

Description by Mariusz Winiecki:

“On Friday, July 26th, our kind guests have visited the local museum in Szubin and have learned about the history of POW camps in Szubin including Oflag 64. They have also visited the exhibition dedicated to the WWII in Szubin. After that Anna has interviewed Mrs. Benigna Olszewska who shared with us touching war story of her family living for generations (since 17th century) in Szubin. Mrs. Olszewska was telling us how the Germans had put her family to flight and about displacements of Polish people away from Szubin when WWII started. She was also telling about the spontaneously and neighborly organized help and how the local inhabitants of Szubin used to help to POWs during their attempts of escape from the camp.

The next stage of the tour was the visit on the camp terrains and in Reform School hosted by my friend Mieczysław Luchowski and Tomasz Kmiec. We have a special assistance from Mr. Hyży, the eye-witness of camp, and Mrs. Mariola Polańska, the local historian of Szubin. Mr. Hyży was the priceless guide on our tour who also has mentioned his visits in camp and interactions with POWs. As a young boy, he has worked in sawmill, which was nearby the camp and he has told us that they also used to organize help for US officers who as volunteers worked in sawmill. He with his friends used to gather eggs and give it to them with other spontaneously gathered food. He also, as an assistant of electrician, had permission to enter the camp terrains. He was twice inside the theatre barrack, as he has recalled. He has told us that the POWs were allowed to leave the camp and to go for the "parole walks" in direction to the nearby lake, where they used to swim during the scorching days. We all have learned many interesting facts regarding the times where the American officers were here, but also regarding the previous camps for RAF pilots, which was at the same place. Mr. Hyży showed us where Kriegies used to dig a tunnel. We all have visited the carpenter's shop, where the scale model is built and finished our tour at the office of the Reform School Director, Mr. Wiesław Guzinski.

The last stage of the tour was meeting with Mr. Roman Dudziak, who's grandfather has saved live of Frank Diggs and Nelson Tacy hiding them in his house after they have escaped the Long March in 1945. Mr. Dudziak has recalled this story as heard from his father Jan Dudziak, as well as, he has told us about the friendship between Diggs and Dudziak families lasting for today and about all their reunions.”