

Institute of National Remembrance

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Witold Pilecki (1901—1948)

Witold Pilecki is one of the bravest heroes of World War II. He came from a noble family of the Leliwa coat of arms. His grandfather, Józef Pilecki, was exiled to Siberia for taking part in the January Uprising against Russia in 1863, and the family property in the area of Novogrudok (Nowogródek) was partially confiscated. Witold Pilecki was born on 13 May 1901 in Olonets (Ołonec), Russia, where his father, Julian, was a forester. In 1910, he moved to Vilnius (Wilno) with his mother and siblings.

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