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DAILY TELEGRAPH INTERVIEW WITH WOJCIECH BIELAK

In a special article the Daily Telegraph "diplomatic correspondent" says:

"One of the leaders of the Polish resistance movement has escaped to Britain and brought this message from his compatriots: 'Poland needs help at once.'

"He is M. Bielak, leader of the Peasant Party and he told me yesterday that the purpose of his dangerous journey is to represent the views of the resistance organization in Poland in the Polish National Council in London.

"His knowledge of conditions in Poland gathered during the four years of active participation in the struggle against invaders is of greatest importance at the moment when Russia is bringing war closer to the Polish soil. He said that now that the Nazis had almost completed extermination of Jews they are starting on the Poles.

"The underground movement was waiting to fight the enemy but lacked necessary equipment. That must come from the Allies. As soon as Soviet armies reach Polish soil his organization would act on advice from the Polish Government in London.

"Bielak was recently in Germany where he obtained some views on the effect of RAF raids. In the centres where the Gestapo is active people were afraid to talk, but elsewhere in secret conversations he found public reaction was strong. The effect of the raids are spreading over the whole country because it was being carried like disease by the evacuees. Police were trying to prevent evacuees from mixing with local population.

"Evacuees arriving in Poland from Cologne and Hamburg were warned not to go out because Poles would murder them and not to go to Polish shops as they would be poisoned. That was one method being used to check the spread of defeatism. Bielak said Gestapo was the only force still standing between the German people and disorder."

With this article was published an editorial in the Daily Telegraph:

"Most of occupied countries in Europe possess underground movement of one kind or another but that of Poland is unique in scope and daring of its activities. The worst the Gestapo can do is to prevent it from running an organized counter-Government extending to all parts of the country.

"Not only does it contrive to publish in secret a large number of newspapers, but its influence even penetrates into the c[illegible]riculum of schools. Its sabota[illegible]guerrilla campaigns agains[illegible]ilitary occupation a[illegible]its achievements [illegible]mark-able since the lack of wild, rugged mountain country compels resort to clandestine methods and prohibits open warfare on the model of Tito in Jugoslavia.

"One of its principal leaders, Mr. Bielak now reached London after travels which included a visit to Germany. He has joined the Polish National Council and as it is only a few weeks since he was in Warsaw he is equipped with first-hand information which must be of inestimable value to allied counsels.

"In his necessarily guarded account of conditions in Poland, Bielak emphasizes urgency for help for his movement in the way of technical equipment. Geography renders assistance of this kind much more difficult in Poland's case than say Jugoslavia—from Foggia airfields to the nearest part of South Poland it is 600 miles.

"Nevertheless, means will no doubt be devised for furnishing these doughty friends with some of the sinews of war. Apart from that the other chief matter which emerges from Bielak's report is the importance of early regularization of relations between Poland and Russia.

MESSAGE TO POLISH-AMERICANS

Before leaving the United States, Deputy Prime Minister Jan Kwapinski sent the following message to all Americans of Polish descent:

"On leaving this Land of the Free, I wish to express sincere gratitude to all who during my travels in America have helped me in my work, a work done in a spirit of solidarity and co-operation with the United Nations on behalf of a free, whole and independent Poland.

"My special thanks go to you American Poles for the atmosphere of friendship and cordiality with which I was everywhere surrounded when I came into contact with American citizens of Polish descent.

"During my stay in the United States I came to believe that President Roosevelt and the American people, faithful to their principles of freedom and democracy, will do all in their power to practise those principles towards our suffering and heroically fighting country.

"Long live Poland! *JAN KWAPINSKI."*

POLISH STAFF COLLEGE HAS GRADUATION

A graduation ceremony ending the 22nd course of the Polish military staff college took place somewhere in Scotland. It was the third course to be held in Great Britain.

Boruta Spiechowicz and other high officers attended the ceremony which began with quotation of General Sikorski's speech in Bellona in 1941. General Kopanski handed out diplomas and read this special order of the day:

"The Staff College concludes its third year and its 22nd military course. Despite the fact that you were not able to study within the walls of the school which has been the seat of Poland's military ideas for twenty years, despite your being a long distance from home, your heart and mind will link you with past tradition here on this hospitable Scottish soil. Paying homage to the memory of the former students fallen in the field of honor you inherit their heroism and devotion. You are leaving the school at a decisive moment of the present war. May you soon begin your march homewards as victors with a sense of duty honestly fulfilled towards your army country nation!"

Two senior students bore out the flags concluding the simple military ceremony.

AMERICAN POLE WINS "VIRTUTI MILITARI" CROSS

Air Vice-Marshal Izycki, inspector of the Polish Air Force, recently decorated Sgt. Sylvester Frederick Dudek with the Virtuti Militari Cross.

Dudek, an American citizen, who volunteered for the Polish Air Force in 1941, was posted with the Bomber Squadron where he completed 34 operational flights as reargunner. During the Frankfurt raid, which was his 26th, Dudek displayed great bravery. Despite a damaged oxygen mask, Dudek refused to permit the pilot to descend from the altitude of 20,000 feet because of the danger of being attacked by German fighters.

Dudek held out this altitude for one and one-half hours without oxygen and never ceased firing. He shot down one Focke-Wulf 190, one Messerschmidt 109.

In April, 1943, Dudek as an American citizen was transferred to the U.S. Air Force but wanted to complete all operational flights for which he was already detailed before his transfer took effect. Thus he took part with his crew in five consecutive night raids of St. Nazaire, Lorient, Duisburg, Essen, Frankfurt.

Dudek now has decorations of three States: Virtuti Militari for Gallantry, crosses British DFM, American Air Medal with two oak-leaf clusters.

POLISH COUNCIL NOW HAS TWO NEW MEMBERS

The Polish National Council has two new members: Wojciech Bielak and Dr. Bronislaw Kusnierz.

Wojciech Bielak, an eminent representative of underground Poland, was born in 1894 in Biala where he attended elementary school. At fourteen he took over a farm. He continued his education through correspondence courses, took active part in scouting and later in the Peasant Party. In 1914 he joined the Polish Legions and was twice wounded. He took part in the defense of Slask Cieszynski in 1919. After the war of 1920 Bielak took a large farm in Wielkopolska where he soon won the confidence of the local people and organized the youth in social and political organizations, etc., in which he held leading positions. He became a member of the Central Committee of the Peasant Party, also a member of the Provincial Council. Under German occupation Bielak played an outstanding part. In the last four years he organized and directed the underground movement in Wielkopolska, then in Silesia, then in the Central Provinces. After having held the highest position in the Peasant Party and in the underground, Bielak was sent to London. He holds a Gallantry Cross.

Dr. Bronislaw Kusnierz comes from Malopolska. Born in 1883 in Tarnow he studied law in Vienna and Cracow. In 1909 he worked in the Polish bank in Lwow, then became Secretary General of the Union of Economic Associations in Lwow. During the World War he fought first on the Russian front, then worked in the administration of Lublin Province. In independent Poland he became Department Chief in the Ministry of Finance in Warsaw. As an expert on cooperatives he played a prominent part in working out cooperative laws. Later he worked for several years in the economic and social field. From 1928 to 1930 he was Deputy to the Sejm from the Christian Democratic Party and took part in international parliamentary conferences in Berlin, Brussels and Prague. After the dissolution of the Sejm in 1930 he became a lawyer in Cracow where he was also a member of the Town Council. He was President of the Christian Democratic Labor Party in Cracow. After Poland's defeat, Kusnierz escaped via Rumania and served as a Lieutenant in the Carpathian Brigade at Tobruk. In 1942 he escorted a party of German and Italian prisoners to Britain. He worked for a short period in the propaganda department and was released from the Army as too old.

"That the Poland of tomorrow shall become not only great and strong, but also a solicitous, good and noble mother of free and equal citizens. . . . March onward to glory and triumph! March to victory!"

—Ignacy Jan Paderewski.
"Appeal to the Polish Soldiers" (1941)

POLAND'S WESTERN FRONTIER

by TADEUSZ SULIMIRSKI*

THE story of every nation has its periods of greatness and of weakness. By an unfortunate coincidence, Poland was weak when her two dangerous neighbors—Germany and Russia—were at the peak of their power. Each passing decrease of internal strength has always cost Poland dear.

When, after many struggles and disappointments, her independence was regained in 1918, Poland found herself in a most unfavorable position. Her frontiers with Germany, arrived at after much bargaining and many plebiscites, were more or less akin to those of 1772. However, besides the territories formerly lost by Poland, such as Western Pomerania and Silesia, a large stretch of land was left with Germany. Poland's tiny Baltic coast-line was again shortened. East Prussia aggrandized, and Danzig, the natural port of Poland at the mouth of the Vistula, denied to her.

The position was actually worse than before the partitions. Prussia, Poland's strong and aggressive neighbor in the west, though only a small part of Germany, had overpowered and controlled that country to which it had inculcated the Prussian spirit. And within her boundaries Poland found 700,000 German colonists, who had been settled there as the result of Bismarck's brutal policy by the notorious Commission for Colonization, as well as under Austrian administration.

The annexation of Western Pomerania and Silesia by Prussia had altered the economic status of the Oder and Vistula basins. Those river systems are definite economic and geographic units, and the homogeneity of such regions has been well brought out by an English geographer, Gordon East, from whom I quote:

". . . But reflection will suggest that certain kinds of regions, namely those which are styled 'natural' or 'physical,' possess an objective existence that can be easily demonstrated to whomsoever has eyes to see. These physical divisions of the land, even though their boundaries may be zones rather than lines, are differentiated in terms of climate, structure, land forms, or soils, or of some combination of these . . .

". . . It will be obvious that the detection and demarcation of small regions calls for a special training, alike 'in the field' and in the interpretation of geological and topographical maps, but it may be insisted that the fact, if not the detail, of regional differences in the 'physique' or 'build' of the land is self-evident. Nor from the standpoint of history can the importance of these differences be ignored, for in the main they are of a permanent order, and if they are understood in their present form, this understanding can be applied to the study of the past."

M.P.K.

The basins of the Oder and Vistula form such an economic and geographical unit. They are closely bound together and clearly distinguished from the basin of the Elbe in the West, and from those of the Dniester, the Dnieper and the Niemen in the East.

A careful study of archaeological data, and of history, forces the conclusion that only one nation can live peacefully and prosper in those territories. Invasion by outside forces must inevitably lead to conflict that can end only by his defeat or his complete victory.

During the eighteenth century the Prussian invader of Poland was not defeated and driven back. He drove deep wedges into Polish territory and threatened her very existence. That was why the 1742 frontier between Prussia and Poland lasted only thirty years and ended in the partitions (1772-1795).

The Paris Peace Conference did not return the German-

(*Please turn to page* 14)

*"Poland and Germany Past and Future" by Tadeusz Sulimirski, LL.D., Ph.D., Professor at Cracow University. Foreword by Captain Alan Graham, M.P., M.A. (Oxon.), F.S.A.: West-Slavonic Bulletin, London and Edinburgh, 1943.

WILNO: SACRED TO ALL POLISH HEARTS!

by LEON WASILEWSKI*

WHEN early in the 14th century Gedymin, Grand Duke of Lithuania, founded Wilno, the people over whom he ruled were mostly Ruthenian. But for more than a hundred years the Polish language had been in common use between the Wilia and the Niemen Rivers, for the Grand Dukes had settled many Polish prisoners of war on these lands, and Poles were numerous in the cities. Besides, the Grand Dukes had permitted and even encouraged the free colonization of the empty lands by Poles. When Gedymin asked Rome to send him priests, he demanded that they speak not only Lithuanian and Ruthenian but also Polish. The Poles naturally grew in number in the capital Wilno, which attracted them as the center of the country's political and cultural life.

The conversion of Lithuania to Catholicism, with the help of Poland, brought about a tightening of the bonds uniting the two countries. Under the Jagiellons, beginning with the 15th century, Wilno took as its model Cracow, then the Polish capital, which sent it a great number of artisans. In the growing city, the native population of White Ruthenians was gradually submerged by Poles, Italians, Germans and Czechs. The Polish element proved the more powerful: it absorbed the foreign elements in Wilno, and later the White Ruthenians themselves, little by little giving the city a wholly Polish character.

From 1569, date of the permanent Union of Poland and Lithuania, the White Ruthenian language began to disappear from official acts and documents, and was replaced by Latin and Polish. This change, gradual and voluntary, without violence whatsoever, was brought about mainly by the influence of Wilno, city with the largest Polish concentration in Lithuania.

From the reign of Stefan Batory on, the strategic importance of Wilno was reflected in wars between the Polish Republic and Muscovy, whose armies tried several times to capture the city. In 1655 the troops of Czar Alexis, invaded Lithuania, took Wilno and in one day, August 8, put 25,000 persons to the sword. The massacre was followed by a three-day sacking of the city and a fire that raged for 17 days. Nothing but ruins remained of Wilno. The victors carried immense booty back to Moscow: gold and silver vessels, marble columns, bronze bells and copper leaf torn from church roofs. The Russian occupation lasted six years; in 1661 the Poles retook the city. All the efforts of the Polish authorities, of the country gentry, and of the local middle classes failed to restore the city's ancient splendor. The wars of the 17th century and of the first half of the 18th hindered the city's recovery. The population suffered a Swedish occupation under Charles XII, was pillaged by Saxon and Russian troops, ruined by a series of fires, and finally decimated by famine. After the death of Polish King August II (1733), the Russians again occupied Wilno and made their power rudely felt there. It was not until Stanislaw-August that the city began to recover. Enjoying thirteen years of peace, its ruins were rebuilt, commerce with Krolewiec brought wealth, civilization began to flourish and the population grew, above all, by a new afflux of Poles. The old Academy, founded by the Jesuits, was modernized, and the famous theatre of Wojciech Boguslawski was organized, on the eve of the partition of Poland. At that time Wilno had some 21,000 inhabitants, 10 palaces, 40 churches of various Christian denominations, some 3,000 buildings of which 600 were of stone or brick. It had an academy, a seminary, a cadet school, a school of engineering, 12 hospitals and four printshops. One entered the city by any of its nine gates, the most famous of which, *Ostra Brama,* is to this day a shrine of pilgrimage, where people from all over Poland come to pray before the miraculous image of the Virgin.

"HERE LIVED JULIUSZ SLOWACKI"
A memorial to the greatest lyric poet of Poland, unveiled in Wilno in 1927.

Like Lithuania, Wilno took an active part in the defense of the dying Republic. The liberal Constitution of the Third of May, 1791, under which Poland could have reorganized her national life on a new basis, filled Lithuania and its capital with enthusiasm. After its occupation by the Russians in 1792, Wilno became the theatre of intense secret patriotic activity, directed by Colonel Jakob Jasinski, who during the night of April 23-24, 1794, raised the standard of insurrection and ousted the foreign invaders. The following day the people of Wilno drew up a proclamation in which they declared their intention of joining their brethren on the Vistula in a "life and death" struggle. Their heroic defense lasted several months. The Russians, numerically far superior, were unable to recapture Wilno before August 12, 1794. From that day Russian dominion over Wilno was uninterrupted—save for the brief episode of 1812—for one hundred and twenty years.

After the third partition of Poland, Wilno fell to Russia and was reduced to the status of a mere provincial city. But it never ceased to be a main center of Polish national life. At the end of the 18th century, Lithuania, taken by the Russians at the time of the partition, was from the political point of view completely Polish. The peasants it is true continued to speak Lithuanian in the West and White Ruthenian in the East, but whatever their ethnic origin all the cultured and urban elements were fundamentally Polish.

Wilno, in particular, was ardently Polish. This was made abundantly clear in 1812, when Napoleon's advance awakened among its people the hope of seeing Poland rise again. After the evacuation of the city by the Russian troops, its inhabitants prepared an enthusiastic reception for the Emperor. It firmly believed he had come to reunite Lithuania with a reborn Poland. Wilno became the principal base of operations of the Grande Armée against Moscow. All these hopes vanished with the French débacle, but the events of 1812 proved that no thought could be entertained of Russifying Lithuania without beating the Poles of Wilno to their knees.

Moscow began its work of Russification without haste but with method. Nevertheless, throughout the whole first quarter of the 19th century, Wilno remained the great center from which Polish civilization spread to all Lithuania and to the Ruthenian lands west of the Dnieper. Credit for this was due principally to the University of Wilno, that brilliant center of study and research to which the history of Polish civilization owes some of its most beautiful pages.

ADAM MICKIEWICZ IN WILNO—by W. Wankowicz (1823)

A cell in which Adam Mickiewicz was imprisoned by the Russian Czarist Government in 1823.

Founded by King Stefan Batory in 1578, with Piotr Skarga, the famous preacher, as its first rector, it was reorganized in 1773 and again in 1797, and throughout its entire existence was one of the most important centers of learning in Poland.

Under the jurisdiction of the University were schools of all sorts existing in Polish provinces that had fallen under Russian rule, schools in Wilno, Grodno, Minsk, Vitebsk, Mohilev, Volhynia, Podolia and Kiev. Prince Adam Czartoryski, curator of the University, headed this great work of public education and his achievements in this field were immense. Helping him were two men who played an important part in the creation of new schools: Jan Sniadecki, Professor at Wilno, and Tadeusz Czacki, founder of the famous Krzemieniec Lyceum in Volhynia. The University established schools not only in important cities but also in the smallest towns. All these schools were Polish, as was the whole intellectual life of the country at the beginning of the 19th century.

In 1808, the district of Wilno alone had 7,422 pupils in its schools, while the rest of the Czar's empire only had 5,415.

(*Please turn to page* 11)

* *Condensed from an article written before the war in the Paris-published Le Monde Slave. The author* (1870-1936), *an outstanding publicist and statesman, was a member of the Polish delegation to the Peace Conference with the U.S.S.R. in Riga in* 1921. *His daughter, Wanda Wasilewska, is now a Communist writer in Moscow.*

"BLACKBOARD" CALLING

by STEFAN LASZKIEWICZ

THE Chief Controller, an Englishman, looked at the Polish controller with surprise and hopelessness. The Pole did not have enough strength to smile.

"Hello, Gamble Sixteen!" he spoke into the receiver in Polish. "Gamble sixteen! Are you flying south?"

The earphone hummed as the pilot on the other end switched his key. Flat, thin sounds came out as if from the underground.

"Hello Blackboard! Flying South . . . Flying South."

The Operations Room was bathed in a bright, calm light. The ventilator rustled, the second hand moved around the face of the clock, girls moved the numbers on the map.

"M" on the blue square stood for Gamble Sixteen. It was being moved consistently due north, straight for the city over which the air was thick with balloons. Yet the pilot insisted that he was flying south.

The second hand completed the circle around the clock. The girl receiving the report moved "M" one inch north. The English controller made a desperate lunge for the earphones.

"Hello Gamble Sixteen! Blackboard Calling. You are going due north. You must keep vector: one, eight zero . . ., one, eight, zero. Over."

It was stifling in the room. The veins bulged on the controller's forehead. Beads of perspiration came out between his brows and rolled to the tip of his nose. With parted lips he waited for the answer. The microphone emitted a cracking sound out of which the voice sputtered hoarsely.

"Hello Blackboard! Gamble answering, I am keeping vector: one, eight, zero. My altitude three thousand."

"Damn it!" growled the controller. "Somebody is an idiot in this business. I wonder who?" He directed this question to the Polish controller who shrugged his shoulders. He could not figure it out either. The girl plotting the route received a new report and again moved the square to the north.

"He's approaching the balloons," the Pole spoke up.

"Give him altitude ten thousand." This was said in a colorless, weak voice. If the plane had two thousand feet as he reported, no force in the world could lift him above the balloons before he got into their orbit. He was most probably entering that area now.

Polish Pilot—by Andrzej Wart

Operations Room

As if in confirmation the telephone rang. The Observer Corps reported a plane flying among the balloons.

"He confirms two thousand feet altitude," the Polish controller reported shortly.

The girl moved the square again. Gamble 16 was flying at two thousand feet, while the balloons hung at six thousand. Things were coming to look hopeless. Not to hit a balloon rope would be a miracle. Operations had seen many improbable things, but they dared not hope for that.

"I'm going out for a drink," the Englishman said as he walked out. The sharp air cooled his heated forehead. Here and there a star glimmered through the clouds.

He didn't want a drink, just a breath of fresh air. In a few minutes he returned to the warm room, charged with nervous tension. "If the microphone is in its place and the Polish controller stands like a stone gazing at the map," he thought, "then its all over." The blue square with the letter "M" will no longer be on the table.

As he entered into the blue glow of the electric lamps the Polish controller, red and perspiring from excitement, was uttering strange phrases. The blue square was in the very center of the balloons.

"What's new?" asked the Englishman.

"He's up four thousand feet," the Pole answered. "I tried an experiment. He insists he's flying south and is flying north . . ."

"You told him to fly north?"

"Yes, Sir."

He accepted that in silence.

The telephone rang. Explanations were in order.

"Yes, a Polish fighter pilot. Returning from France. Forced to land because of engine trouble. Motor was repaired within an hour. He was given permission to take off. He's an experienced pilot. He didn't refill because he had only ten more minutes to fly. He's already been up for half an hour. Couldn't find his field so we gave him directions. Instead of flying south he went north."

The blue square moved an inch toward the south.

"What's the altitude?" the Englishman asked. The Polish controller repeated the question.

"Five thousand," he said after a while, and then added in a doomed voice "One thousand more."

The Englishman gripped his pipe and examined it carefully, as if seeing it for the first time. He did not care to look at the map, or the Pole, or the girl. It was a hundred to one that the pilot would hit a balloon line. It couldn't last more than a few seconds, at most a minute. Then the inevitable will happen. The Polish Controller will jump up, groan and grow rigid. Then telephones, hundreds of telephones.

"Put away those phones for a minute," he wanted to say to the Pole, but he controlled himself. The Pole's eyes were nailed to the blue square on the map. His hand clasped the phone tight. Strange world! Here was a doomed man, unconscious of danger, sitting calmly in his cabin like in his own home, and another man, perfectly safe himself, going through hell for the other.

The minute was moving on leaded feet. The girls, telephone operators, communications men, hung on the map. Gamble 16 was still living. Suddenly the Polish controller placed his hand on his head.

"Well—that's that," thought the Chief. But the head moved violently.

"He's at six and a half thousand feet," he said, in a quiet voice as if afraid that it might not be true. The Chief wanted to ask something, but the other lifted his hand for silence.

"Yes, he's approaching seven thousand, flying north. He's afraid his gas won't last long."

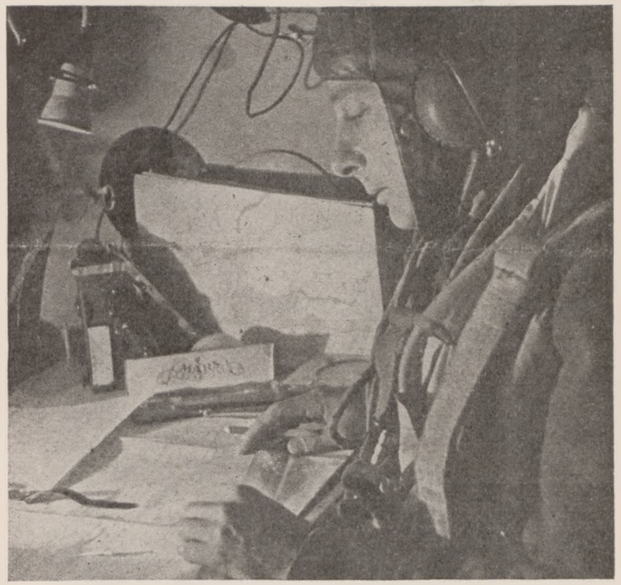
The Englishman laughed. "Good Lord," he mumbled. His whole posture expressed relief. The tension disappeared. They thought of the gasoline left in his tank. He couldn't stay up more than another ten minutes.

"If he runs out of gasoline, shall I tell him to jump?" the Pole asked.

"That's the only way out," said the Englishman. Suddenly he went into action.

"The plane is near S. Hallo! Have you any reflectors near S?" he asked communications.

"No," the other replied.



Navigation Cabin in a Wellington.

"Where is the nearest?"

"Ten miles west."

"No good."

"There's another fifteen miles south-west."

"That's far, but good. Tell them to throw a vertical."

He continued to study the map. "Notify fields M, St. and G. to put on their lights and shoot rockets." Then he turned to the Polish controller. "Tell him to watch straight ahead and a little to the right. If he sees a reflector or rockets, tell him to fly for it."

"He sees it. Far ahead to the right, a reflector," the Polish controller reported.

Everything went like clock work. There was only one more thing. Would his gasoline last?

The Pole gave orders into the microphone. "Fly for the reflector. There's an airfield two miles away. They will shoot white rockets. Over."

"O. K.," the answer came from the other end, "watching for white rockets."

A half a minute later a joyful shout broke the metal coldness of the microphone. "Rockets up! I see the field."

"He sees the field," the Pole interpreted. "He may make it," he added from himself.

Again everybody waited. Only the hum of the ventilator broke the silence. Cigarette smoke floated in the white light. Suddenly:

"Hello Blackboard . . . Blackboard! Gamble sixteen calling. Am over base about landing. Over."

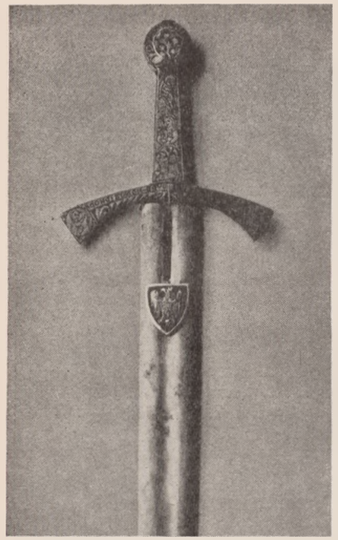
"Hello Gamble sixteen!" the Polish controller answered. "Blackboard answering. Understand you are over base. Switching off to you. Off."

"Good show," muttered the Englishman rubbing his hands.

Field B. telephoned the plane had landed, with dry tanks.

"You're dripping," the Englishman said as he looked at the Polish controller. Then he added: "I'm pretty sticky too. Well, it was worth it."

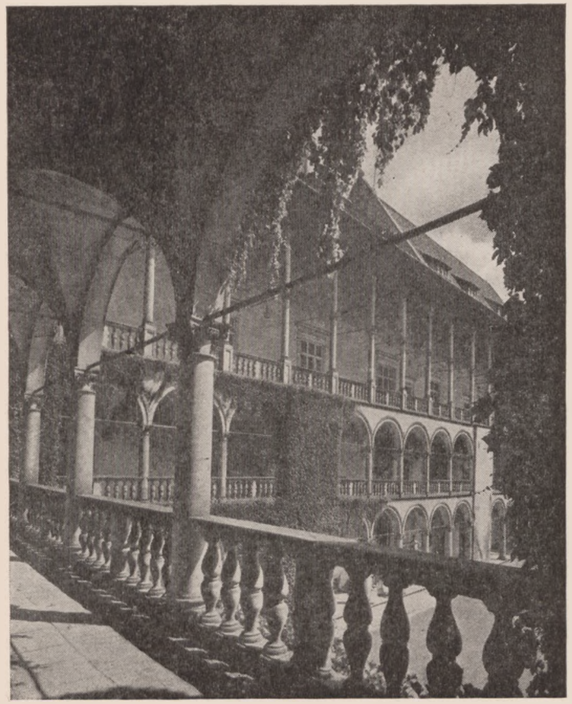
WAWEL CASTLE: ANCIENT RESIDENCE OF POLISH KINGS



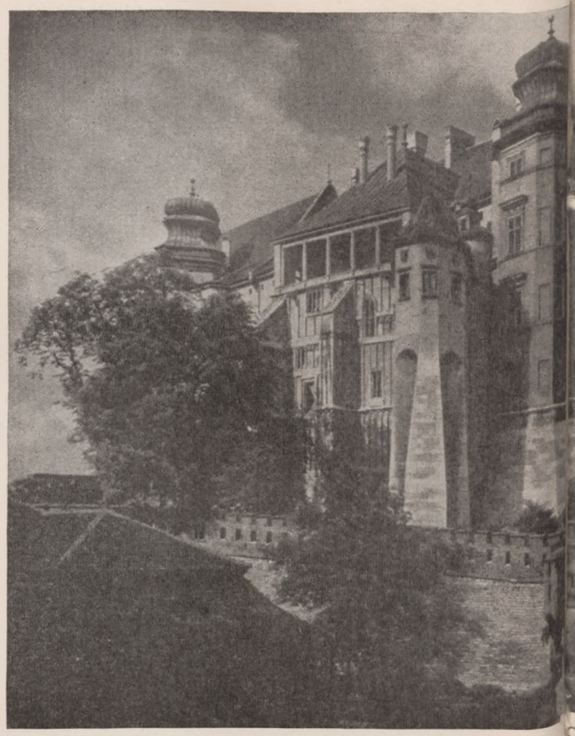
"Szczerbiec" Coronation sword of Polish Kings (XIVth and XVth C.) Wawel Castle Collection.

TO Poles, the relics of their national past are more than museum pieces to be inspected with detached interest and tucked away in one's mind. To Poles, old monuments, works of art, and other mementoes of by-gone days are a real and living part of their daily existence. This is especially true of the people of Cracow, the old capital of Poland, every stone of which tells a story reaching back to the legendary days of Prince Krak, who rid the countryside of the dragon and gave his name to the city on the Vistula.

Dearest to Cracovians and Poles in general, and one of the points of greatest interest in Cracow, is the thousand year old Castle of Polish Kings on the limestone hill of Wawel that saw Polish Kings come and go for 700 years, before the capital was moved to Warsaw in the 17th century. Linked throughout its long and fascinating history with the beautiful Cathedral that adjoins it, Wawel Castle was the pride of Cracow until the Germans came to loot its treasures in 1939.

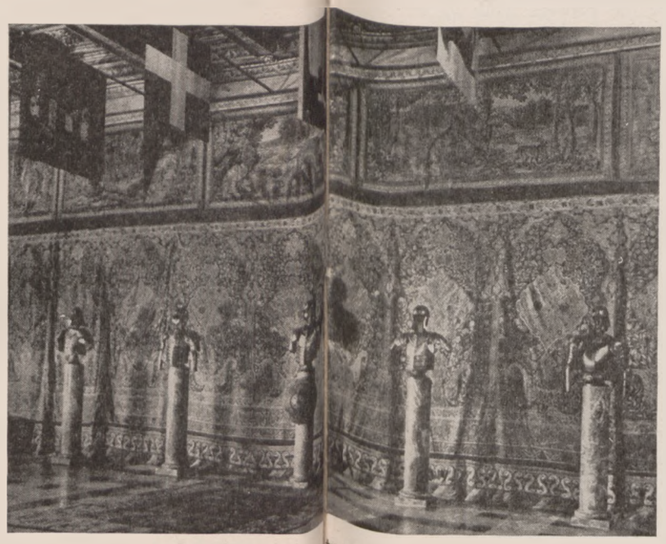


Courtyard of Wawel Castle.



Wawel Castle

When the Castle was first built in the 10th century, it was not very pretentious or large: A tall defensive tower, joined by protective walls with the rest of the apartments. A little further off were palisades united into a defensive whole with the Castle, the Church of St. Gereon and that of St. Felix and St. Adaukt. Later, in Romanesque days, an elaborate building with a ceremonious room of twenty-four columns rose on this site. Under Lokietek another tower and another building were added. But it was Kazimierz the Great (1333-1370) who really expanded and decorated the Castle in Gothic style. The palace was considerably enlarged and reconstructed in the style of the Italian Renaissance during the reign of Zygmunt I (1505-1548) by Lori and Berecci, two Italian architects. At the time, the interior of the palace was richly decorated and provided with costly furniture, unfortunately all destroyed by a disastrous fire in 1595. After this, the Kings took up their residence in Warsaw, the new capital; but they were crowned in the rebuilt Castle at Cracow. When Poland was partitioned, Wawel Castle was turned into a barracks by the Austrians, while everything of artistic and architectural value was carried off to Vienna.



Senators' Hall with the Turkish tent captured at Vienna in 1683—Wawel Castle.

It was not till the first decade of this century that the soldiers were removed and a restoration of the Castle undertaken, under the direction of the well-known architect Professor A. Szyszko-Bohusz. The restoration, interrupted by the Great War, was continued in the 1920's by public subscription and by 1939 most of the work of reconstruction was completed. Wawel Castle and its treasures were in the custody of the authority on art, Dr. Stanislaw Swierz-Zaleski (now in Canada).

An outstanding feature of Wawel Castle is the matchless arcaded courtyard, a perfect example of early Renaissance architecture in Poland. The arches on the ground and first floors are supple and expressive, while the slim second story pillars supporting the roof are light and dainty. To avoid monotony, the arcaded line is broken every so often by huge counterscarps. As the sun plays upon these, the shadow effects highlight the faded friezes—heads of Roman emperors and their wives framed in wreaths and flowers. In the old days the roofs gleamed with a mosaic of colored tiles; the pillars, capitals, doorways and window frames shone red or blue; while gold glistened on the railings. The colors have worn away, but the lines have lost none of their purity and are as appealing as they were ages ago.

Sieniawski Sarcophagus Hall—Wawel Castle.

Inside the Castle, three eras dwell side by side in full harmony—the Gothic of the Piasts and early Jagiellons, the Renaissance of Zygmunt I and the early baroque of Zygmunt III. Outer portals as well as inner doorways give an impressive example of this blending of styles. Uniting the native Gothic traditions of wood architecture with the new spirit of the Renaissance, they offer a wealth of motifs and details. Their patterns are inspired by geometric forms, animal and plant life. Carps and pikes are woven into leafy branches while plaited rope ties in with ox eyes and bone ornaments.

The Castle has three floors, each of which served a special purpose in the past. The simply designed ground floor or the "lower apartments" housed dignitaries attached to the Court and the servants. A staircase leads down to the former Royal Treasury, also called the room of Kazimierz the Great —a Gothic room with an ogival ceiling supported on a single pillar. In this Treasury were kept Royal insignia, historical relics and jewels. In the middle of the 16th century, at the height of the Polish Golden Age, there were stored in it golden vessels, chains, priceless gems, suits of armor, caparisons, swords, scepters, etc. In 1795 when the Prussians occupied Cracow, they denuded the Royal Treasury of its relics, melting the magnificent collection of crowns in 1809. Only two of the many treasures it had contained returned after the Great War: the 700-year-old coronation sword, and the state flag of Zygmunt-August dating from the 16th century.

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WAWEL CASTLE: ANCIENT RESIDENCE OF POLISH KINGS

(*Continued from page* 9)

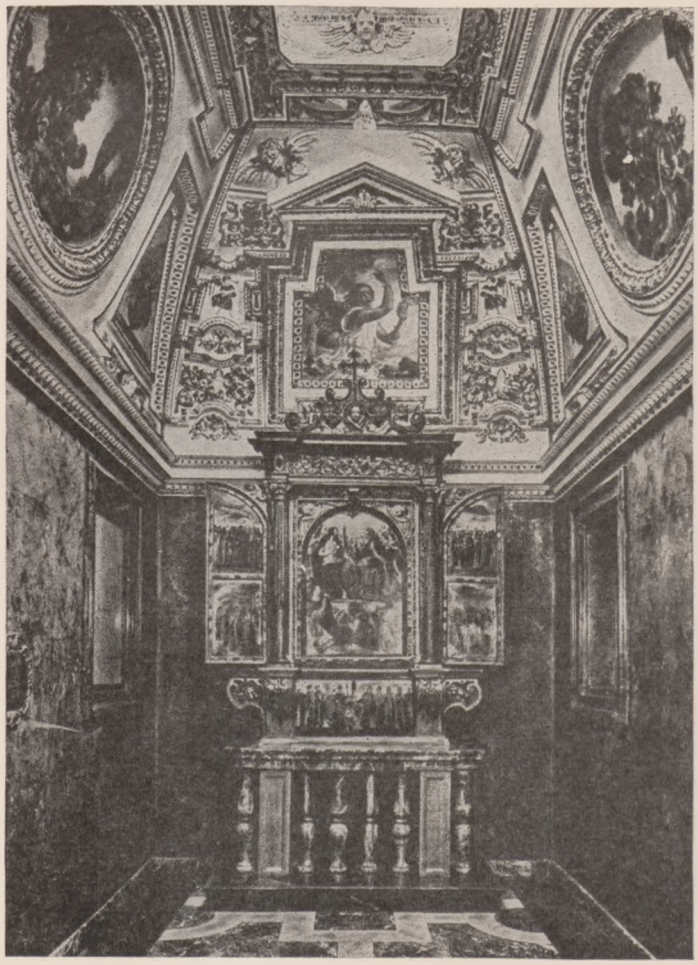
Adjacent to the Treasury is, or rather was up to 1939, a collection of golden bowls and goblets, gifts of Turkish Sultans to Polish envoys. Well protected in special coffers were costly gem-studded arms and accoutrements.

In a separate cabinet in the Zygmunt III Tower, dedicated to Jan Sobieski, Victor of Vienna, were displayed a robe of the Order of the Saint Esprit sent to the Polish King by Louis XIV of France, and the sword and pearl-studded helmet presented by Pope Innocent XI.

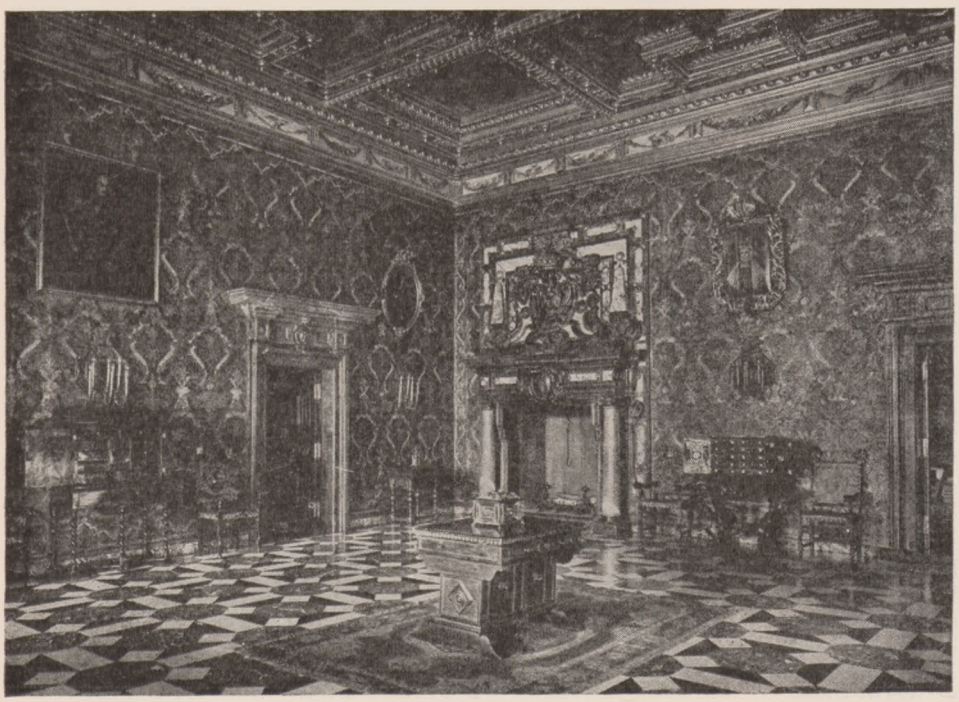
Another neighboring chamber is the Armory. Here, the splendor of Turkish spoils of war—tents, caparisons, flags—spoke of the mighty conflict between East and West and the influences of the East upon Poland.

On the first floor, in the "middle apartments" were located the royal chambers: the King's bedroom suite in the East wing and the apartment of the Queen and her court in the West wing. As the East wing escaped damage in the various fires that swept the rest of the Castle, its old polychromed ceilings and tempera painted friezes are still intact, imparting an unmistakable Renaissance air to these 16th century rooms. Balancing their majesty and dignity is the filigree opulence of the marble decorations and stucco ceilings of a number of small cabinets at the other end of the "Envoy's staircase"—the rooms in the Hen's Foot and the cabinets in the Zygmunt III Tower. The daintiness of these decorations was enhanced by the colorful early 18th century embossed leather used to decorate the walls during the restoration of the Castle. In this part of the Castle is the famous one-column "Alchemy Room" where Zygmunt III conducted his search for gold. Further on, in the North wing is the Danzig room with its carved closets, and the room that used to hold the Royal silver and in recent times had become the Polish Cavalry room.

Whenever the Kings of Poland received their guests or foreign envoys, they did so on the third floor of the Castle. The Envoys' Hall was one of the finest rooms of its kind in all Europe and its reconstruction was a major Polish achievement. Its coffered ceiling was originally adorned with 196 carved and polychromed heads. Only thirty of these had escaped the thieving hands of unwelcome foreign visitors, but they do give some idea of the originality and variety of themes—crowned heads of Kings, laurel-wreathed poets' heads, turbaned women's heads. Running below the ceiling is a frieze depicting the life of man from childhood to death, probably painted by Hans Dürer in 1532. The tapestries gracing the walls completed the impression of splendor and elegance.



Chapel of Zygmunt III—Wawel Castle.



Hall under the Birds—Wawel Castle.

Separated from the Envoys' Hall by a long suite of halls is the Hall Under the Birds. Friezes showing military and jousting scenes still remain in part and the baroque fireplace by Beazzi is as beautiful as ever. Its restored furnishings included the Brussels tapestries of Zygmunt August; sculptures by Benedetto da Majano, Alessandro Vittoria, Luca della Robbia; majolicas from Urbino, Faenza and Deruta; lovely *scabelli*, Italian chairs, Florentine and Venetian tables, Paduan bronzes.

The largest hall in Wawel Castle is the Senators' Hall, formerly used for balls and Court performances. It was here that Jan Matejko's famous canvas, *The Prussian Homage*, was to be hung. That can never be now because by an act of vandalism only too often repeated in Poland the Germans have slashed Matejko's great painting to ribbons.

Before the Partitions the tapestries formed the most valuable decoration of the Castle. Already in the early 16th century,

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WILNO: SACRED TO ALL POLISH HEARTS!

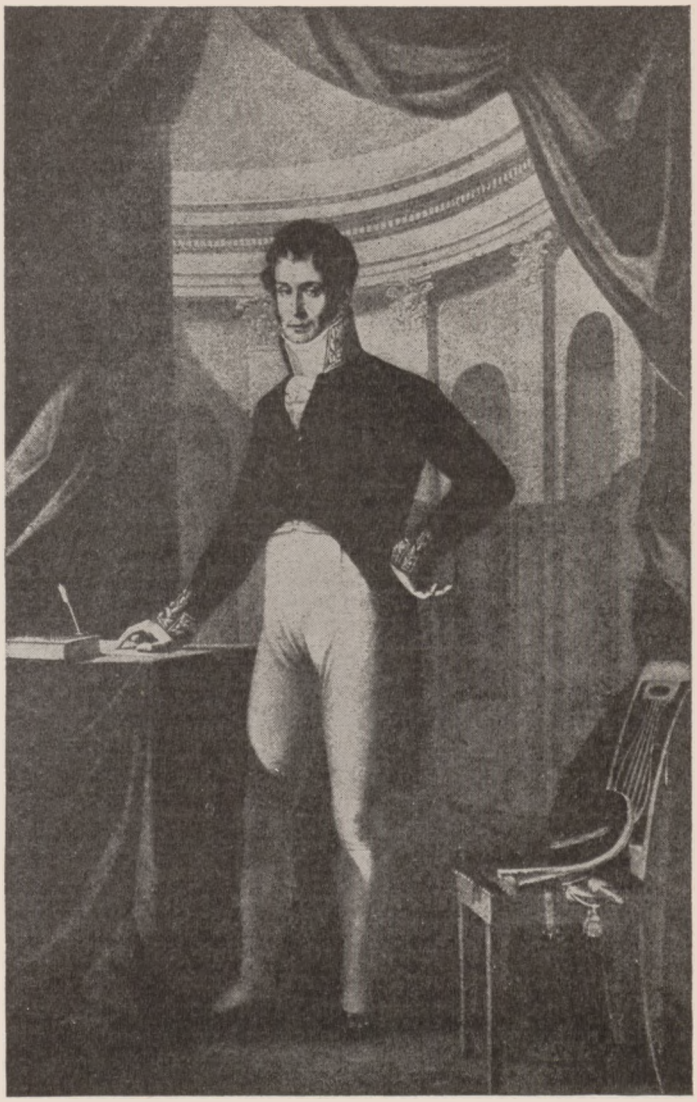
(*Continued from page* 5)

The activity of Wilno University in this period, had a permanent influence on the life of the city and of the whole country, an influence felt for many years after the Russian government closed it. Very many alumni of Wilno University perpetuated its tradition, among them eminent representatives of Polish culture and the two greatest Polish poets —Adam Mickiewicz and Juliusz Slowacki. No wonder Wilno was called the "Polish Athens."

After the insurrection of 1831, in which the Polish population of Lithuania and the peasants who spoke Lithuanian had both taken an important part, the University was closed by the Russian government, which confiscated the priceless library and all the wealth of the old University. Its equipment was transferred to Petersburg, to Kiev or deep into Russia. From then on, the Russian government opposed all attempts to create any institution of higher learning in Wilno even under Russian auspices. Russia realized that in a city as Polish as Wilno any such school would become a nucleus of Polish intellectual life, that its very presence would keep minds in a state of ferment and sow the germ of political unrest among the students, just as it had before 1831, when Romanticism was at its height, and after the insurrection, when democratic conspiracies prepared later risings.

Wilno has always taken a most active part in all Polish national movements. It holds a cardinal place in the history of the martyrdom of Poland. At Wilno were executed Konarski, Sierakowski, Kalinowski and many other champions of the cause of Polish independence. In 1863 the reign of terror started in Lithuania by General Muravev, justly called the "Hangman," was more brutal at Wilno than elsewhere.

As soon as it had crushed the insurrection of 1831, the Russian government adopted a policy of progressive but implacable Russification toward Lithuania. The closing of Wilno University was one of its most striking acts. Another was the abolition in 1839 of the Uniate Church in White Ruthenia, as a result of which the White Ruthenians were removed from the Polish influence of Catholicism, and forced to embrace Eastern Orthodoxy that was specifically Russian. After 1863, Russification became even more intense: its aim was the merciless extirpation of everything Polish. The use of Polish was banned in relations between the people and the Russian authorities, forbidden in the pulpit and even in free schools; no play could be acted in Polish, no newspapers or books published in that language, to hang a Polish sign in front of a shop was a crime. In all public places notices were put up "Vosprestchiaetsia govorit' pa polski" (Speaking Polish Forbidden). No Pole, no Catholic could acquire property. Poles were excluded from even the lowest ranks of public officials. Russia sought to wipe out the last traces of Polish civilization in Lithuania and especially in Wilno. This policy was applied with increased rigor up to 1905. The monument of Catherine II erected at Wilno in 1898 and that of Muravev the Hangman unveiled in 1904 symbolized its triumph.



Prince Adam Czartoryski—Curator of Polish education in Wilno at the turn of the 19th century.

Polish High School erected in Wilno (1930).

But the Polish spirit was so strong that even forty years of the Muravev regime could not break it.

In vain the Russian government tried to break the ties uniting Wilno to Poland, in vain it forbade Poles from Lithuania to study at the Russian controlled University of Warsaw, and Warsaw newspapers were not allowed to publish news from Wilno: Wilno, standing guard as a lost sentinel of Poland, never for an instant lost its communion with the whole country. This outlived the most furious attempts at Russification. Threatened by the revolutionary movement that the disastrous result of the Russo-Japanese war had provoked in the Czar's empire, the Russian government was forced to relax its iron grip on Wilno. The city was again covered with Polish signs

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GERMAN TREATMENT OF WOMEN IN POLAND*

THE German terror regime in Poland is characterized by the fact that women are in no way exempt. They are persecuted as cruelly and as persistently as the men. This may be accounted for by the inhuman instincts of the Germans, but it is also a proof that the Germans are aware of the role which the women in Poland play.

Polish women have always taken a prominent part in the life of their country.

In peace time women in Poland enjoyed equal political rights with the men, and they had great influence in shaping Poland's national existence. When Poland was in danger, Polish women actively defended their country, side by side with their menfolk. Poland's history of insurrections in the 19th century, when the country tried several times to free herself from the chains laid upon her by the Partitions, is rich in examples of heroism displayed by Polish women.

But there are many examples of incredible German cruelty to women in cases where there is no appearance of legality, even from the point of view of the German law courts. In such cases, when at a loss to find a legal pretext, the Germans simply pronounce death sentences under a new legal term invented by the Gestapo tribunals. This is the accusation of being a "Volksschädling"—harmful to the nation, recently introduced into the new German penal code for Poles and Jews. This new term has enlarged the scope of legalized lawlessness still more. It allows the German "judges" who are no better than the Gestapo hangmen, to pronounce sentences of death just as it suits them.

A large number of Polish women have suffered death at the hands of the Germans for refusing to work like slaves. Besides the thousands rounded up and deported for forced war work, large numbers more are taken as domestic servants in private houses and on farms. They are the slaves of their employers. They are not allowed any time off, and there is no limit to their working hours even in theory.

During the cross-examination of prisoners suspected of political activities, torture and floggings have become the rule. Women are no exception to this. Beatings and tortures are so cruel that those who are being examined are often injured for life. The prison hospitals are constantly filled with prisoners who have been bestially tortured. There are many cases of torture ending in death. Last November, two women, Krasowska and Malinowska, were arrested in Warsaw on political charges. During their examination, they were subjected to the cruellest forms of torture, as a result of which they died.

Here is a case which may give an idea of the mental tortures, which are inflicted on Polish women:

The famous Polish ski champion, Marusarz, was executed by the Germans in Cracow. His wife was sentenced to death too, but she was executed a month later. She underwent the following torture: every morning a Gestapo officer would come into her cell, and she was made to believe that they were coming to fetch her to execution. For thirty days this scene was repeated, and every time the German officer informed her that the execution had been postponed to the next day. Finally, on the thirtieth day, she was hanged.

The exploitation of Polish women as material for labor by the German authorities is unlimited. In the Polish territories incorporated into the Reich an order was issued in February this year that all Polish women from 16 to 65 were to report immediately at the German Labor Exchanges so that "the degree of their capability for work" could be ascertained. This was reported in the "Ostdeutscher Beobachter" of February 21, 1942.

The conditions of work for Polish women are extremely

Suffering and Death: Polish Woman in September, 1939.

hard. Other foreign women employed in the Reich receive the same rights as regards maternity welfare as German women workers. Polish and Jewish women are the only exception: they are only granted the minimum assistance, termed in German "Mindestschutz."

For the slightest fault in their work, or if their employers are not satisfied with them, Polish women receive long sentences of imprisonment, which usually have to be served in a concentration camp.

One of the concentration camps for women is in Fürstenberg, in Mecklenburg. Women from all over Poland, mostly from the educated classes, are sent there. In particular, a very large number of schoolteachers from Western Poland, annexed to the Reich, where the policy of Germanization is most ruthlessly applied, have been sent here. Food rations in this camp are on starvation level. The inmates are employed in the camp's workshops and in building roads.

The most ill-famed of the women's concentration camps is the camp at Ravensbrück, where several thousand Polish women are always held (lately there have been some 3,000 of them). The hard camp life affects the health of women more than that of men. Relegation to this camp often means a death sentence for them. Women are transported in large groups. For example, there were 274 women in the group from the Warsaw Pawiak prison, in September, 1941, and 243 women in the group of May 3, 1942, from the same prison. Prison discipline is enforced there. The female supervisors, recruited among criminals, are noted for their cruelty. The inmates have to wear prison clothes. They must always walk barefoot. Severe penalties are inflicted upon those who attempt to wear something on their bleeding feet during the roll calls in the prison courtyard, which often last hours, even in winter. The inmates wear numbers on their backs and special badges describing the type of offense they have committed. The badge of those women who were sent to the camp for political offenses is a red triangle worn on the back. The food consists of coffee, soup and a little bread. The inmates have to do hard manual labor, in housebuilding and carrying heavy loads. The punishments in force in the camp are solitary confinement in a dark cell for long periods, such as 42 days, deprivation of food, and beating with steel rods, up to 25 strokes. Women who faint during this torture are revived and beaten again. The women in the camp belong to all classes and their ages vary from 16 to 70.

Yet the most monstrous crime committed by the Germans on Polish women is the wholesale seizure of young Polish girls and women to be sent to brothels for soldiers. These filthy attacks on Polish women have not been isolated incidents, but the result of the coldly methodical policy of the German authorities.

The reports made by Cardinal Hlond, the Polish Primate, to Pope Pius XII record a number of well-documented facts which show the tragic fate of Polish girls. In one of his reports Cardinal Hlond revealed that the Germans organized in Warsaw a wholesale and official abduction of young girls from the Solec district and on the streets of the suburb of Czerniakow. Eighty of them were arrested in and outside their houses and sent to the Hospital of Saint Lazare, where they were examined by German doctors. The father of one of these victims, belonging to an intellectual circle, succeeded in finding his daughter and rescuing her from the hands of the German authorities. All the others disappeared.

The recruiting of these girls and young women for brothels was also carried out on the pretext of sending them to Germany for forced labor. The girls were seized in the streets individually or even in their own homes. On arrival at the points of assembly for forced labor in Germany, the young women of agreeable physique were segregated from the others, examined by medical specialists and sent to Germany.

Polish women led to their execution by German Gestapo.

Some of them were sent back home after a few months, pregnant, diseased and in a state of complete exhaustion.

A woman's life in occupied Poland today is a hideous nightmare. Not only can she obtain no food to nourish her family, not only does she have to fight for every piece of bread, for each drop of milk for her children, but she is tormented by the terrible fear as to the fate of her husband, brother, or son—perhaps shot, imprisoned or tortured, and the constant terror that she may be seized at any moment for forced labor, or have her dignity as a woman injured.

WAWEL CASTLE: ANCIENT RESIDENCE OF POLISH KINGS

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they numbered more than 100, but these were dispersed through one means or another. When Zygmunt August ascended the throne in 1548, he began to order tapestries for Wawel Castle from Flanders. At his death, his collection contained 356 valuable pieces, woven in wool, silk, gold and silver, by the most famous workshops in Brussels. The tapestries showed scenes from the Old Testament, animal life, landscapes, grotesque designs and coats-of-arms. Their composition and color harmony were remarkable and often extolled by contemporary writers. So great was their value that it could not be estimated in terms of money. In 1795, when Russia invaded Warsaw, she shipped 156 of these tapestries, kept in the capital at the time, to Russia. One hundred and thirty-six were returned to Poland in 1921, following the Treaty of Riga. Only time can tell what has become of them since the German invasion of 1939.

The Wawel Castle has been despoiled more than once, but its spirit cannot be broken, for it is something greater by far than a graceful structure or an impressive relic of the past. It is a symbol of Poland's will to live, a reminder that she has weathered many a heart-breaking storm in gone-by years, and a promise of the better days to come.

WILNO: SACRED TO ALL POLISH HEARTS!

(*Continued from page* 11)

and posters, Polish associations were organized, the Polish theatre was reborn from its ashes. In two or three years the Polish press which had ceased to exist, was represented by some twenty daily and weekly publications, not to mention monthly magazines. Polish learned societies were founded, others devoted themselves to the organization of museums and libraries, Polish cooperatives were formed and finally free Polish schools were opened.

It is true that many of these victories were short-lived. The reaction that followed the Russian Revolution saw to

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*From: "Conditions in Occupied Territory," United Nations Information Office.

POLAND'S WESTERN FRONTIER

(*Continued from page* 3)

Polish frontier to its natural site leaving to Poland the basins of the Oder and Vistula. It merely made Poland's position worse, and so lasted only twenty years (1919-1939).

In 1939 Germany invaded Poland, which was overrun by overwhelming forces of men and material. It is no accident that the eastern boundary of German-occupied Poland includes the whole river system of the Vistula basin. The entire economic and geographic unit of the river systems of the Oder and the Vistula thus finds itself inside Germany.

Germany is now striving to achieve ethnical superiority in this territory by most barbarous methods, mass murder for the sin of being Polish, starvation of hundreds of thousands of people, deportation of the population from their homes and confiscation of all their wordly goods.

Should Germany win this war by the use of such methods, she could easily effect the complete destruction of the Polish nation. The problem would be solved in accordance with German plans, and the basins of the Oder and the Vistula would gradually become German.

Should Germany lose this war—as she most certainly will—the restoration of the basins of the Oder and the Vistula to their rightful owner, Poland, is essential to a lasting peace.

WILNO: SACRED TO ALL POLISH HEARTS!

(*Continued from page* 13)

that. But the Polish press, the theatre and some associations survived. Free Polish schools were again outlawed and forced to go underground.

To the Imperial Duma, Wilno sent Polish deputies, thus proving once more that it was a Polish city. But as it was also the natural center and largest city of the Lithuanian-White Ruthenian provinces, it also became the focal point for national movements in those regions—Jewish, Lithuanian, and White Ruthenian—without however the Polish character of the city being modified in the least.

This character was made manifest on the arrival of German troops in 1915. In this reputedly Russian city, there were no Russians. Those living there had fled with the Russian army, with officials and their families and the representatives of the Orthodox clergy at their head. They even carted away their monuments—the bronze statues of Catherine II, Muravev and Pushkin. Those who remained were inhabitants who loved their city: Jews, Lithuanians, Catholic White Ruthenians and—above all—Poles. Once the Russian signs had been taken down by order of the Germans, Wilno showed no trace of the 120 years of Russian occupation.

Of all the elements then forming the population of Wilno, the Poles alone showed themselves of a stature to confront the Germans with a conscious and organized force that had to be reckoned with. They took advantage of the short delay between the evacuation of the city by the Russians and the entry of German troops to organize and prove themselves the dominating nationality. Polish schools were organized with surprising rapidity in Wilno and in the provinces; after three months of existence the Committee of Polish Education could boast of having organized in Wilno fifty primary schools, attended by more than 5,000 children, eight higher elementary schools with more than 1,400 pupils, four secondary schools with 900 pupils, five normal schools for teachers, four technical schools, one popular University, public and advanced commercial courses. In addition, 200 entirely new schools were created. The example of Wilno was followed by Grodno, Bialystok, and other cities.

German surprise was great to find the Polish element so powerful and so active in a city they had believed Russian. But because they intended to annex Wilno anyway, they decided to destroy its Polish character. Polish societies were suppressed, Polish printing and Polish newspapers forbidden, and the Polish Municipal Council deprived of its authority. The German language was made compulsory in schools. But although they cut Wilno off completely from the rest of Poland, the Germans could not kill the Polish spirit. The German census of 1917 showed the population of Wilno to be 70,629 Poles, 3,699 Lithuanians and 1,917 White Ruthenians. In the rural district of Wilno there were 148,000 (74%) Poles as against 31,386 (15.8%) Lithuanians and 4,933 (2.4%) White Ruthenians.

During the war and for some time after, the fate of Wilno remained uncertain. Under German occupation which oppressed and exploited it unmercifully, it had vainly called for reunion with Poland: on leaving, the invaders had preferred to hand it over to the Bolsheviks. Liberated on April 19, 1919, by Jozef Pilsudski, a son of the province of Wilno, the city finally recommenced its life reunited with Poland. Polish schools were reopened, societies were founded, the Polish press reappeared, and the University was reborn as the "Stefan Batory University." The vicissitudes of the Polish-Russian war forced Polish authorities to evacuate Wilno in 1920. The city fell into the hands of the Bolsheviks who handed it over to the Lithuanian Republic by a treaty signed between them on July 12th, 1920. The Lithuanians remained in possession of Wilno up to October 9th, 1920, when General Zeligowski entered the city at the head of Polish troops and ousted the Russian forces.

The elected Diet of Wilno *unanimously* voted the incorporation of Wilno and its region to Poland. On March 15, 1923, the Conference of Ambassadors definitely recognized Poland's right to Wilno. Thus, after 129 years, Wilno became a Polish city not only in fact but also by law.

Wilno is one of the most important centers of Polish culture, filled with precious memories, dear to every Polish heart. With it is associated the memory of Adam Mickiewicz, Juliusz Slowacki, Joachim Lelewel, Jozef Ignacy Kraszewski, and many others up to Jozef Pilsudski. It is a beacon of Western civilization lighted on the outskirts of Eastern Europe.

* * *

So ends Leon Wasilewski's article. For the twenty years that Wilno was again a part of reborn Poland, the city made tremendous progress. Its industry expanded, its university grew, its prosperity was restored. Unfortunately this promising development was cut short by the invasion of the Soviet army in September, 1939, and then by German military occupation.

When the light of freedom again shines on the enslaved peoples of Europe, Wilno will take up the work, so abruptly interrupted, as a part of Poland, the State to which it belongs by law, by history and by tradition.

Front page: A pastel by Leon Wyczolkowski, "The Old Mountaineer." (Zakopane District, Southwestern Poland)

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SWIT REPORTS GERMANS ADMIT WIDE SABOTAGE

SWIT reports that German papers in Poland admit the following actions by the Polish underground organization.

On November 6th SA. Oberfuehrer Alfred Funk, Director of the Department of Justice Reichs Kommisariat for Ukraine in Rovno, was killed.

On the 22nd, shooting was heard in Bedzinska Street in Sosnowiec. Later German police appealed for witnesses promising that names would not be revealed.

At the end of November a group of "Polish bandits" crossed the frontiers of the General Government into Wartheland and carried out an attack on the German colony in Siemianowice in Kutno province. One "bandit," Czeslaw Kalski, aged 21, was captured and executed by the Germans in Wloclawek.

At the end of November a Pole, name unknown, was arrested for carrying out three attacks in Wielkopolska, seven in Lodz, two in the Government General. He killed a German railwayman, then escaped to the Reich.

On the November 25th a group of Polish workers accused of burning down a warehouse were shot in Poznan.

A citizen of Czestochowa, Henryk Konieczak, was sentenced to death at the end of November in Oppeln for giving ration cards to Jews in 1942.

In Poznan thirty fires broke out in November, reasons for six were not given.

V.V.V.

SWIT reports that the underground movement continues to disorganize German communications. All trains moving through Poland are defended by machine guns and other weapons. This, however, does not stop their being held up, attacked and derailed. The fact that equipment and ammunition cannot reach German units in time is a great assistance to Russian victories. German high officials avoid travelling by railway, especially on the Warsaw-Cracow and Warsaw-Lublin lines. They travel mostly by car, but Poles carry out sabotage on the roads as well.

V.V.V.

SWIT reports that the Germans have liquidated the lunatic asylums in Kulparkow and Kobierzyn and converted them into rest homes for German officials from the Government General and for Hitler-Jugend. The inmates were put to death in gas chambers and their bodies cremated. Recently a few hundred Germans from bombed Hamburg, Berlin and other German cities who had contracted serious nerve ailments after Royal Air Force raids, were placed in a lunatic asylum at Tworki near Warsaw.

German Morale is Breaking In Poland—Gov. Gen. Frank Has Two Narrow Escapes!

GERMAN morale in Poland is breaking according to documents and underground newspapers smuggled out of Poland. This is confirmed by broadcasts by SWIT, the Polish underground radio, and eyewitness accounts. They show German authorities in Poland in an acute state of alarm—facing not only bitter Polish resistance but growing mutinies and desertions among German troops and panic among German civilians.

Confirmation of an approaching crisis was given last week by Polish Premier Mikolajczyk's disclosure from underground sources inside Poland, that the Wehrmacht had accused the Gestapo of being unable to maintain order and had demanded that the Army be placed in complete control of German security in Poland.

Late in November, Himmler made a sudden trip to Cracow for a conference of Gestapo commanders to discuss new measures for preventing a general Polish revolt in the rear of retreating German forces on the Eastern front. Drastic changes in the Gestapo command took place, as a result. Meanwhile, all German SS. units have been instructed to be on the "constant alert." German youths living in Poland are being trained for police duty and German officials ordered to carry arms at all times.

The Russian advance has caused German morale to sink to a new low. Recent Allied raids on Poland had a nerve-shattering effect on evacuees from the bombed Reich. After raids the Polish underground radio, SWIT, reported that the refugees were utterly distraught, having been assured by Goebbels, when they left devastated Berlin, Hamburg, Mannheim and other areas, that Poland was safe from Allied flyers.

The same underground station recently broadcast that the German organization for taking care of Reich refugees had almost completely broken down. Near Lodz, thousands of Germans are still living in tents, and the occupation press constantly exhort Germans living in Poland to give shelter to their fellow countrymen—warning that if necessary, accommodation will be requisitioned forcibly. The refugees are lucky if they find quarters in the ghettos from which the Jews have been "eliminated."

To add to the tribulations of the invaders, Germans arriving in Poland, after nights of terror under Allied bombings, are greeted with blood-curdling inscriptions on sidewalks and walls, with leaflets and headlines in the underground press, promising that no German will leave Poland alive.

Many Germans in Poland have broken down under the strain and German hospitals are filled with nerve cases. News of this has reached the Reich and Germans are reluctant to seek haven in Poland. The Germans have been forced to hide the destination of their evacuation trains. German administrators, soldiers, and civilians live in constant terror of the underground. Slayings and sabotage are daily occurrences. Theatres set aside only for Germans are continually bombed. Guerrillas make forays on German-inhabited villages and burn them down.

Two near attempts have already been made on the life of Governor-General Hans Frank. In the latest Frank's armored train was derailed between Cracow and Warsaw and a desperate gunfight ensued between guerrillas and Frank's guard. The engine had to be rehitched to the rear of the train, and Frank fled back to Cracow, finally reaching Warsaw by plane.

Among the German troops in Poland all hope of victory has virtually disappeared.

UNDERGROUND FOR DEMOCRACY

How thoroughly democratic the Polish underground movement is may be judged from the statement of the Polish Underground Political Representation that immediately after the country is liberated, the reconstruction of Poland must include full political freedom for all, with political administration based on self-government; recognition of the value of human labor; introduction of agrarian reform; public administration of Polish industries and business and of German property; use of cooperatives within the framework of a planned economy; and full employment.

This program, as outlined in the August 30, 1943, issue of the underground publication "Rzeczpospolita Polska," was developed at a conference "somewhere in Poland" of representatives of the four major political parties.

RACZKIEWICZ VISITS JUNAKS ON XMAS EVE

President Raczkiewicz attended a special "Wigilia" for the "Junaks" held in the Polish Airforce Station somewhere in England. He was accompanied by Rev. Kaczynski, Izycki and few other high officers. After seeing the Junaks march past, the President inspected their quarters, chatting with various boys, enquiring about their lives.

Guests and Junaks waited for the President's entrance at the tables, which were arranged around a fine Christmas tree. The President addressed the boys telling them that although they were not spending Wigilia with their families they should not feel lonely because the whole Polish Nation is their family.

He spoke of Poland fighting indomitably and said that the thoughts of all Poles go to her on this Christmas Eve with ardent wishes for her steadfastness and victory. Youth ought to learn not only how to live and die for motherland but chiefly how to work for her. Young people should try to improve themselves now in order to be able to later work for Poland's reconstruction.

Concluding his speech, the President called for cheers for the Polish republic, then turned to the British Commander of the Station, thanking him for all the facilities and assistance which the Junaks receive from the British authorities.

He then called for cheers for King George VI and Great Britain. All sat down at the tables where after grace, came the touching moment of breaking and partaking of the *oplatek*.

POLISH OFFICERS GET HIGH BRITISH DECORATIONS

Sir Bernard Paget, British Commander in Chief of the Home Forces, decorated fourteen Polish officers with high British orders. The investiture took place in London. An Honor Guard with band was present. General Kopanski received the insignia of the Distinguished Service Order and was also made a Knight Commander of the Order of British Empire (KBE); Paszkiewicz, Maczek and Regulski were made Companions of the Bath (CB). Colonel Sosabowski and four other high officers were elevated to Commanders of the Order of the British Empire (CBE). Other Polish officers were made Officers (OBE) and one received the cross of member of the same Order (MBE).

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Mr. Kwapinski's Farewell Message

"I am leaving America after spending two months here. The main purpose of my coming was to participate in the work of creating the United Nations organization for relief to countries devastated by war and enemy occupation. I am leaving the shores of the United States, with the conviction that the UNRRA, this organization of relief and reconstruction, will soon be ready to start its great work.

"Of Poland's share in the Atlantic City Conferences I have already spoken. May I add that the Polish Government was one of the first to pay its quota of the expenses involved in bringing into operation the executive agencies of the UNRRA.

"Following on the Atlantic City Conference I took advantage of my visit to Washington to discuss with Director Lehman and other leaders, matters directly connected with Poland. I can assure you that, as far as Poland is concerned, all our needs in the field of relief and reconstruction have been given careful consideration.

"I wish to take this opportunity to emphasize my full agreement with Director Lehman that the immediate and efficient operation of UNRRA, now while the war is still on, may accelerate victory. So long as the war lasts, relief for the civilian population of liberated territories, and the assurance to the population of countries about to be liberated that relief is approaching, are a vital military necessity.

"As Director Lehman has rightly said, the whole work of the UNRRA is designed to preserve human material for participation in the rebirth of free society. For those who have suffered, we must create conditions that will restore them to health and enable them to work, that will assure them against chaos, anarchy or fresh tyranny. We are all interdependent. Relief for the needy will benefit also those who were less affected by the war, for it will help to restore world economy.

"UNRRA is the first great test of the ability of the present community of United Nations to achieve peace aims. It is the first daring test of the ability of free nations to cooperate. We must prove that we are united not only for war and destruction, but also for relief and prosperity.

"In this holiday season, may I close with a fervent wish, repeated to-day by all Poles no matter where they may be: That we spend next Christmas in a victorious, free and independent Poland!"

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This is a selection of publications on Poland in the English language, arranged according to subject matter

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