

AIRPORT 

REVIEW



11/2001

Listopad/November

ISSN 1509-9733

GDAŃSK-TRÓJMIASTO AIRPORT

TWO CENTURIES OF THEATRE IN GDAŃSK

DWA WIEKI GDAŃSKIEGO TEATRU

THE GRAVEYARDS OF MEMORIES

**CMENTARZE
WSPOMNIENÍ**

There are several old graveyards in Gdańsk dating some centuries back. They have survived wars, catastrophes, ideologies and systems. They bear witness to the times when nationality and lineage determined human status. Some of the graveyards are slowly renovated; others never would be restored to their former glory.

Among the oldest there is a Jewish cemetery at Chelm. It belonged almost throughout its history to the Jewish community of Nowe Szkoty (New Scots). Jewish necropolis was largely devastated during Napoleon wars. It was renovated and rebuilt in the second half of XIX century. It was then surrounded by (presently non-existing) wall. They had also built a funeral house and a warden's house. In the thirties the cemetery became park-like with trees, alleys and terraces. After the World War II the funerals no longer occurred and in 1956 it was finally closed. The cemetery survived till 1968 later it was gradually devastated. Yet in 1984 it was included in the register of historic monuments.

Another Jewish graveyard is well preserved. It is located in Sopot at Malczewskiego Street. It was opened in 1913 at the Lisie Wzgórze slope. It covers a little more than 500 acres. Until 1939 there was also funeral chapel. German authorities then destroyed it. There were few funerals there immediately after the World War II and the cemetery has not been used since that time.



Zniszczony cmentarz gminy żydowskiej w Sopocie.
Jewish community graveyard in Sopot

Fot. Leszek Biernacki

In 1983 Polish authorities included it in the monuments' register. The renovation lasted six years.

Zaspa cemetery has yet another character. It was established in 1895 for homeless, suicides and executed criminals. During the World War I many various prisoners of war were buried there. During the World War II Germans buried there many victims of fascist terror. In 1939-1942 they brought and buried there the bodies of Stuthof concentration camp prisoners. After the war the railway workers and customs officers from Szymankowo, killed by Germans on the 1 of September 1939, were also buried in Zaspa. In 1946 there were several other exhumations and the other war victims had their second funeral there, including 46 Polish activists from Gdańsk killed

on the 22 of March 1940 and the defenders of Polish Post Office in Gdańsk shot in September 1939. It is hard to say exactly how many people were actually buried there. It is generally believed that the figure is close to six thousand.

A well-known Gdańsk military graveyard of French soldiers is located at Powstańców Warszawskich Street. It was built in 1967 on the suggestion of French government just before general De Gaulle's visit to Gdańsk. On the 3000 acres there are about 1700 graves of French soldiers killed during three wars: the French-Prussian war in 1870, the First and the Second World War. Each soldier has got his own small grave with cross and engraved name. The French government finances the graveyard.

WOJCIECH ŁYGAS

Cmentarz żołnierzy francuskich w Gdańsku / French soldiers' graveyard in Gdańsk
Fot. Leszek Biernacki

