

We will not forget

The guarantees and assumptions of our freedom lie abroad. They always have and always will. For our small nation, fighting for freedom beyond the borders of the republic is not only a moral obligation, but also a farsighted defense of our own interests.

The honourable line of heroism and freedom leads from the first legionnaires through the participants in the 2nd resistance up to the members of foreign missions. Our modern state could hardly have been created without the legionnaires. Without the fighters on the western and eastern fronts in World War II, we would not be able to count ourselves among the proud victorious nations in the fight against Nazism. Without the women and men who are now leaving to protect freedom and peace abroad, we would not be able to fulfill our obligation to repay our debt for the return of democracy.

We are truly grateful for the many who left to fight for their country's and its freedom on foreign battlefields. Thanks to them we can be proud of our own land. And thanks to them we can believe in a free and independent future for ourselves and our children. Our standing on the international scene is also made stronger by the moral commitment they have taken on for themselves.

We must never forget all we owe to our past, present and future legionnaires. Although there are many other concerns in our everyday lives. Although foreign issues are on the periphery of public interest. Besides, we can allow ourselves that luxury because of all that our men and women have sacrificed on foreign battlefields. The world is that much freer and safer because of them. Because of them, our own freedom and security is that much surer.

This exhibition is a small measure of gratitude to these brave men and women. They risked their health and lives for our freedom. We will not forget!

Jan Fischer
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic