

Institute of National Remembrance

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The 100th anniversary of the Union of Poles in Germany. The opening of the "We are Poles" exhibition – Kwidzyń, 10 November 2022









District IV activists

Aktivisten des Landesverbandes IV

Na zdjęciu: narada działaczy oświatowych ZPwN z udziałem działaczy Dzielnicy IV,

Berlin 1932 r. W głębi widoczni m.in.: Jan Bończański, pierwszy z lewej Kozimierz

Dominicki, Maria Ziembra-Malewska, drugi od prawej Jan Boenigk. (Zbiory MWIM)

In the photo a meeting of educational activists of the Union with the participation of activists from District IV, Berlin 1932. In the background, in the left Jan Bończański, first from the left Kazimierz Dominicki, Maria Ziembra-Malewska, second from the right Jan Boenigk. (Collections of MWIM)

Nur das Foto: Beratung der Bildungsaktivitäten des Bundes der Polen in Deutschland, an der auch Vertreter des
Landesverbandes IV teilnahmen, Berlin 1932. Im Hintergrund sieht man u.a. Jan Bończański, erster von links Kazimierz Dominicki,
Maria Ziembra-Malewska, zweiter von rechts Jan Boenigk. (Sammlungen MWIM)



„JESTEŚMY POLAKAMI!“ ZWIĄZEK POLAKÓW W NIEMCZECH

“We are Poles!” Union of Poles in Germany

„Wir sind Polen!” Der Bund der Polen in Deutschland



Załuszczy Ródka z Wisłą, Warszawa 1934 r. (Zbiory NAC)

Boat's wedding to the Vistula, Warsaw 1934 (Collection of NAC)

Die Vermählung des Rödka mit der Weichsel, Warschau 1934 (Sammlungen NAC)

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The creators of the exhibition have made every effort to identify all authors of the materials used. It was not always possible. If in doubt, please contact the Branch Office of National Education in Gdańsk.

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The "We are Poles" exhibition prepared by the IPN Branch in Gdańsk was officially unveiled in Kwidzyń, Poland, at St. John Paul II Square. The event took place with the participation of the President of the Institute of National Remembrance Karol Nawrocki, Ph.D.

The ceremony is related to the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Union of Poles in Germany and the 85th anniversary of the Polish grammar school in Kwidzyń.

The Union of Poles in Germany is an organization of the Polish minority in Germany, founded in 1922. In the years 1939–1945 the Union was outlawed in Germany. The Union activists were sent to concentration camps and prisons. They were tortured and murdered and their property was confiscated by the German government. In 1950 the Union of Poles in Germany split into two organizations: the Union of Poles in Germany, which refused to recognize the communist government in Poland, and the "Zgoda" Union of Poles , which accepted the new government in Warsaw. The organization was reunified in 1991. To this day Poles have not regained the national minority status in Germany nor have any war reparations been paid to Poland.

The opening of the exhibition was followed by a popular science session at the local auditorium. The High School in Kwidzyń is the former Polish grammar school established in 1937 on the territory which at that time belonged to German East Prussia. The school was subjected to harassment by German authorities and German residents. A few days before the outbreak of World War II, German security forces

arrested all school personnel and students including Władysław Gębik, the first headmaster who spent the rest of the war years in German concentration camps.

The outdoor “We Are Poles. The Union of Poles in Germany” exhibition was prepared by the IPN branch in Gdańsk. The author of the part of the exhibition presented in Kwidzyn is Paweł Warot, Ph.D., Director of the IPN Branch in Gdańsk. The exhibition will be on display until 29 November 2022.

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