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POLAND FIGHTS

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IN PICTURESQUE SOUTH-EASTERN POLAND



Floating Logs Down the Czeremosz River

SPEAKING TO POLAND . . .

H.R.M. Peter II, King of Yugoslavia, Addresses Polish Soldiers (WRUL Shortwave Broadcast)

MY DEAR Polish soldiers, fighting for liberty of your own and all other countries: My dear friends:

It is a joy to salute through you the valiant fighters of a valiant nation, brothers by blood and comrades in the same destiny, sharing the same pride and the same odds, on the road to a common victory.

At the time Mayor Starzynski of Warsaw raised the slogan: "Fight to the last!" — Poland was fighting under fire and destruction and is still fighting. History had assigned to my people the same destiny. We meet it with pride and decision, women and children alike. The entire nation felt the same. Upon a bloody morning we saw around us a storm of massacre and sacrifices, but we knew that we were not alone. The brave British soldiers and sailors were dying for freedom. You, Polish soldiers, were fighting side by side with them. Very soon afterward the Russians showed a wonderful resistance, and the gallant Americans fought everywhere with the same bravery. So today, as soldiers and sailors, we are all united on a common battlefield, fighting for the same decision and cause.

It is not a coincidence that I address you from America. It is here that arms for our final victory are being forged. The lofty aims of America are the same as those of the Polish and Yugoslav nations.

From here flows the spirit which, when victory is won, will transform the ideal of freedom into reality. America has thrown her tremendous power into the war balance that people and nations may live free in the future enjoying the security of work and its fruits.

Soldiers of Poland — everywhere you are considered as the most valiant fighters on the field of battle. Your air pilots are considered along with your comrade allies as the proud eagles of the air. Our nation and soldiers who are fighting under the command of General Mihajlovic in the mountain gorges and forests of Yugoslavia, look upon you with the same admiration they have always had for your poets, musicians and scientists. As we are struggling with the same aims our brotherhood in arms has created a common link between us for the

duration, and a friendship forever. We are marching along with the United Nations to defend freedom and democracy and to build an everlasting peace for our sons. Brothers in arms — the days of glory and victory are yours. Good luck.

Polish Ambassador to the United States, Jan Ciechanowski, introduces King Peter:

His Majesty wishes to address the soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces active on the world's battlefronts and to express to them the soldierly greetings of Yugoslavia who is fighting shoulder to shoulder with us in defense of the same ideals.

The heritage held by King Peter II is truly great. It is the splendid tradition of his valiant father, King Alexander the Unifier, and of his heroic grandfather, King Peter I, who in the last war, in temporary exile, as his grandson is at present, refused to lay down his arms or to surrender to the German invader, but fought on to victory, after which he liberated, united and extended his country.

Poland and Yugoslavia simultaneously regained their freedom after the first World War. In the present conflict we are

again fighting jointly for our freedom and independence and for that of all nations, against the common enemy. The war and enemy invasion struck at our two countries in similar circumstances. The Polish Nation was the first to take up arms in defense of its freedom and to bar the way of Hitler's march for world conquest.

A year and a half later, in similar circumstances Yugoslavia barred his way. Her Government and her people, under the guidance of King Peter II, took up arms against the invader.

After a bloody fight the enemy occupied Yugoslavia just as he occupied our country. He occupies it and oppresses it — but he cannot conquer it. Yugoslavia fights on — just as Poland fights on.



H.R.M. King of Yugoslavia speaking to Polish soldiers.
Polish Ambassador Jan Ciechanowski is on His right.

GEN. DR. BOLESŁAW WIENIAWA-DŁUGOSZOWSKI DIES



ON July 1, 1942, an unexpected sorrow fell on the Poles throughout the world. On this date General Dr. Bolesław Wieniawa-Długoszowski died suddenly in his New York home. His death hit all the harder because it occurred on the eve of his departure to fill the post of Polish Minister to Cuba and Santo Domingo.

Polish Ambassador to the United States Jan Ciechanowski in his address at the funeral paid a moving tribute to General Dr. Wieniawa-Długoszowski; from his speech we quote:

"First and foremost he was a Pole. His heart and thought, his very blood was Polish. Thus love for his country, gallantry, bravery, tenacity of purpose, loyalty, and a strong sense of duty mirrored in him the true Polish tradition.

"Political intrigue and private gains never tempted him. His life's purpose was to serve Poland unselfishly. His death comes as a great blow to all those who fight for Poland and Liberty."

Dr. Wieniawa-Długoszowski, having completed his study of medicine, engaged in painting and music. However, he heeded the call of duty to give his services for the freedom of his country. His deeds in the war of 1914-1918 became a legend on the lips of his countrymen.

After the first World War he was appointed Aide-de-Camp to Marshal Joseph Pilsudski. Steady of purpose, loyal and trustworthy, he gained the confidence and affection of his Chief and of his countrymen.

During his military career which ended in 1939, he held the highest positions in the Polish Army.

Shortly before the outbreak of the second World War he was appointed Ambassador to Rome where he remained until diplomatic relations were broken with Italy in 1940. In this capacity Dr. Wieniawa-Długoszowski proved himself a conscientious and zealous representative of Poland and won many friends for himself and Poland by his charm and grace. To his fellow Poles he offered solace and comfort.

After leaving Rome Dr. Wieniawa-Długoszowski came to the United States and just a few weeks ago was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary by the Polish Government in London to Cuba and Santo Domingo.

No tribute to this Knight of Polish Freedom would be complete without reference to his literary achievements. Interested in everything military and particularly in the Cavalry it was only natural that he should translate Dupont's biography of Lasalle, a daring cavalry officer in Napoleon's Army. He also translated several of Baudelaire's poems. Aside from that he wrote many soldiers' ballads for the Polish Cavalry.

The directors of the Polish program, "America Speaks to Poland" of the WRUL Station, Boston, Mass., Messrs. R. Rathaus and Antoni Tarnowski, received a cable from General MacArthur in Australia, in which he pays the following tribute to General Wieniawa-Długoszowski:

He was my friend and I mourn him. The mortal body has released the immortal soul to rejoin forever his dead chief Pilsudski. Those great two who so indomitably toiled, so fearlessly fought, so bravely sacrificed that Poland might live again — it cannot have been in vain. An Almighty God will not fail those who so nobly did their duty.

Mac Arthur

General Dr. Wieniawa-Długoszowski combined in him all the qualities of the Polish Cavalryman so graphically portrayed in the famous trilogy by Sienkiewicz. He was daring and bold in battle, a friend of the soldier, a romantic poet, loyal and devoted to his country, and gifted with a brilliant mind.

Both in the saddle and behind the desk he fought with one purpose in mind — the liberty of Poland!

I AM SO SAD, O GOD!

*I am so sad, O God! Thou hast before me
Spread a bright rainbow in the western skies,
But hast quenched in darkness cold and stormy
The brighter stars that rise;
Clear grows the heaven 'neath Thy transforming rod,
Still I am sad, O God!*

* * * * *

*Sometime hereafter will my bones lie whitened,
Somewhere on strangers' soil, I know not where;
I envy those whose dying hours are lightened,
Fanned by their native air;
But flowers of some strange land will spring and nod
Above my grave, O God!*

— JULIUSZ SŁOWACKI

NATIONAL SOCIALIST PARTY'S ACTIVITIES IN POLAND

TODAY all parts of Poland, but especially the western provinces illegally "incorporated" in the Reich, are regularly visited by high German officials who appeal to members of the Nazi Party in Poland to spare no pains in Germanizing the country. All Germans at present living and working in occupied Poland, whether they belong to the Nazi Party or not are under its authority. Dr. Goebbels last January stated that the party was the "political steward and executive representative of the people."

The principal task entrusted to the Party in the Polish areas is that of Germanization, understood in its widest sense, which the Party is to carry out in the national struggle with the stubborn Polish population. It is argued that like the soldiers fighting at the front, the National Socialist Party is waging a different kind of war in Polish territory as an outpost of National Socialism, as an army of the "New Order" of United Europe. Surrounded by a Polish population that hates the Germans, and rejects all the political, moral and social ideals the Germans seek to impose by force, the entire German element is held within its watertight, militarily disciplined ranks, both in the illegally "incorporated" western provinces, in the General Gouvernement, and in the districts incorporated in the Ostland. So the Party is the sole support and protection of the Germans, and in a sense takes the place of the German National Socialist Fatherland. Speaking on September 20th last at the "Führertagung des Arbeitbereichs des NSDAP General Gouvernement" Governor-General Frank described the position of the Party in Poland in these words:

"The Party is our spiritual Home."

In an article entitled "NSDAP as the backbone of Germanization" in the *Danziger Neueste Nachrichten* for February 2nd last, Gauleiter Forster of the Danziger-West-Preussen province, wrote that the entire Germanization policy in the area under him is exclusively in the hands of Party leaders. So the most important task the Third Reich has set itself in regard to Poland, the task of its swiftest possible Germanization, is entrusted to the Party.

A report of the congress of party leaders in the Government General was published in the *Krakauer Zeitung* of September 26th. The congress, in discussing the activities of the Party's supervision of the Volksdeutsche in Poland, emphasized the same idea. It declared that the Party's activities in the Government General had shown to what extent "State activities demand continual supplementing by the Party." In practice supplementing really means the transfer of political control into the hands of the Party.

The part played by the Party in Poland is indicated by the participation of high officials of the Government General of the illegally "incorporated" areas in various Party congresses. In the Führertagung already mentioned there were present not only Governor-General Frank, who also bears the Party distinction of Reichsleiter but also the Governors Fischer, Wachter, and Lasch, also Boepple, as representative of the Government General. The Party governs the Reich, the Party governs the occupied

areas, is responsible for all political tasks in those areas.

The Party's sphere of operations is extraordinarily wide and embraces a variety of tasks such as education and propaganda questions, the entire German auxiliary aid activity, press and information, physical training, the "German Community," social welfare, education of German youth, employment of women, economic questions, and so on.

From the foregoing it is obvious that the Party tasks and objects are not only interlocked with the tasks and objects falling within the spheres of State authority, but sometimes completely covers them, especially as in practice the Party tends to bring within its competence the greatest possible number of items, which in normal cases belong to the competence of the State authorities.

The dominating role of the Party has been more fully revealed than ever during the last few weeks, prior to the Reichstag session of April 26th, at which Hitler was granted the further plenary powers of supreme war lord.

"The Times" of April 30th reports that Bormann, the chief of the Party chancery, and so after Hitler the greatest potentate in the Party, with powers of issuing Decrees, etc., has placed the entire State administrative service and judiciary under direct Party control. One of the decrees issued by him lays down that no official of the lower and intermediary ranks can be taken into the civil service without the permission of the corresponding Gauleiter, while appointments to the highest positions must be referred direct to Bormann for confirmation.

The object of these decrees has been defined by Secretary of State Funder in the following terms:

"Every civil servant must be a Party man working in close collaboration with the Party. He is to be trained more as a politician, capable of constructive leadership, and less as a lawyer."

All these decrees and regulations in application to the Occupied Polish areas result in all manifestations of life coming even more thoroughly under Party control.



Courtesy "FREE WORLD"

Drawing by B. F. Dolbin

TALKING WITH THE GESTAPO

Some Pages From A Personal Record

By MGR. ZYGMUNT KACZYŃSKI

DURING the siege of Warsaw I was twice wounded by bomb splinters. My injuries were fairly serious and required daily dressing. To them I probably owed the fact that I was not immediately arrested after the occupation of Warsaw. My attitude towards Nazi Germany was well known, and as head of the Catholic News Agency I had frequently expressed my distrust of the German-Polish non-aggression pact. It was clear to me from the very beginning that Hitler would not keep any of his obligations. The German Embassy in Warsaw was well aware of my activities, and I was often refused even a transit visa through Germany.

After the occupation, I was one of the first to be honored by a personal call from the Gestapo. I was visited by three agents, young men of 25 to 30. I was in bed, covered with bandages, with fever, but I agreed to talk to them. I realized at once what trap was being set for me. One of the agents demanded the surrender of a secret file supposed to contain documents incriminating Foreign Minister Beck and his policy, and said the German authorities knew that I had opposed Beck and the government which had so recklessly started war with Germany. He only forgot to add that my opposition to the government was due to Col. Beck's policy of understanding with Germany, which for a time lulled Polish public opinion in the same way as British and French opinions had been lulled and deceived. Like the Western Powers, Poland was persuaded to neglect to some extent defense preparations.

I told the Gestapo man that I had no file or documents relating to Minister Beck, and that if I had any I would keep them for later times, for Beck could be judged only by his own countrymen. Besides — I added — you should rather have sympathy for Beck, who believed the Germans and thus assisted them in their task. Then I was asked why I opposed the Nazi ideology and why I was hostile to the German Reich. I replied that as a Catholic I could not be in agreement with Nazism, which is contrary to Christian principles and was condemned by the Church in the "Mit brennender Sorge" Encyclic of Pius XI, of 1937. Christianity and Nazism are incompatible. The party leaders are well aware of that for they have persecuted Christians ever since the very beginning of Nazi rule. Catholics and Protestants alike suffer oppression at the hands of the Germans.

"But Christianity is a thing of the past," exclaimed one of the Gestapo agents. "Didn't you read the 'Mythus des XX Jahrhunderts' by Rosenberg? Didn't you find there ideas which alone are capable of launching humanity on new paths and breaking the advance of decadence?"

"Yes, I did read Rosenberg," I replied, "but his arguments failed to convince me. He does not seem to be a good theologian. Besides, he failed to convince the party leaders themselves, for they remained — at least in name — members of Christian churches.



MGR. KACZYŃSKI IN LONDON

Left to right: Mgr. Kaczyński, H. E. A. Cardinal Hinsley, President of the Republic of Poland Władysław Raczkiewicz.

Hitler has never left the Catholic Church and Goering remains a Protestant."

The young Gestapo agents were slightly embarrassed by my arguments, and the mere sound of the names of Hitler and Goering impressed them visibly. They were not prepared to discuss anything that the great men did, so they gave up their attempt to convert me.

The conversation then turned to other political subjects. The German authorities had at the time no definite plan for the Polish territories which they had occupied. They wanted to annex some provinces to the Reich and establish in the rest of the country a puppet government, on the lines of the Protectorate of Moravia and Bohemia under President Hacha. Unfortunately for the Germans, no Quislings and no Hachas were to be found in Poland and the nation recognized the constitutional President and government resident abroad. The Germans' search for Poles willing to collaborate in the establishment of such a government failed completely, but in the first stage they were still hopeful of discovering some traitors.

When the Gestapo man asked me what I thought about the future of Poland, I said: "I am convinced that Poland will recover her independence and her territories."

"Perhaps a Poland from the Baltic to the Black Sea?" jeered one of the questioners.

"That is exactly what she was for a long time," I observed.

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XVIIITH CENTURY POLISH SASHES

By DR. IRENA PIOTROWSKA

wide, shiny, silken sashes, and Poland was unable to produce enough of them to satisfy the demand. So the importation of sashes from the Near East began, especially from Turkey and Persia. In Constantinople, then doing a lively trade with Poland, workshops were soon established to weave sashes for export to Poland. Not long afterwards, some of these workshops were transferred by Armenian weavers from Stambul to Lwow and other Polish cities in the southeastern provinces of the Polish Republic.

It was in these workshops, during the first half of the 18th century, that originated the earlier style of the Polish silk sash. At first its individuality manifested itself only in a definite predilection for Persian floral patterns and in a partial rejection of abstract ornamental motifs, so characteristic of Turkish art. But soon an independent Polish style evolved, based however on Oriental models. This style attained a high degree of perfection in factories that were set up during the second half of the 18th century in northeastern Poland and near Warsaw.

The Polish sash is shorter and narrower than the Oriental one, and better adapted to the Polish gentry's method of tying it. Made of silk, it is almost always richly interwoven with gold and silver. The design is divided down the entire length into two parts, one part being more colorful and prescribed for holiday dress, the other more subdued and worn on days of mourning. As in the Persian sash so in the Polish, the two ends are very richly decorated, while the body of the sash is woven in narrow horizontal stripes.

Despite the apparent similarity of design on the Polish and Oriental sashes, there exists a fundamental difference. In Eastern sashes, the regularity of the pattern is only noticeable after close inspection. In the Polish sashes this regularity strikes one immediately. On Persian sashes the design is more intricate and closely related to the design used on Persian rugs; on Polish sashes the design divides the scarf into clearly distinct parts. Each richly decorated end is divided symmetrically into two equal

parts, has two bouquets of flowers, and not from three to seven as in Oriental sashes. The narrow, horizontal stripes are alternately plain and decorated, or are filled alternately with floral and geometric ornaments, which results in an exceedingly pleasant rhythm, unknown to Eastern sashes. Finally, Polish sashes have a narrow, floral border forming a frame to their well-balanced composition.

Patterns in Polish sashes are chiefly floral. Although Persian influence is evident, the design is treated more realistically than in Persian weavings, and the highly stylized Oriental lotus palmettos and arabesques do not appear at all. The designers of Polish sashes chose from Persian patterns only flowers that grow in Poland. Hence the rose, the tulip, and especially the carnation, were introduced into Polish sashes, together with typically Polish asters; later other local flowers and grasses were added.

Each end of a Polish sash is adorned with a spray of flowers, often placed in a pot or vase. Bouquets of this kind occur also in Oriental designs. However, they are quite typical of the Polish sash. This is undoubtedly due to the influence of Polish peasant art, as such bouquets are a beloved ornament of Polish peasant chests, kilims and embroideries. Polish sashes were also influenced by the bright, lively, yet harmonious colors of Polish peasant art. As a result, Polish sashes, in pinks and blues standing out amidst silver and gold threads, are much lighter in color than the Oriental weavings.

The oldest Polish sashes to be found in America are in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Two of these are predominantly Turkish in style, four are Persian. Of these last, two bear the initials of Armenian weavers.

Most of the Polish sashes in America belong to the period of their highest development, in the second half of the 18th century. The names or initials of weavers in many instances appear in the fabric. Thus, for instance, the Metropolitan Museum of Art possesses two very beautiful sashes, each signed in



EARLY POLISH SASH

Courtesy of Metropolitan Museum of Art



THE SASH OF HIS FOREFATHERS

Painting by Jan Matejko



POLISH SASH

Courtesy of Metropolitan Museum of Art

old-Slavonic letters on one end, "Leo Madzarski", on the other, "In the town of Sluck." Leo Madzarski was at the head of a factory of sashes in Sluck, in northeastern Poland, from 1780 to 1794. He used old-Slavonic letters on sashes intended for export to Russia. A sash bearing a similar signature is owned by the Yale Gallery of Fine Arts. These three sashes are typically Polish in style, despite the Armenian origin of their maker.

Closely related to the Sluck sashes are four at the Metropolitan Museum marked with the initials F.S. These sashes were woven by Selimand, in his factory at Kobylka near Warsaw between 1778 and 1789. Selimand, a talented French artisan, adapted the style of his sashes entirely to the current Polish

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AERONAUTICS IN POLAND



GORDON-BENNETT BALLOON RACE IN POLAND

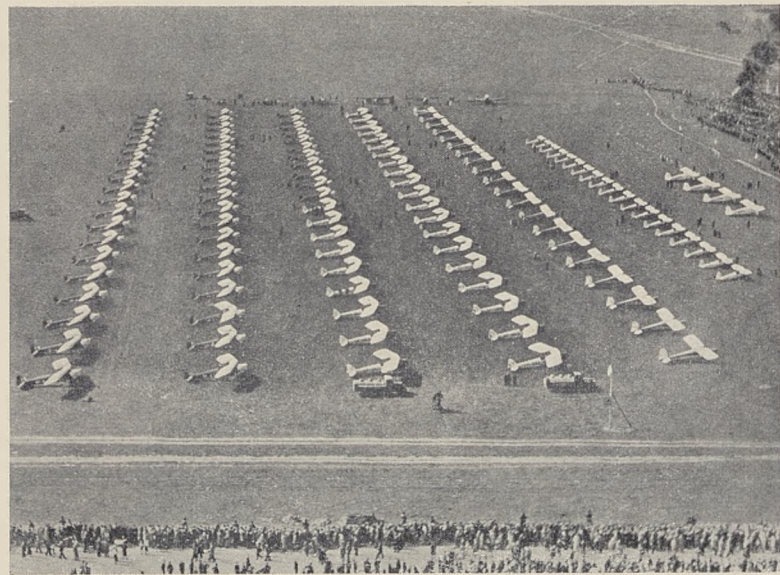
ONE of the greatest pioneers of aviation before the war, Stefan Drzewiecki (1844-1938), will always be remembered for his years of indefatigable creative work in aeronautics. Besides a number of inventions bearing on general technical problems and under-water navigation, he published a series of monographs dealing with the flight of birds and the propulsive screw. He gained fame in the scientific world by formulating the elementary theory of the propeller, which became the basis for all the theories relating to this most important element of aeronautics.

When Poland recovered her independence all those engaged in research in any of the fundamental branches of aeronautical science were provided for by the Aerodynamic Institute at Warsaw, founded in 1926 by Professor Czeslaw Witoszynski. This institute, under the direction of its founder who made a name for himself by formulating the theory of simple disengagement, grew in the course of a few years into a research institute of the first importance. It reached predominance in aviation, automobile, railroad and other industries of Poland as well as in aviation industries of Yugoslavia, Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Latvia and Estonia. The Institute possessed four aerodynamic tunnels and a special installation for the observation and filming of airflows. The latter, as well as the tunnel weighing installations, designed and carried out entirely by the Aerodynamic Institute, differed noticeably from those employed in laboratories abroad. The results of the Institute's theoretical and experimental research were published in English, French and Polish. In addition to scientific research the Institute provided for instructional and train-

ing of aeronautical engineers in the field of aerodynamics.

A similar institution, though on a smaller scale, was the Lwow Polytechnic Aerodynamic Laboratory which mainly served the needs of the Institute for the Technics of Gliding and Motor-Gliding. The latter made such progress in the fields of civil aviation and aerological studies that it took a leading part in the congresses of the International Commission for the Investigation of Engineless Aviation. In 1939 the annual congress of this Commission was held in Poland.

The Technical Institute of Aviation exercised a general control over Poland's production of planes and engines and carried out independent investiga-



AVIATION MEET IN WARSAW

tion concerning the resistance of materials and behavior in flight, the results of which were published in technical periodicals. One of the most important achievements of the Institute was the method of measuring the endurance of an airplane by reference to "twist".

Problems of health in connection with aviation were investigated by the Institute for Aviation Medicine. One result of its cooperation was the fact that Polish hospital planes won a number of prizes at international competitions. Important contributions to aeronautical studies were likewise made by the Meteorological Service.

Due to the close cooperation between various branches of industry and the centers of research, Polish products attained excellence, shown by the high quality of Polish balloon textiles, from which the cover of the stratosphere balloon "Star of Poland" was made by the Balloon and Parachute Works. The fruits of the combined efforts were seen in the success gained by Polish airmen in international events.

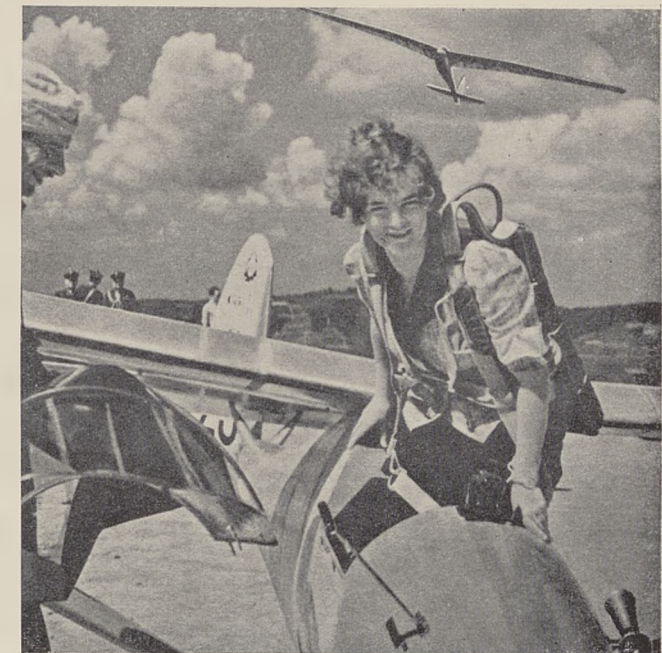
The existence of the modern and world famous "RWD" airplane factory enabled Poland to twice take the first place in the annual Cup Races of 1932 and 1934, in competition with Germany, France, Italy and other countries. The same machines had also established a number of international records.

The merits of Polish-built balloons were demonstrated, by their three successive victories, followed by a fourth in 1938 in the Gordon-Bennett Race, thanks to which the Fourth Gordon-Bennett Cup remained permanently in the possession of Poland.

Here, too, Poles established records which are still standing.

In the field of civil aviation Polish Motor-Gliders established several international records. In fact, Poland held the leading place in gliding practice. From many European countries young men came to Poland for gliding instruction which was then considered one of the best organized gliding centers.

Gliding in Poland kept pace with Polish manufacture of glider-



HER FIRST GLIDE

planes. The first model was made in 1928 in the workshop of the Aviation Society of Lwow. In 1929 the same builder produced a new training craft equal in quality to the best European models. The following year saw the introduction of the experimental two-passenger glider. In 1931 Poland created its first racing model and in 1932 participated successfully in meets at Rhon, using gliders of native make.

By 1933 the intermediate type, a cross between a training ship and a racing ship, appeared on the Polish market.

Outstanding centers of glider manufacture were Lwow and Warsaw. The German invasion, destroying Polish aeronautics, also put an untimely end to the young but increasingly popular sport that gliding was in pre-war Poland.

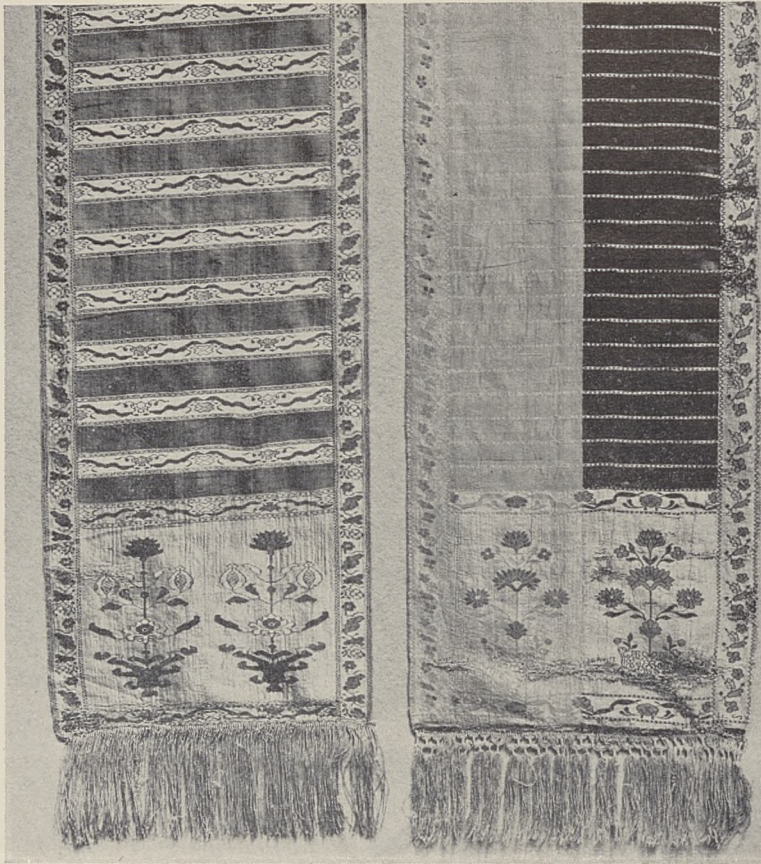


GLIDING SCHOOL IN BEZMIECHOWA

XVIIIth CENTURY POLISH SASHES

(Continued from page 7)

fashion. A number of other Polish sashes in American museums bear the mark of the Armenian, Paschalis Jakubowicz, head of a factory at Lipkow, also near Warsaw. One of the Metropolitan Museum sashes has the initials P.I., two others have the full name "Paschalis" woven in Roman characters, one of the two sashes on loan in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and one in the Cooper Museum in New York are marked with the Pascal lamb, the symbol of Paschalis. The remaining sashes in the Metropolitan Museum and those at the Minneapolis and Cleveland Museums of Art and at the Museum of the Polish R. C. Union in Chicago are not signed, but



POLISH SASHES (one signed "F.S.")
Courtesy of Metropolitan Museum of Art

are equally beautiful and were woven in the second half of the 18th century.

Two less elaborate sashes in the Metropolitan Museum, with a black decoration on a white background, belong to a later period when the fashion of Polish sashes was on the decline. They may have been woven at Cracow. Here French ornamental motifs have superseded Polish designs.

The sashes most typically Polish in design, mark the period of highest excellence in this branch of artistic weaving. Prior to and following that period foreign influences were predominant: Persian in Polish sashes of the early period; French during the decline.

Polish silk sashes slowly went out of fashion after the Partition, when the majority of the Polish nobility ceased to wear their national costumes. Although Polish silk sashes were still woven in the early part of the 19th century, they had lost the peculiar charm which causes them to be treasured in museums and admired by lovers of the beautiful, the world over.

Polish sashes have been described at length by Dr. Phyllis

Ackerman, a well-known authority on weaving, in an article entitled "Polish Belts" published in the "Bulletin of the Needle and Bobbin Club", 1929, and more recently by an eminent Polish scholar, Dr. Tadeusz Mankowski in "Influences of Islamic Art in Poland", published in "Ars Islamica" 1935, by the University of Michigan.

WHEN FREEDOM CAME TO POLES IN RUSSIA

(Continued from page 9)

The great majority of the new arrivals were young, sometimes only 16 or 17 years old. One lad finally admitted that he was 15 but insisted that he looked much older and that he was very strong.

Pressed for an account of life in Russian camps before the German-Russian war, one youthful, prematurely gray officer related, "News filtered in to us very late. We were completely cut off from the world. Many of us did not even know that war was on between Germany and Russia. I must say that the wardens were not even very disconcerted by the unexpected change in our status. Their farewell words to us were: 'If HE made peace with Sikorski, you are our allies. We part as friends and if you ever met with any "irregularities" here — you can take it out on the German swine.'"

Another sunburned officer summed up several years of suffering in these words: "One was able to

stand it somehow. Sometimes I find it difficult to believe it myself. I was questioned a long time by a military court. That's when I got my gray hair. Then I was sentenced to death. But why talk about it. Others also went through a good deal. One man in our group was in 17 different camps, each slightly worse than the preceding, while the last one was downright 'uncomfortable.'"

But these Polish soldiers are so happy to be back in the fight that they are willing to forget the last few years. Even the bitter cold of the Russian winter of 1941-42, when the liberated Poles slept in tents at military recruiting centers, could not dampen their spirits. They kept busy putting on shows and publishing an army newspaper, teeming with humor and wit. The cartoon on page 9 is a typical illustration of the Polish way of meeting a difficult situation.