

Institute of National Remembrance

<https://ipn.gov.pl/en/news/4374,Press-conference-on-the-IPN039s-activities-connected-with-the-centenary-of-the-B.html>

27.04.2024, 12:14

03.08.2020

Press conference on the IPN's activities connected with the centenary of the Battle of Warsaw, 11 August 2020

The Battle of Warsaw is considered the eighteenth decisive battle of the world, as the Poles succeeded in preventing the Bolshevik march to the West. We are presenting information on the IPN's activities connected with the centenary of the event across Poland at today's press conference at 12.00., at the Janusz Kurtyka Educational Center in Warsaw.



1920 THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

In 1920, the Red Army set off to conquer Europe.
Poland stood in the way. It was the clash of two worlds:
communist totalitarianism against European law and order.

The Poles won the **Battle of Warsaw**, and thus thwarted
the plans of Bolshevik Russia. In August 1920, British
Secretary of State for War and Air Winston Churchill said:

***Poland has saved herself by her exertions and will I trust
save Europe by her example.***



INSTITUTE OF
NATIONAL
REMEMBRANCE

— 1920 + —



The symbol of the IPN's educational activities on the occasion of the centenary of the outbreak of the Battle of Warsaw is Jakub Różalski's poster "Hammer and sickle". The poster is part of a series of paintings, entitled "1920+" illustrating the history of Poland in the first half of the 20th century. It was inspired by the events of the Battle of Warsaw and the Polish-Bolshevik war.

In the following two weeks we will be publishing audiovisual and text materials on the topic of the Battle of Warsaw on our website. In addition, a number of experts, such as Prof. Mirosław Szumiło (IPN) and the British historian Prof. Roger Moorhouse, will talk about the

significance of the August victory of 1920.

The IPN will also present the exhibition "War of the Worlds, 1920", the title of which refers to Orson Welles' radio play *War of the Worlds*, which was the first to introduce this concept into the world of pop culture. The exhibition will be accompanied by spots presenting the complex nature of this conflict, the threats it brought with it, and its consequences for Poland and the entire world.

Furthermore, we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Warsaw with a series of nine brochures, each dedicated to a selected battle of the Polish-Bolshevik war. They were prepared by leading Polish historians, who wanted to acquaint the general public with a number of figures and events important to this conflict, including the less known episodes. The brochures describe the most important military aspects of the Polish-Bolshevik war of 1919–1921, such as the formation of the Polish Army structures, the Polish mobilization effort, the strategy of both sides and the turning points of the conflict. The brochures in the PDF format are available in Polish on the IPN's website alongside with the elementary exhibition "War with the Bolsheviks. Battle of Warsaw 1920".

On the 100th anniversary of the victory over the Bolsheviks, the IPN is paying tribute to the soldiers of General Józef Haller's Volunteer Army by unveiling commemorative plaques at the sites of draft commissions.

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