

639986

639986 III

III RARA

Luzbona

18: VIII

186

The Polish Ministry of Information, Stratton House, Stratton Street, London,
August 18th, 1944.

This is to inform you that the following article appeared in the Aug. 11th issue of
"The Tribune".

WHO DESERTED WARSAW.

The third heroic battle of Warsaw started on August 1. Encouraged by the approach of the victorious Red armies, the Socialist workers and the Polish home army in Warsaw decided to come out in the open and fight for the liberation of their city. Since then and up to the present the battle has continued with every incident of heroism, self-sacrifice and appalling horrors. Many important sections of the city were captured by the Poles and completely cleared of the enemy. At one moment, even the bridges across the Vistula were in their hands, awaiting the Soviet divisions.

The Nazis in their desperation, have been resorting to all the atrocious methods associated with their name. According to absolutely reliable information which has reached us they have been driving columns of men, women and children ahead of their tanks as a screen against the fire of the resurgent civilian population. The Germans are using bombing attacks, flame throwers, heavy tanks, artillery and, of course, all the lesser weapons in a determined attempt to subdue the population and hold the city.

Repeated appeals have been made by the Poles for arms to be sent to them, but up to the time of writing little has been sent. The Russian advance halted outside the city for reasons which are, no doubt, commendable to the Russian Supreme Command. Yet in spite of these disappointments and after five years of war the spirit of the people of Warsaw remains as high as ever. Socialists, workers and soldiers have maintained constant resistance against the occupying Germans. At no time have the Nazis been able to claim that Warsaw has been completely in their possession.

The resistance of the Polish underground movement was so ferocious and so sustained that the Germans always had to keep a very large garrison in Warsaw. The underground movement had secreted a great deal of ammunition and small arms which they are now using. Since the battle started they have been making "Molotov cocktails" for use against tanks, but of course these are of little avail against the heavy tanks which the Germans are now employing.

We draw attention to these facts not only in order to pay tribute to the valour of the people of Warsaw, but in order to underline once more the criminal folly of the allies in not taking full advantage of the spirit of the civilian populations in the occupied countries.

When we said, three years ago, that the Allied cause had hundreds of millions of supporters inside Europe we spoke what we knew to be the truth, and now the truth of it can be seen in Warsaw, among the Maquis in France and among the workers in northern Italy. The Allies appear to think it would be a mistake to divert any large quantities of their plentiful supplies of arms in order to assist the civilian uprisings.

/ to be continued/.

BIBLIOTHECA
UNIV.  IAGELL.
CRACOVENSIS

18. VIII. 44.

The Polish Ministry of Information, Stratton House, Stratton Street, W.I.
/page 2. "Tribune"/ August 18th. 1944.

They think only in terms of disciplined armies, of marching columns, of ordered attacks. Nevertheless, General Alexander in Italy and General Eisenhower in France have both of them felt compelled to pay tribute to the assistance given to them by the resistance movements in Italy and in France. In many instances our armies in Brittany have marched in to occupy towns already taken over by the Maquis. The swiftness of the Allied advance there is partly due to this as, indeed, the rapidity of the Soviet armies' advance is partly due to the same cause.

We know now, although it is not yet officially admitted, that our advance in Italy would have been enormously facilitated if we had established contact with the Italian resistance movement in the North and if we had provided them with arms with which they could have fought the German garrisons in Milan and Turin. Instead of that, in our folly-if not worse- we dropped bombs on the workers of Milan and Turin when they were on strike and after they had driven the Facists from power.

During the last two or three months, from the Maquis of France have come repeated appeals to us to send weapons which can be effective against the heavy armour that the Nazis have been forced to divert from the battle-fronts.

Soon we may expect that the people of Paris will follow the same pattern as the Allied columns advance on the city. They will rise spontaneously against the Nazis there. Will they be treated like the Poles of Warsaw, like the Italian workers of Turin and Milan, like their Maquis comrades in the Savoy? If so we can take it for granted now that the good name of Great Britain and America will be besmirched.

The careful calculations of professional soldiers are not sufficient for dealing with these situations. But the professional soldiers cannot be blamed. The responsibility rests upon the civilian heads of the Allied Governments.

Some of the comments now being made by the leaders of the Resistance in Warsaw are edged with bitterness. They say Warsaw is not getting assistance from Britain just as she did not get it in 1939. They say the Polish Alliance with Britain so far has been a one-way affair to the advantage of Britain. We got whatever benefit there was from the Polish resistance in 1939. Since then Poles have fought against Germany in the Battle of Britain, in Norway, in Africa, in Italy, and elsewhere. When, the defenders of Warsaw are asking, are the Poles to be allowed to fight for their own country on their own soil? The answer cannot be that it is too difficult. Civilians are making the journey and are being dropped by parachute in the area now under Polish control.

We shall be told, of course, as we have often been told before, that high strategical considerations are behind the dispositions of the Allied Command in these matters.

/ to be continued/.



The Polish Ministry of Information, Stratton House, Stratton Street, London.
/Page 3. "Tribune"./

We say quite bluntly we don't believe it. The reasons are mainly political and they are so disreputable that they are kept hidden from public opinion. When the war is over and the story can be told in its fullness many good people who are now complacent will be shocked.

In the meantime millions of ordinary decent men and women rush to take up what arms they can put their hands on when they hear the sound of the approaching armies of liberation. In the impulse of generous self-sacrifice they do not weigh in the balance all the niceties of politics. All they ask is "Give us arms", and when the arms do not come, when their friends are silent, they cannot understand. But the time will come when they will understand and we shall have to pay the price of our studied calculations.

For our part we salute the heroes of Warsaw, accord them our deep admiration, and trust that even at this late hour the Allies leaders will give them the little help that stands between victory of the people of Warsaw and destruction so near to their hour of liberation.

.....

The Polish Ministry of Information.

