



The building of Gliwitzer Sender (Gliwice transmitter) was erected and equipped in 1935 in Gliwice, which was German then, a few kilometres from the Polish border. The radio station went down in history as a stage of the so called *Gliwice provocation* on 31st August 1939. After the war the programmes of Radio Katowice were transmitted here and later from 1950 to 1956 it was used for jamming western broadcasting stations, e.g. Radio Free Europe/Liberty Radio and Vatican Radio. From 1957 up to 2002 radio transmitters and electronic equipment for Telecommunications were manufactured here. Then the whole site of the radio station with all the buildings was purchased by the city of Gliwice. There are plans to prepare a multimedia exhibition here after the renovation. The radio station is a branch of the Museum in Gliwice which is governed by the local self-government unit. It also is one of the attractions of the Industrial Monuments Route of the Silesian Voivodeship.

Two Radio Stations

The first 1,5kW power Radio Station was constructed in Gliwice in 1925 at the present 2, Radiowa Street (a building belonging to the hospital now). A rapid development of radio engineering caused that only after 10 years building of a new radio station turned out to be necessary. Microphonic studios were left in the old building and in the new one at Tarnogórska Street a 243,7m (1,231 kHz) medium waves transmitter was installed. A wooden tower inside of which a vertical aerial was to be hung was constructed next to the new building. At the top of the tower (a characteristic cross-bar) an artificial extension of the vertical aerial was added to reach the length of half a wave what guaranteed good propagation conditions. During the day the good reception was possible within the radius of tens of kilometres. At night thanks to the reflection from the ionosphere, the radio waves from Gliwice were picked up all around Europe and even in the Northern

Gliwice Provocation

Inactive and neutral France and Great Britain constituted for the III Reich and the USSR the main condition of success of the partition of Poland which was discussed and agreed by Hitler and Stalin in the Treaty of Non-aggression of 23rd August 1939 (Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact). Numerous steps were taken to separate Poland from its nominal allies. Border incidents staged by Germany, Poland was accused of which stood out from others. The so called Gliwice Provocation had the widest repercussions. It was an assault of a small group of seven German members of SS-troops on the German Radio Station in Gliwice that took place on 31 August 1939 after 8 p.m. The assailants pretended to be civil Silesian insurgents and they broadcast a message in Polish: *Attention! This is Gliwice. The broadcasting station is in the Polish hands...* Two hours later the Berlin Radio broadcast an extensive announcement about this event and other attacks of alleged insurgents which were allegedly supported by heavy-armed Polish troops. In this way Poland was accused of starting the war, and the German aggressor was presented as a victim. In the face of the events of the following day the border incidents constituted an alibi for Hitler. For France and Great Britain they served as one of the excuses not to help Poland military. Thus the Gliwice provocation did not constitute a pretext for war. Quite on the contrary it was to prevent war. Because of the lack of armed forces this provocation was to be used by III Reich as a part of its western border protection by means of the media. Unfortunately it turned out to be very effective. Due to the 6-hour difference in time New York Times, among other newspapers, published the information about the outbreak of the German-Polish war together



The last monumental larch tower

The aerial Tower of the Gliwice Radio Station is now the tallest wooden structure in the world (111m). It is surrounded by a new garden and is diligently maintained, preserved and repaired every year. It will serve as an impressive city attraction for many years. It is built of impregnated larch wood which is particularly resistant to vermin and atmosphere factors. The beams are joined together with sixteen thousand brass screws. There is no iron! The tower is a still working industrial monument. It carries tens of various aerials serving the Silesian Metropolitan Net, The Rescue Centre of Gliwice, mobile phone networks, internet, wireless internet and other communication systems. Thanks to the modern illumination from 2009 the tower looks very attractive after dusk.

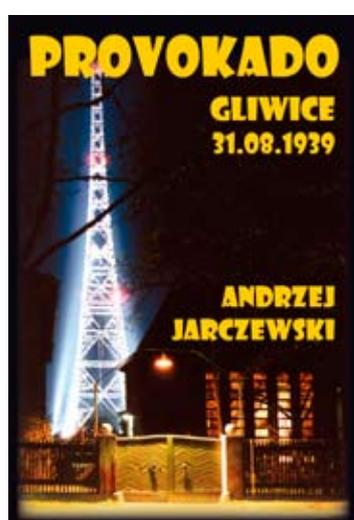
America. The new radio station did not have its own microphonic studio. It broadcasts the programmes from the broadcasting station in Wrocław sent by means of the communications cable. However, in the old radio station, which was also connected to the new one by means of the cable, local programmes which were broadcast between the schedule programmes were still realized. The new transmitter had the power of 8kW of the aerial. There is a complete system of cooling transmitter lamps with distilled water preserved in the ceiling.



with the German version of the announcement about the Gliwice provocation on the first page of the newspaper on 1st September 1939. Poland was presented to the worldwide public opinion to be jointly guilty and this fact happens to be repeated in different forms until now.



A detailed reconstruction of these events and the history of the Radio Station in Gliwice are presented in a book titled "PROVOKADO" which has been issued by the Museum in Gliwice in 2009.



How to get here

Everybody who travels through Gliwice can notice the tall aerial tower even from a long distance. Thanks to the illuminations the tower is also visible at night. The Radio Station is situated near the cloverleaf of Tarnogórska Street with the old highway (Jan Nowak-Jeziorański Street). It is impossible to miss it. Passenger cars and minibuses come to the site from 129, Tarnogórska Street through the wooden gate visible on the cover of the book. Bigger buses have to park at Lubliniecka Street (directly under the tower). The basic form of the Radio Station activity as a museum of historic space involves carrying out museum lessons in authentic rooms. The lessons are adjusted to the age and the interest of participants. They take place in the building of the transmitter and then there is an opportunity to have a walk towards the tower.

Andrzej Jarczewski

The Steward of the Radio Station in Gliwice

MUZEUM IN GLIWICE

RADIO STATION

ul. Tarnogórska 129 | tel. (32) 300-04-04, 693-131-292
czynna w godz. 9.00 – 15.00 od wtorku do soboty

THE CARO VILLA

ul. Dolnych Wałów 8a | tel. (32) 231-08-54

THE PIAST CASTLE

ul. Pod Murami 2 | tel. (32) 231-44-94

THE BRANCH OF THE ARTISTIC FOUNDING

ul. Robotnicza 2 | tel. (32) 338-15-81

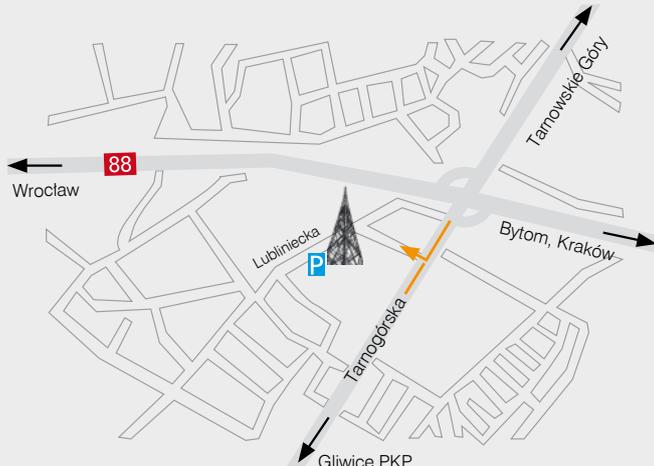
www.muzeum.gliwice.pl

Text: Andrzej Jarczewski, Design: Marcin Gołaszewski

Photo: Szymon Janiczek, Andrzej Jarczewski, Antoni Witwicki (Archiwum UM w Gliwicach) | © Muzeum w Gliwicach 2009



MUZEUM
W GLIWICACH



subsiding



ŚLĄSKA ORGANIZACJA TURYSTYCZNA



Silesia.Positive energy



Szlak
ZABYTKÓW TECHNIKI