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Tanks on Monuments, Monument Tanks. On Trench Art and "Gratitude Memorials"¹

Abstract

The purpose of this outline was to introduce the topic of using armored weapons elements in the erection of monuments. The text discusses the issue of "monuments of gratitude" to the Red Army, which often drew on the motif of the tank monument, using a tank of the liberator of a particular locality. Monuments to the brotherhood of arms between the Red Army and the People's Polish Army are also discussed. Two unique works that were not created by state order and were not propaganda manifestations are discussed next: the monument in Kasina Wielka and the now demolished one in Zyndranowa. In Kasina Wielka, a local artist designed a monument commemorating Polish soldiers who fell in September 1939. The work uses the turret of a Vickers tank, a real rarity since not a single Vickers

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tank taking part in the operations of the 1939 campaign has survived to this day. Moreover, it shows the grassroots initiative of citizens who wanted to commemorate the clashes in Kasina Wielka. The second monument was erected in Zyndranowa to commemorate the casualties of the 1944 Dukla operation. Importantly, it was again a grassroots initiative. The text discusses the stages of its creation, along with the actions taken by the authorities to dismantle it. The article is supplemented by a table listing "monuments of gratitude" that used elements of World War II military equipment.

Keywords

trench art, monuments, "monuments of gratitude", Red Army, armored weapons, tanks, World War II

After 1945 in Central and Eastern Europe, the communist powers, which were forcibly imposed on societies by the Red Army, made numerous efforts to legitimize their presence. The propaganda machine used all the media available at the time. The erection of monuments in memory of the liberation of a city, of armed clashes, and the deaths of Red Army soldiers had a particularly strong impact on the public's imagination. These actions were part of a broader policy of lying about the past, creating an "only right" picture of World War II, on top of building myths both relating to the roots of the Polish People's Republic and a "Polish-Soviet alliance". The glorification of the Red Army's military successes was used to improve the image of the USSR. Reigning over space, the communists wanted to capture the imagination, and to engrave themselves in the consciousness of societies. This included monuments to Joseph Stalin and so-called "monuments of gratitude" to the Red Army, as well as necropolises of Soviet soldiers. By locating military cemeteries in city centers, the old architectural layout was deliberately demolished but, above all, new "sacred" sites were created that were so important to the ceremonialism of communist power. It was near monuments or necropolises that party rallies, anniversary speeches, etc. could be

held (cf. more extensively in Czarnecka, 2015; also cf. Gabowitsch, 2021). This phenomenon did not apply only to Poland. It was even typical of countries that fell within the orbit of the USSR's influence.

The monuments that had such a strong impact on the imagination were relatively inexpensive in post-war realities, as used military equipment or airplanes were utilized in this way (for the use of airplane parts to create monuments in Western Europe, see Winterton's remarks, 2022; cf. Wielgus, 2002; Matuchniak-Krasuska, 2015; Domański, 2015; Radwan, 2006; Wikipedia, Pomnik Lotników Alianckich w Debinie Zakrzowskiej) and above all, armored vehicles: tanks, self-propelled guns (cf. List of tank monuments: Wikipedia, Czołq-pomnik; Gdzie w Polsce sa jako pomniki T-34?; Były sobie czołqi) and cannons were often used in the creation of new memorials (Matuchniak-Mystkowska, 2023; Domański, 2015; cf. also Matuchniak-Krasuska, 2015; Ożóg, 2014; Cembrzyńska, 2017). These monuments can also be considered in terms of trench art in the broadest sense (adopting the definition of N. Saunders 2003, regarding trench art cf. publications by Kimball, 2004, Marcacci, 2014; Warin, 2009; Warrin, 2011; Molon, Fusine, 2018).

Tank monuments evoke some reflection. In addition, they are symbolic forms behind which, in addition to historical aspects, there are also political systems and various (changing) ideologies (Ferenc, Domański, 2015, 9; cf. also Matuchniak-Krasuska, 2015; cf. Kattago, 2015). In various European countries you can encounter tank monuments, for example, in Normandy or Italy including the famous Memorial to the 4th "Skorpion" Armored Regiment in the so-called Gorge (Łapiński, 2019; Łydka, 2023; The Memorial To the 4th "Skorpion" Armoured Regiment; Pomnik Pułku 4 Pancernego "Skorpion"). However, they perform different functions than those erected after 1945 in Poland, where the propaganda was so important. One can even speak of a kind of symbolic violence associated with the glorification of the military actions of the Red Army.

Dominika Czarnecka characterizes the forms of "gratitude monuments"

In addition to the most popular obelisks, a separate category consisted of monuments, the creation of which used ready-made war props (tanks,

cannons, aircraft) [...] . The use of military artifacts emulated Soviet models. Sometimes props of this kind were placed in the surroundings of a constructed monument as an accessory; then they were only components of the commemoration, e.g. in Grudziądz, Głogów (Czarnecka, 2015, p. 110).

Tanks often drove themselves onto pedestals. Then, engines and, of course, arms were disassembled. Worn-out Soviet armored weapons found a second monumental life, so to speak. This practice was used throughout Central and Eastern Europe, such as in the Eastern Bloc sector of Berlin (Davis, 2016; Gabowitsch, 2021; Grzesiuk-Olszewska, 1995; cf. comments on the use of photos and drawings of monuments commemorating World War II in textbooks used during the Soviet era when young people were supposed to recognize in which foreign capitals these monuments to glory and victory were located, among them a tank on a pedestal – this exercise comes from a 1958 work. Gabowitsch, 2023). The monuments of gratitude were intended to legitimize the Red Army's presence in Poland after the war ended, and they also distorted history. This was served by a nationwide campaign to erect monuments, initiated by the head of the USSR Military Mission, Gen. Siergiej Szatiłow, who proposed the creation of a special government commission to build monuments, which was met with a response from the then prime minister (Czarnecka, 2015, p. 92; Czarnecka, 2013 b; also cf. Czarnecka, 2013 a; Golon, 1996).

As shown in Dominika Czarnecka's erudite research on "monuments of gratitude", tanks were erected either as stand-alone monuments,² or they accompanied more complex spatial forms. They were erected near or on the site of the graves of Red Army soldiers. The association of makeshift military cemeteries with "monuments of gratitude" was very characteristic: the respect with which graves are surrounded in our culture was also an important propaganda element. Subsequently, as the bodies were usually exhumed and moved to newly established military cemeteries, the "monuments of gratitude" generally remained in their original places. According

² See the list of tank monuments and monuments using World War II weapons elements in Table 1.

to another scenario, the monument itself was built, and then, to emphasize its importance, the remains of soldiers were moved from other locations to the vicinity of the monument (Czarnecka, 2015). In order to emphasize the importance and overtones of the cemeteries of Soviet soldiers, elements of weapons - tanks or cannons - were additionally placed around them or at the cemetery wall or gates, the best evidence of which is the cemetery in Wrocław, where two cannons stand at the main entrance, and the side gates are decorated with a total of four T-34 tanks. The same was done by placing tanks in the military cemeteries of the 1st Polish Army (see tank in the cemetery in Siekierki. Migdalski, 2013). Mentioning monuments related to the 1st Polish Army, it is worth referring to the tank monument that was set up at the mausoleum of the fallen in Studzianki. Both 94 plaques with the names of the fallen and a T-34 tank situated on a high pedestal, which houses a crypt with the ashes of the fallen, were incorporated into the memorial's foundation. The monument was unveiled on August 16, 1964 on the 20th anniversary of the battle (Leszkowicz, 2022; Zielak, 1979; Czubryt-Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 1986). As Mirosław Golon emphasizes:

In addition to the most popular obelisks, it is possible to distinguish in formal terms – two more basic groups of monuments of gratitude. The first group are objects in the construction of which authentic war props were used and monuments were created by placing cannons (e.g., in Krzeczów in Sieradz province), airplanes or most often – tanks (e.g., in Czarnków and Ostrołęka) on appropriate pedestals (Golon, 1996, p. 614).

Monuments of gratitude in the form of featureless tanks were erected, for example, in connection with the liberation of individual cities by the Red Army (Czarnecka, 2015). In addition, the myth-making element was important: the liberator tank (the first to enter a given city). Reaching for such clear and conspicuous symbols as armored weapons or artillery (cf., for example, the monument in the village of Chlebowo – the ZiS-3 cannon unveiled in 1981, made by young people from the Polish Tourist Society in Szczecin together with the Gryfino municipality to commemorate the 2nd Lusitanian Artillery

Division of the Polish Army in Ciechanowski, 2018) further enhanced the propaganda overtones of the monuments.

"Monuments of gratitude" to the Red Army also commemorated the "brotherhood" of arms with the Polish Army, hence many times the tank monuments glorified both fallen Soviet and Polish soldiers. A separate mention should be made of monuments commemorating the deeds of Polish soldiers. Such as in the case of Studzianki or Mirosławiec where a tank was placed on a pedestal to commemorate the 1st T. Kościuszko Division, the 2nd H. Dąbrowski Division, the Warsaw Heroes of Westerplatte Armored Brigade, and the 4th Heavy Tank Regiment in connection with the battles for the liberation of Mirosławiec on 10/11 February 1945 (Matuchniak-Krasuska, 2015; also cf. Czubryt-Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 1986; Leszkowicz, 2022; Pomnik - Czołą. Mirosławiec), while at the military base in Choszczno there are cannons on a monument commemorating a Polish military unit and French prisoners of war from Oflag II B Arnswalde POW camp (Matuchniak-Krasuska, 2015). The 1S-2 tank, which has been located in Krakow's Nowa Huta from 1969 in the Osiedle Górali neighborhood, commemorates the Battle of Budziszyn. This vehicle was on the equipment of the 2nd Polish Army (Panek, 2016; Urbaniec, 2016). The 1s-2 tank set up in Pruszków commemorated the soldiers of the Polish Army: a unit of the 1st Armored Heroes of Westerplatte Brigade. (Czubryt-Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 1986; https://fotopolska.eu/Pomnik-czolg-Pruszkow; Leszkowicz, 2022). Standing by the Narew River, the T-34 tank monument erected to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Polish People's Republic was unveiled in 1974 to glorify the heroes killed in the fight against German fascism (Nowogród - tank monument; "Tank on the Narew River" monument). On the other hand, a T-34/85 tank set up in Sanok in 1982 glorified soldiers of the People's Polish Army (LWP) who fought against the Polish underground and OUN units. It was unveiled in connection with the 39th anniversary of the Battle of Lenino (Sanok. Czołą jako pomnik; see also discussion regarding plans to remove the monument: Radziecki czołą z cokołu nad Sanem zostanie usunięty, 2022). Meanwhile, the 1s-2 tank monument in Lebork was erected in 1968 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Polish Army (Czołq 1s-2 w Lęborku, 2019).

When characterizing tank monuments, it is necessary to mention a monument that has caused a particularly heated discussion in society. By erecting a T-34 vehicle, the order of such an important place of public memory as Westerplatte was shattered. In 1962, the communist authorities decided to remove the Cpt. Dąbrowski Cross and put a T-34 tank in its place, a decision that understandably aroused great criticism, but the cross happily survived because the driver taking it away did not take it to the landfill but to the rectory in Nowy Port where it was hidden (cf. more extensively: Zołnierczuk, Rykała, 2017; Radecka, 2017; Zajączkowski, 2015; Leszkowicz, 2022).

In addition to the propaganda dimension, the tank monuments also served a very different function. This can be traced in the example of monuments from Częstochowa or Dębica. In Częstochowa there was a monument with a T-34 tank, which stood in the Tysiaclecie district, and the whole installation was complemented by a plaque with the dates of the liberation of the city and the setting of the monument: 16 January 1945-1975, although the tank had been there since July 1974 (Hyszko, 2016; Sobkowski, 2016; Czarnecka, 2013 a). In addition to the propaganda dimension, there was an aspect important for the local community, especially for children, who could play around or on the site at a time when the TV series Four Tank-Men and a Dog [Czterej pancerni i pies] was highly popular. This monument disappeared by virtue of a Resolution of the Częstochowa City Council on September 12, 1991 (Hyszko, 2016). A tank-monument in Debica served a similar function, and the local population even nicknamed it "Rudy" referring the popular TV series, not bothered by the fact that the series featured a T-34 tank and not an 1s-2, which is now in the Regional Museum (cf. Lokalne Symbole Kultury Dębickiej – "Rudy 102", 2016; Dębica. Czołq IS-2 w Ogródku Jordanowskim; the vehicle also appears on the postcard as the "Rudy" Tank).

Dominika Czarnecka's in-depth analysis of the phenomenon of "gratitude monuments" revealed 476 of these created in the People's Republic of Poland, of which 38 used armored weapons, aircraft or other military equipment. The list can be supplemented with a tank monument in Neple, a tank monument in Wiśniew, and a monument in Zyndranowa. Of these sites, it is worth highlighting the example of Baligród where the artifact was subsequently replaced

by the military themselves. The monument deserves attention because it was originally a T-70 tank, which was replaced in 1975 by a T-34 model, while the original "monument" turned out to be an extremely rare specimen hence it was moved to Poznań to the Armored Weapons Museum of the Land Forces Training Center (Baligród (podkarpackie) – pomnik wyzwolicielom (T-34); Baligrodzki czołg, 2022; Trzeszczyńska, 2016; Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 4; Leszkowicz, 2022). Near the tank in Baligród there was a monument to Gen. Karol "Walter" Świerczewski, who was killed at Jabłonki. An obelisk was erected there in honor of "Walter". The first monument was replaced in 1962 by another one, by Franciszek Strynkiewicz. It showed a bas-relief of Świerczewski's head with the Piast eagle, as Tomasz Leszkowicz mentions, "made of armored sheet metal" (Leszkowicz, 2022, p. 353).

It is also worth recalling the history of tanks from Borne Sulimowo. Nowadays (since 2010) there has been a T-34/85 memorial tank there, which, however, comes from the collection of the Polish Army Museum in Warsaw. Originally, there was a copy representing an earlier version, equipped with a 76mm cannon, which was taken along by the Russian army withdrawing from Poland. A similar fate befell a vehicle like this located in Kłomino, formerly Gródek, where, like in Sulimowo, the Russians were stationed. In both cases, the fact that they were loaded by rail (on April 2, 1992) when they left for the Polish border was noted in the relevant documentation (Wełnic, 2021).

"Monuments of gratitude" were blatantly hammered into consciousness and were particularly hated by the public, as evidenced by attempts to destroy them while they were still in existence in the People's Republic of Poland. Communist-built monuments created from military equipment were often removed after 1990. Some were destroyed, given away for scrap to be melted down, or sold to private entrepreneurs or individuals (such as the tank in Hajnówka cf. Czarnecka, 2013a and Table 1; Czarnecka, 2015). For these reasons, the removal of monuments should be considered as part of decomunization. The process of eliminating them in Poland was much more peaceful than in Estonia. There, the greatest emotions were aroused by the removal of a monument of gratitude called the Monument to

the Liberators of Tallinn or the Monument to the Liberator Fighter, most often referred to as the Bronze Soldier, which caused loud Russian protests that resulted in one death and 44 injured (cf. article by D. Czarnecka, "Ostatnie starcie Estończyków z żołnierzem Armii Radzieckiej" – czyli o kulisach sporu wokół Pomnika Wyzwolicieli Tallina 1991-2007; Czarnecka, 2013 a; also cf. Kattago, 2009; Kattago, 2015; cf. Gabowitsch, 2021; Ochman, 2010).

The removal of monument tanks or plans to relocate them have repeatedly sparked debate between local authorities and the Institute of National Rememberance (IPN). In Drawsko Pomorskie, T-34 tanks were repainted with NATO colors, and the discussion was about the interpretation of the law on the prohibition of the propagation of communism. It was even proposed to transfer the tanks to the museum in Kołobrzeg or Podborsko, which, however, the local authorities did not want to agree to (Radomski, 2021; also cf. Ochman, 2010; Kałużna, 2018; Kałużna, 2015; Różycki, 2016; Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 90). Protests by residents in Wołomin arose over a plan to move a T-34 memorial tank to the high school in Urle where a military museum was planned to open, and the tank was even repainted pink as part of the protest (Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 448). In addition to the removal of monuments as vestiges of the former system, it is also worth mentioning an exceptional situation when a T-34 tank monument from near Pisz was stolen, and found at a scrap yard in Pruszków (cf. Czołg-pomnik ukradli i przewieźli kilkaset km!).

It should be mentioned that in Poland, former monuments using armored weapons, elements related to artillery or other military objects were not, as Joanna Kałużna points out,

subject of art installations. The situation was different in Prague, resulting in the famous Pink Tank, permanently housed in the Museum of Military Art in Lešany, but occasionally transported to the Czech capital, for example, on the 20th anniversary of the departure of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia (Kałużna, 2018, p. 159; cf. Gabowitsch, 2021).

In this context, a very notable case is set by attempts to give a different face to former tank monuments, for example, by repainting a tank in the Czech Republic in Prague pink as a symbol of freedom (Jarysz,

2015). This monument is one of the most recognizable works based on old armored weapons, and is the work of David Černý, who was a student at the Academy of Fine Arts at the time. On the night of April 27-28, 1991, in the run-up to Victory Day, he repainted a tank that was a memorial to Soviet armored crews, the Památnik sovetskych tankistu, pink. Tank No. 23 (Tank čislo 23) to this day arouses enormous debate. This IS-2m tank took part in the battle for Prague, then from July 29, 1945 until the spring of 1991 it was a monument of gratitude for the liberation of Prague. It stood on a pedestal at what was then called the Soviet Tank-men' Square, and understandably, it aroused debate after the Velvet Revolution on what to do with the vehicle. After repainting it pink, the artist was arrested and the paint was washed off, but on May 12, a group of parliamentarians repainted the vehicle again. Soon the monument ceased to have the status of a national cultural monument and was transferred to the Kbely military museum and later to the military-technical museum in Lešany. However, this was not the end of the discussion about the fate of the vehicle, as representatives of the Communist Party of the Czech Republic also took part in the international debate. In 2001, there was even a project by Černý to erect a new monument. It was supposed to be placed in exactly the same place and be a tank dug into the ground. Although the project was accepted by the local authorities, it aroused protests from both the Russian ambassador and the then pro-Russian prime minister of the Czech Republic. Nevertheless, on August 21, 2008, on the 40th anniversary of the intervention of the USSR and the Warsaw Pact, another installation was placed there - again painted pink. The odyssey of the pink tank continued. On 20 June 2011, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the withdrawal of Soviet troops, the pink tank was placed on a barge on the Vltava River near the Charles Bridge (Tatarenko, 2019; Davis, 2016).

When discussing the use of elements of armored weapons and military equipment to create monuments, two such object should be mentioned: the first commemorates the soldiers of the 24th Cavalry Regiment and their skirmish in September 1939. It is located in Kasina Wielka in the hamlet of Mogiła and the other is a no longer existing monument in Zyndranowa. Both of these unique works were created not by the Polish state or Soviet Russia. Each

time it was a local initiative. The monument from Kasina Wielka commemorates not the liberation, but the battle fought during the September 1939 campaign. It also deserves recognition because during its construction, parts of a Vickers tank were used, and not, as in a significant number of monuments, various versions of Soviet vehicles such as: T-34, IS-2, ISU-122, and SU-76.

The monument in Kasina Wielka by its form significantly differs from the tanks of the "monuments of gratitude" to the Red Army (regarding the history of the monument cf. Kasina Wielka. Pomnik żołnierzy 24. Pułku Ułanów³ and Lulek, 2012). The creations designed to promote the brotherhood of arms and the only right vision of the past were largely similar: a pedestal/post on which there was usually a T-34. The creators, architects of these works, are usually anonymous (cf. Czarnecka, 2015, for more details). In the case of the Kasina Wielka monument, the case is quite different. It has a well-thought-out artistic form, and its creator was the artist Stanisław Dobrowolski (1927-2013). Born in the village of Słomka, he was educated at the art school in Zakopane and at the Faculty of Sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. In his home area, he bought a farm in Kasina Wielka and set up his workshop there. His work, especially the monument to the cavalrymen, was widely acclaimed. He was awarded the Medal of the Protector of National Sites, the Memorial Medal of the 24th Cavalry Regiment and the Medal for Merit to the Municipality of Mszana Dolna (Dobrowolski Stanisław – artysta rzeźbiarz i malarz).

The clashes known as the Battle of Jordanów, part of which was the battle at Kasina Wielka on September 4, were an important event in the history of the Polish Armed Forces and especially the 10th Brigade commanded by Colonel Maczek (cf. memoirs: Maczek, 1990; Skibiński, 1960; Wojciechowski, 2020). The description of the monument itself emphasizes that it commemorates soldiers killed on September 4, 1939. Polish Vickers tanks and tankettes took part in the clashes (Kasina Wielka. Pomnik żołnierzy 24. Pułku Ułanów; regarding the history of the tank's design cf. Jońca, 2014; Korbal, 2019). In the course of the fighting, two Vickers tanks and several

³ A full list of pages accessed is provided in the bibliography.

tankettes were lost near Kasina (cf. Sadowski, 2019 a; Sadowski, 2019 b; *Kasina Wielka – 4 Września 1939 roku*, 2022; Korbal, 2019). One of the tanks got stuck in a creek during the retreat, and as it could not move any further it was abandoned (Okoński, 2019). Local people then used its parts, with local blacksmiths forging plough blades from them (information obtained from Mr. Piotr Lulek; also cf. references to the adaptation of Vickers' parts during the construction of its replica. Jocen, 2014).

The sculptor Stanisław Dobrowolski proposed to commemorate the Polish soldiers by erecting a monument in the hamlet of Mogiła. This idea was born in the 1980s, because the local authorities planned to locate a landfill in this place, which aroused widespread indignation among the residents. In order to block these plans, Dobrowolski proposed the construction of a monument (information obtained from Mr. Piotr Lulek). Initially, there was a simple wooden cross (cf. the photo in the publication 650 lat dziejów Kasiny Wielkiej) at which the population gathered for commemorative Holy Masses on 4 September. To this day, residents gather during patriotic ceremonies in honor of the fallen soldiers in defense of the Homeland (Application for entry in the register of immovable monuments of 21.09.2022). The monument in 1989 was located in a clearing known as Mogiła and bore the inscription "To the fallen in 1939. Honor and Glory". The farmers and their sons helped erect an obelisk cross on the battlefield of the 24th Cavalry Regiment, in honor of those who fell here (cf. document No. DNS-I.5140.16.2022.MN.RK.3). The next step was the erection of a monument made of a tank tower. Two years later it replaced the wooden cross (cf. document No. DNS-I.5140.16.2022. MN.RK.3), and the opening ceremony was held on September 22, 1991 (cf. Application for entry in the register of immovable monuments dated 21.09.2022).

Stanisław Dobrowolski found the turret of a Vickers that was stuck in a bend in the Kasina River (Kasina Wielka. Pomnik żołnierzy 24. Pułku Ułanów; Vickers E z Kasiny Wielkiej – śladem niezwykłego pancernego artefaktu). It served as a well casing at one of the farms (cf. document DNS-I.5140.16.2022.MN.RK.3; Vickers E z Kasiny Wielkiej – śladem niezwykłego pancernego artefaktu). From the point of view of the history of technology, this turret is a real rarity for it has

retained much of its original equipment - elements of the yoke, 47 mm cannon retarder and the yoke of a 7.92 mm 30 machine gun (cf. Document DNS-I.5140.16.2022.MN.RK.3; Vickers E z Kasiny Wielkiej – śladem niezwykłego pancernego artefaktu; also cf. Okoński, 2019; Korbal, 2019); original elements of the turret were copied during the restoration and used to complete the emerging replica of the Vickers tank (cf. the interview with Lt. Col. Tomasz Ogrodniczuk). Among other technical reasons, this monument is highly valuable. After all, very few mementos of Polish tanks participating in the September campaign have survived to this day. When constructing the monument to the 24th Cavalry Regiment, the artist planned to cut patterns into the steel tower. This was possible thanks to the favor of the director of the INCO Abrasive Articles Plant, who not only provided the necessary equipment, but also qualified workers who, having the patterns and templates prepared by Stanisław Dobrowolski at their disposal, performed the work by cutting out the openwork floral and figural decoration: the representation of an eagle in a crown, as well as the image of Christ's head in a crown of thorns (information obtained from Mr. Piotr Lulek; cf. document no. DNS-I.5140.16.2022.MN.RK.3). The monument was created thanks to the wide involvement of local residents. The plot for the monument was donated by the Skwarczek family from the Horniki hamlet and the work involved members of the Association for the Development and Renewal of the Village of Kasina Wielka and the Kasina Wielka Farmers' Club (650 lat dziejów Kasiny Wielkiej).

The monument in honor of the soldiers of the 24th Cavalry Regiment was entered in the register of immovable monuments by the provincial conservator of monuments in Krakow by a decision dated June 14, 2023 (cf. document no. dns-I.5140.16.2022.mn.rk.3). A sandstone block monument, bearing an inscription listing the fallen soldiers of the 24th Cavalry Regiment, was located near the Vickers tower: Cpt. Hempel Zdzisław, Lt. Eng. Gasztołd-Bukraba, Zygmunt, Rozycki Antoni, Rymarczuk Józef, Targoński Leon, Kotwica Jan, Górniak Jan, Skrzypek Józef, Wychowiak Bolesław (cf. document no. dns-I.5140.16.2022.mn.rk.3; regarding the fallen soldiers cf. Pawłowski, 1993; Pawłowski, 1998). The monument underwent restoration in 2021, carried out by the Armored Weapons Museum in

Poznań (Application for entry in the register of immovable monuments dated 21.09.2022; Wieża polskiego czołgu zostanie odnowiona).

Another monument unique in the country was erected in Zyndranowa. As with the Kasina monument, it did not represent the state's historical-propaganda policy. As stressed by A. Kroh (2016, p. 150): " ... The monument, erected in the years 1976-76 in Zyndranowa at private expense, out of the need of the heart, by a group of people full of the sincerest intentions, is an absolute rarity." Its additional purpose was to commemorate the Lemkos who fell during the Battle of the Dukla Pass. 4 The monument in Zyndranowa is inextricably linked to the Lemko museum. Plans for the establishment of this facility were undertaken in 1968, and the main office was to be located in Bartne and Zyndranowa would be its branch office (Gocz, 2017; Gocz, 2018; Drozd, 2013 a; Drozd, 2023 b; Kroh, 1985; Kroh, 2018; Wielocha, 2018; Brej, 2018; Bata, 2002; Szumielewicz, 2000, from chapter IV). The plan was not supported by the state authorities. Teodor/Fedor Gocz placed the Chamber of Memorabilia of Lemko Culture on his farm in 1968 (in addition, the name Regional Museum of Lemko Culture was in use, in Drozd, 2023 a; Drozd, 2023 b; Szumielewicz, 2000; Huk, 2016; Gocz, 2018; Wielocha, 2018). Under the pretext of concern for the artifacts, the Ministry of the Interior authorities intended to seize and confiscate the collection (cf. more extensively the findings based on archives from the Institute of National Remembrance with an edition of selected documents. Huk, 2016; Wielocha, 2018).

In the course of collecting memorabilia documenting Lemko culture, exhibits related to the 1944 Battle of the Dukla Pass appeared. Their accumulation made the Museum Council rename it as the Museum of Lemko Culture and War Memory in 1974 (Drozd, 2023 a; Drozd, 2023 b; Czubaj-Kuźmin, 2011; Szumielewicz, 2000; Kroh, 2016;

⁴ The battle for the Dukla Pass, the Dukla-Prešov operation, ended with horrific losses. According to the assumptions of the Red Army, it was supposed to break the German resistance in 5-6 days, moving 10 km a day. The fighting lasted almost 3 months, causing an enormity of losses and destruction – cf. the mention of the exhibition documenting the battle in Buczek-Kowalik, Buczek, 2017; also cf. information on the official plans of the People's Polish Army to promote the vision of the Dukla-Prešov operation in Leszkowicz, 2022.

cf. Sprawozdanie porucznika Stanisława Demianiuka z Departamentu Społeczno-Administracyjnego MSW w Warszawie z ustaleń na temat Izby Pamiątek w Zyndranowej przeprowadzonych w dniach 13-14 lipca 1972 containing information about Huk's militaria collection, 2016, document 2, 136). Collecting souvenirs, material testimonies collected from the field of the Battle of the Dukla Pass, the idea of constructing a monument to honor the fallen Soviet and Czechoslovak soldiers arose (Bata, 2002 cf. photo of the first as mentioned by the author of the *ad hoc* commemoration that was constructed in 1973 based on materials collected from the battlefield; Drozd, 2023 a; Czubaj-Kuźmin, 2011). Małgorzata Szumielewicz emphasizes that the initiative to build the monument came from veterans of the Duka Pass clashes, who, when visiting the museum, pointed out the collection of battlefield memorabilia (Szumielewicz, 2000; cf. Gocz, 2017; Gocz, 2018).

In 1974, a decision was made to erect a monument to commemorate the Soviet and Czechoslovak soldiers fallen in the Battle of the Dukla Pass (Drozd, 2023 a). As Roman Drozd emphasizes:

A decision was also made to build a monument commemorating Soviet and Czechoslovak soldiers killed in the Battle of the Dukla Pass, which was part of the new name of the site. The nearby woods contained many remnants of the fierce battle. Among the items found were helmets, shells, artillery and mortar shells, bullets, destroyed parts of armaments, including tanks, but also, most horrifying of all, the remains of fallen soldiers. The construction of the monument seemed natural and necessary (Drozd, 2023 a, p. 235).

Work on the construction began in 1974, and was completed in October 1976. What is noteworthy, the ashes of four soldiers were placed under the monument (Drozd, 2023 a; Brej, 2018; Bata, 2002). In an interview with A. Kroh, Teodor/Fedor Gocz simply and emphatically expressed his motivation to build the monument:

In the fall of 44 I was a fifteen-year-old boy. I saw them with my own eyes and I will not forget them until the day I die. I carried stretchers with the wounded. Maybe they looted and raped elsewhere, I don't know

(sic! W.S.)⁵, but here, they fought and died. I remember fighters who were not much older than myself. They were terribly afraid, but they pushed forward because they believed in what they were doing. They left their bones here. This should be commemorated. Great politics is one thing, Stalin, Bierut; to me it was about soldiers. They deserved this monument (Kroh, 2016, p. 151).

Importantly, local authorities were invited to the unveiling of the monument, as well as representatives from Czechoslovakia and the USSR, the management of the Military Museum in Svidnik, and the Museum of the Brotherhood of Arms in Dukla, the purpose of which was to give the ceremony an international status (Drozd, 2023 b; Kroh, 2016; Bata, 2002). It was also planned to send an invitation to the Polish–Soviet Friendship Society for the opening ceremony, but the letter itself was not sent because the state authorities began the process of fighting the monument (Bata, 2002).

Veterans from both Poland and the USSR, Czechoslovakia and the local Polish–Soviet Friendship Society were involved in the work on the monument. Former soldiers from Slovakia donated granite plaques with inscriptions in Russian, Polish and Slovak (Kroh, 1985; Kroh, 2016; Kroh, 2018; also cf. information on the making of the plaques by the museum in Svidnik. Bata, 2002). Only the damaged plaques remain to this day (Kroh, 1985; Kroh, 2016; Kroh, 2018; cf. photo of plaque from blown-up monument Gocz, 2018; Bata, 2002). What the monument looked like can be reconstructed based on surviving photos or a painting by Teodor Kuziak, Pomnik Żołnierzy Armii Radzieckiej w Zyndranowej [Monument to Soviet Army Soldiers in Zyndranowa] from 1983 (Kroh, 1985; Kroh, 2016; Kroh, 2018; Bata, 2002).

The monument was to be unveiled on October 6, 1976, on the anniversary of the liberation of Zyndranowa (Kroh, 2016; Drozd, 2023 a; Czubaj-Kuźmin, 2011; Szumielewicz, 2000; Bata, 2002). As in a statement by Teodor/Fedor Gocz quoted by Sylwia Czubaj-Kuźmin:

⁵ Cf. a short description of the size of the crimes against civilian population by the Red Army during the "liberation"; Czarnecka, 2015.

The monument was erected by Lemkos from Zyndranowa because their countrymen were killed in the Red Army ... The monument was about $1.5m \times 2m$... it had the shape of a pedestal, topped with a five-pointed star made of mortar shell casings. It was made of stones, helmets and shell casings found on the battlefield of the Dukla Pass (Czubaj-Kuźmin, 2011, p. 165; Szumielewicz, 2000; Kroh, 2016; Brej, 2018).

A barrel ran across the monument to which a star was attached (Kroh, 2016; cf. more extensively photos documenting the construction of the monument. Gocz, 2018). The monument was the work of Lemko soldiers who participated in the Dukla operation: Józef Madzik from Bartne, a Polish Army sapper, Teodor Kuziak, a former Red Army soldier, with the cooperation of former partisans – Paweł Jurkowski and Petro Kohut from Zyndranowa (Szumielewicz, 2000; cf. Kroh, 2016).

The monument was decorated with inscriptions on plaques in Polish, Slovak and Russian: "Eternal glory to the fallen heroes of October 6, 1944-1945. Lemkos 1975" (Kroh, 2016; Drozd, 2023 a, p. 235). The obelisk was decorated not only with a five-pointed star but also with five disarmed mortar shells. The same shells were also embedded in the monument itself (Drozd, 2023 a; Gocz, 2018; Szumielewicz, 2000). As Roman Drozd points out, the authorities reacted strongly. This was also influenced by the appearance of a Czechoslovak television journalist from Košice (Szumielewicz, 2000). The head of the City and Municipality of Dukla ordered the demolition of the monument on October 4 because it did not have the relevant permits, which was only a ploy as the monument was located on private land and no relevant permits were needed for its construction (Drozd, 2023 a; Brej, 2018; Bata, 2002). The next document already made it clear who was to carry out its demolition: the Bieszczady Brigade of Border Protection Forces from Przemyśl. The reasoning was also changed - this time the reason was not permits, but danger posed by the monument, due to the placement of shells and grenades. This charge was serious, and it could have been extended to illegal possession of weapons by Gocz (Drozd, 2023 a; cf. Brej, 2018; Bata, 2002). A special military commission headed by sappers ruled, according to a previously formulated thesis by the

authorities, that the monument posed a danger because it contained 100 pieces of unexploded ammunition: mortar shells, artillery shells, and F1 grenades (Kroh, 2016; Brej, 2018; Bata, 2002). Gocz's explanation that all the embedded shells were disarmed, had no fuses, and were hollow inside (Kroh, 2016; Bata, 2002) did not help.

It should be noted that a delegation from the Regional Museum in Krosno came to check whether the Zyndranowa facility was operating in accordance with regulations. Further, the Building Department of Krosno ruled that the monument was not integrated into the landscape, and did not constitute a whole with the surroundings (Kroh, 2016; Szumielewicz, 2000). Artur Bata cites documents in his book on the history of the Zyndranowa monument:

Protocol for the evaluation of the artistic and architectural value of the monument in Zyndranowa, dated October 5, 1976, states that: the Artistic Commission of the Department of Culture and Art of the Provincial Office, dated October 5, 1976 [...], concluded that the completed monument intended to symbolize Polish-Soviet friendship did not meet the requirements due to low artistic criteria in artistic terms and architecture. The composition of the monument and the materials used are a conglomeration of random elements and formally do not constitute an artistic statement. The monument does not merge with its surroundings and interferes with the perception of the landscape. Situated on the same property, the object made of stone and military elements is also of no artistic value. The commission is proposing to dismantle the aforementioned objects (Bata, 2002, p. 16).

There were also objections from one of the officers regarding the inscription. He believed that the word "sława" does not appear in Polish and should be replaced with "chwała" (Kroh, 2016; Czubaj-Kuźmin, 2011; Szumielewicz, 2000). On October 5, 1976, a day before the scheduled opening, the People's Militia fenced off the area where the monument was located, and attention to unexploded ordnance sign was erected. Teodor/Fedor Gocz was banned from entering the fenced-off area (Kroh, 2016; Szumielewicz, 2000; cf. photo of monument with attention to "unexploded munitions" sign, Kroh, 2016; Bata, 2002).

The authorities, in order to prevent the public opening, decided to demolish the monument. It was blown up by sappers from Dębica on December 1, 1976. The explosion was so powerful that it damaged the Gocz family's house and the plating of the museum buildings (cf. the description of the actions taken by Mr. Gocz after the monument was blown up contained in the Security Office report 18 x1 1977 Plan działań operacyjnych w sprawie operacyjnej krypt. "Pomnik" dotyczącej Teodora Gocza, działacza społecznego z Podkarpacia, sporządzony w Sekcji и Wydziału и кwмо w Krośnie in Słabig, 2016; Kryciński, 2021; also cf. memories of neighbors of the Gocz family describing the blowing up of the monument in Bata, 2002). In addition to destroying the monument, the authorities confiscated militaria from the museum's collection (Drozd, 2023 a; Drozd, 2023, b; Kaczyński, 2018; cf. photos documenting the blown-up monument, Gocz, 2018). The authorities also began judicial harassment of Gocz by charging him with penalties for allegedly misappropriating concrete barriers that were used to build the monument (Drozd, 2023 a; Wielocha, 2018; Bata, 2002). The author and originator of the monument explained the authorities' action by nationality considerations and the state's policy towards the Lemko population. Arguably, the citizens' initiative itself also contributed to this, after all, it was the communist government that was supposed to have a monopoly on historical policy and the commemoration of the past (Drozd, 2023 a; Szumielewicz, 2000). Roman Drozd points out another reason:

In fact, the monument discredited both the local and central authorities. Thirty years after the Battle of the Dukla Pass, the unburied remains of soldiers could still be found on the battlefield. This meant that the authorities had not done everything possible to inspect the site thoroughly and to bury the remains with dignity (Drozd, 2023 a, p. 237).

There was also the aspect of security, not demining the area, and international overtones because the Museum Council tried to invite guests from the user and Czechoslovakia. With this, some researchers also explain the use of as much as 24 kg of tnt to destroy the monument so as to obliterate traces of the burial of the soldiers (Drozd, 2023 a; Kroh, 2016; Brej, 2018). There have even been unsubstantiated

allegations that the monument was dedicated to the oun as well (Gocz, 2017; Gocz, 2018).

These actions were counterproductive; instead of obliterating traces of the site, they made it famous both within the country and abroad (Bata, 2002). For these reasons, the Security Office in Krosno took measures to prevent too much publicity for the museum in connection with the destruction of the monument, and a special operational plan was formulated with the code name "Monument" (Drozd, 2023 a; Drozd, 2023 b; 18 XI 1977 Plan działań operacyjnych w sprawie operacyjnej krypt. "Pomnik" dotyczącej Teodora Gocza, działacza społecznego z Podkarpacia, sporządzony w Sekcji II Wydziału III кwmo w Krośnie in Słabig, 2016).

The Security Office efforts can be inscribed in a broader trend of actions taken to liquidate the museum itself, which was salt in the eves of the authorities because it not only documented the Battle of the Dukla Pass but, above all, reminded of the misfortune of the Lemko population displaced as part of the "Vistula" action (Drozd, 2023a). Hence the projects to dislocate the collection (a plan since the 1970s) to museums in Rzeszów and Łańcut (Drozd, 2023 a; Drozd, 2023b). "We can assume that the central authorities treated the museum as a lesser evil. Unlike the local authorities, who were inclined to liquidate it, as its existence only created problems for them. However, the functioning and protection of the museum may have been aided by the fact that Mr Gocz was a secret collaborator of the Security Office, with the alias Pietrek" (Drozd, 2023b, p. 17; this collaboration, according to Gocz, was a way to protect his facility from liquidation cf. Drozd, 2023 a). Gocz, noted, as the creator of the museum, that it was more difficult for the authorities to liquidate a facility that had an exhibition commemorating the Battle of the Dukla Pass (Drozd, 2023a; Wielocha, 2018).

The history of the unique monument in Zyndranowa did not end with the memorable year of 1976 (cf. more extensively the documents overturning the decisions of the communist Poland's prosecutor's office on the Bata monument, 2002). After the political transformation, a delegation of sappers from Military Unit 2265 from Debica came to the Gocz family to apologize for the destruction of the monument. As the officers stressed, they had no influence on

the political decision of the authorities. The head of the museum, understanding the situation in which the soldiers were, stated that the monument should be rebuilt, which was done with the help of the Polish Army. Implementation of this 1990s' declaration came to wait until 2004 when an obelisk was unveiled on October 5, located on the site of the monument destroyed in 1976 (Bata, 2002).

The event was unprecedented: in the post-1989 era, a monument was erected to commemorate the Red Army. This second monument at the museum has an inscription in three languages: "Eternal Memory to Fallen Heroes in the Carpathians 1944-1945 Dukla-Svid-ník-Zyndranowa 2004". Again, in creating the monument, elements of armaments were used: soldiers' helmets, bullet fragments, and a piece of track from a T-34 tank was embedded in front of the monument (Kroh, 2016; Bata, 2002; cf. photos of the monument from its unveiling and dedication ceremony in Gocz, 2018). A ceremony to unveil the monument was held on October 5, 2004 (Brej, 2018). The monument was erected thanks to the initiative of the Army commander, Lieutenant-General Edward Pietrzak and the mayor of the Dukla municipality, Marek Górak, with activists from the Council of the Zyndranowa Museum Society (Brej, 2018; Bata, 2002).

It is worth noting that there is another monument/grave commemorating the fallen tankmen of the 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps in Zyndranowa. It is a memorial site for four soldiers. Fragments of a tank were placed on a commemorative obelisk (*Zyndranowa*. *Leśna mogiła czołgistów; Zyndranowa* – *mogiła czołgistów czechosłowackich*).

The monuments erected in Zyndranowa commemorating the Dukla operation remain in the shadow of the elaborate installation consisting of entire vehicles that can be viewed in the so-called Valley of Death on the Slovakian side. Traversing the aforementioned valley, one can see T-34/85 tanks placed on mountainsides and around village buildings. The installation is meant to produce a sense of dynamism. The most famous part of the outdoor exhibit in the Valley of Death is a monument showing the ramming of a German tank by a Soviet vehicle. The monument commemorates the Dukla Operation and the battles around Svidník fought from September 8, 1944 to October 28, 1944. The monument was unveiled in 1959 to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the operation. It shows

a German PzKpfw IV tank being crashed into by a Soviet T-34/85 tank. This arrangement of vehicles is meant to reflect the extremely difficult combat conditions and fierce clashes in the Valley of Death on October 25–27, 1944 (Document No. VHÚ-37-49/2023; Šteiner, 2020; Kadlec, Lichner, Mihálik, Turza, Purdek, 2009).

St. John's Cathedral in Warsaw is the most famous of the monuments built on the basis of tank fragments found in Poland. A fragment of a track was embedded in the wall, bearing an erroneous plaque stating that it was a fragment of a Goliath tank that damaged part of the cathedral (in fact, a part of another vehicle known as the Borgward B IV was embedded, *Katedra w ogniu*; *Gąsienica niemieckiego czołgu na murze katedry św. Jana w Warszawie*).

In the above review of monuments created using fragments of armored weapons, it would be appropriate to draw attention to issues that go beyond the bosom of the above sketch. The idea was to use pieces of military equipment decorating the necropolises. Thus, the cemetery of Red Army soldiers in Bielsko-Biała 9 Cybinka can be recalled (https://www.bielsko24.eu/cmentarz-zolnierzy-radzieckich/), decorated with a cannon placed on a pedestal (Czubryt-Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 1986, 536), the cemetery in Kalisz (also cf. discussion regarding the removal of cannons from the cemetery, Kubiak, 2017), the cemetery in Rabka Zdrój (cf. discussion regarding plans to remove cannons from the cemetery. Bafia, 2022), and the cemetery in Wolsztyn with two 76 mm ZiS cannons (Krawczyk, 2021), on top of the cemetery of soldiers of the Second Polish Army in Zgorzelec (Burdosz, 2015). In Łososina Górna, the monument to the Legionnaires was decorated with two cannons, which are not only of Soviet manufacture but were also used during World War II (Łososina Górna. Eksploratorzy. Forum Zbuntowanych Poszukiwaczy; Łososina Górna i jej atrakcje). In addition, examples of armored weapons displays in open-air weapons exhibitions deserve separate attention. Such projects were carried out in the People's Republic of Poland under the then historical policy of the People's Polish Army (Sahaj, 2018; Simiński, 2013; Migdalski, 2013; Zielak, 1979; Czubryt-Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 1986; Leszkowicz, 2022).

There are numerous monuments created on the basis of military equipment used during the First and Second World Wars in Poland.

These include "monuments of gratitude" from the communist era, as well as the shrines and crosses so present in the landscape of the Krakow-Czestochowa Jurassic Highlands, which were created from so-called "shrapnel glasses" from World War I (Szymborski, 2022). A special armored trail has even been marked out in the Morawica municipality in the footsteps of the shrines created from the remnants of the armored battle of World War II (Szlak *Pancerny*; cf. the cross in Nieradowo from a tank barrel: *Nieradowo*. *Krzyż* przydrożny z lufy niemieckiego czołgu; also cf. references to a unique monument located in Jaciażek: a cross made of artillery shell casings contains the ashes of Poles murdered by the Germans in the Pomiechówek camp; in Czubryt-Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 1986, 337; Jaciażek. Krzyż przydrożny z łusek armatnich). To summarize this brief overview of tank monuments and monuments created from parts of weapons, it should be noted that the monuments erected after 1945 played a very important propaganda role. Using a recurring motif – a tank on a pedestal – the state authorities made these monuments a recognizable part of the landscape. They were so important from the point of view of the authorities at the time that they even appeared on postcards. And so, the city of Żory issuing a postcard with a view of the city next to fragments of the market and a housing estate, showed a tank monument to the brotherhood of arms. A similar view can be seen on a postcard from Pruszków, where a tank monument commemorating the People's Polish Army was placed next to the city park, a 19th century palace and apartment buildings. Postcards were also issued with a T-34 tank from Westerplatte, or a card showing the Siekierki war cemetery and tank monument next to the Polish Army Museum. Monuments of gratitude and monuments to brotherhood played an important role in the propaganda of the time, and it should come as no surprise that after 1989 some of them were removed. However, on many occasions the city authorities or residents have made efforts to ensure that the "tank monument" remains, only efforts have been made to remove the blatant communist symbolism. The monuments from Kasina Wielka and Zyndranowa significantly deviate from the classic monuments of gratitude or brotherhood of arms. In both of these cases, the huge role of local communities that determined the

creation of these works is evident. With regard to Kasina Wielka, the form was given by an artist; in Zyndranowa, it was a work built by former soldiers and those wishing to commemorate World War II events. The case of Kasina Wielka deserves special attention because it commemorates the events of the 1939 campaign, while the other monuments represent events related to the encroachment of the Red Army. For these reasons and because of the very interesting artistic form created on the basis of the tank turret, the monument commemorating the soldiers of the 24th Cavalry Regiment deserves special attention.

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- 1. Dębica
- 2. Gdańsk-Westerplatte two versions
- 3. Pruszków

- 4. Siekierki
- 5. Żory

Interviews

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Interview with Lt. Col. Tomasz Ogrodniczuk head of the Division: Armored Weapons Museum in Poznań Branch of the Museum of the Polish Army conducted on 18.09.2023.

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Table 1 List of "Monuments of Gratitude" to the Red Army Made from Military Equipment in Poland

No.	Localization:	What it commemorates (as in: Czarnecka, 2015):	Military equipment used:	Bibliography:
11	Baligród	Tank monument to "libera- tors", erected at soldiers' graves	Initially a T-70 tank then the T-34 tank	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 4; Wykaz obiektów upamiętniających żołnierzy i partyzantów sowieckich na terenie Polski stan na 2009 rok
Ø	Białystok	Białystok's "libera- tor" tank-monument	T-34 tank	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 17; Czubryt-Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 60; Wykaz obiektów upamięt- niających żołnierzy i partyzantów sowiec- kich na terenie Polski stan na 2009 rok
87	Brzeziny	"Monument of grati- tude" to the Red Army	2 T-34 tanks later trans- ferred to the Polish Army Mu- seum in Warsaw in 1992	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 35
4	Czarnków	Red Army soldiers' memori- al tank at military cemetery	T-34 tank was restored and moved elsewhere	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 66; Konecka-Szydłowska, Kulczyńska, 2012; also cf. Grygorowicz-Kosakowska, 2012; Czubryt-Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 1986, 341; Wykaz obiektów upamiętniających żołnierzy i partyzantów sowieckich na terenie Polski stan na 2009 rok

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Częstochowa	Tank monument	T-34 tank, dismantled in 1990	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 70; Hysz- ko, 2016; Czarnecka, 2013 a
Drawsko- Pomorskie	Red Army soldiers' memorial at the location of the original tem- porary Soviet military cemetery	T-34 tanks flanking the pedes- tal as a symbol of the Red Army and Polish Army brotherhood	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 90; Wykaz obiek- tów upamiętniających żołnierzy i partyzantów sowieckich na terenie Polski stan na 2009 rok
Dubienka	Tank commemorating crossing of the Bug river by the	T-34/85 tank	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 92; Czubryt-Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 98; Leszkowicz, 2022, 349-350; Wykaz obiektów upamiętniających żołnierzy i partyzantów sowieckich na terenie Polski stan na 2009 rok
Elblag	Tank monument – memori- al to victory over fascism	T-34 tank	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 98; Czubryt-Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 123; Wykaz obiektów upamięt- niających żołnierzy i partyzantów sowiec- kich na terenie Polski stan na 2009 rok
Gdańsk	Tank monument to Red Army soldiers	T-34/85 tank, disman- tled in 1992/93. T-34 tank announced as a me- morial to the Tank-men of the Heroes of Westerplatte, replace- ment of an American M4A2(76) tank gifted to the USSR as part of the lend-lease program (Cf. Czubryt-Borkowski, Michasie- wicz, 1986, 131, 133; cf. https:// gdansk.gedanopedia.pl/gdan- sk/?title=POMNIK-CZO%C5%8	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 102; Czarnec- ka, 2013 b; Czubryt-Borkowski, Michasie- wicz, 1986, 131; Leszkowicz, 2022, 355

Gliwice	Tank monument, commemorating Soviet and Polish soldiers, as a memorial to one of the first tanks that entered the city	T-34 tank	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 105; Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 105; Czarnecka, 2013 a; Ochmański, 2011; also cf. Domański, Murzyn-Kupisz, 2021
Głogów	Red Army soldiers monu- ment/victory monument	The sides of the monument were decorated with light cannons (russian 76 mm model 1927) from the battle for the city	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 108
Grabownica Starzeńska	Red Army memorial	A Russian cannon ZiS-3 was placed under the arch of the monument	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 125
Grudziądz	"Monument of grati- tude" to the Red Army	A cannon was placed next to the monument	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 132
Hajnówka	Tank monument to Red Army soldiers and officers	T-34 tank; in 1991 sold first to a farmer then to a doctor, who placed it by the Pisz-Szczuczyn road	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 135; Czubryt- Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 1986, 62
Iława	Soviet soldiers' memorial	T-34 tank	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 138
Kielce	"Monument of grati- tude" to the Red Army	Initially there were two cannons (2×45 mm model 1937 53-K) at the monument, with their barrels aimed at the building of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR)	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 164

Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 169	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 198; Czubryt- Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 1986, 424	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 203; Wykaz obiektów upamiętniających żołni- erzy i partyzantów sowieckich na te- renie Polski stan na 2009 rok	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 213; Czubryt- Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 1986, 439	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 225; Wykaz obiek- tów upamiętniających żołnierzy i partyzantów sowieckich na terenie Polski stan na 2009 rok	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 236	http://www.polskaniezwykla.pl/web/ place/44718,neple-pomnik-czolgu.html; https://www.dziennikwschodni.pl/biala-pod- laska/wojna-o-pomnik,n,1000057771.html
The barrel of a tank wrecked in this city on a concrete slab	A 76 mm cannon on pedestal	Initially an ISU-122 SPG, re- placed by T-34 tank	IS-2 tank	SU-76 SPG later transferred to the Polish Army Museum in War- saw, later a 76 mm cannon, then replaced by a PT-76 light tank	ISU-122 SPG	T-34/85 tank; according to a plaque that has not survived, it was supposed to commemorate the entry of the Red Army (https://www.dziennikwschodni.pl/biala-podlaska/wojna-o-pomnik,n,1000057771.html)
"Monument of gratitude to the Red Army placed on a soldiers' grave	Cannon tank commemorating the Red Army	Monument to Red Army soldiers, on the site of a makeshiff military cemetery	Tank monument to Polish Army and Red Army soldiers	Monument to Red Army soldiers, on the site of a makeshiff Soviet military cemetery	"Monument of gratitude"	The tank that was first to cross the Bug River commemorates the Red Army and the 1st Ar- mored Brigade of the LWP
Kłodawa	Krzeczów	Kunowice	Lębork	Lubrza	Malbork	Neple
17	18	19	20	21	22	23

24	Nowa Dęba	Tank monument to Red Army	Tank, dismantled in 1990	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 258
25	Nowe Mias- to nad Pilicą	Monument to Polish Army and Red Army soldiers	T-34 tank, dismantled in 1993	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 262
26	Piła	"Monument of grati- tude" to the Red Army	Plane (LiM-2) adorned ped- estal of monument, dis- mantled in late 1980s	Czarnecka, 2015, 110, Annex 455; https:// gdansk.fotopolska.eu/Pila/b2271,Pom- nik_Wdziecznosci.html?f=147690-fo- to – cf. on the Yak-1 plane location
27	Poznań	Cemetery and monument to Red Army "heroes"	4 Russian howitzers surround the site.	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 302; Czubryt- Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 1986, 369
28	Pyrzyce	Red Army tank monument	IS-2 tank, two 76 mm 1942 (ZiS-3) 1942 cannons nearby	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 319; Wykaz obiek- tów upamiętniających żołnierzy i partyzantów sowieckich na terenie Polski stan na 2009 rok
29	Różan	Tank monument to Pol- ish and Soviet soldiers, he- roes of 1939 and 1944-45	T-34 tank	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 333; Golon, 1996; Czubryt-Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 1986, 324; https://to.com.pl/czolg-w-rozanie-zostanie/ ar/6289720 (accessed: 15.09.2023); Wykaz obiektów upamiętniających żołnierzy i partyzan- tów sowieckich na terenie Polski stan na 2009 rok
30	Skierniewice	Tank monument to Red Army soldiers	T-34 tank	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 348; Wykaz obiektów upamiętniających żołnierzy i partyzantów sowieckich na terenie Polski stan na 2009 rok

31	Sławno	Tank monument to Polish and Soviet soldiers	T-34 tank	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 351; Siedem wieków, 2016; Wykaz obiektów upamięt- niających żołnierzy i partyzantów sowiec- kich na terenie Polski stan na 2009 rok
32	Ścinawa	Tank monument to Red Army soldiers	T-34 tank	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 391; Czubryt-Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 1986, 260; Wykaz obiektów upamiętniających żołnierzy i partyzan-tów sowieckich na terenie Polski stan na 2009 rok
33	Świdnica	Tank monument to Red Army soldiers, Red Army cemetery	Two anti-tank canons 76 mm 1942 (ZiS-3) adorn the cemetery gate	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 396; Czubryt- Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 1986, 502
34	Świdwin	Monument (plane and boulder) to Polish and Soviet soldiers	Initially a MiG-19 air- craft then a MiG-17 PF.	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 398
35	Trzcianka	Tank monument to Red Army and Polish Army soldiers	T-34 tank; dismantled and scrapped in the 1990s.	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 410; Czubryt- Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 1986, 341
36	Wągrowiec	Tank monument, on the site of a makeshiff military burial site	T-34 tank, removed due to renovation in the 1950s.	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 430; https://wagrowiec.naszemiasto.pl/tych- obiektow-juz-nie-ma-w-wagrowcu-mi- asto-caly-czas-sie/ar/c7-8000959 (Accessed on 15.09.2023)
37	Wejherowo	Victory monument (tank)	T-34/85 tank, moved to a park in 2009	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 431; Czubryt- Borkowski, Michasiewicz, 1986, 138

38	Wiśniew	Monument to the tank that first liberated Wiśniew	T-34 tank	http://www.polskaniezwykla.pl/web/ place/46319.wisniew-czolg-pom- nik.html#google_vignette https://warszawa.naszemiasto.pl/czolg-t-34-wro- cil-do-podsiedleckiej-wsi-wisniew/ar/c8-6549731 https://warszawa.wyborcza.pl/warsza- wa/7,34860,1233793.html
39	Wołomin	Tank monument to Polish and Soviet soldiers	T-34 tank	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 448
40	Zyndranowa	Monument to fallen Red Army soldiers bearing the inscription Eternal glory to the fallen heroes 06.10.1944-1945. Lemkos 1975	Monument constructed of hel- mets, shells, mortar shells	Cf. main text.
41	Żory	Monument to the broth- erhood of arms	T-34 tank	Czarnecka, 2015, Annex 475; https://zory. naszemiasto.pl/zory-czolg-byl-kiedys-wizy- towka-naszego-miasta-zdjecia/ar/c4-1051009