



Museum of Military in Białystok

By Emilia Sandra Świerzińska



The building of the museum

Museum of Military in Białystok is a military museum established in 1968 as a branch of the regional *Museum of Podlasie*. Since 1976 it has been functioning as an independent museum unit with a macroregional reach.

Exhibitions

„Between the two wars of 1914-1939“



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- „*Between the two wars of 1914-1939*“ is part of the exhibition, showing chronologically the oldest period discussed at the permanent exhibition. The exhibition tells about events important for the city and the region related to the course of World War I, the Polish-Bolshevik war and the inter-war period. Its construction was based on solid historical knowledge.
- On the basis of old photos and postcards, using small elements of the scenography, we recreated a fragment of pre-war Białystok with buildings characteristic of it. We have introduced characters in uniforms of military units in such prepared set design. In our opinion, this procedure gives the visitor the opportunity to empathize with the atmosphere, participate in the life of the city of that period. The whole is complemented by exhibits - presented both on mannequins and exhibition showcases.

Exhibitions

„Against two enemies. Military history of Podlasie and its inhabitants in 1939-1956“



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The task of this exhibition is not to describe the entire history of World War II, but the selected aspects related to the widely understood region of Podlasie and its people. It consists of life-size dioramas, large-format photographs and multimedia kiosks. There are exhibits in numerous cases - from weapons, through uniforms to personal items of soldiers. The exhibition is divided into six dioramas, depicting in a dynamic way the units of various armies taking part in World War II.

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- **September 1939** - the first diorama is a heavy machine gun station with a two-man crew. It presents the defense of the Łomża district of the 33rd Infantry Regiment at Novgorod on September 8-10.
- **Two enemies** - part of the diorama is devoted to soldiers of the army occupying the area of Podlasie. Among them, one can find a soldier of the Red Army from units entering Białystok in 1939 and a second lieutenant of the Wehrmacht from fighting on the so-called Białystok Arch as part of Barbarossa Operation in June 1941.
- **Monte Cassino** - many soldiers fighting in this battle came from the north-eastern Borderlands of the Second Polish Republic. They served in the 5th Kresowa Infantry Division. Diorama presents the support of Bren's machine gun in a position built of authentic stones brought from the battlefield.

- ***Eastern Front 1944-1945*** - in the summer of 1944 through Białystok, for the third time during this war, passed the front. On the diorama, you can see a mannequin in the uniform of a junior lieutenant - an artilleryman of the Red Army. Another mannequin shows the grenadier from the 286th Infantry Division in winter uniform during the fights on the Narew River in January 1945.
- ***Łużyce 1945*** - another diorama presents the 9th Dresden Infantry Division, the largest unit of the so-called People's Army of Poland, organized in Białystok. In April 1945, she took part in the Battle of Bautzen, one of the bloodiest in which the Polish Army fought during the Second World War.
- ***The independence underground*** - the last diorama depicts an episode of the history of World War II so far absent from the exhibition at the Military Museum, namely the post-war independence underground. Until a few years after the end of World War II, in Podlasie there were fights between armed underground groups and security authorities.

Exhibitions

„Polish Army 1956-2010“



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- The exhibition *“Polish Army 1956-2010”* shows the evolution of uniforms and equipment of the Polish Army in the second half of the 20th century. The issue of the Polish Army's participation in NATO's military missions and UN peacekeeping missions, which have significantly influenced the change of equipment of Polish soldiers in the last few years.
- The exhibition consists of mannequins in full uniforms, equipment and weapons. Arrangements were inspired by units stationed in Białystok: 2nd Podlaski Regiment of Communications of Internal Forces, 25th Regiment of Communications Security of the Supreme Command, 18th Mechanized Brigade and 18th Reconnaissance Regiment. In addition, we present units stationed in the cities of north-eastern Poland: Ełk, Zambrów and Ciechanów.
- The exhibition was arranged for the design of a military warehouse with concrete walls with visible inscriptions of formwork and bundles of cables. The character is enhanced by properly selected lighting. Cabinets were made of old, military storage boxes of various dimensions.

Address and contact

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**Thank you for your
attention!**

I hope you will visit Museum of Military
in Białystok one day!