



II WORLD WAR AND HOLOCAUST

“STORYTELLING”

MAIN GROUP TASK FOR THE JEWISH QUARTER EXPLORATION

To create a **personal profile and a story of an actual or fictional character (person)** living around the times of II World War in Europe using **facts, stories, pictures, videos or images** collected during your trip to Kraków and its Jewish Quarter. Those stories should be placed at the times of II WW and Holocaust and present a personal fragment of the history from the perspective of a particular person.

Example: a story of escapes of the Jews to avoid Holocaust; a story of a Jew Council members who have moral dilemmas; a story of people trying to rescue Jews, or opposite – “selling” them to nazis. Any story YOU find particularly speaking to you.

Later – present those stories in a creative way, reflecting emotions, raising important questions. Presentations should not be longer than 7 minutes.

As the Holocaust is the story of the whole Europe, you can use in your story some other places and people, also fictional – that could happen anywhere. Obviously, you can also use stories and names of Kraków’s Jews heard during your trip. Let the trip be your inspiration, during which you collect materials (pictures, videos, images, sounds, documents etc.).

IN ORDER TO COLLECT DATA, PICTURES, STORIES, OR INSPIRATIONS YOU COULD VISIT:

- **Schindler`s factory**, 4F Lipowa street (Fabryka Oskara Schindlera)

We have appointment at 11.40 – 18 persons and at 12.10 – 17 persons. You can molest the guide to tell you as much stories as possible 😊

- **Jewish Cemetery**, 55 Miodowa street (Nowy Cmentarz Żydowski)

The Cemetery is a registered heritage monument featuring a well-preserved historical mortuary. Many notable individuals (Rabbis, Tzadiks, Jewish mystics etc.) were buried here.

- **Jewish Community Centre**, 24 Miodowa street (JCC)

A cultural center and a headquarter of an NGO preserving the heritage of Polish Jews in Kraków. Employees and volunteers are always welcoming and ready to tell you about their activities 😊

- **Ghetto Heroes Square**, Plac Bohaterów Getta

The ghetto was built in March 1941, on the opposite side of the Vistula River from Kazimierz. In Bohaterow Ghetta (Ghetto Heroes) Square, the Jews were deported to Nazi death camps, mainly Belzec and Auschwitz-Birkenau. At No. 18, one can find the Museum of National Commemoration that was built in 1983. It contains exhibits on the ghetto and the Nazi occupation. Fragments of the ghetto walls are still visible.

German authorities created the Jewish ghetto in Krakow under the Nazi occupation on March 3, 1941 as a compulsory dwelling place for the city's Jews. On the order of Dr Otto Wachter, the district gubernator, the central part of Podgorze borough was closed off and all its gentile residents expelled to make room for

some 17,000 Jews who were allowed to remain in the then capital of a German dependency made of the rump of Poland and called General-Gouvernement. The rest of the 65,000-strong prewar Jewish population of Krakow had been relocated earlier to Poland's lesser cities, towns, and villages.

Originally the ghetto took up the area of roughly twenty hectares that stretched from Plac Zgody square (now Plac Bohaterow Getta) to Rekawka street and between Lwowska street and Wegierska street. It was strategically situated next to Zablocie industrial district with many plants, including now famous 'Schindler's factory', that could utilize the cheap forced labor of the ghetto inhabitants. Also the Plaszow concentration camp was near by. And the adjoining Zablocie train station facilitated future deportations.

- **The Eagle Pharmacy**, Plac Bohaterów Getta 18 (Apteka pod Orłem)

Tadeusz Pankiewicz's Pharmacy in Kraków Ghetto – right now a museum telling the story of Tadeusz Pankiewicz, the owner of the pharmacy and an eye-witness of the tragic events in Ghetto. He is well known from actions rescuing Jews, hiding them, hiding Toras, painting, precious documents, providing necessary help, smuggling things, passing messages for Jewish families etc.

- **Jewish Library Remu**, 36/1 św. Sebastiana street (Biblioteka Żydowska Remu)

Run by an Association Czulent and Jagiellonian University collection of a great Jewish literature.

- **"New Square"**, Plac Nowy

It is a square, which is also considered as a central place for Kazimierz. Full of pubs around the square and a market in the middle. You can see there old jewelry, talk to people who knows their stories and eat "zapiekanka".

- **Klezmer Hois**, 6 Szeroka street

From 16th century until the World War II that building was the ritual bathhouse, one the oldest in the city. Right now it is a restaurant, cultural center and a place of great concerts of klezmer music, that are held every day at 8 PM.

SYNAGOGUES:

- **Old Synagogue** (24 Szeroka street) – opened till 15.00, tickets prize – 10PLN (less than 2EUR), (Stara Synagoga)

The synagogue was established in the 15th century and was remodeled many times. It is the oldest synagogue left standing in Poland. During World War II, the Nazis used the synagogue as a warehouse and most of its artwork and Jewish relics were looted during World War II. Afterward, the synagogue was remodeled and today it houses the Museum of Jewish History, containing collections of liturgical items, ancient Torah scrolls, textiles, dishes, utensils and shofars, as well as photographs, documents and artwork showing the history of the Jews of Cracow. In the plaza in front of the synagogue, there is a monument to 30 Poles shot by the Nazis.

Szeroka street is the "main street" of the Jewish Quarter, on which every single building has its history.

- **Remuh Synagogue & Old Cemetery**: ul Szeroka 40 (Synagoga Remu & Stary Cmentarz)

This synagogue was founded in 1553 by Israel Isserles. He and his family are buried in the cemetery next to the synagogue. The cemetery was in use between 1551-1800. Both the synagogue and the cemetery were devastated by the Nazis during World War II; however, the synagogue has been remodeled and is in use today.

In the 1950's the cemetery was excavated by archaeologists who found hundreds of ancient tombstones dating back the 1550's. Theories have arisen that these tombstones were actually hidden during the period of the Swedish invasion in 1704. Today, 700 tombstones have been re-erected, along with other tombstones donated from the remains of cemeteries throughout Poland. A beautiful mosaic wall of tombstone fragments was also built.

- **Bociana or Popper's Synagogue** - ul Szeroka 16 (Synagoga Bociana)

Built in 1620 by a wealthy merchant, this synagogue is no longer used for ritual purposes. All of its interior decorations were destroyed during the Holocaust. Today it hosts the cultural center.

- **Tempel Synagogue** (also known as Reformed Synagogue): ul Miodowa 24 (Synagoga Tempel)

A wealthy community elder, Izaak Jakubowicz, built this synagogue in 1683. It has been remodeled many times since and it is currently undergoing restoration. During World War II, the Nazis looted its interior and little remains.

- **High or (Tall) Synagogue** - ul Jozefa 38 (Synagoga Wysoka)

Originally built in 1553-56 as a prayer room on the second floor above ground floor shops, it was destroyed during the Holocaust. Today its is used for a monument restoration workshop.

- **Kupa Synagogue** - ul Warszawera 8 (Synagoga Kupa)

This synagogue was built in the late 17th century. After WWII, it was turned into a matzah factory. Little remains of the original interior beyond a few 20th century frescoes.

- **Izaak Synagogue** - ul Miodowa (Synagoga Izaaka)

The synagogue was founded in 1644. The exterior stairway goes up to the women's gallery. This Synagogue invites non-Jews to events, such as movies.

BEFORE YOU GO TO SCHINDLER'S FACTORY...

At the start of World War II, there were 60,000 Jews living in Cracow, one-fourth of the entire population. The Nazi occupation began on September 6, 1939. The Germans dismantled the Jewish community organization and appointed a Judenrat (Jew Council) to administrate Jewish affairs. An order was given in April 1940 for Jews to evacuate Cracow within four months. In that period, 35,000 Jews left the city and 15,000 were allowed to remain. Cracow became the capital of Nazi-occupied Poland.

In March 1941, a ghetto was built and housed 20,000 Jews, including 6,000 Jews from neighboring communities. Deportations began in June 1942; 5,000 Jews were sent to the Belzec death camp. In October 1942, 6,000 Jews were deported to Belzec. Patients at the hospital, residents of the old age home and 300 children at the orphanage were killed in the action. Another several hundred Jews were put to death in the ghetto itself.

The Jewish Combat Organization was active in organizing resistance in the ghetto. A Zionist resistance group, Akiva, and a leftist group, joined together to form the ZOB. Their group ceased to function after the ghetto was liquidated and the remaining Jews were sent to the Plaszow labor camp in March 1943.

In the Zablocie district of Cracow, Oscar Schindler had a factory, which he used to save 1,098 Jews from Plaszow. His factory became a subcamp of the Nazi concentration camp system, and he paid the German Reich for their labor. The film Schindler's List was filmed across the river from the location of the actual Cracow ghetto, in the town of Kazimierz, out of respect for the victims.

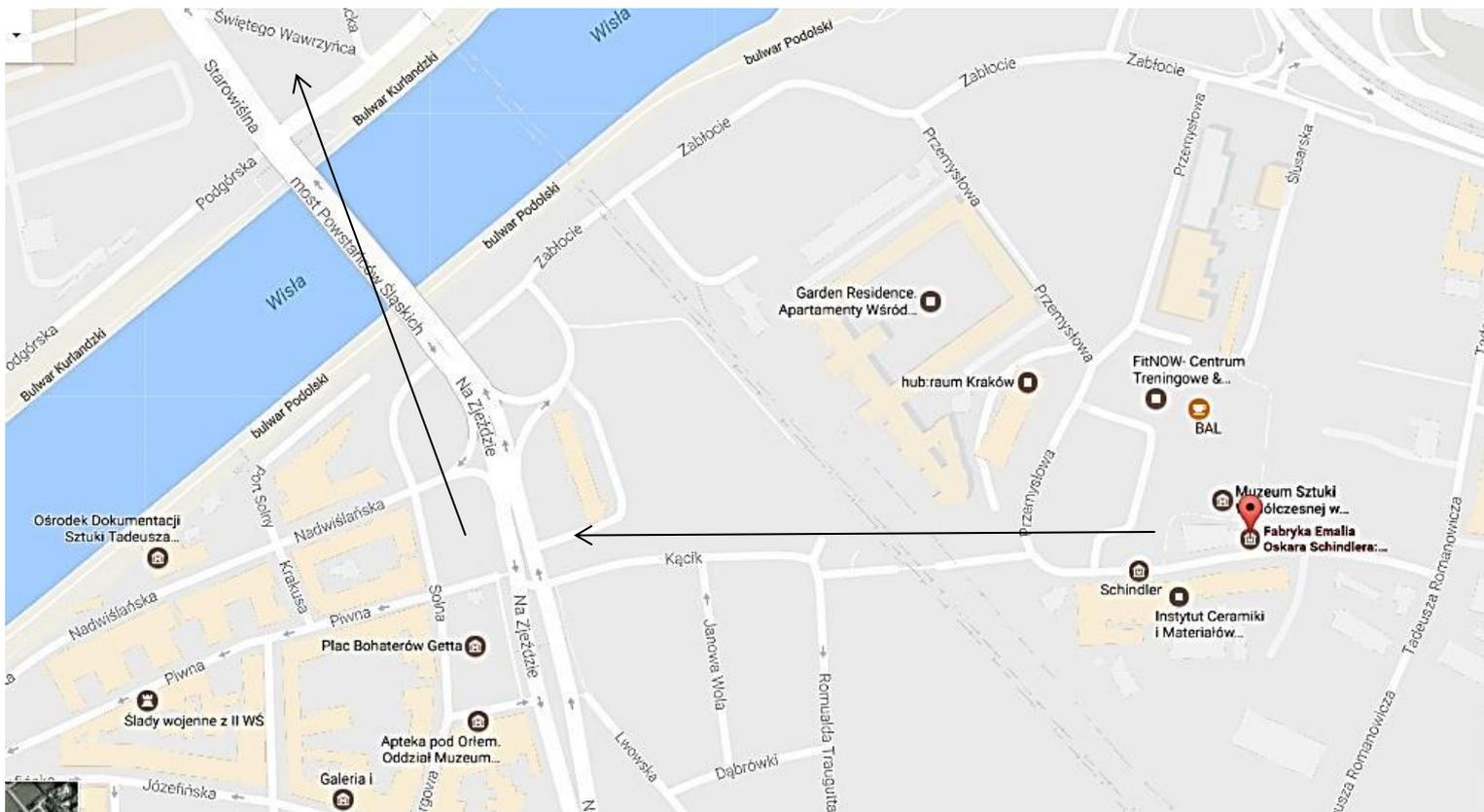


Oskar Schindler

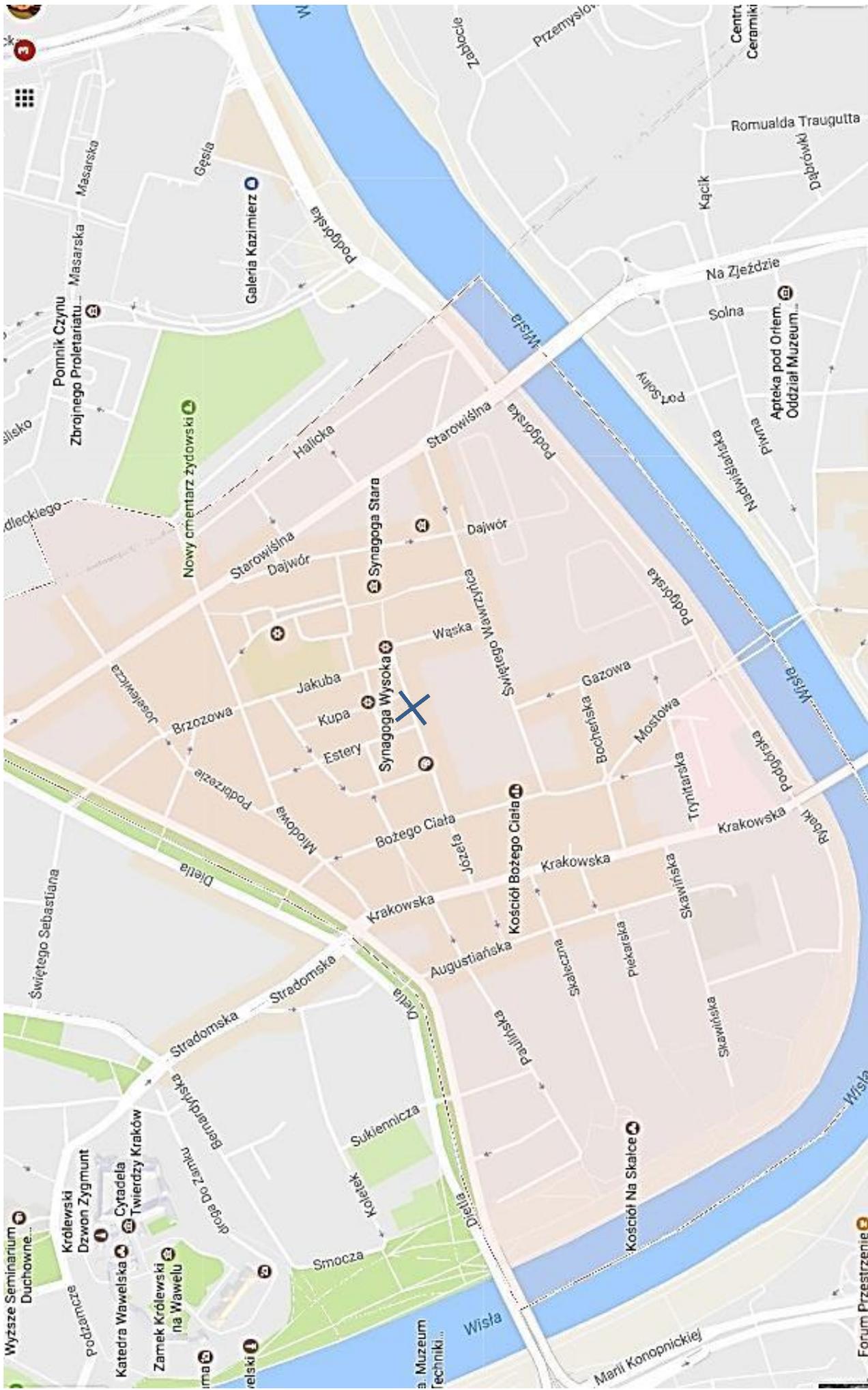
Post-Holocaust Period

Only 2,000 Jews from Cracow survived the war. Some Jews who lived in Russia during the war returned to Cracow in 1945-46. A Jewish community was not re-established because of a fear of progroms. The last Jew left Kazimierz in 1968. About 700 Jews remained in Cracow after 1968. Today, approximately 1,000 Jews live in Cracow, but only about 200 identify themselves as members of the Jewish community.

THE WAY FROM SCHINDLER'S FACTORY TO KAZIMIERZ



MAP OF KAZIMIERZ



Restaurant „Kolancko”, 19:00
Józefa Street 17

