

Population losses in Wola district during  
Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of  
the state of studies and proposal of the  
new scientific approach.

Kazimierz Przeszowski

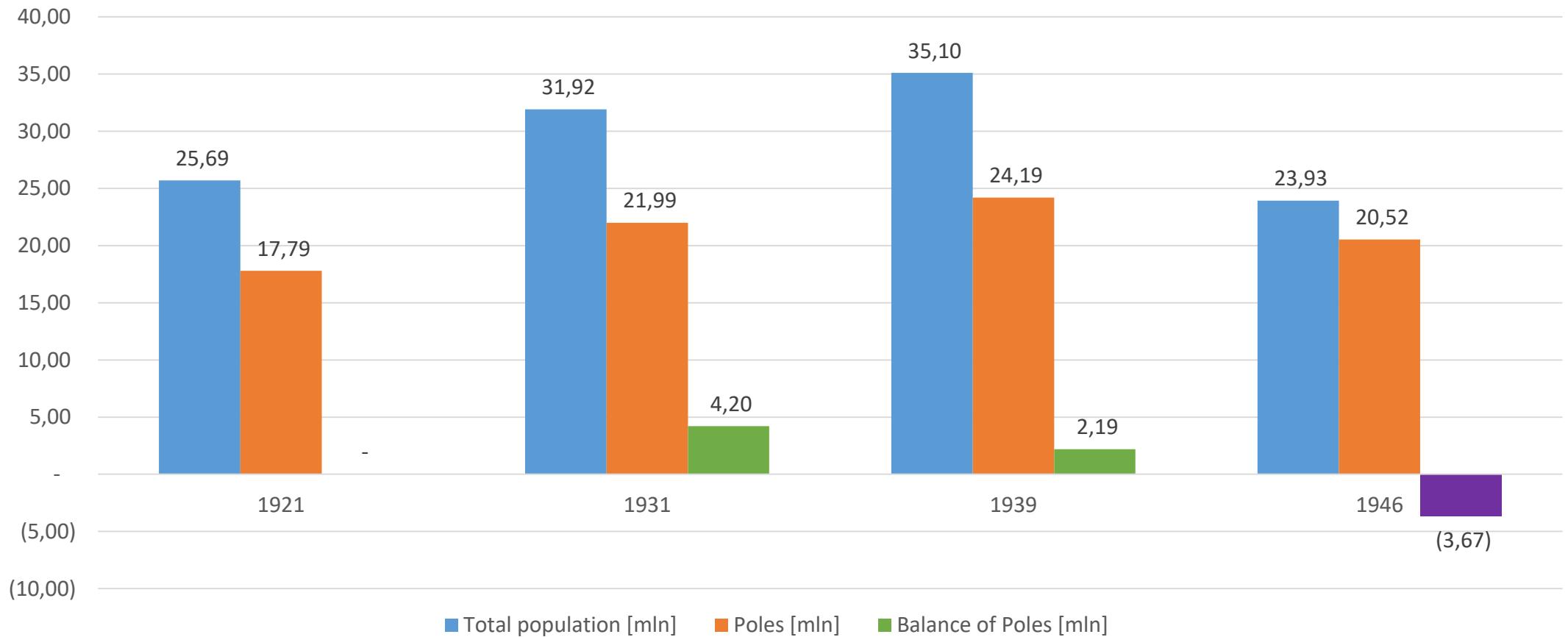
Polish-Ukrainian Bridge, "Ukrainian-Polish Relations: Historical  
and Educational Aspects", 1st of September 2023

Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University (PMBSNU),  
Mykolaiv, Ukraine.

# Selected subject literature

*Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach*, Kazimierz Przeszowski

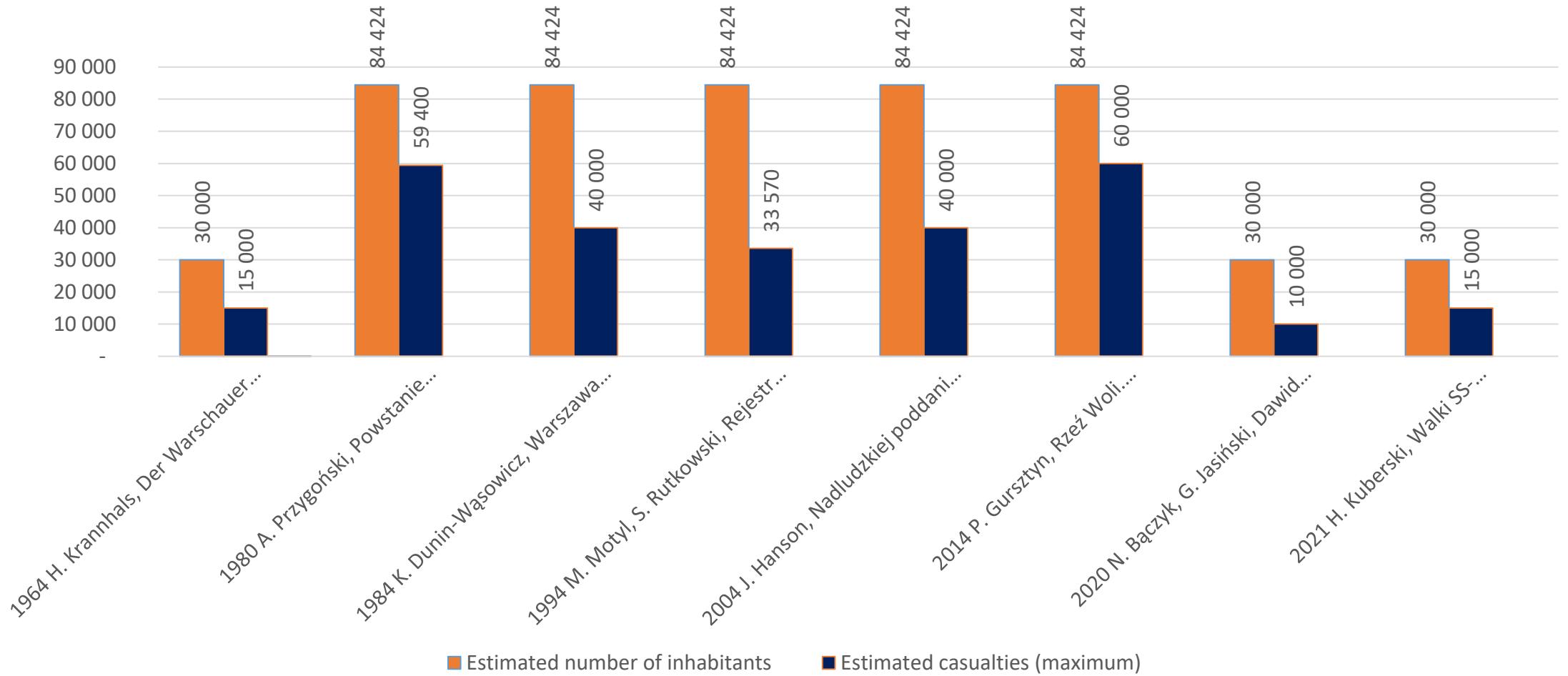
# Prewar growth and WWII loss of the Polish population



Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944  
- summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new  
scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski

Sources: General population censuses 1921, 1931, 1946, Small Statistical Yearbook 1939

# Estimated numbers of population losses in Wola in 1944 in selected literature



Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944  
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# Opinion of the German historian Hanns von Krannhals on the state of research on the Wola Massacre:

- The claim of the Polish side that on August 5, 1944, in the Wola district alone, 38,000 Poles were exterminated, I consider senseless. I doubt whether the Poles are even able to provide accurate data on the losses in Warsaw.
- Also, I would like to point out that it seems technically impossible to kill 38,000 people in one day.
- Finally, it seems to me, given my knowledge of Warsaw, that it is very doubtful whether there were 38,000 people living in the Wola district at that time.

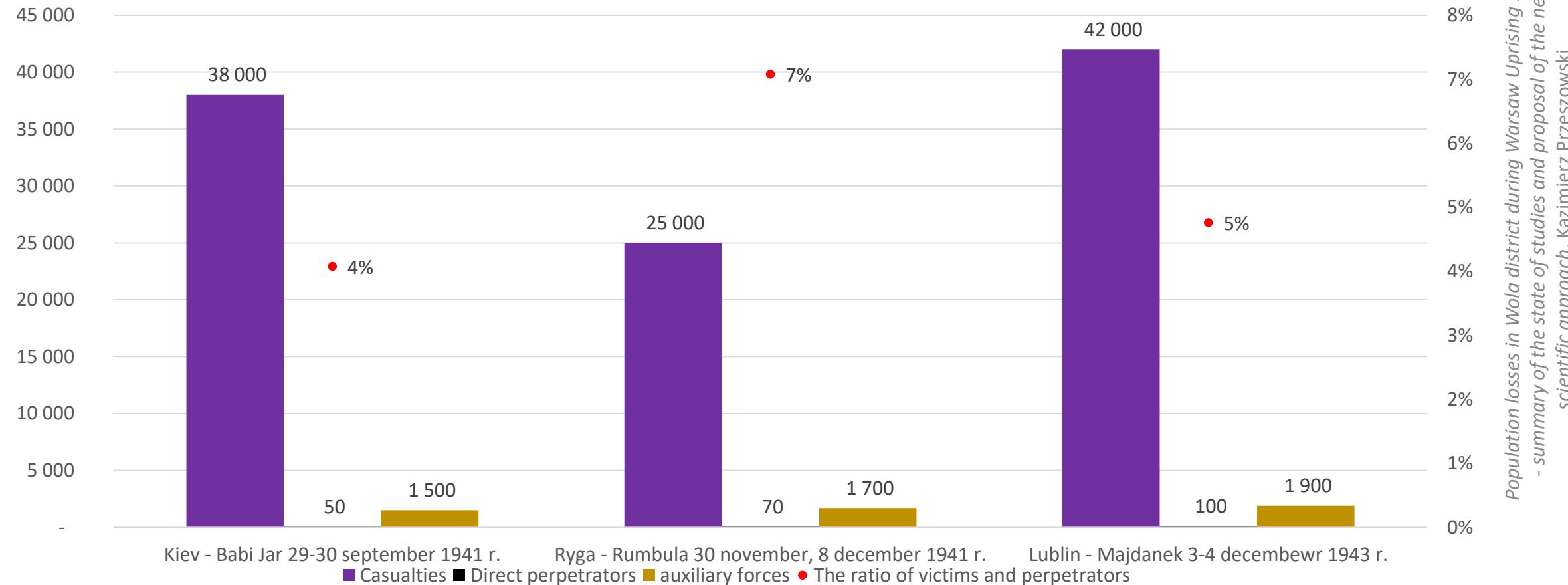
*Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944*  
- summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski



Fot. Stanisław Turski, Archiwum Landowe w Szczecinie, nr inw. Abt. 359 Nr. 11256, k. 22

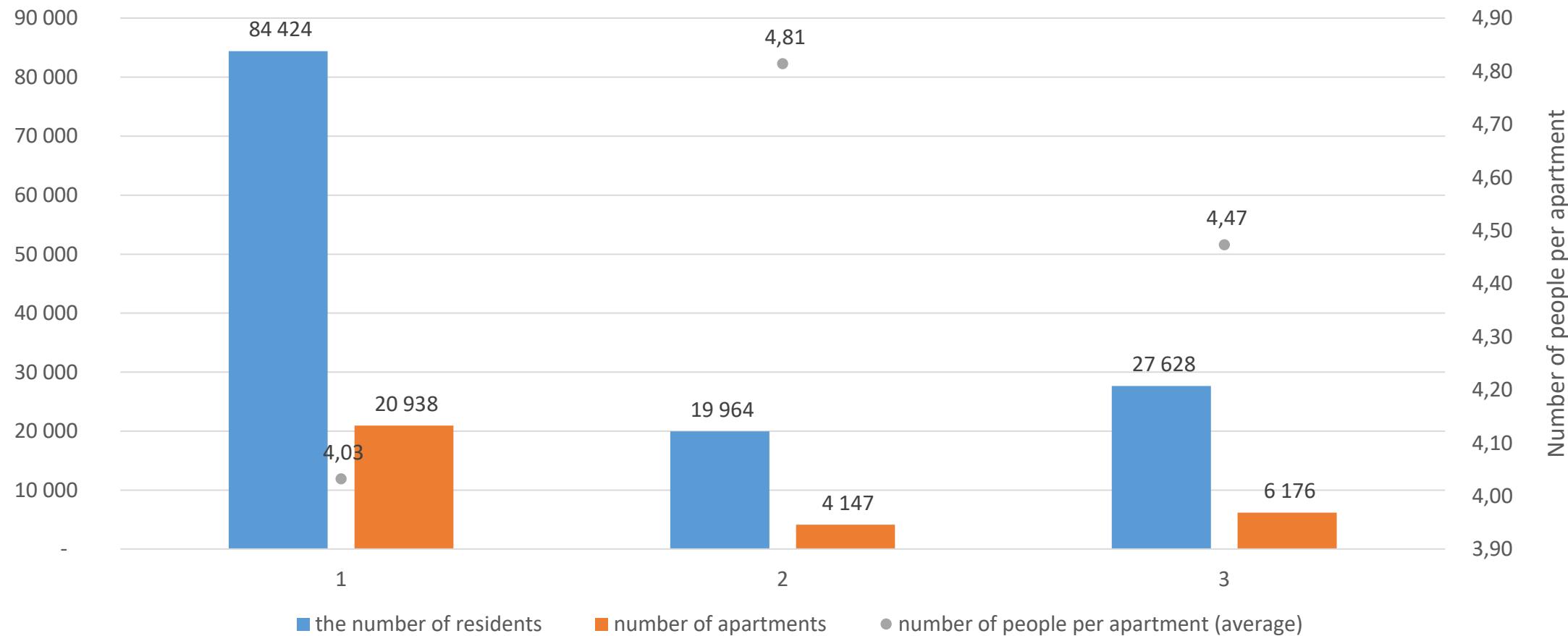
Source: P. Marti, *Der Fall Reinefarth. Eine biographische Studie zum öffentlichen und juristischen Umgang mit As A Vergangenheit*, Wachholtz, Neumünster, Hamburg 2014, s.144, quote after: P. Gursztyn, *Rzeź Woli. Zbrodnia nierożliczona*, Warszawa 2015, s. 305, przyp. 568.

# Comparison of the number of victims and perpetrators in selected mass executions of civilians during WWII



Sources: Ł. Gładysiak, *Jednostki specjalnego przeznaczenia niemieckiej Służby Bezpieczeństwa podczas działań wojennych na froncie wschodnim w latach 1941-1945*, Poznań 2012; „Akcia „Dożynki” („Aktion Erntefest”) w Lublinie 3 listopada 1943, Jakub Chmielewski, *Leksykon, Ośrodek „Brama Grodzka - Teatr NN” w Lublinie; Holocaust Encyclopedia, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum etc.*

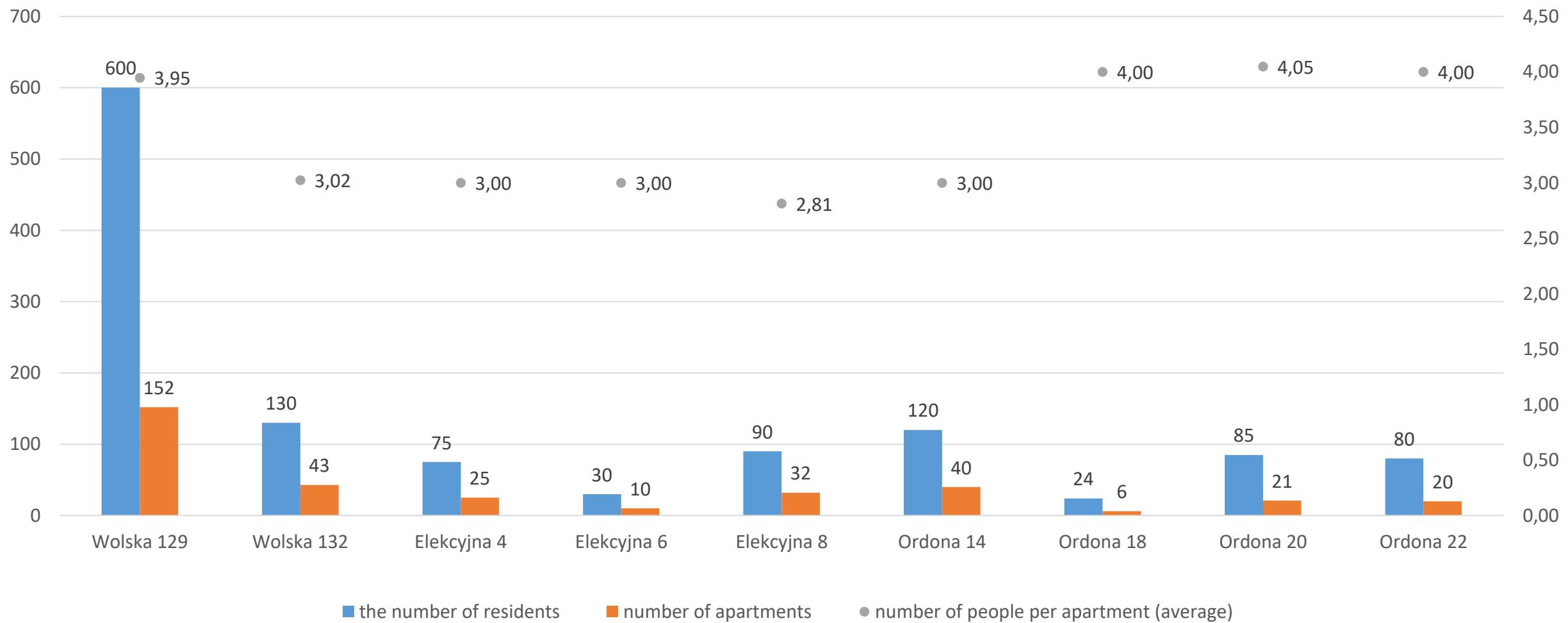
# Population and apartments in Wola - 1938-1946



Sources: A. Gawryszewski, *Ludność Warszawy w XX wieku*, Warszawa 2009; *Warszawa w liczbach* 1949.

\* Population at 1.II.1938 r., housing at 28.XI.1939 r. \*\* Population at 15 V 1945; \*\*\* Population at 14 II 1946;

## Number of apartments and inhabitants in the area subject to executions in Park Sowiński



Source: K. Przeszowski, *Population of the area of Wola District in Warsaw, covered by mass executions in the Sowiński Park on August 5, 1944*, Studia i Materiały Centralnej Biblioteki Wojskowej im. Marszałka Józefa Piłsudskiego nr 2 (18) 2022

*Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach*, Kazimierz Przeszowski

# Examples of archival documentary sources

*Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski*

• Raport 25

niąg dalszy



10. Rogawczy, rotmistaż. m. 25 m. zatrudniona i spalona

✓ 11. Włosowska Anna, lat 39

✓ 12. Włosowska, "Jan", lat 40

ul. Wolska 126

przed zabójstwem i spaleniem, na lewo, zakopano,  
(zginęli na pożarze) żona, bracia zabitych i  
palących mieszkańców z ul. Wolskiej 123, 128; imię  
rodziny Rypańskich,

"Kuleszów"

Rypańscy.

ul. Wolska 129

Zakopani m/s & m/s nr. 129 zabici i spaleni mieszkańców  
z tego domu, m/s. Rypańscy

✓ 1. Hankiewicz, Józef, lat 60

✓ 2. Stanik Tadeusz, lat 36

H. P. 12/11.

2378

3-IV-45

m/s 3-IV-45 m/s Kor. 3-IV-45 kłoniuk

# Inspections of burial places of those murdered in Wola

[Team 27 ]

[on June 4, 1945]

Report No. 25 List of graves from Wolska Street  
[...]

ul. Wolska 129  
ul. Wolska 129

Buried vis a vis no. 129 killed and burnt inhabitants of this  
house, including:

1. Hankiewicz, Józef, aged 60
2. Stanik Tadeusz, aged 36 [...]

Archives of the Polish Red Cross, inventory no. 2378

28

S P R A W O Z D A N I E P. L. K.  
z uprzedania prochów ludzkich na terenie Warszawy do dn. 31.8.46r.

GŁOSZ

Praca trwała 9 dni / 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31.VIII.1946r.  
Przesiano i pochowano 5.500 kg. prochów.

PARK SOWIŃSKIEGO

Dnia 2.VIII.1946r. przesiano 1.200 kg. prochów.

Teren fabr. "DOBROLINE"

Dnia 3.VIII.1946r. przesiano 80 kg. prochów.

OKOPOWA 59.

Dnia 5.VIII.1946r. przesiano 64 kg. prochów.

WOLSKA 40.

Praca trwała 14 dni: od 24.VII do 7.VIII.1946r.  
Przesiano prochów ludzkich - 1.029 kg.

CHODNA 33.

W ciągu 12 i 13.VIII.1946 r. przesiano 920 kg. prochów.

GORCZEWSKA 46 i 56

16 i 17.VIII.1946r. przesiano 1460 kg. prochów.

NOWOLIPKI

Od 24.VIII. do 29.VIII.1946r. przesiano 600 kg. prochów.

Teren fabryki "Ursus".

Oświadczenie protk. antki il. Sylwestrzak: "Teren fabryki "Ursus" przy ul. Skłerniewickiej został przeproczony i na śladach prochów nie natrafiono. Dotycza tejże terenów, które nie może dać wyczerpującej odpowiedzi. Gdyby znalazły się jakieś świadki, którzyby wskazały gdzie się prochów znajdują, proszony jest o wskazanie miejsca powyższego grobu."

Teren fabryki "FRANASZEK"

Oświadczenie protk. antki il. Sylwestrzak: "Na terenie fabryki "FRANASZEK" grób z prochami spalonymi został odkryty wiosną roku 1945 prawdopodobnie przez Dr. Rotta, co stwierdzają pracownicy tejże fabryki, oraz intynier. Grób został jednakże rokopyany i na śladach prochów nie natrafiono".

# Exhumation of the ashes of those murdered in Wola

Report on the cleaning up of human ashes in Warsaw until August 31, 1946

[...]

Sowiński Park: on August 2, 1946, 1,200 kg of ashes were sifted

[...]

Górczewska 46 and 56: on August 16 and 17, 1946, 1,460 kg of ashes were sifted

[....]

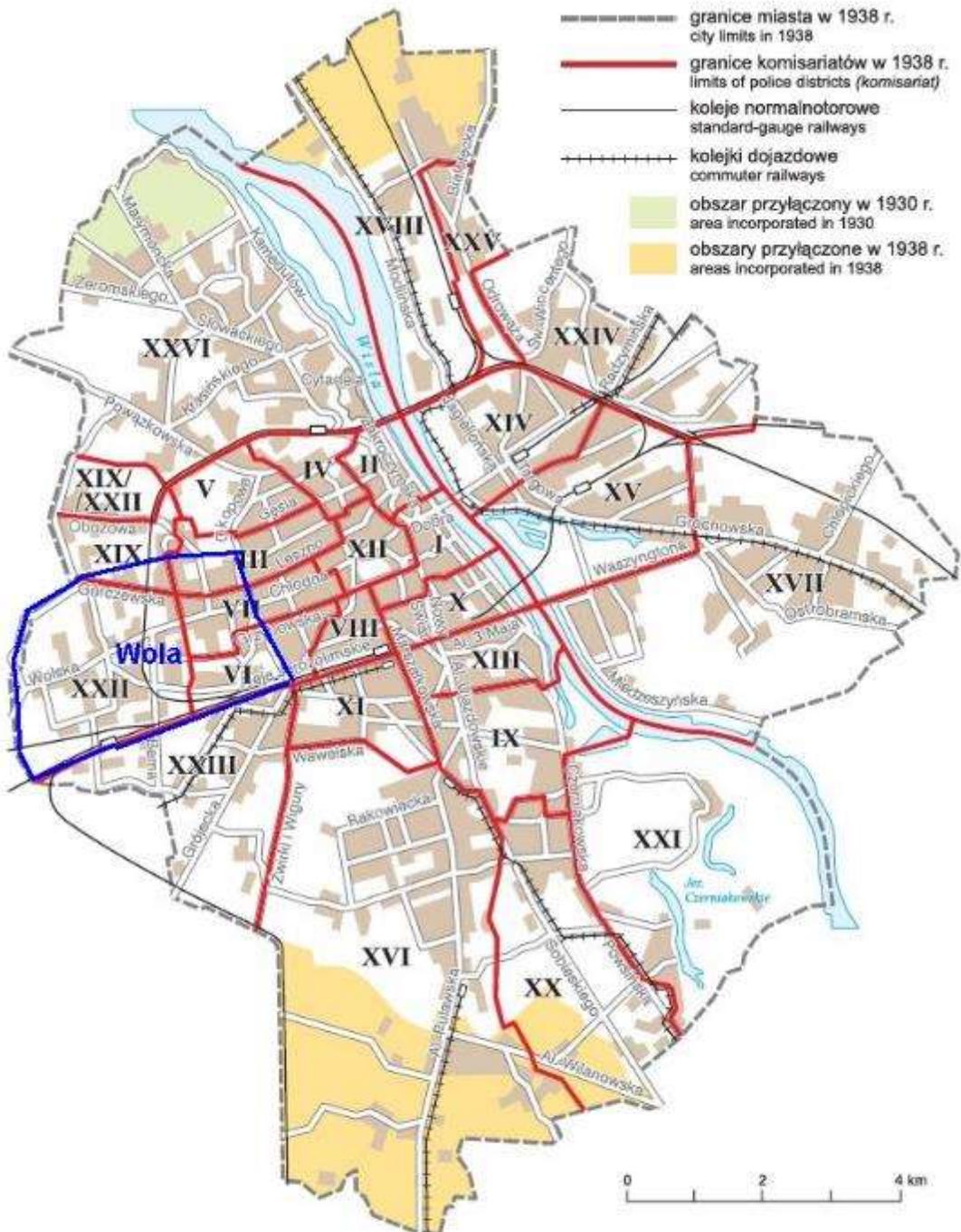
The premises of the "FRANASZEK" factory: [...] the grave with the ashes of the burnt corpses was exhumed in the spring of 1945, probably by Dr. Rott, as stated by the factory workers and an engineer. However, the grave was dug up and no traces of ashes were found.

Archives of the Polish Red Cross, inventory no. 18549

# Selected sources and cartographic studies

*Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski*

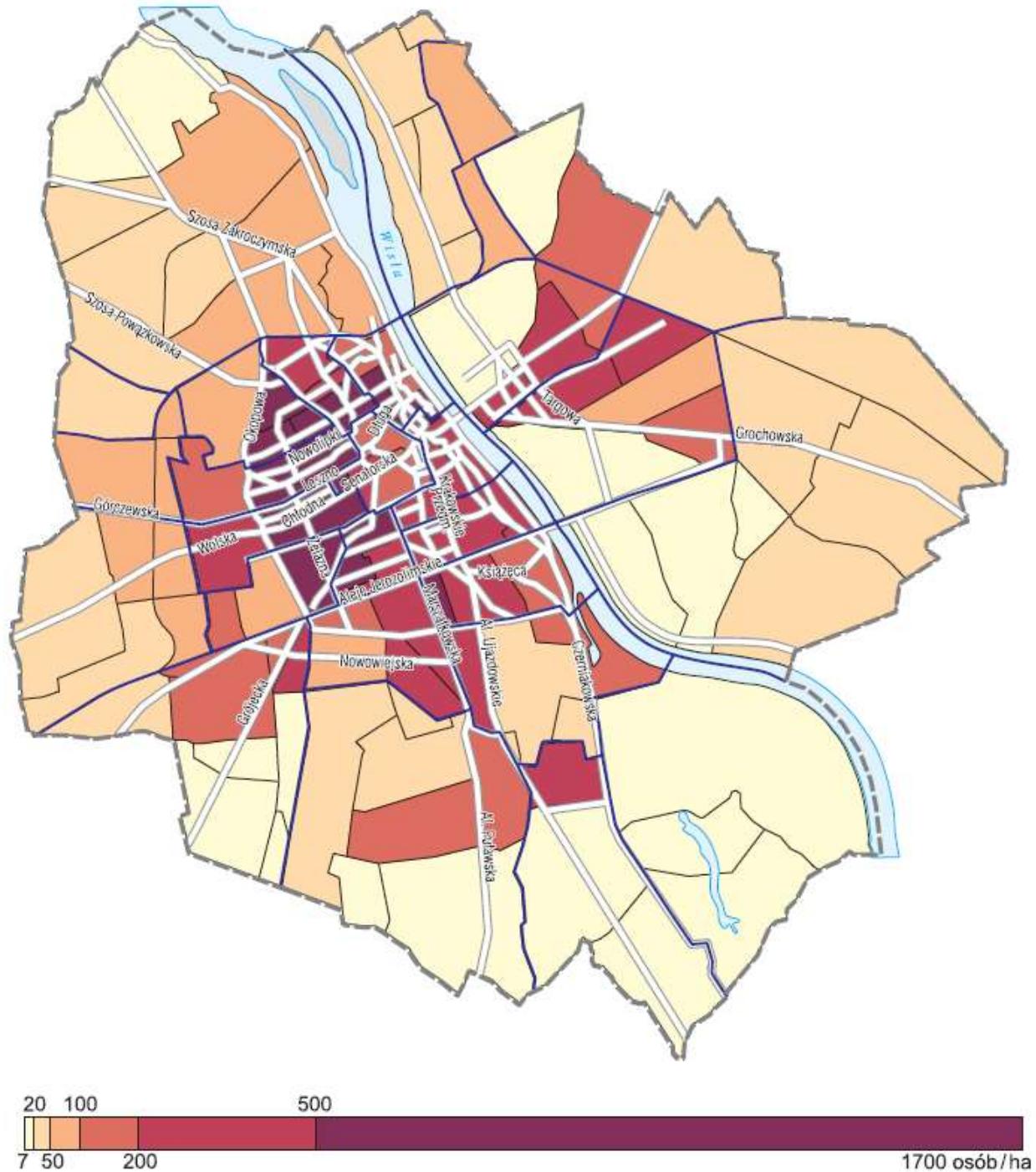
# Wola district against the background of pre-war administrative divisions of Warsaw



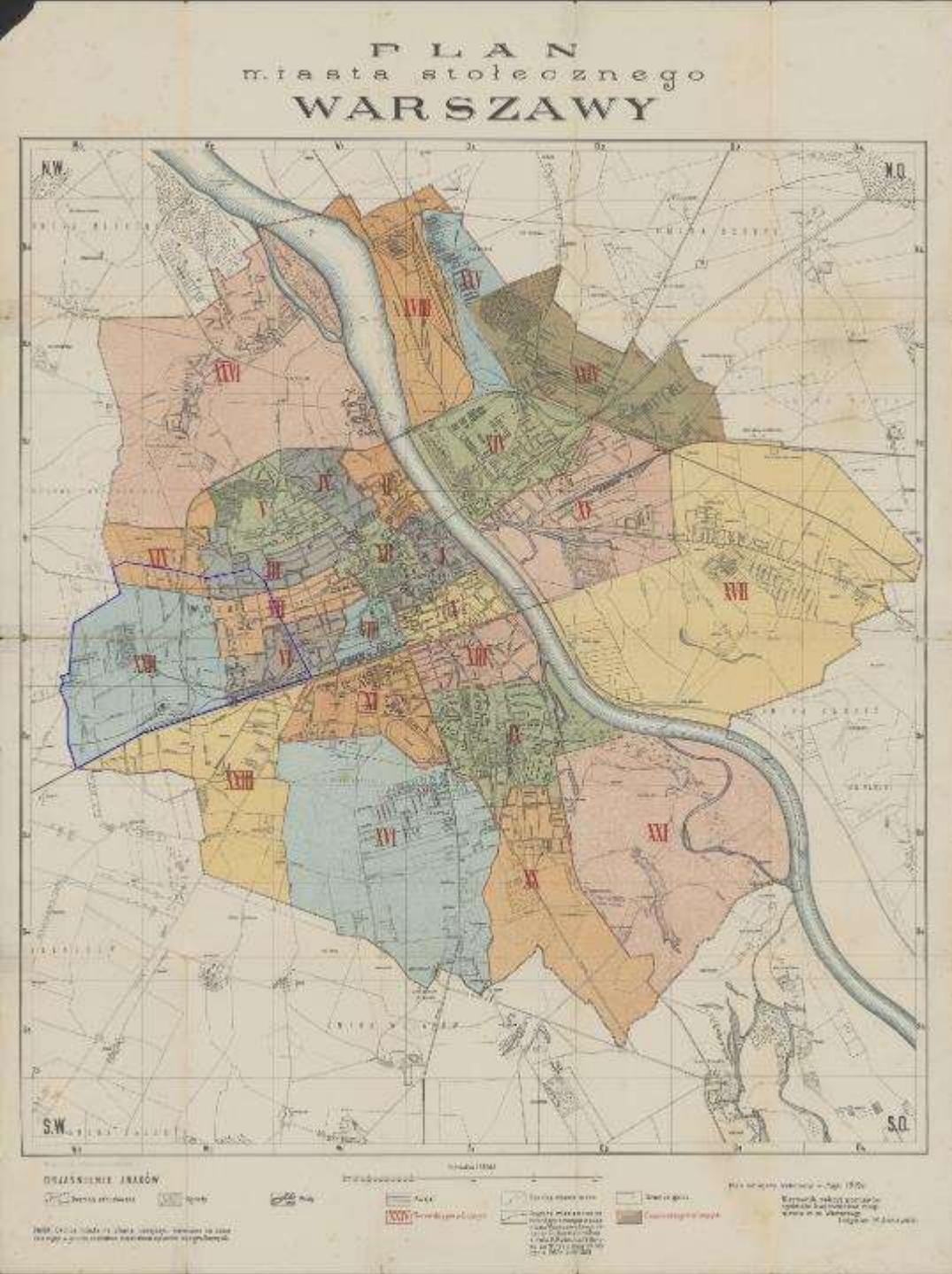
Ryc. II.9. Podział Warszawy na okręgi (komisariaty) w 1938 r.

Source: A. Gawryszewski, *Ludność Warszawy w XX wieku*, Warszawa 2009, Ryc. II.9. Podział Warszawy na okręgi (komisariaty) w 1938 r.

# Population density in Wola in the pre-war period

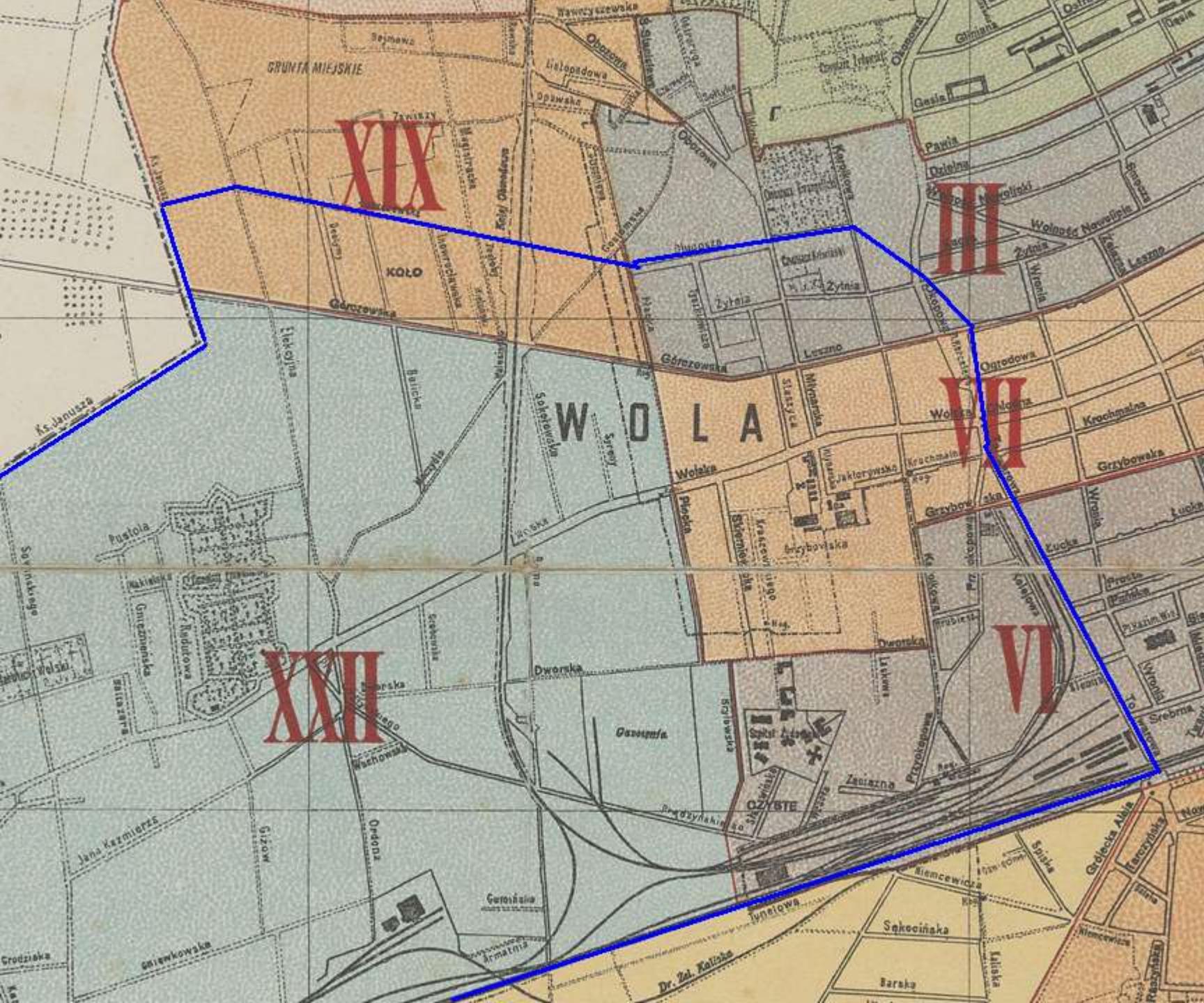


Sources: A. Gawryszewski, *Ludność Warszawy w XX wieku*, Warszawa 2009, Ryc. III.4. Gęstość zaludnienia Warszawy według obwodów statystycznych, 1 I 1938 r.



# Wola district against the background of pre-war administrative divisions of Warsaw

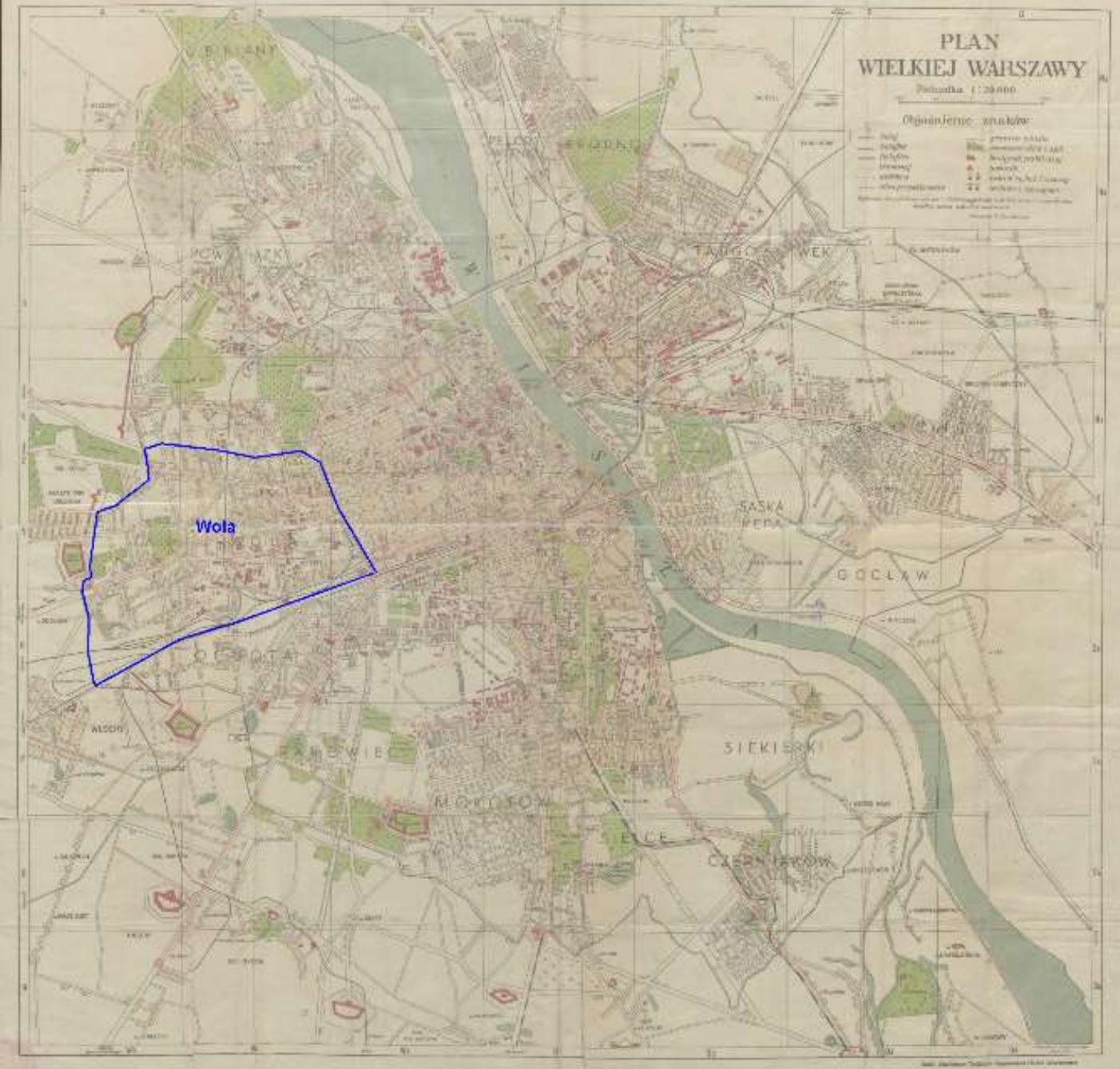
Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944  
- summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski



# Wola district in pre-war administrative divisions of Warsaw

Sources: *Plan m. st. Warszawy : z wykazem nowych nazw ulic*, Warszawa Magistrat m. st. Warszawy, 1919 r.  
Biblioteka Narodowa, sygn. ZZK 26  
757

# Wola district against the background of pre-war Warsaw



Sources: *Plan wielkiej Warszawy*, red. W. Jamiołkowski, [w:] *Warszawa: przewodnik krajoznawczy*, Oddział Warszawski Polskiego Towarzystwa Krajoznawczego, Warszawa 1938 ; Mazowiecka Biblioteka Cyfrowa sygn. Sz 21/8

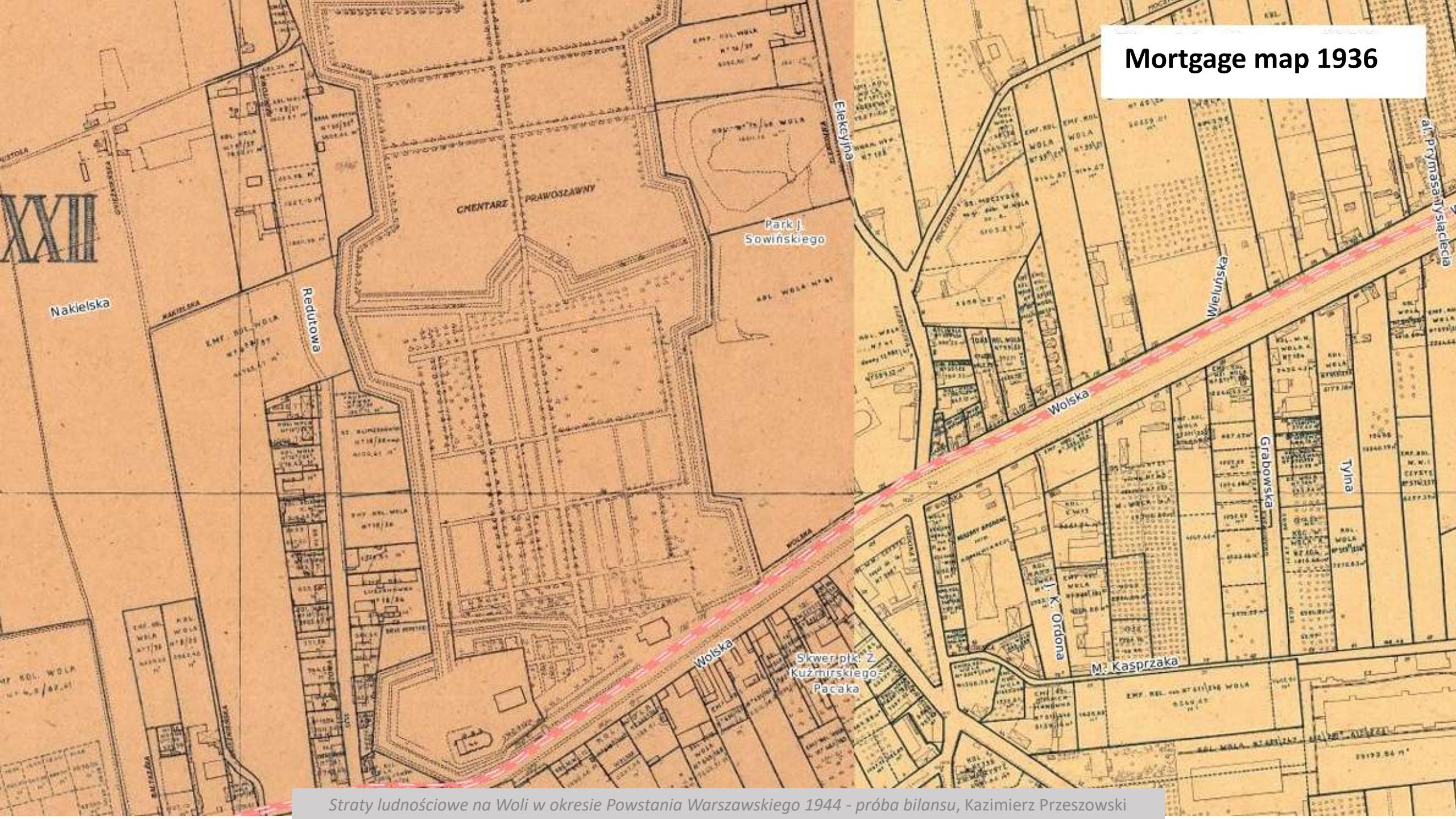
# Wola district in the pre-war period

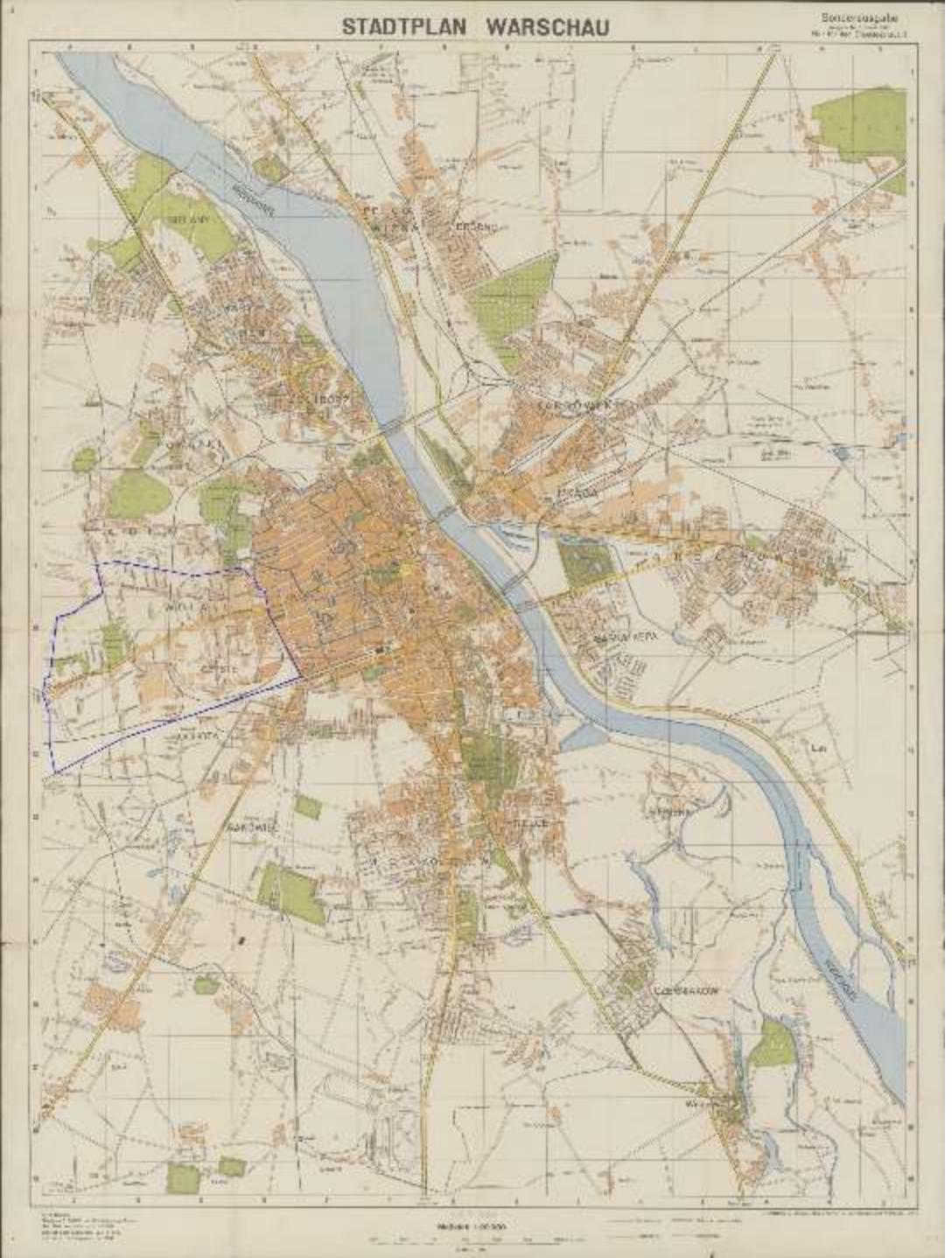


*Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944  
- summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach*, Kazimierz Przeszowski

Sources: *Plan wielkiej Warszawy*, red. W. Jamiołkowski, [w:] *Warszawa: przewodnik krajoznawczy*, Oddział Warszawski Polskiego Towarzystwa Krajoznawczego, Warszawa 1938 ; Mazowiecka Biblioteka Cyfrowa sygn. Sz 21/8

Mortgage map 1936



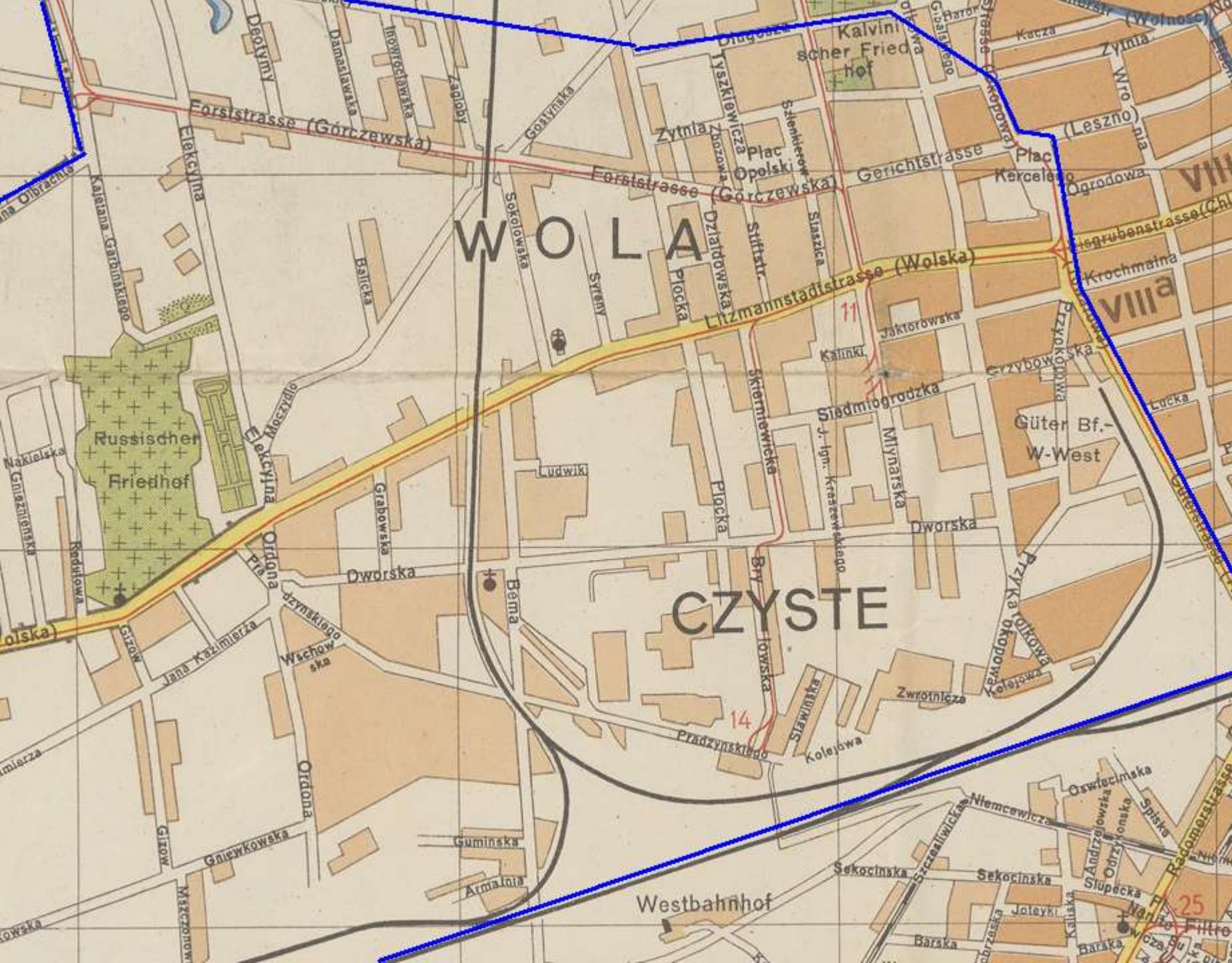


Wola district against the background of German-occupied Warsaw

Sources: *Stadtplan Warschau*, Kriegs-Karten- u.  
Vermessungsamt Warszawa [1942 r.]  
Biblioteka Narodowa sygn. 1990 k 1026

*Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944  
- summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new  
scientific approach*, Kazimierz Przeszowski

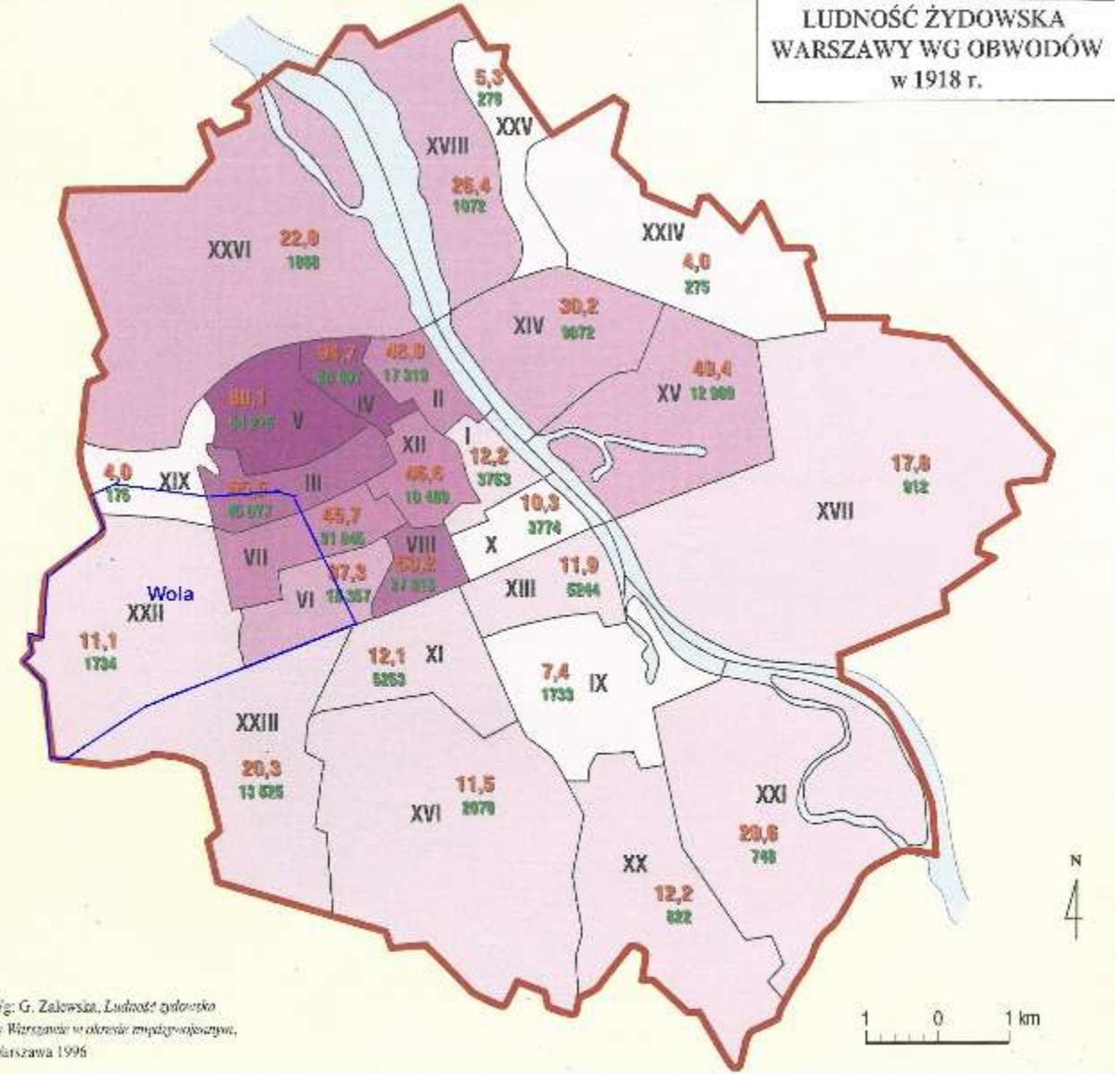
# Wola district during the German occupation



*Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944  
- summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new  
scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski*

Sources: *Stadtplan Warschau, Kriegs-Karten- u. Vermessungsamt Warszawa [1942 r.]*  
Biblioteka Narodowa sygn. 1990 k 1026

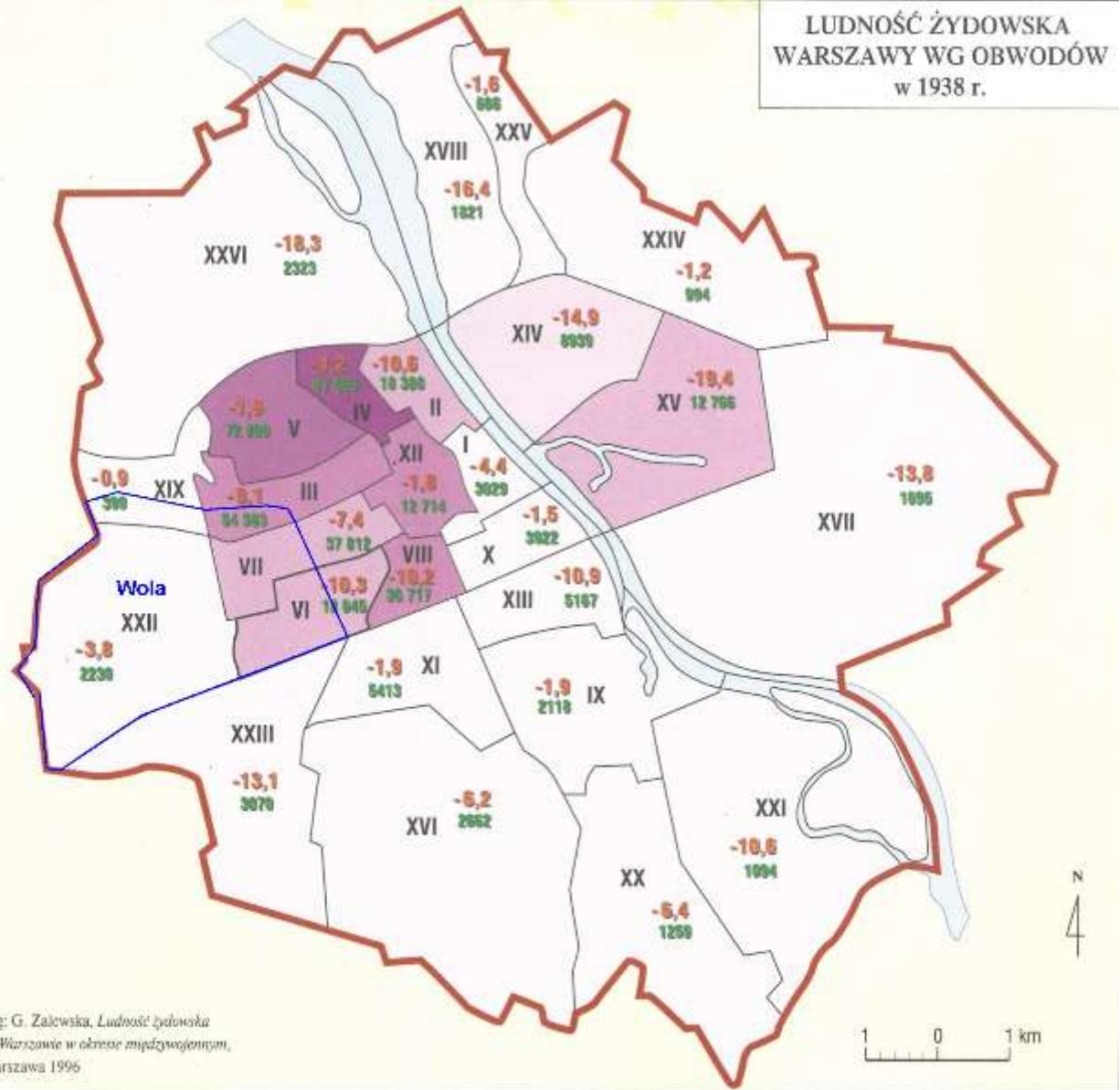
LUDNOŚĆ ŻYDOWSKA  
WARSZAWY WG OBWODÓW  
w 1918 r.



# Wola district against the background of Warsaw's Jewish population in the interwar period

Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski

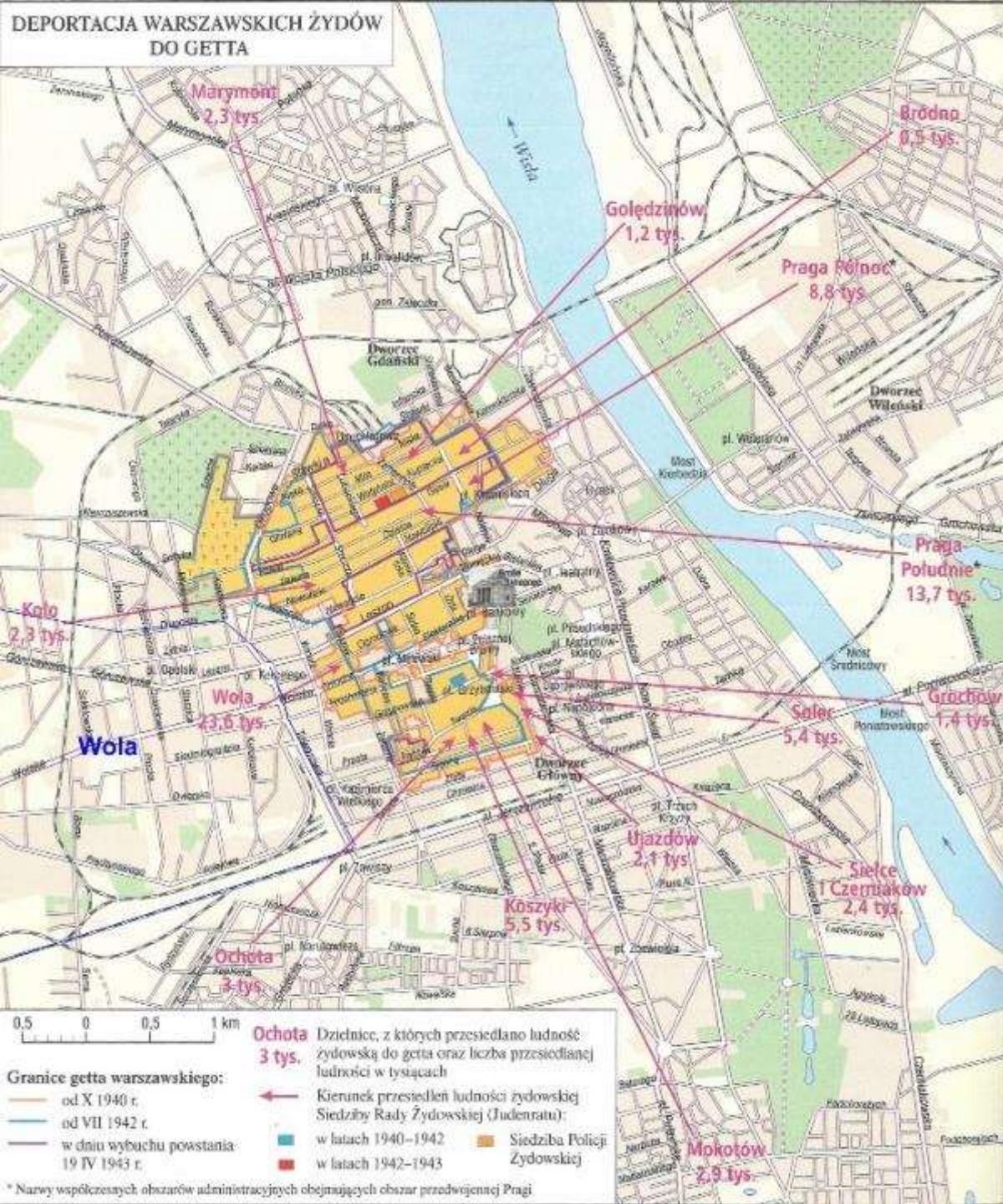
Sources: *Atlas historii Żydów polskich*, Demart, Warszawa 2010, s. 254.



# Wola district against the background of Warsaw's Jewish population in the interwar period

*Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach*, Kazimierz Przeszowski

Sources: *Atlas historii Żydów polskich*, Demart, Warszawa 2010, s. 255.



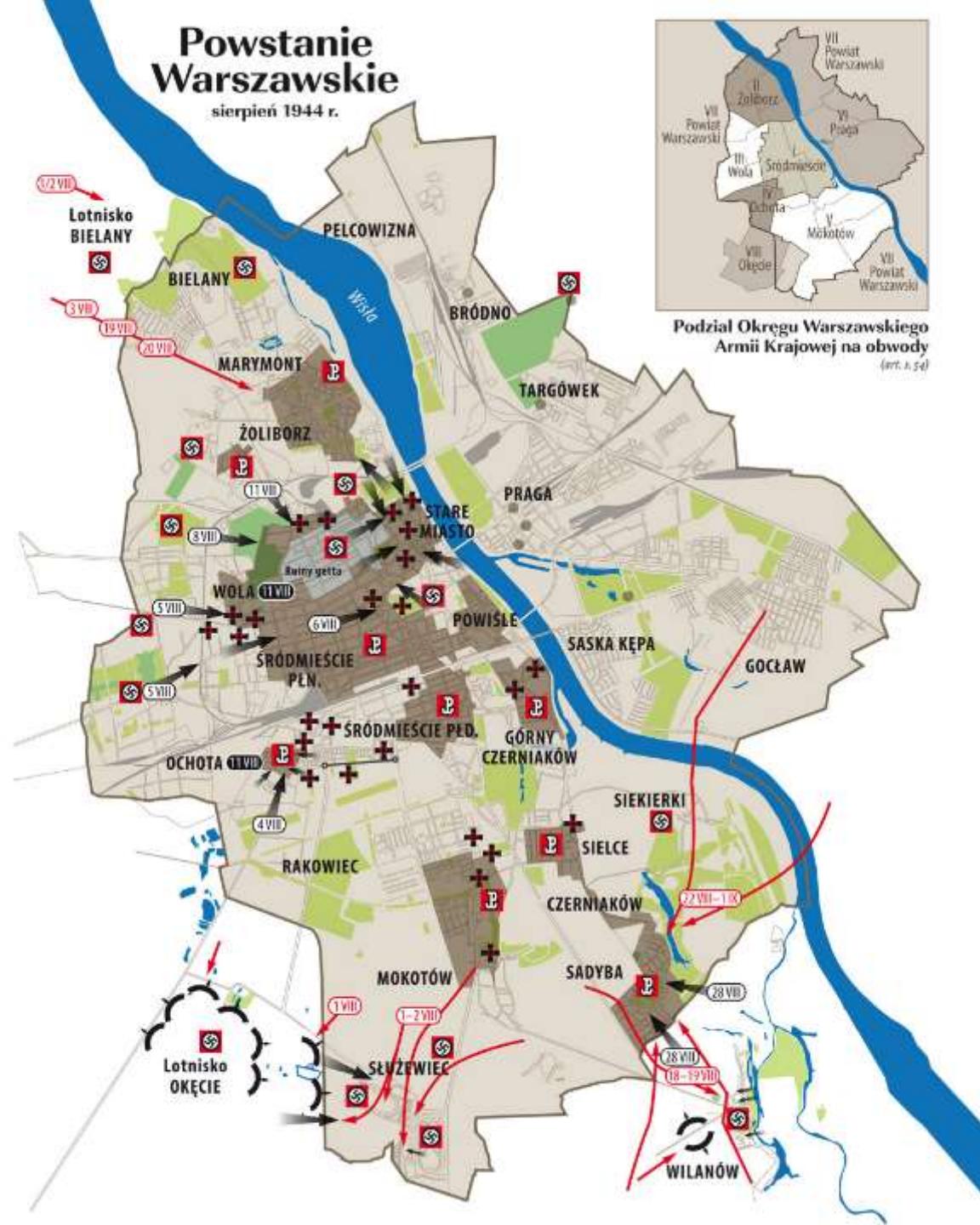
# Displacement of the Jewish population from Wola to the Warsaw Ghetto during the German occupation

*Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944  
- summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski*

Sources: *Wysiedlania, wypędzenia, ucieczki 1939–1959 - Atlas ziem Polski*, Demart, Warszawa 2008.

# Powstanie Warszawskie

sierpień 1944 r.

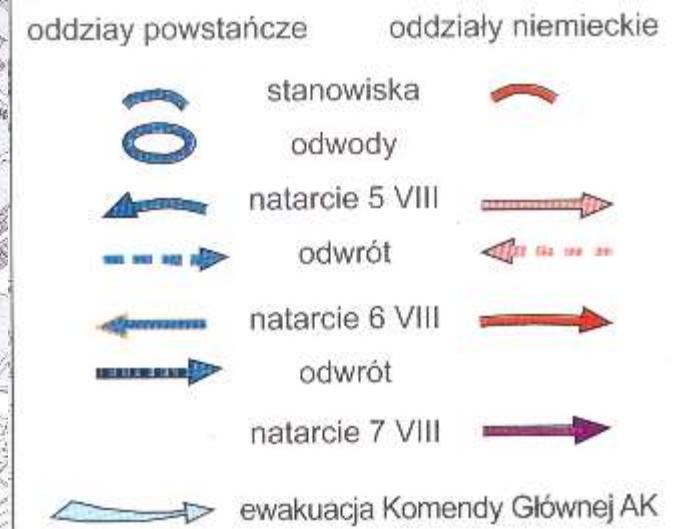
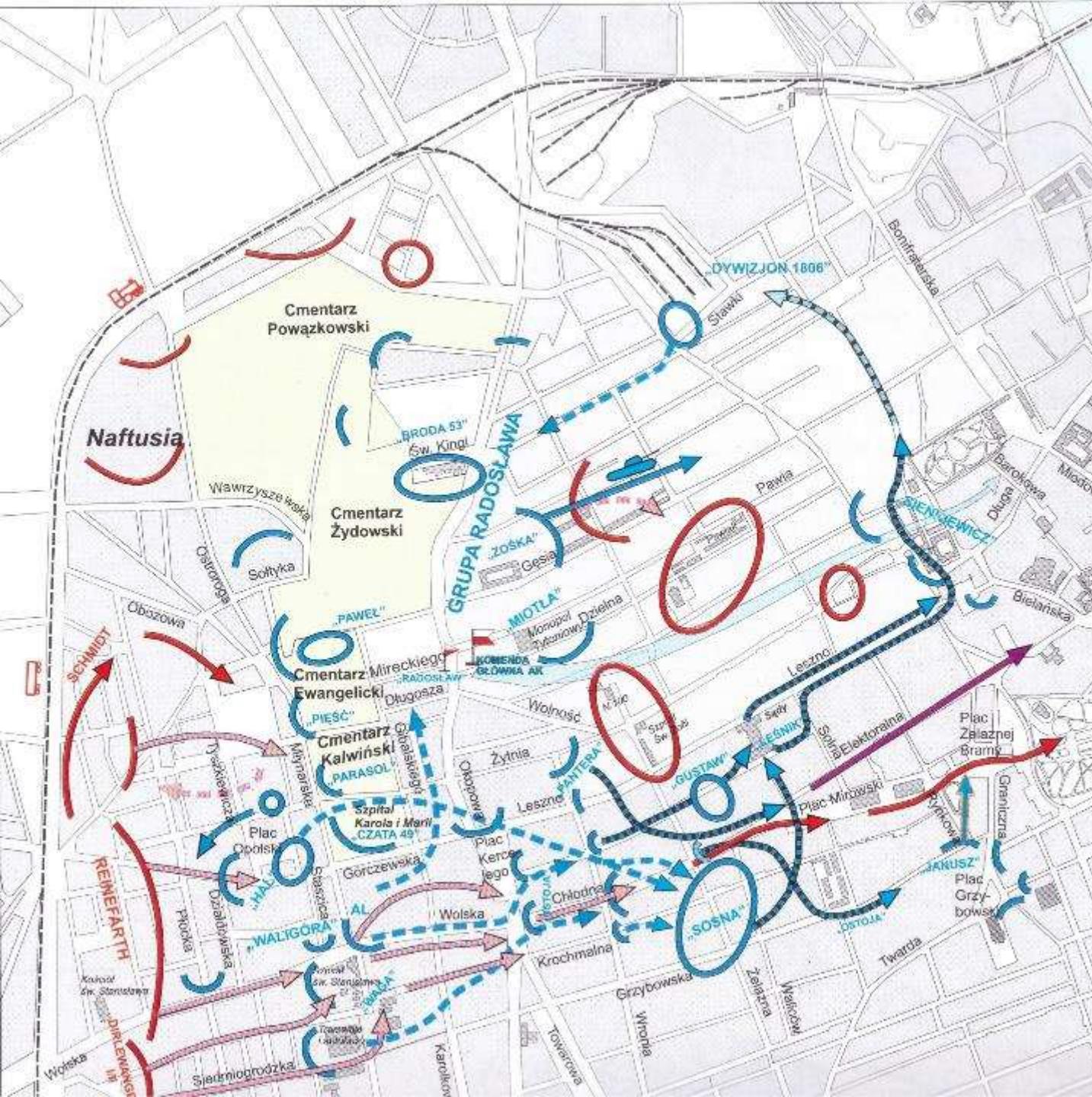


# Wola against the backdrop of the events of the Warsaw Uprising

*Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944  
- summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski*

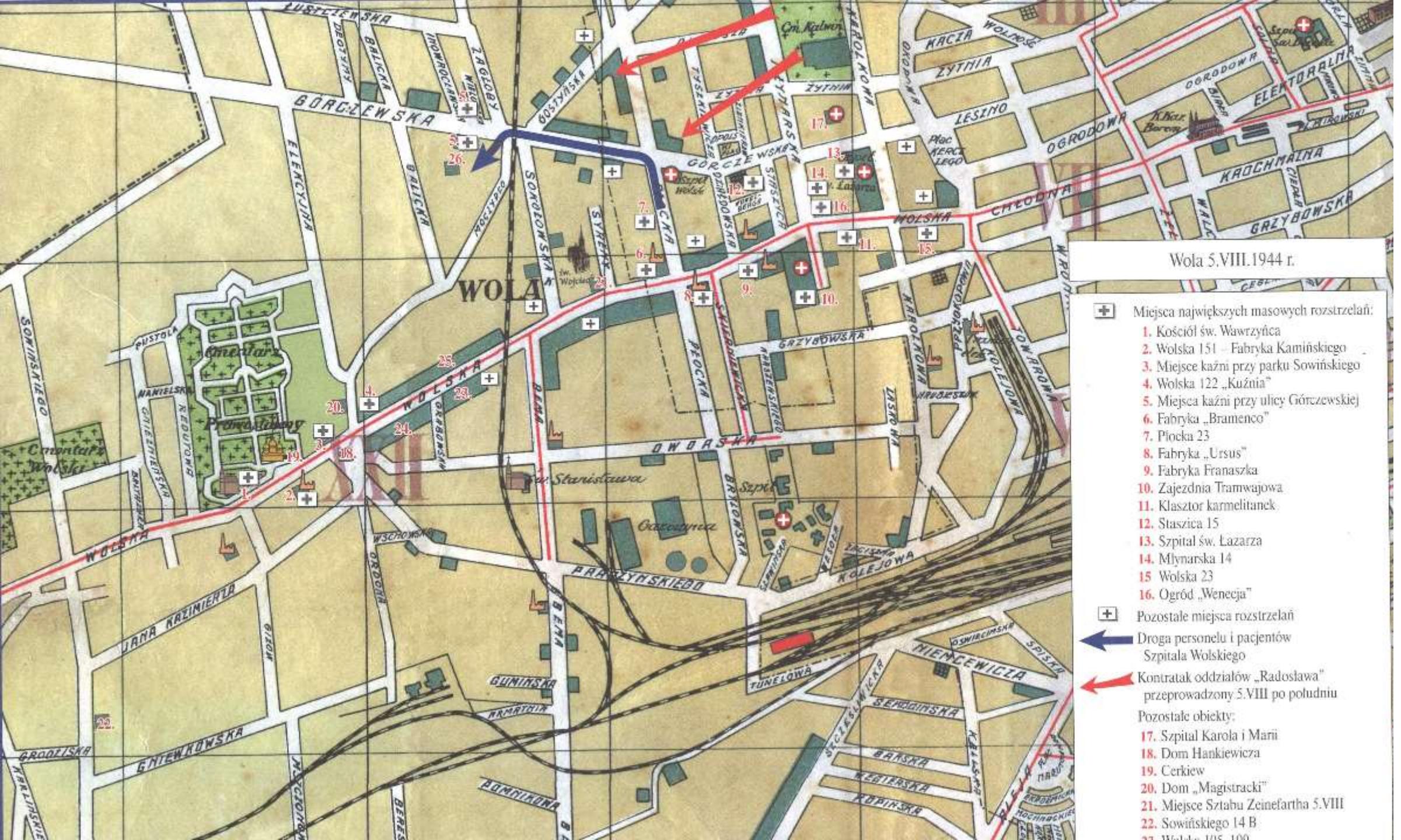
Sources: *Powstanie mapa sierpień 1944*, Marek Sobczak/Polityka 08.07.2014.

# Warsaw Uprising in Wola



*The attack of the German relief from Wola on August 5-7, 1944, ed. Zygmunt Walkowski*

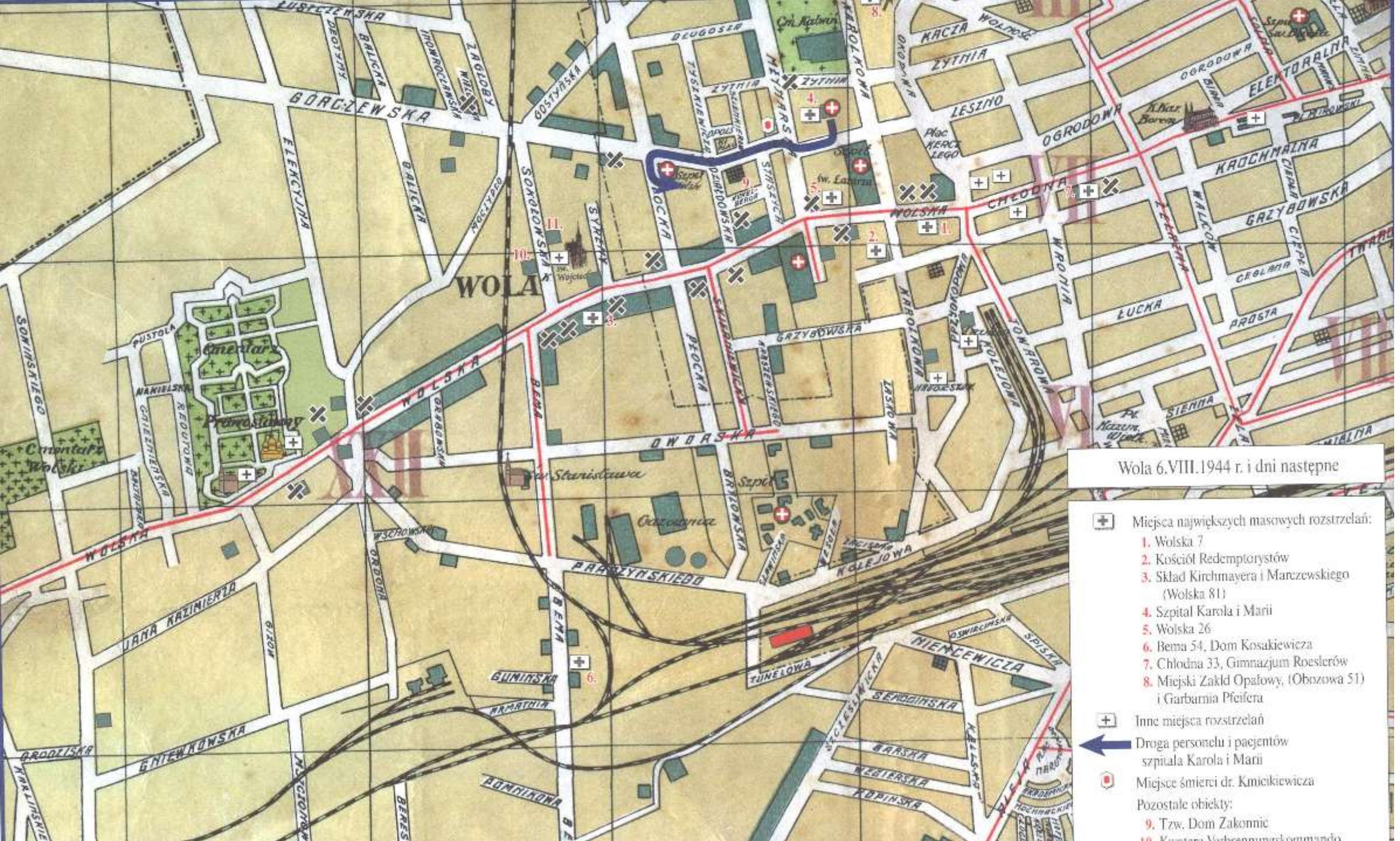
Sources: W. Bartoszewski, *Powstanie Warszawskie*, oprac. A. Kunert, Z. Walkowski, Warszawa 2009.



P. Gursztyn, Rzeź Woli. Zbrodnia nierożliczona, Demart, Warszawa 2015  
 Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski

# P. Gursztyn, Rzeź Woli. Zbrodnia nierożliczona, Demart, Warszawa 2015

Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski



# Destruction of buildings in Wola during WWII



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Tereny budowlane.</b><br>Building grounds.  | <b>Obyzary rolnie.</b><br>Ploughed land  |
| <b>Objaśnienie kolorów i znaków</b>  |  |
| Zabudowa zniszczona przez systematiczne bombardowanie.<br>Buildings destroyed by systematic bombing and air raids. | Obszar zniszczony przez Niemców.<br>Buildings destroyed by Germans.  |
| Obszary leśne i nieużytki.<br>Meadows and uncultivated land.   | Mosty i tunele zniszczone.<br>Destroyed bridges and tunnels.   |
| <b>Explanations of colours and signs</b>   |  |
| Zabudowa zniszczona przez systematiczne podpalanie.<br>Buildings destroyed by systematic setting on fire.          | Zabudowa której Niemcy nie zaszyli zniszczyć.<br>Buildings which the Germans have not succeeded in destroying. |

Sources: *Map of Warsaw at scale 1:20 000 and inventory of the destruction perpetrated by the Germans during the war 1939-1945*, Główny Urząd Pomiarów Warszawa 1949 r.  
 Biblioteka Narodowa, sygn. 1987 K 319

# Selected iconographic sources

*Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski*

1935



Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski

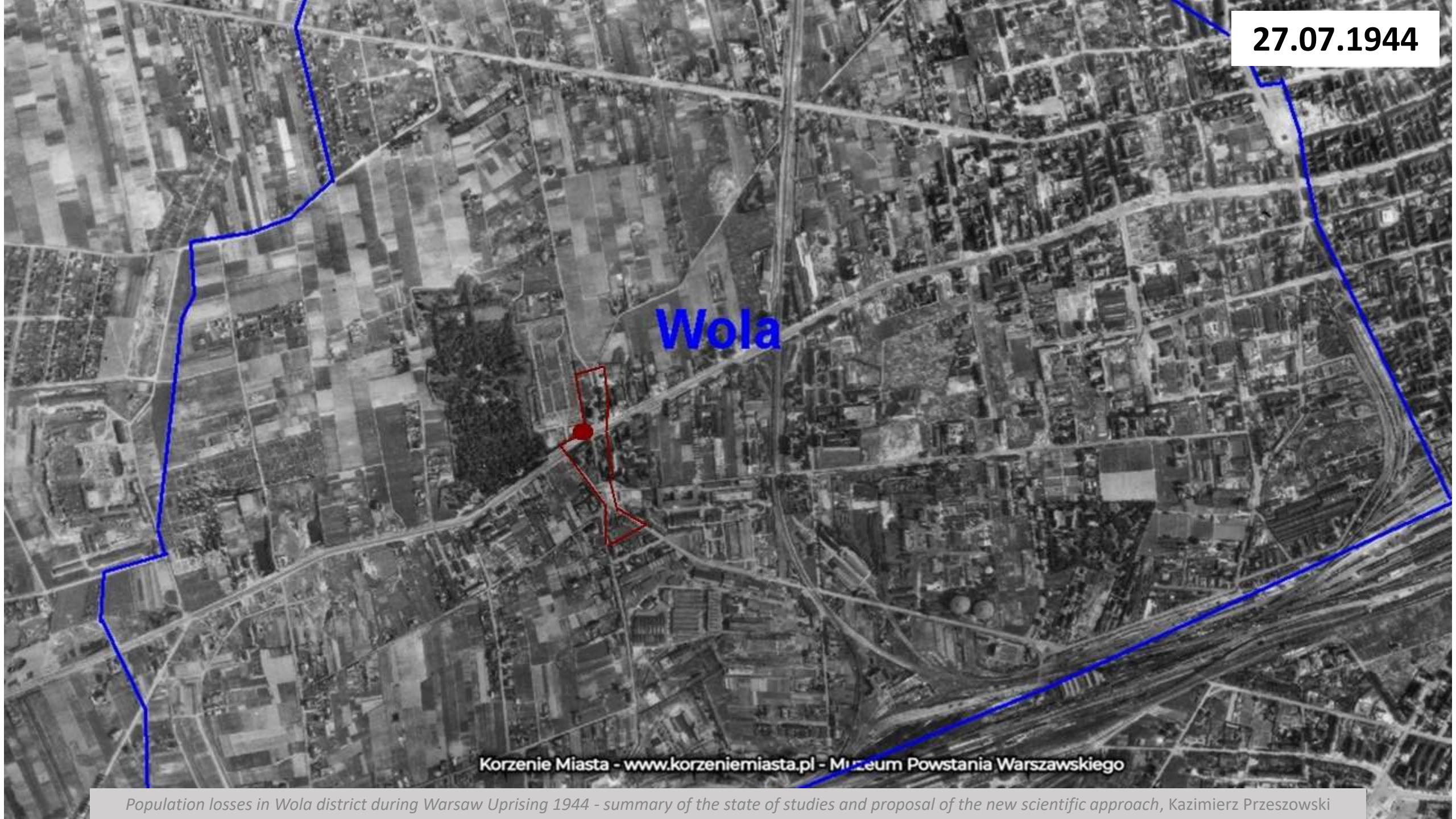
An aerial photograph of Warsaw, Poland, showing the city center and surrounding residential and industrial areas. The city is densely built with a mix of modern and traditional architecture. A major railway line cuts through the city. In the foreground, there is a large, dark, irregular area, likely a forest or undeveloped land. The year '1939' is displayed in the top right corner.

1939



Sources: aerial photos from September 29, 1939 and a photo from the tower of St. Wojciech [1938], collection of Robert Marcinkowski

*Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach*, Kazimierz Przeszowski



27.07.1944

Wola

30.08.1944

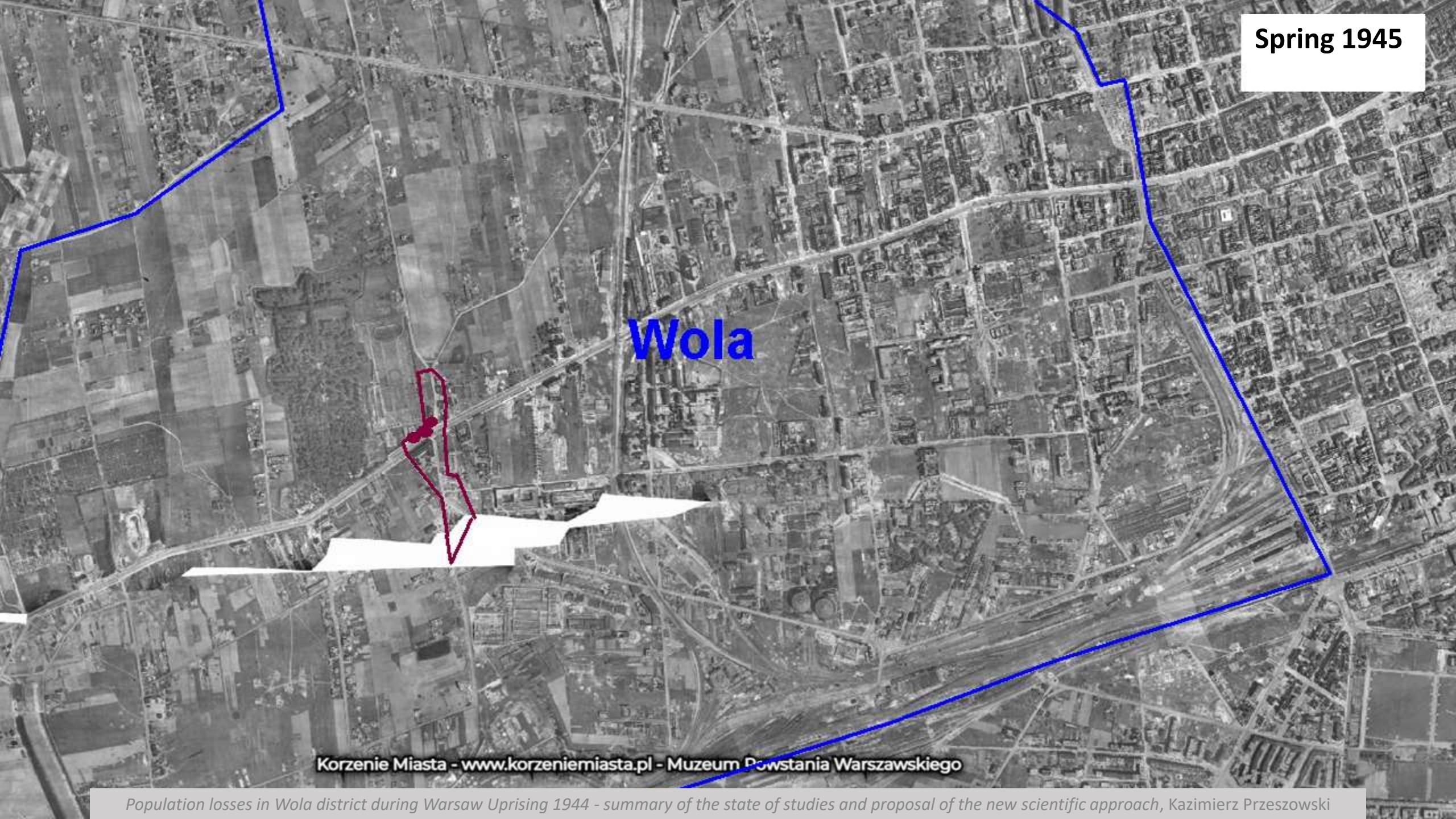


Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski



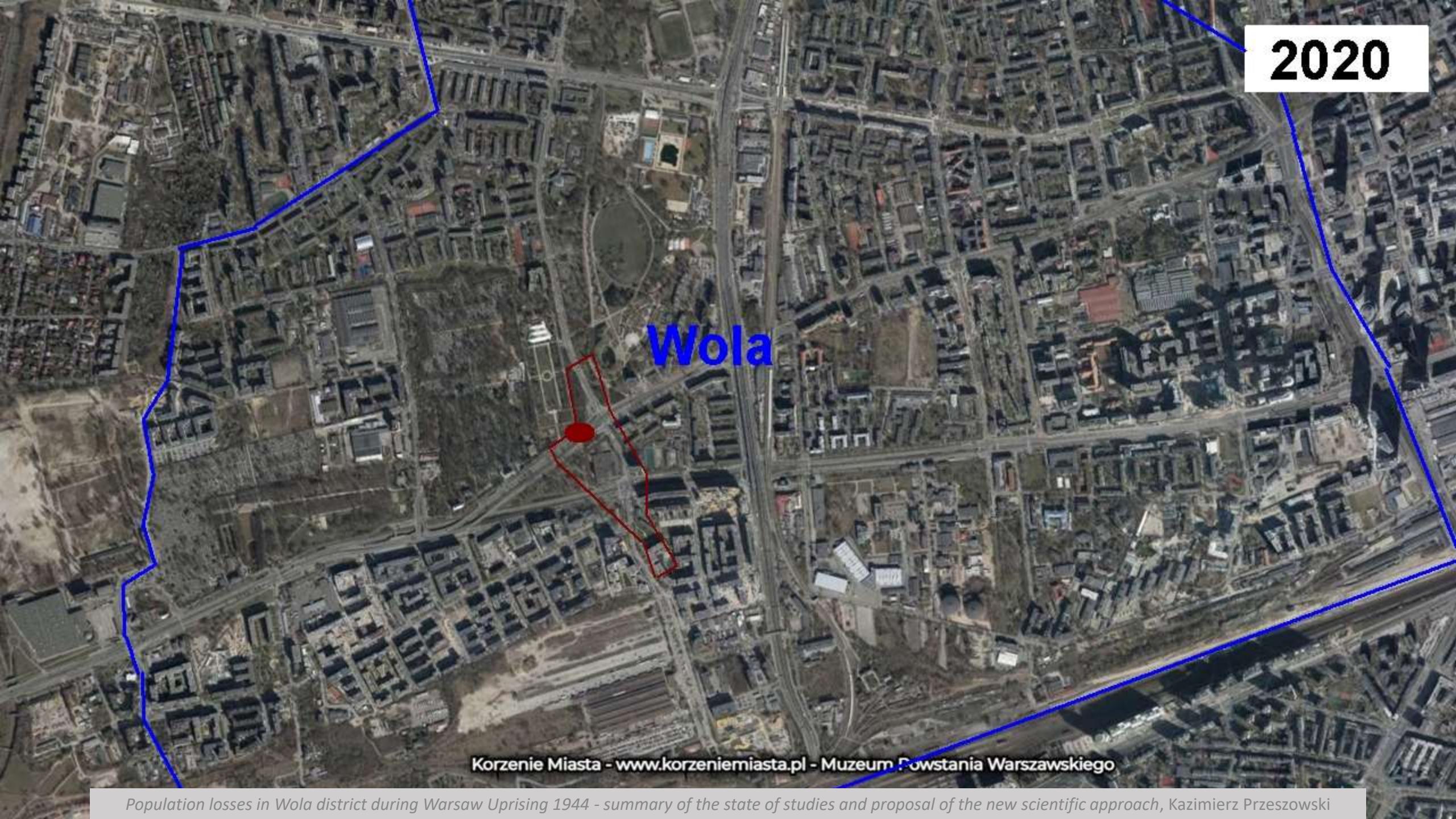
05.09.1944

Wola



Spring 1945

Wola



2020

Wola

# Polish insurgents of 1944 in Wola district



Soldiers of the "Zemsta" company of the "Pieśń" battalion laying the coffin of 2nd Lt. Tadeusz Towarnicki „Naprawa". The area of the intersection of ul. Karolkowa and Żytnia. In the background, the buildings of the Gerlach foundry at ul. Karolkowa 74. early August 1944

Fot. Stefan Bałuk „Kubuś” „Starba”  
Muzeum Powstania  
Warszawskiego, nr inw. MPW-  
IS/150

# Expulsion of civilians in Wola district



Muzeum  
Powstania  
Warszawskiego,  
nr inw. MPW-  
IP/1616

# Expulsion of civilians in Wola district



Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski

Muzeum Powstania Warszawskiego,  
nr inw. nn., Instytut Pamięci  
Narodowej, Wystawa „Wola  
Pamięci”

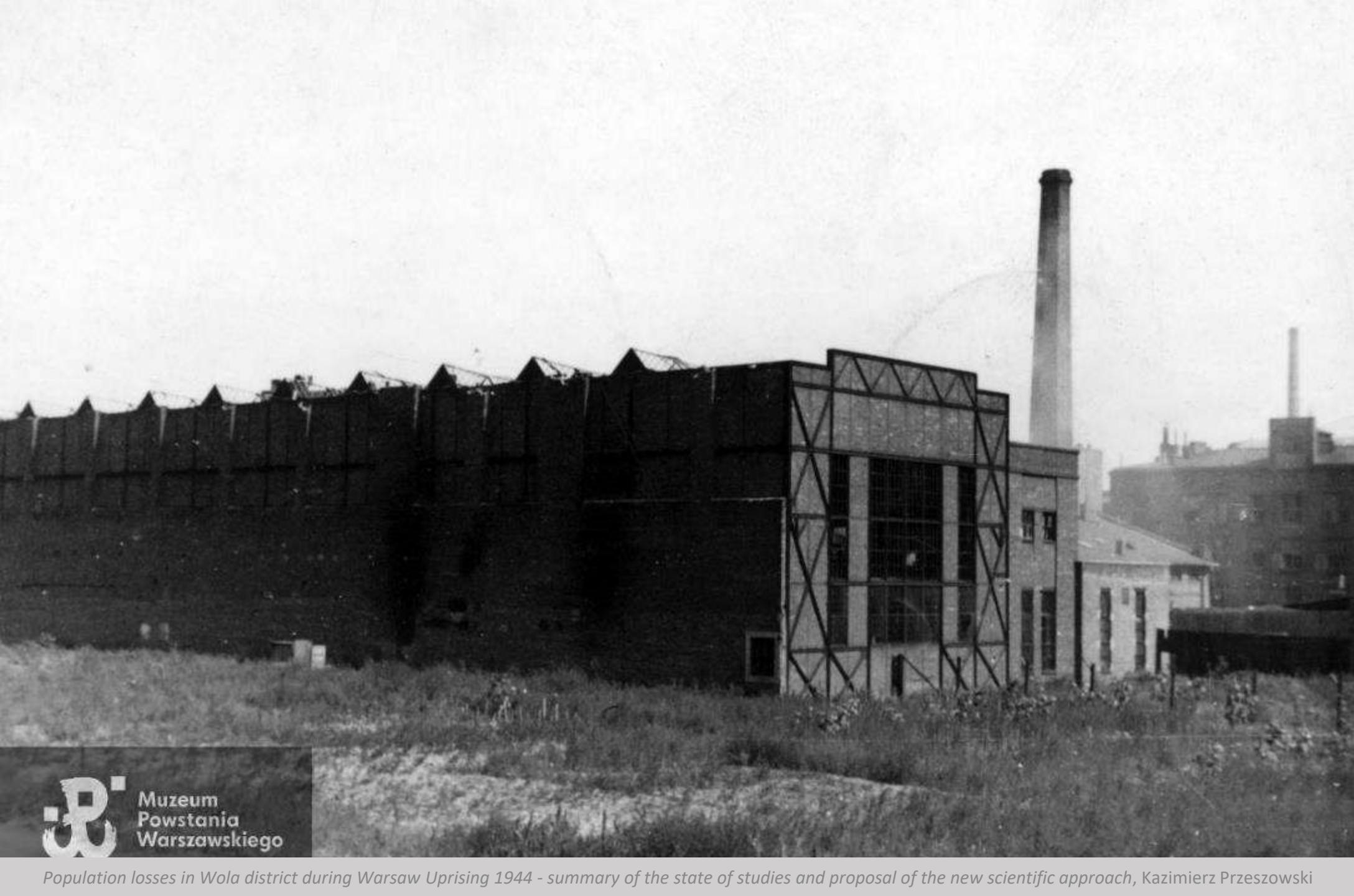
# Expulsion of civilians in Wola district



Muzeum Powstania  
Warszawskiego, nr inw. MPW-  
IP/4096

# Expulsion of civilians in Wola district





# Destruction of buildings in Wola district

Fot. Alfred  
Mensebach  
Muzeum Powstania  
Warszawskiego, nr  
inw. MPW-  
IP/10721



# Destruction of buildings in Wola



Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski

Author  
unkown,  
Public domain



# Destruction of buildings in Wola

Fot. Alfred Mensebach  
Muzeum Powstania  
Warszawskiego nr inw.  
MPW-IP/10722



Muzeum  
Powstania  
Warszawskiego

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# Burials of ashes of people murdered in Wola district



August 6, 1946. Funeral of nameless victims of the Warsaw Uprising from Wola and Ochota.  
Loading of coffins with ashes of the murdered at the Church of the Holy Saviour.

Fot. Jerzy Baranowski/PAP  
TVP

# Burials of ashes of people murdered in Wola district



August 6, 1946. Funeral of nameless victims of the Warsaw Uprising from Wola and Ochota. Cars transport the coffins of the murdered to the Cemetery of the Defenders of Wola.

Fot. Jerzy Baranowski/PAP  
Instytut Pamięci Narodowej,  
Exhibition „Wola Pamięci”

# Selected former and contemporary commemorations and memorial sites

*Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski*

# Places of remembrance of those murdered in Wola district



November 1, 1945. All Souls' Day in Wola.  
Provisional commemoration at the site of mass executions of civilians on ul. Wolska 102 and 104.

Fot. nn, Warszawa 1945-1966,  
Warszawskie Wydawnictwo  
Prasowe RSW "Prasa" i  
Redakcja Tygodnika "Stolica",  
Warszawa 1967

# Places of remembrance of those murdered in Wola district



1962. Provisional commemoration at the site of a mass grave of victims of mass executions of civilians on ul. Wolska 124. Photographic documentation prepared for the needs of the German historian Hanns von Krannhals.

Fot. Stanisław Turski, Archiwum Landowe w Szlezwiku-Holsztynie, nr inw. Abt. 359 Nr. 11256, k. 13

# Places of remembrance of those murdered in Wola district



In 1964, a plaque with a cross motif, designed by Karol Tchorek, was placed in the Sowiński Park, commemorating victims of the execution carried out here. The inscription on the board number  
The victims are estimated at 1500 people.

Fot. Kazimierz Przeszowski, Park Sowińskiego

Sources: Zabytki, Portal Biura Geodezji i Katastru m.st. Warszawy  
[www.mapa.um.warszawa.pl](http://www.mapa.um.warszawa.pl)

# Places of remembrance of those murdered in Wola district



The Chamber of Remembrance at  
the Warsaw Insurgents Cemetery  
–Rememberance Wall

Fot. Jakub Celej Muzeum  
Warszawy

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# Geographically referenced information analysis and visualisation - maps

*Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski*

Exhibition in the Chamber of Remembrance at the Warsaw Insurgents Cemetery commemorating those murdered during the Warsaw Uprising

Fot. Tomasz Kaczor, Muzeum Warszawy



*Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski*

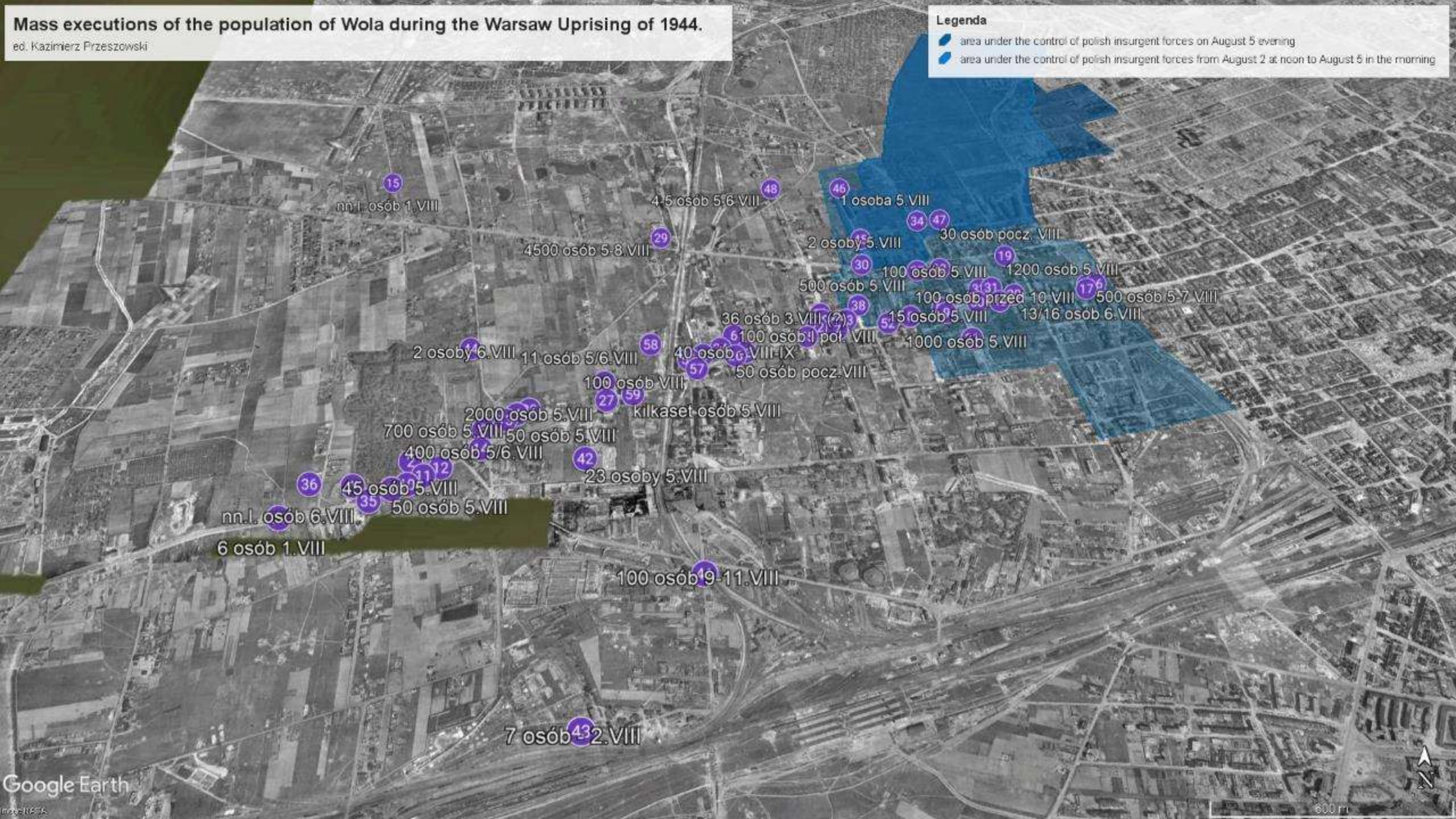
# Mass executions of the population of Wola during the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

ed. Kazimierz Przeszowski

## Legenda

area under the control of polish insurgent forces on August 5 evening

area under the control of polish insurgent forces from August 2 at noon to August 5 in the morning



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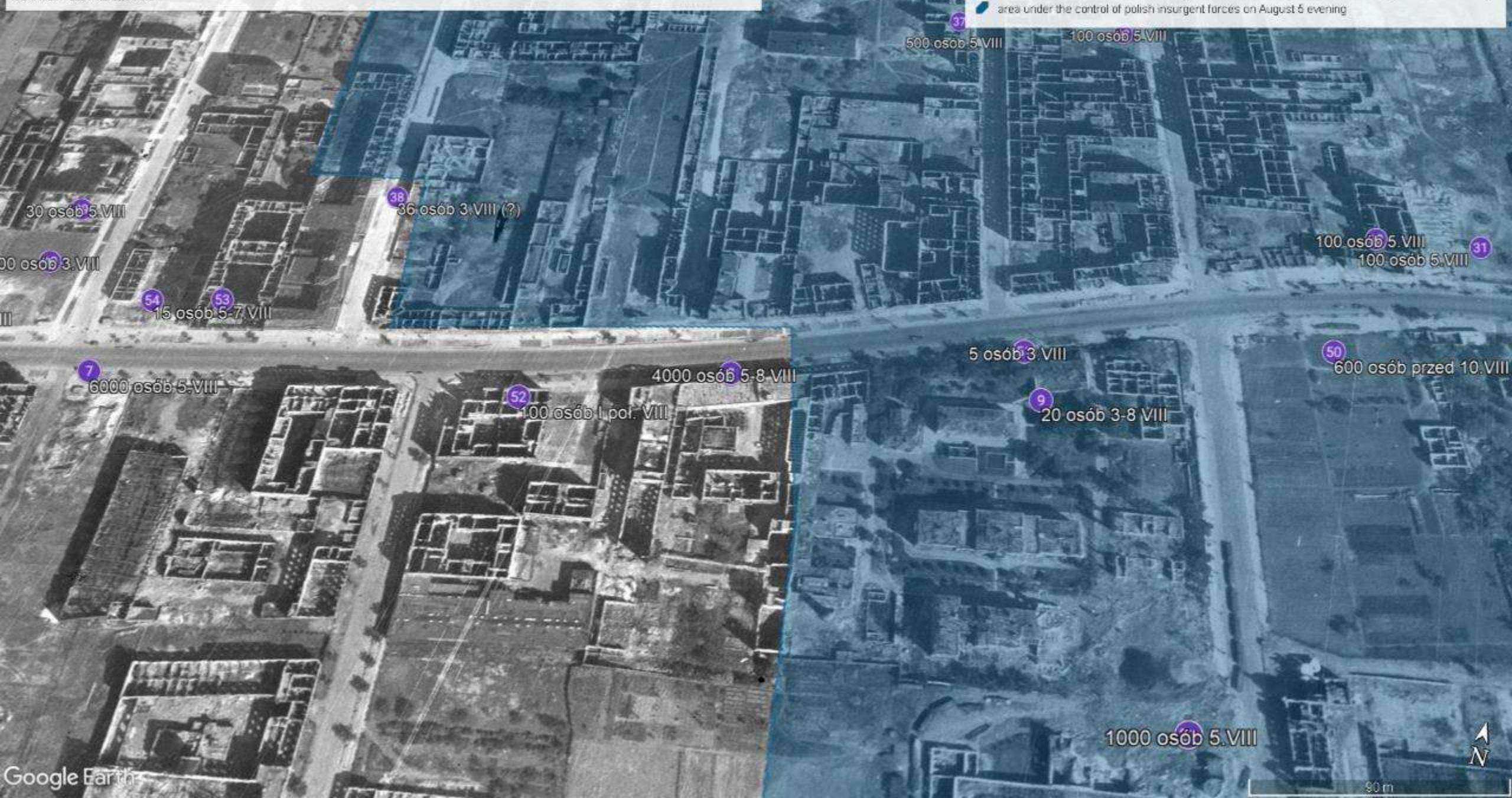


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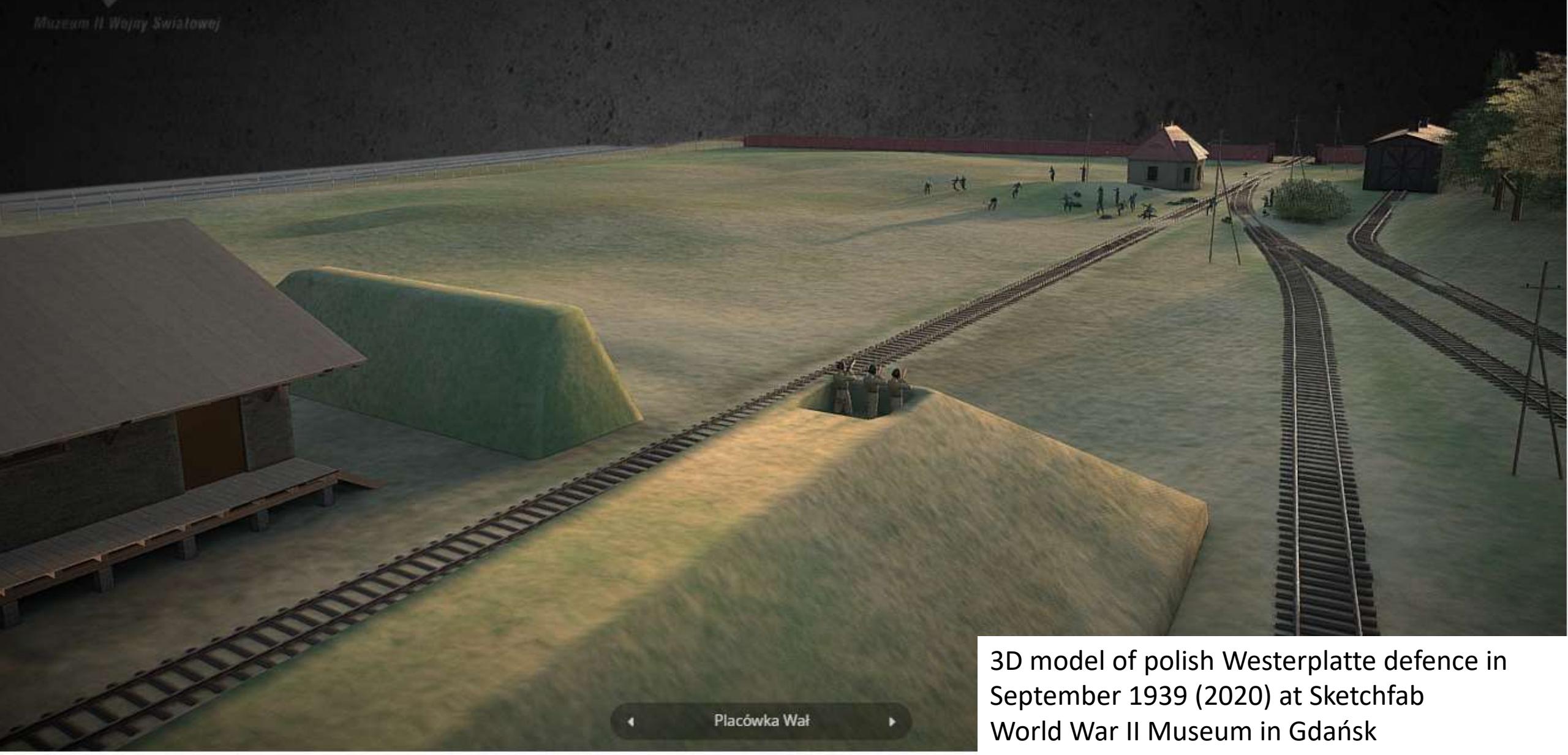


# 3-dimensional models and videos

*Population losses in Wola district during Warsaw Uprising 1944 - summary of the state of studies and proposal of the new scientific approach, Kazimierz Przeszowski*



Muzeum II Wojny Światowej





2 pluton Kompanii Szturm... ▶

3D model of polish Westerplatte defence in September 1939 (2020) at Sketchfab  
World War II Museum in Gdańsk



„City of Ruins” (2010) - digital reconstruction and video animation of Warsaw destruction in Spring 1945  
Warsaw Uprising Museum



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„Warsaw Wola 1935” (2016) - digital reconstruction  
and video animation of pre-war Wola district in 1935  
PGNiG Foundation



„Warsaw Wola 1935” (2016) - digital reconstruction  
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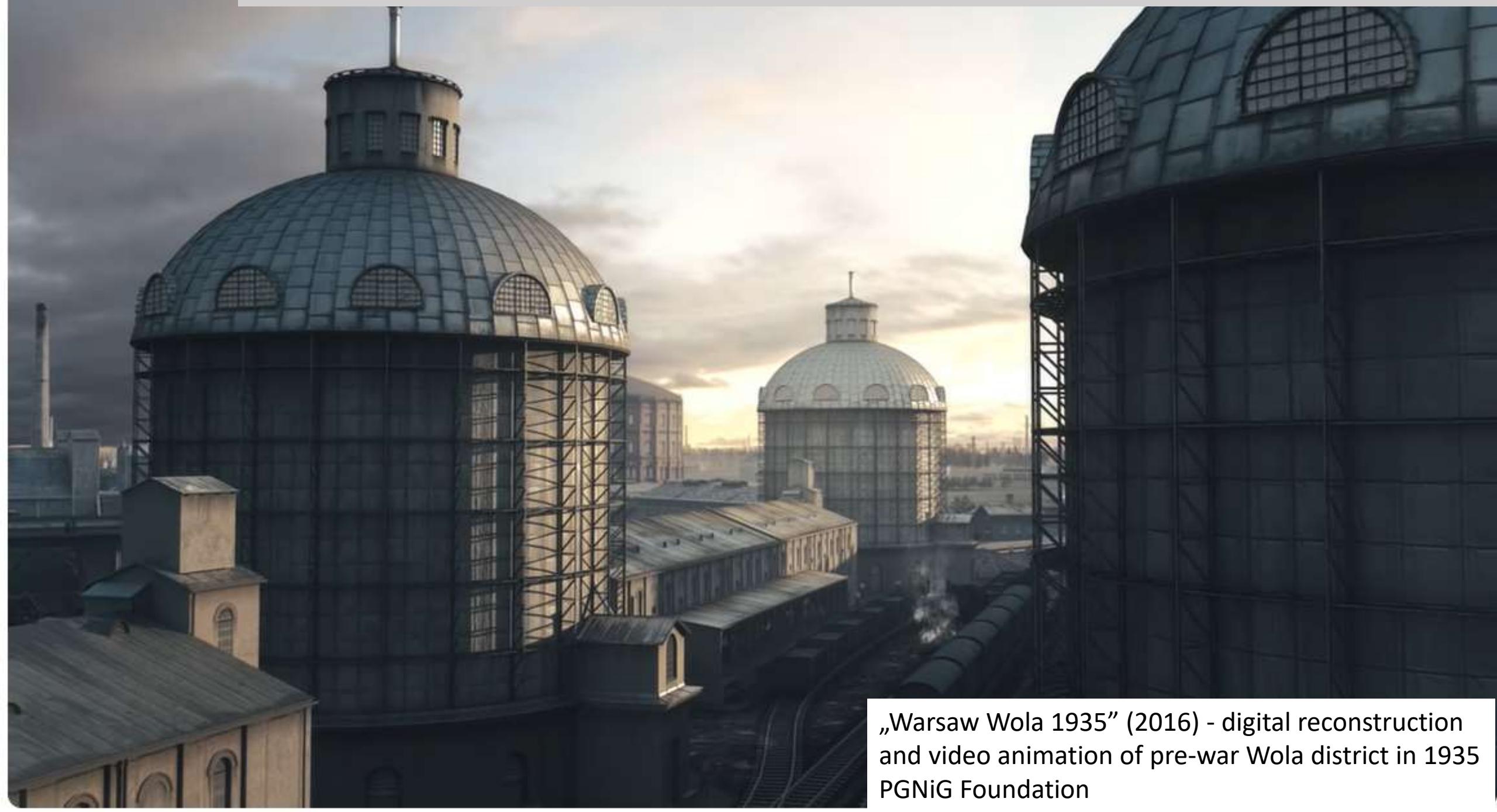
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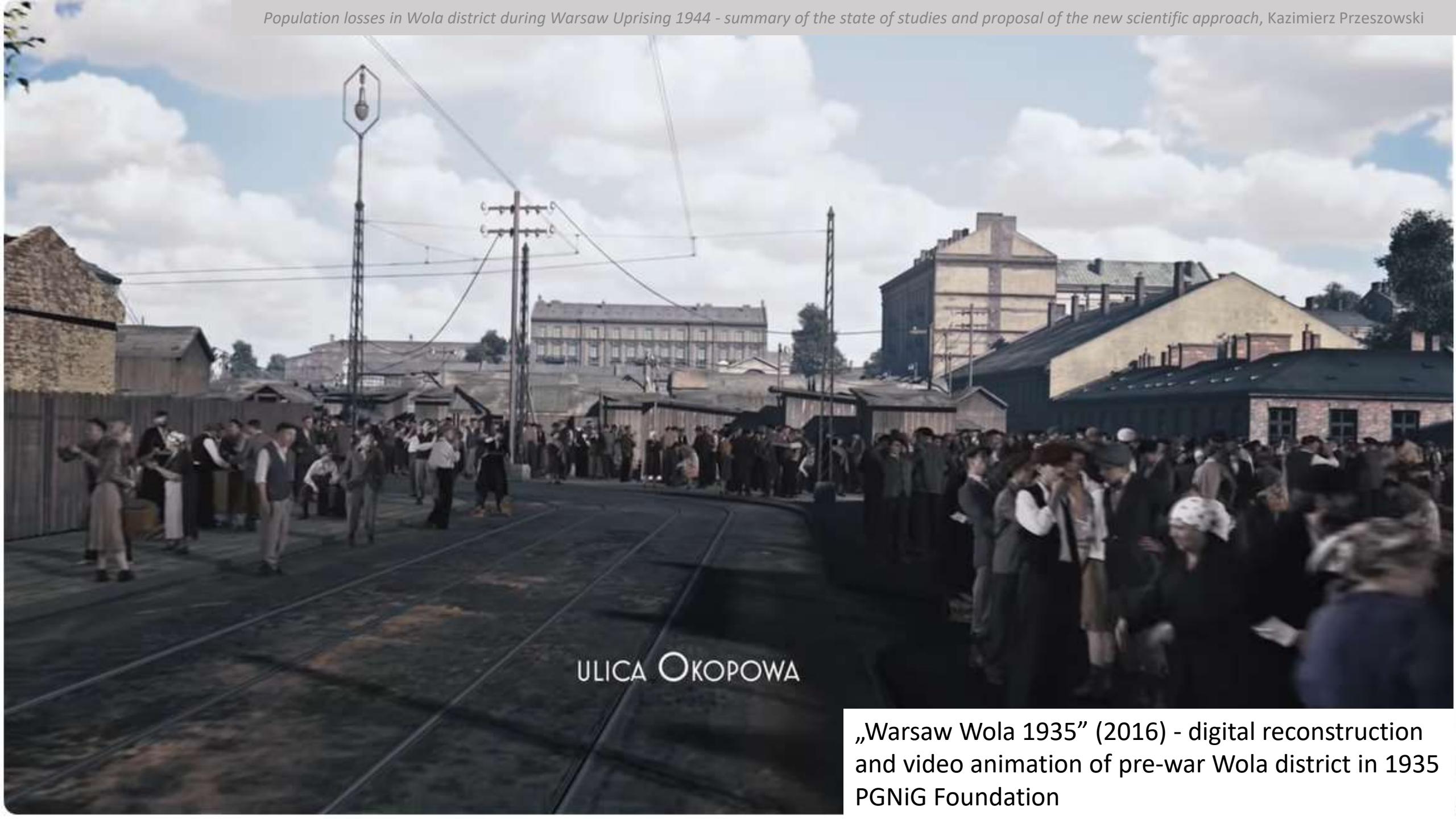
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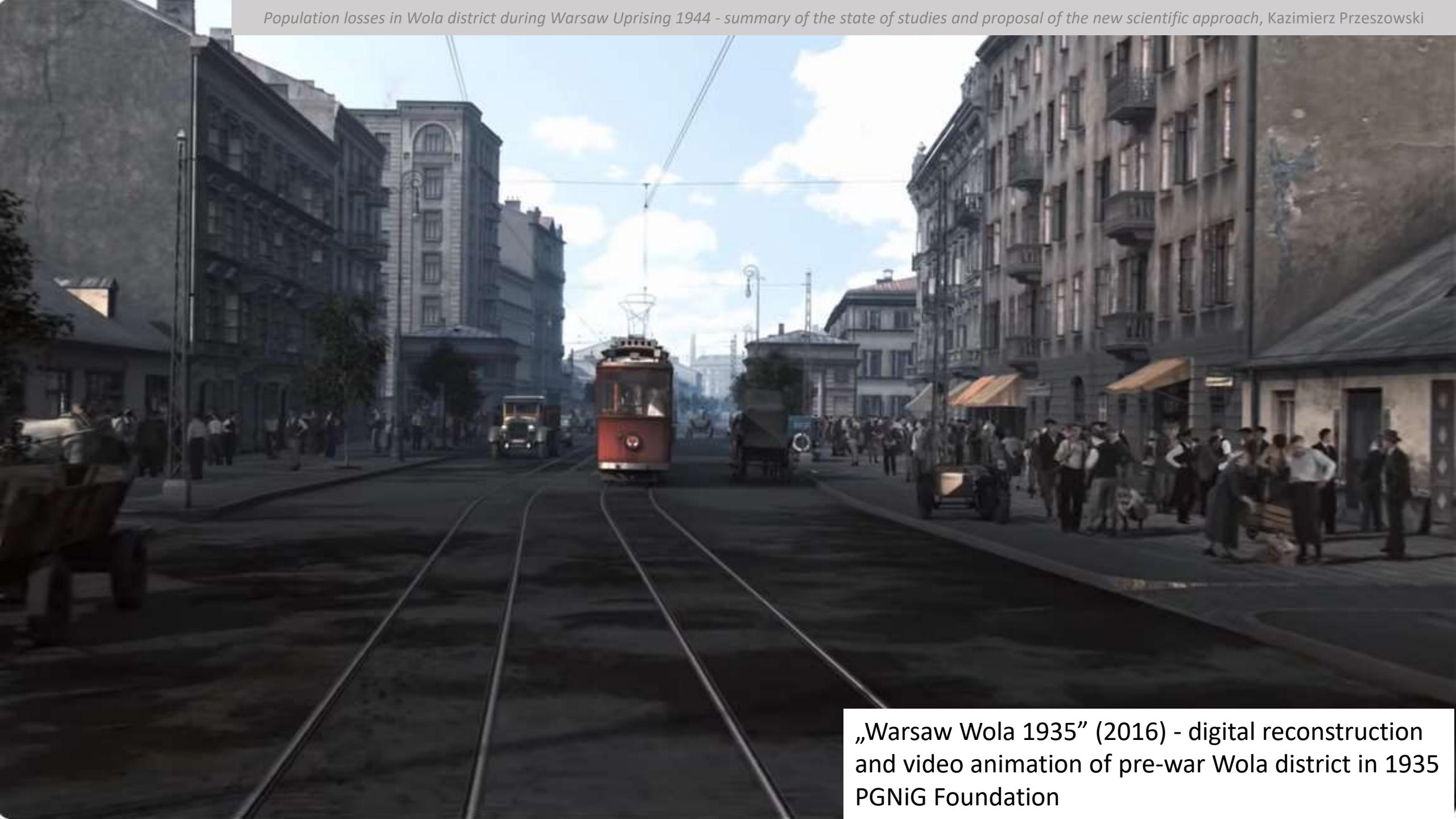


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ULICA OKOPOWA

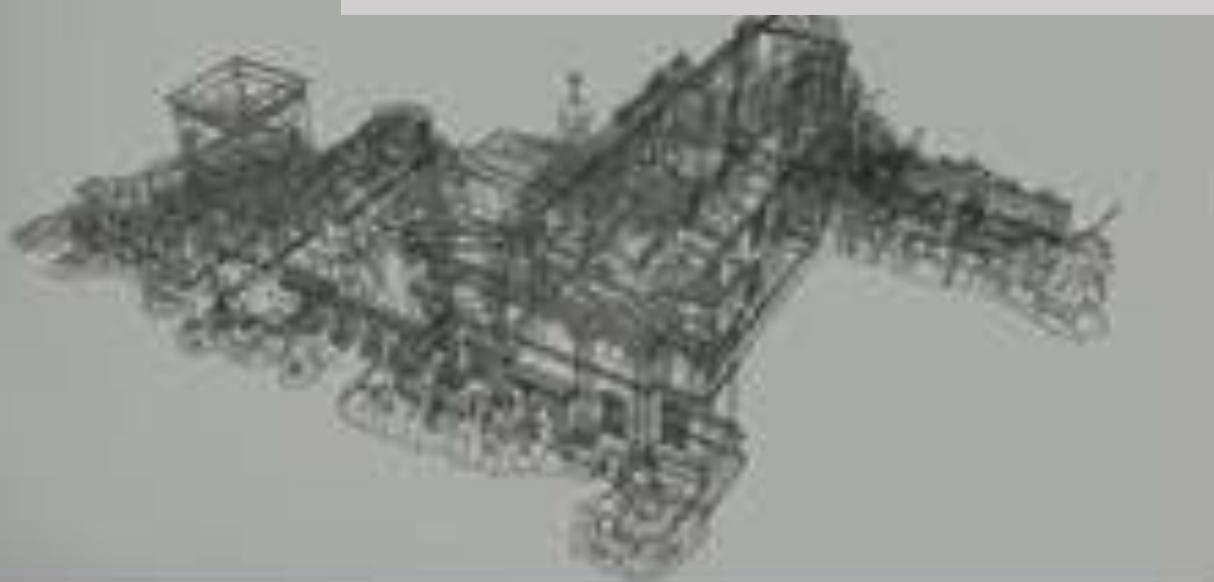
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„Warsaw Wola 1935” (2016) - digital reconstruction  
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PGNiG Foundation



„City of Ruins” (2010) - 3D digital buildings models  
Warsaw Uprising Museum



„Warsaw Wola 1935” (2016) –3D digital buildings  
models  
PGNiG Foundation



WOLSKA 47

„Warsaw Wola 1935” (2016) –  
3D digital buildings models  
Paweł Karbarz



WOLSKA 40

„Warsaw Wola 1935” (2016) –  
3D digital buildings models  
Paweł Karbarz

# Preliminary conclusions

- There is a need to conduct further research on Wola's population losses and the course of events during the Warsaw Uprising
- The need to carry out archaeological and ethnographic research in order to obtain additional source data
- The need to conduct archival queries in Poland and abroad (e.g. in Germany, the United States) in order to obtain additional textual and iconographic sources
- It is necessary to conduct a source analysis of the relationship using interdisciplinary tools, e.g. forensic, psychological, GIS (geographically referenced information) systems and visualisations methods (including 3D models)
- The need to create a research team in the above-mentioned range