

# Trails of Hope. The Odyssey of Freedom

<https://szlakinadziei.ipn.gov.pl/sne/exposures/10008,Lezajsk.html>  
29.04.2024, 05:33

LEZAJSK

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## Exposures

Lezajsk is one of the oldest cities in southeastern Poland. From 1346 comes the first historically confirmed information about the existence of Lezajsk. It was here that Elimelech Weissblum, a Jewish rabbi, one of the first tzaddik in the history of Judaism and one of the most prominent representatives of Hasidism, was born. Until the partitions, this city was an important area of economic development in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

During World War II, the Germans burned down the Lezajsk synagogue and repressed the local population (including the intelligentsia). During the following months, the Jewish population was deprived of all rights, being placed in a ghetto. On May 28, 1943, a pacification of the town was carried out. As a result, the Germans murdered 47 residents of Lezajsk.

After the Red Army entered in late July 1944, the Land of Lezajsk was once again under brutal occupation, this time by the Red Army. In addition, the area around Lezajsk was a constant battlefield for partisans of various formations. By decision of the communist authorities, the Ukrainian population located on the territory of the city was displaced to the Soviet Union. The rest of this population was sent to the Western Territories as part of the „Operation Vistula”.

Today the city is an important economic point on the map of Poland. In addition, it is famous for the miraculous image of the Virgin Mary, the unusual organ in the historic basilica and the grave of the famous tzaddik Elimelech.

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## Jadwiga Piłsudska (1920-2014)

Daughter of Marshal Józef Piłsudski, a Polish pilot, who served in the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) during the Second World War.

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