

POLAND FIGHTS
A445/11/89



- A large number of Poles / recent figures have brought it to over 2.000.000 men and women/ have been deported to Germany and there put to forced labour under conditions of complete enslavement.

- Of late, in flagrant violation of the rules of the Hague Convention of 1907 regarding the rights and obligations of the occupying power, ever increasing numbers of young Poles from the Polish territory incorporated into the Reich have been and are being forcibly conscripted for service with the German armed forces.

The oppression of the Polish people continues. Every day more thousands are being deported to Germany. Entire districts are being depopulated; the men slaughtered, the women sent to concentration camps or to forced labour in Germany, the children torn away from their parents and taken to Germany, to be brought up as Germans.

The Jews of Poland have been the target for the most ruthless barbarism of the Oppressors. Those who have not been wantonly murdered have been deprived of all their possessions and herded in ghettos set up in various towns and localities.

The Polish people maintain their attitude of determined refusal to collaborate with the enemy in any shape or form, thereby incurring the full impact of the German fury. We appeal to you to help us to find the means to restrain Germany from installing her rule of terror over other nations in Europe.

You may not have realised the full extent of the bestiality to which the Germans have descended in this war. The degraded German youth in the ranks of the S.S. and the Gestapo are not only inflicting untold sufferings on millions of men, women and children in the occupied countries, but also constitute a potential menace to the future peace of the world.

We feel convinced that there are means at the disposal of the Allied Nations, which, if applied, might succeed in forcing Germany to respect human life in occupied countries of Europe, and in forcing the Germans to cease the massacring and torturing of innocent and defenceless men, women and children.

Our civilisation is based on Christian and humanitarian principles, and we have no desire to emulate German barbarism, but we feel strongly that means must be found to impress it on the Germans that they cannot be allowed to commit their crimes with impunity.

The two great leaders of the English-Speaking Democracies, Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt, have repeatedly warned the Germans that after the war their crimes will be punished with all the rigour and severity of the law. Means should be found to restrain them now and we deem the following measures worthy of study as offering the necessary means of forcing Germany to respect international law concerning the treatment of civilian populations in conquered and occupied countries.

1. A warning should be delivered to Germany to the effect that after a given date, the execution of hostages in any of the occupied countries will be immediately followed by the total destruction from the air of a specified town or village in Germany. At the same time Germans should be warned that special squadrons of the Allied Air Forces will be held in constant readiness to carry out such raids.

2. A warning should be addressed to all agents of German civil and military administration stating that they will be held directly responsible for the safety of the respective civilian populations in all the conquered countries under military occupation.

Simultaneously it should be made clear that these civil and military agents must treat the populations of the occupied countries in strict conformity with the articles of the Hague Convention of 1907, failing which the severest punishment will be inflicted upon anyone contravening these rules.

In this connection it should be recalled that President Roosevelt said in his statement of 21st August 1942, referring to the German war criminals: "It seems only fair that they shall have to stand in Courts of Law in the very countries which they are now oppressing and answer for their acts."

Association of Poles from Eastern Provinces
Organizing Committee of Poles from the South Eastern Provinces
Silesian Circle
Circle of Silesians from Cieszyn
Information Committee of Poles from Belgium, Holland & Luxembourg

Polish Technical Association
Society of Polish Economists
Association of Polish Craftsmen & Workers
Polish Law Association
Polish Merchant Navy Officer's Association
Polish Journalists Union
Polish Association of University Women in Great Britain
Association of Polish Professors and Lecturers in Great Britain
Polish Women's Social Service Society in United Kingdom
League of Poles Abroad
Polish Teachers Union in Great Britain
Polish Students Association in Great Britain
Polish Actors Association
Polish Medical Association in Great Britain
Polish Protestant's Association in Great Britain
Council of Jews in Great Britain
Polish Trade Unions Association
Polish Transport Worker's Union,
Polish Shipowners Association
Polish Catholic Missions
Polish Society in Great Britain
Polish Invalids' Union
Polish Council in Great Britain

APPEAL ISSUED BY POLISH ORGANIZATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN
TO THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING NATIONS ON APRIL 4TH 1943.

We, the undersigned representatives of all Polish Associations, Societies and Professional Unions in the United Kingdom, deem it our duty to draw the attention of the English-speaking nations to the dreadful fate which has befallen Poland and to the cruel oppression to which our Nation is exposed at the hands of the German invaders.

Our country was the first to take up the challenge which Germany threw out to the civilised world. By her opposition and her sacrifices Poland gained time for the western democracies to arm and to prepare their defences against the German onslaught. Although the Armies of Poland were defeated in the September 1939 Campaign, the struggle is still being waged by us with implacable determination.

Our troops took part in the Norwegian Campaign. In the Battle of France, Polish divisions helped in the defence of French soil until the end.

When, after the collapse of France, Great Britain stood alone, as the last bastion of human liberty in Europe, we came to this country because we felt it was not only our duty, but our right to help in the struggle. We spared no effort or sacrifice in the service of our common cause. The part played by Polish fighter pilots in the Battle of Britain became a powerful source of strength and hope in the hearts and minds of the tortured people of Poland. This brotherhood in arms is today strengthened by our common efforts in other spheres. Our workers and technicians, are employed in British war-industries, our merchant seamen in overseas transports and our scientists engineers and economists in post-war planning.

We address ourselves to you at a time of profound anxiety and sorrow, for a renewed and terrible wave of terror is again raging in our country which has already suffered more than 43 months of cruelties at the hands of the German invaders.

It is difficult for those far removed from these oppressed countries of Europe to realise the extent of the horrors perpetrated there, but the undermentioned facts and figures, some of which are of necessity of an approximate character, will enable you to gain a picture of the enormous sufferings and sacrifices this monstrous war has inflicted upon the Polish people.

- Some 150.000 persons, military and civilians, were killed in the course of the September 1939 Campaign, - since the termination of this Campaign the number of Polish citizens executed or otherwise murdered, irrespective of origin or religion, amounts to some 1.450.000.-
- Some 400.000 prisoners of war captured during the Polish Campaign, were taken to Germany where they remain until today in forced labour camps.
- Furthermore, a large number of Poles, certainly exceeding 185.000 are detained in German prisons and concentration camps. 1.500.000 Poles who after being robbed of all their possessions were driven eastward into Central Poland.



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APPENDIX B TO THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON GREAT BRITAIN
TO THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT (1945)

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