

Institute of National Remembrance

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Tribute to Captain Pilecki on the 73rd anniversary of his death – 25 May 2021

Krzysztof Szwagrzyk Ph.D., the Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance, together with his colleagues from the IPN's Office of Search and Identification, laid flowers at the death wall in the former Mokotów prison in Warsaw. In this prison, on 25 May 1948, at 9:30p.m. on the order of the communist authorities, Captain Witold Pilecki, a hero of the resistance movement during World War II, was murdered with a shot to the back of the head. Currently, the next stage of exploration work is underway on the site of the former prison.



Witold Pilecki, an accursed soldier, a soldier of the "lost Republic of Poland", the last Polish lancer, "a volunteer to Auschwitz", one of the six bravest men of the European resistance movement during World War II. He is a symbol of Poland which - as a result of the occupying forces of Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia - has been irretrievably lost.

He belonged to the generation born during the partition of Poland, whose mission was to help Poland regain independence, and once it had - to work towards the greatness of a free homeland. A generation brought up on the still vivid traditions of national uprisings and shaped by the words "God - Honour - Homeland".

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