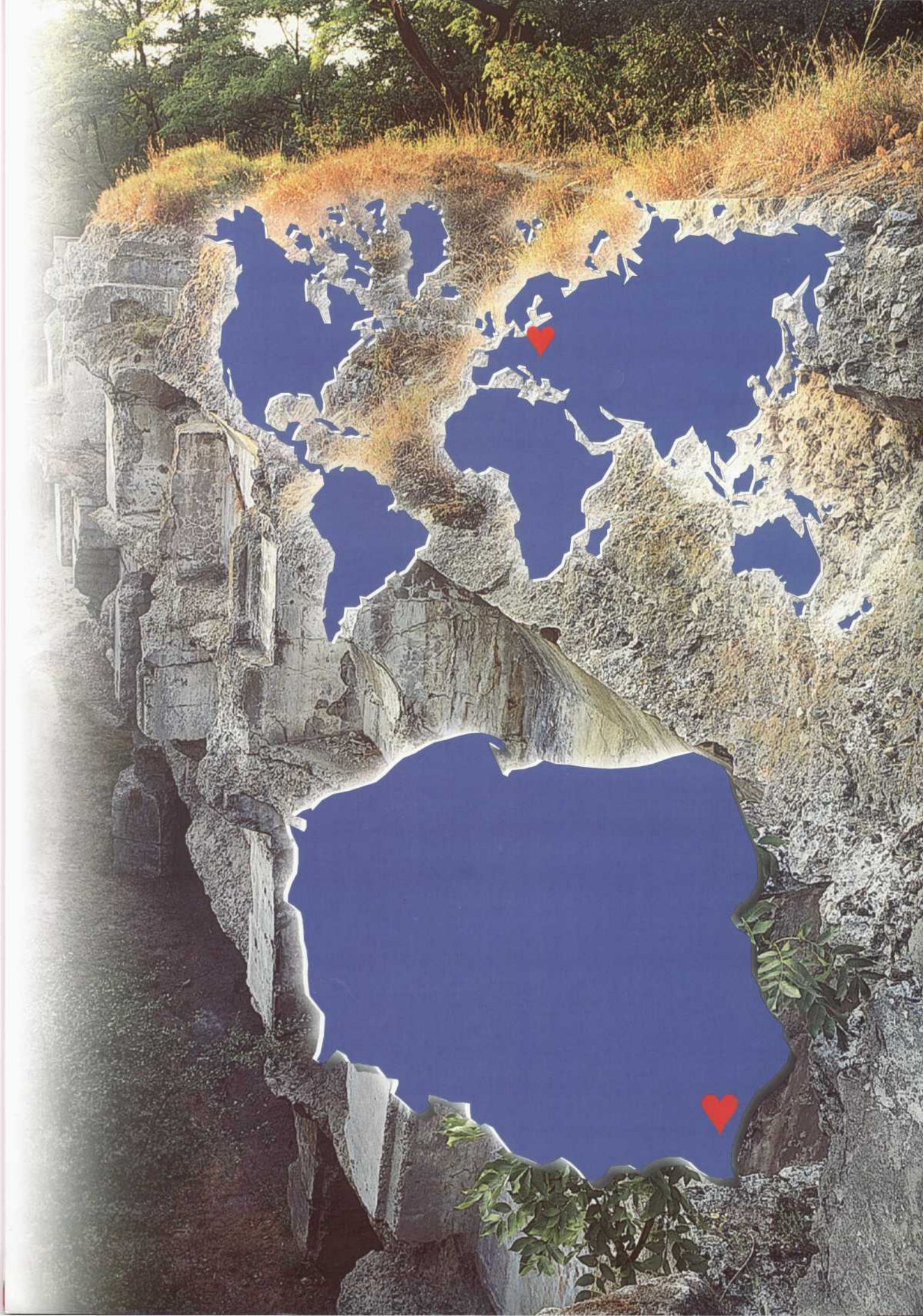




# Fortress Przemyśl











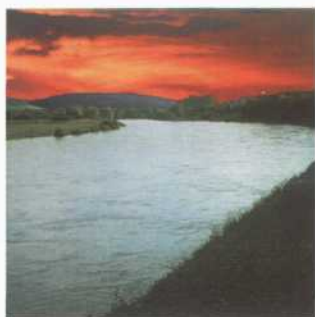
## Forts of the 'Przemyśl' Fortress

**P**rzemyśl owes its unique charm both to the picturesque location and historical architecture. Town of Przemyśl had to play, according to Austrian plans in case of war, a part of a great fortress.

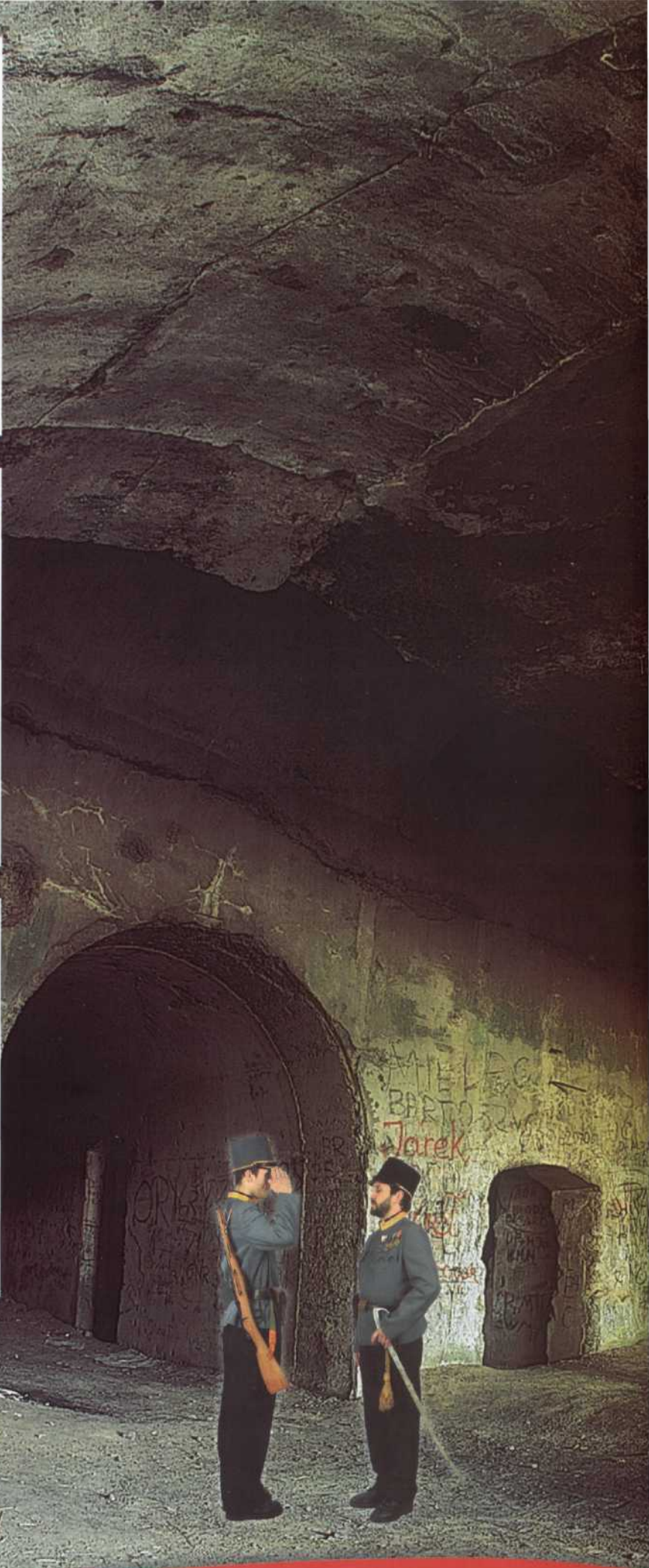
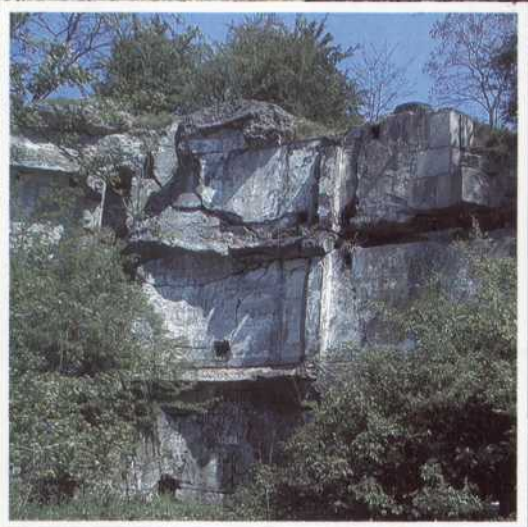
**P**rzemyśl Fortress, since it has been constructed, woke unabated interest among inhabitants of Europe. Especially, nowadays it becomes clear that this phenomenon of thought of engineering extends circles of lovers, fascinated with fortifications from the period of the First World War. Fortress Przemyśl is well-known in the east and west of Europe and the cultural heritage of the town of Przemyśl is perceived as one common cultural scenery with the whole system of fortifications.

**P**rzemyśl Fortress is precious and splendid heritage, which delights and bewitches every newcomer.


**F**or the first plans treating about the construction of the fortress one should acknowledge the report of engineer 'Hauptman' Cichocki from the year of 1818 and conclusions from inspection of Galicia made by Jan Habsburg in 1819.











In 1849 Central Committee of Fortifications, under the leadership of general Henryk von Hess sketched general plan of fortifications of Galicia and marked the most important places for the tenns of forts. The town of Przemyśl became 'a fortified camp'. At that time fortifications round the town and external forts near the communitation routes were built. The boom in the town was caused by new investments. Buildings of military administration and military barracks were built in the district of Zasanie. In 1871 decision of building of fortified camp on foregrounds of Przemyśl was made. In 1873 the fortifications were qualified to the rank of fortress of the first class. For realizations of accepted decisions the Management of the Construction of Fortress Przemyśl was formed.

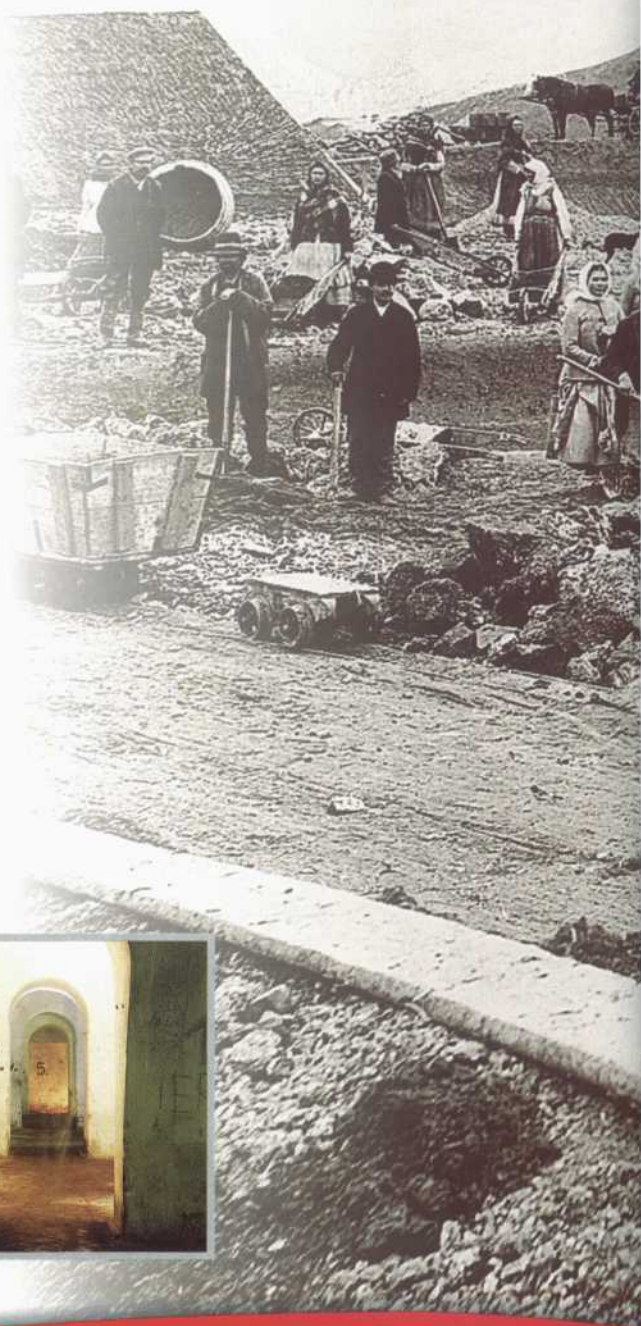
Further stages of construction of fortress are related to the international and political situation in Europe, particularly with the growing conflict between Austria and Russia.

The core (noyau) was the centre of modernized fortress. It was strengthened with seven artillery forts. 15 forts have been situated in the distance of 4 to 7 kilometres from the core in localities: Siedliska I, Jaksmanice II, Łuczyce III, Optyń IV, Grochowce V, Helicha VI, Łętownia VIII, Żurawica XII, Bolestraszyce XIII, Borek XV, Zniesienie - N XVI, Lipowica - N XVIII, Winna Góra - N XIX, Przekopana - N XX, Bakończyce - N XXI. Forts have also been built in Orzechowce - X, in Duńkowiczki - XI and in Hurko - XIV.





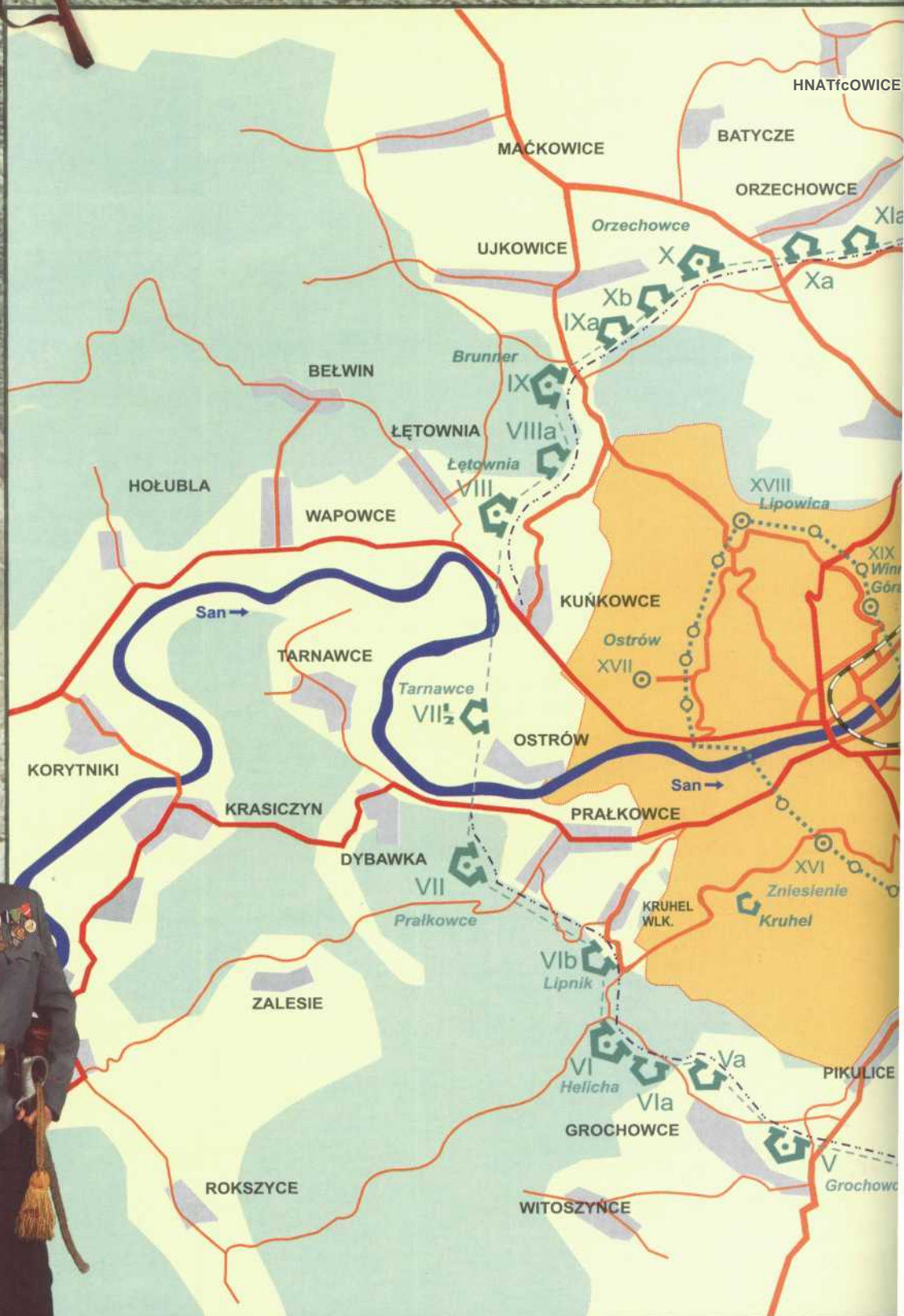
In the new system of fortifications batteries, gates and powder magazines have been introduced. Construction of forts received steel parts such as ceilings, domes and armour-plated towers. In years 1886-1888 fortress Przemyśl becomes 'ring-shaped' stronghold. Modernizing works were supervised and controlled by Maurycy Brunner. In result of the works the new system of fortifications has been constructed. Two types of forts have been built: main, armour-plated fort and so-called fort of infantry. After the year of 1900 the fortress was composed of core (noyau), fortifications, supporting ring of forts and fortifications of the second ring of forts. Fortifications of 'noyau' had 28 earthworks, 8 forts, 3 batteries, powder-magazine in Ostrowie and gates called 'Sanocka' and 'Krównicka'. Fortifications of external ring of fortress had 32 forts, 14 batteries, 6 earthworks and group of field barracks in Optyń and in Iwanowa Góra. 15 main forts can be specified: artillery fort 'Salis Soglio' - WI in Siedliska (commune Medyka); main, armour-plated fort Jaksmanice - GHW II in Jaksmanice (commune Medyka); artillery fort Łuczyce - W III in Łuczyce (commune Przemyśl); artillery, armour-plated fort Optyń - GHW IV in Pikulice (commune Przemyśl); artillery fort Grochowce - GW V in Grochowce (commune Przemyśl); artillery fort Iwanowa Góra - W VI in Grochowce (commune Przemyśl); artillery fort Prałkowce - W VII in Prałkowce (commune Krasiczyn); artillery fort Łętownia - W VIII in Łętownia (commune Przemyśl); main, armour-plated fort - Brunner - GHW IX in Ujkowice (commune Przemyśl); artillery, armour-plated fort Orzechowce - WX













# ress Przemyśl



Main forts of external ring



Supporting forts of external ring



Forts of supporting line



Forts of internal ring




Black route of a fortress









Ujkowice (commune Przemyśl); artillery, armour-plated fort Duńkowiczki - W XI in Duńkowiczki (commune Orły); artillery fort Żurawica - W XII in Żurawica (commune Żurawica); artillery, armour-plated, main fort 'San Rideau' - GHW XIII in Bolestraszyce (commune Żurawica); artillery fort Hurko - W XIV in Hurko (commune Medyka ); armour-plated fort Borek - W XV in Siedliska (commune Medyka).

**P**rzemyśl fortress had a complex of ammunition stores, powder-magazines, artillery stores barracks and hospitals. There also were airfields Przemyśl - Żurawica, Bakończyce-Błonie, Duńkowiczki and Hureczko.

**A**fter the outbreak of the First World War on August 16, 1914 Austrian Command - in - Chief moved its headquarters to Przemyśl but after the beginning of Russian offensive, in the early part of September The Central Office was moved to Nowy Sącz. The fortress has been invaded by Russian after heavy fights in September and October (Russian troops - 280 000 of soldiers; fortress - 128 000 of soldiers).

**T**he second siege of the Przemyśl fortress lasted till 22 March, 1915 and by order of the commander of the fortress Herman Kusmanek the town of Przemyśl gave up the struggle. Forts, batteries, ammunition magazines, bridges and railway stations have been blown up. Telegraphic devices also have been destroyed. On pastures near Hurko 5 000 of horses have been killed. News about the





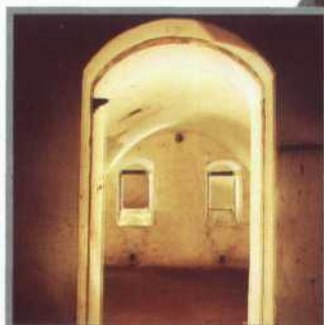
capitulations of the fortress got around all over the world. The town of Przemyśl, captured by Russian troops, was inspected by tsar Mikołaj II on April 4.

**C**ounteroffensive of Austrian and German troops began with victorious battle called 'Gorlicka operation' leads to the third siege of Przemyśl fortress. After concentrated attack on May 29, 1915 Russian left town.

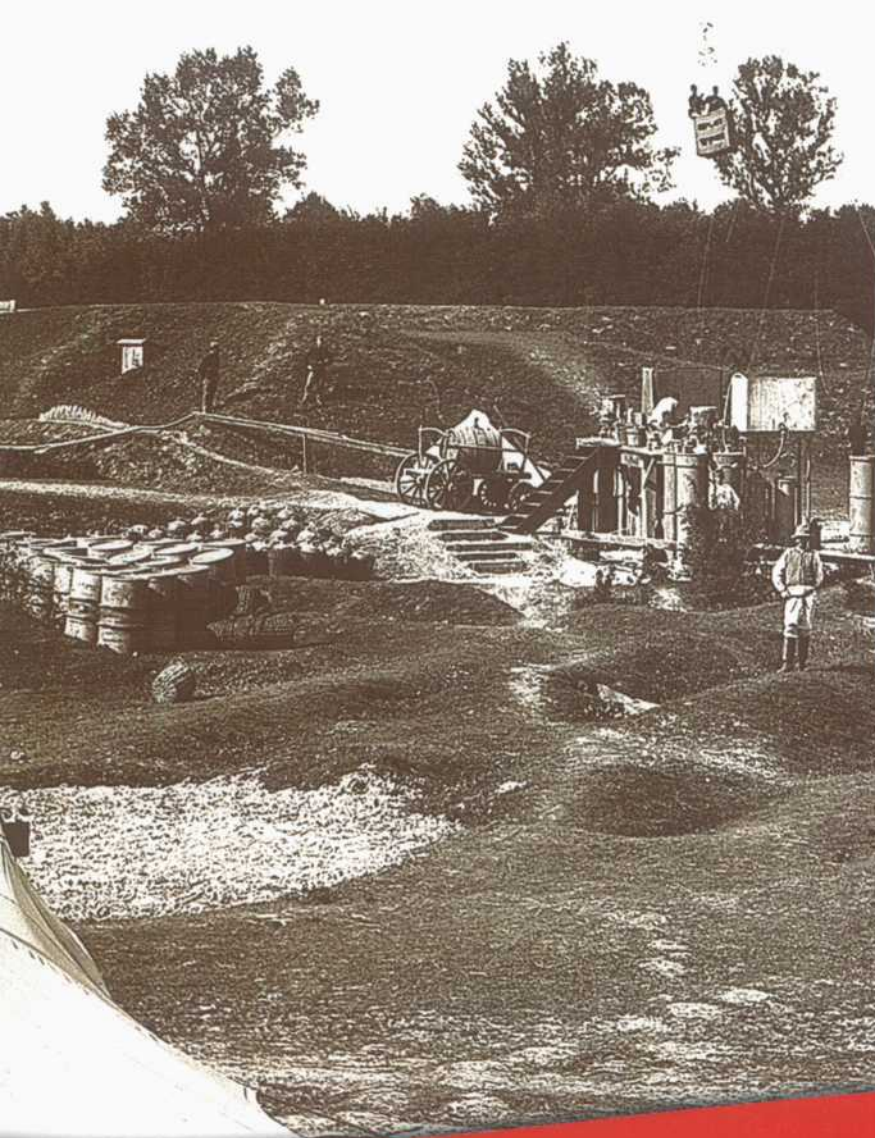
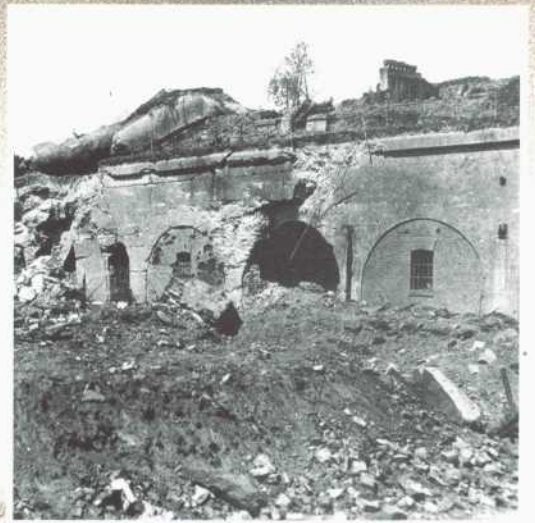
**I**n the final period of military operation, destroyed fortifications were no more of military significance.

**T**he best way to start the sightseeing of the forts of the Przemyśl fortress is to see the model of the stronghold which is placed on the ground floor of Garrison Officer's Club in Przemyśl.

**T**he fortifications surrounding the town of Przemyśl are unique, are the source of reminiscences for the elder and the specific store of information for the younger generation.









## Important information

1. Official webzines :<http://www.przemysl.pl>  
[Http://www.przemysl.nasze\\_miasto.pl](http://www.przemysl.nasze_miasto.pl)



[przemysl.nasze\\_miasto.pl](http://przemysl.nasze_miasto.pl)

2. Tourist Information Centre  
- tourist information in Polish, English, German and Italian  
- brochures, maps and souvenirs

Address:

Rynek 26, 37-700 Przemyśl

Tel./fax 016 675 16 64, 678 73 09



Opening times:

Mon - Fri: 08.00 - 16.00

In season : 08.00 - 18.00

Sat : 10.00 - 14.00

3. Local Tourist Organization

Address:

Grodzka 8, 37- 700 Przemyśl

Tel./fax. 016 678 24 12

E- mail: [lot.przemysl@wp.pl](mailto:lot.przemysl@wp.pl)



4. Inquiry office  
(Museum of the First World War;  
Przemyśl Fortress)

Address:

Grodzka 8, 37- 700 Przemyśl

Tel./fax. 016 678 24 12

5. Entertainments

- Touristic fair  
(promotion and introduction  
of touristic offers)

- last Sunday of April

- Market square

- 'Picnic in Fortress'

- 12-13 July

- Forts of the Przemyśl Fortress

- Contact :

Tourist Information Centre in Przemyśl

Tel.+48 16 675 16 64 ,fax. + 48 16 678 73 09





# South - East of Poland



Publisher:  
Tourist Information Centre  
Rynek 26,37 - 700 Przemyśl  
Tel./fax. + 48 16 675 16 64,678 73 09  
E-mail:oitinform@wp.pl

Edited by: Ryszard Rabski

Texts: Marek Gosztyła, Ryszard Rabski

Map of the Przemyśl Fortress: Grzegorz Karnas

Photography: Dariusz Delmanowicz, Marek Horwat,  
Janusz Kroczyk, Jarosław Skrzymowski

Graphic: Barbara and Maciej Pietrzak  
Maciek Fijałkowski, Stanisław Karszyń

DTP and print:  
'Mercator' Św. Brata Alberta 8,  
Przemyśl, Poland, tel. 016 670 44 211

Przemyśl 2003

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, without the prior written permission of publisher.

ISBN 83-904030-3-X



