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ORTHODOX CROSSES RETURNED TO CZECH CEMETERY AFTER 40 YEARS



When Central Cemetery in the Czech city of Brno underwent reconstruction in 1979-1980, the two Orthodox crosses honoring the memory of soldiers who laid down their lives during the liberation of the city in WW2 were removed and never put back.



Until last month.

Finally, after 40 years the honorary burial ground at Central Cemetery is again adorned with two large, three-bar Orthodox crosses. On June 22, the crosses were blessed by Archpriest Jozef Fejsak of the Church of St. Wenceslaus in Brno, reports the parish website.

The honorary burial place, which is the final resting place of resistance members and fallen Soviet and Romanian soldiers, was built in 1945-1946. The Russian Federation was represented at the blessing service by its Consul General in the Czech Republic, Alexander Kalachev.

After archival photographs were found from the original consecration of the crosses after the end of WW2, the Brno City Council agreed to the restoration of the crosses, which were made by the Brno parish community.



The honorary burial ground includes the graves of 3,364 fallen soldiers from Brno and southern Moravia. Several women are among those buried there.

The parish archives have preserved photographs of His Eminence Archbishop Jelevferij serving a panikhida for the departed at the cemetery in 1946:



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