

# The Polish Review

POLAND FIGHTS

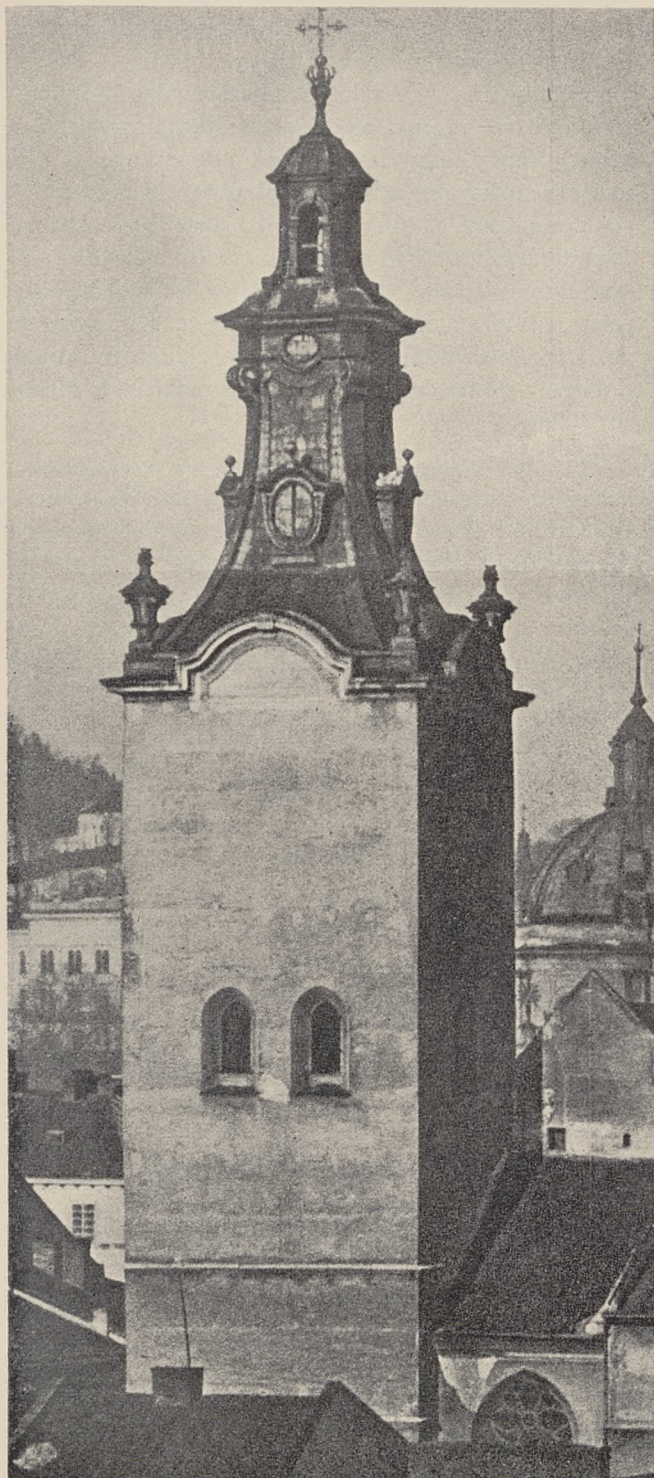
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## LWOW--POLISH STRONGHOLD OF THE XIIIth CENT.



**E**STABLISHED in the middle of the 13th century as a fortified castle to check the Tartar hordes, Lwów owes to its founder, Prince Lew, only its name; its coat of arms (a lion holding three hills with a star) is the escutcheon of Pope Sixtus V, who with his emblem designated the town as "the most Catholic City of Lwów." The growth of the town, as an intermediary in the commerce between the West and the Black Sea, began with the recovery of the ancient province of Red Ruthenia; already before the year 981, this province, known as "Grody Czerwieskie", belonged to Poland. The province was reconquered by Casimir the Great, who in 1356 gave the town its western organization. From the times of Casimir the Great dates the foundation of the Cathedral (left) whose construction, however, was not finished until in the last quarter of the 15th century under the Jagiellonians.

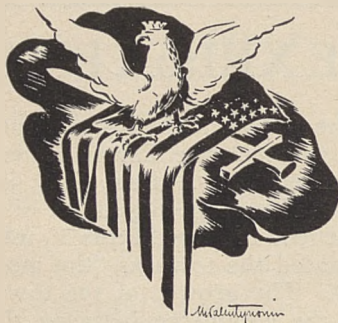
In the Łyczakowski cemetery (below) rest the bodies of the defenders of Lwów in 1919-20, among them three American volunteer pilots, Capt. Kelly, Capt. McCallum and Lieut. Graves, members of the 7th Kosciuszko Squadron. The bodies of these American heroes rest with the thousands of Polish students and others who lost their lives in the defense of Lwów in 1918.





# POLAND SPEAKS . . .

Broadcast by Stanislaw Stronski, Polish Minister of Information



**T**WENTY - ONE years have elapsed since the signing of the Riga peace treaty between Poland and Soviet Russia. This treaty was and remains of far-reaching importance, because it was the first treaty signed between Poland and Russia for more than 125 years, since the partition of Poland, because it was a

treaty between a reborn Poland and a Russia transformed into a Union of Soviet Republics. It was a basic treaty of historic importance for a new historical era. It is right and fitting to say that from its inception Soviet Russia felt, recognized and proclaimed the necessity for complete abandonment of the annexationist attitude of Tsarist Russia towards Poland, and that it gave expression to this attitude in a decree of the Council of Peoples' Commissars on August 29, 1918, confirming Poland's right to independence. Particularly important are the words of the Note presented by the Council of Peoples' Commissars to the Polish Government on January 30, 1920, signed by Lenin, in which Poland's right to independence was confirmed. This note declared Russia's attitude did not arise "from fortuitous and temporary military and diplomatic circumstances but from the inviolable principles of the right of every nation to determine its own destiny."

This view that mutual relations and mutual claims were not to be adjusted to temporary military and diplomatic circumstances but were to be based on historical considerations was also expressed in the Riga Treaty of March 18, 1921. This treaty followed the Polish-Soviet war of 1919-1920, marked by very little activity in 1919 and considerable activity in 1920. After her defeats in the period from May to July 1920, when Polish troops retreated from the Dniepr and Kiev as far as Warsaw and the Vistula, Poland emerged not only with honor but victorious. In the period from August to October 1920 her troops marched back eastward and northward, once again liberating the Eastern soil of the Republic.

After this victory, peace was none the less concluded, not in the spirit that might have arisen out of the Polish victory, but in a spirit of lasting and

mutual understanding with the idea of ensuring a permanent basis for good neighborliness in the future. This was confirmed at the signing of the treaty on March 18, 1921 by the Chairman of the Polish delegation, Jan Dabski, who said:

"We have each made concessions to the other, not only with the object of reaching an understanding, but of rendering our future relations easier." The Chairman of Soviet delegation also confirmed this attitude in just as vigorous terms, saying: "I have already experienced the importance to any peace negotiations of the atmosphere in which they are conducted. I should like to emphasize that although international conditions have changed several times during the Polish and Russo-Ukrainian peace conferences, the atmosphere at Riga was invariably one which favored the carrying on of negotiations and rendered it easier to reach a favorable conclusion."

This conviction that the Riga treaty created a basis for lasting relations between the Republic of Poland and Soviet Russia, relations which to repeat the words of the Council of Peoples' Commissars, signed by Lenin, were not to change with temporary military and diplomatic circumstances, was thereafter expressed more than once. For instance, in the words of the Polish Soviet protocol of May 5, 1934, extending the pact of non-aggression "Each of the High Contracting Parties, having again examined all the provisions of the Treaty of Peace concluded at Riga on March 18, 1921, which constitutes the basis of their mutual relations . . ."

Again and again, the last time shortly before the outbreak of war in 1939, in a joint Polish-Soviet communique of November 26, 1938, the Riga treaty was recognized as a lasting basis of relations between the Republic of Poland and Soviet Russia. This with the preamble of the Riga treaty which provides for "a final, lasting and honorable peace, based on mutual understanding."

The joint conviction that this should be a final and lasting peace, arose from the consciousness that it would bring to a close, the long period of conflicts between Poland and Russia lasting some 350 years, from the end of the sixteenth century, in the days of Batory and Ivan the Terrible.

At that time, in the 16th and even in the 17th cen-

*(Please turn to page 12)*



# SILENT DEATH WHERE SCIENCE SPOKE

**P**OLISH culture and learning, that grew throughout the centuries — and was reborn in the twenty years of Poland's independence, has been brutally exterminated through German barbarism. Polish scientists and men of learning die in German concentration camps, in Sachsenhausen and Oranienburg. The universities and laboratories have been destroyed. Rare, priceless books and documents have been stolen and taken to Germany. The Germans are deliberately extinguishing every trace of Polish culture, and thus throwing the Polish people into an abyss of darkness.

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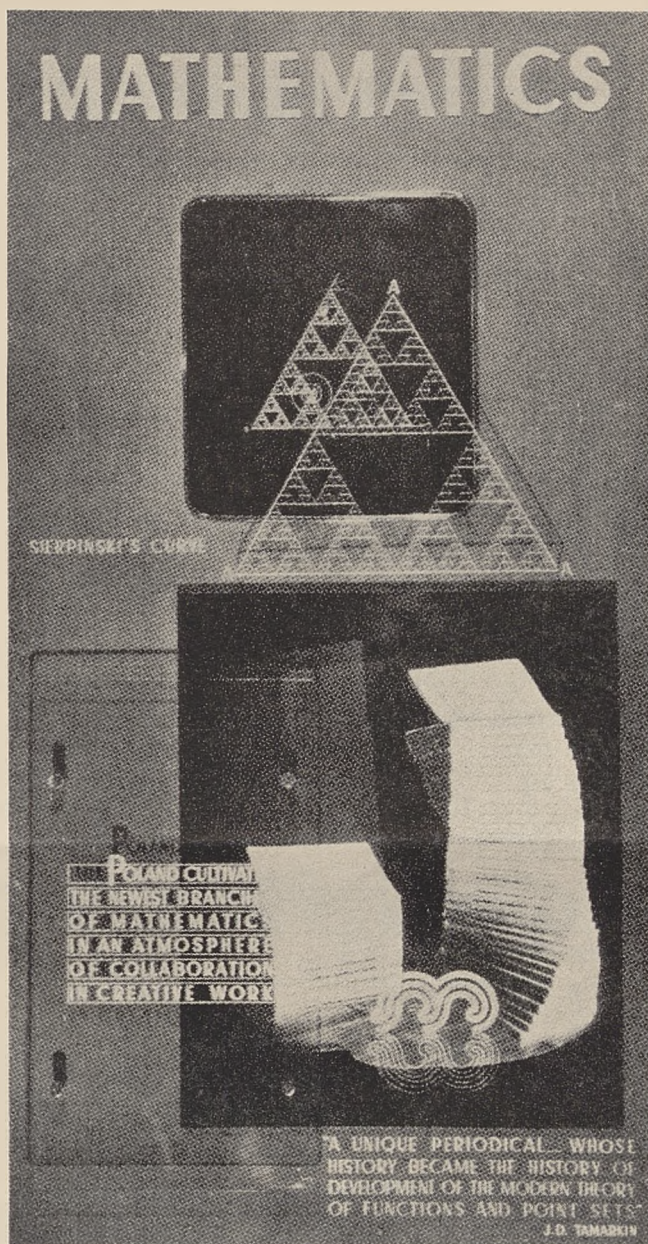
Mathematics attained a high level in Poland even in the Middle Ages. There were two chairs of the subject at Cracow in the 15th century, i.e., earlier than anywhere else in Central Europe, and one of the incumbents was the eminent Wojciech of Brudzewo. Nicholas Copernicus was a student there, and other Polish names figure outstandingly in the history of mathematical progress: in the fifteenth century Marcin Król of Żórawica, and in the 17th J. Brożek (Broscius) and A. Kochański, the latter known also as a correspondent of Leibniz.

At the turn of the 18th century, a most difficult period for Polish scientists, Jan Śniadecki published a notable work at Cracow on algebra and analytical plane geometry, while the philosopher and mathematician J. Hoene-Wroński worked as an *émigré* at Paris, where he introduced signs still known and used in the theory of differential equations under the name of "wrońskian". At the end of the 19th century W. Żmurko and B. Abdank-Abakanowicz won fame as the inventors of the integraph. Distinguished Polish mathematicians have lectured in foreign countries; for instance W. Folkierski, at first at Paris and later in Peru, at the head of the faculty of exact sciences at Lima, where the Engineering School had been founded by another Pole, E. Habich. At Warsaw the distinguished historian of mathematics, S. Dickstein, founded the periodicals *Prace Matematyczno-Fizyczne* ('Mathematical and Physical Studies') and *Wiadomości Matematyczne* ('Mathematical Notes') in 1872; they still continue to appear, more than ninety volumes having been issued so far.

In the most recent times Polish mathematical studies have produced the outstanding works of S. Zaremba on analysis, K. Żórawski on differential geometry, and L. Lichtenstein on the theory of differential and integral equations and on mechanics.

The recovery of political independence in 1918 marked the opening of a new and flourishing era in Polish mathematical studies. Polish universities and institutions of similar rank had 33 chairs of mathematics, and more than 120 original mathematical researchers published their work in 10 Polish and many foreign mathematical periodicals.

The Warsaw School under W. Sierpiński, S. Mazurkiewicz and K. Kuratowski, published the periodical *Fundamenta Mathematicae* ('Foundations of Mathematics'), originated in 1920 by the late Z. Janiszewski. It was devoted mainly to the theory of numbers, topology, and their applications, and 32



volumes in all appeared. Connected with this was the development of mathematical logic at Warsaw, the first impetus to which was given by J. Łukasiewicz. The Lwów School, under the leadership of S. Banach and H. Steinhaus, published the periodical *Studia Mathematica* ('Mathematical Studies'), started in 1929 and of which 8 volumes appeared, devoted to the analysis of functions. Cracow had its *Annales de la Société Polonaise de Mathématique* ('Annals of the Polish Mathematical Society'), devoted to the traditional departments of analysis and geometry.

More extensive Polish mathematical treatises from all centres were published in the *Monografie Matematyczne* series ('Mathematical Monographs'), started in 1932 and of which 10 volumes appeared. They are to be found in libraries all over the world.



# THE STORY OF POLAND'S NATIONAL ANTHEM

**I**N THE late autumn of 1797, General Napoleon Bonaparte was in the midst of his Italian campaign.

Poland was prostrate. But the spirit of the Polish people was as unconquerable then as it is today. In their thousands, officers, soldiers, students, workmen, and peasants thirsting for liberty, escaped from the clutches of their enemies. Just as in our days, they tramped across the whole continent, to rally under the flag of liberty hoisted by the Revolutionary armies of France.

Under General Henryk Dąbrowski, Polish Legions were formed during Napoleon's campaigns in Italy. In a camp near Mantua the Polish Legionaries gathered round the camp-fires to talk of Poland, to express their longing for their tormented Mother country. Just as today, under the Scottish sky of liberty, Polish soldiers are longingly turning their eyes to their native land, so grievously trampled down by the savage bestiality of the invader.

It was in that Italian camp that Józef Wybicki, the great patriot and statesman, wrote the words of that marching song, which was set to the music of a

Polish Mazurka and which became the national anthem of Poland.

It begins with the vow of implacable determination to fight for the liberation of the Motherland:

"As long as we live, Poland shall not perish—  
What foreign violence has taken away from us  
we shall retake with our swords"

and the refrain invokes the Commander-in-Chief:

"March, March Dąbrowski, from the soil of  
Italy to the soil of Poland,  
Under your leadership we shall liberate our  
people."

Today, Polish soldiers sing the same song and the same refrain, adapted to present-day circumstances:

"March, March Sikorski, from the soil of Scot-  
land to the soil of Poland,  
Under your leadership we shall liberate our  
people."

And just as once before the spirit of Poland prevailed and the nation regained its independence, so today, the Poles, with the same indomitable determination are fighting on for the deliverance of Poland and of humanity from the nightmare of violence, cruelty and savage tyranny.

## JESZCZE POLSKA NIE ZGINEŁA

### Polish National Anthem

Vivace

As long as the Poles a-li - ve — Pol and's not yet per - ish'd What by foes' force -

was us robbed, — our sword will con - quer back yet On - ward Dom - brov - ski<sup>+</sup>

back from I - ta - ly to Po - land — Un - der our brave lead - er re - u - nite the na - tion.

# SLAVES OF THE THIRD REICH

IN THE middle of 1941 there were stated to be 1,650,000 foreign workers in Germany, 1,350,000 of them being males. Half of these workers were recruited from skilled craftsmen, the other half were occupied in agriculture, domestic service and other auxiliary labor. By the end of 1941 the figure had risen sharply to over two million workers.

According to Syrup's statement in the *Pariser Zeitung* of July 16th, 1941, at that date the foreign workers in Germany had been recruited from Poland, Czech-Moravian Protectorate, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Denmark, France, Hungary, Switzerland, Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Rumania, Norway, Sweden, Spain, Greece, Finland and Portugal as shown in the table on the right.

In a survey of these countries from the aspect of the German labor market's increased demands, the *Kölnische Zeitung* of December 9th quoted opinions on this subject expressed by Councillor Timm of the Reich Ministry of Labor. Timm began with the noteworthy statement that:

"... at present over four million foreigners are employed in Germany."

In other words, there are twice as many foreign workers as the Reich Ministry of Labor continually states. It can only be assumed that the figure of 2,100,000 workers which is regularly given refers to that section of foreign workers which is permanently under the registration of the Ministry and probably was enrolled through its channels. The remaining two millions, as would appear from the *Pariser Zeitung* of July 16th last, consist of prisoners of war, who are released from camps as the need arises and are incorporated in the labor camps or are sent to factories. This is a fluctuating element, but, as is evident from the figures, it is a very large one. According to Syrup, in the middle of 1941, 1,400,000 prisoners of war, in round figures, were working for German economy.

If we add the number of Polish prisoners of war who are employed on forced labor, and also some 250,000 Poles who have been carried off from the *Warthegau* province to work in Germany (these figures are not included in Herr Syrup's statistics), we reach the figure of over 1½ million Poles employed in various ways in Germany.

The legal situation of Poles working in Germany is not only the worst and the most akin to slavery of all the foreign workers in the Reich, but it is monstrous beyond belief in its degradation of all human

(Please turn to page 8)

## Ausländische Arbeitskräfte

in der deutschen Wirtschaft

Berlin, 15. Juli.

Zurzeit sind im Gebiet des deutschen Reiches 1,65 Mill. ausländische Arbeitskräfte tätig, davon sind rund 1,35 Mill. Männer und 0,3 Mill. Frauen. Die Ausländer verteilen sich zur Hälfte auf die Landwirtschaft zur anderen Hälfte auf die gewerbliche Wirtschaft, Hauswirtschaft und Angestelltenberufe. Die in Deutschland tätigen Ausländer stammen ganz überwiegend aus europäischen Ländern. Die folgende Uebersicht gibt einen Einblick in ihre Staatsangehörigkeit:

Ehem. Polen . . . . .	873 000
Protekt. Böhmen u. Mähren . . . . .	150 000
Italien . . . . .	132 000
Niederlande . . . . .	90 000
Belgien . . . . .	87 000
Slowakei . . . . .	69 000
Ehem. Jugoslawien . . . . .	48 000
Dänemark . . . . .	31 000
Frankreich . . . . .	25 000
Ungarn . . . . .	21 000
Schweiz . . . . .	17 000
Sowjet-Russland . . . . .	10 000
Bulgarien . . . . .	8 000
Rumänien . . . . .	4 000
Norwegen . . . . .	1 400
Schweden . . . . .	1 200
Spanien . . . . .	1 100
Griechenland . . . . .	500
Finnland . . . . .	200
Portugal . . . . .	100

Die Uebersicht gibt Kriegsverhältnisse wieder, die natürlich nicht, so betont Staatssekretär Syrup dazu im neuesten Arbeitsblatt, weder nach Zahl noch Nationalität auf Friedensverhältnisse übertragen werden können. Ergänzend sei bemerkt, dass die Zahl der in der deutschen Wirtschaft eingesetzten Kriegsgefangenen rund 1,4 Mill. beträgt.

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# SIKORSKI--SOLDIER AND STATESMAN

effort and head of the Government. With determined energy and soldierly discipline he carries them through.

Ask Sikorski's wife, or his daughter or any of his aides de camp, or his doctor, what are his basic characteristics, they will tell you — clarity of thought, quickness of decision, speed in action. The moment a decision is reached, execution must follow. When, as is unfortunately too often the case, this is not possible he is liable to become impatient and abrupt with those around him. Realism is, however, another of his fundamental qualities and he quickly sees what is possible and what is not. When he makes a mistake and it is pointed out to him he often says nothing at the moment but rectifies it all the same.

In England, General Sikorski lives as simply as he lived in Poland — according to his tastes — in a small country house near London, with his wife and daughter. His devoted wife looks after the garden as she did in Poland, only here she has all sorts of English flowers that she loves so much without having to ask friends to bring them from England as she did formerly. The greenness of the grass lawns are a joy to her. The lawn she laid out in Poland was one of her great trials, although seeds came from England and she spent infinite time and patience on it, it never was as green and smooth as she wished it to be. The General never even noticed it.

Anything that does not directly concern his work is of little interest to him. His only recreation or exercise is walking. In Poland he would go for long walks alone with his favorite Alsatian "Jerry" that he raised from puppyhood, one of the mixed bag of six dogs kept by the Sikorski family. There was also a grey horse on which Mlle. Sikorski won prizes at many international horseshows. Her mother recently bought her a golden cocker spaniel, like the favorite she had to leave behind in Poland. Mlle. Sikorski, however, has no horse over here, although many have been offered both to herself and her father since they have been in England. In his spare time General Sikorski used occasionally to ride, too, for like so many Polish officers, whether of the cavalry or not, he is an accomplished horseman. Now both are too busy, Mlle. Sikorski with her work in the Polish Red Cross, and her father with his multiple affairs of state and army. Sometimes in the evenings, he will walk with a spaniel through the homely wooded countryside of Buckinghamshire—so different from the flat, rolling grain lands of his home.

General Sikorski does not smoke but has no objection to others around him doing so — even at breakfast, which in the Sikorski home is an informal affair starting at eight-thirty. Generally he drinks coffee and sometimes eats an egg, no haddocks or kippers, as apart from being a very small eater who takes no interest in food, he has one dislike — fish. He rises and retires early. Always up by seven o'clock he starts work in his bedroom, occasionally calling on his aide de camp whom he generally does not see un-



GENERAL SIKORSKI AT HOME WITH HIS FAMILY

til he comes down to breakfast. Silence is a characteristic of his and at this meal particularly so — no very uncommon trait — but from time to time he asks his aide de camp to give him the morning news from the papers.

During the drive to his office he sometimes makes notes for his day's work, at other times he talks to his aide de camp, often in familiar and even bantering way. Only those who have won his affection and trust are so treated. He is slow to trust or confide in anyone and few can claim real intimacy with him. But once he has placed a person in the category of his friends, it takes a cataclysm to shake his faith and loyalty. Although his daughter claims he spoils her, he is known for the extra severity with which he treats those whom he esteems the most.

For his doctors he is a bad patient. Careless of

himself he is impatient of their remedies and advice, which is mainly to take more rest. At night he usually retires at about eleven, but often works reading or writing to the early hours of morning. With no time for amusement he has not been to a cinema or a theatre during the two years he has spent in England, and both his doctor and his family are continually trying to dissuade him from intense concentration on his work. But never for a moment does he cease to plan and think.

When he has a problem to think out, General Sikorski sits in the conventional manner with his hand on his chin and his fingers spread over his cheek. He is kind though exacting with those who work for him, but often does not realize that they cannot always keep up with him in thought and work. Although he will allow an intimate to contradict him, he is dominating and must always take the lead as indeed he has proved himself more than capable of doing.

Undemonstrative and almost cold in his general manner, he is not unromantic. He enjoys the company of pretty and intelligent women whom he treats with charm and polished courtesy. To some he seems austere. Others say he is at times too kind-hearted. A good Catholic, although neither a bigot nor an agnostic since his student days, he is known for the high morality and purity of his life, though none would say he was a prude.

Both of General Sikorski's parents died when he was in his teens, and he worked his way through technical engineering courses and through Lwów University, with typical grim determination and iron will. With his exact and comprehensive mind,

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A SMILING INSPECTION

WORK IS HIS HOBBY

**P**UNCTUALLY to the minute every morning at nine-thirty there walks into the hall of the modern building where are the offices of the Polish Prime Minister in London a solidly built military figure of medium height. His cap has the silver lacings of a Polish general. An aide-de-camp follows close behind carrying a black briefcase and hurrying to keep up with his chief. In the black briefcase are the papers necessary for the days work of Poland's Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief, General Władysław Sikorski, who has just entered his office to start another arduous day's work.

He shakes hands briskly with another aide standing at the door of his office as he goes in. Sometimes it is a naval officer, sometimes an officer of the Polish air force, at other times a Polish army officer, for Sikorski has three aides de camp, one from each of the three services. They take turns on duty with the General. The officer in attendance is constantly with him by day and sleeps in his house at night.

Each day of this statesman-soldier and man of action, who is the chosen leader of the Polish people, is planned and filled minute by minute with cabinet meetings, military conferences, appointments with members of the British Government and the numerous foreign diplomats and soldiers representing the nine allied governments in London. Like the British Prime Minister, General Sikorski has to perform the exacting double duties of leader of the Polish War



# SLAVES OF THE THIRD REICH

(Continued from page 5)

dignity. The Germans have concentrated all their hatred on the Poles, and are exacting the fullest vengeance for the fact that the Polish nation was the first to resist the attempts to establish German hegemony over the world. In doing so they also calculate that this nation, reduced to the role of common slaves, will be all the more speedily destroyed as a biological force, or at least will be deprived of the impulse to national resistance which is planted so deeply in the soul of every Pole.

These latter intentions are given expression in a decree issued by the Reich Minister of Labor on October 5th, 1941, regulating the legal position of the Poles in the field of labor in Germany. This decree applies to all Poles placed in any kind of labor status throughout the area of the German Reich, so it affects not only Poles whose ancestors have lived for centuries in the Polish Western Provinces now incorporated with the Reich, but also Poles from the General Gouvernement, who have been taken for labor in the Central, Western or Southern areas of Germany.

Such a clearcut separation of the members of the Polish nation from other nationalities and their treatment with particular contempt, their deprivation of all legal protection, is a testimony that the Germans intend to mete out collective punishment for that nation's resistance during the war and the subsequent temporary occupation of its country.

The application of the decree of October 5th, 1941, in the various provinces is by way of special supplementary executive regulations issued by the *Gauleiters* of the respective areas.

One such supplementary regulation was issued on December 6th, 1941, by Arthur Greiser, the *gauleiter* of Poznan. It was given the imposing title of "First supplementary regulation on the treatment of Polish workers in the Warthegau province in the field of labor law." As the result of this regulation the people of Polish nationality in the Warthegau province are treated in the most humiliating fashion, practically as slaves. According to the 1931 census this section of the population in this province had the crushing majority of 91 per cent. of the total, and even today, despite the arrival of numerous German officials and the settlement of thousands of German colonists, merchants and handicraftsmen from the Baltic States, Volhynia, Bessarabia, and the Bukovina, the German element still numbers barely 700,000, or 20 per cent. of the inhabitants of the area. This is the official figure given by the *Ostdeutscher Beobachter* in January. It is worth recalling that the Polish section of the population of this area always took a resolute attitude towards Germans and all their activities, and still does. The people of the area which the Germans called *Grosspolen* (*Wielkopolska*) were always regarded by them, even in the times of Imperial and Republican Germany, and no less today, as a dangerous element, because they have always effectively resisted all attempts at Germaniza-

tion. And today they are treated with especial brutality, the Germans seeking in this way not only to satisfy their desire for revenge, but also and primarily to destroy physically this centre of Polish life, since in their view it is most dangerous of all to the full realization of the age-old German *Drang nach Osten*.

The regulation, establishes that the eight-hour day which is enforced in the case of all German and foreign labor is not to apply to the Poles, who are to work a ten-hour day, or a sixty-hour week.

Furthermore, for this work the Poles are to receive remuneration based on the general tariff in force for the various categories of labor. But whereas Germans and others receive a full 100 per cent. of the tariff for a 48-hour week, plus the supplements provided for by the tariff, Poles are to receive only 80 per cent. of the tariff for a sixty-hour week, and the supplements are also restricted.

This differential treatment for Poles in the sphere of wages is followed by others. For any labor performed beyond the normal eight-hour day Germans and other nationalities receive an overtime rate amounting to an additional ten to twenty per cent. of their normal hourly rate for every hour worked. Poles, however, receive overtime pay only after ten hours' labor, and then only an additional ten per cent. on their normal wage. Where certain occupations, such as porters or chauffeurs, have to work longer than ten hours a day owing to the nature of their work, Poles, in distinction from Germans, do not get any overtime pay, even though their aggregate working week is over sixty hours. For night work Poles receive an overtime rate of only twenty per cent. additional, whereas for Germans and others the tariff provides 25 per cent. and more. For Sunday work Poles receive twenty per cent. additional, which is less than that for Germans, etc. But they receive no overtime pay whatever for holidays worked in the normal course of the week, e.g., for work on Christmas Day when it falls on a weekday. When holidays fall on Sundays the Sunday tariff applies.

The same principles apply in piece-work, the sole difference being that the wage paid to Poles for piece-work is only 80 per cent. of the tariff for Germans, and only in exceptional cases, as indicated above, can it be raised to 90 per cent.

The same principles apply to brainworkers as to manual laborers. The Poles receive only 80 per cent. of the basic salaries provided for by the tariff. But in any case the highest salary any Polish brainworker can receive, even with supplements, etc., is 310 marks a month.

It is characteristic that the economies effected by enterprises by employing cheaper Polish labor may not be retained as profit, but have to be assigned to a special fund, which is at the disposition of the state authorities.

Polish workers, whether manual laborers or brainworkers, have no holidays whatever, nor are they entitled to any benefits whatsoever. They must work and slave — or die!



# SIKORSKI'S HISTORIC MISSION TO RUSSIA

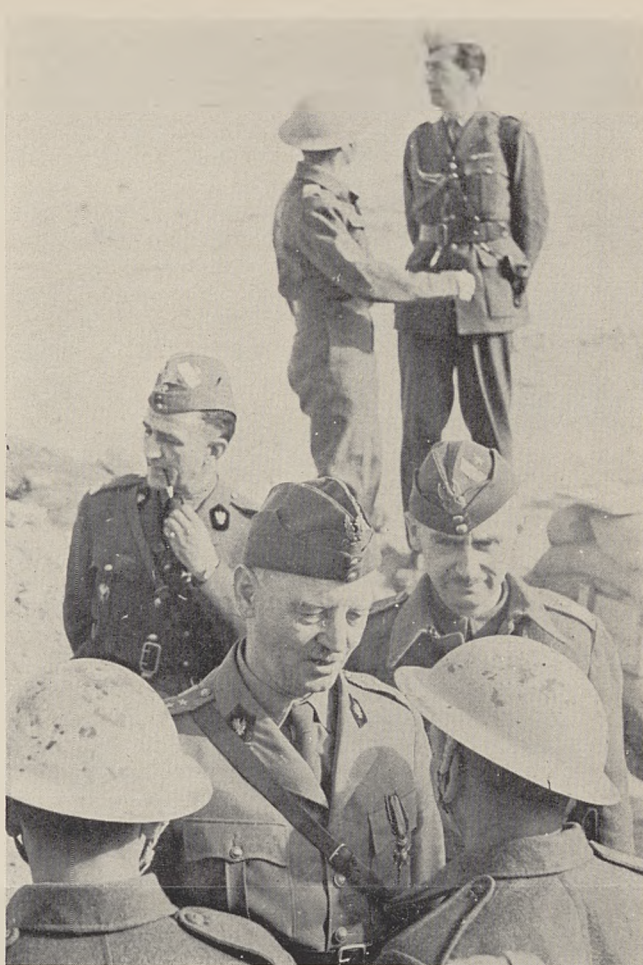
*From one of General Sikorski's companions on the journey to the Middle East and U.S.S.R., we have received the following particulars of the various stages of this historic mission.*

**L**ONDON — Gibraltar — Malta — Cairo — Bagdad — Teheran — Baku — Astrachan — Kuibyshev — Moscow and back, these were the principal stages of General Sikorski's journey to the Middle East and Russia, not to mention visits from Cairo to Tobruk, and from Kuibyshev to various Polish army units in Russia. In the course of his journey, General Sikorski used almost every means of transport. He spent 122 hours flying in planes and hydroplanes, covering more than 15,000 miles, two days in warships, three days on trains, and many hours in car or motorboat in Russia, even on sleigh, and finally on foot to the advanced lines of the Polish brigade at Tobruk . . . Differences of climate varied from 110 in the shade in Libya to fifty below zero at Kuibyshev. Speed was an essential factor of the journey and the pace was so hot that great distances were covered in what must have been record time. Then again General Sikorski had to wait for hours and even days for atmospheric and other conditions to be favorable enough to continue his air journey.

On the last day of October the General and his suite left London by plane for a south coast English port, where General Sikorski inspected a Polish warship at artillery training. Then the air journey continued via Gibraltar to Malta, where there was an inspection of a Polish submarine during which the General decorated some of the officers and ratings for recent exploits.

The first stage of the air journey ended at Cairo where Sikorski visited the Egyptian Crown Prince and had important political conversations with the representatives of the Egyptians, British and Allied Governments, and dealt with various military problems with the British and Polish authorities. During his visit to Egypt Sikorski went to Tobruk, inspecting on his way Polish units in the desert near Alexandria. About the middle of November General Sikorski arrived at Tobruk where the Polish Carpathian Brigade was fighting in an important defense sector. During his stay in besieged Tobruk, General Sikorski conferred with the commander of the fortress, inspected every part of the sector defended by the Polish brigade, penetrating even to the most advanced outposts where under fire of the enemy he decorated soldiers of the Brigade for their gallantry.

On his return to Cairo the General worked on political and military problems connected with his visit to the Middle East and with his journey to Russia. On November 24 General Sikorski left for Bagdad where he had a conference on military and strategical questions with the Irak Government and the British High Command. From Bagdad Sikorski went by air to Teheran where he was waited upon by the commander of the Polish army in Russia. General Anders, the head of the Polish military mission to Russia, General Szyszko Bohusz, and the Russian officers attached to his person during his visit to Russia headed by Col. Jewscigniejew. Five



TOBRUK

days later General Sikorski started on the Russian stage of his journey, flying from Teheran to Baku on to Astrahan and from there to Kuibyshev. After a day spent in Kuibyshev, Sikorski flew to Moscow where he remained three days. During his visit to Moscow, General Sikorski had long conferences with Stalin on matters of historical importance, both political and military. The conferences were followed by the joint Stalin-Sikorski declaration of December 4, 1941.

On his return to Kuibyshev General Sikorski, despite an attack of influenza, had conferences with the political and military representatives of Russia, Britain and other allies, and devoted much time to discussing with Ambassador Kot the welfare of the many Polish citizens liberated from concentration camps. He also issued military instructions and orders of the day for the organization and training of the Polish Army in Russia. On December 10, General Sikorski, accompanied by Vice-Commissar Vishinsky and representative of the Red Army Pamfilov, left for an inspection of the already organized Polish army units at Buzuluk, Tockoje, Saratow and Tatishchev.

There were unforgettable moments when the Com-  
(Please turn to page 11)



# THE SAGA OF BOLESŁAW "X"



NOTE: It has been reported that Polish squadrons operating with the R.A.F. accounted for 10% of the planes brought down over Britain and the Channel during the big attacks in the "Battle of Britain" crisis.

**P**OLAND'S air-  
men — once widely scattered over the Balkans, Syria and

France, now regrouped in Britain as independent squadrons — are daily squaring their account with the Luftwaffe. They have learned to hate, with the cold, relentless fury of men whose families have been butchered and their homes destroyed. R.A.F. training, harnessed to the world's deadliest and heaviest armed fighters, enables Poland's anonymous avengers to express their hate to the nth degree.

The "typical" Polish airman cannot be described. As a type he does not exist. In happier days he was an eminent sculptor, artist, author or musical composer; head of a shipping line or chain-store; a university professor, hotel proprietor, bank manager or taxi driver. He remains an individualist. And every Polish airman who at long last has reached England is an adventure-story in himself; his story a saga of the skies.

## A DIVE, A JAM, AND A RAM

Take the case — the "typical" case — of Bolesław X, pilot officer in the famous Kosciuszko Squadron (better known as No. 303 Fighter Squadron, R.A.F.). The Christian name, Poland's equivalent of "Bob," offers no clue to Bolesław's identity. He is 25; tall, quiet, studious. He wears dark-green spectacles and may have to do so for the next few months. A deep scar runs diagonally from left temple to right eye.

One Saturday during the past summer, Bolesław made two daylight sweeps over Northern France. In the morning he destroyed one enemy aircraft and was allowed another "probable." After lunch he went over again and shot down two high-flying 109F's. As he trained his cannons on a third they jammed. Bolesław admitted that he could have taken evasive action; but the memory of his mother, sister and two younger brothers, murdered at Warsaw, accompanied him into every battle.

So he dived headlong on the Nazi and deliberately rammed him — nose to tail. Chunks of the 109's tail-unit struck him heavily in the face; his Spitfire suffered from the impact; but he had got his man.

Wobbling back to England, Bolesław crash-landed near an East Coast airdrome, hit a telegraph post, tore off his wing, and lapsed into happy oblivion just as his engine disemboweled itself. He woke up in a hospital to find himself being treated for compound fracture of the skull, multiple facial injuries, broken collar-bone and dislocated right arm. Now after some weeks, he is back with his squadron, begging early sanction to fly again.

## SIKORSKI . . . SOLDIER AND STATESMAN

(Continued from page 7)

he passed his examinations brilliantly and soon ranked as an expert on canal and river engineering. Although friendly with his companions, even then he was a difficult person to get to know, always reserved, proud and independent.

In his student days he founded a debating society and insisted on high ethical and social principles. He was editor of its journal. Today as an orator, with a rather metallic but beautiful speaking voice, he has a magnetic platform personality. His gestures are few and restrained and thanks to his admirable memory, he rarely uses his notes.

During his last American tour, at one meeting he drew a crowd of 75,000 to the Soldiers' Stadium in Chicago. Sometimes he held as many as three public meetings a day, and it was during this strenuous period that he showed thoughtfulness for those around him, and complete disregard for himself.

Formal when formality is necessary, General Sikorski is never more pleased than when he can be amongst his men under their ordinary conditions, whether in camp or under fire. When the General visited the Polish Carpathian Brigade at Tobruk he insisted on visiting the front lines, only three or four hundred yards from the enemy's advanced posts.

There, under heavy fire, in the desert at the advanced posts of the Polish brigade under the burning sun and in the din and heat of battle, the General presented officers and men with honors with which he had come to present. He refused to allow the men to be withdrawn from the front lines for that purpose and insisted on going himself to their various posts.

Once in France he went to review a Polish artillery brigade near the Maginot Line and remained for hours going from battery to battery. Before he left one of the men covered with the grime of battle presented him with an empty shell case on which he had scratched a dedication to the General in memory of the first shot fired by the Polish First Division in France. The General was touched, for he loves his men and value their affection. After the fall of France, this souvenir was mislaid with other personal belongings of Sikorski, but has since been traced and is known to be in Lourdes.

General Sikorski is an epitome of the true Polish fighting spirit. When the Polish General, Szyszkowski, Commander of the Polish Highland Brigade of Narvik fame, asked for his orders by telephone after he had landed with his men at the French port of Brest on June 15, 1940, Sikorski replied at once: "If there are any Germans fighting them."





*Top Left: Diplomatic conferences in Egypt. Bottom Left: As Commander-in-Chief with Polish troops in Tobruk. Top Right: Greeted by Molotov on arrival at Russian airport.*

(Continued from page 9)

mander-in-Chief met his Polish soldiers in Russia. He was able to see for himself the spirit of the Polish people, of the Polish soldiers, who after experiencing such trying times, showed splendid tenacity, and marvellous military spirit.

General Sikorski left Russia on December 16, arriving by plane the same evening at Teheran where he stayed three days coordinating important military problems with representatives of the British and Soviet Governments in the light of the decisions reached during his visit to Russia. When in Teheran General Sikorski was received in audience by the Shah. Via Bagdad he flew back to Cairo but on landing at Haifa aerodrome he received delegations of Polish Jews in Palestine, headed by Rosmarin, the Polish consul at Tel Aviv. A week's stay in Cairo on the return journey, enabled General Sikorski to call a conference of Polish diplomatic representatives in the Middle East, discussing with them the political problems of the day. True to tradition on Christmas Eve, General Sikorski was sharing Christmas wafers with Polish soldiers in Cairo, taking part in the soldiers' Christmas Eve supper. On Christmas Day, General Sikorski worked all day and on December 30 he left Cairo, flying via Malta and Gibraltar to London. He had to wait a few days at Malta and also at Gibraltar owing to atmospheric and war conditions. He landed at a London aerodrome on January 6, after a two months' journey that had given momentous and very fruitful results.

## GERMAN OCCUPATION OF POLAND

THE Greystone Press have just issued "German Occupation of Poland," a 240-page official Polish White Book, that reveals the full horror of the fate that awaits those who suffer defeat at Hitler's hands.

The murder of a nation and the reduction to a state of servitude of its former inhabitants by the actual killing off of all the best citizens, the mass-deportation of the middle classes and the scientific sapping of the physical strength of the people accompanied by deliberate abasement of morals through alcoholism, debauchery and gambling.

Here in black type on white paper we are told how 200,000 people were murdered in cold blood, how one million others were driven from their homes, yet the victims of mass deportation were better off than those sent to concentration camps, made to labor in the quarries for fifteen hours at a stretch, made to "exercise" till they dropped from sheer exhaustion, made to rub the floors with their noses till their faces were a mass of blood, whipped with every refinement of cruelty so as to increase the pain to the utmost. They were better off than the women! There were mass raids in the cities to carry off all the good-looking girls and send them to houses of prostitution reserved for German officers and soldiers. Countless young women, ordered to report for agricultural work, were sent to brothels in Germany.

How long, O Lord, how long!



# A CZECHOSLOVAK RECONSTRUCTION PLAN



JAROMIR NECAS

THE peoples of Central and Eastern Europe are now being exploited to the extreme limit by the Germans who have reduced them to a state of slavery and are organizing local industries with the sole aim of serving German economic interests. All the key industries have been taken over by the Hermann Goering Werke and everything placed under German management.

Central and Eastern Europe as a whole is being treated worse than if it were a German colony, far worse than Germany ever treated her African colonies that were a disgrace to civilization. Yugoslavs are driven from their homes to Poland or the Ukraine; Poles have suffered similar deportations for more than two and a half years. After the war, this part of Europe will be as utterly devastated as it was after the Tartar invasion of the XIIth century.

Social and economic changes have been so basic, so complete and so ruthless that the problem of reconstruction must be studied now and plans prepared well in advance of the hour of victory.

One of the men who is doing most for the future

planning of Central and Eastern Europe is Jaromir Necas, the Czechoslovak Minister of Reconstruction.

He recently explained to the Economic Committee of the Czechoslovak National Council in London that not only will it be necessary to import food stuffs, raw materials, etc., for the starving people of Central Europe but it will also be necessary to check and indemnify war damages.

He emphasized that public works and a return to peace economy must be organized collectively for effectiveness. A new land reform and a reorganization of agrarian production must be planned. The principles on which the Ministry of Reconstruction is working are:

1. A higher value must be set on labor.
2. Public interest must take precedence of private profit.
3. Czechoslovak economics must be directed and planned.
4. Mines, heavy and key industries, communications, natural energies, electric power and the national bank must be nationalized. Finances and insurance must be organized on a new basis.
5. Direction of production must be controlled.
6. A policy of work and not a policy of financial support must be adopted to insure against unemployment.
7. Masaryk's Philadelphia conception of regional alliances between the States from the Baltic to the Aegean Seas should be applied in the framework of collective security.

## POLAND SPEAKS...

(Continued from page 2)

turies, Poland possessed not only all of Lithuania but also Inflanta, the present-day Latvia, and part of Estonia, Polock, Vitebsk, Smolensk and far beyond Kiev, the enormous area of trans-Dniepr, were Polish and the road eastward from Lublin to Kiev was no longer than the road from Kiev to the eastern frontier of the Polish Commonwealth. Even down to the first partition of 1772 the Polish Commonwealth's eastern frontier ran close to Smolensk and Kiev.

But Russia's 150-year domination of these areas after 1772, had its effect and deprived a large part of them of their Polish character. In the Riga treaty of 1921, Poland accepted this position which had arisen after 150 years of Russian rule. In consequence Poland, at Riga, agreed to frontiers which meant that the eastern areas of reborn Poland — that is the land east of the River Bug and the Niemen area — constituted only one-sixth of eastern areas of 16th and 17th century Poland and only one-fourth of the Polish Commonwealth's eastern areas immediately prior to 1772.

Thus the treaty of Riga effected a great territorial readjustment in which Poland by adopting a realistic attitude, suffered tremendous losses in compari-

son with the past. The eastern frontier of Poland thus established in a spirit of lasting understanding was recognized by the Allied Powers with Great Britain at their head on March 15, 1923 and by the United States on April 5, 1923, during the period when Sikorski was Prime Minister of Poland. Now that we celebrate the twenty-first anniversary of the Treaty of Riga, we regard this readjustment of territory as final for the sake of good relations between the Polish Republic and Soviet Russia, and, as Lenin said, "no longer subject to vagaries of temporary military and diplomatic circumstances."

### LEST WE FORGET!

*Prime Minister Sikorski, in his speech to the Polish National Council, laid special stress on the rights of religious minorities and said: —*

*"Our declaration clearly states our attitude towards national religious minorities whose sufferings especially those of the Jews must evoke the sympathy of every civilized man; their faithful attitude towards Poland will never be forgotten."*