Krakow, tel: +48 12 4222647, [www.krakow.rusembpl.pl](http://www.krakow.rusembpl.pl)

**Slovakia:** ul. św. Tomasza 34, 31-027 Krakow, tel: +48 12 4254970, [www.cgcracow.mfa.sk](http://www.cgcracow.mfa.sk)

**Ukraine:** ul. Beliny-Prażmowskiego 4, 31-514 Krakow, tel: +48 12 4296066, [www.plk.internetdsl.pl](http://www.plk.internetdsl.pl)

**USA:** ul. Stolarska 9, 31-043 Krakow, tel: +48 12 4245100, <http://krakow.usconsulate.gov>

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GPS N 50° 22' 29.7", E 19° 44' 09.9"

Oleandry: the First Cadre Company Departure Site, Józef Piłsudski House – Independence Activity Museum in Krakow, al. 3 Maja 7, tel: +48 12 6334715; open to the public only after a telephone reservation **33**  
GPS N 50° 03' 36.6", E 19° 55' 14.1"

### P

Palace in Mirów in Książ Wielki – the W. Witos School Complex, ul. Witosa 10, tel: +48 41 3838010, <http://szpkkisiaz.republika.pl> **35**  
GPS N 50° 26' 25.7", E 20° 08' 57.6"

Polish Aviation Museum in Krakow – Cultural Institution of Małopolska Region, al. Jana Pawła II 39, tel: +48 12 6409960, [info@muzeumlotnictwa.pl](http://www.muzeumlotnictwa.pl), <http://www.muzeumlotnictwa.pl>; open: Tue–Sun 9am–7pm; tickets: PLN 14, reduced price: PLN 7, Tue admission free of charge **30**  
GPS N 50° 04' 35.3", E 19° 59' 26.0"

Prokocim Fort, ul. Medyczna/Kostaneckiego, Krakow **29**  
GPS N 50° 00' 38.2", E 19° 59' 45.9"

PTTK Regional Museum in Gorlice, ul. Wąska 7–9, tel: +48 13 252615, <http://www.gorlice.pttk.pl>; open: Tue–Fri 9am–4pm **59**  
GPS N 49° 39' 24.5", E 21° 09' 25.3"

**R**

Rajsko Fort, ul. Droga Rokadowa 20, Krakow **30**  
 GPS N 49° 59' 21.7", E 19° 58' 08.8"

**S**

Sanguszko Palace in Tarnów – Former Staff Headquarters of the Russian Forces, at present Economic-Horticultural School Complex, ul. Sanguszko 28 **72**  
 GPS N 50° 00' 18.4", E 21° 00' 28.1"

**T**

Tonie Fort – Open Fortress Museum, ul. Jurajska, Krakow; only group visits after a reservation in advance, the fort is under renovation **31**  
 GPS N 50° 07' 26.0", E 19° 53' 49.9"

**W**

War Cemeteries nos. 123 and 122 in

Łużna-Pustki **63-64**

GPS N 49° 43' 03.0", E 21° 03' 42.4"

War Cemetery in Rzeplin at the road to Cianowice **41**

GPS N 50° 12' 37. 2" E 19° 53' 37. 7"

War Cemetery in Rzeplin at the road to Krasienice **41**

GPS N 50° 12' 36. 6" E 19° 54' 51. 0"

War Cemetery no. 60 in Małastów **61**

GPS N 49° 32' 38.0", E 21° 14' 37.5"

War Cemetery no. 91 in Gorlice, ul. Korczaka **59**

GPS N 49° 39' 58.3", E 21° 09' 09.2"

War Cemetery no. II8 in Staszówka **65**

GPS N 49° 44' 59.8", E 21° 01' 01.1"

War Cemetery no. 138 in Bogoniowice **77**

GPS N 49° 48' 15.8", E 20° 58' 18.1"

War Cemetery no. I71 in Łowczówka **74**

GPS N 49° 54' 25.0", E 20° 58' 01.5"

War Cemetery no. I91 on Lubinka Hill **75**

GPS N 49° 54' 33.4", E 20° 53' 57.0"

War Cemetery no. I92 on Lubinka **75**

GPS N 49° 54' 35.8", E 20° 53' 31.2"

War Cemetery no. I93 in Dąbrówka Szczepanowska **76**

GPS N 49° 54' 33.4", E 20° 53' 57.0"

War Cemetery no. 200 in Tarnów, ul. Chyszowska/ Łukasiewicza **73**

GPS N 50° 00' 58.4", E 20° 57' 38.7"

War Cemetery no. 201 in Tarnów, the Jewish cemetery, ul. Słoneczna/Szpitalna; visiting possible after obtaining the key from the Regional Museum (Rynek 20-21) or from the Tarnów Information Centre (Rynek 7), tel: +48 14 6212149 **72**

GPS N 50° 01' 07", E 20° 59' 41"

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War Cemetery no. 352 in Marcinkowice **51**

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