

Kamionka - outdoor shelter exhibition

Outdoor exposition of WWII era military objects. 'Luftschutz-Splitterschutzzelle' from Chełmek surroundings.

The mentioned German military objects come from Chełmek. During the period of German occupation they were located in strategic points of the shoe factory and the workers' settlement. There are nine surviving objects, eight in the current exhibition spot, one in the forest 'Gruszka' (Pear).

The shelters were built, by the order of the German occupants, in the town's cement manufacture belonging to the Szymutki family. The anti air raid units protecting from shrapnels (Luftschutz-Splitterschutzzelle) were not used to fight, but gave shelter to all of those, whose service required them to be in the open at all times during the bombardment (firemen, railway workers, power engineers, etc.). The horizontal slits in cement shells weren't to be used as shooting ports, they only allowed for ground observation.

From the preserved German plan and witnesses' relations, we conclude that, on the premises of the shoe factory and the workers' settlement there were around forty shelters.

In the post-war period they were gradually removed, with fierce determination, from the town's landscape. Their solid construction resisted any attempts of bringing them down with sledgehammers. Witnesses state that there were fires burned in the insides, and then the heated walls were rinsed with cold water. These methods were said to have brought no result as well. The last shelters are preserved because of the fact that it has been decided to remove them from the town with the help of cranes and trucks.

In 2016 Miejski Ośrodek Kultury Sportu i Rekreacji in Chełmek. has joined the Stefan Batory Foundation program 'Masz Głos' (You have a voice) in order to preserve the peculiar graveyard. In 2017 there have been undertaken measures to put the objects into the municipal register of historical monuments as the testimony of the local legacy and the art of building. Exposition in a natural way preserves the dramaturgy of a circumstantial, spacious composition. It shows the processes of the forest environment's and force of nature impact on this historical substance.

The initiator and implementer of the project is Miejski Ośrodek Kultury Sportu i Rekreacji in Chełmek.

Partners:

Stefan Batory Foundation, Association „Homo Faber”, Andrzej Saternus Mayor of Chełmek, Chełmek Municipality, Miejski Zakład Gospodarki Komunalnej w Chełmku, State Forests - forest District Chrzanów, Tourist organization PTTK in Chełmek, Weekly magazine „Przełom”, Gazeta Krakowska, Association „Auschwitz Study Group”

Miłośnicy Ziemi Chełmeckiej Club

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[⇒ Plenerowa ekspozycja obiektów militarnych z okresu II wojny światowej. Schrony „Luftschutz-Splitterschutzzelle” z terenów Chełmka](#)

[⇒ The Opening of the shelters outdoor exhibition](#)

[⇒ Initiative - cleaning up the Kamionka forest](#)

[⇒ Bunkers in Chełmek II](#)