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IPN pays tribute to Silent Unseen paratroopers at Audley End

On 18 November 2026, representatives of IPN’s Office of International Cooperation, Deputy Director Dr Mateusz Marek and Blanka Kamińska-Pienkos, took part in ceremonies commemorating the Silent Unseen “Cichociemni” paratroopers of the Home Army, which took place at Audley End in the United Kingdom.













The ceremonies began in the Great Hall, where the assembled guests

were welcomed, followed by the playing of the national anthems of Poland and the United Kingdom and the delivery of commemorative speeches. The next item on the programme was a procession to the Cichociemni monument and the laying of wreaths. The commemorations concluded with an educational tour focusing on the history of World War II and the Cichociemni themselves.

The Silent Unseen “Cichociemni” were soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces in the West, trained from 1940 in the United Kingdom and, from late 1943, also in Italy. After taking the Home Army oath, they were airlifted into occupied Poland, where they served in the ranks of the Union of Armed Struggle and the Home Army.

Audley End, which housed one of the British training stations, holds a special place in the history of the unit. Courses in guerilla warfare and pre-deployment training were conducted there. This place is also associated with the Cichociemni motto ‘Fight for freedom or die’, which derives from the words of the ‘Vilnius Song of the Prisoners at Łukiszki’, brought to England in 1940 by Captain Florian Adrian, who later became a member of the Silent Unseen.

The ceremony was attended by representatives of NATO forces from a number of member countries (including the UK, US, France, Germany, Romania, Czechia and Denmark), the Polish military attaché Colonel Rafał Nowak, and family members of the Cichociemni paratroopers.

The participation of IPN representatives in the ceremony served as a tribute to the soldiers who fought for Poland’s independence and

emphasised the importance of preserving the memory of the history of the Cichociemni and Polish-British cooperation during World War II. More on the Silent Unseen can be found **here**. Photographs by Dr Mateusz Marek (IPN).



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