

# Institute of National Remembrance

<https://ipn.gov.pl/en/news/9806,The-unveiling-of-a-monument-dedicated-to-Polish-Cavalry-at-the-site-of-the-Battl.html>

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## The unveiling of a monument dedicated to Polish Cavalry at the site of the Battle of Komarów

The monument was unveiled on the occasion of the approaching 102nd anniversary of a battle fought between Polish and Bolshevik forces near the villages of Komarów and Wolica Śniatycka.























The Battle of Komarów was the largest cavalry battle since the

Napoleonic wars. It was one of the most important battles of the Polish-Soviet War and its biggest cavalry battle which became a turning point in the southern part of the front. The battle took place between 30 August and 2 September 1920, near the village of Komarów near Zamość. The Bolshevik forces were several times bigger than the Polish troops. The Polish 1st Cavalry Division fought against 2 divisions of the Soviet 1st Cavalry Army, which were destroyed, losing 2/3 of their manpower which means about 1500 cavalymen, and forced to retreat. The losses of the Polish forces were about 300 dead and wounded (20% of the combat status of the Polish division) and 500 horses. The 1st Cavalry Army, which had roamed the eastern borders of the Second Polish Republic never regained its lost power. In all, from 25 May to 1 September, it lost almost 8,000 people and 9,500 horses. On 20 September 1920, at the request of Semyon Budyonny (the army's commander), Mikhail Tukhachevsky (commander of the Soviet Western Front in the Polish-Soviet War) withdrew it from the fighting.

The anniversary of the battle is celebrated during the last weekend of August and this is also when the battle is re-enacted. This year, a monument dedicated to the Glory of Polish Cavalry and Horse Artillery was unveiled at the site of the battle as part of the commemoration of its 102nd anniversary.

The ceremony was attended, among others, by Deputy Prime Minister Mariusz Błaszczak - Minister of National Defense, Deputy Prime Minister Prof. Piotr Gliński - Minister of Culture and National Heritage,

General Rajmund Andrzejczak - Chief of General Staff of the Polish Army., MP Sławomir Zawiślak . Letters written by President Andrzej Duda and the Speaker of the Polish Parliament Elżbieta Witek addressed to the participants of the celebration of the 102nd anniversary of the Battle of Komarów were read out.

The Institute of National Remembrance was represented by its President, Karol Nawrocki, Ph.D., who said in reference to the last great cavalry battle:

Polish cavalymen and lancers took part in the battle for a world free of the communist system. The world did not understand the threat posed by Soviet ideology at that time. I have the impression that has not understood it to this day, until the 21st century. Nonetheless, although it was fought for a free, independent Republic, this battle made sense in a worldwide and pan-European dimension.

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