

Institute of National Remembrance

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The IPN delegation visited London and Portsmouth – 3-5 May 2024





















On 3 May 2024, the IPN Deputy President Prof. Karol Polejowski, the Director of the Office of International Cooperation Agnieszka Jędrzak and Iwona Golińska, founder and president of the Polish Sue Association in the UK arrived at the Katyn Monument located in the Gunnersbury district of London to pay tribute to the victims of the Katyn massacre.

On the same day, the IPN representatives met with Marek Laśkiewicz, Ph.D., President of the Polish Social and Cultural Association (POSK) to discuss a joint project about Polish Armed Forces of the World War II. The IPN "Trails of Hope. The Odyssey of Freedom" exhibition was presented in the POSK headquarters.

On 4 May, the IPN delegation along with Iwona Golińska laid flowers at Kingston Cemetery in Portsmouth in front of a monument commemorating 212 Polish soldiers who took part in the November Uprising in 1830-1831.

In the afternoon, the IPN representatives went to the D-Day Story Museum in Portsmouth, which hosted another edition of "Days of ORP Błyskawica" to commemorate the 82nd anniversary of the defence of Cowes and East Cowes from attacks of the German Luftwaffe and the 80th anniversary of D-Day, in which ORP Błyskawica took part. The event was held under the honorary patronage of the President of the IPN.

Błyskawica is a remarkable ship. From 1939 to 1945, her crew showed what the craftsmanship and training of Polish sailors meant. Many combat actions, the support of the Allied invasion and participation in the escort of convoys are the best confirmation. Fate was kind to "Błyskawica", making her a museum ship, visited every year by thousands of people interested in her history, said the IPN Deputy President, Prof. Karol Polejowski during the ceremony.

On 5 May 2024, a celebration was held to commemorate the Poles who

took part in the defense of the Isle of Wight in 1942. The event was attended by the IPN Deputy President, Prof. Karol Polejowski, and the Director of the Office of International Cooperation, Agnieszka Jedrzak.

The ceremony took place on the main promenade of the town of Cowes. For a moment, a patch of UK land was flooded with a sea of white and red flags. Numerous residents gathered together with the Polish community and representatives of Polish authorities and institutions and paid tribute to the Poles who, shoulder to shoulder with the Allies, defended English territory.

[Read more about East and West Cowes Blitz May 1942](#)

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