

# ARCHIVE OF THE INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE



GUIDE

The tasks of the IPN archival division are set out in the Act of December 18, 1998 regarding the Institute of National Remembrance – the Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes Against the Polish Nation (Journal of Laws, 2016, item 1575), according to which the archive is to:

- Gather, preserve and record documents generated and collected by the security organizations of the German Third Reich, the USSR and the Polish nation, as well as other documents concerning the fate of the Polish nation, politically motivated repression and persecution, and Nazi and communist crimes;
- Safeguard, compile and digitalize materials stored in the archives;
- Make records available to citizens;
- Publish the collected documents and information about them.



AIPN Head Office in Warsaw, 21 Kłobucka St.

In the Archives documents are stored, which concern:

- PRL civilian and military security organizations from 1944–1990;
- Individuals repressed for political reasons (documents originating in courts, prosecutors' offices and prison units)
- the fate of the Polish Nation from 1939 (including documents obtained from foreign archives, Polish institutions abroad, and private individuals);
- the crimes of Nazis, communists and others that were committed against Poles and citizens of Poland from 1917 on.



OAIPN Office in Gdansk

In the Institute's headquarters these tasks are carried out by the IPN Archive (AIPN), in IPN branches and their archives (OAIPN), and in the archival departments of the Institute's delegations in Bydgoszcz, Kielce, Olsztyn, Opole and Radom.



OAIPN Office in Krakow



OAIPN Office in Poznan

The IPN archival resources can currently be measured in over 91 km of files. These documents are stored in 100 repositories at the sites of the Institute's various divisions and branches. Other than these records, the Archive possesses a large collection of reference aids made up of card files, archival and registration logs, indexes and directories – in total, nearly 11 km worth at present. The Institute's resources also contain audio-visual materials. We have amassed over 39 million pictures – operations photos from national security organizations, as well as collections dealing with important events from the twentieth century. We also store recordings – film (2,197) and audio (2,075). An interesting part of our resources is the printed matter (posters, leaflets, etc.), as well as the artifact collections, made up of objects donated by private individuals, others appropriated by security organizations, and some that were evidence in cases, for example, medals, coins, gorgets (worn by military officers as a symbol of authority) and seals.

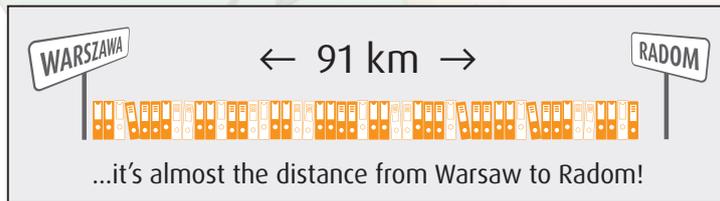
The entire collection has been processed and preserved; any materials in poor physical condition are sent for conservation measures. In order to protect documents and at the same time increase their availability to the public, resources are being put through a digitalization program. Within the planned process, batches of materials are being scanned from files containing documents of special historical significance, as well as those materials that are threatened with damage due to frequent usage. Archival materials requested by inquirers are also scanned on an on-going basis.



AIPN Archival Repository



Documents undergoing conservation in AIPN



The IPN Archive is not just 'files'! Within our resources, unique archival materials can be found on the topic of the Second Polish Republic and World War II, including:

- Home Army counterintelligence files (card files from 1940–1943);
- Maps of troop deployment on the 1919–1920 war fronts (material from Division II of the General Staff of the Polish Army);
- Jürgen Stroop's report – a unique document that clearly depicts the crime of the Holocaust;
- an album dedicated to Józef Piłsudski, containing original photos of the Marshall.



Card Index Files from AIPN Resources

Preserving the memory of those who fought and gave their lives so that we could live in a free country was the motivation behind the 2017 initiative, 'An Archive Full of Remembrance'. The goal is to develop 'National Remembrance' through the acquisition and safeguarding of priceless legacies and document collections that deal with the modern Polish history

We desire to encourage private individuals to donate document collections and memorabilia kept at home, those that show important events from Polish history as well as portraying unknown or forgotten family histories, as a testimony to the losses of Poles in the 20th century. After being donated to the Institute, these materials will become part of the national archival resources and will be processed and properly stored, conserved for many years with fitting care. Information regarding archival materials acquired under the auspices of the Archive of Full Remembrance will be published in guides available in IPN resources as well as in the archival records system – the Digital Archives.



Grave plaque of Franciszek Maszczak

In the case of heirlooms precious to the donor family, we only request the temporary loan of collections in order to make copies of them.

Examples of archival materials donated by private individuals as well as information on how to donate documents to the IPN collection can be found here on the Archive of Full Remembrance website:

[www.archiwumpamieci.pl](http://www.archiwumpamieci.pl)

Government files, photographs, memoirs and private letters, as well as diaries, journals, films, and audio and visual recordings demonstrating the losses of the Polish Nation from 1917-1990 can all be donated to the archival resources.



Documents of Tadeusz Starzyński, donated by Heather Milligan

Under the auspices of the AFR, valuable collections have come into our resources, including one donated by Heather Milligan of Edinburgh, Scotland, which contains a document concerning Tadeusz Starzyński, aka 'Raven'. He was the Commissioner of the National Police Headquarters in Warsaw before World War II broke out; from 1939-45 he was an officer of the Polish Armed Forces in the west and the Home Army as well as of the 'cichociemny' - the elite special operations paratroops of the Polish Army in exile.



Memorabilia collected by Wacław Szczygielski, aka 'Mars'

Searching for and sharing information about IPN resources can be done electronically. The most important of these means is the Digital Archive – the largest archival document database in Poland. In the DA system, one can discover information about all the materials stored in the Archives – record files, card files and audio-visual documentation. There is also information regarding the compilation, conservation and digitalization processes, as well as their location in the archives. The database also contains information at the level of personal transcripts as well as scans of file cards and chosen documents. The system is equipped with a range of search engines. The Digital Archive is currently an indispensable work tool for IPN archivists, as well as being a valuable aid for applicants making use of Institute resources.

CYFROWE  
ARCHIWUM  
ARCHIWUM NOWYCH MOŻLIWOŚCI



Archivist's work station

The Digital Archive is:

- More than 17 million descriptions of archival units,
- Over 4 million descriptions of file cards,
- Personal indexes (over 20 million records),
- Document scans.

The audio-visual resources are cited in the electronic archival system ZEUS. This application contains detailed information about the Institute's collection of photographs, films and audio recordings, as well as digital copies that allow a look at the materials. In the document descriptions one can find such details as the author, the date an event occurred, and visualizations of places and people. Inputting a query gives two search engines: simple and complex. Within the application, it is possible to order copies of chosen photos with higher resolution quality. Into this database we have already entered descriptions of more 130,000 records!

Universal access to information about the Institute's resources is guaranteed through the publication on the Internet of the *IPN Archival Inventory*, available here: [www.inwentarz.ipn.gov.pl](http://www.inwentarz.ipn.gov.pl). The *Inventory* is constantly being supplemented and ultimately is to contain descriptions of every archival specimen stored in the Institute. A dictionary of terms and detailed explanations regarding the functioning of state security organizations has been provided for the database in order to facilitate the interpretation of published data.

IPN archival inventory

The fundamental task of the IPN archival division is to make collected records available. Researchers and journalists use the archival materials donated to the Institute to prepare publications on the topic of 20<sup>th</sup> century historical events in Poland. Private individuals search the collection for documents personally affecting them or loved ones, which were created or compiled by state security organizations. An important group submitting applications is that made up of state administration and local government offices, courts, prosecutors' offices, law enforcement bodies and other entities; documents are made available to them in connection with the implementation of their legislative tasks.

As part of the document access application process, archivists carry out detailed searches in the Institute's inventory of records. Before sharing these with interested parties, the materials are compiled and digitalized.

Documents are available in IPN reading rooms throughout the entire country. Applicants can choose the site where a file will be made available to them. Readers can also take advantage of libraries that contain publications concerning contemporary Polish history. Researchers and journalists, after submitting an application, have the possibility to undertake autonomous searches in databases made available to them in the Digital Archive and ZEUS. Along with the progressive digitalization of Institute resources, there has been a corresponding increase in the number of archival materials provided in electronic form, aided by apps available in reading room workstations. Detailed information on the rules of information sharing, application forms and service guideline sheets for the realization of requests are all available on the IPN webpage: [www.ipn.gov.pl/pl/archiw/udostepnianie/rodzaje-realizowanych-w](http://www.ipn.gov.pl/pl/archiw/udostepnianie/rodzaje-realizowanych-w)

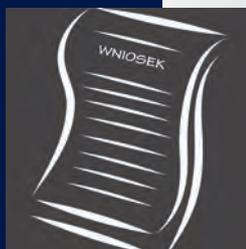


Records Reading Room, IPN Archives in Warsaw, 21 Kłobucka St.

Anyone can become acquainted with:

- Documents concerning themselves,
- Documents of deceased family members or loved ones
- Personal documents of an employee or functionary of security organizations,
- Information concerning individuals in public positions,
- Copies of files from lustration cases that ended with a binding court decision.

### Making IPN documents accessible:



Application

Search query in the record resources and electronic databases



Compilation and digitalization of selected files

Making files available in the reading room



The IPN Archives in Warsaw opened the Information Sharing Centre for Victims of World War II for the purpose of facilitating access to information about Poles and Polish citizens – victims of German and Soviet repression from 1939–1956.

The AIPN resource, being the basis for answers given by the Centre, is invaluable documentation obtained from the Chief Commission for the Investigation of Crimes Against the Polish Nation; it consists of materials created by state security offices and organs of the Third Reich, the Chief Commission itself and foreign institutes, plus the so-called eastern collections containing documents concerning Soviet repression. An enormous collection of information about victims of persecution is found in the International Tracing Service (ITS) base in Bad Arolsen and the Index of the Repressed, both at the disposal of the Institute of National Remembrance.

### The International Tracing Service (ITS) in Bad Arolsen

- Possesses data concerning the losses of more than 17 million people, including those imprisoned in penal institutions and concentration camps in addition to those exiled into forced labour;
- Has scans in the database which include work documents and registration cards, as well as materials recording the fate of displaced persons, i.e. refugees, who found themselves outside their homeland in time of war.

### The Index of the Repressed

- Has over one million records concerning individuals repressed by Soviet occupiers;
- Includes information from more than 30,000 individual surveys, registers of personal data, registration questionnaires, surveys for the Siberian Association's Book of the Dead, as well as personal data registers from the Eastern Archives' collection. The Institute of National Remembrance is the only institution in Poland having access to these applications.

Most people coming to the Centre are those seeking information about the wartime losses of loved ones. Archivists give answers based on detailed queries entered into the inventoried materials, indicating both Polish and foreign archives where one can find the information and documents that are sought after.

Questions to the Centre can be sent by email: [ofiary@ipn.gov.pl](mailto:ofiary@ipn.gov.pl),

By post: ul. Wołoska 7, 02-675 Warsaw (Poland)

By telephone: 0 22 566 25 61, 0 22 566 25 74.

In the case of email enquiries, it is necessary to give the degree of relationship to the person about whom information is desired, as well as a correspondence address.



Brochure cover promoting the Centre

*It= 13963 - 14000*

№ In.	Imię	Nazwisko	Wzrost	Wzrost	Wzrost	Wzrost	Wzrost	Wzrost	Wzrost
13963	Wł.	Wł.	1.7.20	13964	Wł.	1.8.20	13965	Wł.	1.9.20
13966	Wł.	Wł.	1.10.20	13967	Wł.	1.11.20	13968	Wł.	1.12.20
13969	Wł.	Wł.	1.1.21	13970	Wł.	1.2.21	13971	Wł.	1.3.21
13972	Wł.	Wł.	1.4.21	13973	Wł.	1.5.21	13974	Wł.	1.6.21
13975	Wł.	Wł.	1.7.21	13976	Wł.	1.8.21	13977	Wł.	1.9.21
13978	Wł.	Wł.	1.10.21	13979	Wł.	1.11.21	13980	Wł.	1.12.21
13981	Wł.	Wł.	1.1.22	13982	Wł.	1.2.22	13983	Wł.	1.3.22
13984	Wł.	Wł.	1.4.22	13985	Wł.	1.5.22	13986	Wł.	1.6.22
13987	Wł.	Wł.	1.7.22	13988	Wł.	1.8.22	13989	Wł.	1.9.22
13990	Wł.	Wł.	1.10.22	13991	Wł.	1.11.22	13992	Wł.	1.12.22
13993	Wł.	Wł.	1.1.23	13994	Wł.	1.2.23	13995	Wł.	1.3.23
13996	Wł.	Wł.	1.4.23	13997	Wł.	1.5.23	13998	Wł.	1.6.23
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Prisoner records, Dachau Labour Camp, Cat. No. IPN GK, 128/45

The Institute of National Remembrance also acts on behalf of persons who were involved in anti-communistic activities or those repressed for political reasons.

Since 2010 the archival department has participated in a program for the bestowment of state decorations – the Cross of Freedom and Solidarity – well deserved for activists from the anti-communist opposition. The President of the Polish Republic confers this order after application by the President of the Institute of National Remembrance. The decoration proceedings are based on the Institute’s archival resources, and initiated and carried out either by the IPN President or a community or professional organization. Archive staff members not only prepare and formulate the application for awarding the Cross of Freedom and Solidarity to the respective candidates, but they also participate in organizing the award ceremony.

Detailed information regarding the principles for awarding the Cross of Freedom and Solidarity, as well as application and declaration forms are available on the Institute website: [www.ipn.gov.pl/kwi](http://www.ipn.gov.pl/kwi)

The Institute of National Remembrance also participates in the proceedings for awarding the status of anti-communist opposition activist or politically repressed person. Individuals receiving this status can receive financial assistance as a form of compensation to the oppressed for their suffering during the communist period. The Director of the Office for Veterans and Victims of Repression grants this status. Applications to the Office for obtaining this status must be accompanied by the administrative decision of the President of the Institute of National Remembrance, issued on the basis of materials in the Institute’s Archives and evidence of opposition activities or repression. The archive division processes applications requesting the decision of the IPN President in such matters. One can also apply to the Institute to find and issue evidence confirming opposition activities or repression.

Detailed information as well as application forms can be found on the website: [www.opozycja.ipn.gov.pl](http://www.opozycja.ipn.gov.pl)



The Cross of Freedom and Solidarity medal



Ceremony to present the Cross of Freedom and Solidarity, Łódź 28 XI 2016



Ceremony to present the Cross of Freedom and Solidarity, Wrocław 4 XI 2016

The archive division actively participates in the research, editorial and promotional activities of the Institute. Its publishing output consists of over 100 books – source editions, archival aids and monographs. Among these are extensive editions of documents compiled in cooperation with partnering institutions from abroad.

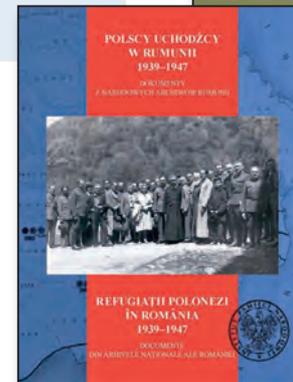
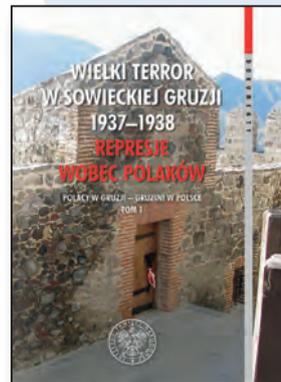
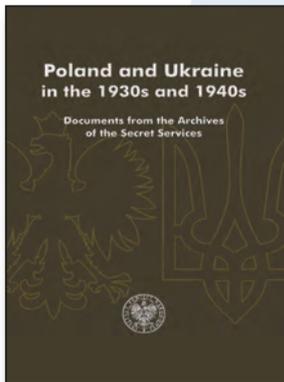
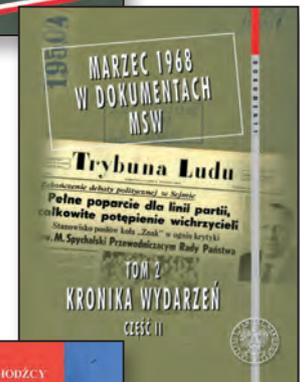
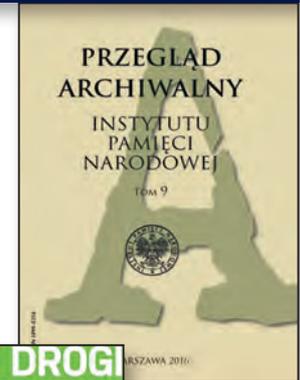
#### International publishing projects:

- Series “Poland and the Ukraine in the 1930-40’s. Unknown Documents from Special Services Archives” (Ukrainian Security Service Archives);
- Series “Poland and Lithuania in the 20th Century. Documents from Special Services Archives” (Centre for Research on Genocide and Lithuanian Resistance Movements and the Lithuanian Special Archive);
- Series “Poles in Georgia – Georgians in Poland” (MSW Archive in Georgia);
- Document collection of Polish refugees in Romania 1939-1947 (National Archives of Romania).

The professional journal *Archival Review of the Institute for National Remembrance*, published since 2008, has tremendous research value for its presentation of source, archival and historical research.

A forum for exchanging views between researchers has turned into a conference organized by the archival division in cooperation with other institutions. The IPN Archive conference in Warsaw, as well as the academic symposiums on archival topics prepared jointly with universities in Olsztyn and Torun have gained a cyclical character and are held under the auspices of the UNESCO World Day for Audiovisual Heritage. The deepening of knowledge and commitment to cooperation between humanities educators and archivists effectively serves the conference “Educare necesse est,” organized in Warsaw. It is necessary add the Łódź seminars in the cycle “Contemporary Challenges for Archivists”, to the most important conferences taking place under the Institute’s auspices, as well as the symposium prepared by the IPN Branch Archive in Poznan, together with Adam Mickiewicz University.

#### Book covers from the IPN Archive publishing house



The Archive has been opened to visitors in order to promote awareness of the Institute's mandate and its resources. The Museums at Night and Archives at Night events organized in the IPN Archive and also in Institute branches and delegations, make it possible to visit the repositories where the files are stored, as part of these events. Visitors have the possibility to see the current work of archivists at this time. The workshop on document preservation has enjoyed great interest - participants learn the principles for safekeeping documents and have a chance to 'repair' a specially prepared 'file'. Archive guests can also test their knowledge of history through games and competitions prepared by the archivists.



Poster for the 2017 Museums at Night in the IPN Archives



Museums at Night 2016 at the IPN office in Katowice



"I see you, I hear you..." – encounter with a document in the IPN Archives



Museums at Night 2017 in the IPN Archives

Workshops for teachers and archival lectures, conducted in the IPN Archive as well as the branch archives and delegations, are an important form of promoting awareness of the value of archival resources. During these lectures, the archivists discuss the details of documents and pupils have the possibility to work with unpublished sources as a way of learning about contemporary Polish history. Archive staff also take part in open meetings organized through the 'History Education Station', both in Poland and abroad. The activities above are complemented by lectures arranged in combination with visits to archival repositories for organized groups of Institute guests.



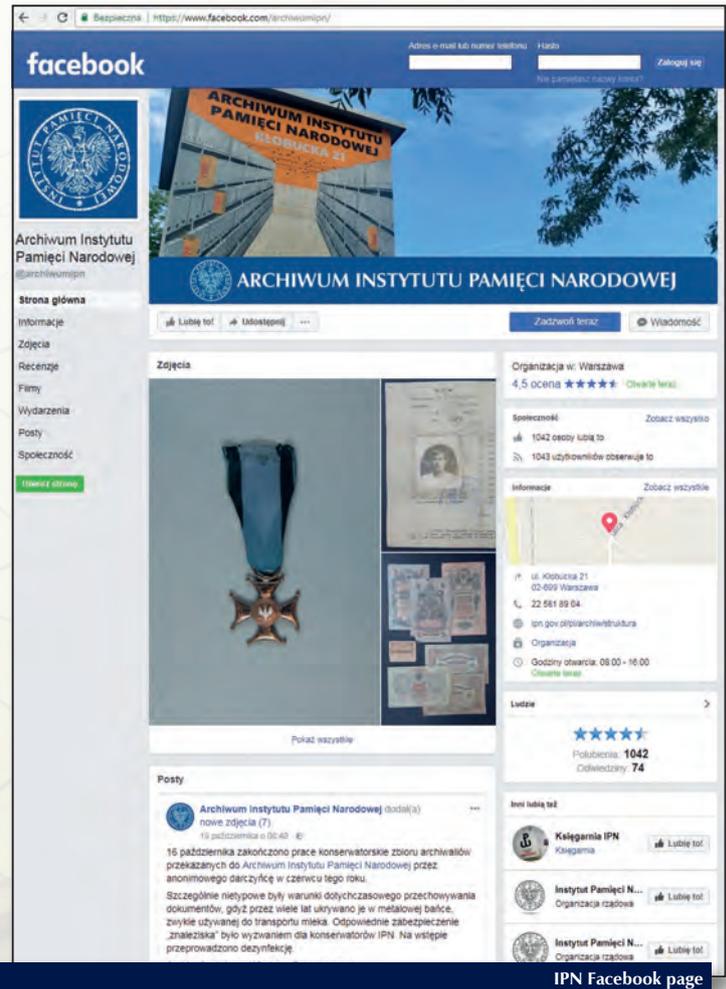
Museums at Night 2017 in the IPN Archives

The archival division also makes its presence known in the Internet, so as to promote awareness of the Institute's activities and the resources available there. Current information about important events in the life of the Archive can be found on its Facebook profile ([www.facebook.com/archiwumipn](https://www.facebook.com/archiwumipn)). There are also interesting documents and unique photographs from the Institute's resources featured on this site.

The first IPN thematic websites, prepared primarily by archivists, are now in place. The portal [www.trzeciapielgrzymka.ipn.gov.pl](http://www.trzeciapielgrzymka.ipn.gov.pl) contains document scans, photographs, films, maps and other interesting items from Pope John Paul II's last apostolic journeys to People's Poland. The website is systematically updated with new documents. Most of the materials here come from the archival legacy of the PRL security agencies, now stored in the IPN archives. Filling out these materials are documents and artefacts given by donors, which not only have historiographical worth but also artistic and sentimental value. The presentation of the 1987 pilgrimage is part of a larger project whose goal is to portray all of Pope John Paul's visits to Poland.

As a deliberate contrast, on the website [www.wybory1947.pl](http://www.wybory1947.pl), the archival division published documents and photographs which show the 1947 elections to the Legislative Sejm (Parliament) being falsified by the communists.

More presentations from Institute archival materials will be made available online in the future.



IPN Facebook page



The Third Pilgrimage portal



Elections 1947 portal

# The IPN Archives invite you!

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Delegatura in Radom	ul. Żeromskiego 53, 26-600 Radom; tel.: 48 368 24 00



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[www.facebook.com/archiwumipn](https://www.facebook.com/archiwumipn)

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