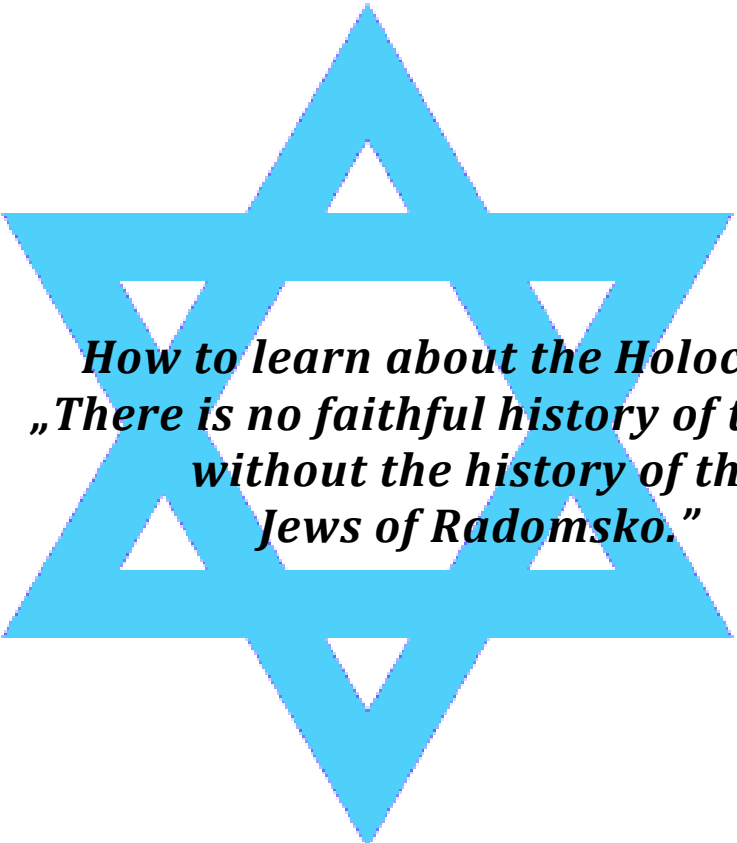


Number 9
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***How to learn about the Holocaust?
„There is no faithful history of the town
without the history of the
Jews of Radomsko.”***

Kino



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How to learn about the Holocaust?

Movies connected with the Holocaust have been in the centre of our interest since last year when we watched them during our film club lessons. The movie "The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler" made a great impression on us, especially the main character and her activity during World War II. We wrote about it in the third issue of "Kino" ("Cinema"), our school film magazine.

This year we have seen several movies i.e. "Jutro idziemy do kina" ("We are going to the cinema tomorrow") by Michał Kwieciński, "Schindler's List" by Steven Spielberg and some parts of "Korczak" by Andrzej Wajda. Our knowledge about the Holocaust has improved significantly. Three years ago some members of our club followed Szlak Czterech Kultur in Łódź (Trial of Four Cultures in Łódź). The members also visited the Jewish cemetery in Radomsko, where the ghetto area amazed us. While visiting it, we were guided by Ms Elżbieta Andrzejak – the president of Association of Israel Friends in Radomsko. Some of us have also visited Nazi extermination camps, Auschwitz and Birkenau. We decided to consolidate our knowledge and now we are familiar with such concepts as the Holocaust, ghetto, David's Star or Nazi camps.

Our film club takes part in the Polish project "Filmoteka Szkolna. Akcja!" ("School Video Library. Action!"). Organizers made a public competition for a student film inspired by the package of films from School Video Library.

That was the moment when the idea to make a project about the Holocaust came up to us.

The film which was an inspiration to make our competition picture is "Photo Amateur" by Dariusz Jabłoński. It tells the story of the



ghetto in Łódź on the base of the pictures, letters and reports of the German accountant, Walter Genewein. The film made a huge impression on us. Especially the relation of Genewein, the "perfectionist". The most important thing for him was documenting the work of "the factory" he created – the ghetto in Łódź. At that time, photography was the way of consolidation or seizing the moments and events by the photographer who was a witness.

Stanisław Sankowski Regional Museum in Radomsko issued an occasional newspaper to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. It became the source of information. We had read there fragments of the shocking diary of Miriam Haszczewicka, a young Jewish girl from Radomsko. That diary

was the historic source of our film, (in "Photo Amateur" photos play this role). It tells the story of the cruel days of the war and the situation of the Jews in Radomsko.

Our project is entitled "How to learn about the Holocaust? – There is no faithful history of the town without the history of the Jews of Radomsko" (Quotation from the occasional newspaper issued by Stanisław Sankowski Regional Museum in Radomsko).



As part of the project, we created:

- the multimedia presentation – "In Occupied Radomsko" by Aleksandra Nowak and Marta Ziemińska (class IIb),
- the film "Miriam" –by Jakub Choróbski (IIIa), Karol Pluciński (IIIa), Jacek Klimczak (IIIa), Martyna Drogosz (IIIa), Aleksandra Łęska (VIb), screenplay by Katarzyna Baryła (IIIC),
- the special issue of "Kino" ("Cinema") magazine devoted to the project – editor, Ada Weiss (IIIB), co-operation, Natalia Pieśniewska (IIIB),
- the film from the open lesson – Kornel Ostrowicz (IIb)

The summary of the project was the open lesson on 22.02.2011. We invited the representatives of various institutions in our town. Our invitation was accepted by:

- Elżbieta Andrzejak – the president of Association of Israel Friends in Radomsko.
- Krystyna Michalska – the manager of Film Promotion Department at Miejski Dom Kultury (Town Culture Centre) in Radomsko
- Krzysztof Zygmata – the director of Stanisław Sankowski Regional Museum in Radomsko;
- Maciej Ziemiński – an expert of Jewish history in Radomsko and popularizer of this history;
- Jacek Dróżdż –a reporter of "Dziennik Łódzki" (Łódź daily newspaper).

Among the lesson participants there were also our teachers and two elder friends, graduates of our school, now the students of the last class in I LO in Radomsko (High School number 1), Angelika Michalska and Martyna Ososińska. At the lesson, Aleksandra Łęska (VIb) read excerpts of Miriam's diary in a very moving way. Later, we could hear her as a voice-over in the film. The show of the film made a big impression on the audience. The lesson was led by Halina Kucharska, the teacher supervising the film club.

Editorial by the members of the film club in ZSG no. 5 (2010/2011)

Translated by
Anna Skrzypczyńska (class I d), Marcin Broszkiewicz (Ib), Piotr Klimczak (IIId) II LO (2011/2012)

The Ghetto in Radomsko



The one-day-newspaper was published by Stanisław Sankowski Regional Museum in Radomsko to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the German attack on Poland and the outbreak of the Second World War. It is the summary of events that took place in our town. The author reminds that 10th and 12th October 1942 was the time of liquidation of the ghetto in Radomsko, the housing area that was founded to concentrate Jewish community in one place. In the case of the residents of our town, the way to crematorium led from Radomsko to Treblinka. This publication was created on the base of the young

Jewess' diary, a resident of our town. That diary is in the collection of Regional Mu-



seum in Radomsko.

We learn from the newspaper that the ghetto was created in December 1939. In the spring of 1940 7000 people lived there. The Jewish district in Radomsko included the following streets: Radomska, Fabiani, Stodolna, Wąwozowa, Rolna,



Szpitalna (today Wyszyński), Joselewicz and Mickiewicz. We can introduce ourselves to the appearance of these places examining photographs placed in the publication.





The ghetto was a transitional stage to the total extermination of the Jewish population. Living conditions were very hard. Illnesses spread, medicines weren't available and food rations were far from satisfactory. Each day, people were forced to work a dozen hours or more.

The total extermination of Jews started in autumn 1942. In October, residents of the ghetto in Radomsko were taken to



the extermination camp in Treblinka. Jewish minority living in Radomsko was practically liquidated. It is believed that only several dozen of Jews of Radomsko survived the German occupation.

Largely, this publication consists of the fragments of the diary, describing touching experiences of a certain Jewish family. They often starved, lived in abject poverty

and constant fear, just like the majority of the Jews living there. In order to learn more, it is necessary to read the diary "from the terrible time", the expression used by the author herself.

Poland was a place where the Nazi organized ghettos as well as labour and extermination camps. However, those were never Polish camps.

This one-day-newspaper was an inspi-



ration to lead an open lesson at our school.

Written by Aleksandra Adamek (class II b) ZSG no. 5 (2010/2011)

Translated by Maciej Szymański (IIId) II LO (2011/2012)



„Miriam”

"Miriam" was a film made by film club students. Jakub Choróbski was the director and the inspiration was Miriam Haszczewicka's impressive diary as well as the film entitled "Photo Amateur". This film entered Filmoteka Szkolna.



Akcja! (School Video Library. Action!) competition. It was chosen as one of the top 10 productions of this type in Poland and got the third prize in the Internet user's voting.

The film makers:

Jakub Choróbski (class IIIa) - He is a very ambitious and creative man.





He has made a few films. Kuba's round face is framed by curly, brown hair.

Jacek Klimczak (IIIa) - He is the one who tames the savage beasts and eases the tension. He had his own début in "Eco-Logic" film, which was made for "Tesco for schools" competition. Karol Pluciński (IIIa) - He is a mild and determined man. His deep voice was ideal for being a voice-over. "Miriam" was his début; he was the second director.

Aleksandra Łęska (VIb) - She has a beautiful voice, so her role in the film was to read Miriam's diary, as a voice-over. She was an all-Poland declamation contest laureate. The

contest was entitled „Upon my word” and it was held under the patronage of Jan Miodek, a famous Polish professor of linguistics.

Martyna Drogosz (IIIa) - She played the main role in the film and she can sing, too. Martyna likes wearing earrings. Sometimes her ears are full of them.

Written by Katarzyna Żak (class II b) ZSG no. 5 (2010/2011)

Translated by Katarzyna Żak (Id) II LO (2011/2012)



Excerpts of Miriam's diary ...

Miriam: *I am not sure if I live through these times to read this diary one day in the future so that I could recall all memories from my youth. If I don't, I hope that somebody, even a German, will read it and find out how the Jewish youth used to live in these hardest times*



Tuesday 29th of April 1941

I've started to believe, maybe I've always believed, that youth is a gift which we can't replace by anything. My youth takes place in horrible conditions but I used to believe in the future much stronger than anybody else. At the meetings we often recall beautiful, old songs about better future. (...) Last Friday I made everybody sitting in my flat laugh saying: "I am only 16 and he (Hitler) is over 50 so I will definitely live longer than him." Who may know that?

Tuesday 13th of May 1941

We feel the lack of bread again. Dad eats almost nothing. Parcels with food are sent to other towns from Radomsko every day. In letters which we receive people describe terrible stories. (...) Daytime's beautiful, spring is all around, only our hearts are heavy, not ready for this season and still not alive.

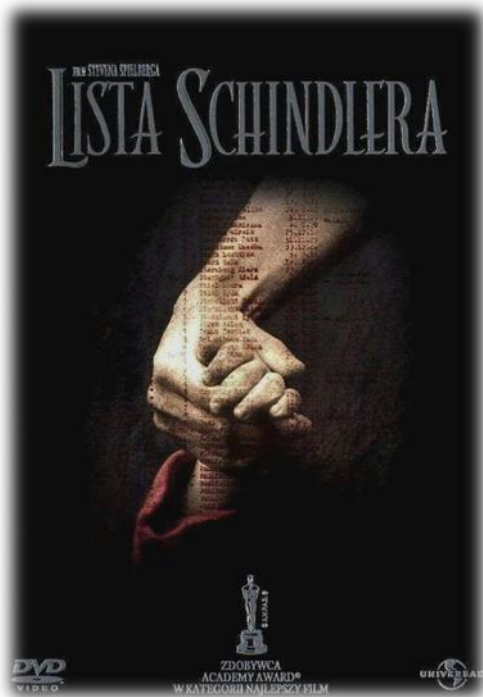
Tuesday 2nd of September 1942

It has been 3 years since the first bombardment. There haven't been any signs of war end so far. But the end of Jews is inevitably coming. I'm not able to describe all this cruelty which we meet every day. Days are getting hotter. Hot in two meanings. We can't stand this boiling hot weather. Pressure keeps growing every day. Jews are thrown out of their houses. (...) Germans want to separate the Jews from the Poles and that is their main goal now. We can't expect anything good.

Written by
Miriam Haszczewicka in 1942

Translated by
Agata Zienkiewicz (Ib) II LO (2011/2012)

Lista Schindlera (Schindler's List)



Directed by: Steven Spielberg

Written by: Steven Zaillian

Release dates:

30th November 1993 (World)

31st December 1993 (Poland)

Country: USA

Genre: War drama

The film is based on facts and tells the story of the events from the World War II times. The main character is Oskar Schindler. He was the German industrialist who saved more than 1000 Jews.

In 1995, in the centenary of cinema's birth, Spielberg's movie was placed on the Vatican's list of 45 feature films which propagate special, religious, moral and artistic values.

Oskar Schindler, a German entrepreneur, arrives in occupied Kraków and sets up a factory of enamelled dishes (Deutsche Emailwarenfabrik – D.E.F.). The local Jews, forced by German occupants, form free manpower. Schindler's possessions increase while he himself is gaining fame and respect in Kraków, particularly among German officers. On the other hand, the situation of Jews is getting worse. In 1942, the Endlösung plan ('the final solution of the Jewish question') comes into effect. Kraków's ghetto is gradually being liquidated and people are taken to the camp called Konzentrationslager Plaszow bei Krakau in Kraków Płaszów. The people able to work will have to work there and the others, women, children, elders, will die. Seeing this, Schindler decides to save the Jews from the extermination. The people considered needless are bought out by him as workers of his factory.

Written by the members of the film club in ZSG no. 5 (2010/2011)

Translated by Jakub Kaczmarek (Id) II LO (2011/2012)

“Photo Amateur”



Hundreds of colorful slides from the Second World War were found in one of Vienna antique shops in 1987. It turned out that the slides showed some scenes of the life in the ghetto in Łódź. They had been made by Walter Genewein, the Austrian citizen serving the German machine war. Those slides were the first works of that kind in the history of photography.

Genewein was an accountant. During all the time of ghetto's existence he was working on the accounting system so well that finally he was promoted to the position of the main accountant in the Ghetto's Management. Everything was recorded there extremely carefully: thousands of

straw braids that were produced by Jews living in Łódź, brushes, coats, trousers, pants, bras, corsets; thousands of people that died from tuberculosis, heart diseases and malnutrition; thousands of Jews taken to the ghetto from cities other than Łódź; thousands of people exported to Chełmno to die. Performing his duties, Genewein, the enthusiastic amateur photographer, was taking photos with a confiscated camera for a few years. He had some problems with it. He was not always satisfied with colors of the photos, so he corresponded in that issue with "Agfa", the company that produced colorful films.

Geneweins slides were used by movie makers to show the ghetto in Łódź and its inhabitants' story. They added comments to those pictures which included quotations from the main accountant's request about his release from prison. The request was found in ghetto's archives. They were juxtaposed with the memories of Arnold Mostowicz, a doctor in the ghetto, who now is the only living witness of the extermination. Black-and-white photographs, made these days in the place where the ghetto used to be, were also a part of this juxtaposition. It was shocking because the accountant's photographs show reality as if it had been ordinary and innocent, which didn't show the truth about the Jewish part of the city, where a few thousand people were subordinated

to one purpose. They were supposed to do nothing but produce, produce and produce. People who weren't able to do that didn't eat and died or were exported to die. After some time their clothes came back to the ghetto. They were washed and reused. Paradoxically, because of that the ghetto in Łódź could exist even when the Germans had liquidated other ghettos in Poland taking Jewish people to extermination camps. 'Photo Amateur' was awarded at many film festivals in 1998 because of its special history value. This documentary film got an award of FICC (International Federation of Film Clubs) at International Festival of Short Films in Cracow, Prix Europe in the category of Documentary Film at 'Prix Europe' Festival in Berlin, the Prize of the President of Łódź at Media Festival 'Human in Danger' in Łódź and Grand Prix (Ioris Iven's Prize) at International Festival of Documentary Films in Amsterdam.

Written by Ada Weiss (class III b) ZSG no. 5 (2010/2011)

Translated by Agnieszka Galewicz (Ib) and Monika Binkowska (Id) II LO (2011/2012)

ZSG no. 5 and II LO co-operation

ZSG nr 5 im. Henryka Sienkiewicza (Primary School and Junior High School Complex no.5 in Radomsko) decided to co-operate with II LO im. K. K. Baczyńskiego w Radomsku (K.K. Baczyński High School no. 2 in Radomsko).

Last year the students of ZSG no. 5 took part in the project devoted to the Holocaust. This year some of them have become the students of II LO. When they heard that there will be some guests from Israel in their former school, they eagerly decided to translate into English their texts and the text of their friends from "Kino". It is the school film magazine created by the students of ZSG no. 5. A lot of other students from II LO got interested in the idea and so we can now observe the effects of their common work.

The original texts were checked by Halina Kucharska, ZSG no. 5 teacher. The translations were revised by Natalia Król, II LO teacher.