

1944 MURNAU OFLAG VII A, a POLISH PRISONER OF WAR charity initiative in aid of the POLISH RED CROSS

Murnau was first documented in 1150. It received the right to hold markets from Louis V, Duke of Bavaria.

In 1923 many citizens of Murnau took part in Hitler's putsch in Munich and received the blood order. In the 1924 Reichstag elections the Nazi party, who performed poorly overall in Germany, obtained nearly 33% of the vote in Murnau. In the March 1933 Reichstag elections, 55.8% of the voters of Murnau voted for the Nazi party. During the Nazi era (1938), Murnau am Staffelsee received a mountain troop garrison for the first time.

During World War II, Polish officers were incarcerated in the Werdenfeller barracks (later called Oflag VII A). The **Oflag VII-A Murnau** located 2 km (1.2 mi) north of the Bavarian town. The camp was created in September 1939. It consisted of an enclosure 200 m (660 ft) square, surrounded with barbed wire and guard towers. Immediately after the German invasion of Poland, at the beginning of World War II, some 1,000 Polish officers were imprisoned there. On 27th April 1942, additional Polish POWs were transferred there from the so-called "Generals' Camp" Oflag VIII-E in Johannisbrunn, Sudetenland (now Janské Koupele, Czech Silesia). After the failed Warsaw Uprising in the summer of 1944 and "Operation Tempest", January to July 1944, more prisoners were brought there from Poland. By early 1945 the number of POWs held in the camp had reached over 5,000.

The camps were liberated by troops of the U.S. 12th Armoured Division on 29th April 1945.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre (Polish: Bazylika Grobu Bożego) in Miechów, Poland, is a 14th-century Gothic basilica, with a nave and two aisles, incorporating some 13th-century Romanesque stonework. It received many privileges from Casimir of Bytom. Damaged by a fire, it was rebuilt in the late-Baroque style in the second half of the 18th century.

The origin and history of the church and monastery of the Canons of the Holy Sepulchre in Miechów, the oldest foundation of the Order outside of the Holy Land, date back to the 12th century. The monks guarding the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem were brought to Miechów, a town 35 km north to Kraków, by the knight and crusader, Jaksza Gryfita in 1163. The ultimate fall of the Kingdom of Jerusalem to the Muslims was in 1291. It was in Miechów that the oldest replica of the Holy Sepulchre in Europe, the goal of numerous pilgrims, has been preserved.



The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Miechów, Poland

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Reference: <https://www.filatelia.fi/experts/nameess.html> R M Pelteret Friday, 25 May 2018