

# The Polish Review





# GERMANY WAVES "SOVIET" BOGEY IN VAIN, POLAND STANDS BY PACT WITH RUSSIA THAT MADE GREAT COALITION POSSIBLE

London, Feb.—The semi-official Polish daily "Dziennik Polski" publishes the following important editorial:

"Once more the Germans are trying to seduce and frighten the world. Once more the alleged ideological fight against Bolshevism is being used as a smoke-screen to disguise their vile intentions.

The German wireless, the German press are busy shouting,

"Germany is defending the threatened civilization of Europe. Should her army be annihilated, the whole of Europe will be flooded by a wave of Bolshevik barbarism."

## The Pelt of the Bear

The Germans are also trying to seduce and frighten Poland by suggesting, not for the first time, a common crusade against Moscow, promising us mountains of gold and generously presenting us with the rich pelt of the bear who is still on his feet.

Political speculators have had many opportunities to think over what would have happened had Poland accepted Hitler's proposals, over what, in that event, would have been the fate of the world. Quite certainly world events would have turned out very differently and less to the advantage both of Soviet Russia and the western democracies. It is worthwhile to remember that today.

But to return to facts, facts that realistic politicians must perforce take into account.

The fact that Poland as far back as the Spring of 1939 definitely opposed German plans for a common drive against Moscow, is perhaps one of the most important events in the history of the past few years.

## Poland vs. Germany

Moreover, that decision produced historical consequences not only for us but for the world. That decision by the way was not made by the present Polish Government. It was made by the whole country and by every class of the population, the army, peasants, workers, professional classes, all rejected the temptations of the Nazis, looking on them as vile megalomaniacs, and on their plans as suicidal for Poland. This sound sense of the Polish nation that had no desire for territories belonging to Russia, anymore than it wanted them at Riga in 1921, and that did not want to serve Germany, got the upper hand. That this instinct was really sound has been proved by the ensuing policy of extermination applied by Germany to the Polish Nation, a policy that has made clear the real intentions of the rapacious, blood-thirsty and treacherous Prussians. We were also convinced of this

by the German-Soviet Pact of August 1939, which clearly demonstrated not only to Poland but to the whole world that the anti-Bolshevik bogey was only a German smoke-screen to lead the world into error, to dupe and blind it better to plunder and murder one by one Germany's victims.

## German Beast Trapped

Today the German beast is trapped. No one and nothing can save it, except one thing only, and that is, as General Sikorski has said, the breaking up of the Great Coalition.

If the Great Coalition is broken up, if the western democracies and Russia go their own ways, then Hitler's latest dream of "A peace on the pattern of Frederick the Great" would come true.

Then Hitler would attain the same success as Frederick the Great did in the Seven Years' War, when the great anti-Prussian coalition ceased to exist.

The Polish people today still fully realize their historical responsibility and, guided by the same instinct as in the Spring of 1939, they reject with contempt all attempts by the enemy to renew the flirtations of bygone days and all suggestions, not only of collaboration, but even of toleration for Germany's alleged "crusade."

## Polish-Russian Pact

The Polish Government, when it entered into a pact with Soviet-Russia in July 1941, facilitated the foundation of the Great Coalition, and that pact has been recognized everywhere as one of the greatest political contributions made by Poland to this war.

Since then the Polish Government has been the agency always appealed to for efficient and complete strategic and political collaboration with Soviet-Russia. The Polish Government never ceases to appeal for the scrupulous observance of the principles of the Atlantic Charter, the codified rules of political ethics for which the western democracies began to fight.

We cannot too strongly warn that any deviation from those ideals might have disastrous consequences for the fate of the Great Coalition during the war and in the peace.

In this the Polish Government is in full accord with the whole Polish Nation and bears the full consequences of the decision of September 1939, and the subsequent martyrdom of the Polish Nation.

Had the Polish Government taken any other attitude it would have jeopardized the sacrifice of September 1939 and the further armed efforts of the Poles. It would have jeopardized the whole Polish contribution to this war,

and tarnished the honor of the Polish Nation.

People who today gloat over the admitted Polish-Soviet difficulties, who prompt the Polish Government to hasty and irresponsible decisions, are rendering very real service to the Fifth Column. Indeed, they render service not only to the Germans. They render service to all who are working against Poland, and spreading anti-Polish propaganda throughout the world, and who would hail such a decision with satisfaction, because it would very greatly facilitate their work.

## Poland Kept Word

Then they would stigmatize Poland, as disrupting or at least trying to disrupt the Great Coalition, which is the only thing that can rescue Hitler from the trap into which he has fallen.

It would also weaken the pledges and promises that our friends have made to us, and would give a weapon to our opponents, a weapon that would ruthlessly be used against us.

Today our partners have nothing to reproach us. We did all we promised, fulfilled all our tasks. We continue to wish for sincere collaboration and mutual understanding, not only today but also tomorrow.

But when the Polish Government entered into the July Pact it renounced nothing and relinquished nothing, neither of its territories nor its sovereign rights pertaining to the greatness and power of the Polish State.

## The Atlantic Charter

Also after the July Pact, the Polish Government did not recognize any uni-lateral resolutions or decisions. It did recognize, however, that the Soviets had renounced their partition pact with Germany of August 1939 with all its consequences.

All decisions or dispositions of the Soviet Government from September 17, 1939, aimed against the sovereign rights of the Republic of Poland and her territories or against the rights of Polish citizens are uni-lateral acts against which the Polish Government has always protested.

Our relations with the U.S.S.R. today are still difficult. We believe, however, that the principles of the Atlantic Charter to which the Soviet Union has also officially adhered, will be generally understood and applied. We are not wasting our time and in this we are not alone.

The Polish Nation has the same conviction, for in spite of endless sacrifices it has never for a moment interrupted its fight against the common enemy. The mere fact that German forces are being vic-

toriously attacked by the Red Army and have Poland, whose resistance never falters, in their rear, is of invaluable service to the Allies.

As everybody knows, the Polish Government's policy towards Russia has so far given positive results and brought with it no drawbacks. Therefore, the continuation of this policy in an atmosphere of tranquility and self-control, and not in an atmosphere of hysteria and megalomania, is dictated by Polish "reasons of State."

## 260 POLISH INTELLECTUALS MASS MURDERED

London, Feb.—Information received by the Polish Government in London reveals that at Oswiecim Camp wholesale executions of Poles, brought there from all over the country, are continuing. It is now confirmed that on November 16th at Oswiecim 260 Poles belonging exclusively to professional and learned classes were executed, in addition to the twenty others put to death on November 2nd.

News has also been received that Dr. Tadeusz Szydlowski, Professor of the History of Art at Cracow University died in Cracow on October 25th.

Professor Szydlowski had been interned at Oranienburg with other Cracow professors and his sufferings there had broken his health. He was released in a dying condition. This is the one hundred and fourth Polish scientist whose death, as a result of German persecution, is definitely known to the Polish Government in London.

## A GRACIOUS GIFT

London, Feb. — Princess Elizabeth recently received a gift of honey from the Argentine and gave part of it to the Polish Girls School in Castle-mains, where there are now twenty-four girls who were very grateful for this sweet gift, one of many sign of the sympathy of the British Royal Family for Polish youth.

## READ AND REMEMBER

German authorities have issued a regulation compelling all hotels, restaurants and cafes in the Government General to hold at the disposal of their clients at least one German newspaper. The Krakauer Zeitung which publishes this decree, adds that it applies equally to German restaurants.



# The Polish Review

POLAND FIGHTS

NEW YORK, N. Y.

VOL. III, No. 9

MARCH 1, 1943

Weekly Magazine Published by

THE POLISH INFORMATION CENTER

151 East 67th Street, New York, N. Y.

Annual Subscription Four Dollars

Single Copy Ten Cents

## ARBITRARY PARTITION WRECKS POLAND'S ECONOMIC LIFE

THE map shows the administrative and political divisions of occupied Poland after various changes made by the invaders. The Western frontiers of the Government General have been modified more than once by the illegal "incorporation" of additional counties in the Reich. The Government General's Eastern frontiers have also been modified by the inclusion of Eastern Galicia. Until Hitler's attack on Russia, the eastern provinces were under Soviet occupation. As Wilno and its adjacent area, enlarged more than once, was handed over to Lithuania, and scraps of Sub-Carpathia were "presented" to Slovakia, Poland and the Polish people have for some time been under four separate occupations.

The partition carried out by the Germans between the Western provinces illegally "incorporated" in the Reich and the Government General is, however, of most economic importance. The line between these two areas takes neither historical nor ethnographical factors into account. The areas illegally "incorporated" in the Reich are the most highly industrialized, possess the largest number of mines and natural wealth generally, and the highest standard of agriculture. The Government General was formed out of what was left.

Similar considerations probably led to the incorporation of Eastern Galicia in the Government General. For it is richer in agricultural and raw materials—especially oil—than the other eastern areas of Poland conquered by Germany from Soviet Russia.

The reasons for the "incorporation" of the Bialystok area in the Reich are not yet known. Strategic considerations and a desire to round off German territory, were supplemented by economic greed: an exploitation of a relatively rich area and the creation of a larger hinterland for the backward towns of East Prussia.

Poland is such a strong and natural geographic and economic unit that its various parts cannot develop normally if separated from one another. This was proved beyond doubt during the great partition when Poland was divided between three powers, and fell into an economic decline that held up the natural growth of the country and gave it a lower standard of social and industrial progress than countries of a happier past.

During the twenty years of Poland's independence between the two wars, almost all the backward features of Polish life due to partition were eliminated, because the various parts



of Poland had been welded together, and as they were economically complementary, a prosperous national development ensued.

The very fact of the present disintegration of Poland's unity has put an end to all large-scale activity except exploitation in favor of Germany. Upper Silesia never gravitated towards Germany, where it met with very keen competition from the older and better situated Ruhr industry, but, it did constitute an important center of mining and heavy industry for Poland, and adjacent markets. Now it is cut off from those areas by war and customs—currency frontiers. Lodz, the Polish textile center, had its own Polish and eastern markets. Today, incorporated in the Reich, which has

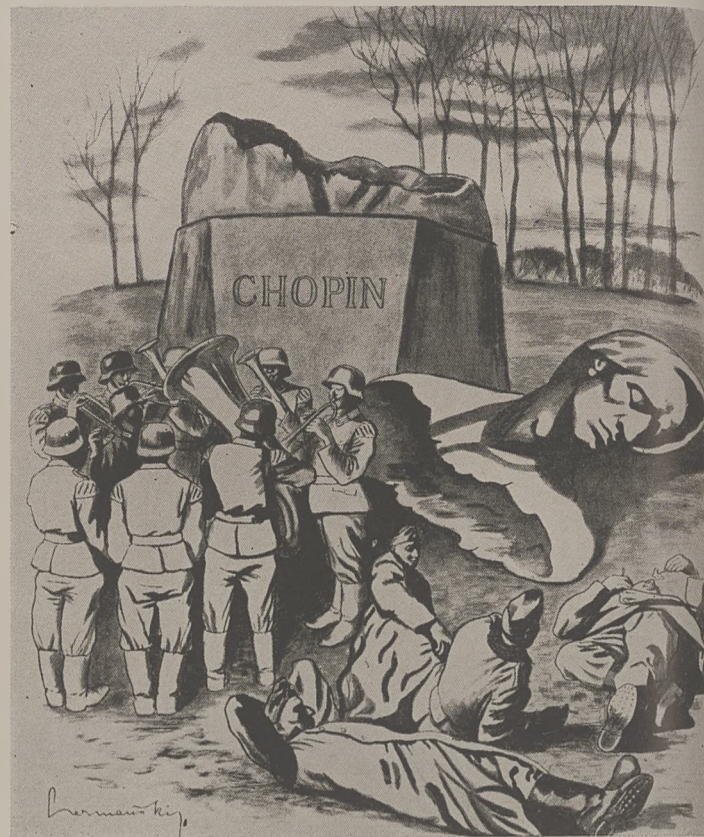
(Please turn to page 14)



# A T A L O F A C I T Y \*

*It is our intention that just and sure punishment shall be meted out to the ringleaders responsible for the organized murder of thousands of innocent persons and the commission of atrocities which have violated every tenet of the Christian faith.*

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT



Drawing by Zdzislaw Czeremanski

## VANDALS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

execution—as in the case of 31 persons, during January 1940, who were led from their prison for two successive nights, told to dig graves, and then returned to prison. On the third night they were shot.

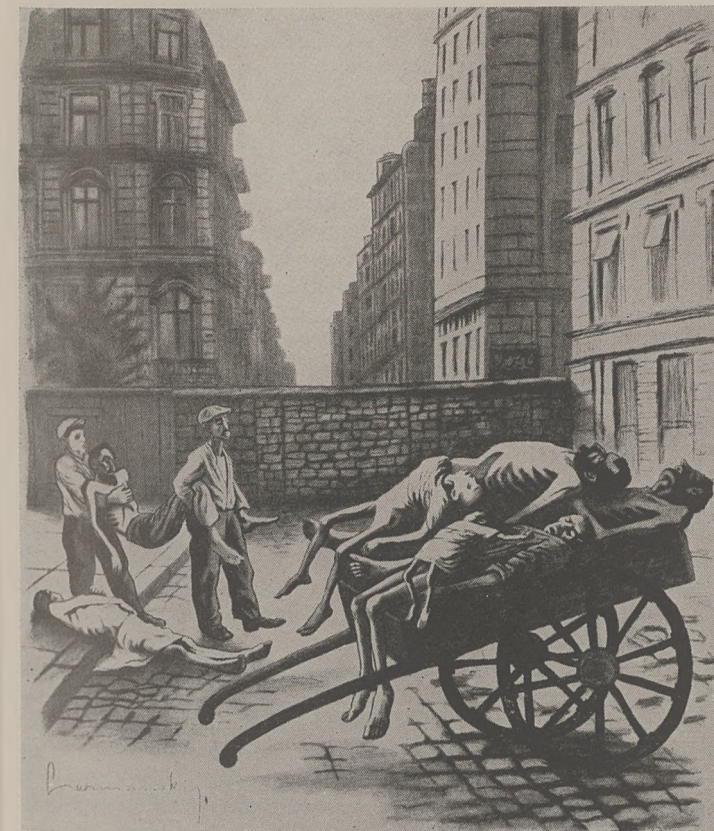
Poland resists. Guerrilla bands representing all classes of the Polish people have been operating since the occupation. Working singly and in groups, well-organized, receiving aid and shelter from their fellow-Poles, they have given the Nazis a bloody taste of their own medicine. They dynamite troop and supply trains, set fire to war plants, blow up ammunition dumps. No mercy is shown the invader, and in the controlled press regularly appear long lists of Nazis who have died under "mysterious" circumstances or been killed "suddenly in the night." Nazis dare not travel alone either in the country or in the streets of Warsaw. Warsaw's Gestapo chief has referred to assaults upon his men as "bandit raids." Regardless of what he wants to call them, he has admitted that hundreds of such raids have taken place.

In factories making goods for the German war machine the work of sabotage never ceases. If a man is caught in a Warsaw building with a radio, all persons in that building are shot. Nevertheless, twenty-four hours a day somewhere in Poland men are listening to the short-wave voices of freedom from overseas. Taking notes, they swiftly pass the news to hidden spots where some 120 underground newspapers are prepared. These newspapers fall like snow about the baffled Nazis. They appear everywhere—folded so small they are passed on during handshakes, slipped under doors, shoved into Nazi newspapers—and are read by hundreds of thousands. Underground newspapers keep their readers well informed with up-to-the-minute war news from all fronts, tell of mounting power of the United Nations, point out traitors and spies, and maintain faith in the fight for freedom.

In the first months of the occupation, thousands of copies of a Manifesto of Freedom passed from hand to hand. "From the chaos of war there must arise a New Europe organized on the principles of political freedom . . ." it said. "Such a Europe is the desire of millions of workers, peasants, and intellectuals, as well as of soldiers who fight on all fronts. Poland, in spite of military defeat, continues to fight. On Polish lands the people carry on a daily heroic struggle against the occupants, preparing themselves for the moment in which the final battle will take place." Underground leaflets instruct the people "to harm the oppressor in executing his orders, in industrial production, everywhere and always." Into thousands of homes has gone a calendar, printed by the underground and containing anti-Nazi sentiments for every month. "Have you sown your fields?" reads one caption. "When you think of the harvest, think also of what you owe Poland—not remnants, nor shreds, nor alms, but everything you have: your possessions, your children, your blood." Showing the solidarity of the people of Warsaw, one underground paper is headed "All Men Are Brothers," its cover picturing two hands firmly clasped through a gap in the Ghetto wall.

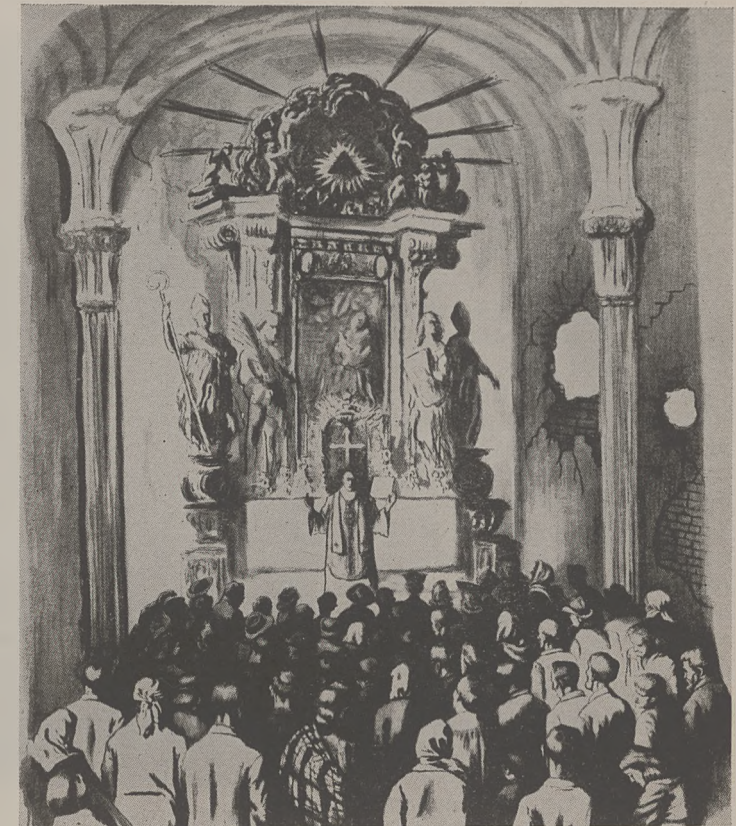
Instructions from the underground spread through Warsaw like wildfire. When Goebbels announced to occupied lands a few days before Christmas 1941 that they must turn over all warm clothing, wools, and furs for the use of German soldiers on the Russian front, the underground in Warsaw immediately issued a leaflet. "Burn your woolen clothing, even if you need it, for the enemy will take it anyway," it read. "Let the German soldiers freeze to death. We shall survive." On Christmas Eve Warsaw was heavy with smoke and with the odor of burning wool and fur. Little warm clothing was collected.

The underground has its own means of keeping in touch



Drawing by Zdzislaw Czeremanski

## WITHIN GHETTO WALLS



Drawing by Zdzislaw Czeremanski

"WE CHANT AT THY ALTARS OUR HUMBLE STRAIN,  
O LORD, FREE THE LAND OF POLAND AGAIN!"

with train movements; of receiving paper, ink, and presses for the never-ending work of the secret newspapers; and of obtaining caches of arms and ammunition for the day of liberation. Arms are not only seized from the Germans, but often bought directly from the Gestapo itself, which has its price, like all organizations rotten at the core.

Joined with the United Nations and his comrades from other occupied lands, the Polish soldier fights on. The Polish Army of 150,000 troops has armored, motorized, and parachute units in Scotland; it fights in the Near and Middle East and in North Africa. It has seen action in France, at Narvik and Tobruk. One thousand bomber and fighter pilots, of the 12,000-man Polish Air Force based in Great Britain, drop avenging bombs upon the land of the Nazis.

\* \* \*

As in Warsaw, the Nazis have failed in the rest of Europe. Having nothing but contempt for humanity, they based their hopes of success upon a fundamental error: the belief that men will cower and surrender when they have been tortured and robbed, deprived of their birthright and treated like so many specks of dirt. Coldly plotting their conquests, the Nazis took into consideration everything except the limitless strength of the human spirit. And today in Warsaw and throughout Europe the Nazis are at war with the human spirit—the spirit of decent men crying out for release from tyranny and demanding for themselves and their children a world of justice and of hope.

On the day Warsaw suffered the heaviest bombing of the siege, more people were united in marriage than ever before in the city's history. This is the answer of Man to the Nazi blueprints of extermination. And Man will survive in freedom long after the Nazi madness has crumbled in the dust.

\* Excerpts from an Office of War Information pamphlet.



# COUNTRY OF MODERN PROGRESS

by F. C. ANSTRUTHER

**P**RE-WAR Poland was a very up-to-date country. Her social services and educational system were among the most advanced in Europe. As a result of the partition period that lasted 126 years, Poland's interior administration had to be entirely recreated after the last war.

But it must not be thought that Poland came to life in 1920. Isolated from Western culture, Poland had old traditions of toleration, of personal liberty and education. She was one of the Slavonic nations that had early ties with Christian Rome and Catholicism had long been the dominating influence in Poland. There are many Polish words of Latin origin.

It is not generally known that as early as the 13th Century Poland had a law controlling the working conditions for miners. Yet in the salt mines of Wieliczka, the hours of work, pay and conditions for the mine workers were laid down by law.

The first complete code of laws in Europe was the Statute of Laws instituted in the 14th Century by King Cazimir the Great. The most remarkable thing about these laws was their merciful spirit in an age of cruelty. None of the terrible tortures and penalties inflicted in other countries are mentioned in this code, and King Casimir's fatherly care of the peasants earned him the title "King of the Peasants." Parliamentary institutions were established as early as 1430 in which year the king, Wladyslaw Jagiello, granted the Charter "Neminem Captivabimus" two hundred years before the English Habeas Corpus.

We hear much in the present day of federations, or voluntary unions between the countries of Europe. In 1386 a voluntary union took place between Poland, Lithuania and Ruthenia. This union, brought about by a marriage, lasted until Poland was partitioned for the third time in 1795.

In the 18th Century when new ideas of liberalism, equal rights for all and the benefits of education were causing unrest in England and revolution in France, Poland was actually putting those ideas into practice. No other country except Poland had a Ministry of Education in the 18th Century. A Ministry of Education, moreover, that established village schools where religion, reading, writing and arithmetic were taught as well as subjects of practical use to those engaged in agriculture. Children were also obliged to do physical exercises daily. The curriculum of secondary schools included the duties of citizenship and many other subjects of a wide and practical nature.

The Constitution of May 3rd, 1791, then the most democratic in Europe, was achieved without the shedding of a single drop of blood, while the French Constitution of the same year was brought about by the Revolution.

But this liberalism on the part of Poland was dubbed anarchy by her Russian and German neighbors who were both rapacious and reactionary. Catherine II and Frederick II were fearful that the new liberal ideas then spreading over



THE POLISH "F.H.A."—MODERN HOMES FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN WARSAW

Europe would curtail their powers and Maria Theresa of Austria agreed with them. Unfortunately, peaceful Poland, in her policy of non-aggression, neglected to provide herself with means of protection and fell an early victim of their combined attacks, despite the heroism of the people and the leadership of Tadeusz Kosciuszko.

During the partition that followed, Poland was deliberately isolated from 19th century progress. In spite of all her efforts she was repressed. Education was denied to her citizens and modern developments to her cities. The result of this was a high percentage of illiteracy (33% in 1918), bad housing conditions and inadequate communications. Six years of war, waged on Polish soil devastated the country, ruined agriculture and destroyed industries. A gigantic task faced the new Polish State.

This task was carried out with a speed and efficiency that entirely disproves the idea, spread by German propaganda, that the Poles are dreamy romantics incapable of achievement. New buildings arose, schools were established, industry developed and agricultural reforms carried out.

One of the first tasks was the setting up of a social legislation. Poland was among the nine nations to whom a seat was allowed on the Commission for International Labor Legislation established by the Peace Conference in 1919. Poland ratified twenty Conventions and accepted a number of recommendations, and in some cases went even further than most countries.

The minimum age of employment was 15 except in agriculture. Young persons under 18 could not be employed at night, nor on certain types of heavy work. They were obliged to attend trade finishing schools and were freed for a period of six hours per week for that purpose. This time was counted as working time and was paid for by the employer. They were not allowed to work overtime nor to be employed without wages on grounds of apprenticeship.

(Please turn to page 7)



# POLISH FOLK SONGS

by WANDA LANDOWSKA



WANDA LANDOWSKA

**I**N spite of what many people think, I am not a musicologist: my love of old music derives not from the curiosity of a scholar, but from its sheer beauty. To me research has only been a path to this beauty, an aid to its discovery. The fact that this or that music is old never made it dearer to me. I love and play Bach, Mozart and Couperin because they are young and beautiful.

Out of this same love of beauty, out of this craving for pure perfect music, was born my love for folk music. I love it not because of its peasant character, but because it is true music; I love it just as I love Bach and Couperin.

Polish folk music is a magic store. It taught Chopin as much as he learned from his great predecessors. It crooned over his cradle in Zelazowa Wola and he listened to its pristine strains, as he listened to Mozart's music, later to create his own, his peculiarly Polish art.

These songs, sung in my native province, as in all Poland, enchanted me from earliest childhood. I still remember many unblemished melodies and many lines equally simple, expressive, perfect, finished works of art, as inseparably linked with their melody as are the best Schubert cycles.

Then I became acquainted with Kolberg's contribution. I grew to know him very well. And on many occasions life has offered, I discovered unknown songs in different variations from all parts of Poland.

I wonder whether we are fully aware of the artistic wealth, of the sum of beauty contained in Polish folk songs, I wonder how many of us, even the enlightened and artistically sensitive, know the worth of those thirty volumes of Kolberg's "Folk." I feel sure many of us do not even suspect how many little masterpieces—mirroring the Polish soul, expressing the very essence of Polish temperament, Polish emotions, so subtly different from others—are recorded on the yellowed pages of this ethnographical work.

Like the various rhythms of Polish dance music, Polish folk songs reflect the Polish soul, so contradictory yet so uniform, where melancholy mingles with pride, humor with poetry, chivalry with meditation, swagger and fantasy with faith and devotion. Chopin it is who comes to mind when one recalls these simple melodies.

The Polish nation, growing out of its early Slavonic stem, invigorated by the warm breath of East and West, played upon by a constant interaction of many motifs, which the genius of the common folk assimilated and made Polish, lent to Polish folk songs a new and individual character. Polish folk songs have all the variety and originality of the many regional cultures expressed in variants of texts almost intangible yet often very real.

Whenever I think how popular and well known Russian folk music is, I feel sorry our Polish folk music is still a joy reserved for us alone. What a pity it is that so many of its treasures slumber, awaiting as in a fairy tale the day when they will come to life for us and all the world.

No words, no raptures, nothing save listening to their pure melodies can give an idea of the beauty of Polish Christmas carols, that purest expression of Polish religious feeling, so confident, poetic, simple, instinctive; all that enchants us in the art of Giotto or Beato Angelico, has been put by Polish peasants into these religious melodies and texts, that like masterpieces of Italian primitives seem, by their simplicity, akin to the most exquisite of flowers. Listening to them does not the thought occur that they were created by some supersensitive artist, weighing every word, measuring every effect, so as to leave unmarred and inviolate the ideal impression of naive faith? And hearing such melodies as "To Bethlehem Came the Shepherds" or "All the World Today Is Happy," does not one think of the French masters of the 17th century, who knew this same secret of uniform simplicity?

It is obvious that the form peculiar to folk songs, their outer garment, as it were, so plain in comparison with the splendor that enrobes the music of individual creators, requires special presentation to reveal all the beauty hidden in rustic songs, ceremonial chants, tavern music, in which little Chopin undoubtedly steeped himself and of which Mickiewicz wrote so beautifully in "Pan Tadeusz."

Certain instruments, such as flutes and base fiddles, are more suited than others to Polish folk songs, being able to render all the longing and plaintiveness of this music. And there are doubtless ways of singing these tunes to be discovered by study and intuition, so as to make Polish carols, Polish songs and the marvelous peasant wedding ballads, known to the world and establish them in the heart of the Polish nation itself, increasing thereby its feeling of participation in great creative art, of which there are only two sources: the genius of simple folk and the simplicity of genius.

(Courtesy "Tygodnik Polski," New York)

## COUNTRY OF MODERN PROGRESS

(Continued from page 6)

Conditions of work for women were very good. Certain kinds of heavy work was forbidden to all. Maternity protection was granted. A woman was allowed to leave her work six weeks before confinement and could not be re-employed for six weeks after. She received pay during this period. All factories and workshops employing more than 100 women had to have a creche for infants and all nursing mothers had a right to two half-hourly breaks in the working day. Many factories had Welfare Centers where each mother received a complete layette before the birth of her child and the children were under the care of trained nurses in the Center. All this was free of charge. Women factory inspectors

safeguarded the interests of women and young people.

Holidays with pay were also compulsory by law in Poland and intellectual workers, i.e. clerks, medical staff, chemists, some shop assistants, etc., were entitled to a month. This type of worker was insured under a special scheme. Insurance covered all manual workers, who had a fortnight's holiday with pay. Free medical treatment and sick benefit equal to 50% of normal pay were available to all insured workers.

Summer holiday camps were organized for the school children of large cities and industrial centres, where the children received free board and the state railways issued

(Please turn to page 14)



# THE ART OF POLISH POSTAGE STAMP

by DR. IRMOTROWSKA



Drawing for stamp by Zygmunt Kaminski (1919)

ADHESIVE postage stamps were first introduced in 1840 by Sir Rowland Hill, Postmaster General in Great Britain. Switzerland and Brazil adopted stamps in 1843, while the first stamp in the United States was issued by a private post-office in New York in 1842. This example was soon followed by postmasters of various American cities, until the United States Government issued its first official postage stamp in 1847. The next three years witnessed a general extension of the stamp system in Europe and elsewhere. However, new countries and colonies adopting the postage stamp were added to the list up to 1909.

During all these years Poland, divided between Russia, Germany and Austria, had no national stamps of her own. But whoever may be interested in the earliest stamps bearing the post marks of Polish towns will find valuable information in the beautifully illustrated article, "Poland, the Period of Stamps, to 1870," written by Vincent Domanski Jr. and Stephen G. Rich, for the "Stamp Specialist—Blue Book," published by H. L. Linquist, New York, 1941. These same two authors also wrote an article, "Poland—The Stampless Period," for "The Stamp Specialist—Orange Book" in the same year.

Both from a technical and artistic point of view the stamps issued in partitioned Poland by the three foreign governments reflect the style and usage of the respective countries. Mr. J. Adamson, in an article on "Polish Philately," published in the December number of "The Voice of Poland" appearing in England, describes in detail various attempts by the Poles to have stamps of their own. But the first distinctive issue of Polish stamps, overprinted with the words "Poczta Polska," meaning "Polish Post," did not appear in print before February 1919.

This set is of importance not only from the historical and political point of view, but no less so from the artistic one. The subjects of these stamps represent either emblems or symbols of Poland, views of Polish towns and monuments, appropriate allegorical figures, and last but not least, figures of outstanding Polish personalities. These subjects were selected out of numerous drawings sent in by Polish painters and graphic artists from all over the country in response to a competition opened in Warsaw as far back as 1917, the realization of which had to be postponed until Poland was liberated. Poland had no experienced stamp designers. No wonder, then, that the projects submitted by Polish artists reflected the character of contemporary Polish painting, woodcut or lithography, or even more often that of early 20th century Polish book illustration.

In June 1919, a set of Polish stamps was issued to commemorate the opening of the first Polish National Assem-

bly, called "Sejm" in Polish. Among these is a beautiful stamp bearing the head of Paderewski, overprinted with the words "Sejm 1919 Roku."

All these earlier Polish stamps were impressed either in private or governmental printing establishments, which were not properly equipped to reproduce the difficult miniature pictures of the stamps. They were printed from blocks or lithographed, following the example of some other European countries. As soon, however, as the Polish Works for Printing Securities were established, in 1926, furnished with the most modern printing equipment, the technical quality of the Polish stamps immediately reached the level of the best stamps produced abroad.

Of high technical quality for instance are the stamps printed from copper plates, issued in commemoration of the Hundredth Anniversary of the Polish Insurrection in 1830. We reproduce herewith an original drawing, submitted by Tadeusz Gronowski in the competition for this set of stamps. It received second prize. At the time Tadeusz Gronowski was the leading Polish poster artist, so it is not surprising that his drawing is conceived as a poster in miniature. Many other Polish stamps designed around 1930 also show the influence of the Polish poster art then flourishing. It was not until a few years later that the poster style of the Polish stamp was superseded by a stamp style proper. From that time on poster artists, no matter how distinguished, were no longer employed to design stamps, this task being taken over by specialized artists.

Why did the stamp come into its own proper style later than the poster? Was it because the development of the Polish poster had started twenty years before that of the stamp? Or because the production of stamps is more difficult than that of posters, for purely technical reasons? Probably both these factors were responsible, but whatever the reason, the perfection of Polish stamps during the last five years of Poland's independence is astounding.

The Polish Works for Printing Securities—in Polish: *Polska Wytwornia Papierow Wartosciowych*, thus marked PWPW on the stamps—in a constant effort to improve Polish stamps from the technical point of view, finally introduced steel engraving as a permanent means of production, a method adopted by both Great Britain and the United States. Steel engraving is the most difficult technique of all



Centennial Ann. Insurrection of 1830 Drawing for stamp Gronowski (1930)

used in stamp making, as the craftsman, to whom the engraving of the miniature picture in the hard steel is entrusted, incises the lines into the metal plate with a burin or graver, that is, a sharp chisel-like tool, without the use of any chemical action. Such a hand-engraved line has a particular beauty and a character more exacting than that which any etched line possesses.

The first Polish highly trained steel-engraver was W. Vacek. It was he who engraved in steel the world-admired stamps issued in 1932 on the 200th Anniversary of Washington's Birth and showing Washington between Kosciuszko and Pulaski, the two great Polish-American heroes, with the national flags of Poland and the United States. The chief attraction of this stamp is due to no intricacy of composition—designed by R. Kleczewski—but to the subtlety with which the engraver rendered the portraits. This stamp was followed by a number of others, no less beautiful, executed jointly by Vacek and Kleczewski, the two artists.

Then in 1933 a stamp was issued reproducing a detail of the famous painting now in the Vatican Gallery, made exactly half a century earlier by Jan Matejko and representing the Polish King Sobieski after his famous cavalry charge before Vienna in 1683 that saved Europe from the domina-

tion of Islam. Another stamp of this same series, represents a fragment of the great sculptured triptych on which Wit Stwosz worked from 1477 to 1489 and that adorned St. Mary's Church in Cracow until the Germans stole it.

In 1935 and 1936 a series of stamps representing Polish architectural and landscape motifs was issued. We reproduce herewith an enlarged stamp representing the Clothiers' Hall, 14th to 16th century, in the Market Place of Cracow. As in the case of the above series, the drawing was executed by R. Kleczewski, the engraving, done with remarkable accuracy, by Vacek.

However, the most beautiful Polish stamps, both from the technical and the purely artistic point of view, were still to be created. To these belongs the series issued on the 20th Anniversary of Poland's Political Restoration, representing the most outstanding incidents in Polish history. This series testifies to the great artistic potentialities of the Polish nation, which, once given the opportunity of unrestrained cultural development, was progressing rapidly from year to year. From this series we reproduce a stamp showing the ratifi-



Stamp in honor of Paderewski (1919)

cation at Lublin in 1569 of the final act of union between Poland and Lithuania, with the Polish King Sigismund Augustus, last of the Jagiellonian Dynasty, presiding. The composition was designed by W. Boratynski and engraved by M. R. Polak. The two artists combined in creating a masterpiece of Polish art comparable to the great "Union of Lublin" painted by Jan Matejko in 1869, and that executed jointly by the "Brotherhood of St. Luke" for the Polish Pavilion at the New York World's Fair in 1939. The first painting is reproduced in Vol. II, No. 2 of the "Polish Review," illustrating an article on "Poland's Historical Commonwealth," the latter appeared in Vol. II, No. 42 in connection with an article devoted to the artistic activities of the "Brotherhood." The "Union of Lublin" by Boratynski differs from but is similar to both the paintings. It equals them in grandeur. Its classical and well balanced composition is a perfect expression of the neoclassic trends in the art of free Poland. Were it not for its minute proportions, one might compare it to Raphael's celebrated "School of Athens."

Curiously enough, the very technique of engraving of this stamp reminds one of the Renaissance, that is of line-engraving as then practised in Italy and north of the Alps. As on those old masterpieces, each line of the modern Polish engraver is logically justified. They follow the curves of the bodies and of the draperies, underlining their plasticity. While the earliest Polish stamps could be regarded as miniature book illustrations, and those created later as miniature posters—stamps issued during the last years of Poland's all too short independence are miniature engravings, the technique proper to the stamp.

In 1938, the year of the historical series, stamps were also issued for the (Please turn to page 10)



Grain trade between Poland and Danzig flourished in 16th century Stamp drawn by W. Boratynski, engraved by M. Dutczynski (1938)



Stamp Commemorating the Union of Lublin Drawn by W. Boratynski, engraved by M. R. Polak (1938)



# THE ART OF POLISH POSTAGE STAMP

(Continued from page 9)

Polish Postal Service in Danzig. We reproduce one designed by W. Boratynski and engraved by M. Dutczynski, representing Polish noblemen selling wheat to the burghers of Danzig, all in 16th century attire. This stamp commemorates the days when Danzig, as part of Poland, reached the zenith of its wealth and culture. This stamp is not inferior in beauty of composition and perfection of technique to that described above, nor are either of them in any way exceptional in the historical and Danzig series. They were followed by a new issue in 1939, equalling them in perfection, and finally, in 1941 by a set of eight stamps issued by the Polish Government in London.

This latest issue of Polish stamps, impressed from steel plates, are technically perfect. Four of them represent the different branches of the Polish fighting forces, three the ruins of Warsaw, and one the destruction of the statue of the poet Adam Mickiewicz in Cracow by the Germans. They all bear the inscription "Poczta Polska," having been printed for the use of the Polish fighting forces and Polish seamen. A detailed description of this series with reproductions will be found in the "Polish Review," Vol. II, No. 18.

The Polish stamps, both the earliest and the latest, are well known to American philatelists. A number of American stamp collectors own complete collections of Polish stamps. The stamps used for making the enlarged reproductions illustrating this article came from the valuable collection of Mr. W. Komorowski, of Brooklyn, N. Y., which includes many stamps issued during the years of partitioned Poland by foreign governments. Many articles have been devoted to Polish stamps by the American press and the American philatelic publications. Noteworthy also is "Polonus—a Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Stamps of Poland," published from November



Stamp showing Clothiers' Hall in Cracow  
 Drawn by R. Kleczewski, engraved  
 by W. Vacek (1935)



Bombed ruins of United States Embassy in Warsaw  
 Polish stamp printed in England (1941)

1940 to April 1942 by the Polonus Philatelic Society in Chicago.

Polish stamps express the love Poles have for their own country, and for other countries as well. How deep Polish-American friendship has always been is evidenced not only by the 1932 issue honoring Washington, but also by a 1937 stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Constitution of the United States. This stamp shows Washington, Paine and Kosciuszko, united in the struggle for American independence. On the other hand, the United States issued two stamps in honor of two great Poles, the Pulaski stamp in 1931, and the Kosciuszko stamp in 1933.



250th Anniversary of Sobieski raising the siege of Vienna  
 After a painting by Jan Matejko, drawn  
 by R. Kleczewski (1933)



Kosciuszko — Washington — Pulaski  
 Drawing for stamp issued by Poland to commemorate  
 George Washington Bicentennial (1932)



# AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO POLISH HISTORICAL LITERATURE

by PAUL SUPER



THE title, introduction, and the brevity of this latest presentation of the history of Poland\*—all give important clues to the special nature of its contents, and indicate that the book should not be read for what it is not. Though it covers the whole range of Poland's thousand years of recorded national life, it is neither merely nor completely an outline of Polish history. The well carried out aim of the author, one of Poland's most distinguished historians, holding a chair of history in pre-1939 Warsaw University and writing from Vassar College, is to present in essay form a synthesis and an interpretation of the history of his country, to state a philosophy of that history, to discuss the essential historical problems of the Polish nation, and to cause the reader to reflect on these.

Being strictly an essay, the book contains no footnotes, gives no bibliography, and does not deal with the views of historians holding opinions other than those of the author. In an "outline" these would be weaknesses; in an "essay" they are appropriate characteristics.

Reviewing the book briefly in terms of his declared purpose, one should comment upon it as a synthesis, as an interpretation, and as a selection and discussion of Poland's vital problems seen in the perspective of the years.

Prof. Halecki bases his synthesis of Poland's history upon its ready division into five periods: first, that of its earliest dynasty, ending in 1370; second, that of the great Jagiellon dynasty, ending in 1572; third, the period of the popularly elected kings, which ended with the third partition of Poland in 1795; fourth, the period of "The Ordeal," 1795-1914; and fifth, the period of the new Poland, 1914 to today. Within this very acceptable outline the treatment which is most fresh, clear, and enlightening

to this reviewer is that of the first three hundred and fifty years of Polish history, which has probably never before been so well presented and interpreted for English readers. This clarity and freshness of treatment continues throughout the book; but here and there one meets interpretations differing from those of certain other scholars; such differences of opinion are both the field and the form of historical research.

It is as a selection of Poland's essential problems that this essay is a distinguished success. The total mass of available material is first reduced by a good principle of selection, the evaluating of an event in proportion to the durability of its consequences. The events and personalities which then remain are seen to relate to Poland's permanent or recurring problems arising from its location between Germany and Russia, to its unusual political constitution, and to the psychology of the Poles. Poland's great constant problem has been to protect itself from invasions from the east and from the west, with north and south variations on these themes provided by the Vasas of Sweden and the Hapsburgs of Austria, Rome sometimes helping, sometimes hindering.

The persisting internal problems brought into relief by Halecki's skillful handling are those of dynasty, of the constitution, of lack of a Polish urban class, the selfishness of the aristocracy, minority groups, the repression of the peasants, the lack of a standing army, and of access to the sea; the consequences of the low state of morals and religious faith during the 18th century are clearly indicated, the revival both in character and in national spirit during the 19th century are brought out in their causes and in their manifestations.

This book was written by Professor Halecki in French in 1932-33 and is now enlarged, enriched, and translated to meet a present-day need for an understanding by the English reading world of this nation which before September 1939 numbered 35,000,000 people. There exists no better brief statement of Poland's thousand years of struggle.

*Courtesy "The American Historical Review"*

\* A History of Poland. By O. Halecki. Translated by Monica M. Gardner and Mary Corbridge-Patkanowska. 336 + xiii pages. Roy Publishers, New York.



# "PESTKI" AT HOME



ONE OF THE YOUNGEST

WE FIRST heard of "Pestki," the Polish Women's Auxiliary Corps, after the Polish Russian pact had led to the release of Polish citizens in Russia. They accompanied the Polish army into Persia, Iraq and Palestine, and now some are in England where after training with the British A.T.S. they are sent to different posts. One of the "Pestki," or "Kernels" as they call themselves, an athletic, sunburnt woman of about

25, welcomed us cheerfully to her very simple office somewhere in England. It was plain, even crude. We sat down as comfortably as possible on ordinary wooden chairs opposite a beautifully colored map of Poland, the only decoration in the room. She lit a cigarette and looked at us thoughtfully as if to see what manner of people we were. Then she smiled and said:—

"We are very happy to be here and able at last to help our husbands, sons, brothers and fathers in this war. The 'Pestki,' or 'Kernels' in English, were formed in Russia after the pact was signed. Polish women and girls from the age of about 15 to 36 or more, came from all parts of Russia to join us. I was among the first to leave Russia. To us who had been uprooted from our homes, from our natural course of life, joining the 'Pestki' was like



A FAMILY OF "KERNELS"—MOTHER AND DAUGHTERS

a return to Poland, not an actual return, but a spiritual one.

"Where haven't we been! Those who are in this camp represent a cross section of Polish womanhood. They are from virtually all classes of society, they have been to the uttermost ends of Russia, they have all known cold, hunger, torture and humiliation, from the icy blasts of northern Russia through the heat of Iran and Iraq, and now we are in England. Who would have thought that even a year ago?

"As you see our quarters are not luxurious. We are crowded, there is no hot water, and it is cold here. I, an old skier, can take it. Before the war, I remember how many times after a whole day of skiing in a blizzard, I came to some ski-hut, where it was

not only cold, but even before I could light a fire, I would have to sweep out the snow. It wasn't a bad preparation for this war.

"We don't get up very early, but it is always dark. We take a very quick ice cold sponge bath—those who can stand it—and then with our teeth still chattering we exercise in the open air to get warmed up a little. Sometimes the Scotch mist is so thick that it is more like rain than fog. But the exercise warms us up for the whole day. We wear our coats all day long, during exercises, lectures and while eating.

It was very difficult for me, but it was much harder for those who came from the warm countries and who had already lost their stamina in the frozen steppes of Russia.

"Home, to the camp! What started it? Who said it first? Was it those who were to go for training as nurses, or those for liaison work, or was it those who the first Sunday returned from a motor transport course? The motor transport school had electric stoves, and large sleeping quarters and clothes chests, and tables and chairs while in the camp everything was in bags under the bed. We don't know what it will be like in the liaison school. They wrote us all sorts of wonders. We'll find out when they come back on their day off. We may have started calling camp 'home' earlier. Once we were returning from ambulance manoeuvres. It



EAGER FOR NEWS...

was very foggy and our cars were creeping. Lord! How we wanted to be home!

"Or was it after a soiree which the 'Pestki' gave after finishing a course. The first part of the program was serious, it was called 'Polish Women in the Fight for Independence.' The second half was made up of Polish dances: Oginski's Polonaise danced by six couples, a Kujawiak by eight couples, a Polesian Polka by four pairs, and the Mazur and Zbojnicki. It was decided then that those who were going away should leave their dispensible things behind. Thus the word 'camp' became 'home'—and since then we just called it 'home.'

"Home—I don't know when and what the others called home before. I think that after release from prison in Russia, during their wanderings with the Polish army through Russia, Persia and Palestine, they never used that word. There was only leaving, never returning. But here the camp became their home to which they could return, where they could leave not only their things and many of their friends, but also where experiences and emotions made close ties. It is a very special place, a place where much is learned, where one was made to feel communal responsibility, where the word 'company' meant something.

"Company. I don't know whether  
(Please turn to page 14)



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT



THEY NEED NO TRAINING—IN K.P. DUTY



# ARBITRARY PARTITION WRECKS POLAND'S ECONOMIC LIFE

(Continued from page 3)

its own old and much larger centers of textile industry, it is cut off like Upper Silesia from the rest of Poland by one and in certain cases two customs—currency frontiers. The Warsaw industrial region, using coal from Silesia and Dombrowa, is now in the Government General and cut off from all coal supplies. The same applies to the Central Industrial Region, developed by Poland in the heart of the country during the years immediately preceding 1939. This area depended for fuel partly on earth-gas obtained by pipeline from Eastern Galicia. During the Soviet occupation it was entirely cut off from this source of fuel. Poznan and Pomorze with their grain surplus, have been cut off from the central districts of Poland, that never grew sufficient grain to feed their own population. The agricultural and afforested areas of the east and northeast, cut off from

central Poland first by Soviet occupation and later by the Government General are also cut off from the incorporated areas by the Government General frontier with the "great Reich."

In some instances the interdependence of the various Polish areas is so compelling that even German economic interests demand a partial reconstitution of their integrity, above all as between the illegally "incorporated" areas and the Government General. The customs tariff between these two areas has been reduced more than once, at the demand of Upper Silesian industrialists.

Finally the very fact that the country is intersected by new frontiers and broken up into smaller areas in itself involves the ruin of numerous industrial, commercial, credit and other organizations which formerly operated all over Poland.

---

## COUNTRY OF MODERN PROGRESS

(Continued from page 7)

free trickets for their journey. Before the war a million children benefitted by this. Sports and physical culture were given wide encouragement and sports clubs had begun to spring up all over the country.

Education, sadly neglected by the partitioning powers, experienced a great revival. Illiteracy dropped from 33% to 18%. Attendance at school was compulsory from the ages of 7 to 14. Secondary school education was free to all, the only charge being about 45 dollars annually for the use of books and other facilities. This was halved for children of state officials and children of poor parents also had a substantial reduction. The universities flourished and the

number of students was increasing. From a national fund grants were made to students engaged on special research work, and provided for visits to other countries, and generally furthered science and culture. There was also an estate where those who could not afford holidays could rest or carry on their work in quiet, beautiful surroundings, untroubled by material cares.

The health of the nation improved after the World War to such an extent that the average age rose from 27 to 49 and the death rate for children under five fell from 96 to 42 per 1,000. Modern buildings, well-equipped hospitals, free medical advice to mothers and extra milk, orange juice and other necessities for babies, all contributed to the well-being of the nation, and the birth rate was rapidly increasing.

---

## 'PESTKI'

(Continued from page 13)

I'll be able to explain it exactly, but take for instance examinations. Before the war I was in a boarding school for eight years. There I had time and the opportunity to make friends. During examinations I not only wanted to pass them myself but also wanted my friends to pass. Here in camp it is different. We all want the whole company to pass. A volunteer would look up answers for a liaison student so that she wouldn't flunk.

"Company—it's something like a scouting or skiing group with the difference that there is no rivalry here. There are no competitors. We want all of us to be as good as possible, rather than one better than the other. Those invited to a dance at the Cadet School had to look as good as possible. That's why, although not all the volunteers went, the prettiest collection of neckties and the best stockings were represented. And that's why all the supply of lilac toilet water was exhausted.

## AT HOME

"It's the little things that show true character. The word 'company' broadens in a time of trial.

"We have been scattered everywhere, but the feeling of unity has remained very strong. During the holidays, not all the 'Pestki' could come home to the camp, but I know that their hearts were all there, their hearts wherein they keep the flame burning to light the hearths of their homes in Poland."

*The Boim family chapel shown on the cover is a fine example of late Renaissance art in Lwow. Erected next to the Cathedral by rich burghers in 1609, every bit of its outer and inner walls is covered with sculpture.*



## "For Fuehrer and Reich"

IT IS difficult indeed to obtain or even to create a clear picture of the relentless struggle going on day and night between the Polish people and the German invaders on the Home Front—but from time to time indications trickle through that the terror is not entirely one sided.

Even a cursory glance at recent German newspapers reveals that there has been within the past few weeks an amazing number of sudden deaths among German officials in Poland.

On February 10th, the Krauker Zeitung, or semi-official paper published by the Germans in Cracow, reported the sudden deaths of Hans Zimmermann, aged forty-four, press officer in Warsaw of the German propaganda office, and Georg Wendel of the same office, the causes are not given.

The same paper on February 11th printed an obituary for Schutzpolizei Wachtmeister Josef Falger who "fell for the Fuehrer and the Reich" on February 4th.

Also on December 22nd an obituary for Johann Kolodziej, expert in the German economic department of the Lubelski District who died on December 11th in service "for the Fuehrer and the Reich."

Then on December 23rd it reported that Reich Regierungsrat Kuehl, Commissioner for Bialopodlaska and chief of the National Socialist Party for that district had also fallen.

Likewise on the first of January an obituary stated that on December 22nd there "fell in the service of the Fuehrer and the Reich" postal secretary Fritz Belger, and that District Forester Wilhelm Schlegel had also given his life for "the Fuehrer and the Reich" while serving at a solitary outpost.

Again on January 7th, the same paper reported that on December 21st there fell "fighting for the Fuehrer and the Reich" the chief of the railway police detachment in Warsaw, Friedrich Riedl.

Two days previously it had been officially reported that S.S. Obersturmfuhrer Rudolf Barth had died accidentally on service during a journey. Another report published on January 15th stated that, on January 1st, Karl Darmstaedter, belonging to the railway police of Cracow, had fallen victim to an accident.

Also on January 16th the same paper reported that Dr. Hugo Heller, plenipotentiary of the German Red Cross to the Government General died suddenly in Cracow.

## DOGS, SET ON PRISONERS, KILLED TWO

London, Feb.—Information received by the Polish Government reveals that a hideous murder was recently committed in the Pawiak Prison in Warsaw. A member of the Gestapo, dissatisfied with the manner in which some of the prisoners were performing gymnastic exercises that they had been ordered to do as punishment by one of the prison wardens, set a number of police dogs on to them. These savage animals seriously injured several prisoners, two of whom—Mr. Chrustowski and Dr. Puzyla—died from bite wounds inflicted on their throats.

The Germans shoot a number of prisoners daily, sometimes even groups of more than twenty at a time in the prison courtyard. The above incident is proof of the German prison wardens' bestiality towards the Poles.

## GERMANS ARE LEAVING WILNO, FEAR RUSSIANS

London, Feb.—A message received from Stockholm reveals feverish German preparations for building up and strengthening their defense line along the frontier of Poland and the Baltic States and Russia.

Recent defeats in Russia have caused great nervousness among the German occupants in East Poland and the Baltic States. Since the end of January, the evacuation of German women and children from Wilno is being carried out. All children up to nine have already been sent back to the Reich, and families of German officials who were ordered to be prepared for immediate evacuation are leaving Wilno in groups.

Reports say that this sudden decision caused disorder and deep depression among the Germans. Wilno also has been cleared of all German offices which are not absolutely essential. All civilian and party offices have already prepared

## ANGLO-AMERICAN FIGHTERS SAVE POLISH BOMBER

London, Feb.—A solitary Wellington manned by a Polish crew, returning from a four-hour patrol over the Bay of Biscay, was flying low and searching for U-boats. Suddenly the Wellington was attacked by a Junker 88.

The Polish plane, keeping a northwesterly direction, fought its attacker, but soon the latter received assistance from a second, then a third and a fourth Junker 88. The situation became tense and the Wellington called for help by radio. Meantime, the Polish crew took up the unequal fight against an overwhelming enemy force whose fire was very strong. The Junkers attacked with extreme violence.

The Polish pilot, a veteran of the September 1939 campaign, was in a very tight spot but managed to shoot down one of the attacking planes, and seriously damaged another, thus reducing the attackers to three. The fight, however, continued to be highly dramatic.

The Wellington's wing was literally riddled with bullets, one of which penetrated through the turret and wounded the gunner. The Wellington was so crippled that further defense was impossible. The Flight Lieutenant had great difficulty in piloting his plane which was almost out of control.

In spite of his serious plight he was able, however, by skilful manoeuvring to evade much of the enemy's fire. This life and death struggle lasted for fifty minutes.

Then the German planes, already tired of pursuit, or going short of fuel or ammunition, saw RAF fighter planes approaching and gave up the fight. The Polish crew succeeded in reaching a British airfield.

When he landed, the flight lieutenant heard that he had been avenged. After having disengaged the Wellington the Junkers had been attacked by Beaufighters sent out after receiving the Wellington wireless call for help.

The fight was short and although it was impossible to establish the result with certainty, all the Junkers were severely damaged and probably shot down.

evacuation schemes that can be carried out immediately.

At the same time the Germans started action for dispossessing and deporting Polish peasants from Wilenszczyzna in order to create a security belt colonized by German armed settlers. Poles recently arrested during mass round-ups in Warsaw and Central Poland have been sent to the Polish-Russian frontier, where they are employed in the construction of a new line of fortifications.

## STRONSKI SEES ANOTHER WAR IF NAZI SPARED

London, Feb.—Speaking at the opening in Doncaster of an exhibition "The Evil We Fight," Mr. Stronski, Polish Minister of Information, said in part:

"I must admit that it is not easy to convince people in a humanitarian and peace-loving country like Great Britain that reports of German crimes during this war are not exaggerated. I am not surprised at this because I myself was not able to conceive such things were possible.

"You are told that it is Hitler who has made the Germans so bad. Are you sure it is really so? No Hitler would be able to inculcate such ideas and such aims in the British, Polish, French or any other people. You must seek for the reason not only in Hitler, but also in the Germans themselves. They follow him because he follows their age-old aspiration."

Mr. Stronski then proceeded to review Germany's aggressions in the course of history, and he concluded,

"The cure will be long and difficult. Punishment and retribution for crimes committed must come first so as to restore the fundamental principle of responsibility.

"Secondly, Germany must be deprived of all possibility of wronging other nations and launching new aggressions.

"The third, and perhaps the most difficult task will be the re-education of the German people. It is only natural that British and American statesmen foresee the necessity of international control in Germany for scores of years.

"Not only our leading statesmen but also the peoples of the world must realize that the choice lies between a new war in no distant future and a firm and prolonged supervision of Germany."

## RACZKIEWICZ TO POLISH FLEET

President Racziewicz sent the following message to Admiral Swirski, Commander of the Polish Navy, on the occasion of Polish Navy Day:

"I convey to you on the occasion of Polish Navy Day my warmest wishes for all the officers, petty officers and men under your command and I am convinced that you will cover the Polish flag with glory in the future as you have done in the past. I trust you will bring a strong and victorious Polish fleet as soon as possible into our home ports."



# LEST WE FORGET

## German Attacks on Poland Continue for 300 Years

1. King Mieszko II, who succeeded Boleslaw the Brave, suffered great reverses at the hands of the Germans who attacked and intrigued against the rising Polish Monarchy.
2. Casimir I, restored Poland to her former greatness and built many lasting structures of stone—castles and churches.
3. His successor, Boleslaw the Bold, by astute statesmanship and prowess in battle, made Poland the leading power in Central Europe. He strengthened Poland's ties with Rome.
4. Boleslaw the Bold was the principal champion of Pope Gregory VII in his struggle against the Emperor Henry IV.
5. When the Emperor suffered the humiliation of Canossa in 1076, Boleslaw II was crowned King of Poland.
6. Boleslaw had a conflict with Stanislaw, Bishop of Cracow, at whose death the Germans instigated a revolt against the Polish King.
7. The next Piast monarch, Boleslaw III, "Wrymouth," devoted his energy to extending Polish possessions on the Baltic coast, recovering lands taken by the Germans.
8. In 1109, Boleslaw III fought a successful war against the Emperor Henry V, inflicting considerable losses in Silesia on the Germans.
9. In 1121, the Baltic coastline under the Crown of Poland reached as far as what is now Mecklenburg, including the Island of Rugen in the West.
10. Boleslaw III, with the aid of St. Otto, converted the heathen Pomeranians and in 1138 established the succession, the oldest son receiving the province of Cracow and precedence over the younger princes.
11. The younger princes revolted and Poland was divided into Little Poland with Cracow as its capital, Masovia in the North and Great Poland in the West.
12. In 1157, Frederick Barbarossa took advantage of the disunity of the Polish princes and again imposed on them the suzerainty of the Holy Roman Empire.
13. The 12th century saw ruthless destruction by the Germans of their Slav neighbors. They seized the lower Elbe, the province of Branibor now Brandenburg and Western Pomerania.
14. The Mongols under Temudjin, from the empire of Genghis Khan, attacked Poland, withdrew but reappeared later, led by Batu. They burned Sandomir and Cracow.
15. In 1241, Henry the Pious, with the flower of Polish knighthood, fell before the Tartar hordes at Lignica. Weakened, the invaders withdrew to Russia.
16. Meanwhile in the north, savage Prussian tribes had been raiding and burning peaceful Polish villages.
17. Conrad, Duke of Masovia, invited the Teutonic Order to protect his territory against the Prussians and gave the Knights of the Cross the fief of East Prussia in return for their militant Christian protection. They violated the charter, tried to exterminate the Prussians and formed a small duchy of their own.
18. In 1230, the Teutonic Order obtained complete possession of the coastline between Pomerania and Courland, and sought to undermine the power of the Polish Dukes.
19. In 1308, when Ladislas the Short was trying to unite Poland, the Knights of the Cross treacherously seized Danzig, killing the Polish garrison and many innocent inhabitants.
20. Ladislas was finally crowned King of all Poland in 1320, and in 1332 at Płowce inflicted a first defeat upon the Teutonic Knights.