

The Polish Review

POLAND FIGHTS

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COMING ON A VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES



GENERAL WLADYSLAW SIKORSKI

Prime Minister of Poland and Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces

POLAND SPEAKS . . .

General Sikorski's speech at the inaugural session of the Polish National Council



THE harder the times the greater our common responsibility, and the more important it will become to act in the closest concord. This should be remembered by every Pole, especially by every Pole abroad. In September 1939, owing to many blunders and errors some of which were

committed by ourselves, the war was but a struggle for honor. That honor was saved by the nation and its soldiers who fought in and outside their country.

"The Polish soldier proved, and continues to prove each day in front of the world, that he can fight inflexibly for ideals that are precepts of honest Western democracies. Today he is offering his blood or supporting in supreme patriotism and good cheer the hardships and trials of a soldier, on land, at sea, in the air, from the British Isles to Libya and to the snow-shrouded plains of Russia. He has but one desire — the restoration of the greatness of his country, that has temporarily been lost. And over there in Poland, in spite of the most terrible outrages of the invaders heroic, stubborn and unbending resistance continues.

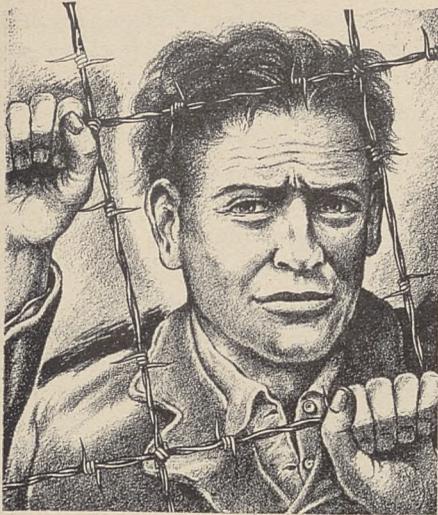
"Poland has entered upon the path of political realism with determination. Proceeding in this spirit the Polish Government was the first to stretch out her hand to Soviet Russia, proposing friendship. For the same reason we have taken the initiative in signing with Czechoslovakia an agreement that should become the foundation of a future European union towards the establishment of which we are making further efforts. An honest understanding with the Soviets should ensure lasting security for Poland. Otherwise — as the course of history has proved — we would be doomed to simultaneous struggles upon two fronts, and the prospect would be dark indeed. This understanding will be no less beneficial to the other side. A strong Poland will be capable of withholding the everlasting German "Drang nach osten." It will afford our neighbor an opportunity of accomplishing great tasks and furthering the development of the enormous areas and untold wealth of the U.S.S.R. Unquestionably the possibilities of Russia in this regard are boundless. I am, therefore, confident that the differences that still divide us will disappear. The agreements we have concluded have already yielded many practical advantages. I would like to draw your attention to one question which is all important to both parties. It is the organization of a Polish army upon Russian territory. That army is intended to fight as a unit on the Eastern front together with the Soviet army against our common foe, the Germans, to free inde-

pendent and democratic Poland. During my talks with Stalin he fully appreciated the advantages of a common struggle. The difficulties prevailing in Russia, that stand in the way of achieving this task are enormous. I am profoundly convinced that they will be overcome and that the Polish army will be formed and reach the effectiveness anticipated during my stay in Russia. I also expect that the number of soldiers agreed upon, on that occasion, will arrive on British territory and enable us to expand Polish forces in Great Britain according to plans already made. A week ago, I received assurances from the British authorities that our army in Russia will be provided with modern equipment, and final approval for the formation of a Polish armored division in Britain and a similar mechanized division in the Middle East.

"The final solution of problems that are the outgrowth of history, and of the situation of Poland and Russia, is not a task for present days. Our first and foremost obligation is to crush our common foe. In spite of Russian successes on the Eastern front, his forces are still very powerful. On the Russian front the Germans are faced with enormous difficulties. Their march Eastward, which was to have been one more tour, is proving fatal to the 'invincible' army of the Third Reich. It will probably be repeated during the late Spring of this year. Conditions however, will be very different and Germany's intentions and purposes equally limited. It is probable that Hitler will attempt to combine a thrust in the direction of Baku and Anglo-Russian communications in Asia, and at the same time to try to isolate Russia by cutting through the maritime routes linking her with the rest of the world. This thrust, however, should meet with a counter-attack which will definitely put a stop to his advance and create conditions necessary for final victory. The time will come when the Japanese will pay the price for having too thoughtlessly scattered their forces. Nevertheless, the present situation is very grave. Fighting democracies should avail themselves of all the power at their disposal. And this power, when compared with the possibilities of our adversaries is superior both from the material and the moral point of view. An especially important part will be played by the invaluable energy of American democracy. I think I shall be expressing not only the feelings of my suffering country but also those of other brotherly nations of Europe, if I emphasize the greatness of the hopes of these countries in connection with the entry of America into the war, and their faith in her power, in her vitality, in her ideals. In the sphere of international relations the policy of Poland, during this crucial moment of history, is based on her alliance and sincere collaboration with Great Britain, both in political and military spheres, on closer agreement and mutual understanding with the United States and sincere relations, arising out of common interests, with all the allied countries."

BEHIND BARBED WIRE

WHAT LIFE IS LIKE IN GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMP



8,000 POLES
ARE BEING
SUBJECTED
TO DAILY
TORTURE
IN THE
NOTORIOUS
CONCENTRATION
CAMP AT
OSWIECIM.

Here is an authentic account, based upon actual experience, of conditions at Oswiecim. Affidavits supporting every detail are in the hands of the Polish Government in London. Should anyone doubt its truth—let him remember what H. R. Knickerbocker, the well-known American war correspondent, wrote in "IS TOMORROW HITLER'S?" —

"Only among the Germans is atrocious behavior, torture and murder an official policy calculatedly carried out . . . Slaughter of civilians in Poland surpassed 100,000 persons many times."

POLES are incarcerated mostly in the concentration camp at Oswiecim. Most of the prisoners are drawn from the intellectual classes. The concentration camp at Oswiecim, which is the largest in Poland, merits detailed description.

At Oswiecim railway station the trucks are shunted on to a siding with a platform specially built for the purpose. One end slopes sharply downward, and in winter-time it was very slippery, covered with ice and frozen snow. The trucks are kept sealed until nightfall, when the doors are opened and dazzling arc lamps are switched on. Blinded, numbed with cold, hungry, and dizzy with the sudden fresh air, they are unable to step out immediately, and the police help them out with rifle butts and kicks. The older men fall and slide down the ramp. Prisoners unable to get up from the floor of the truck are dragged out by their feet or hands and flung down the ramp. The corpses are left in the truck, and are afterwards burnt in the crematorium. The prisoners are then packed into lorries, being beaten incessantly the while.

PRISONERS OF CONCENTRATION CAMP WORK UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF GESTAPO GUARD.

The barracks are unheated, and there are innumerable chinks in the walls. At one time a man was hanged over the door of one of the barracks and his body was left hanging for some time. He was one of a group who planned to organize a hunger strike in protest against prisoners being driven out to work dressed only in wet overalls during frosts.

Rising time is about 5 a.m., and three minutes are allowed for washing under a cold shower, cleaning clothes, and dressing.

The prisoners are forced to do exhausting labor, frequently entirely useless. For example, one group was ordered to construct a pond. As the prisoners may not ruin their boots or socks, they were ordered to work barefoot in the snow and on the frozen mud. All the prisoners of this group were from the intellectual class. One day they were unable to stand any more, and attacked their two guards, trampling them in the mud. The next day a large number of prisoners were taken out to the open field and ordered to run. The guards opened fire from machine-guns. Those who were killed were at once cremated.

Until the middle of September all prisoners had to go barefoot, though the paths were made up of sharp stones. Every prisoner had his own clothing, which consisted of striped cotton overalls like pajamas.

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GANGSTER SALESMEN

By FRANTISEK WEISL

"THE POLISH REVIEW" recently announced the formation of the Central and Eastern European Planning Board, and now publishes an article by a distinguished Czechoslovak economist.

ECONOMIC relations between Czechoslovakia and her European partners, Poland, Yugoslavia and Greece, are traditional. The industrial and agricultural products of each country were so commonly met within the markets of the others, that it was an accepted fact, in Greece for example, that sugar and textiles were of Czechoslovak origin, and figs from Greece were as much a part of the Christmas trade in Prague as California nuts are of the New York market supply. Polish sea ports were almost as important to Czechoslovakia as they were to Poland itself. The industrial capacity of Czechoslovakia has an important part to play not only in the reconstruction of Czechoslovakia, but also of Poland, Greece and Yugoslavia.

But more important even than reconstruction is economic unity, solidifying the political unity of Central and East-European States for all time. That is of supreme importance.

It is not necessary to outline here the economic structure of Czechoslovakia. Both as importer and exporter, my country is well-known in the United States. It is far more essential to stress the importance of the Czechoslovak export and import markets for the other three participants.

In spite of the defensive autarchy generated in Europe by Hitler's Germany and of many other difficulties, economic relations between the four countries showed an upward trend before the war because they were complementary to one another. In spite of the complexity of European production as compared with American planned production, it is possible to compare Greece to Virginia, Yugoslavia to California, Poland to Illinois and Czechoslovakia to New York or Pennsylvania, discounting, of course, the sea ports of the American States. No one can doubt that the wealth of the United States would be decreased, and its economic harmony upset if one or another of the States mentioned were to disappear.

In order to attain even greater economic unity, the factors of the adverse conditions should be analyzed.

The attitude and policies of Germany, in particular of Hitler's Germany, were of such a nature that they greatly hampered the natural economic rela-

tions between our four countries. Germany's attitude was dictated by the knowledge that close economic relations tend to solidify political unity.

It was of supreme importance to Germany to prevent any form of unity between small European States. Where it existed, it was disrupted by all possible means. The fate of the Little Entente and of the Balkan Ententes is well known.

Although it was not immediately realized a second cause of disaster was the rapid change of German economy into totalitarian war economy. This economy, hoarding foreign exchange for the essential import of war materials, succeeded in obtaining from Yugoslavia and Greece, agricultural produce and raw materials on a barter basis. This success obtained in the first instance by political pressure, continued as a consequence of the efforts of the injured nations to restore their economic balance.

By the demoralization of markets, Germany caused the exclusion of South-Eastern European States from world competition and in its place offered the dubious compensation of her own high purchasing prices, which

established frozen credits, or forced her creditors to accept exorbitantly priced products in exchange for their own goods.

It is important to bear constantly in mind this function of Germany. Without Germany's aggression, heralded by political pressure, we would have reached, in spite of our mistakes, the goal we all had in mind, relative prosperity for all the four nations concerned.

We do not desire, we cannot and shall not exclude German economy from our sphere of activity, which is also hers. But never again will we tolerate German buyers, revolver in hand, or German salesmen backed by machine guns.

We believe that we are capable of devising ways and means to common agreement without German pressure which had one primary aim, that is to subjugate us economically and politically.

Czechoslovak industry desires the closest collaboration with its natural markets. Freed of its bonds it will gladly play its rightful role in a permanent reconstruction of eastern Europe.

And just as the machinery of Czechoslovakia is essential to Polish industry, to mention just one aspect of economic relations, so Czechoslovakia desires the products of the Polish, Yugoslav and Greek lands, not only to supplement her deficiencies but in order to feel at home in her own land.

The proposed Adriatic-Baltic bloc of States, would have a total population of 110 millions and be the largest economic unit in Europe, with 20 billion dollars of income and the largest production of agricultural products, oil, zinc, leather, and 73 other commercial articles.

POLAND FIGHTS ON ALL FRONTS

WAR conditions do not permit as yet to give a full description of the life the Polish soldiers were living in besieged Tobruk. One may, however, get an interesting glimpse at those conditions from the perusal of the periodical published by the boys themselves in the African fortress. A copy of that paper entitled AT THE WHEEL IN TOBRUK lies on our desk. We look at it with amazement. How did they succeed in printing such a paper of the highest class, richly and artistically illustrated, lacking all technical facilities, in printing it in some air-raid shelter while guns were roaring and bombs exploding? And yet they did it. Whoever is acquainted with journalistic work and technic can but admire these soldiers, their devotion to the cause of Freedom and their sacrifice, those splendid boys who, in the ordeal of battle find leisure enough to exchange rifles for pens, and stamina enough to do creative literary and artistic work.

When the Carpathian Brigade was leaving for Tobruk, people were saying that Polish soldiers accustomed to their northern climate could never stand the torrid heat of North Africa. Yet they stood it. They remained hale and healthy. They became inured to the hardships of the desert, to sandstorms and even to salt water.

They got used even to the attacks of enemy bombers to whom the transport service in "no-man's-land" is of special interest and upon which they concentrate their sharpest attacks.

Here is a story of such a reconnaissance as told by a Polish soldier:

"... Slowly the machines disappear in the darkness. The road, short at daytime seems endless in the night. One sees horrible phantoms. A small stone looks as a big rock, a little hole a precipice, menaces are threatening everywhere. In spite of the noise made by our motors and the booming of our artillery, we may hear the drone of enemy airplanes. While bombs explode somewhere and bursting projectiles whistle, we advance in the darkness. The order was to reach the port at a given hour.

"A great animation reigns in the port. Ships are coming in. We hear the din of the traffic, trucks and lorries coming and going, boxes and crates unloaded. We do the same, taking whatever is needed for the defense of the fortress and to feed its defenders,

while often enemy airplanes soar over us. The order is to disperse and take cover in shelters. And then we return to the loaded trucks and grasp the wheels, often in a rain of bombs and projectiles. Squeaking, the trucks leave heavily the piers. The drivers must be very cautious, for the cargo is frequently a dangerous one: bombs and grenades. An indescribable strain on the nerves, on the ears and eyes. We return to the camp. A brief report to the commanding officer and we are free . . ."

Another writer thus describes the work of a longshoreman in the "Depot":

"From morning till night and often at night, the work goes on in heat, dust and dirt. Many a hand is bleeding . . ."

The "depot" is a place of agglomeration of people conscious of their duties and responsibilities. Here in the desert where the monotony

of life becomes intolerable, this gray, monotonous work, this passing from hand to hand of vases, boxes, crates and sacks, hundreds of times with the precision of a steel hammer, this work of robots and automatons, is the greatest test of the moral and physical stamina of the Polish soldier.

Other specialists are the "Petrolmen". This is what one of them writes in the aforementioned periodical:

"We actually live here on benzine which the enemy's aircraft and artillery are attacking incessantly. But work cannot be stopped and every minute lost must be made up. We do not even attempt to imagine the beauty of what would happen should an enemy's bomb hit a reservoir. Maybe from a distance of a few miles our friends would see us fly skyward, changed into little angels. Paraphrasing an old Polish proverb, one may say, however, that the enemy fires, but the wind carries the bullets . . . Most of the projectiles, fortunately, hit the latrines . . ."

"We are sorry that we cannot meet the enemy in a hand-to-hand fight, but we hope that this is being done efficiently by our colleagues who work for us as we do for them."

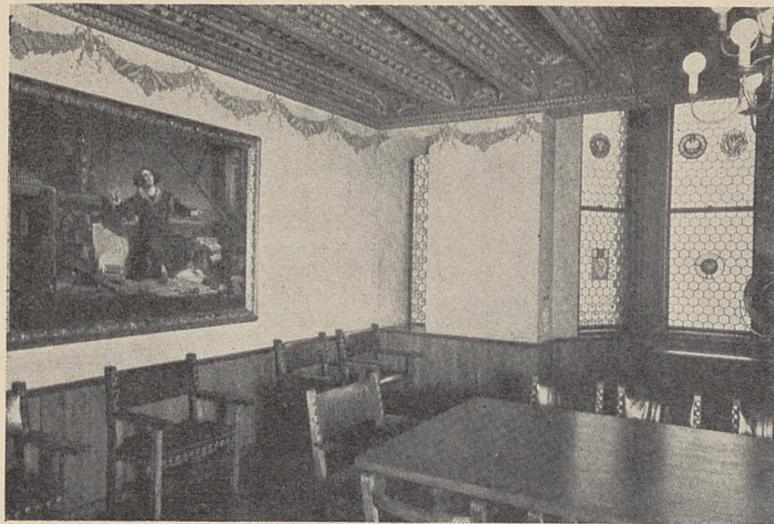
There can be no doubt as to the efficiency of the work of those colleagues. The long list of those decorated with the VIRTUTI MILITARI Cross testifies to it.



GENERAL SIKORSKI WITH POLISH TROOPS IN LIBYA.

(Please turn to page 11)

POLISH CLASSROOM IN THE CATHEDRAL OF LEARNING



The Renaissance designs on the beams, painted with tempora colors of blue, green, red, and rust are geometric in concept, but informal in execution. The vitality of the colors and the bold rhythm of the designs show the Polish influence on the Italian Renaissance design.

In marked contrast to the highly decorated ceiling are the plain parchment-colored plaster walls which are ornamented with a painted formal garland frieze.

A simple but strong oak plank wainscot skirts the room supporting the blackboard at one end and incorporating the radiator in the bay window. The parquet floor is laid in squares of light oak with centers of black oak.

The walnut seminar table is a copy of a massive fifteenth century walnut table that stood in the state dining room at Wawel Castle. The seats and backs of both the side chairs and the armchairs are covered with full grain cowhide in a rich golden brown and ornamented with bronze rosette nailheads. A bronze chandelier surmounted by a stylized Polish eagle hangs above the table.

The heavy carved oaken door was given by the Polish Women's Alliance of America and carved in Pittsburgh by a wood carver from Lwow. The door-knob is a bronze replica of the one on the entrance door of Wawel Castle.

The sixteenth century was selected as the period for the Polish Classroom also because it was the proper setting for the Jagiellonian Globe which stands in the center of the bay window in a direct axis with the entrance door. The second oldest university in central Europe is the Jagiellonian University of Cracow founded in 1364. Among its treasures is a world-famous collection of astronomical instruments started in 1494 by Martin Bylica, of Olkusz, a graduate of the Jagiellonian University, who later became court astronomer in Hungary and professor at the University of Buda.

Among the most interesting items of this collection is a small early sixteenth century astronomical instrument which has the triple functions of a clock, a globe, and a calendar. It is called the Jagiellonian Globe because it was kept with other astronomical instruments for centuries in the Jagiellonian Library.

The Jagiellonian Globe was selected for reproduction by Professor Szyszko-Bohusz because of its potential interest for American students. The world as etched on this globe is said to include the first delineation of America as a separate continent. This reproduction, four times larger than the original, was made entirely by hand by Henryk Waldyn, of Cracow. The task occupied Waldyn more than five years. Among the other commissions which the foremost Polish metalsmith has executed at his hand forge in Cracow are the restoration of the royal

Polish crowns, and the Tabernacle for the Czestochowa Cloister at Jasna Gora.

The inner brass globe is a map of the world drawn according to the generally accepted knowledge of 1510. It is the earliest globe after the discovery of America and the first to show America as a separate part of the world as Columbus supposed.

The inscription on the globe reads as follows: *Presented to the University of Pittsburgh by the Polish National Alliance.*

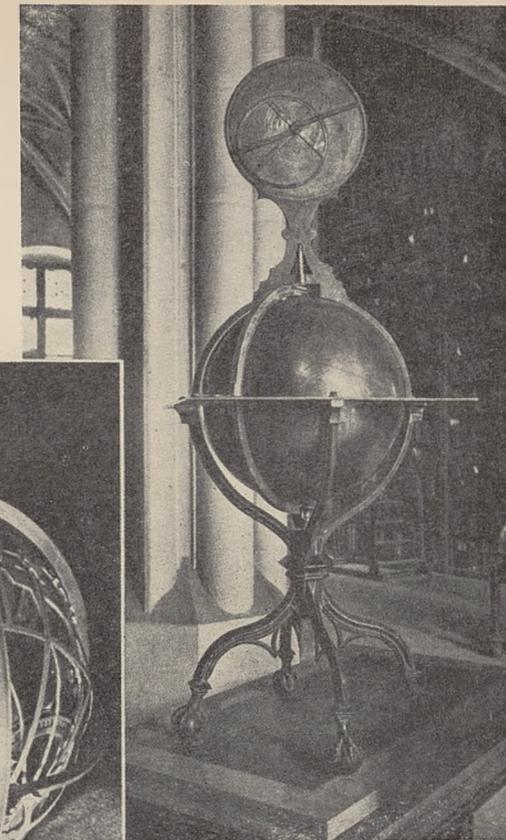
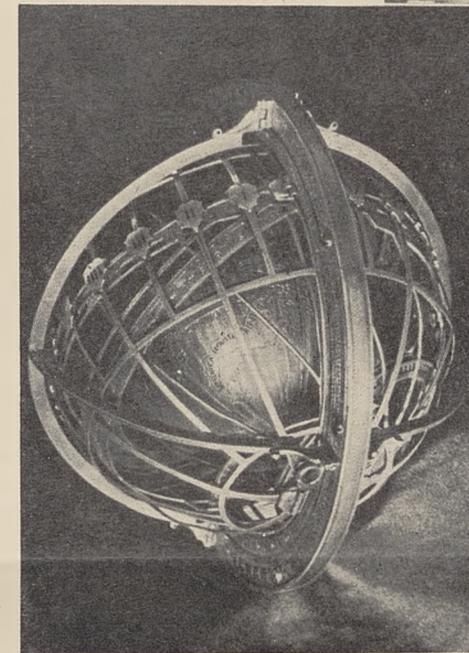
In the wall to the left of the windows is the cornerstone. An authentic bit of Gothic cornice, this stone was presented to the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh by the faculty of the University of Cracow for use as the cornerstone of the Polish Classroom. The stone was taken from the collection of fragments in the university museum that had been preserved from the Collegium Majus, now the Jagiellonian Library, the oldest of the university buildings, dating back to 1364.

At one end of the Classroom, behind the professor's chair, is the blackboard. At the other end of the Classroom in a comparable position hangs an oil painting of the famous Polish astronomer, Copernicus. This copy of the famous painting of Copernicus by Jan Matejko was made by Anna Szyszko-Bohusz Szymborska from the original which hung for many years in the Polish National Gallery at Sukiennice, Cracow.

The windows, with their six-sided handmade roundels and coats of arms of Polish institutions of higher education, are like those in old Wawel Castle.

The educational institutions represented in the stained glass escutcheons appear as follows from left to right: window one—Agricultural School of Warsaw, Lwow Polytechnic; window two—Catholic University (Lublin), Jan Casimir University (Lwow), Pilsudski University (Warsaw); window three—Poznan University, Stefan Batory University (Wilno), Jagiellonian University (Cracow); window four—Commercial Academy of Warsaw, Warsaw Polytechnic.

The central Committee for the Polish Classroom is composed of well-known men and women of Polish descent in the Pittsburgh district. The chairman, until illness necessitated his resignation in the spring of 1939, was Colonel Theophilus A. Starzynski, a man whose name will go down in Polish-American annals because of his work in organizing the American-Polish Legion in 1917-18. Colonel Starzynski, friend of Ignace Jan Paderewski, Poland's great patriot and the world's great artist, obtained the manuscript of Paderewski's only opera, *Manru*, for the Polish Room. It was also through his intervention with the World Alliance of Poles Abroad that the painting of Copernicus was pre-



THE GLOBE OF MARTIN BYLICA AND THE JAGIELLONIAN GLOBE IN CRACOW UNIVERSITY.

sented by the Polish Government.

The longest record of continuing leadership and activity on behalf of the Polish Room belongs to the Polish Women's Alliance whose national president, Mrs. H. B. Wolowska, suggested the organization of an auxiliary of ladies to be called the Polish Women's League.

Important contributions were given by three of the large national Polish organizations—the Polish National Alliance, the Polish Women's Alliance, and the Polish Falcons.

The history of the Polish Classroom is indeed an epic. Conceived and blueprinted during the happy days of the Polish Republic, the plans were executed during the 1938-39 period of political tension. Poland had been occupied by force for a fourth time when the Polish Classroom was formally opened. Thus, the Polish Room first enlisted the enthusiasm of men and women who helped to create the Republic in 1918. Later, it provided an outlet for their September, 1939, agony of spirit. Today it is cherished by those who have come to seek in the peace of the United States a refuge for Polish culture. These men and women believe that Poland, like the phoenix, shall rise again and that the Polish Classroom in the University of Pittsburgh stands the symbol of its resurrection.

INDUSTRIAL DISARMAMENT OF GERMANY

The substance of this article is taken from a speech delivered by H. Strasburger, Polish Minister of Finance.

WE ARE living through momentous and historical events that are bringing unusual political, economic and social changes. Other changes will undoubtedly come for which centuries would have been necessary before. So everything we think, say and do now, may be of tremendous importance to future generations. But that should not cause us to shrink from bold plans and experiments, for it is obviously our duty to make the best use of present conditions to remedy past shortcomings and to make the world a better place to live in. We must not adhere too closely to the past, whether it be in economics or in politics. For now or never is the time to introduce reforms which experience has shown to be necessary.

We must prove that we are not twilight countries, that our fate is not to be the "Untergang des Abendlandes". The protection of our civilization, that Germans are trying to destroy, is really our essential war aim. Germany is trying to do away with all moral values with everything that is worth while in this old world of ours, everything beautiful and inspiring that has made life worth living.

More and more people are coming to realize that the English speaking peoples of the world will play a decisive role in the life of Europe. This has become evident since the fall of France. The American and British democracies will not only have a preponderant part in war and in victory, but will also be largely responsible for the future reconstruction of the world.

It is essential to convince the oppressed peoples of Europe now that the world of the future will be a better world, so as to fortify their resistance. In planning better things — economic, political and social — the democratic and liberal traditions of America and Britain can be drawn upon for the greater good of all.

Great Britain and United States, because of their geographical positions and their political and economic relations with Europe were obliged to take part in the present struggle, and the same reasons will make imperative their participation in world reconstruction. We know very well that unlike the

Germans they are not interested in territorial acquisition or in imposing their way of living upon other peoples.

Peace is the paramount interest of Great Britain, and she will endeavor to establish security and prosperity in Europe, for these two things are inextricably linked with the security and prosperity of Great Britain herself. It would be difficult if not impossible to isolate Britain's security and prosperity from the economic development of the European continent.

Today, there is much discussion about the future of Germany. There is really no reason for anxiety on this score. The Germans show little concern for the fate of the countries they have overrun, on the contrary, they seek only their subjugation or extermination.

Surely, the victorious nations must first ask themselves, what shall be the future of England, France, Poland, Czechoslovakia, not of Germany alone.

No special dispensation of Providence decrees that German interests and German influences shall predominate in the future; that the Germans, and not the other 450 million Europeans, shall play the decisive role in the political and economic development of Europe.

Already some friends of Germany are seeking to revive the Briand-Stresemann idea that Germany may be brought to honest cooperation with the rest of Europe.

Germany's idea of cooperation is domination, and any attempt to appease her after the war — as was done before she attacked Poland — would merely sabotage the Peace.

The strength of German industry has been founded on the exploitation of the markets of East-Central Europe. The huge German industrial machine was created at the expense of the proper industrial development of Germany's neighbors and was financed by foreign capital which has now been lost forever.

It is clear, therefore, that industrial disarmament of Germany is imperative.

A better economic organization of Europe can be achieved without the hegemony of any one nation. Staunch support should be given to those countries that have no imperialistic ambitions, and must furnish the foundations of future peace.

(Please turn to page 10)

A GERMAN DOCUMENT

EXPULSION OF POLES FROM THEIR HOMES.

COMMISSARIAT OF THE TOWN OF LESLAU
(Wloclawek) (Extract)

To Mr. — — (Mrs.) — —

For reasons of public security you are being expelled from this territory, with immediate effect. This also relates to members of your family, viz...

Upon receipt of the present expulsion order you and the persons accompanying you must, within 20 minutes, be ready to travel and waiting in the street at your front door. You must comply with the orders of the police absolutely.

You are allowed to take with you:

- (3) Food for several days.
- (6) Not more than 200 zlotys in Polish currency.
- (7) A suitcase containing indispensable personal effects.

You are forbidden to take away:

- (1) Securities or bonds of any description
- (2) Valuables in silver, gold, or jewelry
- (3) Furniture of any kind
- (4) Livestock (dogs, cats, birds, etc.)

It is strictly forbidden to lock doors and wardrobes and take away the keys.

(Continued from page 3)

They were not allowed to wear any head covering. All heads were clean shaven.

At the end of November, 1941, there were some 8,000 Poles in the Oswiecim camp. Theoretically, they are divided into three groups: political prisoners, criminals, and priests and Jews. This last group is the one worst treated, and no member of the group leaves the camp alive. Every month the Warsaw postal authorities sent out several



Himmler. Chief of Gestapo

hundred notices of deaths of people in Oswiecim.

During last winter the mortality in the camp was terribly high, an average of 70 to 80 persons dying every day. On one day 156 people died. Even the Germans were forced to arrange for the inspection of the camp by a sanitary commission, after which the mortality fell somewhat, and during the spring and summer was some 30 daily. During the winter months three crematorium furnaces were insufficient to cope with the bodies to be cremated.

Here is a story of life in the Oswiecim concentration camp as told by a Pole who has recently arrived in London. It is a tale of gruesome horror and sadism which is a disgrace to 20th century civilization.

The area covered by the camp was considerable and it was surrounded by seven fences of barbed wire. Between the third and fifth fences were electrified wires. In addition to this the camp was encircled by machine gun posts. Escape seemed impossible and yet, from time to time, prisoners did succeed in getting out. If caught, however, the man was given a hundred strokes with a leather-thonged whip, and afterwards was carried by his torturers to the baths and put into a bath of salt solution. With his body flayed and bruised he was then made to stand in a central place in the camp for a whole day as a warning to those who might wish to follow his example.

The life of a man sentenced to imprisonment in a concentration camp is one long

sequence of terrible suffering. The officials and guards who are set to watch over the prisoners are Gestapo men especially chosen for their cruelty. During the time I was there they were for the greater part young men under the age of 25. They are trained in special schools and one of their chief subjects is the art of causing physical torture and moral suffering, until their victims slowly die as a result of the cruelties inflicted.

The amount of sleep allowed varied considerably. Usually only 3 to 6 hours remained for sleep and even this depended on the prisoners' behavior during the course of the day. If he had been disobedient he was put on a so-called "alternate watch," which meant that he was allowed to sleep half an hour and the other half he had to be "on guard." This meant standing at attention at the foot of his bed in his underwear — no matter what season of the year — and wait until 30 minutes had passed. After that he was allowed to sleep another half hour. This system very often caused nervous attacks and several men went completely mad. Lack of food and lack of sleep together undermined the men's health and as a result of this exhaustion very many died while working. Others revolted against their work, hurling abuse at their guards. Then, under the pretext of an attack against the prison authorities, they were immediately shot.

But, perhaps, the most feared place in the camp was the 'guardroom', the torture chamber where men were questioned and made to confess. On the walls were to be seen all the instruments, whips, rubber truncheons, spiked sticks, etc., used in extracting confessions.

In another section of the room was a glass laboratory where special chemical preparations were kept. These were used for injections, given during important interrogations, when 'true' confessions were required. Only 10 percent of the people sent to these concentration camps survive a year. During the nine months I was there only five people, including myself, succeeded in escaping.



BURNING THE BODIES OF POLES IN CONCENTRATION CAMP.

POLES WIN FAME IN PHYSICS

Polish Scientists have for long been pre-eminent in research on the very low temperatures

THE FIRST Pole to win fame in the West in the exact sciences in the thirteenth century was Witelo (Cioplek) (1230—1314), who wrote eight treatises on mathematics and natural history, the most famous being that on optics, which for centuries was generally accepted as the basis of the optical theory. At the end of the fifteenth century his works were still read and commented on at Cambridge.

The main fields in which Poles have obtained important results in modern times have been researches in very low temperatures, theoretical physics, molecular optics, and radioactivity.

In the field of low temperatures results of permanent value were achieved by the Polish scientists K. Olszewski (1846 — 1915) and Z. Wróblewski (1845-1888). In 1883 these two, both of them professors of the University of Cracow, were the first to liquefy and obtain in the form of a static fluid first oxygen and afterwards nitrogen and carbon monoxide, at the same time producing record low temperature. Olszewski in the following year was the first

to liquefy air, in 1885 he liquefied nitrogen at a temperature of -225° C., and in 1895 he liquefied and solidified argon, sent him by the famous English physicist Ramsay. This was the first argon to be investigated outside of England. These achievements, which made Olszewski's name famous throughout the world, were attained by the aid of apparatus which was designed by himself and was the best then existing.

Since the recovery of political independence the researches of these earlier scientists have been carried further, at Cracow by T. Estreicher and at Warsaw by M. Wolfke, the director of the newly founded Institute for Low Temperatures. Wolfke in 1924 demonstrated a method for solidifying helium, which two years later enabled Keesom at Leyden to obtain stable helium. In 1927 these two scientists in collaboration discovered an unknown variety of helium (called helium II) at a temperature near absolute zero. Very precise measurements of the properties of gases were carried out by A. Witkow-

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INDUSTRIAL DISARMAMENT OF GERMANY

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These countries lying in Central Europe, between Germany and Russia, are even now taking steps to ensure their reconstruction and unification, so as to provide a barrier against future aggression.

The Polish-Czechoslovak Confederation and its cooperation with the Balkan Union, formed by Greece and Yugoslavia, is the first step towards the realization of an economic and political system of common defense.

For these countries to constitute a real force, it is essential that their economic plane be raised — as military force is largely dependent upon the industrial potentiality of any given country.

One question must be solved. How can economic recovery and industrial cooperation be achieved in the face of strong autarchic tendencies, that existed before the war in the countries concerned?

There are many who believe that after this war, centrifugal forces will still be strong enough to hamper close collaboration. The fear of eventual rivalry and competition might be stronger than the realization of the economic advantages of inter-dependency. If a new world is to be built and a happier Europe

to arise from the ruins of today, we cannot afford to close our eyes to the economic problems of Central and Eastern Europe.

Some European economists share the German view that a distinction must be drawn between agricultural and industrial countries, that in Europe the former must dominate and exploit the latter.

But a wise international division of labor in Europe requires that all countries should be both industrial and agricultural in character and that a free exchange of manufactured goods and the produce of the soil should take place both within and between themselves. It has been shown that the greatest exchange of products can be developed between interdependent nations whose industry and agriculture have been developed side by side.

East-Central European countries such as Poland are not sufficiently industrialized, and the leaders in the great financial and industrial interests in Great Britain and the United States should recognize the opportunity to offset the power of Germany by the industrial development of East-Central Europe, thus opening new markets for themselves.

P O L A N D F I G H T S O N A L L F R O N T S

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As a matter of fact, all soldiers are animated with the desire to fight. The number of volunteers for patrol duty proves it.

One of the most frequent participants in those patrol excursions is non-commissioned officer B. whom Gen. Kopanski mentioned in his order of the day with the words: "A man of almost unbelievable courage and contempt for death."

Let us quote here a few passages from the diary of the aforementioned non-com wherein he describes an excursion "somewhere in Tobruk" and which resulted in the burning of the observation tower of the Italian artillery:

"... My companion J. insisted that we have to return to camp because lighting of matches within a hundred feet from the Italian line is sheer madness. I felt desperate. Hereupon my companion suggested to move a few steps closer to the enemy line, give a series of shots from my Thompson gun and then return. We advanced about a half mile. Having gone so far, I decided to continue and to my astonishment J. declared that he wouldn't leave me alone. Thus we went ahead and all of a sudden we saw a few steps from us, in the mist, the outlines of the Italian observation tower. It was clear to us that we could not recede any more and should burn the tower. J. pulled out a box of matches and lighted about ten of them but they all went out because of the wind. Finally, the flame caught the tower. We grabbed our guns and began to run. Daylight was approaching and we knew full well that the burning tower would disclose our presence to the enemy. And indeed, within a few moments the tower was in flames and the Italian artillery began firing. According to the figures of the British artillery about fifty Italian machine guns fired at us some 20,000 bullets. Our fate would have been undoubtedly sealed, if not for the fact that the Italian guns with the sole exception of the "Bredas" are rotten. So we



GENERAL KOPANSKI WITH HIS ITALIAN PRISONERS

returned to our camps without suffering any harm from the Italian artillery fire."

Examples of such courage and valor could be quoted indefinitely. The greatest praise paid to the magnificent fighting spirit of our soldiers were the words of General Moorshead, commander of the Australian force. General Moorshead, who had been personally decorated by General Sikorski with the Polish military order *Virtuti Militari* said of the Polish Brigade what follows:

"I want to express my greatest praise for the fighting spirit and the heroic stand of the Carpathian Brigade. Their cooperation with me I consider a great privilege and a great pleasure. Your valor will remain in our memories forever. We wish you may see all your hopes fulfilled."

The spirit of comradeship and cordial amity are characteristic of the cooperation of all the troops fighting in the western desert. The loss of any Polish soldier fallen on the field of glory is deeply felt by all Allied soldiers.

This is what a British army officer wrote to General Kopanski, commander of the Polish Brigade:

"These three Poles, who left us, gave everything that is dearest, they gave their lives so that other people in the future, who love freedom above all, may live in peace. We will never forget them. We will forever remember their courage, heroism and noble heart."

British papers are publishing numerous accounts of the bravery of the Polish soldiers in Libya. Among others, Aubrey Hammond, war reporter of the *Daily Sketch*, writes what follows:

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POLISH SOLDIERS IN ACTION ON THE DESERT FRONT IN LIBYA.

P O L A N D F I G H T S O N A L L F R O N T S

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"British liaison officer who is rapidly acquiring Polish took me to a covered lorry where I met other members of British Mission to the Polish forces. Some of the Poles of this unit have traveled immense distances to join the African forces. They made their way from Russia to India via Japan. They are the bravest as well as the gayest of men and everyone I met speaks highly of them."

Peter Duffield of the *Evening Standard* cables from a striking base of the R.A.F. in Libya under the heading, "The Poles Are Ready For Libya":

"I am making my first trip



POLISH SOLDIER IN GERMAN TANK HE CAPTURED

to the eighth army's front line at the invitation of the senior Polish officer in charge of Polish airmen in the Middle East. Almost all men of this army fought in Poland in 1939 and have a burning hatred shared by Poles the world over. Among them is an astonishing number of professionals, doctors, engineers, scientists, etc. Typical of that crowd was a bespectacled man in his early thirties who saluted and smartly opened the car's door as we left and said: 'Yes — I speak good English. I studied economics under Maynard Keynes at Cambridge.'

"Two years ago he was about to become a professor of economics in the Cracow University. Today he is a lance corporal."

P O L E S W I N F A M E I N P H Y S I C S

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ski (1854—1913), professor of the University of Cracow and an excellent teacher.

In theoretical physics M. Smoluchowski (1872—1917) was the first to give a theoretical explanation of the movements of small particles in suspension in fluid, the so-called Brownian movement. In 1906, independently of Einstein, he showed that these movements are a direct result of the existence and movements of molecules and thus he prepared the ground for the later triumphs of the atomic theory. He also carried out important work on the relation between thermodynamics and the kinetic theory of matter. J. Wierusz-Kowalski, professor of physics at Fribourg in Switzerland, was a distinguished investigator of fluorescence, and W. Natanson, a deep thinker, investigated the problem of radiation. His discussions are models of lucidity and scientific precision as well as of literary style. W. Rubinowicz is the formulator of the famous "rules of selection" relating to the structure of luminous phenomena. On the basis of the laws and mutual dependencies discovered by the Rubinowicz the American scientist Bowen was able to demonstrate that the mysterious luminosity of astronomical nebulae consists of oxygen and nitrogen.

In the field of astro-physics important theoretical investigations into the significance of radio-active pressure for the interior structure of stars and into the problems of their temperature have been carried out by C. Białobrzewski.

At Warsaw S. Pieńkowski has carried out large-scale researches, and has made the splendidly endowed Warsaw University Institute of Physics an active centre of scientific work. His attention is directed principally to the field of molecular optics (fluorescence, time of light-emission of molecules etc.), to structural researches with the aid of X-rays, and to problems concerning the atomic nucleus.

These activities have drawn the attention of the scientific world, and the Rockefeller Foundation has given \$50,000. to assist their development.

The admiration of foreign scientists for these achievements of Polish physicists came to expression in the two international Congresses of Physicists held at Warsaw: the first, in 1936, organized by S. Pieńkowski and devoted to problems of photo-luminosity; the second in 1938, engaged with the basic problems of theoretical physics.