During the last – XIX – celebration of the competition’s summing-up, on March 30th 2016, we were deeply touched by former death camps prisoners’ – Jerzy Fijołek and Ignacy Artur Krasnokucki – harrowing testimonies. A month later they passed away and went to fulfill their eternal watch. WE PAY TRIBUTE TO THEM!

Jerzy Józef Fijołek was born on July 8th, 1936 in Warsaw, died on May 4th, 2016 in Tychy. He spent his childhood with his parents and four siblings in Warsaw. During the Warsaw Uprising he was hiding in the cellars of the Bristol Hotel. On August 12th, 1944 he was deported to KL Auschwitz at the age of 8, along with his father, mother, and his sister – Stanisława. In January 1945 he was imprisoned in Berlin in one of Sachsenhausen’s sub-camps, where he worked physically decluttering the city after bombings. After May 9th 1945 he came back to Szopienice, Aluminum Processing Industry in Górowo, where he died on December 12th, 1944. His camp number was 192609. He was schooled in Lublin, then he moved to Łódź with his family and there they were surprised by the occupation. After the war he married Anna Krasnokucka. They have a daughter named Elżbieta. After having divorced he married Elżbieta Szymańska. They have a son – Jacek. He graduated from Technical University in Wrocław in 1950s and after that from a University of Engineering in Lublin. He moved to Silesia and worked for: United Mining and Metallurgy ‘Metale’, a smelter in Warsaw, after that he lived in Paczków. He went to primary school there. After having finished a vocational school of metal works he worked for Famur in Katowice and for a hard coal mine in Myślice – Wesoła. In 1959 he settled in Tychy, married Helena Koziołek one year later. As a pensioner he shared his knowledge on KL Auschwitz Birkenau with the youth multiple times: ‘When I went to school in Miodowa Street in 1943 our teacher taught us how to hide our Polish notebooks in our trousers or under our sweaters, because Polish language was forbidden. On one day at school I was forced to watch an execution of ten hostages. Fear. I was only 7 back then…’

Another memory: it was right after Christmas, in the beginning of 1945. After the evening assembly the Germans read out my number, along with 50 other kids’ numbers. They took us to a shanty next to the crematorium. We thought they were going to put us in a gas chamber in the morning. We all prayed as we could. The Germans came at dawn, told us to strip and gave us civilian clothes with red crosses painted on them. They lead us to a train comprising of freight cars. They were filled with valuables stolen from the prisoners. We were taken to Berlin escorted by German soldiers. We vegetated there until May 9th – the war’s end. After that we moved towards the Oder river – towards beloved Poland.

I have survived. My mum and siblings have survived, too. We have looked for a trace of my father for 30 years. Only then a notification came from Germany that my father was taken from Auschwitz to Flossenburg, where he died on December 12th, 1944. His camp number was 192609. ‘He hadn’t been as lucky as we had.’

Ignacy Artur Krasnokucki was born on April 8th, 1925 in Lublin, died on May 9th, 2016 in Tychy. He was schooled in Lublin, then he moved to Łódź with his family and there they were surprised by the occupation. After the war he married Anna Krasnokucka. They have a daughter named Elżbieta. After having divorced he married Elżbieta Szymańska. Why? ‘They were the only one – Jacek. He graduated from Technical University in Wrocław in 1950s and after that from a University of Engineering in Lublin. He moved to Silesia and worked for: United Mining and Metallurgy ‘Metale’, a smelter in Warsaw, after that he lived in Paczków. He went to primary school there. After having finished a vocational school of metal works he worked for Famur in Katowice and for a hard coal mine in Myślice – Wesoła. In 1959 he settled in Tychy, married Helena Koziołek one year later. As a pensioner he shared his knowledge on KL Auschwitz Birkenau with the youth multiple times: ‘When I went to school in Miodowa Street in 1943 our teacher taught us how to hide our Polish notebooks in our trousers or under our sweaters, because Polish language was forbidden. On one day at school I was forced to watch an execution of ten hostages. Fear. I was only 7 back then…’

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I Aims of competition:
- to disseminate the historical truth about Auschwitz and the Holocaust
- to commemorate victims and cultivate respect for nations which experienced the mass murder
- fine art reflections of young participants inspired by words “people doomed people to this fate”.

II Subject matter:
1. Deported families and the camp reality.
2. The story of August Kowalczyk and other KL Auschwitz inmates’ imprisonment, such as Jerzy Fijołek and Artur Krasnokucki.
3. Solidarity between prisoners of various nationalities.
4. The role of museums and memorial sites in commemorating and disseminating knowledge about Auschwitz and the Holocaust.
5. Survivors’ contribution, the last witnesses of the history, as an inspiration for reflection and remembrance about the mass murder.
6. Thoughts of young people after visiting Auschwitz, a German Nazi concentration and death camp.

III Organizers
Ministry of National Education, the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Oświęcim, The Kossak Family Artists Youth Culture Centre No 1 in Tychy.

IV Co-organizers

V Foreign partners

VI Terms and conditions of competition (printed and glued on the revers)
1. The competition is for children and young people participating in activity clubs organized by various institutions and students from all types of schools.
2. Are groups: 11-15 years, 16-21 years old.
3. Technique: free (excluding glass painting).
4. Size: engraving A-4 or A-3, painting, drawing, collage, tapestry (max 50-70 cm).
5. Works without frames, in pass-partout; collective works are not accepted.
6. Clear full particulars:
   a) Title;
   b) Name and age of the author;
   c) Institution (name, full address, telephone and e-mail);
   d) Teacher’s and instructor’s name.
7. Particular works will be accepted for the competition after paying entrance fee of 40 PLN for Polish participants or 10 EURO for foreign participants to the following account: PKOPLPW, bank account no. PL 93 1240 1330 1111 0010 6083 3371 name: Młodzieżowy Dom Kultury nr 1 w Tychach title of payment: accreditation, Ludzie ludziom...
   Please enclose the receipt with works.

VII Deadline for sending works:
January 30th, 2017, at the address:
Młodzieżowy Dom Kultury nr 1, 43-100 Tychy, ul. Kardynała Honda 1, Poland
phone/fax +48 32 227 30 59, e-mail: mdk1tychy@wp.pl.

VIII Jury
Jury session: February 10th, 2017
The Competition Commission will consist of the former prisoners of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp, artists, historians and researchers of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and the Institute of National Remembrance in Katowice.

IX The competition final
The official announcement of the results, prize giving ceremony and opening of the post-competition exhibition, concert and snack will be held on March 30th, 2017 at 10:30 at Youth Culture Centre No 1 in Tychy, St. Kardynała Hlonda 1.
The participants will be informed about the results of the competition by phone, letter, or e-mail. After the ceremony, the departure to Auschwitz memorial site is planned.

X Additional remarks
1. All sent works become the organizer’s property and can be used for archive, research and exhibition purposes.
2. The organizers reserve the right to reproduce chosen works free of charge.
3. The jury decision is decisive. (a verdict without right of appeal).
4. The organizers do not return costs of transport, food and accommodation. The organizers can help participants to arrange food and accommodation.

We invite you to participate in the competition and wish you good luck