



Fort 44 'Tonie' - one of the most interesting forts in Europe

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The artillery fort erected in 1881-1884 was thoroughly modernised in 1910. Its aim was to control the Prądnik (Białucha) river valley and the route to Olkusz. Its artillery armament included four rapid-fire guns with a 8 cm calibre in retractable rotary armoured towers. The fort had a heavy stationary armoured observation & combat dome in its central part. It did not take part in the First World War. Fort Tonie is located at 3 Jurajska Street.

As the most modern fort, it was kept ready for use as a part of the Kraków Fortress Camp by the Polish Army for the entire interwar period. In September 1939, it guarded the retreat of the Kraków Army towards the east with a gunfire to prevent the surrender of the city to the Germans. During the occupation period, the Nazis arranged their warehouses and workshops there; at the time of their retreat, they blew up one of the domes and some of the armoured portions.

After the war, it was used by the Polish People's Army; in 1966, it became a civil property. Its current owner is the Kraków City Commune.

The elements of the fort that have survived until now include the Austrian-Hungarian retractable rotating towers, or at least a large part of them - a unique item on a worldwide scale - as well as observation and combat domes, gates and grilles. The access road provides a view of the panorama of Kraków - and against the background of the mountains, as well, weather permitting.

Accessibility: on sightseeing days to be agreed upon by the Council Building Administration with organisations promoting the heritage of the Kraków Fortress. For more information about the Council Building Administration, visit: www.zbk-krakow.pl.