



On 8 May 2009, official celebrations at the Central Cemetery were organised to commemorate the 64th anniversary of the end of World War II. Together with the city and regional authorities, representatives of the uniformed, veterans and citizens of Szczecin, a multinational delegation from the Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast (HQ MNC NE) participated in that event.

Respect and remembrance

In a solemn atmosphere, tribute was paid to all victims of the World War II. City Major Mr Piotr Krzystek in his speech emphasized the importance of due respect and remembrance of those who sacrificed their lives during the wartime. He talked not only about the past, though. He also said about Poland's current contributions to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the European Union. Involvement of numerous countries in organisations that guard peace and efficient cooperation seem to be the only way to prevent events like World War II from repeating itself.

Another speaker, West Pomeranian Voivode Mr Marcin Zydorowicz stated that freedom and independence are fundamental characteristics of each country. Since those people who faced the war did not have a chance to enjoy them but fought for them, they should be appreciated

Thinking about the past and heading for the future

Written by AG

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and remembered.

The ceremony was given also a religious dimension when Senior Bishop of Szczecin-Kamień Archdiocese Jan Gałecki called for a common prayer. Subsequently, a calling of a roll of honour took place, after which honorary salute resounded.

Then, wreathes were laid at the memorial "Brotherhood of Arms" by the gathered at the cemetery. Standing shoulder to shoulder, MNC NE Commander Polish Lieutenant General Zdzisław Goral, his Deputy Danish Major General Ole Køppen, a German National Representative Colonel Klaus Finck and other National Representatives of the Participating States of the Corps handed over a wreath to commemorate victims of the World War II. As a matter of fact, it was the Corps' way to show concern and involvement in the most important moments for Poles, the Corps' host nation.

The whole ceremony ended with the participation of colour parties, Garrison Orchestra and parades of guards of honour from the 12th Mechanized Division and the Police.