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Skarżysko-Kamienna

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Coordinates: 51°07′N 20°54′E

Skarżysko-Kamienna [skarˈʒɨsko kaˈmiɛn : a] (listen) is a town in northern Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship in Poland by Kamienna river, to the north of Świętokrzyskie Mountains; one of the voivodship's major towns. Prior to 1928, it bore the name of *Kamienna*; in less formal contexts usually only the first part of the name (*Skarżysko*) is used. It belongs to historic Polish province of Lesser Poland.

Skarżysko-Kamienna is an important railroad junction, with two main lines (Kraków - Warsaw and Sandomierz - Kuluszki) crossing there.

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History [edit]

In 1173, the knights' congress gathered in Milica village (now the town's district) led by Casimir II The Just.

1800s [edit]

Around 1885 Kamienna became an important rail junction on the newly built Ivangorod-Dąbrowa Railway. The main line of the railway connecting Ivangorod (Dęblin) and Dąbrowa Górnicza ran through the town from north to south, and two branch lines to Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski and Koluszki radiated from the town east and west, respectively. This spurred the growth of Kamienna from a village into a sizeable town by 1920, when it had about 20 enterprises employing 1000 workers, as well as railway workshops employing an additional 1000 workers.^[1]

1900s [edit]

In 1923, the commune of Kamienna was granted the status of a town. In 1922 the government of Poland decided to build an ammunition factory in Kamienna, to be called *Państwowa Fabryka Amunicji* or National Ammunition Factory (functioning today under the name *Zakłady Metalowe MESKO SA*). It began production in 1924 supplying munitions to the Polish Army. It employed 2760 workers in 1932, over 3000 in 1936, and over 4500 in 1939, becoming the principal employer in the town and driving its growth.^[1]

In 1928, town's name was changed to Skarżysko-Kamienna. In 1937 the town had 19,700 inhabitants, among them 2,800 Jews (about 14% of the total).^[2]

German occupation of Skarżysko-Kamienna (1939-1945) [edit]

Following the September 1939 invasion of Poland by Germany, Skarżysko-Kamienna was under German occupation until liberated by the Soviet army in January, 1945. The Germans took over the ammunition factory to support their own war effort, and from 1940 it was controlled by the company Hugo Schneider Aktiengesellschaft or HASAG, which ran it as a subcontractor for the Wehrmacht.^[2]

The ghetto for the town's Jewish population was established by the Germans in April or May, 1941. Between August 1942 and summer of 1943 Jews from all over the Radom district were brought to three camps surrounding the munitions factory and forced to work there. According to German records, of the total 17,210 brought in with 58 transports, 6,408 managed to survive long enough to be evacuated to other camps when the Germans closed the factory in 1944. The ghetto was liquidated in October, 1942, with some inhabitants judged fit for work moved to the factory labour camps (about 500 out of 3000), and the rest were transported to Treblinka and murdered there.^[2] In the major monograph on the subject, *Death Comes in Yellow* by Felicja Karay, it is estimated that, given the incompleteness of German records which likely underestimate the number of inmates, about 25,000 Jewish inmates were brought into the camp and 7,000 were evacuated from it, giving about 18,000 as the total number who died there.^[3]

In 1940, the Germans carried out mass executions of Poles (360 people executed in February and 760 in June).^[1]

Several scenes of Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List* were filmed at MESKO.

Skarżysko-Kamienna

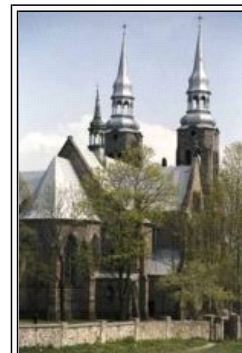


Coat of arms



Coordinates: 51°07′N 20°55′E

Country	 Poland
Voivodeship	Świętokrzyskie
County	Skarżysko
Gmina	Skarżysko-Kamienna (urban gmina)
Town rights	1923 as Kamienna
Government 	
 • Mayor	Roman Wojcieszek
Area 	
 • City	64.16 km ² (24.77 sq mi)
Elevation 	250 m (820 ft)
Population (2011)	
 • City	48,580
 • Density	760/km ² (2.000/sq mi)
 • Metro	79,470
Time zone	CET (UTC+1)
 • Summer (DST)	CEST (UTC+2)
Postal code	26-110
Area code(s)	+48 41
Car plates	TSK
Website	http://www.skarzysko.pl



The Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

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1945 and later [edit]

On January 18, 1945 the town was liberated. The few Jewish survivors from Skarżysko-Kamienna returned to the town in the winter of 1945-1946 to retrieve their property but were met with open hostility.^[2] In February 1946 five Jewish residents were murdered by local Polish men.^[2] The murderers, among them the head of the town police and another policeman, were put to trial in Łódź, and three of them got the death penalty. The remaining Jews left Poland.^[4]

In 1948 the leading HASAG managers were tried in Leipzig, then in the part of Germany occupied by the Soviet Union. Of the 25 tried, 4 were sentenced to death, 2 to life in prison, and 18 to terms between one and five years.^[2]

In 1969, The White Eagle Museum was established. And in 1999, Skarżysko County was established as a result of the Local Government Reorganization Act (1998).

Attractions [edit]

- The White Eagle Museum** (Polish: Muzeum im. Orła Białego) - a regional museum with a large outdoor display of military equipment, most items dating back to the World War II period.
 - indoor display - uniforms, ammunition, pistols and smaller guns, soldier equipment, photographs and documents
 - outdoor display - one of Poland's few ships displayed onshore (*torpedo boat Odważny - The Brave*), planes, tanks (including one of world's few preserved *Sturmgeschütz IV* vehicles), helicopters, cannons, etc.

International relations [edit]

See also: List of twin towns and sister cities in Poland

Twin towns — Sister cities [edit]

Skarżysko-Kamienna is **twinned** with:

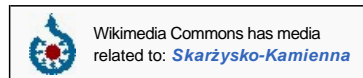
- Stafford
- Żmerynka
- Kavama

See also [edit]

- List of cities in Poland

External links [edit]

- Skarżysko Kamienna on Facebook - Skarżysko Kamienna on Facebook
- Skarzysko.pl - official site of the town's municipality (Polish) (English) (German)
- Skarżysko-Kamienna On-line - town's unofficial site (language - Polish; direct access to the sections below)
 - Historical and contemporary photographs of the town
 - Photographs of the outdoor display of the White Eagle Museum (*Muzeum Orła Białego*)
 - Information about the White Eagle Museum (in English)
- Skarżysko24.pl - unofficial site (language - Polish; several other language versions are available through Google Translate service)



References [edit]

- ↑ ^{*abc*} Official city website - history section
- ↑ ^{*abcdef*} Geoffrey P. Megargee, Christopher Browning, Martin Dean, The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933-1945: Ghettos in German-Occupied Eastern Europe, Indiana University Press, 2012, pp. 308-311
- ↑ Felicja Karay, Death Comes in Yellow: Skarżysko-Kamienna Slave Labor Camp, Taylor & Francis, 1997
- ↑ Source: Pinkas Hakehilot Encyclopaedia of Jewish Communities, Poland, Vol. VII, Districts Lublin, Kielce, *Yad Vashem*, Martyrs' and Heros' Remembrance Authority, Jerusalem 1999

VTE	Gminas of Skarżysko County		
Seat	Skarżysko-Kamienna (urban gmina)		
Urban-rural gmina	Gmina Suchedniów		
Rural gminas	Gmina Bliżyn Gmina Łączna Gmina Skarżysko Kościelne		

Categories: Cities and towns in Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship | Skarżysko County

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