

Institute of National Remembrance

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Official celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the battle of Monte Cassino in the Italian Republic - 16-19 May

On 16–19 May 2019 Prof. Krzysztof Szwagrzyk, Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance, and Anna Szelağ, Deputy Director of the IPN's Office of Search and Identification are taking part in official celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the battle of Monte Cassino in the Italian Republic.





The main celebrations with the participation of the President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda, under his National Patronage on the 100th Anniversary of Regaining Independence, are taking place on 18 May at the Polish War Cemetery at Monte Cassino. The veterans of General Anders' army, the Polish government delegation alongside with the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarelli, will also participate in the anniversary celebrations. The event will be preceded by a Holy Mass at the Polish War Cemetery at Monte Cassino and the Call of the Fallen, combined with the salute of honour by the honorary sub-division of the Polish Army. The participants will pay homage to the heroes of the Italian campaign headed by the eminent commander and politician General Władysław Anders, without whom there would be no free Poland.

This year's, several-day celebration commemorating the battle of Monte Cassino is organized by the Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression and Veterans of the Fight for the Independence of the Republic of Poland – soldiers of the 2nd Polish Corps.

On Thursday, 16 May a celebration is being held at the Italian Military Cemetery in Mignano Monte Lungo, the resting place for Italian soldiers who died on the battlefield after Italy joined the Allied forces in September 1943.

The following day, a ceremony is taking place at the Dzieci Lwowskie [Children of Lviv] 6th Armoured Regiment war memorial in Piedimonte

San Germano - the town that Polish soldiers captured on 25 May 1944 in the course of fights for the ridge, after the monastery hill had been taken.

On Sunday 19 May, WWII veterans and the Polish delegation are laying flowers at the monument in memory of fallen soldiers of Polish 2nd Corps in San Vittore del Lazio. The memorial was erected in place of the first, temporary burial site for those killed in the battle of Monte Cassino. Their remains were transferred to the Monte Cassino Cemetery in 1945.

Prof. Krzysztof Szwagrzyk, Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance, is also going to participate in prayers at the grave of St. John Paul II in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

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