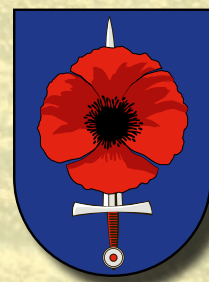


**Ministry of Defence
of the Czech Republic
War Veterans
and War Graves Department**



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

**Caring for War Graves
in the Czech Republic
and Abroad**

SALUTE BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE

War graves and commemorative sites are silent witnesses of history that has formed our freedom, identity and values. They are places where history becomes personal – where names on gravestones tell the stories of valour, sacrifice and service to homeland. In 2024, the Defence Ministry's War Graves and Commemorative Sites Section once again proved that the care for such places is not just an administrative obligation, but indeed a moral obligation.

It is with a deep respect that I follow the ongoing consistent efforts – from the digitisation of the War Graves Cadastre collections, through the development of the Central War Graves Registry, to international cooperation within the European War Heritage Working Group. Important international activities, including the restoration of war graves in Slovakia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Poland, the United Kingdom and in the Philippines, show that the Czech memory reaches far beyond the Czech Republic's borders.

I also highly value the focus on education and public outreach. In times when the historical memory is often subject to relativisation, it is critical to remember the stories of heroes – not just in archives, but on the social and public media, and in locations that truly went down in history. Every post, each interaction, every attendance to a war grave proves that the memory is alive.

I am confident that the approved War Graves and Commemorative Sites Care Concept 2025–2029 will be a strong instrument for further development of these meritorious activities. My sincere gratitude goes all those involved, either in offices, cemeteries, or on foreign missions.



Photo credit of Nguyen Phuong Thao

Brigadier General Aleš Knížek, Director of the Military History Institute Prague

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Foreword

This annual report reflects our activity in 2024. Similarly to the previous reports, our focus is primarily the care of war graves in the Czech Republic and abroad, and the support of war graves care via the Historical Values Preservation and Renewal I Programme.

Upon the formation of the Department on July 1, 2023, we have set our priorities and progressively worked on attaining them throughout 2024. As part of intensifying our archival research efforts, we have set the systematic digitisation of the War Graves Register deposited in the Military History Archives in motion. We expect the digitisation to complete at the end of 2025, however, the processing of the digitised documents for their further registering will be demanding. Another milestone of war graves care is the approval of the War Graves and Commemorative Sites Care Concept 2025–2029. The Concept is the first strategic document in this area which focuses on the formulation and implementation of measures to strengthen the support, development, and sustainability of war graves care. One of our goals was to get involved in a wider international cooperation. We succeeded to become a member of the European War Heritage Working Group (EWHWG) which unites organisations in charge of war graves care. We continued the preparations for the modernisation of the Public Central War Graves Registry Portal.

We are aware of the increasing expenses of repairs or construction of new war graves in the domain of grant support of the war graves owners. We have already raised the grant for 2023 from CZK 12-15 million. The grant will further rise to CZK 20 million in 2026.

An integral part of our work is increasing public awareness. We both raise awareness to the authorities accountable – the regions and the municipal authorities with extended powers, and we also educate the public via our website and social media. We regularly focus on historical events and personalities connected to the topic of war graves. On our social media, we also share information about the war graves built or repaired with the use of the grants provided by the Ministry of Defence. The continuously rising number of followers attests to the appropriateness of the chosen subject.

One of the visible results of the gradual processing of the War Graves Register was the information on war graves and the fallen in the Balkans during the Second World War, based on which we undertook a reconnaissance trip to Serbia, North Macedonia, and Albania. This was also the fourth year of mapping out the war graves of Czech prisoners of war from First World War in central Asia, this time taking place in Tajikistan. A war grave dedicated to the memory of Czechoslovak legionaries who died on their way back from Russia was unveiled in Trieste, Italy. The reconstruction of a war grave in Arisaig, Scotland, where our paratroopers had been trained during WWII was also finished.

Projects regarding the battles with the Hungarians in 1918–1919 continued in Slovakia with war graves being revealed in Lenka and Zálužice. We are also still actively working on projects in Boratyn, Uzhhorod, Chernivtsi, and Sokolovo in Ukraine. In Poland, a new war grave will be built in the city of Dukla in memory of the 618 Czechoslovak soldiers fallen during the Carpatho-Dukla Operation who have not had at least a decent symbolic grave yet. Those activities prove that one by one, we are successfully fulfilling our goals in the care the war graves deserve.

Minister of Defence Jana Černočová with her delegation visited Normandy and Scotland on August 24-27, 2024. The Minister paid homage to the Allies fallen during the Normandy landing at the war cemetery in Bayeux and laid wreaths on the graves of Czechoslovak service members. In the community of Arisaig in Scotland, she then commemorated hundreds of Czechoslovak soldiers and airmen who underwent the special SOE training there during WWII. She also visited a place at Loch Doon where a memorial dedicated to Colonel František Hekl, who died in a plane crash there in October 1941, is to be revealed in 2025.

The largest WWII Commonwealth military cemetery in France is in Bayeux with almost five thousand graves, mostly from the Normandy invasion. It is also the resting place of four Czechoslovak soldiers: Lieutenant Colonel in Memoriam Linhart Fajt, Major in Memoriam Jiří Bauer, Corporal Alois Hanuš, and Private Kurt Steiner. Fajt joined the resistance after the German occupation. When he began to be a person of interest for the Gestapo, he fled to France and then to Great Britain. He was posted with the No. 311 (Czechoslovak) Bomber Squadron RAF as an air mechanic on the Liberator bombers. He died on November 18, 1943, when the aircraft was probably shot down by the enemy. Jiří Bauer met the same fate as a member of air support in the Allies' invasion into France and on June 29, 1944, his Spitfire was shot down by flak at the city of Caen during an attack on ground targets in Normandy. The other two Czechoslovak soldiers were members of the Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade which disembarked in Arromanches between August 30 and September 4, 1944, and staged in the area between Bayeux and Falaise. Sadly, they both died in accidents.

"This place has an air of silent respect for those who fought and laid down their lives for freedom and peace. This experience was not just a historical lesson to me but also a reminder of our responsibility – to not forget the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought for our future," Minister Černočová noted.

The Czech delegation then honoured the memory of American servicemembers fallen in Europe during WWII on the Normandy American Cemetery and at the memorial at Omaha Beach. The director of the local branch of American Battle Monuments Commission, which administers all cemeteries where American service members are buried, presented the stories of three soldiers whose origin had traced to the Czech lands and who are buried here.

"The view of the Omaha Beach which sprawls under the cemetery reminded me of the Allies' immense courage and determination. This is where they suffered their greatest losses. I also stopped at the Wall of the Missing where the names of 1,557 service members whose destiny is unknown are inscribed. Thanks to this memorial they will not be forgotten. Finally, I paid homage at Omaha Beach, one of the key locations of the 6 June 1944 landings. This beachhead, a witness to one of the bloodiest battles, was crucial for the interconnection of British and American forces and the subsequent liberation of France," Minister Černočová said.

Arisaig – the Safe Bay

Arisaig in Scotland bears a special significance in the Czech history. This is where more than three hundred members of the Czechoslovak brigade underwent a special training in 1941–1943. The paratrooper training took place in Ringway near Manchester and the final training in southern England. Thirty nine of the 48 planned airdrops were conducted with more than a hundred paratroopers involved. Among them were also Sergeant First Class Jan Kubiš and Sergeant First Class Josef Gabčík, members of the Anthropoid airdrop, who carried out the assassination of the Deputy Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich in May 1942. The large granite memorial unveiled during a ceremony on the Veterans Day on November 11, 2009, has a symbolic shape of a landing parachute.

“Restored with the financial assistance of the Ministry of Defence not long ago, the memorial commemorates the heroes who volunteered to accomplish challenging and dangerous tasks. The challenging included practicing skills key for their successful deployment in the occupied territory. Meaning “the safe bay” in Gaelic, Arisaig became a symbol of both peace and the heroism of those who never wavered in their fight for freedom. We will never forget them,” the Minister emphasized and laid a wreath at the memorial.

New memorial for a Czechoslovak RAF hero

Three hundred kilometres south of Arisaig lies Loch Doon. During a training flight on October 25, 1941, a Spitfire fighter crashed into the lake killing a Czechoslovak RAF pilot Colonel in Memoriam František Hekl. In 1982, the remains of the plane were successfully retrieved and in 2017, after its exacting reconstruction into its former No. 312 (Czechoslovak) Squadron RAF form, it has been reintroduced on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Dumfries Museum. The remains of František Hekl have, however, never been recovered and therefore there has been no place that would commemorate this hero up until now.

“We have identified a suitable place for a memorial in July 2023. Part of the lake from which the Spitfire was recovered can be seen from there. We have efforts underway to build a memorial both with the Dumfries Aviation Museum and the owner of the estate with the Military History Institute Prague (MHI) participating on the preparations and implementation on the Czech side. The memorial was designed by academic painter Pavel Holý of the MHI. The memorial which will simultaneously be Mr. Hekl’s war grave will be unveiled at the beginning of September 2025,” said Colonel Robert Speychal, Director of the MoD War Veterans and War Graves Department.

“Seeing Mr. Hekl’s Spitfire in the authentic environment was a very deep experience for us. We wish to thank everyone involved in keeping this significant place up. It is crucial that stories of heroes such as Colonel Hekl live on,” said Jana Černochová who concluded the trip by paying a tribute to four Czechoslovak pilots who died during training flights: Major in Memoriam František Schejbal and Colonel in Memoriam Alois Sedláček at the St. Andrew’s cemetery in Dumfries, and Colonel in Memoriam František Dostál and Lieutenant Colonel in Memoriam Karel Šimon in Troqueer.

Important events in 2024

France and Great Britain

In August, Defence Minister Jana Černochová with her delegation visited Normandy and Scotland. She paid a tribute to the Allies who fell in the Normandy landing at the Bayeux War Cemetery and laid wreaths on the graves of Czechoslovak soldiers. She then commemorated hundreds of Czechoslovak airmen in Arisaig, Scotland who underwent a special SOE training here during WWII. She also visited a place at Loch Doon where a memorial dedicated to Colonel in Memoriam František Hekl who died here after a plane crash in October 1941 unveils in 2025.



Ukraine

In July, an MoD delegation led by the Minister visited the war graves in Chernivtsi, Zboriv, and Stryi Martyniv. There is a war grave in Chernivtsi dedicated to Czechoslovak soldiers fallen in WWII. During our visit, the mayor of Chernivtsi presented us with documentation regarding the nearby WWI memorial and war grave where Austro-Hungarian soldiers coming from the Czech lands are also buried. An extensive reconstruction of the existing WWII war grave in Chernivtsi is planned.

Talks were held with the mayors of Zboriv and Stryi Martyniv. The maintenance of the existing war graves was also part of the discussion.

War Graves and Commemorative Sites Care Concept 2025–2029

In December, the Minister has approved the War Graves and Commemorative Sites Care Concept 2025–2029. As part of the Concept, we evaluate the development in the area of war graves and commemorative sites in the previous years, analyse the present situation as the foundation for our next activities, define the main methodological pillars, identify the priorities in the area of home and international agenda, and describe the set of specific measures that we intend to adopt in the following period. We aim to improve the care of war graves and create the optimal legal, economic, specialist, and technological environment. We see the Concept as a tool of systematic medium-term governance with a precisely set cycle of evaluations and potential updates so that it retains its maximum effectiveness while creating an optimal legal and financing framework for the proper functioning of this significant area of cultural and historical heritage.

European War Heritage Working Group (EWHWG)

In 2024, we became a member of the European War Heritage Working Group (EWHWG). There are representatives of European organisations on the work group which are responsible for war graves care. We also attended a work group meeting in Berlin where a Charter defining the principles of the activity and cooperation was discussed. Those include the mutual support during the work on war graves and memorials, remembrance activities and cooperation in chosen areas of our work to improve our performance in the public eye.

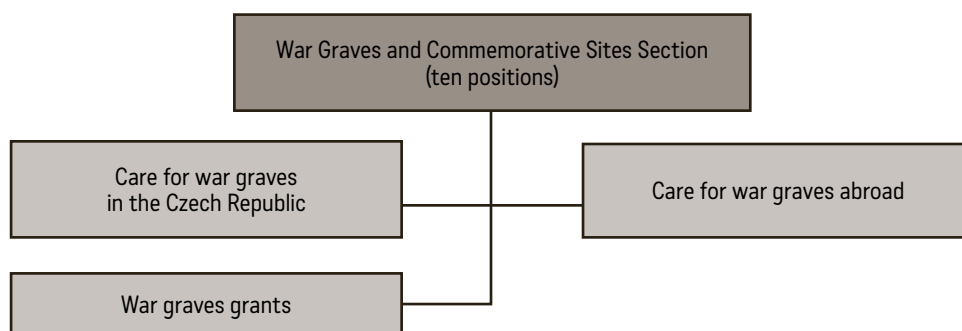
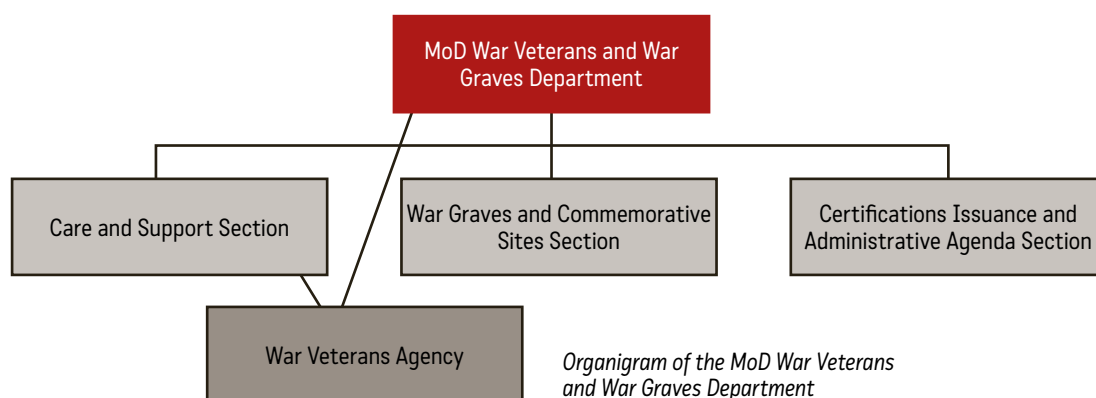
Beside the representatives of the Czech MoD War Veterans and War Graves Department, the representatives of Germany, Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Italy, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom also attended the Berlin meeting as well as the leading officials of the American Battle Monuments Commission.



Organisational structure of the Department and its agenda

The MoD War Veterans and War Graves Department has been reinforced to ten positions. We are also cooperating with outside workers – architects, stonemasons, scanner operators, and graphic artists.

Staffing allows us to fulfil the department's primary goals which are the widening and deepening of local and international cooperation and ensuring quality care of all war graves on Czech territory and abroad.



Organigram of the War Graves and Commemorative Sites Section

Digitisation of the War Graves Cadastre

At the beginning of 2024, a new joint project of the MoD War Veterans and War Graves Department (WVWGD), the Military History Institute (MHI), and the Military History Archive (MHA) has been launched. The project is designed to comprehensively digitise the archival War Graves Register, which is the former War Graves Cadastre from 1919–1938, and allow all the organisations to use it as well. The implementation takes place in the premises of the MHA through the digitalisation line of the MHI and external employees of the WVWGD. By the end of 2024, a total of 145 archive sets had been photographed. The images are subsequently edited by MHI employees to a digitalisation standard of archive heritage. Given the current pace, digitisation of the fund could be finalized in 2026. Throughout the process, digitized documents will be published in the Digital Study and the Digital Archive of the MoD.

Use of digitized documents for the Central War Graves Registry

MHI employees send the edited document to the WVWGD, where individual files are redistributed from the previous classification of municipalities as district departments to the current classification as Municipalities with Extended Authority (MEAs). The documents are then transferred to MEAs of Regional Authorities coordinating war graves care and managing the Central War Graves Registry for further processing in accordance with the WVWGD methodology. The processing includes adding data on the fallen from the registration sheets and the looking up and registering of unregistered war graves and fallen persons. According to our estimates hundreds to lower thousands of them are still unregistered in our territory. Given that most MEA employees who manage war graves are also in charge of other portfolios, this process is quite lengthy. The WVWGD provides methodological and expert support within this process.

Description of the War Graves Cadastre

The War Graves Registry Fund, the original War Graves Cadastre of ca. 1919-1938 was developed by the Central Inspectorate for War Graves which was established under the then Ministry of National Defence in April 1919 and later renamed to Central Administration of War Graves. The Czechoslovak version of the cadastre was a continuation of the previous one which was established by the Austro-Hungarian Ministry of War. A total of 275 files of the cadastre are now stored in the archives of the MHA. The contents include documents relevant to the now Czech territory, former territory of Subcarpathian Ruthenia and other countries, which holds war graves containing the remains of service members of Czechoslovak origin who died in the First World War in the Austro-Hungarian Army and Czechoslovak legions. The document regarding war graves in the territory of the now Slovakia have been handed over to Slovak archives in 1993 within the administrative separation of archives. These funds represent a significant resource of information for the identification of war graves in our territory (and abroad) and to precise data of persons listed in our registry who died in the First World War and in related conflicts regarding the borders of then newly created Czechoslovakia.

Organisation of the collections and contents of documents related to the territory of the then Czechoslovakia

At the lowest level, the files are organised alphabetically by former districts from the time of the First Republic and by territory, meaning the first files are classified under Bohemia and then by district alphabetically starting with No. 1 district Aš. One file can contain several districts if there is a lower number of war graves, and parallelly, one district can be separated into several files if there is a significant military burial ground in its territory with numerous war graves. The district file is further separated into municipalities in which the war graves are located, meaning the smallest classification unit of the original cadastre is a municipality.

The municipality file contains a Cadastre sheet which contains basic information about the location of the municipality, name of the cemetery, or cemeteries if there are more, where the war graves are located, acreage and owner of the cemetery, number of war graves depending on the number of buried remains, total number of the remains, caretaker of the cemetery (military administration / bereaved), inspection authority (back then usually a Gendarmerie office) and annexes (maps of the cemeteries, photos etc.).

The main contents of the file are the Record sheets which are issued per each service member buried in a war grave of a given municipality. It contains various level of detail, depending on how well the data was registered in the past and how much information it

was possible to gather about fallen service members. Generally, the sheet contains the name and surname, date and place of birth, rank, military unit, cause and place of death, place of burial and number of the grave, grave marking and caretaker, number of remains in the grave, and nationality. However, it should be noted that nationality was often misrepresented in the records as it was based on the location of the birthplace of the buried after 1918. For example, that concerns a soldier who died in 1917 and was originally born in the multinational Galicia was registered as of Polish nationality, while he might have an Austro-Hungarian citizenship at the time of his demise and could have been Ukrainian, Polish, German etc. Other data included in the sheet depends on the level of detail and usually contains the vocation, religion, marital status, address of the bereaved, municipality of residence, year and date of military draft, location and unit (only for service members of the Austro-Hungarian Army), information on the transfer of remains if there was any, and number of the urn if the remains are buried in an ossuary. These Record sheets have been made for each fallen person, regardless of their affiliation to either party of the conflict or armed forces, including war prisoners.

The cemetery maps and other annexes such as photos and various lists depend on the number of the buried persons and the size of the cemetery. Generally, even smaller cemeteries with one or two graves usually have a map of their location within the cemetery and sometimes even a photo of the graves. For larger military cemeteries or military sections in civilian cemeteries with numerous war graves, the file usually includes an overall map with detailed sections and often even colour-coding of the deceased based on their nationality. The files also tend to include complex lists of the persons buried, often also classified by nationality.

Organisation of the collections and contents of documents related to other countries

This section of the collections contains files per country categorised alphabetically. The extent of the files depends on the number of war graves in the given country and on the amount of data the Central Administration of War Graves was able to gather. As mentioned earlier, the documents concern soldiers who came from the territory of the former Czechoslovakia and or were members of Czechoslovak legions. The content of the files is extremely varied, without structure which can be found in the cadastre for the former Czechoslovakia. The files contain fragmented information from the Austro-Hungarian war graves cadastre, taking the form of correspondence and especially maps of the locations of frontline cemeteries, lists of persons buried in individual cemeteries delivered to the homeland after the war, death certificates issued abroad etc.

The main issue of the documents of foreign provenience are mistakes caused by the language of the records made by local institutions (especially law enforcement). In many cases, the name of the buried person was misspelled, often by being transcribed from another script. For example, lists from the former Yugoslavia have been sent to the Czechoslovak Ministry of National Defence in Cyrillic and have subsequently been transcribed into Latin. Even obtaining that information was challenging. An inquiry regarding the fallen Czechoslovaks, but the relevant foreign authorities often had nothing to go from when it came to identifying the origin of Austro-Hungarian soldiers buried in their territory. The defining data was the name, place of birth (if known), and army unit (if the unit had been drafted from the Czech lands). Despite these shortcomings, this section of the collections contains information about possible unknown locations of war graves containing the remains of Czechoslovak soldiers and airmen.

Social media

In the past, awareness of war graves and commemorative sites was spread in local press, literature, and by the presence of said monuments in the public spaces. Nowadays, it is modern technology and especially social media, which plays a key role in the popularization of scientific information and to appeal to the public. If we want spread awareness of war graves and commemorative sites to the in the Czech society, we need to take an active part in this effort. Our profile War Graves – Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic (facebook.com/valecne.hrobymo) was launched on May 15, 2023. Its aim is to commemorate the heroism and sacrifice of those who gave their lives for our freedom. The profile does not merely focus on sharing photos and texts and indeed reminds the public that there is a real human story behind each of the tombstones. In the period between January 1 and December 31, 2024, we published a total of 275 posts of which 172 were links to mostly authorial articles on our website. We also published 9 videos and 7 reels. The posts describe the fates of fallen individuals, inform about burial compounds and commemorative sites, and thus motivate the public to look up, visit and, as a result, protect such sites. Each interaction can help spread awareness of the significance of maintaining our history for future generations and fight the distortion of historical events which is one of the tools of hybrid warfare.



The posts are created by a team composed mostly of employees of the WVGWD and external collaborators. Regular articles can be divided into several sections – Czech MoD grants, commemorative ceremonies and international pilgrimage, educational articles on the history and present of war graves at home and abroad, and a series dedicated to individual victims of wars.

One of the ways to activate the public are campaigns which call for a large participation, with two of them being held in 2024. The first of them was #DekujemeNezapomínáme between April 23 and May 8, 2024, whose objective was to share a selfie with a war grave or commemorative site with the relevant hashtag on FB and IG. The aim was to spread awareness of WGs and CSs in the immediate vicinity of our followers. The second campaign was created at the request of the Italian municipality Lestans. The municipality asked for help searching for the families of members of the Imperial and Royal No. 18 Infantry Regiment who died in the region in 1917 and to whom the municipality built a new memorial. The campaign received an extensive reaction and resulted in successful cooperation with the municipality.

In the monitored period between January 1 and December 31, 2024, we registered a total of 774 new followers and 50,398 visitors. The profile peaked following on 16 November with 16,041 views. On average, are viewership was around 3,000. Overall, our Facebook posts reached 348,000 users who saw our posts at least once. Given the nature of our posts (introduction with a web article link), the biggest weakness is a low CTR with the average of 9.2 and maximum of 80 on November 4, 2024 (in connection with the call for grant applications).



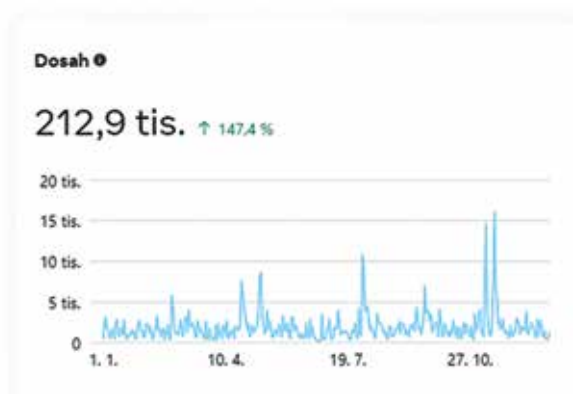
The most successful posts include the campaign to find the families of service members buried in Lestans, Italy (198 interactions), #DekujemeNezapominame campaign (108 interactions), article about the battle in Habartov (95 interactions), article on the Carpatho-Dukla Operation (88 interactions), and article on Ambrož Bílek (83 interactions).

Most likes and reaction were received by the article on the burials of victims of Prague Uprising (245 likes), article on the battle in Habartov (208 likes), news of the transfer of the Vítkov Memorial under the auspices of the MoD (204) likes, article on the attack on the acting Reich Protector (202 likes) campaign to find families of soldiers fallen in Lestans, Italy (190 likes) and the Carpatho-Dukla Operation (162 likes).

The largest audience per individual article was had by the campaign to find families of soldiers fallen in Lestans, Italy (33,639 persons), #DekujemeNezapominame campaign (9,654 persons), article on Antonín Měsíček (6,485 persons), article about the battle in Habartov in 1938 (6,171 persons) and article on the burials of victims of Prague Uprising (5,132 persons).

The most viewed post was the article on Vojtěch Boris Luža (5,283 views), banner on the call for grant applications for the program Maintenance and renewal of historic values I (4,884 views), article on the Operation Grouse (4,123 views), article on the battle in Moravská Chrástová (3,092 views) and the article on the border crossing in Srbská Miloszow (3,078 views).

Another evaluated category comprises the published videos. The most successful video was the first episode of the series Places of the fallen – stories of war graves (16 h 35 min watched, 195 likes, 6,978 views, 3,873 persons), but the second episode only reached one third of the original success (5 h 37 min watched, 63 likes, 2,167 views, 940 persons). The first video from Tajikistan had similar results (5 h 35 min watched, 105 likes, 1,723 views, 1,524 persons), followed by the second video from Tajikistan (3 h 29 minutes watched, 62 likes, 1,063 views, 89 persons) and the fourth video from Tajikistan (2 h 53 min watched, 77 likes, 1,119 views, 928 persons).



Number of posts on the Facebook profile War Graves – Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic

	1 2024	2 2024	3 2024	4 2024	5 2024	6 2024	7 2024	8 2024	9 2024	10 2024	11 2024	12 2024	Total
Posts	26	26	22	21	32	16	28	18	26	24	18	18	275
Outreach (k)	17,3	19,9	19,7	28,7	35,7	17,1	26,3	38,3	32,4	23,4	80,6	28,3	348
Interactions (k)	2,7	2,5	2,6	1,8	3	2,2	3,1	2,5	3,6	3,6	3	2,8	33,4

Number of war graves

By December 31, 2024, our records held a total of 38,344 war graves, of which 22,737 are graves containing the remains of persons who died due to active participation in a military operation, as a result of war captivity, and owing to participation in the resistance or military operation during wartime; and 15,607 commemorative sites which honour their memory. War graves are registered via the web app Central War Graves Registry (Central Registry).



Homepage of the Central War Graves Registry.

The users from the MEA populated the Central Registry with 1,850 further structures which are not defined as war graves, such as graves, memorials, memorial plaques etc. which do not fulfil the legal conditions for a war grave but are close to it in its character, determination or content and contribute to the maintaining of military history. These include for example memorials and memorial plaques which commemorate persons who actively participated in the armed fights or resistance fights for the freedom of Czechoslovakia, but did not die doing so, or victims of holocaust, locations of partisan staffs, liberation of municipalities, meeting of armed forces etc. As of December 31, 2024, the Central Registry contained 40,194 entries.

Online tools

In order to keep the records, to provide service to war grave owners and responsible public servants in regional and extended municipal authority offices, and to popularize war grave care among the general, we administer these websites:

- cevh.mo.gov.cz – application, programme equipment of the Central Evidence serves for war grave register keeping and is accessible only for registered users,
- valecnehroby.mo.gov.cz provides basic services regarding war graves including necessary information for grant applications,
- evidencevh.mo.gov.cz/Evidence/hledani-hrobu-v-cr allows the public to search the war graves register.

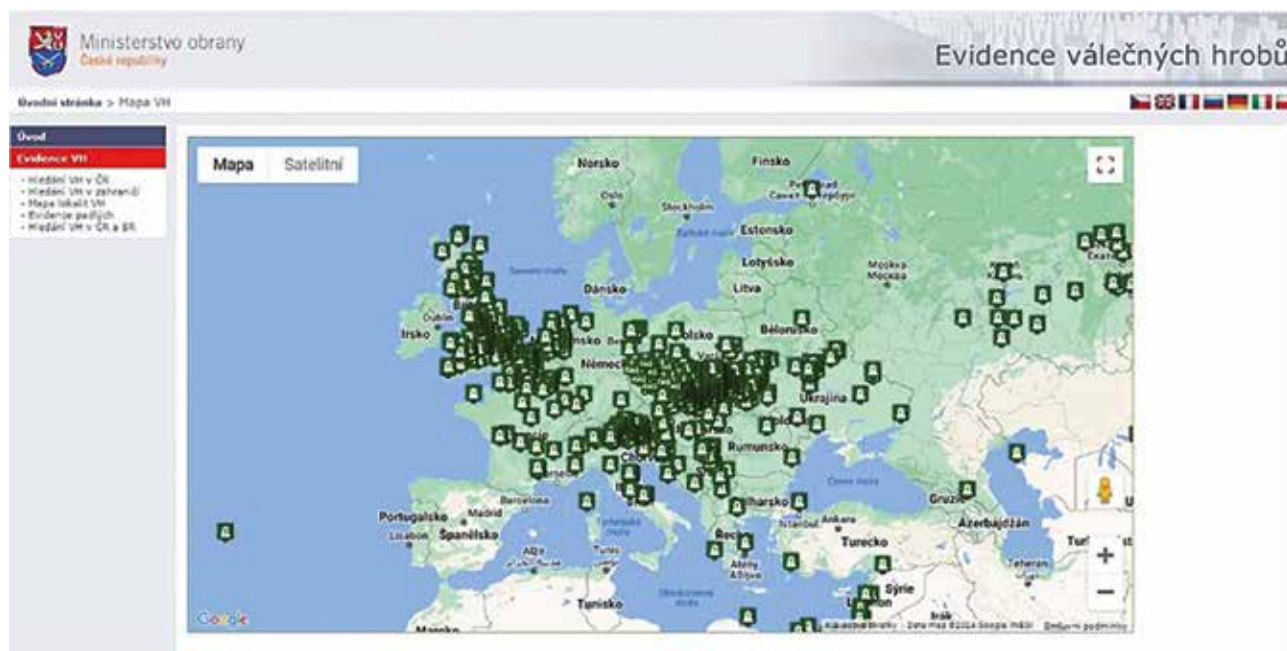
The registering of war graves works at three levels:

- The Ministry of Defence manages the Central War Graves Register.
- A regional authority manages a total war graves register of graves located in its administration district (14 regions).
- Extended authority municipality offices keep records of war graves in their administration district (227 municipalities with extended authority).

Outside the Ministry, 240 entities take part in the keeping of records. In fact, we register more users for some offices. As of the December 31 some, 390 users had active access to the Central Register – 7 from the Ministry level, 277 from the municipalities with extended authorities, 30 from the regional authority level, 16 foreign contributors, 48 guests (from various levels and authorities), 3 researchers (database of the fallen), and 9 users with the administrator authorization. In order to ensure quality care of war graves, the Ministry cooperates with corresponding employees of regional and municipal authorities. Especially the cooperation between municipal authorities' employees and war grave owners has an immediate effect on the physical state of such graves.

The screenshot shows the 'Evidence válečných hrobů' (War Graves Registry) web application. The header includes the logo of the Ministry of Defense of the Czech Republic and the title 'Evidence válečných hrobů'. Below the header, there is a navigation bar with 'Úvodní stránka > Hledání VH v ČR > Hledání podle údajů o VH'. The main content area is divided into two tabs: 'Válečné hroby v ČR' (War Graves in the Czech Republic) and 'Pohřbené osoby v ČR' (Buried persons in the Czech Republic). The 'Válečné hroby v ČR' tab is active, showing a search form with the following fields:

- Osobní údaje** (Personal data):
 - Jméno (Name)
 - Příjmení (Surname)
 - Státní příslušnost (Nationality)
 - Národnost (Nationality)
 - Země (Country)
 - Vojenská hodnost (Military rank)
 - Datum narození (Date of birth)
 - Místo narození (Place of birth)
 - Datum úmrtí (Date of death)
 - Místo úmrtí (Place of death)
 - Poznámka (Note)
- Údaje o VH** (Data about the war grave):
 - Název obce 1 (Municipality name 1)
 - Kraj 2 (Region)
 - Obec s rozš. působností 3 (Municipality with extended jurisdiction)
 - Obec 4 (Municipality)
 - Historická událost (Historical event)



War Graves Registry – introductory search and map of war grave locations.

War graves registered in the Czech Republic as of 31 December 2024

Region	WGs with remains	Commemorative sites	WGs total	Yearly increase of records	Not WGs	Not WGs %	Records total	Region's share in records in %	MAE in the Region	Average records of MAE in the Region
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Prague capital	3,510	2,511	6,021	24	132	2.19	6,153	15.31	22	280
South Bohemia	614	1,076	1,690	8	47	2.78	1,737	4.32	17	102
South Moravia	9,154	1,417	10,571	4	314	2.97	10,885	27.08	21	518
Karlovy Vary	1,608	223	1,831	0	15	0.82	1,846	4.59	7	264
Hradec Králové	1,036	1,392	2,428	194	169	6.96	2,597	6.46	15	173
Liberec	345	474	819	7	59	7.20	878	2.18	10	88
Moravia-Silesia	438	1,046	1,484	0	234	5.77	1,718	4.27	22	78
Olomouc	2,124	872	2,996	3	124	4.14	3,120	7.76	13	240
Pardubice	605	837	1,442	12	66	4.58	1,508	3.75	15	101
Pilsen	426	925	1,351	9	145	10.73	1,496	3.72	15	100
Central Bohemia	818	2,211	3,029	27	226	7.46	3,255	8.10	26	125
Ústí	461	736	1,197	43	135	11.28	1,332	3.31	16	83
Vysočina (Highlands)	1,055	1,081	2,136	1	97	4.54	2,233	5.56	15	149
Zlín	543	806	1,349	11	87	6.45	1,436	3.57	13	110
Total	22,737	15,607	38,344	343	1,850	4.82	40,194	100	227	177

MEA – Municipal authorities of with extended authority represent the basic level for registering war graves located in their administrative territories.

Comments on the table:

- Contrarily to the previous year, the registered number of war graves grew by 343 (column no. 4) from original 38,001 to 38,344 war graves.
- The data on the growth of the registered number is distorted by the fact that we also include in the Central Register the structures that are not war graves in the sense of the law. In total, that involves 1850 such structures (column No. 6), which is 4.82 % of all records in the Central Register. All those records are denoted with the "This structure is not a war grave in the sense of Section § 2 of the Act No. 122/2004 Coll., on War Graves".
- The comparison of percentages of structures that are not war graves in (column No. 7) in the registers of individual regions shows a disproportionate quantity of such structures 15.77 % (in 2023, it was 15.36 %) in the Moravian-Silesian Region.
- In the Hradec Králové Region and Ústecký Region, there was a major growth of the number of registered war graves by 194 and 43 (column no. 5), which occurred thanks to the progressive processing of digitalized War Graves Register from the period of the First Republic.
- Most of the war graves are registered in the South Moravian Region and in Prague (columns no. 8 and 9). In the South-Moravian Region, we register over one-fourth (27.08 %) of the total registered war graves.
- An overwhelming majority of the 10,885 records in the South Moravian Region account for Brno, a municipality with extended authority, which registers a total of 9,155 records of war graves (the data is not readable is the table).
- The coordination of care for war graves in the region places uneven demands on relevant officers in the regional authorities. The most difficult situation is in the Central Bohemian and Moravian-Silesian Region and in Prague, whose administrative territories comprise most of the municipalities with extended authorities (10).
- War graves are registered at 227 municipal authorities and 14 regional offices.

Government functions by the Ministry of Defence

The MoD realizes the care for the war graves in accordance with the law.

Pursuant to the law, the MoD performs government functions in the following scope:

- a. In case of doubt, the MoD determines what is a grave;
- b. Coordinates the care for war graves in the Czech Republic and abroad;
- c. The MoD keeps the central war graves register;
- d. The MoD provides grants according to a dedicated regulation on the care for war graves to the war grave owners.
If the owner is not known, the grants are provided to property owners, and;
- e. The MoD provides refunding for restricted use of the property and reimburses the owners in buyout of properties or parts thereof.

Inspection activities

The MoD progressively inspects and evaluates the performance of mandatory tasks performed by government authorities on regional level, in the form of inspecting on performance of transferred authority. The MoD established the inspection system into the form of a three-year cycle. Within the three-year cycle, we perform inspections on observance of law at every regional authority. The scope and form of inspections is the same for all regional authorities during the inspection cycle. As part of the inspections, we check on the status and completeness of war graves registries in the whole scope, form and outcomes of coordination of care for war graves in the region, as well as inspection activities of the regional authority with emphasis on inspection of the physical condition of war graves including the funding of care for war graves using regional grants. We also focus on redressing shortfalls identified in previous inspections, inclusion of war graves into territory analytical documents developed by regional authorities and, finally, the resolution of administrative offences in connection with the care for war graves. Our key focus during every inspection is on checking the physical condition of selected war graves in the region's territory. In 2024, we continued the inspection cycle launched in 2023 and we are closing the cycle in October 2025. In 2024, inspections were performed in the Pardubice (March 19-21), South Bohemian (April 23-25) and Highlands (May 21-23) regions. Physical inspection in the Hradec Králové region, planned for September 2024, was cancelled due to flooding. Most of the inspected WGs are in very good condition. In the Highlands region, not all problems in the register identified in 2022 were redressed. A war grave ledger with remains CZE-6105-26766 of a fallen Austro-Hungarian airman was removed in Jihlava (efforts underway to redress).

A persistent problem is the recognizability of war graves with remains in cemeteries and their distinction from other graves. The location of WGs often does not match the registered position (GPS) – which is particularly true for big city cemeteries. While some of the WGs were designated as not being WGs as per Act No. 122/2004 Coll., the physical inspection concluded otherwise.



War graves and commemorative sites

Region	WGs with remains	Inspected municipalities (WGs)	CSs	Inspected municipalities (CSs)
Pardubice	349	Three burial grounds in Chrudim	2	Chrudim, burial grounds
	15	České Petrovice, Jamné and Orlicí, Králíky, Orličky, Pardubice	47	Celné, Časy, Červená Voda, Červený Potok, České Lhotice, Dolní Hedeč, Dražkovice, Heřmanice, Hodonín u Nasavrck, Horní Lipka, Jamné nad Orlicí, Klášterec nad Orlicí, Kovářov, Kunvald, Licoměřice, Lichkov, Lipovec, Medlešice, Mladkov, Mladotice, Nekoř, Orličky, Pardubice, Podhořany u Ronova, Prachovice, Prostřední Lipka, Rabštejnská Lhota, Ronov nad Doubravou, Sezemice, Sobětuchy, Studené, Těchonín, Třemošnice, Vápenný Podol, Veliny, Vlčkovice u Mladkova.
South Bohemia	4	Former military burial grounds in České Budějovice	44	Volfířov, Dačice, Lásenice, Novosedly nad Nežárkou, Třeboň, Štěpánovice, Lišov, Skály, Protivín, České Budějovice, Čimelice, Nerestce, Horosedly, Předotice, Dobec, Kestřany, Ražice, Heřmaň, Protivín, Temelín, Dříteň, Olešník, Zahájí, Hluboká nad Vltavou, Ševětín, Neplachov, Dynín, Bošilec, Drahov, Jindřichův Hradec, Jarošov nad Nežárkou, Nová Olešná, Jilem, Horní Němčice, Strmilov
	24	Bošilec, České Budějovice, Čimelice, Dačice, Heřmaň, Hluboká nad Vltavou, Krč u Protivína, Lišov, Mirovice, Mirovice, Protivín, Strmilov, Studená, Ševětín		

Region	WGs with remains	Inspected municipalities (WGs)	CSs	Inspected municipalities (CSs)
Vysočina (Highlands)	552	Four military burial grounds in Jihlava		
	21	Golčův Jeníkov, Habry, Chotěboř, Havlíčkův Brod, Suchá u Havlíčkova Brodu, Horní Heřmanice, Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou, Želetava, Vílanec, Rančířov, Jihlava	38	Havlíčkův Brod, Štoky, Velký Beranov, Vysoké Studnice, Kamenice u Jihlavy, Bochovice, Rudíkov, Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou, Želetava, Čížov u Jihlavy, Golčův Jeníkov, Habry, Kámen, Sedletín, Jilem, Chotěboř, Rozsochatec, Dolní Krupá, Jihlava
Hradec Králové	Physical inspection not completed due to flooding.			

Care for Czech war graves abroad

Italy (415 WGs, 1,545 victims)

In 2024, two trips were taken to Italy with the aim of reconnaissance of war graves with and focus on First World War graves in north-eastern Italy. To select probable locations, we used the War Graves Register (which is currently being digitalized) of the Military historical archives. Archive research is currently being performed in order to prepare for the construction of new memorials in chosen locations in the upcoming years.

The first trip was organised on June 10-14, 2024. We were joined by our colleague Mr. Sergio Petiziol to visit the cemetery in Cividale del Friuli. Thanks to the information found on the Austro-Hungarian memorial and using other archive sources, we were able to add 141 Czech soldiers of the Austro-Hungarian Army buried in the cemetery into the war graves database.

We have further visited and subsequently added to the register the military cemeteries in Brazzano, Spilimbergo, St. Vito al Tagliamento, Portogruaro and San Michele Al Tagliamento. We expect that using archive research, most of our fallen soldiers buried at these locations will be entered into the CWGR in 2025.



The cemetery di Prade in Bellun was also added into our database. We expect to receive and list of the buried (whose remains are now located in the local ossuary) from the Italian side to enter their data in the database. We have also visited the large military cemetery in Feltre, which will require further archive research effort as it hold the remains of approximately three and half thousand Austro-Hungarian soldiers. The last stop of our first trip to Italy was the small cemetery located under Monte Civerone where we have discovered the graves of the member of the 22nd Feld Jäger Battalion. So far, we have been able to identify (and add to our database) and total of fourteen members of said battalion who came from Prague and its vicinity.

The second trip to north-eastern Italy took place on October 7-13, 2025, once again alongside Mr. Sergio Petiziol. It allowed us to enhance the CWGR with the date of military cemeteries in San Candido, Santo Stefano di Cadore, Chiusaforte, Pontebba, Cave del Predil, Germona del Friuli, Magnaboschi, Folgaria, Mestre, military cemeteries at the foothill of Monte Masiagh and the German cemetery in Feltre, as Czech soldiers fallen during the First World War had been moved there during the Second World War (after the Anschluss of Austria). At the Austro-Hungarian cemetery in Valbruna, we have registered fifteen names of fallen soldiers from the territory of the now Czech Republic. The Austro-Hungarian cemetery in Bondo is likely to become one of the most significant locations in north-eastern Italy, as a large part of the persons buried there belonged to the Czech regiments of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy.



Military cemeteries in Levico Terme and Slaghenaifi will require further archive research in cooperation with Austrian colleagues. During the second trip to Italy, we have also registered dozens of fallen soldiers from the Government Troops at the German military cemetery in Costermano sul Grada, who will be added to the register during 2025.

Velké vojenské hřbitovy v Levico Terme a Slaghenaifi budou vyžadovat větší archivní výzkum ve spolupráci s rakouskou stranou.

V rámci druhé cesty do Itálie jsme rovněž zaznamenali desítky padlých z protektorátního „Vládního vojska“ na německém vojenském hřbitově v Costermano sul Grada. Tito budou postupně doplněni do naší evidence v průběhu roku 2025.

Lebanon (2 WGs, 2 victims)

We have added to the registry Karol Weiner, born in the Slovak town of Modra. Weiner served in the 11th Czechoslovak Infantry Battalion – East. In June 1941, General Archibald Wavell of Britain launched a unique operation in the Middle East under the code name “Exporter”. The aim of the operation was to strike units of the French Vichy Regime in Syria and Lebanon in order to prevent Germany from using the military bases and airfields under the administration of the French puppet state. The victorious operation saw the participation of the 11th Czechoslovak Infantry Battalion – East which was integrated under the British 70th Division. The battalion entered the operation at the turn of June and July and suffered its first loss as soon as July 2 with the death of Private Karol Weiner. Weiner was ordered to report in the headquarters of the British 23rd Brigade but he got into and clash with the enemy and succumbed to his injuries.

Private Jiří Haas died during artillery strikes during the defence of and hill which the British called Beehive. The battalion fought the 6th Foreign Legion Regiment which means they most likely encountered their Czechoslovak compatriots on the battlefield, as they served in the regiment too. Hostilities ended on July 11, 1941, in the evening with a ceasefire and truce, however, about one seventh of them joined the French free units. The losses on both sides amounted to thousands due to the strenuous fighting (estimates amount to 2.5 thousand Allied victims and 3.5 thousand Vichy France victims).

With the help of the Military History Institute Prague, we have been able to positively identify the grave of Karol Weiner which is located at the Beirut War Cemetery in Lebanon. We now aim our effort at getting his name on the tombstone as he is so far marked as an unknown Czechoslovak soldier.



Poland (529 WGs, 2,809 victims)

In Poland, we focused mainly on the construction of a military tomb of soldiers fallen during the Second World War in the Dukla Pass. Other projects expected to be implemented in Poland include the renewal of First World War graves which hold the remains of thousands of soldiers of the Austro-Hungarian army who were born in the territory of the now Czech Republic. During the trip with and focus on reconnaissance, we have acquired incomplete lists of fallen soldiers buried in military cemeteries in the vicinity of Przemyśl.



Albania (1 WG, 1 victim)

From the gathered materials, we were aware before the trip to Albania that exact localisation of the graves would be difficult and that the probability of finding rests of the would be very low. However, the thousands of fallen service members do deserve to be remembered. Their presence in Albania contributed to a significant chapter of the war. The Czechs left an important imprint in the country, which has been documented in their post-war accounts.

First, we visited Skadra and Lezhe in the north. A war grave survived in Skadra which is dedicated to 315 fallen soldiers of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. At the location, we ascertained that the grave is under the care of the Austrian Black Cross. Our aim was to identify the remains of Czech soldiers and participate in the much-needed repair of the grave.

In Lezhe, and town of great historical significance, we attempted to locate a military cemetery that is supposed to hold the remains of 326 Austro-Hungarian soldiers, of whom some were of Czech origin. It is highly likely we found the correct location, as we discovered structures similar in form to war graves. We shall proceed to the identification of the soldiers and finding the best way to commemorate them.

In other locations we visited, including Durrës, Elbasan, Berat, Kavaje and Lumas, no First World War cemeteries survived to this day.

The complex events which Albania went through since 1918 left an impact even on the condition of the war graves. The country saw a change of regimes, none of which cared for preserving the memory of the fallen and the dead. In the best case, military cemeteries have been replaced by new cemeteries, in the worst, they have been covered with structures and gardens.



Republic of Northern Macedonia (3 WGs, 7 victims)

Our register did not include a First World War grave in the Republic of Northern Macedonia. During our trip, we have visited the Catholic cemetery in Skopje, which most likely holds the remains of Czech Austro-Hungarian soldiers most likely moved there from a former catholic cemetery destroyed by an earthquake in the 1960s.

Our next stop was the military cemetery of the German Volksbund in Prilep, which holds the remains of 40 Austro-Hungarian soldiers. Identification is still to take place, but it is already certain some of them were of Czech origin.

The last visited location was the German and Serbian military cemetery in Bitola. We estimate it holds the remains of almost 400 Czech soldiers who died here in 1914 – 1915. The burial data is to be verified in cooperation with the Czech Embassy in Skopje.



Slovakia (1,084 WGs, 3,753 victims)

We are continuing the project of renovation of Czechoslovak soldiers fallen in battles against the Hungarians and Hungarian Bolsheviks in 1918 – 1919, almost exclusively in cooperation with the M. R. Stefanik Endowment Fund (hereinafter “the fund”). Slovak state administration counterparts (war graves care is the scope of power on the Ministry of the Interior) have shown little to no initiative.

In July, we have organised a memorial journey together with the Association of Czechoslovak Legionnaires during which we have unveiled war graves reconstructed in the past year and laid wreaths to those built in previous years or which are still negotiated to be built. During the week, we have visited a total of 49 locations.



The memorial in Sered, which was destroyed in the 1960s, was renewed in 2021. It is dedicated to 29 Italian legionnaires fallen in Slovakia in 1919.



Renewed war grave of a Slovak soldier in Štrkovec, Rimavská Sobota.



A memorial to 57 Czechoslovak soldiers was built by the renewed war grave of Josef Benda in Lenka, Rimavská Sobota. The soldiers fell in 1919 in what is today a Hungarian territory and do not have their own grave.

We honoured the memory of Rupert Šilhavý of Blatná in the village of Štós near Rožňava.



Renewed grave of Jindřich Cáhel of Nový dvůr u Opavy near Kameňany u Revúče.



Renewed war grave of Čeněk Fišer of Lysá nad Labem in Kostolany nad Hornádem near Košice.

Renewed war grave of Slovak soldier Jozef Pilko in Malá Lodina near Margecany.



Renewed war grave of Slovak soldier Ján Hudák in Pečovská Nová Ves near Prešov.



Renewed war grave of Czech soldier Jaroslav Hruška in Velký Folkmar near Margecany.

In Badín near Zvolen, we commemorated the sacrifices of 35 Czechoslovak soldiers at the memorial renewed in 2020.



Seven Czechoslovak soldiers are buried in Dekýš in Banská Štiavnica.

In the second half of the year, we renewed eight more Czech war graves:



Josef Kunt is buried in Dlná Strehová near Lučenec.

Sergeant Karel Pitel of Maloveska u Klatov is buried in Bušince near Velký Krtíš.



Antonín Sysel of Velká Bíteš is buried in Kováčovice near Velký Krtíš.



Sergeant Václav Mach of Čížová near Písek is buried in Kováčovce – Petov near Velký Krtíš.

Alois Kšanda of Stará Huť near Příbram is buried in Vysoká near Banská Štiavnica.



Four Czech soldiers are buried at the upper cemetery in Velká Čalomija near Šahy.



Four more soldiers are buried at the lower cemetery.

Two Czechoslovak soldiers are buried in Pribeta near Nové Zámky.



Ukraine (196 WGs, 3,173 victims)

We are continuing the recording efforts of soldiers of Czech origin who died serving in the Austro-Hungarian Army. Their number increased to 1,677 which is over one half of all registered victims. We further registered 612 fallen Czechoslovak legionnaires, and 841 Czechoslovak service members of the World War II and total of 43 Czechoslovak men died in Subcarpathian Ruthenia defending the Czechoslovak borders.



In July 2024, the Minister of Defence visited the reconstructed war grave of 707 Austro-Hungarian or Czech origin in Starý Martyniv near Ivano-Frankivsk.



The Minister also honoured the memory of 238 fallen in the Battle of Zborov at the reconstructed memorial in Kalynivka in the Zborov district in the Ternopil Oblast.



Renewal of Czech war graves in Slovakia

In November, we organized reconnaissance and meeting on the topic of war graves in Trnava, Nitra, Veľký Lapáš, Levice, Banská Štiavica, Šáhy, Lučenec, Plešivec, Medzev, Turňa nad Bodvou, Michalovce, Spišská Nová Ves, and Ružomberok.

Renewal of Czech war graves in Ukraine

During the year, we continued the talks about the renewal of Czech war graves in Boratyn, Sokolovo, Uzhhorod and the Torun Pass.



The Minister also laid flowers at the war grave of 170 Austro-Hungarian soldiers, mostly of the 75th Infantry Regiment of Jindřichův Hradec who died in Tsebriv near Ternopil in 1915 – 1916.



The Minister participated in the meeting on the reconstruction of and Czech war grave in Chernivtsi in the west of Ukraine.

Renewal of Czech war graves in Tajikistan (2 WGs, 119 victims)

A delegation led by the Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies was connected to our previous memorial trips to Central Asia, following the steps of First World War prisoners of Czech origin. Currently, we have records of 119 Czech victims in two main locations – Khujand and Mehrobod (formerly Proletarsk).



Meeting in Tajikistan.



Tajikistan – Khujand.

Talks in Poland

Our priority in Poland is the construction of and war grave in the town of Dukla. We finalized the identification of Czechoslovak service members who died in the Polish territory within the Battle of the Dukla Pass in 1944. The final number is 618 fallen who will be commemorated by the war grave which is to be constructed in Dukla. The architectural design has been approved after discussions by the Polish National Memory Institute and the Dukla municipal administration. We are continuing cooperation in the matter of project documentation of a war grave which is to be submitted for approval in the district capital of Krosna. Finalisation of the war grave is expected in autumn of 2025 or first half of 2026.

We also cooperate with the National Memory Institute in matters of repatriation of service members of Czechoslovak armed forces murdered by the Sudeten German party members in September 1938 buried in Glubszyce and reciprocal repatriation of Polish Home Army, who are buried at the municipal cemetery in Česká Lípa.



Talks in Serbia

In Belgrade, we met with our counterparts from the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs which was represented by the Secretary general and is the authority responsible for war graves care in Serbia. The topic of the meeting was the implementation of intergovernmental agreement on war graves care of 2016. Both parties agreed on intensifying the cooperation, especially in identification of war graves and exchange of information. To achieve this objective, a joint war graves committee shall be established as soon as possible, as presumed by the agreement. The committee shall deal with matters of Czech graves in Serbia and vice versa.

The Czech delegation then visited the military cemetery in Belgrade which holds the remains of over 700 Austro-Hungarian soldiers who died between 1914 and 1915. Based on archived documentation, we are currently preparing a list of soldiers of Czech origin who are assumed to be buried there. The cemetery would certainly benefit from and renewal, which opens a pathway for cooperation with not only Serbia, but also our Austrian and Hungarian partners.

We then travelled to the towns Kragujevac, Zaječar and Niš. Post World War I documentation suggests the military cemetery in Kragujevac holds the remains of 275 Austro-Hungarian soldiers of Czech origin. The cemetery was established in the second half of the 19th century and is located near the Šumarice park in the town centre. In a well-preserved section of the cemetery lies a mass grave which holds the remains of those fallen in the First World War. The grave is marked with a tombstone with the names of fallen Serbian soldiers. Given that we know the names of our soldier who are buried there, we wish to build them and memorial in this location in the future.



Talks in Germany

As mentioned in the report from the previous year, we are currently in negotiation with Bavaria, Germany, regarding the burial of the remains of Iridium and Bronze paratroopers who died in two RAF aircraft after being shot down over Munich in March of 1943. The administration of the Am Perlacher Forst cemetery performed probing of the burial grounds in the summer of 2024, after which the remains of all six paratroopers have been exhumed. They are now located in exhumation coffins in relevant facilities at the cemetery. The Ministry of Defence is still considering both locations for the burial; the Czech Republic or the Durnbach War Cemetery.

Talks in Turkmenistan

We continued the project of reconstruction and renewal of war graves of Austro-Hungarian Army war prisoner of the First World War of Czech origin. Based on archived documents, we selected several localities or former prisoner camps where hundreds of our ancestors died and have been buried. The largest of them was the camp in Ashgabad, Krasnodovsk (Turkmenbasy) and Merv.

The meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ashgabad with the participation of War Veterans and War Graves Department, Military History Institute, and the Czech Ambassador to Uzbekistan. We presented our project to our counterparts and the next steps are to be arranged at following meetings. Agreement was reached regarding Turkmenians who died during the liberation of the Czech territory serving in the Red Army in 1945.

We visited the municipal cemetery in Ashgabad, which is presumed to hold the remains of First World War prisoner, but it is unfortunately in and bleak state. Despite that, Russian graves from the end of the 19th century did manage to survive. Another issue is that the remains have extensively been relocated within the cemetery, among other due to and destructive earthquake in 1948.



Meeting with the Black Cross in Vienna

On February 22-23, 2024, the representatives of the MoD War Veterans and War Graves Department were joined by the military attaché to Austria and Mr. Tomáš Kykal of the Military History Institute to meet with the representatives of the Austrian Black Cross in Vienna. The meeting was held on February 23 at the Embassy of the Czech Republic with the participation of His Excellency Jiří Šitler. The Black Cross was represented by the Vice President Friedrich Ehn, Federal Head of Lower Austria Reinhard Wildling and Otto Jaus.

The meeting was amicable, held in the beautiful premises of the Embassy, and gave us an opportunity to present to our Austrian colleagues the creation and area of responsibility of the War Veterans and War Graves Department. Given our shared history, the main topic of the meeting was the care of war graves of Czech WWI soldiers. The Black Cross has long focused on the repairs and maintenance of WWI military cemeteries not only in Austria, but also in Italy and the Balkans, which are locations that we also intend to focus on this year in order to add the relevant data into the Central War Graves Register. We presented the possibility to join forces within the reconstruction of military cemeteries, first in Italy and later in other locations. The Black Cross is now to evaluate our proposal before we can move our cooperation forward. Overall, we evaluate the cooperation as very beneficial and positive, especially due to the visible effort of our Austrian colleagues to share their information with us which they clearly illustrated by sharing with us and list of all Austro-Hungarian soldiers of Czech origin buried at the Vienna Central Cemetery.

Of course, we could not omit the visit of the cemetery's military section, as the document we received lists over 4,000 names. The majority of the tombstones did indeed list at least one Czech-sounding name (the soldiers were mostly buried by four). We currently only have in our register two of them, which shows how much work lies ahead of us, even in countries which are as close to us as Austria. At the end of our visit, we have laid a wreath at the central memorial of the military burial grounds and paid honour to the memory of the fallen.



Revealing memorials in Italy on September 18-24, 2024

On September 18-24, 2024, a pilgrimage to Italy was held in cooperation with the Association of Czechoslovak Legionnaires, during which new memorials have been revealed. After the night-long journey, we arrived Solbiate Olona on September 19 to honour the memory of Czechoslovak territorial army members. Apart from the memorial, the cemetery also holds the tombstones of Eduard Kvasnička and Josef Markl. We also honoured the memory of the territorial army members and legionnaires in the town itself, by the memorial which has been built in 2017. Both memorial ceremonies saw the participation of the town's representatives.

We closed the day in Milan at the Commonwealth military cemetery where we were joined by Czech Consul in Italy Ivan Počuch to commemorate SILICA-North drop Czechoslovak paratroopers Rudolf Hrubec and Bohuslav Nocar who died as their Halifax aircraft crashed.

On Friday, September 20, we arrived the picturesque submontane town of Lestans, where we were welcomed by a delegation of municipal representatives and local associations, including the members of the historic Imperial and Royal No. 18 Line Infantry Regiment. Lukáš Dulíček then held a presentation on the battle for Lestans in 1917.

On Saturday 21 September, we unveiled a new memorial at the local cemetery, which is dedicated to the members of the No. 18 Line Infantry Regiment who died in the battle in November 1917. The memorial is all the more valuable, as it is the result of shared effort of the municipal representatives and associations and was in no way financed by the Ministry of Defence. A significant part of the archive research was done by our esteemed Italian colleague Sergio Petiziol whose effort was recognized by the awarding of the Memorial Plaque for the Care of Czech War Graves Abroad. This pleasant task was taken on by the Deputy Director of the War Veterans and War Graves Department, Dr. Pavel Kugler.

A brief memorial act followed near the local school building to honour the memory of the fallen. Afterwards, we were invited to and lunch after which we said our wholehearted goodbyes to the municipal representatives and thanked them once again for their effort which leads to the unveiling of the memorial to dedicated to the members of the No. 18 Line Infantry Regiment.

On Monday 23 September, we continued to the next significant stop on our journey, the unveiling of and memorial in Trieste dedicated to Czechoslovak legionnaires who died sailing home from Russia. The memorial was symbolically established upon the grave of Emílie Hromádková, who, together with her husband Vilém, provided support to Czechoslovak legions in Russia, both material and other. Emílie died in the same manner as many of the legionnaires she cared for, of typhoid, which she contracted on the ship. We were joined for the memorial ceremony by Deputy Mayor of Trieste Mr. De Blassio, the Czech Consul Ivana Zandona, Slovak Consul Luca Farina, Kazakh Consul Luca Bellinello and Brazilian Consul Judith Moura de Oliveira. Dr. Kugler followed the ceremony by awarding the Memorial Plaque of the Department to the Czech Honorary Consul in Udine, Sergio Petiziol.

We closed the day with and memorial ceremony to honour Austro-Hungarian soldier of Czech origin fallen in November of 1917 who are buried at the cemetery in Palazzolo dello Stella. The mayor of the town generously took his time to participate at the ceremony as well.

Sunday was dedicated to Arco and honouring of the memory of Czechoslovak legionnaires who died in the battles of Doss Alto. On this occasion, we were joined by Consul General Ivan Počuch and His Excellency Jan Kohout, Czech Ambassador to Italy. After service in the Church of Assumption of Our Lady, we proceeded to and ceremony by the statue of Saint Wenceslas (which was gifted to the town in 2018) and another at the memorial of captured legionnaires who were executed on the day following the battle of Doss Alto on 22 September 1918.

On the last day, before undertaking the long journey home, we stopped at two memorials (dedicated to Italian and Austro-Hungarian fallen soldiers) in Fogliano, where we have also briefly met the mayor.



Award for war graves care

In order to appreciate individual contribution to the care of war graves, the Ministry can award the Memorial plaque for the care of war graves. In 2024, the Plaque was awarded to 11 persons (of which 5 were foreigners), two Silesian towns in the Czech Republic, one Silesian town in Poland and and Slovak civic association.



Awarding of the Memorial plaque for the care of war graves to Mr. Imrich Vetrák.



Grants

The Ministry of Defence provides financial support for war graves care through the subsidies program Maintenance and renewal of historic values I, announced for years 2020 – 2029 in the total worth of CZK 170 million. The Ministry intends to use 120 million for the care of war graves in the Czech Republic. The remaining 50 million were dedicated by the Ministry for donations for the care of war graves abroad.

The Ministry provides financial support through purposeful subsidies to rightful applicants in accordance with the War graves Act. The claim to subsidies is not automatic.

The program is set to permanently accommodate no less than 60 % of applications.

The Ministry evaluates the applications in two aspects:

1. Points for how much the application meets the defined criteria
2. Preferential points given to selected applications by the members of the war graves care committee

The score given to an application depend on the predefined priorities. The highest number of points is given to the application which meets most of the criteria:

- a. The Ministry favours the repair of existing war graves which are in and bad state due to their age and weather conditions over other objectives.
- b. The Ministry favours the care of war graves which document the activity of persons who died in and specific resistance operation or military operation during the Second World War over other objectives.
- c. The Ministry favours the care of war graves containing the remains of persons who died as and result of active participation in and military operation, as war prisoners, as and result of participation in resistance or military operation during war over war graves whose main objective is to serve as and symbol to commemorate war events and their victims.
- d. It is necessary to use the financial resources efficiently to divide the subsidies to as many war graves as possible. The process of granting subsidies helps to guide rightful applicants through their use.
- e. It is necessary to support smaller municipalities considering that 55 % of them have and population of less than 500 inhabitants and it is therefore difficult for them to find sufficient resources to take care of war graves, as well as to support owners in towns which have and larger budget at their disposal.
- f. It is necessary to keep the public informed about the financial participation of the Ministry in the care of individual war graves.
- g. If possible, the war graves are to be located in public spaces which have and high frequency of visitor even outside of commemorative ceremonies.

An application can get and maximum of 300 points.

The points are also awarded by the members of the Intergovernmental Coordination Committee for the Care of War Graves (hereinafter "the Committee"). Each of its members has 50 preferential points which they can award to max three applications as follows: 25, 15 and 10 points to one of the three applications respectively.

Based on the 5th call for applications for war grave care subsidies, we have received 121 applications worth CZK 39,371,689 through the RISPF system. One of them did not fulfil the definition of and war grave according to legislation, three applications were turned down due to formal aspects, eight of the applications were not submitted in writing and three were withdrawn by the applicant.

A total of 106 applications valued at CZK 36,010,683 were included in the decision process.

A proposal of order for subsidies was prepared based on the evaluation of applications, number of points and available financing. The subsidies for 2024 were then discussed within the Intergovernmental Coordination Committee for the Care of War Graves on 14 June 2023 which set up the order in which subsidies will be allocated to the satisfaction of applicants until the depletion of funds.

The Committee proposal was then submitted to the Department Director who decided to provide war graves care funding to 82 projects of total worth of CZK 15,616,618 in 2024. The use of funding is detailed in the table.

Granted and used funds in 2024

– multiyear projects

No.	Grant beneficiary	Activity	Parameters		Funds awarded	Funds used	Funds returned	Note
			WG	CS				
1	Municipality Lovečkovice	Lovečkovice – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	160,000.00	0.00	160, 000.00	Grant beneficiary has withdrawn
2	Municipality Orlík nad Vltavou	Orlík nad Vltavou – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	273,538.00	0.00	273, 538.00	Implementation extended to 2025

Granted and used funds in 2024

No.	Grant beneficiary	Activity	Parameters		Funds awarded	Funds used	Funds returned	Note
			WG	CS				
1	Municipality Olbramovice	Olbramovice – repair works of a war grave of victims of WWII	1	0	93 218,00	72 995,00	20 223,00	Lower price achieved through tender
2	Municipality Sedloňov	Sedloňov – repair works of a war grave victims of WWII	1	0	65,741.00	65,741.00	0.00	
3	Municipality Vojnův Městec	Vojnův Městec – repair works of a war grave of victims of WWI and memorials of victims of world wars	1	3	133,302.00	133,302.00	0.00	
4	Town of Miroslav	Miroslav – repair works of a war grave of victims of WWII	1	0	96,874.00	81,079.00	15,795.00	Lower price – supplier is not VAT registered
5	Municipality Hrádek	Hrádek – repair of memorials of victims Prussian - Austrian War 1866 – 1st phase	4	0	132,712.00	124,762.00	7,950.00	Lower price of some materials
6	Municipality Horní Újezd	Horní Újezd – reconstruction of memorials of victims of WWI	0	2	157,280.00	157,280.00	0.00	
7	Town of Havlíčkův Brod	Havlíčkův Brod – repair works of war graves of victims of WWII	3	0	75,116.00	75,116.00	0.00	
8	Municipality Dobšice	Dobšice – repair of memorial of victims of world wars	0	1	58,604.00	58,604.00	0.00	
9	Municipality Klenčí pod Čerchovem	Klenčí pod Čerchovem – reconstruction of war grave of victims of WWII	1	0	100,212.00	100,212.00	0.00	
10	Municipality Žernov	Žernov – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	60,800.00	60,800.00	0.00	
11	Municipality Zvotoky	Zvotoky – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	68,800.00	67,616.00	1,184.00	Lower price due to choice of supplier
12	Municipality Nevolice	Nevolice – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	84,504.00	84,504.00	0.00	
13	Municipality Hornice	Hornice – construction of memorial of victims of WWII	0	1	51,788.00	51,788.00	0.00	

No.	Grant beneficiary	Activity	Parameters		Funds awarded	Funds used	Funds returned	Note
			WGs	CSs				
14	Municipality Mžany	Mžany – repair of memorial of victims of world wars	0	1	145,880.00	145,880.00	0.00	
15	Municipality Némčice	Némčice – renewal of memorial of victims of world wars	0	1	172,116.00	172,116.00	0.00	
16	Municipality Pustá Kamenice	Pustá Kamenice – repair of memorial of victims of WWII	0	1	109,940.00	109,940.00	0.00	
17	Town of Bojkovice	Bojkovice – repair of memorials of victims of world wars	0	3	278,910.00	233,621.06	45,288.94	Lower price
18	Municipality Klatovec	Klatovec – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	52,400.00	52,400.00	0.00	
19	Municipality Hranice	Hranice – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	67,789.00	67,789.00	0.00	
20	Town of Chlumec	Chlumec – renewal of memorial of victims of WWI and repair works of a war grave of victims of WWII	1	1	283,480.00	283,480.00	0.00	
21	Municipality Ovčáry	Ovčáry – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	78,400.00	78,400.00	0.00	
22	Municipality Dolní Řasnice	Dolní Řasnice – renewal of memorial of victims of WWI – 2nd phase	0	1	81,764.00	81,764.00	0.00	
23	Municipality Chotýšany	Chotýšany –	0	1	100 000,00	100 000,00	0,00	
24	Královéhradecký Region	Královéhradecký Region – repair of memorial of victims Prussian-Austrian War 1866	0	1	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	
25	Municipality Kouty	Kouty – repair of memorial of victims of world wars	0	1	77,699.00	77,699.00	0.00	
26	Municipality Oplocany	Oplocany – renewal of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	126,880.00	100,280.00	26,600.00	Lower price achieved through market research
27	Municipality Sedlejev	Sedlejev – renewal of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	178,426.00	178,294.92	131.08	Lower price achieved through tender
28	Municipality Měcholupy	Měcholupy – repair of memorial of victims of WWII	0	1	250,431.00	0.00	250,431.00	Implementation extended to 2025
29	Municipality Veverské Knínice	Veverské Knínice – renewal of memorial of victims of world wars	0	1	296,067.00	296,067.00	0.00	
30	Municipality Mladotice	Mladotice – repair of memorials of victims of world wars	0	2	378,064.00	378,064.00	0.00	
31	Municipality Polepy	Polepy – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	56,000.00	56,000.00	0.00	
32	Municipality Kadov	Kadov – repair of memorial of victims of world wars	0	1	345,680.00	345,680.00	0.00	

No.	Grant beneficiary	Activity	Parameters		Funds awarded	Funds used	Funds returned	Note
			WGs	CSs				
33	Municipality Libouchec	Libouchec – repair works of war graves of victims of world wars	2	0	62,339.00	0.00	62,339.00	Project removed from the program
34	Municipality Chromeč	Chromeč – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	85,377.00	85,377.00	0.00	
35	Roman Catholic parish Nechanice	Nechanice – repair works of and war grave of victims Prussian-Austrian War 1866	1	0	106,480.00	98,861.00	7,619.00	Lower price of some materials
36	Town of Boží Dar	Boží Dar – repair works of and war grave of victims of WWII and memorial of victims of WWI	1	1	568,028.00	568,028.00	0.00	
37	Town of Kožlany	Kožlany – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	50,489.00	50,489.00	0.00	
38	Municipality Čechtice	Čechtice – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	99,054.00	99,054.00	0.00	
39	Municipality Proseč pod Ještědem	Proseč pod Ještědem – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	111,676.00	111,676.00	0.00	
40	Municipality Starý Mateřov	Starý Mateřov – repair of memorial of victims of world wars	0	1	318,651.00	290,123.00	28,528.00	Lower price through supplier selection
41	Town of Strakonice	Strakonice – oprava pomníku obětem první světové války	0	1	360 000,00	360 000,00	0,00	
42	Town of Česká Skalice	Česká Skalice – repair works of war graves and memorials of victims Prussian-Austrian War 1866 – 2nd phase	13	5	639,944.00	567,513.00	72,431.00	Lower price through supplier selection
43	Municipality Suchomasty	Suchomasty – repair of memorial of victims of world wars	0	1	207,405.00	207,405.00	0.00	
44	Municipality Velká Jesenice	Velká Jesenice – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00	
45	Municipality Přepychy	Přepychy – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	116,160.00	93,240.00	22,920.00	Lower price achieved through tender
46	Municipality Mankovice	Mankovice – repair of memorial of victims of world wars	0	1	180,000.00	180,000.00	0.00	
47	Municipality Žďár	Žďár – repair works of and war grave of the victims of Prussian-Austrian War 1866	1	0	201,731.00	201,731.00	0.00	
48	Municipality Třebušín	Třebušín – reconstruction of war grave of victims of WWI	1	0	494,832.00	464,466.00	30,366.00	Lower price achieved through tender
49	Municipality Jindřichov	Jindřichov – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	50,452.00	50,452.00	0.00	

No.	Grant beneficiary	Activity	Parameters		Funds awarded	Funds used	Funds returned	Note
			WGs	CSs				
50	Town of Krásná Lípa	Krásná Lípa – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	52,800.00	0.00	52,800.00	Implementation extended to 2025
51	Town of Teplá	Teplá – repair of memorial of victims of WWII – Mrázov	0	1	53,912.00	53,912.00	0.00	
52	Town of Teplá	Teplá – repair of memorial of victims of WWI – Kladruby u Beranova	0	1	65,136.00	65,136.00	0.00	
53	Municipality Dasnice	Dasnice – repair of memorial of victims of world wars	0	1	148,588.00	148,588.00	0.00	
54	Municipality Petrovice	Petrovice – repair of memorial victims of WWI	0	1	152,720.00	152,720.00	0.00	
55	Municipality Kostelní Hlavno	Kostelní Hlavno – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	208,120.00	208,120.00	0.00	
56	Municipality Běleč	Běleč – repair of memorial of victims of world wars	0	1	229,624.00	226,893.00	2,731.00	Lower price through supplier selection
57	Municipality Slunečná	Slunečná – reconstruction of war grave of victims of WWI	1	0	268,200.00	268,200.00	0.00	
58	Municipality Koválovce-Osíčany	Koválovce-Osíčany – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	276,562.00	272,811.00	3,751.00	Lower price through supplier selection
59	Municipality Šebířov	Šebířov – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	291,796.00	150,760.36	141,035.64	Lower price through supplier selection
60	Municipality Dolní Dvůr	Dolní Dvůr – repair of memorial of victims of world wars	0	1	360,000.00	333,700.00	26,300.00	Lower price through supplier selection
61	Municipality Rosice	Rosice – repair works of and war grave of victims of Napoleonic Wars	1	0	119,956.00	119,956.00	0.00	
62	Municipality Klíneč	Klíneč – renewal of memorial of victims of world wars	0	1	180,000.00	180,000.00	0.00	
63	Municipality Pustějov	Pustějov – reconstruction of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	180,000.00	180,000.00	0.00	
64	Municipality Petrovice	Petrovice – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	202,400.00	202,400.00	0.00	
65	Municipality Dolní Přím	Dolní Přím – repair of memorials of victims Prussian-Austrian War 1866	0	2	206,764.00	150,499.00	56,265.00	Lower price through supplier selection
66	Municipality Dolní Bečva	Dolní Bečva – renewal of memorial of victims of WWII	0	1	279,188.00	279,188.00	0.00	
67	Town of Čáslav	Čáslav – repair of ossuary of victims of WWI	1	0	194,500.00	193,930.00	570.00	Transfer of item to 2nd phase – MoD approval

No.	Grant beneficiary	Activity	Parameters		Funds awarded	Funds used	Funds returned	Note
			WGs	CSs				
68	Town of Šluknov	Šluknov – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	94,067.00	94,067.00	0.00	
69	Town of Krásná Hora nad Vltavou	Krásná Hora nad Vltavou – oprava pomníku obětem první světové války	0	1	178 886,00	140 078,00	38 808,00	Lower price achieved through tender
70	Municipality	Běhařovice – oprava pomníku obětem první světové války	0	1	327 014,00	327 014,00	0,00	
71	Municipality Rejchartice	Rejchartice – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	340,736.00	340,736.00	0.00	
72	Town of Tovačov	Tovačov – repair works of war graves of victims Prussian-Austrian War	2	0	562 311,00	535 788,00	26 523,00	Lower price achieved through tender
73	Municipality Opařany	Opařany – repair of memorial of victims of world wars	0	1	281,136.00	281,136.00	0.00	
74	Municipality Mířkovice	Mířkovice – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	123,142.00	123,142.00	0.00	
75	Municipality Telnice	Telnice – renewal of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	182,312.00	179,582.00	2,730.00	Lower price achieved through tender
76	Municipality Albrechtice nad Vltavou	Albrechtice nad Vltavou – renewal of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	272,903.00	272,903.00	0.00	
77	Municipality Olbramkostel	Olbramkostel – oprava památníku obětem první světové války	0	1	300 080,00	300 080,00	0,00	
78	Municipality Kounice	Kounice – renewal of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	277,184.00	277,184.00	0.00	
79	Municipality Velká Skrovnice	Velká Skrovnice – reconstruction of memorial of victims of world wars	0	1	377,520.00	298,870.00	78,650.00	Fence forging required less work
80	Town of Budyně nad Ohří	Budyně nad Ohří – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	180,000.00	180,000.00	0.00	
81	Municipality Jenišovice	Jenišovice – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	184,181.00	184,181.00	0.00	
82	Municipality Jarošov	Jarošov – repair of memorial of victims of WWI	0	1	393,385.00	392,864.60	520.40	Lower price achieved through tender
					15,616,618.00	14,594,127.94	1,022,490.06	

Based on the request of the Chief of the Budfín Branch of the 21st Tactical Air Base Čáslav, the project of construction of a memorial dedicated to Second World War airmen. The implementation of the project is in line with article 6 of the program 107290 Maintenance and renewal of historic values I which enables to finance war graves care within the Ministry of Defence. The implementation of the project was extended to 2025 due to insufficient preparedness on the side of the applicant. The project will be implemented through the Immovable Property Management Agency. Estimated costs of the construction amount to CZK 200,000.00 allocated as aggregate of the program. Unused funds from the program 107290 Maintenance and renewal of historic values I in 2024 amounted to CZK 101,792.84.

Financial donations for Czech war graves care abroad

The MoD chapter of the national budget for 2024 includes funds for donations for care of Czech war graves abroad amounting to CZK 5,000,000.00. Unused funds amounted to CZK 2,600,000.

Financial donations for Czech war graves care abroad in 2024

No.	Country	Purpose of Donation	Approved	Expended
1	Ukraine	Reconstruction and construction of WG and commemoration sites	4,500,000.00	4,499,999.94
2	Vietnam	Construction of commemoration site dedicated to Czechoslovaks fallen serving in French foreign legions	500,000.00	500,000.00
3	Italy	Reconstruction of WG of Austro-Hungarian soldiers of WWI	1,000,000.00	999,999.91
4	Poland	Construction of a commemoration site dedicated to Czechoslovak service members of WWII in the town of Dukla	1,000,000.00	999,999.98
5	United Kingdom	Construction of a commemoration site dedicated to a Czech RAF airman by Loch Doon	600,000.00	599,999.86
			7,600,000.00	7,599,999.69

Based on the Resolution of the Government of 27 November 2024, five financial donations of total worth of CZK 7,600,000.00 have been provided.

- Two donations were of total worth of CZK 5,000,000.
- Based on the above-mentioned resolution on the provision of donations for war graves care abroad which has been previously adopted by the Resolution No. 284 of 26 April 2023, donations worth CZK 2,600,000.00 were prepared but not used due to the unpreparedness of the projects.

Outlook for 2025

In 2024, we have been able to stabilize the personnel levels of the Department by gradually filling all the posts and by including part-time cooperation. In the previous period, we have defined priorities – the creation of the War Graves and Commemorative Sites Concept 2025-2029, launching of systematic digitalisation of the War Graves Registry, participation in the European War Heritage Working Group, gradual increase of funds for war graves care in the Czech Republic and abroad, active cooperation with the general public through social media and awareness campaigns, and the launch of the Public Portal of the Central War Graves Registry. We have been able to achieve these objectives.

In the upcoming year, we will finalize systematic digitalisation of our key project, the War Graves Registry while extending its possible use. Based on the information from this registry, we have been able to identify hundreds of new war graves of the First World War. We shall share the lessons learnt with our colleagues from the regions and municipalities to achieve a more precise record-keeping.

In autumn of 2025, we intend to organise a meeting of the European War Heritage Working Group in Prague. The meeting is to be an opportunity to sign a Charter which will define the objectives of the group and mutual cooperation. In connection with our efforts to identify war graves in the Balkans and the renewed talks with our Serbian counterparts, we wish to host in Prague a meeting of the Joint Czech-Serbian War Graves Committee whose creation is expected by the 2016 agreement. The fulfilment of objectives of intergovernmental agreements on war graves care is vital for a purposeful cooperation.

On the international level, we will continue the work on our projects focus on WWI and the period shortly after. In Slovakia, we focus on a long-term project related to the battles for borders against Hungary in 1918-1919. In 2025, we will continue the implementation of new war graves in Michalovce, Spišská Nová Ves, Levice and Ružomberok. In Ukraine, we are focusing on the locations in Uzhhorod, Torun Pass and Boratyn. In Central Asia, we are expecting to finish the reconstruction of a war grave in Fort Shevchenko, Kazakhstan, with a planned reconnaissance journey to the country as well as an international conference in Astana focused on shared military historical traditions and relationships. We are also discussing the possibility of concluding an agreement on war graves care to give a formal framework to our ever more intense cooperation. In Italy, we will follow up on our previous reconnaissance efforts to identify graves of Austro-Hungarian soldiers. We have selected five locations where we want to construct war graves in 2025. In Serbia, we are cooperating with our colleagues – our Hungarian counterparts and the Austrian Black Cross, to reconstruct the central military cemetery of the Austro-Hungarian Army in Serbia, which is located at the Novo Groblje in Belgrade.

As for the Second World War, we are continuing our projects in Ukraine (Sokolovo, Chernivtsi) and Poland (Dukla). In the United Kingdom, two war graves are to be unveiled, one dedicated to František Hekl by Loch Doon in Scotland and one to Alois Vašátko in Start point. Based on the request of the Czech Embassy in Vienna, a donation was approved for a new memorial plaque dedicated to resistance fighters executed in Mauthausen. At the Czech Embassy in Hanoi, a memorial is to be unveiled which is dedicated to the memory of Czechoslovak citizens who died during the Vietnam war in 1946-1954 and 1964-1973.

In the Czech Republic, we are finalizing the reconstruction of First World War military cemetery in Chodský Újezd near Tachov, where selected war graves will be marked with QR codes, thus launching the project.

We are aware that increased effort in the field of war graves care also requires an increase of the funds. Using the program Maintenance and renewal of historic values I, we have been able to increase financial resources from CZK 12 million to 15 million in 2023. In 2026, we aim for CZK 20 million and we wish to increase it to CZK 25 million in the upcoming years. In the mid-term horizon, we want to, we want to increase financial donations for war graves care abroad from five to eight million CZK.

We use social media to reach even more of those who are interested in war graves. We also want to include them in various campaigns for the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War as we did last year.

In December 2024, we saw the approval of the War Graves and Commemorative Sites Concept 2025-2029, which clearly defines our priorities in the upcoming years as well as the objectives of our department and that of other units of the Ministry of Defence, regional administrations, municipalities, other Ministries and, last but not least, the whole of society.

Acknowledgements

We wish to wholeheartedly thank our faithful colleagues from the regional administrations and municipalities with extended scope of power for their meticulous and self-sacrificing work in the war graves care coordination.

Furthermore, we want to express our gratitude to military attachés, ambassadors, honorary consuls and other representatives of the diplomatic corps with whom we have had the honour to cooperate. And last but not least, we wish to thank our partners from associations, private initiatives and volunteers who help us fulfil our mission.

We believe we will continue developing our successful cooperation in the future, as our mission never ends.

This annual report was prepared by:

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