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Matzevas Transferred from a Fence to the Cemetery in Olkusz

Matzevas, Jewish tombstones, were used to build a wall around the former high school in Olkusz. The wall was dismantled by volunteers from Poland and US. The recovered gravestones found their way to the Jewish cemetery in Olkusz, and the wall was filled with concrete.

November 3, 2015

The campaign was carried out under the Matzeva Project, implemented by an organization operating in Poland, Israel and the US called "From The Depths". The aim of the project is to restore the memory of more than 1,200 million Jewish cemeteries and the stolen tombstones.

Volunteers came equipped with basic tools, as well as a jackhammer and a generator. Part of the tombstones were moved during an earlier action, when they arrived for the first time in Olkusz. Others still within the wall were removed on Tuesday.

"From the Depths" was founded by descendants of Holocaust survivors in an effort to preserve the memory of their parents, grandparents and other ancestors. The Foundation works with survivors of the Holocaust from all over the world and with Jewish communities, especially from Eastern Europe.

Its aim is to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and preserve the names of victims of the Holocaust. "We continuously speak to successive generations of Survivors," declare the organizers of the foundation.

The new Jewish cemetery in Olkusz was built around 1900 in Sławkowskim, a suburb near the river Baba, on the current street called John Cantius. Also he was devastated during World War II. After the war, the decay of the abandoned cemetery went on. In autumn 2010, volunteers came to the cemetery and started cleaning, along with prisoners from Prison in Trzebinia under the "Shadows of the Past" program. An area of approximately 1 hectare preserved nearly 200 tombstones.