

FIGHTING AND SUFFERING.

POLISH CITIZENS DURING WORLD WAR II.

At dawn on September 1st 1939 the German Reich invades Poland, starting World War II. The war first spreads in Europe, and then expands throughout the entire world, leading to the greatest catastrophe in the history of humankind that will cost the lives of several million innocent victims.

One week before the outbreak of the war, on August 23rd 1939, Hitler and Stalin sign a pact, commonly known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. It contains a secret protocol which divides Central and Eastern Europe into spheres of influence, in clear violation of international law.

On September 17th 1939 the Red Army invades eastern Poland. Stalin's alliance with Hitler will last until June 22nd 1941 when the German Reich attacks the USSR.

The tragedy of the most terrible war will go on for nearly 6 years and change the world forever.

This exhibition tells the story of the Polish struggle against the totalitarian regimes, the love of freedom and the heroism to save others, the courage of soldiers and ordinary people, the brotherhood of arms and the fight for the freedom of other countries – all of these deserve our remembrance.

Today, our memory of the tragedy of World War II unites generations and remains an expression of utmost respect for the sacrifices of our forebears.

Poland – this is where the story began.

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