

# THE MILITARY CEMETERY IN LESKO FROM A PERIOD DURING WORLD WAR I 1914 – 1915

In common graves lay in rest around 600 soldiers from the Austro-Hungarian, Russian and German Armies, who lost their lives in battles from 6 October 1914 to May 1915, as well as those who died in Military Hospitals during the winter of 1915 – 1916.

All those who took part in the battles during World War I were in multi-national armies, in each of these were Poles who fought and lost their lives.

In the cemetery at Lesko lay in rest Austrians, Russians, Germans, Hungarians, Slovaks, Czechs, Croats, Bosnians, Ukrainians, Serbs and Poles, who were from various religions: Roman Catholics, Evangelists, Russian Orthodox, Greek Catholics as well as Muslims.

The cemetery was instituted by the Department of War Graves stationed at Rymanów. It was consecrated by two R.C. priests Fr. Dzierżyński and Fr. Parenc, as well as two Greek Catholic priests Fr. Gmytrasiewicz and Fr. Birecki on the 30 April 1916. The building of the cemetery was under the supervision of Filip Votruba Commander of the District Gendarmerie, an official of the town of Lesko.

The elegant entrance to the cemetery is a monumental gate made from larch wood and oak, with an inscription in Latin: **MORS SOLA VICTRIS – GLORIA VICTIS.**  
(Because only death is victorious, therefore, glory to the defeated).

Further in the cemetery on a mound is an inscription in Latin:

**OPUS BELLI MUNDI MCMXIV – MCMXV.**  
(The Work of World War 1914 – 1915)