

Institute of National Remembrance

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Celebrations commemorating the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Breda by Gen. Maczek's Polish 1st Armoured Division - 26-27 October 2019

The main celebrations commemorating the 75th anniversary of liberation of Breda by Gen. Maczek's Polish 1st Armoured Division of the Polish Armed Forces in the West took place on 26-27 October. The Institute of National Remembrance was represented by Deputy President Jan Baster and the Director of the Office for Commemorating the Struggle and Martyrdom Adam Siwek.











The division, commanded by Gen. Maczek, which possessed an unusual fighting spirit, made the history of World War II with a series of victories. On its war route, including Germany and the Netherlands, it liberated many places in Belgium.

The event was held under the patronage of the mayors of Breda and Oosterhout, the Association of the 1st Polish Armoured Division in the Netherlands, and the Committee for the annual celebration of the liberation of Breda. The celebrations took place at the Honorary Cemetery in Oosterhout, where 30 graves of Polish soldiers are located, at the Military Cemetery in Breda in Ginneken, where 80 Polish soldiers were buried, and at the Military Cemetery at Ettensebaan in Breda. Gen. Stanisław Maczek rests on the latter; in total there are 161 Polish graves, including Polish RAF pilots. In Ginneken at Vogelenzanglaan, the Deputy President read out a letter addressing the participants and organizers on behalf of the President of the IPN.





The celebrations on 27 October were preceded by a mass in St Laurentius church.

In the context of the forthcoming celebrations, it is worth mentioning that a memorial to Gen. Maczek in Breda is underway. Its unveiling is planned for March next year.

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The unit, known for its fighting spirit, noble dedication and commitment in combat, became famous for a string of victorious skirmishes and battles, earning respect and admiration of the allied brothers in arms; even the enemy held it in high regard.

President of the IPN
Dr. Jarosław Szarek

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One must remember that Gen. Maczek ordered his soldiers – and historians have confirmed it – to carry out operations in a way that would minimize civilian losses and damage to houses, churches and historic buildings.

President of the IPN
Dr. Jarosław Szarek

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