

The Polish Review

VOL. IV. No. 9

Bibl. Jag.

MARCH 7, 1944



HOW A POLISH FAMILY LIVES IN POLAND NOW

A young Polish woman who managed to escape from Poland a few months ago has just reached Britain, and has given some details about home life in Poland and life of women in general.

As more and more men are deported by the Germans, increasingly heavy burdens fall on women's shoulders. In the past year the attitude of German authorities toward the Polish women has undergone a fundamental change. The Polish woman is persecuted as much as the Polish man. She is equally liable to fall victim to manhunts and be deported to forced labor in Germany or to a concentration camp or to be executed.

Often the sole supporter of her family, the Polish woman must work hard. Her daily life is a ceaseless effort to provide her family with essentials such as food, clothing, fuel, light, medicine, etc. Official rations are too small to live on and too large to die of. Prices on the black market are on an average ten times higher than before the war, but wages have not changed. The average monthly salary of a minor civil servant or white collar worker is 200 to 300 zloty.

After four years of war, the clothing situation, particularly with regard to winter clothes, is extremely bad, especially in villages, where people had fewer clothes to begin with. Shoes are patched and often two pairs of shoes made into one. The high price of sole leather forces people to use wood or pieces cut from old tires, uppers are made of cloth. Stockings are 200 zloty a pair. There is a dearth of pins, sewing thread, even needles.

The basic food of the average Pole is potatoes. They are rationed, and often of very poor quality and frozen. Potatoes with semolina and another vegetable, if it can be obtained, usually form the midday meal in the form of a soup, without meat or fat. One kilogram of butter or sausage costs 200 zloty on the black market. Fats have never been supplied on ration cards issued by the Germans. Meat is very seldom issued and in minute quantities.

Women have to use all their

CARDINAL HLOND

In connection with Cardinal Hlond was arrested in February and transferred to Paris. The Papal Nuncio in France intervened with the German authorities and immediately informed the Vatican. It is now believed that Cardinal Hlond is kept in Aix-les-Bains under Gestapo house arrest.

FRANK'S NARROW ESCAPE

News has reached London of an attempt on the life of Dr. Hans Frank, German Governor General of Poland, on January 29th when he was on a special train bound for Lwow for an inspection.

A detachment of Polish underground forces succeeded in dynamiting the track near Podleze station, 12 miles east of Cracow. The locomotive and first three coaches were blown up and many Germans travelling as Frank's escort were killed, others severely injured. Frank, who was in the fifth coach, escaped injury. As a reprisal the Germans executed 100 Poles in Cracow on February 2nd. Special posters announced the reason for the execution.

SWIT REPORTS FROM POLAND

SWIT reports that the air raid precautions commandant of Warsaw has ordered the digging of splinter-proof shelter trenches, as well as the sinking of artesian wells in the quarter inhabited by the Germans. Warsaw hospitals are full of wounded from the Eastern fronts.

V.V.V.

SWIT reports a German appeal to the Lithuanians for all able-bodied men to join the Wehrmacht, in the same conditions as volunteers of German nationality. Conscription to Lithuanian Defense Battalions has been increased and accelerated.

ingenuity to try to introduce variety into their menu and to obtain foods of higher nourishment value. Anyone caught buying and selling in the black market is sentenced to a long term imprisonment in a penal camp, in some cases even to death.

Despite these dangers groups of women make their way out into the country in the evening, sometimes through deep snow and then return on foot many miles carrying knapsacks containing anything they may have been able to buy from peasants. For breakfast and supper the average Polish family drinks a beverage made of herbs, wild strawberry leaves being added to improve taste. Sugar is very scarce and costs 150 zlotys per kilogram.

Bread is black and soggy, it tastes sour, because the flour is mixed with ground lupin seeds and chestnut flour. Splinters of wood are often found in it. German scientists pretend these splinters have high nourishment value. The daily bread ration is 150 grams—(about five ounces).

Insufficient rations of fats, vitamins and fruit are particularly injurious to children. In towns they get no milk. Small quantities of macaroni flour which children receive instead of half their bread ration cannot make up for the lack of those nourishing foods needed by young growing organisms. Among 960 children of pre-school age examined by doctors at a local centre 740 had sub-normal temperatures.

Coal is very dear and in some areas, like Warsaw quite unobtainable. Gas consumption has increased while gas companies re-

ceive smaller supplies of coal, and so gas is rationed. Electricity is also rationed and neither it nor gas are obtainable all the time.

V.V.V.

SWIT reports that Governor-General Frank admitted at a meeting of Hitler Jugend in Cracow: "Our task in the Government General is extremely difficult. This country presents the heaviest problems encountered so far and the only support I can rely on, is in full collaboration of the small number of Germans in the Government General."

Cold is an even worse plague than hunger. The underfed workers return exhausted from their day's toil, and in unheated homes cannot get the rest they so sorely need.

There is no more ordinary soap, except at very high prices in the black market. Rationed soap is of poor quality, as hard as coal or soft and sticky. There is no laundry soap.

Medicines in everyday use like aspirin, iodine, quinine, even headache powders which used to be so popular in Poland are unobtainable. There are no serums for injections nor insulin. Cottonwool is a memory and even paper wadding is difficult to get. No medicine for the treatment of frostbites is available, and frostbites are widely due to undernourishment and unheated homes.

Theatres, cinemas, concerts, visits to cafes are things of the past for the Poles. All public shows are boycotted. Social life consists of visits to close friends and relatives. For birthdays and Christmas, etc., practical gifts such as flour or semolina are given and accepted with delight. A great attraction at a birthday party and a thing long to be remembered is a cup of real prewar tea, for usually on such occasions some sort of herb tea is served.

Social and family life is regulated by curfew. Germans shoot at anybody about in the streets after that hour and often arrest passengers in trains.

PRESIDENT, IN LETTER, PRAISES POLISH PEOPLE

In answer to Congressman Joseph Mruk of Buffalo, N. Y., President Roosevelt wrote on Feb. 7, 1944:

"Poland's valiant battle against the forces of aggression in 1939 and the continued resistance of the Polish people to Nazi subjugation have been an inspiration to all those engaged in fighting for liberty. Since those fateful days at the beginning of war, I and the other officials of this Government have followed with close attention all developments in that area.

"As you have undoubtedly learned from press reports this Government offered to extend its good offices, if agreeable to the Soviet and Polish Governments, with a view to arranging for the resumption of official relations between them. Although the United States' offer was not accepted at this time by the Government of the Soviet Union, I can assure you that our Government is keeping constantly in mind the consideration which you expressed in your letter and will not rest in its efforts to free all victims of aggression and to establish a just and enduring peace based on the sovereign equality of all peace-loving States, large and small."

ITALIANS FIGHT IN POLISH ARMY UNDERGROUND

A number of Italians are now fighting in the ranks of the Polish underground army. Their numbers have increased recently to such an extent that a special Garibaldi Battalion has been formed. It is composed of Italian officers and men who fled from the eastern front after Mussolini's fall and of others who escaped from concentration camps in Poland where the Germans imprisoned many Italian anti-Fascists arrested in northern Italy.

Recently a strong detachment of the Polish underground army attacked Zajezerze, near Deblin in Central Poland, a German concentration camp for Italians. The German guards were killed and all Italian officers and men were released. They joined the Polish unit, and since that time have been fighting in the ranks of the underground army.

SWIT reports the Germans have prohibited settling down of newcomers in Poznan, Lodz, Kiel, Hanover and Luebeck without a special permit. The reason given is "lack of housing space and overcrowding."

"This Treaty is the source of future political evil."

—Maria Theresa, Empress of Austria

(On the First Partition of Poland, 1772)

GUERRILLA AND SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES OF THE POLISH UNDERGROUND ARMY

UNTIL the moment comes for the final struggle, the Polish Underground Army is engaged in hindering the German war effort. The country's geographical situation favors such a task: German supplies for the Eastern front have to pass through Poland. Also, many factories have been transferred from Germany in consequence of bombing raids, and the Underground Army hinders their production.

A further aim is to make the German nation realize it will not go unpunished for its crimes. Many documents containing secret German instructions have been captured, and these show that the Germans do not under-estimate the Polish Underground Army. Officials are warned against possible dangers, are urged not to live alone, but in groups, and the higher officials to avoid as much as possible being alone in the streets of any Polish town. Soldiers are forbidden to leave their barracks except in groups.

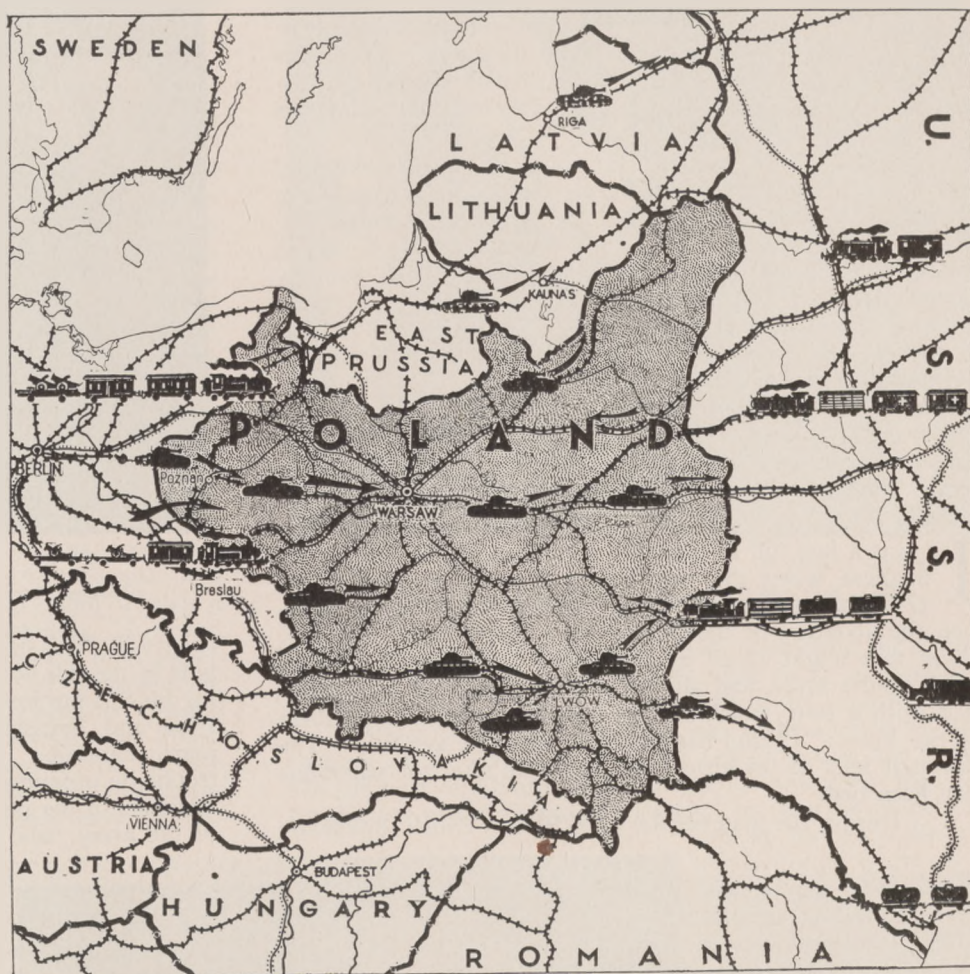
A recent issue of the "Information Bulletin" thus describes the state of affairs in Warsaw:

"A cordon of German police armed with rifles and machine-guns is posted at every two paces on both sides of the street. There is a crowd of plain-clothes police and spies on the pavements. The trams make the entire journey from one end to the other without stopping anywhere. Armed police in motorcycles and in cars patrol the roads, many passers-by are stopped and their documents examined, especially if they are carrying portfolios or packets. Finally a procession of two closed cars escorted by numerous cars filled with armed police, tears past at a furious speed.

"That is what Warsaw looks like when Governor-General Frank arrives for a couple of days and has to go from one street to another. The worthy gentleman whom the Fuehrer has appointed Protector of the Poles is among a grateful and devoted people."

Acts of sabotage are on the increase. Apart from these there are activities of a military character, for the defense of the people, the defense of Polish property. Often this action has considerable results, though for obvious reasons details cannot be given. For instance, the Directorate of Civilian Resistance recently reported:

"Because of mass murders committed by the Germans against the Polish people in Kielce province, in July, 1943, the detachments controlled by the Directorate of Civilian Resistance carried out acts of reprisal in this area. After a forced march, a section of railway some ten miles in length,



German transports to the Eastern Front have to pass through Poland.

situated in the neighborhood where the Germans had been particularly bestial in their conduct, was seized and held. Two fast trains running from Warsaw to Cracow and one goods train going in the opposite direction were held up. Simultaneously station and section equipment were destroyed in Laczna and Jedrow near Suchedniow. A fight developed, in the course of which the enemy suffered about one hundred casualties. Our own casualties were one wounded. To conclude the proceedings the Hymn of the Polish Army was played and the detachments withdrew according to plan. Communications were interrupted along a line of importance to the Germans for fifteen hours."

In addition to this raid a number of others were carried out with the same attention to detail and the same thoroughness in execution. Close to the same station of Laczna, a fight developed in which 180 Germans were killed and wounded. On the Warsaw-Lublin line a German fast train was derailed. On the river Krzna near Lukow, a railway

(Please turn to page 15)

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF: POLES AGAIN FIGHT IN ITALY



"All Free Men Are Brothers" — Regimental Colors of the Polish Legions in Italy.

On February 16, the *New York Times* correspondent in Algiers cabled his paper: "It was announced late tonight that the Second Polish Corps, under the command of Gen. Wladyslaw Anders, now is in action in Italy. The corps includes the Carpathian and 'Kresowa' divisions." The latter was organized in Russia and later trained in the Middle East.

To Poles this brings up visions of another Polish Corps, that some 150 years ago joined with other allies to fight for freedom in Italy. The Polish National Anthem has the words "March, march Dombrowski from Italian soil to Poland." The original legions suffered bitter disappointment in failing to reach Poland. The Polish legions of today fight with the realization that from Italy they will eventually make their way to their martyred homeland.

The following account of the Polish legions of 1797 by General M. Kukiel, now Minister of National Defense, is taken from the chapter "Polish Military Effort in the Napoleonic Wars" in the *Cambridge History of Poland*.

It was a fact full of deep historical importance that at the moment when the partitioning Powers notified (July, 1797) at an assembly of the German Reichstag in Ratisbon the abolition of the Polish State forever and of everything that might recall it, a restored Polish army was already under arms, and answered the sentence of extermination with a song which was to become the national anthem of the Poles: "Poland has not died while we yet live." The dramatic knot of the history of the nation after the partitions had been tied.

... During the insurrection of 1794 the Polish diplomatic



by Juliusz Kossak
General Henryk Dombrowski at the head of the Legions.

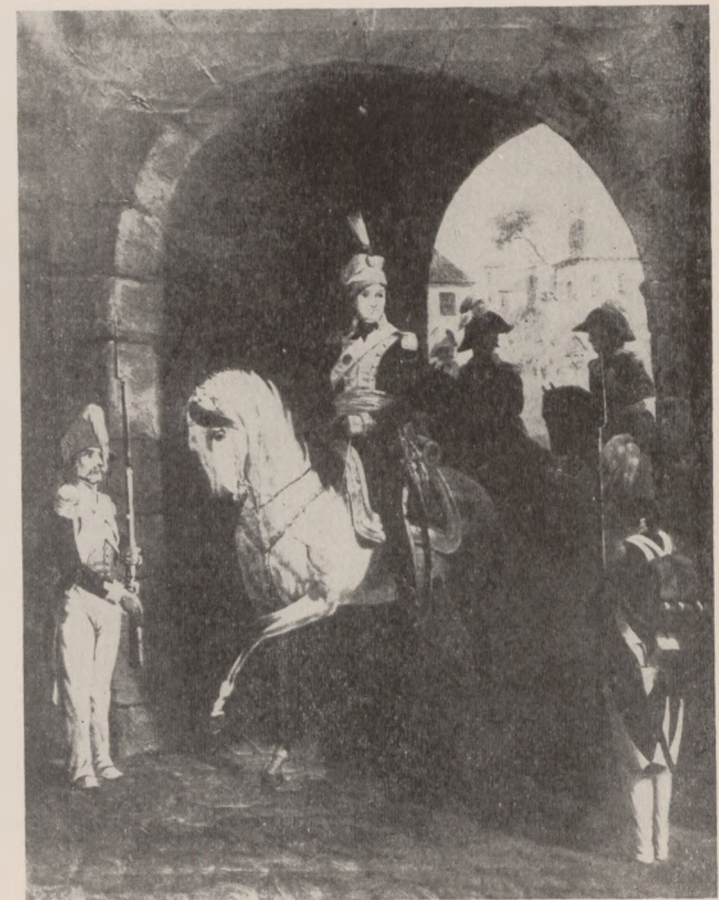
agency in Paris had promoted the idea of forming a Polish legion by the side of the army of the French Republic, and of using for this purpose the Polish prisoners of war from the Austrian and Prussian service, who were growing more and more numerous. This idea was taken up after the catastrophe by prominent leaders of the Polish emigration, former members of the insurrectionary government and commanders of the army, who first flocked to Venice and later concentrated chiefly in Paris. However, they could not obtain a favorable decision either from the Third Committee of Public Safety or from the Executive Directory. France, in fact, while inclined to encourage a "confederation" in Moldavia, as committing Turkey and alarming Russia and Austria by the phantom of a new insurrection, would gladly have seen a new "useful diversion" in Poland, but nevertheless avoided taking any steps which might have roused Catherine II to action against France, or have complicated possible negotiations with Austria, or caused a conflict between France and Prussia. That article of the Constitution of the year III (1795) which forbade keeping foreigners in the service of the Republic became a convenient pretext for declining Polish proposals.

Matters stood somewhat differently when in the autumn of the year 1796 Lieutenant-General John Henry Dombrowski appeared in Paris, with the halo of a splendid reputation won by his suc-

"Bonaparte always expressed the highest admiration for the bravery of the Polish legions. One evening, after his return from Italy to Paris, he was present at a fete, where Count Oginski was requested to play a march which he had composed for these patriots. 'Come,' said Napoleon, to those who summoned him, 'let us go and hear, they are talking of the Polish legions: we must always help the brave Polish legions, for these Poles fight like devils.'"

—James Fletcher in *History of Poland* (1831).

cesses in the year 1794 against the Prussians. He had been invited by Suvorov to serve Russia, but in vain, and to serve Prussia by Frederick William II himself; now he was received with great respect by the French generals. Not only would his person lend more authority to Polish plans, which for him were a continuation of his own projects of 1793 and also from the fall of the insurrection. Other circumstances were joined to that: above all the military and political situation in Italy, where Bonaparte's army was almost exhausted and much threatened after his amazing victories and needed a great reinforcement, and where the feats of its commander led to the establishment of a national army in Lombardy. Thus the conception of placing the Polish detachments in Lombard service became advantageous from two points of view. First, this would give Bonaparte a new division of brave and experienced soldiers. Secondly, as a Lombard army, the Poles gave better guarantees than the Lombards themselves of faithfulness to "the great nation," "the mother Republic"—France, and of service in realizing her political plans. This very consideration, however, must have caused diffidence and unwillingness on the part of Bonaparte who had the foundation of a national State in Lombardy seriously at heart. Therefore Dombrowski was badly received in Milan (December, 1796), and it took a month to break down the prejudice against him. However, the military reasons in favor of the formation of a legion prevailed with Bonaparte. On January 9, 1797, a convention, ratified by Bonaparte, was concluded between the General Administration of Lombardy and Dombrowski, the Polish lieutenant-general, concerning the creation of the "Polish Legions auxiliary to Lombardy." For the new formations the convention prescribed a uniform, military marks of dis-



by Januarius Suchodolski
General Dombrowski entering Rome on May 3rd, 1798.

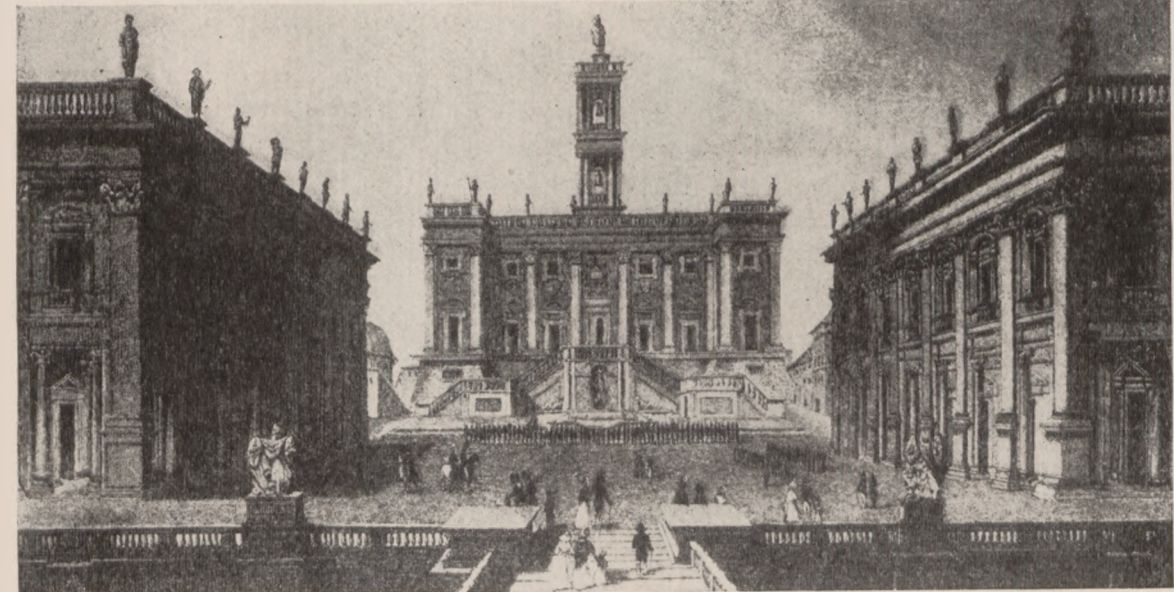
tinction and forms of organization, all resembling the Polish as closely as possible; the epaulets were to be in Lombard colors with an inscription: "Gli uomini liberi sono fratelli"; the cockarde worn by the legions was to be French as "the emblem of the nation who is the protectress of the free." On the part of Lombardy the assurance was given that her inhabitants would regard the legions "as their brothers, and

not as foreign soldiers," guaranteeing to the legionaries the right of citizenship and that of returning to their country when Poland should need them. These terms differ patently from those of a common contract of hiring foreign soldiers. The political character of the convention was emphasized in Dombrowski's manifesto, which called the Poles to a contest "for the common cause of all nations—freedom," because "the triumphs of the Commonwealth of France were our only hope"; similarly, the manifesto of the General Administration of Lombardy de-

(Please turn to page 6)



Contemporary drawing by E. Tremo
Polish soldiers in Milan, January 12, 1797.



Contemporary drawing by M. Sokolnicki
Polish Troops at the Capitol in Rome on May 3rd, 1798.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF: POLES AGAIN FIGHT IN ITALY

(Cont'd from page 5)
clared: "The Lombard people stretch out to you fraternal hands and call you to co-operation in the struggle for freedom . . ." "You shall share this country with us until the happy time, perhaps already near, when in joy you will again see your families and victoriously restore your own country."

The cadres of the legions were formed by insurrectionary officers living in exile or coming from Poland—some even on foot—in answer to Dombrowski's manifesto. The ranks were filled up with Poles from the Austrian service who were prisoners in the French camps (dépôts), and who now willingly joined the fraternal ranks. Also deserters from the Austrian regiments were flowing in, and young volunteers who had forced their way from Poland. As men, equipment and arms became available, battalions were formed. They failed to take any important part in the campaign of 1797. The Poles, who desired to fight for "freedom, one and indivisible", had to quench in blood a rising against the French near Salo and in Verona (April 1797). At the moment when the preliminary peace negotiations were concluded at Loeben, the Polish legions



An early copy of the Polish National Anthem, presented in Philadelphia on October 4, 1838, to Claudia and Joanna Laval, daughters of refugees from the French Revolution, by Paul Soboleski, a "Polander," who had English words set to the music and published. The drawing shows Polish and French soldiers clasp hands to symbolize eternal Polish-French friendship. The Anthem originated as the song of the Polish Legions in Italy.

already amounted to 6,000 men. In the summer they were finally organized into two legions of infantry, corresponding to the French half-brigades, and one battalion of artillery.

In the meantime (June 1797) some of the Polish ex-service men, over 1,600 in number, in Moldavia, encouraged by the French ambassador, General Aubert-Dubayet, who desired to entangle Turkey in a war with Austria, attacked, under the command of Brigadier Denisko, the Bukovina borderland, and there, after several small encounters, sustained a sanguinary defeat; eight of the prisoners were hanged and among them the major of the former Polish Guard, Frederic Mellfort, one of the heroes of the Warsaw insurrection of the year 1794, the first Polish officer put to death by the usurpers after the partitions. Emperor Francis I, in a special decree, announced in the name of the welfare of his "faithful and beloved subjects" that insurgents and their partners would be sentenced and hanged within twenty-four hours. The same fate threatened those who forced their way to the legions. After the unfortunate "expedition of Bukovina" some Polish officers and soldiers obtained the Russian "pardon", and some the Austrian; some joined the service of Passwan-Oghu, a rebel Pasha of Widdin; the most persevering gathered in Constantinople and were gradually sent to Italy to the legions, with some help from Turkey.

The legions lived in hope that the peace negotiations would fail and war break out anew, in which case they would march—as they sang—

(Continued on page 14)



An honorable discharge granted by the Republic of Italy to Gen. Amikar Kosinski, on April 25, 1803.

PESTKAS PREPARED FOR D-DAY

A press conference with six members of the Polish Women's Army was held at the Women's Military Service Club, New York, where they are guests during a visit to the United States. Captain Irena Grodzka is the leader of the group and the chief spokesman. Seated in the large hall of the Club, Captain Grodzka spoke to reporters in a clear modulated voice.



Polish *Pestkas* welcomed by Major Cora Webb Bass of the American WAC at the Women's Military Club in New York.

WE were called *Pestkas*, which means "kernels" in English, by the Polish soldiers in the Middle East when we were first organized. The name is taken from the initials P.S.K. which in Polish stands for the Polish Women's Service. Later the name was changed to Polish Women's Military Service and now we are known as the Polish Auxiliary Territorial Service. Although our official title has changed the nickname still sticks," Captain Irena Grodzka explained. She has just arrived in the United States—with five other *Pestkas*—to visit WAC training centers. They want to see how the American Women prepare for active service at the front.

"You see we too hope to go to the front soon," Captain Grodzka continued. "It is taking us longer to organize and train, because of the circumstances in which our women joined up. We are all, so to speak, in exile."

When asked when the *Pestkas* first organized, Captain Grodzka said: "Polish women for generations lived in an atmosphere of war and strife. During more than a century of partition, in the many uprisings of the 19th and early 20th centuries, Polish women often took active part in battles and skirmishes. They were not organized into military groups, nevertheless their service behind the front and sometimes on the firing line was effective. It was not until the 1920's that women volunteers could be organized into a military auxiliary corps. College girls were given basic physical and elementary military training, as well as first aid and Red Cross courses. During the campaign of 1939 Polish women again were called upon to help defend their country. The Polish Women's Auxiliaries drove ambulances, worked in hospitals and in kitchen canteens, and they were helped by women who were not formally registered in the auxiliary corps. Women played an heroic part in the defense of Warsaw. Our Polish women worked night and day putting out fires, helping in shelters and hospitals, carrying ammunition and fighting in the trenches. When the Germans marched into the city a group of women and children destroyed a tank with bottles filled with gasoline. For almost five years Polish women in Poland have been working underground in the organized fight against Hitler. We who managed to get out of Poland think of them as a unit of our organization."

"How did your units become organized, and where do the women come from?"

"Let's start by where we come from. Sgt. Soltan for instance was in France, in Narvik and later in Scotland."

Sgt. Soltan, tall and slim, smiled shyly.

"What was your duty, Sgt. Soltan, and what army were you with?"

"I was with the Polish Highland Division as a Red Cross nurse," Sgt. Soltan said with military crispness. Here Capt. Grodzka broke in saying: "Sgt. Soltan is a bit shy, but she is one of the two women who have the Cross of Valour, usually given only to men."

"How did you get it, Sgt. Soltan?"

"I guess it was for service at Narvik in 1940," Sgt. Soltan answered. She evidently thought further explanation unnecessary.

"Was there a Polish *Pestka* unit at that time?"

Capt. Grodzka took over again. "No, not then. As you remember, only a small number of women got to France. They were with the Polish army as Red Cross nurses or doing volunteer welfare work. There were not enough to form a unit. After the fall of France they went to Scotland with the Polish Army."

"How many of you are there now?"

"That is military information, but roughly, there are about 5,000 *Pestkas* in the Middle East and Scotland."

"If only a few of you got out through France, where did the rest come from?"

"Most of us, like myself came from Russia. Four of us here were in Russia and Corp. Kos comes from Japan."

"From Japan?"

"Yes, I was born in Harbin, Manchuria, and lived in Japan from 1938 to 1942," Corp. Kos answered in perfect English.

"You were in Japan at the time of Pearl Harbor?"

"Yes, and after that I left for Africa and the Middle East where I joined the *Pestkas*."

(Please turn to page 15)

NINETEENTH CENTURY POLISH PAINTINGS AT METROPOLITAN MUSEUM

by M. L. OTRANGE

POLISH art is not as well known in this country as it deserves. Yet its claims to our interest are numerous. It is of high artistic value. It is produced by a people who have richly contributed to the building up of our country and in whose cultural heritage we can take pride as one of the numerous strains in our American patrimony. As everything Polish, it commands our admiration and reminds us of the indomitable spirit of this valiant and unhappy nation.

However, we can hardly be blamed for our ignorance, as opportunities of studying Polish art have been few and far between. Poland is engaged in a desperate struggle for national survival and has little time to spare for art exhibitions. That Poland did not lack able and original artists was shown at the 1893 Chicago Exposition, where pictures by men like Chelmonski, Brochocki, Kowalski, etc. . . . were on view. Except for occasional shows by contemporary artists no other opportunity came until 1939, when the fruits of twenty years of peace, that followed the national rebirth of Poland, were displayed in New York at the World's Fair Polish Pavilion.

Thus the present exhibition fulfills a needed task and the Polish Information Center is to be congratulated on its initiative. Perforce the exhibit is composed of paintings in American possession. As explained in the catalogue by Boleslaw Mastai this naturally limits its scope. Yet it is a remarkably varied collection of sixty-one paintings by thirty-five outstanding artists. Mr. Mastai spent years tracing these canvases in the United States. Covering the nineteenth century—a period of national extinction and yet intellectually and artistically one of the most fertile in Polish history—the exhibition ranges all the way from Grottger's academic drawing to Stanislawski's spontaneous impressionism. American art-critics have been unanimous in their recognition of a common quality in these widely different works, that stamps them as belonging to the Polish school. Doubtless this elusive quality will be defined in many ways; essential is that it exists and is vital enough to be self-evident. As Horace H. P. Jayne, Vice Director of the Metropolitan, tersely words it: ". . . these paintings by the Poles hang together . . ." and Edward Alden Jewell, of the New York Times, concurs: ". . . a quality that seems peculiarly Polish . . ." Whatever their technical and individual modes of expression, the patriot-artists of Poland could not wish higher praise than that they express in their works the soul of their country and their people.

Of all the factors involved in molding nineteenth century Polish painting, the most interesting to us is that this strong and original art was produced by a bitterly oppressed people, denied the use of their own language, subjected to every possible form of persecution designed to uproot their patriotism and crush their spirit.

The early nineteenth century was a time of profound intellectual unrest all over the world, but especially in unhappy dismembered Poland. To most nations Romanticism was nothing more than a thrilling artistic experience, a spiritual revolt, following the political one, against the eighteenth century and its cynicism. Not so to the Poles, to whom it was a true life-line, and like religious faith, something on which they could base their hopes. Leaders of the fervid, patriotic Polish art of this period were Piotr Michalowski (1801-1855) and Henryk Rodakowski (1823-1894). The art of the former, intense and fantastic, dealt in shadow rather than in substance, strangely mystic, fit illustration to Chopin's mazurkas, where all of Poland's indignation and sorrow seem to moan and clamor. In contrast Rodakowski was

severe and restrained, with a deep and sure touch that elicited admiration from so formidable a critic as the great Delacroix, who repeatedly asserted that Rodakowski's work was by far the best at the Salon.

It is much to be regretted that no works by these outstanding artists could be found for the present exhibition. Absent also, for the same reason, are examples of Jan Matejko's work (1838-1893). Greatest of all Polish painters, his magnificent historical canvases are treasured by the Poles not only as works of art but because, when it was forbidden in Poland to utter one word of the national language, he dared to challenge the tyrants, with silent but irrefutable brush, and to give new life to the past glory and power of his enslaved motherland.

On view, however, and of much interest in regard to this period, is the David-like drawing of the young Napoleon by Artur Grottger (1837-1867). Done in a spirit of reminiscent hero-worship—typical of the Polish attitude toward the Man who had promised to free their country, for whom they fought on the strength of that promise, remaining faithful to him in spite of his faithlessness—it shows remarkable draughtsmanship together with psychological insight. Although greatly idealized, this head of the conqueror, as the artist conceived him to look in youth, is yet a faithful likeness, already indelibly marked with the traits that will appear, ever sharper and harder, in the face of the Consul and the Emperor. Take off these luxuriant locks to reveal the firm dome-like forehead, tighten the lips, draw taut the facial muscles and you have before you no more a brooding youth, but the haughty victor of Austerlitz. Time will not change the deep searching eyes, it will reveal the wild insatiable ambition that lay hidden there from earliest youth.

The latter half of the nineteenth century shows a more realistic trend and is so richly represented that, it is difficult to single examples for mention. Certain, however, stand out for a remarkable quality independent of their artistic merit, a sort of heightened earnestness that marks them as something more than successful expressions of the creative urge of gifted artists. These pictures had to be lived before they could be painted. They are kneaded out of the traditions, the loves and despairs of the Polish race. Jozef Chelmonski (1850-1914) is represented with four canvases. It is hard to believe that the splendid, dashing "Midnight Ride" was painted when he was only twenty-three years old. Despite its youthful impetuosity, this canvas, with its sober tonality—black horses against a steel gray sky, with rapid sparks of brass bells—forecast his later manner, as seen in "Tilling," where he attained truly admirable depth and simplicity. "Country Fair" and "Speed" are equally fine examples of this powerful artist's work.

Jozef Brandt (1841-1915) contributes a swift and vivid battle scene and Walery Brochocki (1847-1923) two landscapes, beautifully composed and balanced, cool in tonality, serene in mood, filled with truly Polish lyricism and charm.

To be noted also: from Juliusz Kossak (1829-1899) four witty and masterly aquarelles; from Alfred Wierusz-Kowalski (1849-1916) one of the snow scenes for which he is renowned: painted on wood in a highly original technique, fluid, broad, almost transparent, the snow knifed on in thick pastose and details picked out with the tip of the brush's handle in sharp wiry lines; from Stanislaw Witkiewicz (1859-1930) an interesting "Retreat of Moscow," depicting Napoleon's disillusioned but faithful Polish legions; from Leon Wyczolkowski (1852-1937) a robust sketch in oil; from Jacek Malczewski (1855-1929) a dramatic canvas of

(Please turn to page 11)



Interior of a Church

On Loan at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

by Aleksander Gryglewski, 1833-1879



Hussar

On Loan at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

by Zygmunt Rozwadowski, 1870-1939



Christianity Comes to Poland

On Loan at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
by Zygmunt Ajdukiewicz, 1861-1917

(Continued from page 9)
tormented beauty; from Wandalin Strzalecki (1855-1915) an interestingly composed "Polish Wedding," woven of unusual and fascinating patterns of light and shade.

The rugged Wacław Szymanowski (1859-1930) offers two works of great power and dignity. In his "Market Woman" the tragic figure of the old woman in dark wraps, her folded toil-weary hands, the array of vegetables spread in front of her, the background treated in sure bold strokes with the far-off silhouettes of the gray buildings against a veiled northern sky, are painted with the direct approach, the sense of depth and massiveness characteristic of this sculptor-painter. He displays a highly individual color range, contrasting deep neutral tones against cool milky values—witness the firm, pale head of cabbage in the brown woven basket at left, a small masterpiece in itself. The same qualities and psychological insight are evident again in "Peasant Wisdom" by the same artist, mixed there with a sort of sly humor and sagacity, a mood of afternoon sunniness and contentment far different from the pathos and loneliness of which the other picture is imbued. A magnificent work by Włodzimierz Tetmajer (1862-1923), "The Village Scribe," evicts similar understanding and sympathy for the peasant folk.

with a warmer coloring than Szymanowski but a closely allied handling of textures and masses.

Polish Impressionism is fittingly represented by a vibrant blue and atmospheric view of the Tatras by Julian Falat (1855-1929); a charming and exuberant study of flowering shrubs by Jan Stanisławski (1861-1907). In a class by himself Roman Kochanowski (1856-1939) is seen with two lyric landscapes of great charm. The smallest is merely a sketch intended for later use. Yet with a few delicate strokes, Kochanowski has caught the full charm of the scene and all of the tall poplars' feathery grace with the rhythm of their undulating reflections in the calm of the river.

All in all, this unusual exhibition, to most museum-goers an excursion into unchartered land, shows the high culture and civilization of which the Poles are justly proud.



On Loan at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Landscape with River
by Roman Kochanowski, 1856-1939

"It is an anomaly, of course, that though in the nineteenth century there was no space of soil recognized as Poland, nevertheless there was a Polish literature and a Polish Art that flourished despite subjection. It is an anomaly, but where can be found more positive proof of the indomitable spirit of a great people."

—HORACE H. F. JAYNE,
Vice-Director of the
Metropolitan Museum of Art

POLAND'S AVENGING EAGLES TRIUMPH

A POLISH-BRITISH Military Agreement signed in London on August 5th, 1940, provided for the formation of a separate Polish Air Force "on the same footing as the Royal Air Force." The first Polish units were two fighter squadrons: the *Poznan* 302 and the *Warsaw* 303, the latter bearing the name of *Kosciuszko*.

At this stage the Polish squadrons were commanded by British officers. The very first combats of the Polish pilots were fortuitous. On August 30th, 1940, Squadron 303 set out on an exercise flight, and during the exercise six of them came up against a larger number of German machines. The Poles at once attacked, shooting down one machine, scattering the others and forcing them to withdraw, without themselves suffering any loss.

The feverish days of the Battle of Britain arrived. Polish squadrons, like their British colleagues, were engaged from dawn to dusk. The Poles introduced their own modifications, suited to the Polish character and based on their experience, into British tactics. Again and again they applied the head-on tactics developed during the days of the Polish campaign, holding their fire until they were almost at point-blank range. Their enthusiasm and courage soon won recognition. This combination of British regulations, based on close, cold calculation and foresight, with the fury of the Poles, who now at last, with fine equipment, could "get at the Germans," yielded excellent results. The chronicles of both fighter squadrons were soon filled with messages and signals of praise, congratulatory telegrams, and orders of the day confirming their fine work.

Out of the total number of German machines shot down by the fighter air force during the Battle of Britain, one-eighth fell to Poles. The exact figures were:

	Definitely destroyed	Probables
Squadrons 302 and 303.....	142	23
Poles serving in British Squadrons..	77	16
Total	219	39

The "Kosciuszko" Squadron 303 itself shot down 125 enemy machines for certain, and had a further 14 probables during this period. Among these were 15 certainties and 5 probables which fell to the three British airmen who were successively in command of the squadron. Although it did not come into operation until August 30th, 1940, Squadron 303 ranks second highest of all the squadrons operating in or with the R.A.F. in regard to the number of enemy machines shot down.

Today there are seven Polish fighter and three bomber squadrons. There are also Polish air training schools and other centers. During its three years' existence the Polish Air Force in Great Britain has developed far beyond the scope originally planned for it.

Polish fighter squadrons have been on operational service since 1940. They take part in all operations undertaken by the Royal Air Force and have gained particular praise as specialists in providing a screen for bomber operations.

Polish fighter squadrons which fought in North Africa during the last victorious Allied offensive also won the good opinion of their colleagues and command.

Many stories have been told of the dash and daring of the Polish airmen, especially during the days of the Battle of Britain. There are persistent stories of Polish fighters who, having exhausted their ammunition, deliberately flew into German bombers. There was never any official confirmation of these rumors. But when the feelings of Poles for Germans are taken into account it is fair to expect that this kind



Represents
50 Planes
shot
down by
British
Airmen



Represents
50 Planes
shot
down by
Polish
Airmen



German planes shot down during the Battle of Britain.

of story is not entirely without basis in fact. The lack of official confirmation is to be explained by the circumstance that the airmen who take such action do not as a rule survive to make a report.

Altogether, from the date of their arrival in Great Britain down to October 1st, 1943, Polish fighter pilots had shot down 605 enemy machines for certain, and had 159 probables and 208 damaged machines to their credit. The leading Polish fighter, Urbanowicz, has shot down 15 machines for certain, while Zumbach has accounted for 12 and one-third, and Skalski for 12.

The Polish Bomber Force, which was reorganized in Great Britain, started operations in September, 1940. Since then, Polish bomber squadrons have taken part in innumerable raids, including one of the most difficult expeditions organized from Great Britain. Together with British squadrons, they have bombed targets as distant as Berlin and Turin. In many of the great raids Polish bomber crews have provided more than 10 per cent. of the total number of machines engaged.

Down to October 1st, 1943, the Polish bomber force had made 617 raids, an aggregate number of 5,940 machines being engaged. They had dropped 6300 tons of bombs on Germany and German targets in occupied countries, this being about 10 per cent. of the total tonnage dropped by the R.A.F. on Germany.

The Polish bomber machines in service with Coastal Command are in action against enemy surface craft and U-boats, and can boast of equally good results. From May 1st, 1942,

to August 31st, 1943, they made 217 operational flights, and destroyed at least 6 U-boats, apart from many damaged.

British authorities have shown their appreciation of the work of the Polish Air Force in numerous expressions of praise and orders of the day, couched in the warmest terms. Many Polish pilots have been decorated by the British. So far they have gained three D.S.O.s, 81 D.F.C.s, 3 D.F.C.s with bar, 47 D.F.M.s, and 2 D.F.M.s with bar, as well as decorations by the heads of other Allied States, exclusive of Polish.

Many Polish pilots, especially of the older generation, and three Polish airwomen, including Miss Pilsudska, the daughter of Marshal Pilsudski, have served in the British Ferry Command, flying aeroplanes from factories to air-fields, from America to Great Britain and the Gold Coast, from Britain to the Middle East and to India, and wherever war is being waged. At present some 60 highly experienced Polish pilots formerly in the Polish Civil Airlines, are serving in the British overseas air transport. Altogether they have 2,800 hours' flying time average.

The Allied war effort has been served not alone by those who fly, for many Polish constructional engineers and scientists are working in research departments in Great Britain and America, achieving equal, though less spectacular, successes among the "backroom boys."

In this war, which for Poland is more a life and death struggle than for any other nation, the part played by the Polish air force could not be merely symbolic. When the facts and figures are considered, it is to be regarded as the tiny weight, which, in the days when every pilot and every machine was of inestimable value, turned the scales of victory.

Poland

France

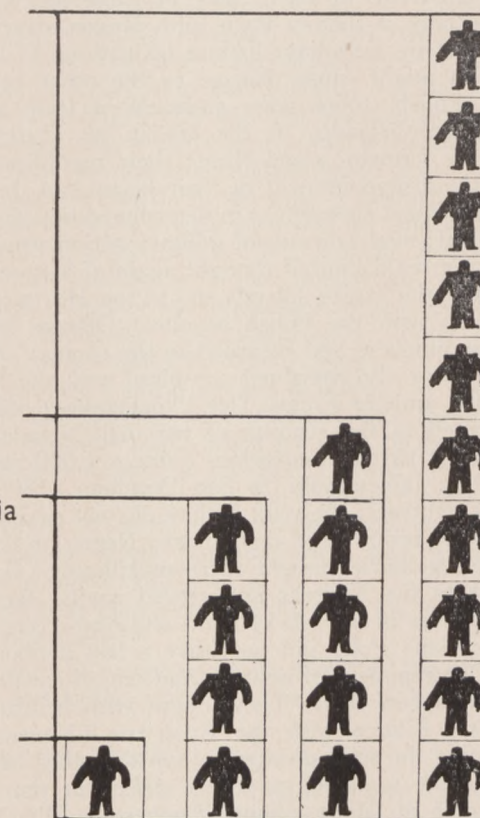
Czecho-
slovakia

Belgium



Represents 1 Air Squadron

Comparative strength of the Belgian, Czech, French and Polish air forces (as given by neutral sources).



152,000,000 lb.

13,000,000 lbs.

☐ Dropped by British Airmen
☒ Dropped by Polish Airmen

Bombload dropped by British and Polish airmen up to September 1st, 1943.

TRIBUTE TO THE POLISH AIR FORCE

"The Royal Air Force, whose opinion is not without value, are unanimous in presenting the laurel wreath to the Polish Air Force."

Prime Minister Churchill, September 16, 1942

* * *

"Polish pilots have only two speeds: top speed and full speed. They are wonderful. Their sole interest in life is to kill Germans. I have asked for three Poles for every squadron."

British Vice-Air Marshall Cunningham

* * *

"Polish crews to the number of one hundred and one took part in the large-scale operations on Cologne and the Ruhr. The Royal Air Force has learned to admire the valor, tenacity and efficiency of its Polish Allies. In these operations again they have shown how admirable is their contribution, in support of our common cause, to the destruction of our enemy. We are grateful to Poland for these redoubtable squadrons."

British Air Minister, Sir Archibald Sinclair,
June, 1942

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF: POLES AGAIN FIGHT IN ITALY

(Continued from page 6)

"from Italian soil to Poland". There was also a tendency to create by their side in Milan a Polish national representation, by summoning there the "Great" Parliament, which had been only adjourned in 1792; the admission of Polish delegates to the peace negotiations was demanded. The number of soldiers had reached 7,600 when the peace of Campo Formio cancelled all expectations of resumption of the Polish cause. In the negotiations a sort of "unctum" had been formed between the matter of the Polish legionaries and their adherents in the home country, and the matter of the corps of French emigrants and royalists in general. No distinct obligation was given, concerning a discharge of either the Polish or the emigrant formations. But the obligation was accepted, "not to render any help or support, direct or indirect, to those who would intend to damage either of the contracting parties." The admission of a Polish delegation to the congress of Rastatt was out of the question, as only France and the States of the German Reich were to take part in it.

The legions remained in the service of the new Cisalpine Republic. By their strength of will, the commanders prevented disorganization and dispersion. They believed that these Polish soldiers must not be allowed to return to the Austrian ranks upon a "pardon" of the Emperor, or the officers to lead a homeless life. In order to save the moral power of the legions, efforts were made to strengthen their ideological ties with France by propaganda of "republican principles," by making of them a school of citizenship and preparing them to be officers, commissioned and non-commissioned, in a future insurrection. Such was also the advice given later by Kosciuszko. The new convention concluded by Dombrowski with the Cisalpine Directory (November 17, 1797) gave full satisfaction to the national dignity of the Poles; it bore an expressly political character, it defined strictly the conditions under which the legions as an army, preserving their arms and equipment, were to go back to the restored Poland. This convention, however, was not ratified by the Legislative Body of the Cisalpine. The legions aroused some fears and diffidence; they were suspected of being an instrument of French rule over the "sister Republic."

In the meantime (since December, 1797) the major part of the legions under the command of Dombrowski and Kniaziewicz operated in the territory of the Papal State (San Leo, Pesaro) and later on marched towards Rome; there they were kept on garrison duty during 1798 and then took part in the suppression of peasant revolts. In the campaign of Naples (December, 1798) they fought with distinction (at Magliano, Falari, Calvi, at the capture of Gaeta and Capua); Kniaziewicz was sent to Paris to present to the Directory thirty banners which had been taken. The booty in horses enabled the legions to form an excellent brigade of cavalry, which under the name of the Vistula Lancers was to win fame later on in Spain.

The outbreak of the second Coalition War revived the hopes of the legionaries and drew the suspicions of the French Government upon them. Thaddeus Kosciuszko since the summer of the year 1798 was staying in Paris; he had come there with a confidential mission from the American Democratic Party, to improve by his influence the relations, then very strained between the United States and France. He now not only exercised moral authority over the legions, but in the eyes of the French Government he was an expert on Polish problems and an unofficial minister for Polish affairs. The formation of new legions was projected, first in the service of "Helvetia" and again in the service of "Batavia."

But meanwhile there came the catastrophe of Dombrowski's legions. The second legion under the command of

General Rynkiewicz lost two-thirds of its soldiers in killed and wounded in the first battles on the Adige (March 26, April 4, 1799); its commander was slain. The remnants under the command of General Wielhorski were incorporated in the garrison of Mantua, where they took part in the defense, and at the capitulation, on the strength of a secret additional clause accepted by General Foissac-Latour, the Austrians seized the legionaries as deserters; the soldiers in masses were flogged through the line and sent in chains to their regiments. The second legion suffered almost total extermination.

Meanwhile the main force of the legion under the command of Dombrowski arrived from Naples. As a component of MacDonald's army in the battle on the Arebbia (June 17-19), in unrelenting struggles against the Russians of Suvorov, the legion infantry suffered uncommonly heavy losses; of five battalions, only two were able to force their way through with their wounded general, and three perished. The remnants of the legions continued to melt, not only in battles but also because of the misery which reigned in the French army, pushed into the mountains of Liguria.

In the meantime it had been decided in Paris to form a new legion under Kniaziewicz (the so-called Danubian legion) and to reconstitute later the Italian legion under Dombrowski; this time both these legions were taken into the French service, but while the national uniform was granted to them, the political terms of the former convention were cancelled. In 1800 both legions were composed of eleven battalions of infantry, one cavalry regiment, one battalion of foot artillery, one company of horse artillery, altogether 13,000 soldiers. In the campaign of that year the legion of Kniaziewicz with one regiment of cavalry won special distinction at Hohenlinden (December 3).

The terms of the Treaty of Luneville with Austria and especially of that in Paris with Russia struck a blow to the legions by including distinct obligations to foil all activities which might cause damage to the other contracting party. All Polish troops were gathered in Italy and transformed into half-brigades in the Italian or Etrurian service. A strong ferment seized them; their republican views as well as the disappointment of their hopes had the effect that the Poles found themselves in determined opposition to the First Consul; mad schemes of military action were formed. Even Dombrowski himself thought again of a spontaneous expedition to the Ionian Islands and to the Morea, and of restoring Sparta with the Polish bayonet. Officers left the ranks in large numbers and returned to the country obtaining amnesty; those who remained conspired with the Italian (Ragionanti) and the French (les Philadelphes) officers. This contributed to the sending of two half-brigades, which meant the best part of the legions (almost 6,000 men) under General L. Jablonowski, to San Domingo (1802), whence only 300 returned; the rest, if they did not perish in battle or of tropical fever, were carried into Negro or English captivity. The legionaries fought there unwillingly. Some Poles went over to the Negroes and settled among them, and families of natives in the Isle of Haiti still bear Polish names; on the whole the Poles did not leave a bad memory behind them.

One regiment of infantry and one of cavalry of the legions remained in Italy. They fought with brilliant distinction at Castel Franco with the Austrians (November 24, 1805), turning the scale of victory. On the other hand, the infantry regiment sustained a severe defeat in the battle with the English at Malta (Santa Euphemia, July 3, 1806), losing numerous prisoners. Crowds of Polish supernumerary officers, after long inactivity "pending reorganization" were gradually in 1805 and 1806 summoned to service in French troops and staffs. Dombrowski himself commanded in the Abruzzi as a general of division in the Italian service. Such was the decline of the legions.

GUERRILLA AND SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES OF THE POLISH UNDERGROUND ARMY

(Continued from page 3)

bridge was blown up. On July 31st detachments of the Underground Army seized large stores of motor fuel in Gniwowska street in Warsaw, about 320,000 gallons and some 45,000 lbs. of lubricating oil going up in flames. Petrol tanks on one of the Warsaw suburban lines were blown up.

Other activities are directed towards defending Poles against German oppression. From time to time the Underground Press reports cases of political prisoners, prisoners of war, and hostages set free. An attack was made on the prison hospital in Lwow, and the prisoners were released, with no loss to the Polish side. In Mielec Polish guerrillas captured the prison, and released all the inmates. In Kozienice an armed detachment attacked a gendarmerie post, captured a machine-gun, and got away. Similarly, on the Czeslawice estate an armed detachment captured two machine-guns, five rifles, one automatic pistol and a large stock of ammunition. Most of these activities involved the Poles in no loss, the enemy being taken completely by surprise. To counteract the street round-ups and house arrests

all the documents of the local Labor Bureau have been destroyed in many villages. The Labor Office in Warsaw has now issued an order for its county departments to keep their files in the police stations or in the military headquarters.

Sabotage and self-defense activities are accompanied by acts of repression. Sentences of the Military Tribunals of the Underground Army, passed on particularly obnoxious Germans are carried out efficiently and quickly. Major Schmidt, the commandant of the notorious concentration camp at Majdanek, was killed by a soldier of the Underground Army, and Spielhamer, Vice-Commandant of the provincial S.S., was also disposed of. A captain and two lieutenants were killed in the Café Adria in Warsaw, by order of the Directorate of Civilian Resistance, for torturing prisoners. To avoid innocent deaths, bombs and hand-grenades were not used, the sentence being carried out with revolvers. The Polish soldier who carried out the sentence knew when he went to the café that he would not come out alive from a place crowded with Germans. He died with a full realization of what he was dying for. It may be added that he was a locksmith named Jan Kryst.

PESTKAS PREPARED FOR D-DAY

(Continued from page 7)

"But if you've lived in the Far East all your life then you're almost not Polish at all."

"Oh, yes, I am," she answered emphatically.

"Now to come back to the organization of the *Pestkas* from Russia," Capt. Grodzka resumed. "When Germany attacked Russia in 1941, we were scattered all over the Soviet Union. I was in Kazakhstan and Private Opolska, for instance, was near Archangel with her four younger sisters. When the Poles heard that a Polish army was being organized in Buzuluk, men, women and children made their way from the farthest parts of Russia in the hope of finding their families and friends. The men were provided for under the Russian-Polish military agreement. We women had to organize by our own efforts, with the cooperation of the Polish military staff. Already in Russia some of us received uniforms through lend-lease, and immediately units of women fit for duty were trained by Polish officers. In addition these women nursed, cooked, worked in offices. In Iran, Iraq and Palestine our training was continued with the full cooperation of the British. That's when we were recognized as a military unit and a part of the Polish army. In the Middle East our units were trained for a greater variety of duties. We learned to drive jeeps, trucks, work in canteens, nurse. A signal corps was organized, and special anti-air craft units were trained."

"Are there *Pestkas* at the front in Italy, with the Second Polish Corps fighting there?"

"That I can't say. But a group of *Pestkas* left Palestine for an unknown destination when the two Polish divisions sailed for Italy."

"Is the strength of the *Pestkas* still growing?"

"Strangely enough yes. Although Polish women cannot get out of Poland and we have no reserves to draw on! Our new members come from young Polish girls evacuated from Russia. They are in camps and schools completing their

education somewhere in the Middle East. As soon as they are old enough almost all of them volunteer for the Service. They all want to help in the battle for the freedom of Poland. We are also getting recruits from the United States, Canada and South America."

"You have come here from England, haven't you?"

"Yes. Our headquarters are in London."

"Have you a commander, like the WAC?"

"Yes. She is Chief Commander Maria Lesniak."

"Are there any large groups of *Pestkas* in England?"

"Oh, yes. Several units in England went through specialized, liaison and technical training. One group is just ready to pass out as an Air Auxiliary unit and within a short time expects to be assigned to RAF stations and other posts connected with the Air Force. Other groups have trained for Signals."

"Have you been trained for active fighting?"

"All of us know how to handle a gun, hand grenades and machine guns. We can take care of the enemy when we come up against him. We are anxious to get into action with the Polish Army and to return to Poland as soon as possible."

Captain Grodzka's eyes lit up as she said these last words. There was no doubt that with such determination the Polish *Pestkas* will march into Poland in the ranks of the Polish army.

—Christina Swiniarska.

The Polish Review

Vol. IV. No. 9

March 7, 1944

Weekly Magazine Published by

THE POLISH REVIEW PUBLISHING CO.

with the assistance of the Polish Information Center

Stanislaw L. Centkiewicz, Editor

745 Fifth Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

Annual Subscription Four Dollars

Single Copy Ten Cents

Cover: Old Gothic Portal, Latin Cathedral, Lwow.

ATTRIBUTE TO POLAND BY RUPERT HUGHES

Author and Historian

JUST four score years ago Abraham Lincoln delivered his immortal Gettysburg address beginning:

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty . . ."

So Lincoln began his immortal oration; and could have said that two Polish heroes contributed mightily to the birth of that new-born nation. Pulaski was the father of the American cavalry; and Kosciuszko's skill as a military engineer was of vital help to the winning of the battle of Saratoga, which brought France into the war and assured the success of the American Revolution.

Among the first settlers in Virginia were Polish artisans, who arrived there years before the Pilgrims left England in the *Mayflower*.

Nearly a century before that, while America was still an unknown wilderness, the Polish Republic was a commonwealth of nations, built on many of the principles of the later United States.

Nine hundred and four score years ago the Germans first invaded Poland and tried in vain to take her captive.

Five hundred and thirty-three years ago the Teutonic Knights attacked Poland and were destroyed. And Poland had peace for four centuries.

In 1430, two hundred years before England established the right of habeas corpus, Poland's laws guaranteed liberty of person from seizure without trial.

Three hundred and seventy years ago, Poland established freedom of religion and became the one refuge in Europe for those whom intolerance persecuted.

One hundred and seventy-one years ago the monarchs of Germany, Austria and Russia fell upon Poland from three flanks at once and crushed her, divided her soul and her land among themselves.

Poland's very individualism and democracy were among the chief causes of her downfall and her division among three great and ruthless enemies who hated freedom.

After long and cruel suffering in captivity, Poland was restored to liberty at the end of World War I. The republic began her new life in a country of utter devastation, with nearly two million of her buildings of every sort destroyed, her railroads wrecked, no mercantile fleet, no navy, no aviation.

With marvellous energy the freed people of Poland restored and improved their country beyond anything ever known, adding sea-commerce and aviation.

The new Poland not only guaranteed freedom of religion, press, and speech, and gave full representation to racial minorities, but gave the vote to women as well as men. 44.5% of the Poles had the suffrage compared to 37.8% in the United States.

While Poland was rebuilding for peace and freedom and the happiness and health of her people, her ancient oppressor, Germany, was preparing for another mighty war. Four years ago today, the treacherous enemy struck. Hitler flung into unready Poland eighty-four divisions of armored power. People marvelled at the ease and swiftness of his victory. But their wonder and their terror increased when, later, he crushed the other nations with even greater ease and swiftness than he had conquered Poland.

Only then did they understand how magnificently the little republic had fought. Meeting Hitler's 70 infantry divisions, 14 panzer divisions and 4,320 airplanes, with 31 infantry divisions, 1 panzer division and 443 airplanes, the Poles annihilated 12 German divisions, killing 91,000 and wounding 63,000 of her enemies before she was overrun.

Poland was the first to fight and is fighting still. Her exiles fight on land and sea, under the sea and in the air. At home, under cruelties that will stain the very name of Germany eternally for savagery beyond the savage, Poland has never ceased to live for her day of redemption. Not one Quisling or Laval has risen to sell the nation's soul. She has endured tortures and atrocities beyond belief, beyond all endurable telling. Two and a half million Poles have been murdered, half a million starved to death. Three million and a half have been deported and two million dragged off to Germany as slave-labor.

Yet, by her stubborn and desperate fight, Poland gave the other nations time to strengthen themselves. Even in her torment she has set an example of valor that has shamed more yielding nations and stirred the rest to emulation.

The Poles in their self-sacrifice were like the Americans in Bataan and on Corregidor, who fought as long as they could

and gave their lives to death for a little precious time for others.

The vows that Abraham Lincoln made in his Gettysburg Address ought to be made again for those who died for Poland and so for the whole world. He said what Americans especially should say again here and now.

"It is for us to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Americans, and all lovers of freedom, owe that much to Poland, to whose high ideals and valiant heroes the free world owes so much.

There are four and a half million Polish-born in this country and fifteen million of Polish ancestry. They are fiber of our fiber.

Poland still lies in agony, far from the reach of our help. Her people still endure in dwindling numbers, but with undiminished courage, the torments of famine and the most wanton heartlessness, the most ingenious and inhuman wholesale murder.

The German monsters have proclaimed their intention to annihilate the Polish people. As one of them announced: *"I promise you that in ten years not so much as a single sheaf of wheat shall grow on Polish soil."* Another wrote saying that the destruction and elimination of the whole people was justified, *"provided only that destruction and elimination are complete."*

In the hands of such fiends Poland lies helpless.

But the doom of the tyrants is evitable and the hour of their destruction draws nearer and nearer. In the black midnight of Poland's multitudinous anguishes, there is a tremor of dawn, a hint that morning and the rescue of the sunrise will not be forever delayed.

When that redeeming daybreak is fulfilled and the shadows of the night flee away, the radiance will falter on the vast graveyard of Poland where the living dead haply and almost miraculously survive among the tombs and channels that fill with horror their once so beautiful land.

The Poles we find alive will be living mainly because Poland cannot, will not, shall not die.

We must do what we can to make sure that when she rises from her grave again, breaking the bandages from her buried body, and throwing the clods from off her face—we must make sure that her heroism will receive no stinted reward. We owe that at least no more to Poland than to ourselves.

We shall be unworthy of our own freedom if we deny Poland her full share of hers.

That day of victory will be glorious and deserved, only if we divide the glory with the first in the battle and the first in the sufferings.

There will be no lack of counsellors to plead for mercy for those who had no mercy; to ask that the conquerors who used their powers without right or pity, shall be pitied and not punished, not even weakened. Those counsellors will prate of forgiveness and of the unwisdom of reducing the tyrants to despair.

But we must not forget that they have heaped despair on Poland for centuries until the Polish word for utter despair—*zad*—would have become another name for Poland—but for one thing: the Poles would never fully despair, never surrender the hope and the determination to be free.

The world needs a free Poland, a Poland given a chance to breathe, to rise from the grave and be strong, to reach the sea and give to the world, and take from the world the help and the flame she has always given to freedom.

The yesterdays of Poland have been full of storm and privation. Poland is still filled with night. Tomorrow is bleak and bitter. But the day after tomorrow must be golden with the return of the freedom and the glory she has so gloriously earned by her immortal valor.

There is an ancient Polish slogan: *"For our freedom and for yours."* America should echo that great battle cry, and make sure that our freedom means freedom for Poland.

The time must come soon when the armies of liberty crush the German despotism, and beat on the tomb where Poland lies buried alive. We must call to her:

"Come forth, Poland, and live again; live forever!"