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POLAND FIGHTS
NEW YORK, N. Y.

to Polish YMCA Bulletin No. 7 for December 1944
for Those Who Want More Information Than the Bulletin Supplies

I. Centers in the Middle East for Junaks and Students.

As I begin this section I have just finished studying Director Godlewski's July-August-September 1944 22-page report of finances and activities. This gives a detailed and clear picture of what the Polish YMCA is doing for these 2,800 Junaks, about 200 students, and for civilian whose number is not stated.

1. The Junaks in Palestine. These number about 2,400. They range in age from quite little fellows of 8 up to boys of 18, about to enter the army. For these Junaks the Polish YMCA operates centers in or near the schools in which the boys live and study; at 5 points in Palestine, namely, Barbara, Nazareth, Sarafand, Kirjat Motzkin, and El Mughar, and in the Polish section of the hospital at Khfarbill. The central headquarters are at Tel Aviv. The Polish YMCA publishes a highly successful magazine for the Junaks, written largely by the children themselves. The great popularity of the magazine "Junak" has led the Polish authorities to ask us to enlarge it, change it from a monthly to a weekly, and have it serve Polish boys and girls in other lands. This is being arranged.
2. The Junaks in Egypt. Some time ago about 400 older Junaks were sent to Tel-el-Khebir in Egypt to study in a school for mechanics. There the Polish YMCA operates a large and popular center in charge of 4 workers, a man and 3 women.
3. The Students in Beirut, Lebanon (Syria). Here about 200 Polish students are studying in the local colleges, chiefly in the medical departments. For these students the Polish YMCA organized a 4-room center. It soon became the social center for the whole local Polish community. The man in charge seems to be a hum-dinger. Of him Chairman Hulanicki writes, obviously not for publication but as part of a personal letter:

"The most interesting of all is the director of our center. He is a young fellow, Konstantyn Medwetzki, 26 years old, who has decided to devote his life to work in the Polish YMCA. There are few men like him to be found in Europe nowadays. The whole day he thinks only about kindly acts, about being nice or helpful to someone. With all that, he cannot be said to be 'not of this world'. He is the most simple and charming young man, very tall, graceful, even goodlooking. He possesses one enviable characteristic: like a cushion, he sinks and rebounds after each defeat, disappointment, or sign of hostility, so frequent all around us. He is nice to everyone, he has friends everywhere, all trust him and confide their sorrows and troubles to him. In this way, the young man is better oriented in the field than anyone else, and he is the center, so to speak, of everything that happens in the little Lebanon world.

"He works gratis at the English YMCA in return for a favor they grant him; he lives there without paying. He is on duty at the English YMCA every day from 6 to 10 A.M.; then he goes to his Polish 'swietlica' (Polish term for a YMCA center) where out of his own money he brings flowers, makes paper ornaments, buys cheap furniture in obscure shops. In short, it is the coziest place. People like him and the center and gather to him willingly. Students study at the 'swietlica' from 7 A.M., they sit there before and after lunch, before and after tea and also before and after supper. There is a piano, concerts, lectures, discussions, and social gatherings are arranged; it is filled from morning till night."

to the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C. 20505

1. Background - This report was prepared by the CIA on 10/15/54.

The following information was obtained from a review of the files of the CIA on 10/15/54. It is believed that this information is of interest to you.

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4. A summer camp for Junaks was conducted by the Polish YMCA at "The Cedars" in the Lebanon Mountains.
5. Statistics. In the Middle East work for Junaks, students, and a number of civilians, the Polish YMCA employs 29 workers, as at the end of September. Of these 9 are men and 20 women. The total financial operations for these 9 centers, the summer camp, headquarters, and the magazine "Junak", for the three months July, August, and September 1944 were \$14,078, or roughly \$4,690 a month. During these months I was able to send them only \$800 a month. For the proper operation and expansion of the projects in hand we should send Chairman Hulanicki not less than \$2,200 a month. When a civilian YMCA is organized, possibly at Tel Aviv, the sum would need to be increased.

Note that the above does not include the centers for the III Corps of the Polish Army in Egypt, where at last reports 5 centers were in operation.

II. The Mobile Field Unit.

Nothing the Polish YMCA has done has attracted so much attention as has its Mobile Field Unit. Five cars and 20 workers were sent as the first wave, leaving England October 3. It was planned to send a second wave of 5 cars and 25 more workers, and maybe this has already been done. Of these 10 cars, 4 were bought with money provided by Polish War Relief (Rada Polonii). One was donated by the Polish Falcons of America. The Scottish YMCA donated the sixth car. The seventh car the Polish YMCA already owned, its famous "Music Wagon", re-arranged according to the new plan. The money for the eighth car comes from miscellaneous sources. The last two cars are not yet financed. They cost from \$4,500 to \$5,000.

Each of these cars of the new type is a five-ton Fordson truck, equipped as a regular "YMCA on wheels". The front right half opens out and behold, a stage, piano, radio, amplifier, phonograph, and the people who know how to give a variety of entertainments and talks. The rear left side of the car opens up as a canteen, where soup, tea, cakes, cigarettes, and sandwiches are served. The rear end of the car is a library of 400 books, and here also is a field first-aid kit. A smaller type of truck is a complete moving picture outfit. The value of this Mobile Field Unit, right up at the fighting front, is enormous. It "gets its feet wet" and shares many of the soldiers' hardships. Well over half the staff are Polish women.

III. What is the Program like? Africa.

The list of activities that make up the program of a Polish YMCA center for the refugees in East Africa, the place where the refugees gather for some of their social and cultural life, is well-illustrated by Mr. Jan Baranski's latest report, just received in New York City.

Taking the events just as they come, but avoiding repetitions where the program in one center has been like that in another, as is of course often the case, we find the following: Patriotic evenings in honor of "Heroic Warsaw"; plays put on by children and by adults; talks and teas for adults; entertainments for children of pre-school age; story-telling periods for children; meetings to discuss housekeeping problems; news reviews; social gatherings; help in preparing school lessons; self-education clubs; orchestra rehearsals; gymnastic instruction; tennis, volley ball, basketball, and football; light athletics; buffet meals; lectures; playing of chess, checkers, and dominoes; dramatic clubs for people of all ages; a work-shop where people make lampshades, dolls, paper flowers, etc; walking excursions; movie shows; visits to the sick; classes in cutting and sewing; group singing; courses in auto operation and repair; literary clubs; courses in embroidery and other handwork; typewriting courses; use of radio and phonograph. All these kinds of events from the September report.

1. A summer camp for Juniors was conducted by the Polish YMCA at "The Cedars" in the Rockland area.

2. Statistics. In the Middle East work for Juniors, students, and a number of civilians, the Polish YMCA employs 22 workers as at the end of September. Of these 9 are men and 13 women. The total financial operations for these 9 centers, the summer camp, headquarters, and the magazine "Kurier" for the three months July, August, and September 1946, are roughly \$1,000. For a month. During these months I was able to send out only \$500 a month. For the proper operation and expansion of the program in hand we should send \$1,000 a month. When a civilian YMCA is organized, possible at the very least, the sum would need to be increased.

Note that the above does not include the centers for the III Corps of the Polish Army in West, where at least 2000 centers were in operation.

II. The Mobile Field Unit

Nothing the Polish YMCA has done has attracted so much attention as has its Mobile Field Unit. Five cars and 20 workers were sent on the first wave, leaving England October 3. It was planned to send a second wave of 5 cars and 25 more workers, and maybe this has already been done. Of these 10 cars, it was thought with money provided by Polish War Relief (Rada Polska), one was donated by the Polish Falcons of America. The Swedish YMCA donated the sixth car. The seventh car the Polish YMCA already owned, the famous "White Woman", re-arranged according to the new plan. The money for the eighth was come from miscellaneous sources. The last two cars are not yet financed. They cost from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Each of these cars of the new type is a five-ton Fordson truck, equipped as a regular "YMCA on wheels". The front right half is one unit and behind a stage, radio, amplifier, phonograph, and the people who know how to give a variety of entertainments and talks. The rear half of the car opens up as a canteen where soft tea, cakes, cigarettes, and sandwiches are served. The rear end of the car is a library of 100 books, and here also is a field first-aid kit. A smaller type of truck is a complete moving picture outfit. The value of this Mobile Field Unit, ranging at the lightning front, is enormous. It "sets the feet" and gives many of the soldiers' hardships. Well over half the staff are Polish women.

III. What is the Program Like?

The list of activities that make up the program of a Polish YMCA center for the refugees in West Africa, the place where the refugees gather for some of their social and cultural life, is well-illustrated by Mr. Jan Pawlowski's latest report, just received in New York City.

Taking the events just as they come, but avoiding regularity where the program in one center has been like that in another, as is a course after the case, we find the following: Patriotic events in honor of "White Woman"; play put on by children and by adults; talks and fees for adults; entertainments for children of pre-school age; story-telling parties for children; meetings for business housewives; news reviews; social gatherings; in morning school lessons; self-education clubs; orchestra rehearsals; gymnastic instruction; tennis; volleyball; basketball; and football; light athletic buffet meals; lectures; playing of chess, checkers, and dominoes; dramatic clubs for people of all ages; a work-shop where people make lampshades, dolls, paper flowers, etc.; walking excursions; movie shows; talks to the sick; classes in cutting and sewing; group singing; courses in auto operation and repair; library clubs; courses in embroidery and other handwork; gymnastic courses; use of radio and phonograph. All these kinds of events from the September report.

About the opening of the new Polish YMCA center in Abercorn, Northern Rhodesia, the local Polish paper for August 25, 1944 wrote: "On the 22nd there occurred the formal opening of the swietlica of the Polish YMCA for youth, furnished comfortably and in good taste. The ceremonies brought together 200 children of the settlement and invited guests, such as officials and teachers. The meeting was addressed by Mr. A. Balaminski, head of the settlement, who emphasized the significance of the swietlica as a center of culture and recreation and its value in the formation of the character of Poland's future citizens and in their self-education. There were declamations, the children sang, and there was a speech of thanks to the head of the settlement for his interest in the welfare of youth."

Through Mr. Baranski the school children of Kampala, Uganda, sent us a memorial of appreciation, signed by many a Piotr, Cieslaw, Jozef, Irena, and Anna. God bless them all.

In the January Bulletin of the Polish YMCA we will print a photograph of our new swietlica on Lake Victoria, Uganda. A Polish YMCA on Lake Victoria, Uganda! Ye ends of the earth!

We send \$1,000 a month to East Africa, thanks to Polish War Relief (Rada Polonii.) The September expenses of the 14 centers and the headquarters office totaled \$5,480. (Photostat of finance report filed with Polish War Relief.) In 1945 we shall try to send them \$2,000 a month.

IV. Things That Ought to Be in This Issue and Are Not.

1. Mr. Kunicki's report on our work in Italy.
2. Mr. Poniatowski's report on our work in Egypt. (Yes, that is the great educator of Krzemieniec Lyceum fame.)
3. Something about the 21st birthday of the Polish YMCA, December 8, 1944.
4. A preview of our 1945 financial needs from North America, \$273,000 of a million dollar budget.
5. A whole page of thanks for your cooperation.

Paul Super
General Director Polish YMCA
347 Madison Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

About the opening of the new Polish YMCA center in Aberdeen, Northern Rhodesia, the local Polish paper for August 25, 1951, wrote: "On the 22nd there occurred the formal opening of the activities of the Polish YMCA for Youth, furnished completely and in good taste. The ceremonies brought together 200 children of the settlement and invited guests, such as officials and teachers. The meeting was addressed by Mr. A. Belamick, head of the settlement, who emphasized the significance of the activities as a center of culture and recreation and its value in the formation of the character of Polish future citizens and in their self-education. There were dedications, the children sang, and there was a speech of thanks to the head of the settlement for his interest in the welfare of youth."

Through Mr. Farnfield the school children of Kampala, Uganda, sent us a memorial of appreciation, signed by many a Peter, Charles, Janet, Irene, and Anne. God bless them all.

In the January Bulletin of the Polish YMCA we will print a photograph of our new activities on Lake Victoria, Uganda. A Polish YMCA on Lake Victoria, Uganda, Ya ends of the earth!

We send \$1,000 a month to East Africa, thanks to Polish War Relief (Bada Polish). The September expenses of the 12 centers and the headquarters office totaled \$5,150. (Historical finance report filed with Polish War Relief). In 1951 we shall try to send them \$2,000 a month.

IV. Things that ought to be in this and are not.



1. Mr. Konicki's report on work in Italy.
2. Mr. Fombatawala's report on work in Egypt. (Yes, that is the great center of civilization (Giza).)
3. Something about the 25th birthday of the Polish YMCA, December 8, 1926.
4. A review of our 1951 financial needs from North America, \$275,000 of a million dollar budget.
5. A whole page of thanks for your cooperation.

Best regards
 General Director, Polish YMCA
 217 Madison Avenue
 New York 17, N.Y.