

Institute of National Remembrance

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Ceremonial unveiling of a monument of victims of communist crimes in the years 1945—1946 in Puszczykowo near Poznań, Poland — 27 April 2023

The IPN President Karol Nawrocki, Ph.D. unveiled a monument commemorating eight Polish soldiers — victims of the post-war communist regime.







On 7 December 1945 and 3 January 1946, near the Puszczykowo-

Mosina road, a firing squad acting on orders from the Military Prosecutor's office executed eight Polish Army soldiers. The bodies were buried in two graves. Officers of the Poznan District Military Police, who arrived at the scene on 14 January 1946, testified that the victims had had their skulls shot through from the back and the bodies were laid face down on the ground. The following day, the bodies were taken to the Department of Forensic Medicine in Poznań. One of the victims was identified thanks to a document found on the clothes of Mayor Boleslaw Rubaszewski. He was a Home Army officer, former insurgent of the Greater Poland uprising and a soldier of the Border Protection Corps in Borszczow and Skała. Mayor Rubaszewski was shot on 7 December 1945, and the execution protocol was signed by Military Prosecutor Lt. Col. Wilhelm Swiątkowski, physician Capt. Smirnow and commander of the firing squad, Lt. Rosenbaum. Another grave contained seven bodies of Polish Army soldiers, but despite an in-depth search, their identities cannot be confirmed.

We are the conscience of the nation. We are the rebellion against violence. We are the measure of a just punishment — this is how one of the commanders of the Polish anti-communist underground described the phenomenon of the cursed soldiers. Today, in the woods of the Greater Poland National Park, the resistance to the violence of the communist system is represented by Mayor Boleslaw Rubaszewski. Today's independent, democratic and sovereign Poland cannot return earthly life to Major Rubaszewski, but wants to honour his courage and commemorate him,

said Karol Nawrocki, Ph.D.

COLLECTED CONTENT: The Cursed Soldiers

The Cursed Soldiers (also known as "doomed soldiers", "accursed soldiers", "damned soldiers" or "indomitable soldiers") is a name applied to a variety of Polish resistance movements formed in the later stages of World War II and afterwards.

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