

Train station in Chełmek photo ca. year 1912.

The railway running through Chełmek is an integral and unchangeable element of the town's scenery. Gently saying, its years of glory are way behind it. That was the reason why on the 3rd of March 2006, no one had, loudly or even modestly, commemorated the 150th anniversary of the iron railroad's creation. On that day, in 1856, the first train entered the train station in Chełmek. We can only presume how big of an event it must have been for the town's residents.

It is possible, the first train was pulled by the locomotive 'Troppau', it is certain it belonged to the Emperor Ferdinand Northern Railway company. The initiator of both the railroad company and building the lines was Baron Salomon von Rothschild. According to the (then existing) procedures, the emperor was the only one capable of giving the concession privilege. That is how the emperor Ferdinand became the patron of the railroad (a colorful figure). The first line, Floridsdorf-Deutsch Wagram, was opened in 1837. It was supposed to connect the capital of the empire with salt mines in Wieliczka. The construction, financed with credits, was prolonged.

The line Oświęcim - Trzebinia was completed in only seven years. From our perspective, we can say that the pace of building was astounding. The works were carried out with a dose of complexity - embankments, rails, culverts, bridges, viaducts, stations. We invite you to the iron trail. Together with us, join the meeting with a fascinating and sadly forgotten 'history of the iron trail'.

[⇒ 160 years of the iron trail](#)

[⇒ Chełmek on the iron trail - photo gallery](#)

[⇒ By the rails, on the rails, through the bridge... \(Przełom no. 18, 29th April 2008\)](#)

[⇒ Tribute to the relics of st. Andrzej Bobola „Echo Chełmka” no. 25, 19th June 1938](#)

[⇒ Article from Gazeta Krakowska no. 110\(4947\) regarding the train accident of 9th May 1964](#)

[⇒ Forgotten shrine. Commemorating victims of the train crash in the year 1964](#)

[⇒ Railroad tragedy – Memoirs from the martial law period](#)