

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF GERMAN NAZI CONCENTRATION AND EXTERMINATION CAMPS



Oświęcim Cross - from the private collections of Danuta and Bogusław Piotrowski

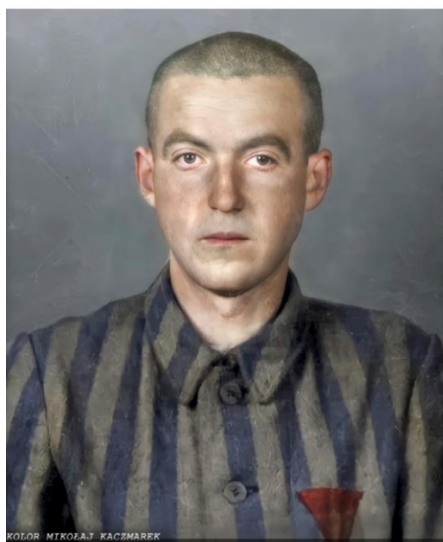
In 2006 the Parliament of the Republic of Poland established **14 June** as the National Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camps. It commemorates the date of the arrival of the first transport of prisoners in 1940 to the German concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau.

This anniversary is a symbol and a reminder of the millions of victims who lost their lives in German camps, especially Poles.

On June 14, 1940, the German authorities sent 728 people - mostly young people - from the prison in Tarnów to the newly created Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. They were, among other soldiers of the September Campaign, members of underground independence organizations, civilians, and groups of Jews and Roms. This day was the beginning of the camp's operation.

The German camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau was a real hell until the end of its existence where human life had no meaning.

81 years ago on June 14, 1940, Stanisław Ryniak was transported to Auschwitz as the first Polish political prisoner of the German death camp.



"At the time of the liberation I weighed 40 kg. Despite exhaustion I decided to return to Poland immediately. When I finally got to my family home in Sanok, my mother could not believe that I was alive, even though I was standing in front of her. "

After the war he lived in Wrocław, where he graduated from the Wrocław University of Technology and became an architect. He was a friend of our family.

He graduated from the Wrocław University of Technology together with Ryszard Pilujski - a member of our family - also a political prisoner and a concentration camp prisoner.

In Wrocław, where my husband and I were born, and later, as a couple, we walked around Wrocław cemeteries, researching the history of our city, we never associated Stanisław Ryniak's grave with the hell he experienced in a concentration camp.

It is a great pleasure to learn that representatives of the Institute of National Remembrance laid flowers on the grave of Stanisław Ryniak and other Polish heroes actively involved in the fight for independence.



Sources:

History of the Lower Silesian District of the Polish Association of Former Political Prisoners and Concentration Camps. hbp: <http://www.dbc.wroc.pl/history>

*Wrocław traces of the first transport of Polish prisoners to Auschwitz. <https://wroclaw.gosc.pl>
Oświęcim Cross - from the private collections of Danuta and Bogusław Piotrowski*