

# Institute of National Remembrance

<https://ipn.gov.pl/en/news/4685,Durchgangslager-121-victims-honoured-in-Pruszkow.html>

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## Durchgangslager 121 victims honoured in Pruszków









On 2 October 2020, on the National Day of Remembrance for the Civilians during the Warsaw Uprising, the memory of Dulag 121 prisoners and their rescuers was honoured on the grounds of the former transit camp.

During the Warsaw Uprising, German formations and their foreign auxiliaries trying to quell the revolt committed countless crimes against the city population, killing tens of thousands in mass executions. Since the defiant capital was to be erased from the maps, the civilian survivors were driven out of its limits and processed through a sequence of camps, the first of which was the Pruszków Dulag. Of the 650,000 people who got there, 150,000 were shipped off for forced labour in Germany, 70,000 taken to concentration camps, and the rest deported to the General Government. How many died in

Pruszków no one knows.

Whole families brought for a selection that would decide their fate found themselves in appalling conditions similar to those in German concentration camps. Hunger, cold and diseases decimated the inmates, and had the local communities, parishes and organizations, such as the Central Welfare Council or Polish Red Cross, not stepped in, the death toll would have been much higher. The civilians donated provisions and medications, while medical personnel and interpreters who were allowed entry distributed food, treated the sick and even doctored the lists of people to be released, helping thousands see freedom.

Today, the victims were commemorated with a plaque unveiled at the local cemetery; the remaining parts of the event, organized jointly by the town of Pruszków and Pruszków administrative district, the Institute of National Remembrance, the Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression, as well as the Dulag Museum, took place on the former site of Dulag 121.

The IPN, which founded the plaque, was represented by its Deputy President, Mateusz Szpytma, Ph.D.

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