

# The Polish Review



# DEATH OF GENERAL SIKORSKI

## President Raczkiewicz Appoints Stanislaw Mikolajczyk Acting Prime Minister and General Kukiel Polish Commander-in-Chief

**G**ENERAL WLADYSLAW SIKORSKI, Polish Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces, met a tragic death on the evening of July 4th when the Liberator Bomber in which he was returning from the Middle East to England crashed into the sea soon after taking off from Gibraltar. Fourteen other persons lost their lives, including General Sikorski's only daughter, Madame Sophie Lesniowska, Major General Tadeusz Klimecki, Chief of the Polish General Staff, and Major Victor A. Czalet, M.P., British liaison officer. Others killed were Colonel Andrzej Marecki, a member of the Polish general staff; Lieutenant Ponikiewski, naval aide; Adam Kulakowski, private secretary to General Sikorski, and Colonel Gralewski, an officer of the Polish Middle East Command.

At 11 a.m., July 5, a meeting of the Polish Cabinet was held at which the President of Poland and the President of the Polish National Council, Professor Stanislaw Grabski, were present. President Raczkiewicz made the following statement:

"I am present at this meeting of the Cabinet called on account of the tragic news of the death of General Wladyslaw Sikorski, Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief, in order that I may pay homage to his memory in the presence of the members of the Polish Government. He fell at his post while fulfilling his most arduous duties as head of the Government and Commander-in-Chief. He lived and worked solely for the good of the Republic. We have lost a statesman, a great patriot, a capable leader, and a courageous soldier. May his death be for us all a guide how we should exert all our strength in order to finish the work which he directed in a praiseworthy manner. May it also be an incentive for us to hold fast and maintain closest unity among ourselves on the basis of national unity. May the whole Polish nation through its Government be equal to the responsibilities of this inexpressibly difficult moment. Let us pay homage to the memory of Wladyslaw Sikorski by observing a minute's silence."

The Cabinet heard the President's speech standing. The President then said:

"I ask the Ministers, headed by the Deputy Prime Minister, to continue to fulfill their duties until such time as a new cabinet will be formed. I appeal to you to perform everything in such a way as would be consonant with the fullest and most dignified homage to the Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief. As a Government, and as a Nation, and as a community in exile, we should do our duty in such a way that at this crucial and tragic juncture there should be nothing lacking in our efforts concerning the most vital matters of the Republic. I have decided to order national mourning. I ask the Minister for National Defense to fulfill temporarily the duties of Commander-in-Chief until such time as a new Commander-in-Chief will be appointed. The presence of the President of the National Council, Professor Grabski, at this meeting of the Cabinet symbolizes the unity of the nation and of us all in the face of this tragedy, with the National Council which is the temporary representation of the Polish people."

The Cabinet heard the whole declaration standing, after which the members paid homage to the memory of General Sikorski by observing a minute's silence. Deputy Prime Minister Mikolajczyk then made the following statement:

"Mr. President, Mr. President of the National Council, Members of the Government: At this, the most painful moment of my life, after the tragic death of the Prime Minister of the Polish Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces, General Wladyslaw Sikorski, I am assuming the duties of Acting Prime Minister until such time as a new government will be called. In the most tragic moments of our history, General Sikorski took upon himself the arduous task of steering the ship of State and at the same time started rebuilding the Polish Army after September 1939. He served Poland with his whole being, all his energy, his whole heart and intelligence, not dismayed by any difficulties, obstacles or dangers. He did not miss any moment in which he could further the Polish cause and Poland's name in a dignified and unyielding manner. His tragic death has deprived Poland of one of her best and most faithful sons. Poland will miss him

in everything. In paying homage to his memory, we pledge ourselves at this hard, dangerous moment for Poland to unite all our strength and all the resources of our knowledge and will in order to replace even partially this grievous loss for Poland. Your commands, your thoughts and endeavors, General, will be for us your last will and testament to guide us on a way of struggle and work towards a free, independent and greater Poland. Your spirit will lead and guide us through all stages of the fight and entanglements of political difficulties. Poland and all her citizens, soldiers, sailors, and airmen are obliged by the will of Providence to part from you on this earth but they will always remain with you in spirit and you with them. Honor to your glorious memory!"

When the Deputy Prime Minister had concluded, the President left the meeting. The Ministers passed a motion ordering national mourning for a fortnight. On July 6, at 10:30 a.m., a solemn Requiem Mass for the soul of General Sikorski will be celebrated at the Polish church on Devonia Road, which the Government invites all to attend. Later at noon a memorial session of the Cabinet and the Polish National Council will be held.

The President of Poland broadcast a message to the Polish nation on July 5, which reads as follows:

"Citizens of the Republic, through God's inscrutable decrees we have to bear a new severe blow—Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief General Wladyslaw Sikorski is no more. He has fallen at his post while on a flight from the Middle East. This grievous loss has deprived the Polish nation of a soldier and statesman well tried in the Republic's service. The Polish nation in unison with the United Nations is making numerous bitter sacrifices every day for the sake of ultimate victory over the enemy. Today Wladyslaw Sikorski has joined the ranks of those who in falling in the fight for freedom are leading us towards new life. On behalf of the Republic I honor his great services for the Motherland. Citizens of the Republic, I appeal to you all wherever you may be—in Poland, occupied by the enemy, or scattered by the storms of war throughout the world, or in the ranks of our fighting forces—to strengthen yourselves in unity and intensified work, each at his post until victory, which must be for the Motherland a triumph of historic justice.

On the morning of July 5, the President of Poland and the Polish Government received the tragic news of the plane crash in which General Wladyslaw Sikorski, Polish Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief lost his life. A special session of the Polish Government, attended by the President and by the Chairman of the National Council, was at once called.

The President and the Deputy Prime Minister paid homage to the memory of General Sikorski. The President has instructed Deputy Prime Minister Stanislaw Mikolajczyk to fulfill all the duties of Prime Minister for the time being and has asked the Ministers to continue their duties until such time as a new cabinet will be formed. At the same time the President has instructed General Marian Kukiel, Minister of National Defense, to temporarily fulfill the duties of Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces.

The President has ordered national and military mourning and has appealed to the nation to pay homage to the memory of General Sikorski by redoubling their efforts in the Polish cause.

*News of General Sikorski's tragic death reached us after the forms of this issue were ready for the press. The next number of the POLISH REVIEW will be devoted to the memory of the late Polish Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief.*

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## GRUNWALD

FIFTEENTH OF JULY, 1410

By MARIAN HEMAR

Then—

The columns marched in iron clad.  
In clattering armor, the columns marched.  
The earth beneath them moaned,  
The earth beneath them groaned,  
They ground the grain into the soil,  
The grain still young and green  
Abloom with flowers serene.

Drowsy woods awoke from sleep  
Startled, the trees arose  
Polish birches, oaks and willows  
Receded, shaken from repose,  
In terror asway in the wind.

And the blue water of the sleepy stream  
Fled in spurts to shore  
When forded by the iron beast  
To the East! To the East! To the East!  
The sky above them paled  
Then blushed with the crimson dawn.  
And in its pallid rosy hue  
Teutonic eagles swarming flew  
Circling in wreaths of ebon hue  
Croaking, screeching from the blue  
To the feast! To the feast! To the feast!

Then—

Tramped the steeds with armor clanging  
Horse-tanks, from far Mecklenburg  
German horses—from Wuerttemberg  
Astride the steeds rode Rhineland knights  
Immobile with the weight of steel,  
From Schwerin, from Strelitz, from Baden  
Stomped the groups of cavalry,  
From Bavaria, from Koburg, from Hessen,  
From Saxony the master-race rode,  
From the enlightened land of murder and  
blood  
The land of Horst Wessel, the Watch on  
the Rhine,  
Of big-mouthed thunder and fury and  
swine—  
With the clanging of arms and the snorting  
of steeds

Rode the armored, invincible masses  
From Schwarzwald to Grunwald—from the  
German

Black forest to the cool, green  
Of the forests of Poland.

Then—

Too, they had on them, and over them  
On each flag, each cloak and each shield,  
A black cross against a white field,  
A cross in the hand of him who crucifies.  
A mark of suffering of the afflicted  
A mark of torture dire inflicted.

Then too—behind them, before them,  
Around them, surrounding the cross  
Clamored their loud-mouthed propaganda!  
Deafening the world with its roar  
Propaganda—to convert the heathen!  
To convert the heathen Slavs  
Even then a hundredfold more  
Christian, than those who conversion bore.  
Propaganda for a brand new order!  
Ruled by the Teutonic band,  
Propaganda in missionary guise  
In Europe's pagan land  
Propaganda of a new and splendid  
Triumphant, ennobling crusade—  
Strength through joy!! Gott mit uns!!—  
Underlaid

In this German loud-mouthing lurked  
hunger!  
Hunger of blood and might for the beast  
Lurked the Raubritter's sadism unleashed  
As the way seemed open and clear  
To the East! To the East! To the East!

Lebensraum lurked beneath the cross!  
Drang nach Osten—that age-old urge  
Toward the unconquered Slavonic soil.  
Herrenvolk lurked in their preaching—  
Perched on a mound of the dead  
“Root out” it seemed to be screeching  
To fatten on easy spoil.

For the spoil, for the dead, for the grain—  
Marched the columns in iron clad  
Marched the armored columned masses

Stomped the snorting tanklike steeds  
From Schwarzwald to Grunwald. From the  
German

Black forest to the cool green  
Of the forests of Poland.

And they stayed at the edge of the forest  
In a deep sleep, the deepest of all  
None to return to his native land  
To his distant ancestral hall.  
Stripped of armor, naked they lie  
Pecked by ravens and crows,  
The rustling trees their lullaby . . .  
The forest their story knows  
The forest cool and green.

And so the war with the Teutons  
Finished by that battle of fame  
Won by Poland, Lithuania, Ruthenia  
Made immortal the Grunwald name.

Though its heroes will live in story  
THEY did not win the war  
It was the united will of the nations  
From the Tatras to the Baltic shore.

As the Teutons came near to Grunwald  
Proud in their splendid array  
The voice of the people cried: Halt!  
You shall not pass this way!

The Teutons' eyes are closed forever  
Their silenced tongues no more can roil  
For death quenched their eternal hunger  
For “lebensraum” and conquered soil.

The future grows out from the past  
As from the roots the leaf crowned tree  
But who can the future forecast?  
And who can interpret the past  
Or the end of the story foresee?

—Translated from the Polish  
by Jadwiga Rynas

# NO CHANGE IN GERMAN FROM GRUNWALD TO HITLER

At Grunwald on July 15, 1410 the Germans suffered at the hands of the Poles a crushing and decisive defeat that stopped the German push eastward for three and a half centuries and enabled the Polish-Lithuanian state to become a great power.

The events leading up to the Battle of Grunwald, or Tannenberg as it is often called, had been brewing for centuries. The German *Drang nach Osten* had for more than five hundred years encroached on Polish territory and led to one conflict after another. Then in the 13th century the Teutonic Knights of the Cross, one of the ugliest institutions in human history, settled on Polish land. Ostensibly a religious order whose purpose was to convert the heathen and preach the doctrine of Christ, the Teutonic Knights had no other interest than plunder and sought by force and intrigue to conquer the land to which they had been admitted as guests.

In the Polish-Lithuanian union of "equals with equals and the free with the free" of 1386, the Teutonic Knights saw a threat to themselves.

The Lithuanians accepted Christianity when they entered into a confederation with Poland. Whom could the Teutons convert by force if there were to be no more pagans? They solved the problem by ignoring the Union and Lithuania's conversion and continuing to plague Lithuania. At the same time the Order's policy became a perfidious attempt to destroy the Union. While they ravaged Lithuania, they insisted they wished only peace with Poland. In an effort to show the Poles the benefits of peace, they sought to frighten them by the fantastic prospect of a partition of Poland by Teutons, Czechs and Hungarians. King Jagiello replied by announcing his support of the Livonian episcopate long at feud with the Teutons, who had designs on the Baltic sea-coast.

The struggle between Poland and the German Order was at first only political. At a given point, however, Jagiello adopted more energetic methods. In 1397, he executed a faithless vassal who had accepted favors from the Teutons and demanded the return of the Dobrzyn land that had been torn from the Polish crown. Realizing that the Poles could not be duped by hypocrisy, the Teutons reversed their policy toward Lithuania. They now tried to enter into an alliance with it, fan separatist tendencies so as to break up the Polish - Lithuanian Union. Their efforts were doomed to failure, for in 1403, King Jagiello prevailed upon Grand Duke Witold, ruler of Lithuania, not to sign a peace or alliance with the Teutons without his knowledge. The Teutons still hoped to win Witold to their side. They offered him Ruthenian lands if he would break with Poland, and part of Poland if he would join in crushing her.

In 1407 the bellicose Ulrich von Jungingen became Grand Master of the Order. Preparations for a war against Poland began to take definite shape. Searching for a pretext to attack Poland, the Teutons fomented



Battle of Grunwald. Woodcut of 1597.

territorial disputes, and relied on Witold's help. But 1409 dashed their hopes. In that year the Lithuanian province of Zmudz, held in bondage by the Teutons, revolted with the help of Witold. This served to bring the two nations closer together. The same year the Teutons made a final attempt to separate Poland from Lithuania. But when the Polish envoys declared: "War with Lithuania means war with Poland", the Teutons attacked Poland. The brief campaign of 1409 was a prelude to the "great war" that broke out the following year and was climaxed by the Battle of Grunwald on July 15th, 1410, when the combined forces of Poland, Lithuania and Ruthenia carried the day for international morality and justice. The German Grand Master, Ulrich von Jungingen fell,

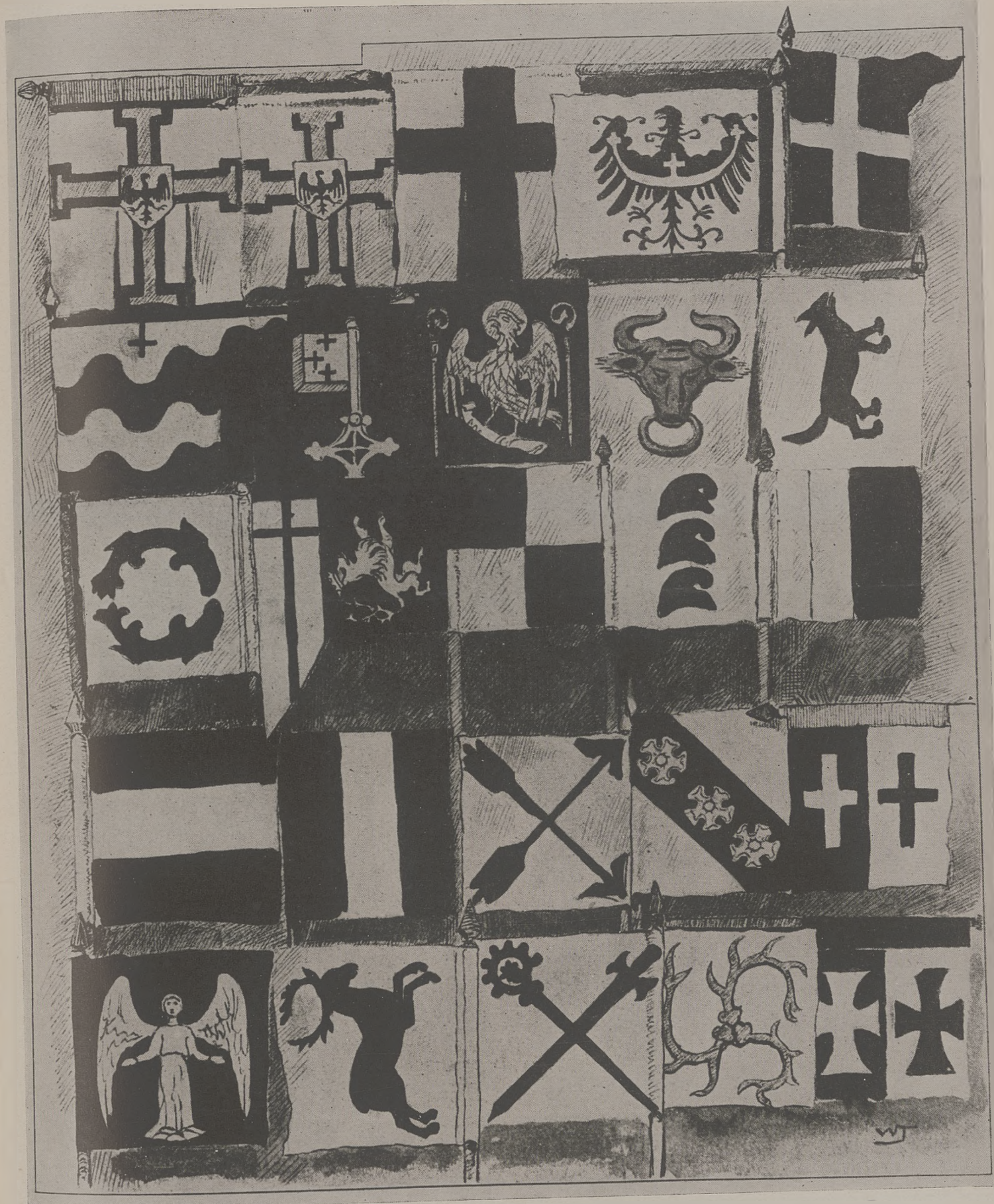
together with the majority of his Knights. The Teutonic Order crumbled, and terrified by its debacle, the Teutonic lands, Prussian castles and cities surrendered to the Polish King Jagiello.

The remnants of the Teutons under Henry von Plauen, later elected Grand Master of the decimated Order, shut themselves up in the fortress of Marienburg. At the beginning of August, von Plauen sued for peace, offering to return part of Pomorze, the Chelmno and Michalow regions to Poland. Jagiello rejected these terms. Meanwhile, ill luck had it that reinforcements arrived from Germany and Livonia for the Teutonic Knights. The Poles were forced to abandon their siege of Marienburg in September. A negotiated peace was signed between the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the Teutonic Order on February 1, 1411. Poland did not press her advantage, but contented herself with German promises to keep the peace. However, the consequences of the Grunwald victory were far-reaching indeed.

Forty-four years later a Hohenzolern knelt before Jagiello's son in Cracow, doing homage to him, in (Please turn to Page 10)



King Wladyslaw Jagiello Contemporary woodcut.



Some of the German banners captured by the Poles at Grunwald.

# GREATEST ROUT OF GERMANS IN HISTORY



"Battle of Grunwald" (Center detail)—By Jan Matejko.

Jan Dlugosz (1415-1480) a Polish historian and churchman was the intimate of several Polish Kings. At first secretary to Bishop Zbigniew Olesnicki, he reached the height of his career when he became Archbishop of Lwow in 1478. In 1455 Dlugosz began his monumental HISTORIA POLONICA, which he completed in 1479, one year before his death. Based on an exhaustive study of the archives of Poland and Hungary, it is one of the best historical works on Poland. Below are excerpts from Dlugosz's colorful description of the Battle of Grunwald:

WHEN the call to battle was sounded, the Polish King's whole army broke into the song of their fathers, Mother of God, and then with lances lifted high, charged into the fray.

But the Lithuanian army, at word from Duke Witold, who was impatient of delay, rushed first at the enemy . . . The two armies, with shouts as loud as usual before battle, came together in the plain that separated them. The Knights of the Cross, having twice fired their cannon, vainly tried to break and confuse the Polish ranks by a strong charge, even though the Prussian troops had rushed into the battle with louder shouts and from a higher hill . . . Such a terrible roar and din arose from their clash, spear beating against spear, armor clattering against armor, sword clanging against sword, that it was heard for several miles around. Soldier pressed on

soldier, weapons crashed and shafts and arrows darkened the air. In this confusion and noise it was difficult to distinguish the stronger from the weaker, the brave from the craven. When finally the lances were broken, the ranks of both sides came together with such force that only the battle axes and maces, the spears and cross bows striking each other gave out a terrifying noise like that of hammers beating against the anvil in a smithy. The mounted Knights pressed together in the throng, locked in hand to hand combat, and only strength and personal courage could decide the outcome.

After the battle was joined, both armies fought for nearly an hour with equal success; it was difficult to see which side would win. The Teutons, realizing that they were not faring well on the left wing, where the Polish troops were, that the battle seemed to be fraught with peril, their front lines having fallen, turned upon the right wing, composed of Lithuanians, whose ranks were less serried, whose horses and equipment were weaker and who seemed easier to defeat; they hoped after repulsing the Lithuanians, to turn again on the Poles with greater fury. But they were not completely successful. As the battle grew in intensity, the Lithuanian forces, unable to withstand the pressure of the enemy, wavered and retreated by one league. The Teutons struck at them all the more boldly and finally forced them to flee. In vain did Witold, Grand Duke of Lithuania seek to hold back the fleeing, shouting in a loud voice and raining blows upon them. This panic of



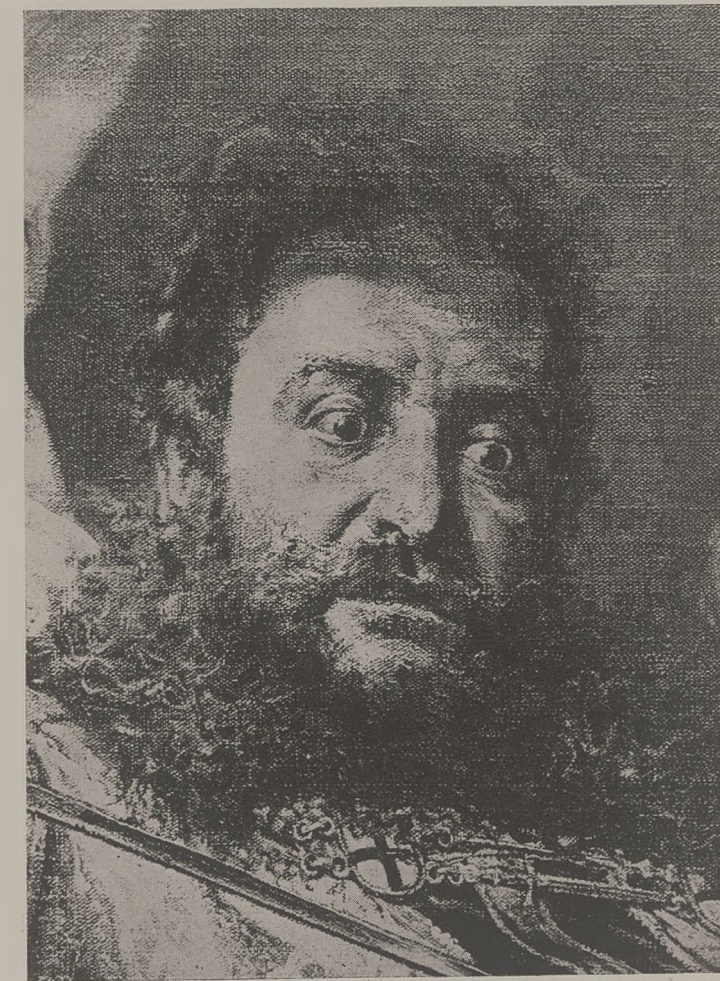
Mikolaj Skunarowski, Polish Knight. Detail from Matejko's "Battle of Grunwald."

the Lithuanians carried along with them a certain number of Poles who were in their ranks. The enemy, having pursued the fleeing for several miles, hacked away at them and took many prisoners in the belief that full victory had already been achieved. Such terror seized the fugitives that some did not stop until they reached Lithuania, where they spread the rumor that King Jagiello and Witold, Grand Duke of Lithuania, were dead and their armies wholly destroyed. In this phase of the battle, only the Knights of Smolensk, standing firm by their three groups, fought with obstinacy and did not sully themselves by flight. And though most of the Knights of one banner were killed and its colors struck to the ground, two other banners, fighting as brave soldiers, emerged from the battle victorious and then united with the Polish forces. Only these three banners of the army of Witold covered themselves with glory on that day: the rest of the Lithuanians, leaving the Poles in battle, dispersed and fled before the pursuing enemy. Witold, Grand Duke of Lithuania, worried by this defection, fearing that their defeat might discourage the Poles, sent messenger after messenger to the King, urging him not to delay the battle for a moment; and finally, himself, although dissuaded therefrom by many, rode in haste and unescorted to the King and entreated him to show himself on the field so that by his presence he might raise the army's courage and spirit . . .

After the flight of the Lithuanians, when the dust, in which the fighters could not recognize one another, settled a little from the light and rather mild rain that came down at that

time, a furious and stubborn battle started between the Poles and Prussians in many places. The Teutons pressed on, spurred by the hope of victory and in this uproar the great banner of the Polish King Jagiello, with the emblem of the white eagle, carried by Marcin of Wrocimowice, standard bearer from Cracow, fell to the ground; the more valiant and experienced soldiers, noticing this, immediately lifted it and brought it back where it belonged. Were it not for the courage of these men, who protected it by their breasts and weapons, it would doubtless have been lost. Polish knights, anxious to wipe out this affront, charged the enemy with such impetus that they routed all who stood in their way. Meanwhile, other Teutons, were returning from their pursuit of the Lithuanians and Ruthenians, leading numerous prisoners to the Prussian camp in triumph and with great rejoicing. But realizing that all was not well, they abandoned their prisoners and supplies and rushed into the battle to help those who were by now but feebly resisting the victors. With the arrival of fresh reinforcements, a furious battle again raged between the two sides. The dead were falling thickly; the Teutons, their ranks confused, having suffered great losses in men and got out of touch with their leaders, seemed to be preparing to flee, when more Germans came to the rescue of the weakening Knights and kept up the fight.

During this battle, Jagiello, the Polish King, stood nearby and observed the brave deeds of his men. Having placed all his faith in God, he calmly awaited the final defeat and rout of the enemy whom he saw fleeing in many places. Meanwhile, (Please turn to Page 8)



Teutonic Grand Master Ulrich von Jungingen. Detail from Matejko's "Battle of Grunwald."

# GREATEST ROUT OF GERMANS IN HISTORY

(Continued from Page 7)

sixteen fresh and untouched groups of enemy Knights entered the fray. Part of them turned in the direction where the King stood with only his body guard and rushed straight at him with poised spears . . .

Then from the Prussian array came a German by the name Dippold Kiekeritz v. Dieben, in a white lined frock of German cut, wearing a gold sash over his armor. He was a Knight of the Cross, and, galloping on a cream-colored horse, he reached the spot where the King stood. Brandishing his lance, he aimed straight at the King, in sight of the entire enemy army. And so, when the Polish King, having laid his lance at rest, waited for him, Zbigniew of Olesnica, Chancellor to the King, although virtually unarmed, for all he held in his hand was a broken lance, anticipated the royal blow. Striking the German in the side, he knocked him from his horse. The Knight fell, as if paralyzed, and King Jagiello, having with his spear touched the trembling man on the forehead, that his fallen helmet laid bare, left him otherwise unharmed, but the knights of the King's guard killed him on the spot, and the foot soldiers tore the dress and armor from the dead man.

Seeing that Kiekeritz was killed, the Teutonic army began to withdraw at the command of one of the Teutons, leader of a group of Knights, who, astride a white horse, gave the signal to retreat with his spear and shouted in German, "Herum, herum!" . . . About fifteen groups of Polish knights charged the sixteen German groups, reinforced by others and fought a bloody battle with them. Although the Teutons for a time withstood the attack, finally, surrounded on all sides by Jagiello's troops, they were defeated outright. Almost all the Knights in those sixteen German groups fell or were taken prisoner. The Prussian Grand Master Ulrich, the Marshals, all the Knights and the more eminent Lords in the Prussian army were killed, the rest of the enemy scattered, and having once shown its rear, fled in panic. Jagiello, King of Poland, won a complete victory over the Grand Master and the Teutons . . .

Finally, the enemy camp, well-stocked with great riches and worldly goods, conveyances and all war equipment of the Master and Prussian Knights was taken over by the Polish soldiers. There were found in the Teutonic camp several wagons, loaded only with hand-cuffs and irons that the Teutons, expecting victory and not having asked God for it, had prepared for the Poles. There were also other wagons full of resinous wood and covered with tallow and tar, and sharp rods smeared with tar and grease, with which they had intended to drive the beaten and fleeing Poles before them. Now, God justly punished their pride, for the Poles bound them with these very same fetters and irons.

They also found in the Teuton camp many barrels of wine . . . But Jagiello, Polish King, fearing that a drunken army might become inert and fall an easy prey to a surprise attack even from a weak foe, and fearing that illness might arise in the troops from too much drinking, ordered all the barrels broken and the wine spilled. And so, when at the command of the King, this was done, the wine flowed in streams over the dead, of whom there were very many on the camp ground, and mixed with the blood of men



Medal struck in Cracow in 1910 to commemorate the Grunwald Quinticentennial. Executed by Jan Raszka, its face shows Jagiello leaning on his sword and shield. On the reverse are four shields bearing the Polish eagle, the Lithuanian coat-of-arms, the crests of Smolensk and Ruthenia, and the inscription "And he crushed the Teutonic hydra." On the reverse is a detail from a battle scene—a



*Jagiello, King of Poland, presents a grievance to Commander Henry von Plauen against atrocities perpetrated by the Teutonic Order on Polish prisoners of war*

" . . . For whoever heard of torturing Christian prisoners of war as you are doing with our people; killing them with the sword and putting them to all kinds of torture, in this way straining our Christian faith.

"At the same time, you know full well that though we have more of your prisoners of war than you have of ours, we do not wish to torture them, unless forced to do so by the inconceivable tyranny you vent upon our people.

"Now therefore, still trusting your honor, we request you to treat our people as we treat your prisoners of war, and spare them. However, you never did like to spare human blood.

"At present, having more power, you have permitted prisoners of war to be beheaded, as though to suggest similar action to us, which we shall be forced to take if you pursue your present policy.

"Finally, you write to us that you would exchange Jaroslaw—a Poznan standard-bearer—for the Counselor of the New March, now our prisoner. You know very well that Jaroslaw has been freed by the knight who overcame him in battle and took him prisoner. He is relieved of all promises and therefore subject to no obligations.

"Written on the day of St. Crispin in the year of Our Lord 1410."

and horses, it flowed to the meadows of the village of Tannenber, forming in its violent course something like a rivulet, running in a single channel. Thus came into being the legend that in that battle so much blood was shed that it ran in a swollen stream . . .

After looting the enemy conveyances and supplies, the royal troops went to the top of the hill, where the Prussians had been stationed and from which they saw many regiments of the fleeing foe, whose armor gleamed in the sun. Pursuing the enemy, the Poles reached a swamp and quagmire and attacked the Prussians; not many dared to resist and were easily vanquished; the rest, spared by order of the King, were taken prisoner. . . . The victors treated them kindly and the next day their oath of homage was accepted. . . . In that battle there fell 50,000 of the enemy and 40,000 more were taken prisoner. Fifty and one flags were taken, they say. The victorious army became immeasurably richer by the loot. For miles the road was covered with corpses, the earth damp with blood; and the air resounded with the groans and moans of the dying.

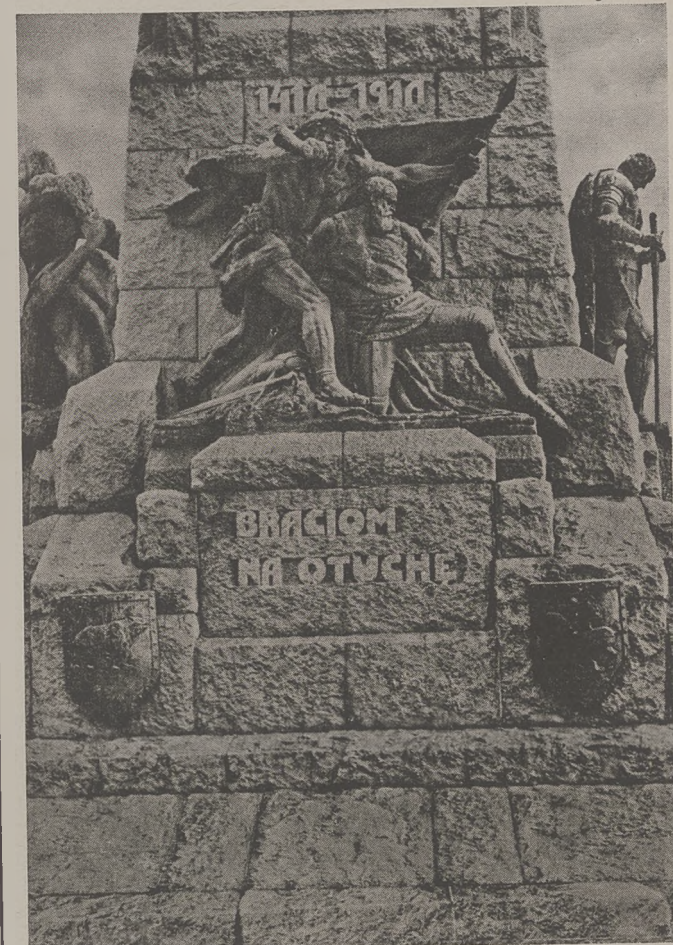


King Jagiello's Bust. Fragment of Jagiello's equestrian statue in Flushing Meadow Park, New York. By Stanislaw Ostrowski.

## German Historian Admits German Defeat at Grunwald

*And what a terrible appearance the battlefield presented. The corpses of more than 200 Knights of the Order, 600 Knights and squires in all and 40,000 common soldiers covered the bloody battlefield. . . . Furthermore, the Order lost as prisoners of war at least 15,000 men. Everything that the forces of the Order left on the field of battle—artillery, weapons of war, a great number of conveyances, horses and baggage—fell into the hands of the enemy; also the booty in food, drink and other things was boundless. Finally, the very valuable military mantle of the Great Master fell to the Polish King. . . . It was already late in the evening when the remnants of the Order's army, pressed by the enemy, left the bloody and horrible field of Tannenber, in slow retreat. . . .*

—Johannes Voigt in *Geschichte Preussens*, published in Koenigsberg in 1836.



"The achievement before us is not a product of hate. It was born of deep love for the Fatherland—not only love for her past greatness and present weakness, but for her strong and brilliant future. This monument was born of love and gratitude for those of our forebears who went to battle not for pillage or loot, but raised their victorious arms in defense of a just and rightful cause.

The creator of the monument and those who helped him in this work, pay this tribute to the sacred memory of their forefathers. They place it on the altar of their country, like a religious votum, beseeching those exalted and luminous spirits long since joined with God to pray for strength of faith, calm of hope, thoughtfulness, patience and that good will without which there can be neither humble virtue nor famous deeds.

Let the nation, in the person of the highest representative of our Polish land, receive this offering of our hearts.

We fervently desire that every Pole, every Lithuanian, from the olden part of the Fatherland or from across the ocean, consider this monument a symbol of our common past, a proof of common fame, a presage of a better future and as embodying his own soul, strong in faith . . .

To our ancient and beloved capital we give this work of art for eternal safe keeping."

—Ignace Jan Paderewski when unveiling the Grunwald Monument in Cracow.

# CONDITIONS OF POLISH AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN THE REICH

THE majority of Polish workers sent to forced labor in the Reich are engaged in agriculture. They provide the small and unprofitable German farms with slave labor.

Special rules, in particular that of October 5th, 1941, are applied to these agricultural workers. But there are important exceptions which impose further restrictions on the discrimination against these workers. Wages are regulated by the schedule approved on January 8th, 1940, and by special decrees applicable to Poles. (*Reichstarifordnung für Polnische landwirtschaftliche Arbeitskräfte.*) They apply to all Polish agricultural workers who have arrived in Germany since September 1st, 1939. The term "agriculture" is used in its strictest sense, and excludes forestry and horticulture.

The wage schedule divides agricultural workers into two groups: those paid by the month and those paid by the hour. Both groups receive free accommodation, and those paid by the month receive free board. Workers paid by the hour can take part of their pay in kind. The first group covers domestic servants employed on farms, the second includes all agricultural workers.

Paragraph 13 of the wage schedule stipulates that workers paid by the month are under contract for twelve months, the contract to be automatically extended from year to year, unless notice is given three months in advance. Workers paid by the hour are employed for an indefinite period.

Contracts can be terminated only with the assent of the Labor Bureau, even though both employer and employee are in agreement.

The Reich is divided into four zones with different wage scales. Remuneration is further differentiated according to sex and age, depending upon the zone, the monthly pay of adults ranges from 21 to 26.50 Reichsmarks for men, and from 15 to 20 Reichsmarks for women. The following tables give the wage rates in detail:

Monthly Wages of Polish Agricultural Workers in the Reich:

Age	Men	Women
	Reichsmarks	Reichsmarks
21 and over	21 to 26.50	15 to 20
18-20	18.50-24	12.50 to 17.50
17	16 -21.50	10 to 15
16	12.50-18	7.50 to 12.50
14-15	8.50-13	6 to 10

Hourly Wages of Polish Agricultural Workers in the Reich:

Age	Men	Women
	Reichspfennigs	Reichspfennigs
21 and over	22 to 25	18 to 20
18-20	20 to 23	17 to 19
17	18 to 21	16 to 18
16	16 to 18	15 to 16
14-15	14 to 15	14

Five Pfennigs per hour, are deducted if the worker receives pay in kind to the following weekly amounts.

	Kilograms (5.2 lbs.)
Potatoes	12.5
Bread	3.
Flour	0.375
Meat	0.50
Fat	0.25
Salt	0.25
Skimmed milk	7.00 litres

The employer is obliged to deduct one Reichsmark weekly

from the first ten weeks' wages. The sum is to be paid only if the labor contract is terminated satisfactorily. Its purpose is to prevent workers from leaving their place of work.

Wage schedules determine the length of the labor day. Unlike German workers, Poles paid by the month receive no additional pay for overtime. Workers paid by the hour get an increase of 25 per cent for work on Sundays and holidays. If the worker is absent because of sickness, payment in cash is automatically stopped. The employer provides board and lodging for which the worker has to pay from fifty to ninety Pfennigs daily. The worker is freed from this obligation only when stoppage of work is due to weather or to causes for which the employer is responsible.

A further discrimination against the Polish worker is the fact that he is not entitled to any family allowances. If members of his family work in agriculture, they receive their due wages; if they do not work, the sole supporter of the family gets no supplementary remuneration. Separation allowances (*Trennungszulagen*) are also greatly restricted as regards Polish agricultural workers.

From the foregoing it appears that Polish agricultural workers, like industrial workers, are paid the lowest wages, about half as much as Germans get for the same work. Rare indeed are the exceptions made to this rule. Higher wage rates are paid to Poles only if the work calls for special skills (smiths, wheelwrights, craftsmen of various kinds), and if the worker's output is above the average. Even in such cases, the German wage rates are never paid. The increase may not exceed fifteen per cent of the lowest wage rates.

No holidays or leave to visit one's family are allowed Polish agricultural workers or indeed to any Pole at forced labor in the Reich. This cut both ways, for many Poles "illegally" left their work and returned to their own country. It was also bad for the German recruiting campaign. So the German Minister of Labor issued a special regulation, on November 1st, 1941 (Va 5771 23/1725), permitting, by way of exception, Polish workers to visit their family and have holidays. However, this was applied only to a very limited number of cases.

Poles employed in agriculture have no right to supplementary cards for the purchase of working clothes (*Bezugschein für Arbeitskleidung*) such as granted to German workers. Their needs must be met from ordinary clothing coupons.

Workers who are provided by their employers with lodging, are only entitled to two blankets and two towels. They are forbidden to receive coupons for bed-linen.

## NO CHANGE IN GERMANY FROM GRUNWALD TO HITLER

(Continued from Page 4)

fee for the lands once conquered by the Knights of the Cross and now voluntarily surrendered to the Polish Crown.

In 1466 the Second Treaty of Torun returned to Poland territories that had been robbed by the Teutonic Order two and one half centuries previously. But more important was the fact that the power of German aggression against Poland was broken for 350 years. For the first time in several centuries Polish culture was free to develop without the threat of German imperialism. And when the partitions tore the Polish state asunder, the tradition of Polish national existence was so strong, her culture so virile and well defined, that 150 years of subjection could not damp her will to live.

# Only Woman In Allied Armada Invading Africa Was Polish



*MRS. IRENE . . . , a Pole, was the only woman to take part in the Allied invasion of Algiers and Morocco. She is the wife of a captain of a Polish ship in the Allied armada invading the coast of French North Africa and was serving on her husband's ship as paymaster. In addition she took care of the sick and wounded, prepared meals and distributed food under the heavy bombardment. At the height of the engagement she passed the ammunition, instead of the tea. Mrs. Irene has served on Polish ships since the end of the German-Polish campaign of 1939. She escaped to France and signed up for sea service. She was at Dakar, and is now on a Polish ship somewhere in the Mediterranean.*

*A Salute! to a woman doing a man' job.*

## POLISH MIGRANT IS "ACE NAZI SLAYER"

by T. R. HENRY

HERE was a flicker of a smile on the cold, emotionless face of the little Pittsburgh steel worker—Anthony Stimoski, model soldier and infantry corporal.

His commanding officer had just told how he had been left alone in the Sedjenane Valley battle, all the rest of his squad killed or wounded. Stimoski had listened to the recountal without expression.

"And then what did you do, Tony?"

"What I do? I kill some more Germans."

"And why did you kill more Germans?"

Then came the barest suggestion of a sardonic smile.

"I kill Germans. I hate Germans."

### *His Family in Poland*

Such has been the dominating motive in the life of the Ninth Division's foremost individual killer—a 1937 Polish immigrant. All of his family except one brother, he explained, are in Poland. He has no idea of what has happened to them. There is good reason to believe they are dead. The brother is in the Free Polish army in England. The two brothers have vowed that between them they will account for as many German lives as possible.

Stimoski hastened to add he doesn't like Italians or Japanese, either, but he couldn't kill them with the same gusto he feels when he gets a chance to even scores by bagging a few Germans. He has accounted individually for at least

fifty of the enemy, company officers believe, but the corporal, a very conservative fellow, says he can prove positively only seven. He refuses to claim a victim unless he has determined personally that the man is dead.

### *Allowed To Fight Alone*

So effective is Corporal Stimoski with his vengeance drive that he is allowed to operate alone and on his own initiative, and he seems to bear a charmed life. He is a dead shot with the rifle, but his specialty is the hand grenade. He spends hours hurling stones at trees to improve the aim of his throwing arm, because, he explains, with a well-thrown grenade he can account for more of the enemy with less trouble than with any other weapon. Fighting with a rifle is too slow. One shot accounts for only one man.

Stimoski's tactics are deliberately to expose himself to enemy fire to learn the positions of machine guns, snipers and the like. Then, with a grenade in each hand, he will wriggle like a snake through grass, bushes and rocks until he is in good position to hurl the missile. He has developed individual weaving and bobbing tactics which apparently make him a very difficult mark.

Once his grenades are hurled, Stimoski creeps on into the nest itself to determine the results of his work, for he is a conscientious accountant of vengeance.

*(North American Newspaper Alliance)*





ALREADY in the sixteenth century newspapers, or the "relationes publicae," were printed in Poland. It was the Golden Age of Jagiellonian power and magnificence.

The Renaissance had just begun, Poland bringing to posterity such men as Copernicus, Wit Stwosz and Brudzewski. At that time the clergy kept all records of current events, in their "Chronicles." They had something in the nature of correspondence bureaus, edited and issued in script leaflets on the happening and trends of the day. Little by little, as the art of printing grew, broadsides containing brief accounts of news events began to appear. King Stefan Batory knighted a printer as a reward for his excellent and exact reports from the army camp. Efforts were made to publish in foreign languages accounts of the more important happenings, such as the victory over the Swedes at Kirchholm and Sobieski's defeat of the Turks at Vienna.

The idea of journalism was first realized by Alexander Gorczyński of Cracow who in 1661 began to publish the "Mercuriusz Polski" (Polish Mercury). This undertaking did not meet with a satisfactory response, because of the conservatism and the apparent indifference of the reading public. In Krolewiec (Koenigsberg), where interest in printing remained active, a weekly, "Pocztą Krolewiecką," appeared in 1718, published by Jan Cenkier. He gave it up after two and a half years of struggle. It was not until 1729 that Rev. John Naumanski, a Piarist Father, established a real newspaper, the Kurjer Polski (Polish Courier), which successfully maintained its existence, and opened the way for the establishment of a number of other publications.

**Nr. 1. PIĄTEK**

**Kraków**  
Dnia 3 LISTOPADA 1848.

# CZAS

DZIENNIK

POŚWIĘCONY POLITYCE KRAJOWEJ I ZAGRANICZNEJ

ORAZ

WIADOMOŚCIOM LITERACJOM, ROLNICZYM I PRZEMYSŁOWYM.

Redaktor odpowiedzialny **Lucyan Siemiński.**

Kiedy piśmo nowe powstaje, pyta na prawo czytająca publiczność, z jakiego powodu, jakiej sobie misji, do jakiego celu. Na takowe pytanie nieodpowiemy dziś egoty; niechaj samo o sobie świadczy a niedługo trudno i ducha onego i dopytać odgadnąć. Dlatego jak w programacie naszym wystrzegaliśmy się zbytnich obietnic, tak i dziś po raz pierwszy przemaszujemy, nie chcemy wyłożyć drogi, którą postępujemy mamy.

Pismo codzienne, nie jest to katedra prawa publicznego, aby można całą teorię polityczną rozwinąć w miarę potrzeby, w ocenieniu wypadków, stanie się ona wydawnictwem, a nie wykładem częścią zwykłą, bo tylko poszczególnych pytań dotyczących polemiki. Nie żądamy naprzód zaufania, bo wiemy dobrze, iż zaufanie należy zdobyć: prosimy o nie rzucić próżno. Pisarz przemawiający za prawdą jest to wojownik, jest to kapłan, który walcząc powinien z odważnością i miłością. Żurym jedną drugą śmiało i z dobron sumieniem przychodzimy w chwili tak uroczystej, mówić do narodu naszego głosem przekonania, które w nas spokojnie zaprawiłyśmy się na rzeczy, a ponieważ znajomości stanu społecznego i politycznego nie posiadamy, nie możemy być politycznymi wyroczniami. Pismo nasze ma być speculacją, ani organem stronnictwa.

Wolności druku chcemy używać posługując się językiem aby naszym podobnie względem nas być używaną. Nie wystrzekamy się dla tego pewnej, wyraźnej barwy, bo każda miara, każde przekonanie silne, muszą być posiadaczką wy-

**Novviny z Inflant.**

O w ciągu miesiąca Karolusa Sudermánstie Kiożas...  
De Data 14. Martij, 1661.  
Zamykający w sobie...  
Merkvryvsz Polski EXTRAORDYNARYNY.

Articuli DD. Regnicolarum Transylvaniz, Anno 1661...  
Merkvryvsz Polski, 1661. At left is the first "War correspondent" account of a battle sent from the actual front and reporting the Polish victory over the Swedes in 1605.

## MONITOR WARSZAWSKI

N A

**N. P. 1765**

Liczbę LXXVIII.  
polarkufzowych kartek  
w sobie

**Z WIERZĄCĄ.**

Discite sustiniam MONITI nec tem-  
nite Divos.

w WARSZAWIE  
w Drukarni Muzkajowlaży.

Monitor Warszawski, Warsaw, 1765.

zeta Krajowa (National Gazette) came into existence at this time with a number of other less prominent organs. A Polish newspaper called the *Gazety Slaskie* (Silesian Gazettes) was established in Wroclaw in 1789. After changing its name several times it finally became known as the *Gazety Slaskie dla Ludu Wiejskiego* (Silesian Gazettes for Country People). It was published in the Polish language since its readers, the Silesian farmers, could read only Polish. They had remained true to their own Polish traditions and racial customs in spite of all efforts to Germanize them.

The partition of Poland interrupted the normal progress of Polish journalism. However, in spite of restrictions imposed by foreign rulers, and other innumerable handicaps, more than one hundred and seventy newspapers came into existence in Poland between 1815 and 1830. This period was marked by remarkable journalistic activity, particularly in the province of Wilno, where the best newspapers of the time appeared, such as the *Kurjer Litewski* (Lithuanian Courier)

and the *Dziennik Wilenski* (Wilno Journal). Wilno became a real competitor of Warsaw. After the bloody suppression of the Polish Uprising of 1831, the Russian authorities turned their special attention to the Eastern provinces of Poland, and an imperial decree prohibited all publications in Polish. The situation grew worse after the unhappy failure of the uprising of 1863. Muravieff, Governor General of Lithuania, called "The Hangman," decided to exterminate all trace of Polish culture in the Eastern provinces of Poland. To achieve his end he applied the most ruthless and inhuman measures. He sent Polish patriots to the gallows or deported them to the vast unpopulated wastes of northern Siberia. He was determined to Russify the country at any cost. The publication of anything in Polish was strictly forbidden. It was not until 1905, when the rule of the Czar became milder, that Pol-

**KURJER WARSZAWSKI**  
Wydanie poranne

Na prowincji w sprzedaży 16 stycznia 1938 r.

**Od Administracji.**

Do wynajęcia

Kurjer Warszawski, Warsaw, January 15, 1938. 118th year of publication.

ish literature and journalism rose again in the eastern regions, from the Dzwina River in the north to the Dniestr in the southeast.

During the period of political oppression the leading intellectuals, men of letters, poets, indeed the elite of every profession considered it a privilege to serve the Polish newspapers. They all felt it a solemn duty to uphold and preserve the Polish language, to use newspapers to bring it to their compatriots.

Newspapers published by Polish emigrants in France, and later in other European countries, were not only a source of inspiration, courage and hope for the great masses of refugees, but also a guiding star for their compatriots who remained in their oppressed homeland. Among the exiles journalism became a forge out of which emerged ideals that helped the people in Poland to overcome any tendency to resignation.

Warszawa, dnia 18 lipca 1863 r.

## NAPRZÓD!

BUG I OJCZYZNA!

RZĄD NARODOWY.

Rząd Narodowy biorąc na uwagę to położenie rzeczy w duchu Narodowej Ustawy gminnej, na przed stawienie Wydziału Spraw Wewnętrznych, stanowi w tym względzie co następuje:

1. Burmistrzom i Wójtom gmin zaleca się formo wanie w Gminach Straży bezpieczeństwa, a to w celu posilkowania Wólk Dostawczych i wykony-

Insurrection publication, *Naprzód*, Warsaw, July 18, 1863.

These ideals were most forcefully expressed in *La Tribune des Peuples*, founded in Paris by Adam Mickiewicz, the famous Polish poet. In this paper the poet championed freedom and international brotherhood.

Mickiewicz's friend, Edward Odyniec, gave much of his time to newspaper work, serving as editor of the *Kurjer Wilenski*. In 1851, Henryk Zebuski, a Polish novelist, established the *Dziennik Warszawski* (Warsaw Journal). The phenomenal Kraszewski, who with Lopez De Vega was among the most prolific novelists in the literature of the (Please turn to Page 14)

ŚWIĘTY BOŻE, ŚWIĘTY MOCNY, ŚWIĘTY A NIEŚMIERTELNY  
BŁOGOSŁAW ODWAJNYM I DZIELNYM.

# BIULETYN informacyjny

Warszawa, 18 marca 1943 r. Nr 11 (166)

## WARCHOLSTWO

Pełnomocnik na Kraj Rządu Epitłej komunikuje: „Mimo, że rozpowszechniła Pana Premiera, rozkazy Naczelnego Wodza i Komendanta Sił Zbrojnych w Kraju oraz moje oświadczenia dostatecznie jasno wyznaczyły jak zostały uregulowane scalenie wysiłków wojskowych w Kraju i komu zostały powierzone dowodzenie, dotychczas jeszcze są próby ślania w tej dziedzinie zamętu. Ostatnim wydanym takim jest utworzenie samowładnej komendy „Narodowych Sił Zbrojnych” której rozkazy obciążone są na wywołanie wrażeń, że słuszni rozkazodawcy w dziedzinie wojskowej w Kraju są jeszcze żywi.

Wobec tego ponownie stwierdzam:

Z ramienia Naczelnego Wodza i Ministra Obrony Narodowej wmyślili wspany wojskowe w Kraju reguluje Komendant Sił Zbrojnych w Kraju; wszelkie przeciwności w sprawie powstania jest robotą szkodliwą i szalującą na pełnienie.

Zdawało się, że kilkakrotne rozkazy Naczelnego Wodza, wyraźne oświadczenia Pełnomocnika Rządu w Kraju opublikowane w jego organie i rozkazy Komendanta Sił Zbrojnych w Kraju (Nr. 74) dostatecznie musiały już wszystkim nieufnym zorientować, jak przez czynniki rządowe zostało uregulowane scalenie wysiłków wojskowych w Kraju i komu powierzono dowodzenie i kierownictwo prac organizacyjnych. Niestety ambicja osobista niektórych jednostek ciągle skłania je do ślania z zamętu w głowach obalających ich przyjaciół politycznych i zwolenników oraz do wynajdywania coraz to nowych form przeszkadzania i realizacji podjęwanego rozkazem i zdrowym instynktem Narodu, a niezbędnego w dzisiejszym ciężkim położeniu, zjednoczenia całego wysiłku pod jednym, działającym z ramienia Nacz. Wodza kie-

rownictwem Ciągłe odnawiane są pomysły jakichś pseudowojskowych organizacji „porozumiewania się” i zawierania paktów z Komendą Sił Zbrojnych w Kraju, zamiast jedynie zrozumiałego dla każdego uczciwego żołnierza i obywatela podporządkowania się jej aż do chwili zakończenia narodowego wysiłku zbrojnego.

Ostatnio pojawiły się publikacje samowładnej komendy „Narodowych Sił Zbrojnych” („Rozkaz Nr 1/43”) obciążone na wywołanie wrażeń, że słuszni rozkazodawcy w Kraju nie zostały jeszcze uregulowane i jest jeszcze pole do targów i „porozumień”.

Wzywamy do natychmiastowego uprzedzenia tej destruktynnej roboty, której inspirowali oraz uczestniczyli szkodliwie zawiadomieni podlegli komendacjom samowładnej komendy.

Polish underground *Biuletyn informacyjny*, Warsaw, March 18, 1943. 166th issue.

# How Polish Peasants Aided Jewish Victims of German Brutality

ONE day in the first winter of this war when I was still living in a small town of German-occupied Poland, a member of the Jewish Council of Elders came to see me. Often he took me to task for my despair, trying to imbue me with some of his optimism. But this time he was grim and silent. He had seen things that cause men to turn gray overnight. Here is the story he told me. I have exaggerated nothing, if anything I have toned down some of the more gruesome details:

"They had taken about a thousand sick and dying civilian and war prisoners, both Christian and Jew, from Danzig to Warsaw. During the railway journey that lasted several days these unfortunates were given nothing to eat or drink. No one was allowed to go near the train when it stopped at various stations. At Warsaw the Christians were taken off the train. A few hours later, the train proceeded north with the Jews. These prisoners were subjected to even more brutal treatment than they had suffered on the trip to Warsaw. Every so often German soldiers made their way through the crowded box cars, finishing off the dying with blows from their rifle butts.

"At Chelmno the guard was changed. The train moved on for several kilometers and then came to a stop. By now, the dead outnumbered the living in the unheated cattle cars. The order was given to those still alive to carry out the corpses. When the first batch of sick men emerged from the cars bearing their frightful burden and praying for the dead, the rattle of machine guns was heard and they were mowed down. The same fate befell the next group. Pandemonium ensued in the cars. Those remaining in the train refused to obey the order that meant certain death. Many pleaded to be killed inside the train. To no avail. The Germans forced these unfortunate people, covered with abscesses, eaten by vermin, sick unto death to continue carrying out the corpses of their brothers, to be shot in their turn.

"The sick, half-frozen and dying instinctively jumped from the wagons to the other side of the train, where there

were no Germans, and tried to escape. Although the Germans noticed the fleeing people, and shot at them, several hundred managed to get away. They were aided by local peasants who at the risk of their own lives hid the fugitives, sharing with them their last drop of milk and last crust of bread. But many froze on the way, unable to reach shelter. Their corpses littered the road. It is impossible to tell how many there were as heavy snow fell during the night and covered them with its white shroud.

"The Council of Elders was informed of this terrible event the following morning by a peasant who had hid several fugitives. He declared in his name and the name of other peasants who had given shelter to the fugitives, that they would on no account give the Jews up to the Germans, that they would like to bring to the Council those requiring immediate aid, and that as far as possible, they would gather the bodies of the others for burial. Soon after, the peasants made good their promise. They began to bring in these unhappy people, hidden under straw in their carts. There were about a hundred in all. Their condition was most critical, but they said nothing. Almost all had frozen feet. The Council of Elders are trying to help these unfortunates. People of good will, men, women and children are also doing their part. All local doctors, regardless of faith, have pitched in and are working with utter disregard of self. The sick have been bathed, given tea (in view of their extreme emaciation, physicians forbade them anything else), presented with fresh clothing. Their vermin infested clothes were burned. There are many professional men among these run-aways. As a matter of fact one of our physicians came across a fellow student from his University days."

I had occasion to find out later that the majority of those placed in the local hospitals died. The peasants gave additional proof of their courage and sympathy. Under cover of darkness, they brought most of the bodies strewn about the countryside, to the cemetery and left them there wrapped in cloth to escape detection by the Germans. —M. B.

## FROM SIXTEENTH CENTURY TO UNDERGROUND PRESS

(Continued from Page 13)

world, became the inspiring source of the *Teka Wilenska* (Wilno Portfolio) and the *Wizerunki i Roztrzasania Naukowe* (Pictures and Scientific Research). The *Czas* of Cracow, established after the events of 1848, was soon made famous by the articles of Lucjan Sieminski, the translator of the *Odyssey*. Active in the field of journalism were great authors such as Sienkiewicz, Prus (Glowacki) and Adam Asnyk, the deep and mystic poet, as well as historians of European fame like Bobrzynski, Szujski, Smolka and Tarnowski. In addition to the great journalist Maurycy Mochnacki, Poland had political writers like Piotr Moszynski, Stanislaw Kozmian and many others. Julian Klaczko, was a keen analyst of international problems.

Poland's journalistic tradition goes back to the 15th century when Jan Ostorow wrote the "*De Republica Emananda*." To France, Poland gave the talented Chojecki, who as Charles Edmond was the backbone of the *Revue Independante*, and Saint-Croix Krzyzanowski, editor of the *Rappel*. The highly developed individualism, of the Poles, their longing for lost freedom, their undying hope of resurrection found expression in the press. The pen served as the only weapon which the disarmed nation could wield.

The history of Poland after the partition, has priceless documents in the year-books of the Polish press, which recorded all the tragic experiences of the Polish people. Then after 1918, when Poland regained her independence, there was a striking development of the Polish Press.

In 1937 there were 2,692 periodicals published in Poland,

of which 184 were dailies and 422 weeklies. There were 437 periodicals in other languages — Jewish, Hebrew, German and White Ruthenian.

The Polish press had preponderant moral and political influence over the Polish people. This strong influence of the Polish Press on its readers can be explained by the fact that during 123 years of partitions the Polish press, suppressed and struggling with enormous difficulties, was the moral leader of the people.

After Germany's unprovoked aggression against Poland in 1939 Polish journalism went underground again. Although the printing and distribution, even the reading of Polish underground papers is punished by death, more than 150 Polish papers are printed with a circulation exceeding 300,000. These Polish newspapers are read by approximately 3 million people.

The Polish underground press reports not only news from the front, but performs a greater and perhaps a more important task of keeping up the morale of the Polish people, whose resistance the Germans have been trying to break for almost four years now, and of preserving Polish culture. God grant that it continue until the freedom of the Press reigns again in a liberated and peaceful Poland.

*Shown on the cover is the tomb of King Wladyslaw Jagiello, victor over the Germans at Grunwald. The sarcophagus, built in the 15th century, is in Wawel Cathedral in Cracow.*

## TWICE ESCAPED POLE TELLS HIS EXPERIENCES

A Pole, twice taken prisoner by the Germans, twice escaped from German prison camps, has arrived in London, and disclosed a few details about his experiences.

For obvious reasons his name and identity cannot be revealed, but it may be said that in civilian life he was a well-known young painter and a member of the Artists Guild in Cracow.

When the war broke out he joined the Polish Army and was taken prisoner. In December 1939 he escaped and made his way through the Balkans to France where he rejoined the Polish Army. He was wounded in the French campaign and again taken prisoner while in a military hospital. He went to various German prison camps and made some attempts at escape, but was unsuccessful.

Once when within a few miles of the French frontier he was discovered by a group of young Nazis and handed over to the police. Then he was sent to a prison camp especially established for such "escapers." It was also a transit camp for other prisoners, especially British who were being sent to Poland. He said:

"A remarkable feature was the sincere friendship shown to Poles by their British comrades. As soon as groups of British prisoners arrived the first thing they did was to visit the Polish hut. They were received with open arms and treated to cigarettes and rations. Sometimes outspoken pro-allied demonstrations took place. One day when some British prisoners entered the hut, the Polish choir started to sing the British and Polish National anthems and a mouth-organ band accompanied them. The German guard in order to stop "the noise" fired outside the hut and took the British prisoners away.

"By Hitler's special order Polish prisoners were the only ones who were refused military honors if they died. The prisoners got the best of food on the day when a special international Red Cross commission arrived from Geneva. The trick didn't work, however, because in the Polish quarters all complaints were brought up very plainly."

The Polish artist added that since Spring 1942 he had noticed obvious signs of lowering of the German morale. It was possible to bribe German guards with cigarettes and food to perform services strictly forbidden by the regulations. At that time the people in the Rhineland were already deeply impressed by the activities of the Royal Air Force.

## "The Fourth of July"

By JAN CIECHANOWSKI  
Polish Ambassador to the United States

**"AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY is of deep and stirring significance not alone to Americans but to Poles and indeed to all the peoples of Nazi-oppressed Europe.**

**"Poles, who never stopped fighting, join today in the celebration of the birth of their great fighting ally, the United States.**

**"The ties between American and Polish people are strong and forged in the past. Polish patriots, Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski, fought in the Revolutionary War and had the honor to make some contribution to American independence. The Polish Constitution of 1791 came into existence only four years after the American Constitution, and both established as the guiding principle for their nations' freedom—freedom of self-rule, freedom of worship, freedom from oppression. The United States and Poland were sister nations in establishing the first democracies.**

**"By struggle and blood the United States and Poland now seek, the one to maintain, and the other to re-establish their independence.**

**"Never has American Independence Day, since its beginning, had a more thrilling and wider meaning than this one. America is for many oppressed nations the keeper of the world's freedom.**

**"We Poles, who have always been lovers of liberty and fighters for liberty—our own and other peoples—today renew our allegiance to that Great Cause and reiterate our alliance with the United States and the United Nations in this common war for world freedom."**

## POLISH ACES WIN DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

At an RAF station near London, two Polish airmen holding exceptional records were decorated with D.F.C. by Air Vice Marshal Saunders, who addressed the decorated men and emphasized their achievement.

The first was Major Wojciech K., former leader of the famous 303rd Squadron, who holds the record for the highest number of operational flights among Polish pilots and one of the highest among all allied pilots, 116 operational flights over enemy territory, more than 60 flights over Great Britain in convoy.

Major K. took part in the Dieppe raid destroying four German planes as well as one probable and two damaged. He also invented a new system of escort bombing—different from the British system—which has now been adopted by the American Air Force.

The second Pole to be decorated uses a pseudonym. Captain Tadeusz Biedrzycki, made 63 operational flights, accounted for 2½ German planes brought down and three probables.

During the ceremony two thunderbolts piloted by American pilots circled over the airfield. One of the pilots was of Polish descent, Captain Gabreski, who had been training with the Polish squadron. He came to pay tribute to his ex-squadron leader and comrade on his investiture.

## LONDON TIMES PRAISES POLES DARING HOAX

The London Times prominently displays a story under the headline "Poles' Daring Hoax—Germans Duped in Newspaper." It says:

"Copies of a newspaper sold openly in the streets of Warsaw reveal one of the most ingenious and effective hoaxes ever played on Germans by a people in resistance. Every day German authorities publish "Nowy Kurjer Warszawski" filled with their own distortion of war news.

"A short time ago newsboys went tearing through the streets with a special edition with large headlines proclaiming that a neutral state had come into the war on the German side and was already assaulting the British forces.

"German officials knew enough Polish to acclaim the news and pass the edition. Many thousands of copies were quickly sold. The Germans and Warsaw people then read further down the columns.

"Beneath the headlines and beneath a few lines of pro-German sentences every article suddenly switched to tell the truth about Polish resistance, about the Polish armies abroad, and about German difficulties."

Then the Times gives excerpts of articles on the Polish Army, on German manpower problems, on RAF raids in the Reich.

The Times continues: "The last contribution is headed "Kiedy Koniec Wojny." Statements are given by Hitler, Churchill, Roose-

## POLISH CATHOLIC CONGRESS TOLD OF PERSECUTION

A Polish Catholic Congress was opened last week in London. Mgr. Kaczynski welcomed the gathering on behalf of General Haller, prevented by illness from attending.

Bishop Myers of the Chapter of the Westminster Cathedral opened the Congress by a short address, recalling the sufferings of the Polish people and mentioning the great and difficult tasks lying ahead of them during the period of Poland's reconstruction. Bishop Myers expressed the hope that those present will succeed in building a state worthy of Polish Catholic traditions.

Prof. Zoltowski was elected Chairman of the Congress. A telegram of Pope Pius XII was then read thanking the Congress for its words of homage and allegiance. The Pope added words of benediction as a sign of his everlasting fatherly protection. The President of Poland sent his greetings.

The deputy Prime Minister of Poland, Minister Mikolajczyk, addressed the gathering on behalf of the Polish Government, giving a vivid picture of the terrible persecution the Catholic Church in Poland has to endure on the part of the Germans.

Bishop Radonski spoke on behalf of the Polish Episcopate telling the gathering of the terrible losses inflicted on the Polish clergy as the result of executions and deportations. He related the persecutions in his own diocese.

The Polish President sent the following telegram:

"I am sending my heartfelt wishes for fruitful work to the Polish Catholic Congress in London. The leading idea of the present Catholic Congress in London, namely the endeavor to return to an universal order based on Christian principles, has become one of the United Nations common war aims. The new world order in which Christ's spirit will animate the hearts of men and nations can secure a lasting peace and further development of the civilization. Our homeland's indomitable fight for the ideals of freedom, justice and right is an imperative command to all Poles wherever they are to uphold our morale on the highest level."

velt and from a Warsaw woman who says: "I prefer to suffer a little longer, to be sure that defeat of our enemies will become complete."

The whole edition is admirably produced and shows the contempt which Poles have for slow-witted German authorities who are cunning only in repression. After the edition had been sold out copies were passed around secretly.

**Message from the President of Poland,  
Wladyslaw Raczekiewicz, to the President of  
the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt,  
on American Independence Day, July 4, 1943.**

“On the occasion of the American National Day, please accept, Mr. President, my most cordial, heartfelt and good wishes.

“The recent victories of Allied arms that have so decisively influenced the balance of force in favor of the United Nations, and to which American arms have made such a magnificent contribution, are a renewed assurance that the hour of deliverance is approaching for the nations of Europe struggling against the brutal invader.

“I profoundly believe that the achievement of victory will be a beginning of a new era of solidarity between the United States of America and the freedom-loving nations of Europe for the realization of the imperishable ideals in defense of which the civilized world is making such great sacrifices.

— Wladyslaw Raczekiewicz

London, July 4, 1943.