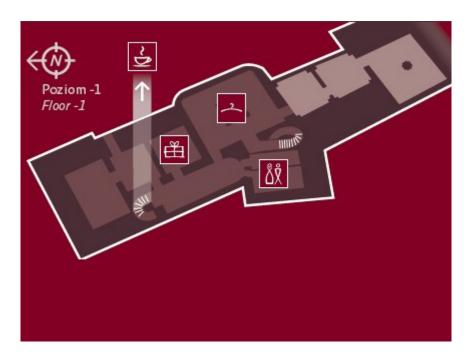
The Royal Castle in Warsaw, being a symbol of the sovereignty of the Polish State, became a target for German military attacks as early as in the fi rst days of the World War  $\square$ . On 17 September 1939 it was in fl ames. Apart from the fi remen and city wardens, also civilians were helping to put the fi re out. At the same time Polish museum workers and conservators, risking their own lives, were trying to salvage the most precious art collections, as well as decorative elements from the Castle rooms. Aware that the occupants have made a decision to blow the Castle up, they were already thinking about the future reconstruction of the building. The act of destruction was completed during the Warsaw Uprising in September 1944, when German snipers blasted the Castle walls.



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