

TARNÓW

"If you want to revere the fallen heroes, give your hearts to the earth, which hides them."

One of the many curiosities that distinguish Tarnowski and Gorlicki districts in Małopolska as well as the whole country are, surviving till this day, military cemeteries from World War I.

Within the boundaries of these two districts there are over 200 such cemeteries. Such an abundance of necropolises reminds us of bloody battles which took place in western Galicia (including those in the close surroundings of Tarnów and Gorlice) in 1914 and 1915 between Russian and Austro Hungarian armies.

Located on the sites of battles, often grown over, are an important and characteristic reminder of history of this country. Poles, Austrians, Russians, Bosnians, Czechs and Italians are buried here.

Cemeteries from World War I are interesting architectural monuments, that teach humanitarian respect for all that have fallen on equal rights. They are also a memorial to the past years as well as a tourist attraction to those visiting the districts. Located on the tourist tracks and marked in a convenient way, allow tourists to easily find them and reflect on the past.

Those visiting the Tarnów Region, we suggest an unusual trip, by car, bicycle or on foot on the trail of cemeteries from World War I.

Here are the most interesting sites that you'll find on a proposed by us trail.

MILITARY CEMETERIES FROM WORLD WAR ONE









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Military cemetery N° 167, Ryglice

Cemetery designed by Heinrich Scholz, located on a side of a hill, 250 meters from the city center. Build on a rectangular base, it stands out because of a stone wall and a characteristic half circle gate covered in shingles. There are 30 mass tombs and 166 single graves, in which 187 soldiers from the Austro Hungarian army and 125 soldiers from the Russian army are buried.

Military cemetery N° 158, Ogonówka Garbek

Heinrich Scholz designed this cemetery basing on a square surrounded by a wooden fence, at the center of which a cross with a sculpture of Christ, stands. It's located beside the local road from Tuchów to Meszna Opacka. Thanks to care from local residents, it has survived till this day in a very good condition. There are, 5 Poles from the 1st and 5th regiment of the Legions Infantry (fell between 20-22XII 1914), 27 soldiers from the Austro Hungarian and 10 soldiers from the Russian Army, buried here.

Military cemetery N° Nr 175, Poreba Radlna

Cemetery on the back of Słona Góra is also a creation of Heinrich Scholz. Characteristic to this necropolis is a wooden cross with a characteristic sculpture of Christ, covered with a shingled roof. In the years 2000-2001 cemetery was thoroughly renovated. In each tomb equal number of soldiers are buried (37 in each) from both sides of the conflict.

Cemetery of the Polish Legioners N° 171, Łowczówek

This cemetery designed by Siegfried Haller and Heinrich Scholz is a main place of rest for legionnaires fallen in one of the biggest battles fought by the I st. Brigade. The central point of the necropolis is a grand chapel. Its roof is supported by columns and inside we'll find and alter with a carving of an eagle on an antependium. Enclosure of the cemetery is a stone wall covered by shingles. Graves in this cemetery conceal 113 Poles from the 1st and 5th regiment of the Legions Infantry, 159 Austro Hungarian Soldiers and 239 Russians.

Military cemetery N° 185, Lichwin "sugar head"

A grand cemetery on the top of a hill Gródek, from which a beautiful panorama of Podgórze Karpackie can be seen. The dominant theme is a memorial in a form of a cut pylon made from cobblestones. Heinrich Scholz designed it in order to commemorate the battle for Gorlice, fought in 1915. This cemetery is the second, after cemetery nr 193 in which the designer left untouched uncovered trenches and bomb craters. In 266 tombs there are 273 soldiers from the Austro Hungarian army and 341 Russian soldiers buried.

Military cemetery N° 150, Chojnik

We can find his cemetery on the Ciężkowice Tarnów Road. It is located on two terraces. The dominating element of the place is a monument in a shape of a pedestal topped off with a stylized head of a fighter in an ancient helmet. This was Heinrich Scholz's favorite sculpting motif. Buried here are 13 Austro Hungarian soldiers and 27 Russian soldiers.

Military cemetery N° 184, Brzozowa

This small cemetery is located next to a road side shrine in Podlesie. It was reconstructed in 2001 and its original look designed by Heinrich Scholz was restored. 78 Austro Hungarian and 25 Russian soldiers are buried In 7 mass grave and 24 individual ones.

Military cemetery N° 191, Lubcza Szczepanowska

One of the most representative and best preserved cemeteries in the Tarnów region, designed by Heinrich Scholz. It is located on the edge of the forest, beside the road from Lubcza to Dąbrówka Szczepanikowska. Central spot in the cemetery is taken up by a large monument. Its pedestal is decorated by a carving of an ancient helmet. The head is decorated by stone oak laurels. The cemetery is a place of final rest for 93 Austro Hungarian and 111 Russian soldiers.

Military cemetery N° 192, Lubcza Szczepanowska

Cemetery was placed beside the road from Lubinka to Janowice, in accordance to designs of Gustav Rossmann. The dominant feature of this cemetery is a centrally located chapel with an open passage. At 17 meters high, it is the biggest in western Galicia. It is covered by a shingle roof, topped off with a lantern. Chapel is opened and inside we find an alter with a tall cross. Bodies of 457 Austro Hungarian and 218 Russian Soldiers are buried here.

Military cemetery N° 193, Dąbrówka Szczepanowska

This is a second cemetery, designed by Heinrich Scholz, that utilizes parts of original fortifications and bomb craters. It stands out because of a large monument in a shape of pyramid on a high pedestal with engravings in German language. It is composed from two quarters Austrian, located next to the monument and a Russian one. Soldiers buried here were in the Austro Hungarian and Russian armies.