

Institute of National Remembrance

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80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. Celebrations in Kraków and Lesser Poland





















On 1 September 2019, Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance Dr Mateusz Szpytma and the Director of the Kraków Branch of the IPN, Dr hab. Filip Musiał took part in the commemorative celebrations in Krakow and Morawica. IPN representatives were also present in many other parts of the country.

After the mass celebrated by the Archbishop of Krakow Marek Jędraszewski in the Wawel Cathedral, the main Krakow commemorative events were held at the Rakowicki Cemetery, at the monument of the Army "Krakow" and September Soldiers. The Call of the Fallen was read out, the guard of honor saluted the Fallen; the gathered guests laid wreaths and lit candles.

- We must not forget this great tribute of bloodshed. We can remember it in various ways. One of the ways is to remember and take care of the

graves of those who in 1939 and in the following years fought for our homeland. (...) At this cemetery you can see the renewed tombstones of those killed in 1939. This is the result of cooperation between the Malopolska Voivodship Office and the IPN Branch in Krakow – said Dr Mateusz Szpytma, Deputy President of the IPN during his speech. He further quoted Arthur Greenwood, a British politician who was a member of Winston Churchill's war cabinet during World War II: "Poland stood alone at the gates of civilization, defending us and all nations, defending everything which is dear to us. Poland stood with unparalleled bravery and epic heroism."

The organizers of the Krakow celebrations were the Voivode of Lesser Poland and the IPN Branch Office in Krakow.

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