

THE POLISH REVIEW

VOL. IV. Nos. 32-33

SEPTEMBER 1, 1944

WEEKLY MAGAZINE PUBLISHED BY THE POLISH REVIEW PUBLISHING CO., with the assistance of the POLISH GOVERNMENT INFORMATION CENTER
ANISLAW L. CENTKIEWICZ, Editor—745 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 22, N. Y. • ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOUR DOLLARS • SINGLE COPY TEN CENTS





Oh Thou, who like Christ, art prepared to spill
Thy blood for the millions in doubt and distress
To Thee, sainted Warsaw, this song I address.

—*Juliusz Slowacki*
(1809-1849)

MAIN FEATURES: September 1939—September 1944 • Danzig—The Tinder-Box That Set the World on Fire • Westerplatte: Two Hundred Against Five Thousand • Polish Cavalry Charges • First Battle of Warsaw in the Second World War • The Battle of Lancut • They Trod the Path of Glory • Zbyszek—Memoirs of a Polish Red Cross Nurse • Polish Campaign: 1939-1944 • The Second Battle of Warsaw, 1944

The front page: THE TWO SEPTEMBERS, drawing by Zdzislaw Czeremanski.

SEPTEMBER 1939 — SEPTEMBER 1944

by JOSEPH P. JUNOSZA, Director of the Polish Government Information Center



FIVE years ago on September 1, 1939, all radio stations and all daily papers in America carried stories of Germany's attack on Poland. For the first time since Hitler had come to power in Germany, German aggression had been met with armed resistance.

The sacrifice of Poland in September, 1939 was to save democracy. President Roosevelt has called Poland the "inspiration" of the holy Allied Cause. For 35 days, the whole world followed the events of the unequal struggle. On the one hand the German military colossus,

with the support of their then ally, Russia, who had intervened on September 17th, and on the other, the young nation whose reconstruction after World War I and nearly a hundred and fifty years of Russo-German-Austrian occupation had not yet been completed.

The Polish Campaign of 1939 was one long succession of heroism and sacrifice. The Polish soldier and the civilian population without regard to race, creed or origin fulfilled their obligations to their motherland.

In the Polish campaign which German military publications termed the most difficult of all campaigns to date, the Battles of Kutno, Lwow (where General Sosnkowski broke up the attacking German divisions) and Kock (where the Polish army was forced to surrender for lack of ammunition on October 5th) stand out. All remember likewise the heroic defense of Hel and Westerplatte, Modlin and Warsaw.

After five years, Warsaw is again fighting. After five years Warsaw has again accepted the challenge to uneven battle with the German might. As five years ago, the Warsaw Poles heeded the call of their mayor and defender of the City, Stefan Starzynski, likewise now at the command of General Bor they have taken up arms in open uprising to break the chains of their German bondage. Now as then they fight without outside assistance, now as then the Polish Underground and the civilian population are fighting tanks with guns and bottles of gasoline.

The defense of Warsaw five years ago and the struggle for Warsaw's liberation today are not two isolated facts of Polish participation in this war. They are but two symbolic facts of an unending succession of sacrifice and struggle.

Polish resistance has persisted from the very first day of the war. It has persisted inside Poland and beyond her borders. Ever since the moment when the Germans treacherously crossed the Polish frontiers on September 1st and the Russian armies struck from the east on September 17th, later to sign an agreement on the 28th of the same month dividing Poland between themselves "for all time" along the Ribbentrop-Molotoff line—the Poles have been fighting.

As soon as the war was officially ended in Poland, guerrilla units which were to become the nucleus of a great Underground Army were made up of Polish soldiers and civilians. At the same time, General Sikorski, two days after the fall of Warsaw, formed a Polish Army in France. This Army

numbered some 80,000 men and consisted of four and a half infantry divisions, an armored brigade and the now famous Carpathian Brigade. The first and second divisions of General Sikorski's army participated in the Battle of France; the Carpathian Brigade fought in Norway and was victorious in the Battle for Narvik.

A large part of the Polish Army in France was successfully evacuated to England after the former collapsed. Poland's Army in Britain now numbers 30,000 men and boasts an armored division, a parachute brigade, and other units. A Polish Women's unit, counterpart of the American WAC, has also been organized and numbers 5,000 women. The armored division is now fighting in France, together with the American, British and Canadian Armies.

Another Polish Army was organized on Russian soil under General Anders following the signing of the Polish-Russian Treaty in July, 1941, and the release of a large number of Polish prisoners of war in that country. At the request of the Soviet government, it was transferred to the Middle East where it was equipped and grew to form a separate Army Corps with the Carpathian Brigade which had been expanded to a Division. This Corps now numbers 75,000 well-trained and superbly armed men. They have fought in the Libyan Campaign (Tobruk, El Gazala) and are now fighting in Italy where they have already become famous for their victories at Monte Cassino and Ancona. A second Polish Army has recently been organized in Russia composed of the remainder of the Polish prisoners of war in that country, and this army is now fighting alongside their Russian ally.

Poland's Air Force, which grew out of squadrons set up in France in 1940 and evacuated to England in June of that year, played a glorious role in the Battle of Britain. Her crews destroyed 219 German planes at that time, in addition to 39 probably destroyed.

Up to May 1, 1944, the official record of the Polish Air Force operating from bases in the British Isles contains the following entries: 620 enemy aircraft known to be destroyed; 167 probably destroyed; 214 badly damaged.

Polish Bomber Squadrons have taken part in 893 operations of a varied character in which a total of 7,056 sorties were made. They dropped 15,547,771 lbs. of bombs and mines.

At present the Polish Air Force numbers 12,000 men and ranks fourth in size among others of the United Nations (after the United States, Great Britain and Russia). It consists of 14 squadrons and is larger than the air forces of France, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Yugoslavia and Belgium combined.

The Polish Navy has been fighting since the beginning of the war by the side of the British Royal Navy. It took part in the evacuation of Dunkirk, in the attack on the Bismarck, the landing at Dieppe, in the Battle of the Atlantic and operations off the North African coast, Sicily and Italy. It now consists of one cruiser, six destroyers, three submarines and three coastal craft. Poland's merchant fleet is likewise in constant service on all seas and has carried much land material in convoys to Russia and to various other battle fields.

The largest Polish military command, however, is to be found in Occupied Poland. This is the Underground or Home Army. It is divided into two groups: a) Operational units, in which soldiers are used in actual skirmishes with the invader; and b) the regular Army, whose men undergo constant training and are strictly subject to the military discipline of the organization.

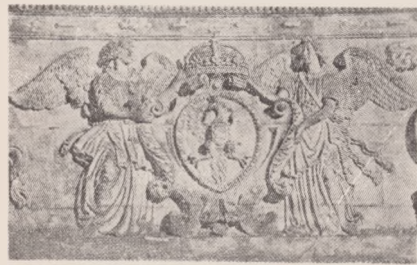
The operational group consists of 250,000 men, while the number of men in the Regular Army is much higher.

In spite of handicaps as an army whose operational theater

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DANZIG—THE TINDER-BOX THAT SET THE WORLD ON FIRE

by MARYAN CHODACKI, former Polish Commissioner General in Danzig



The White Eagle of Poland on a Frieze of High Gate, Danzig.

TO implement the Versailles Treaty's provisions with respect to Danzig, it was necessary to reconcile Wilson's contradicting, but implicitly accepted theories of the self-determination of nations on the one hand, and of Poland's free and unhampered access to the sea, on the other. Thus,

the idea of a free city was resurrected from the past of that ancient sea port.

This expedient, however, failed to solve a problem that had grown ever more complicated throughout the centuries.

Danzig's sovereignty was limited in favor of the League of Nations and of Poland, the League acting as guarantor and controller. Hence all activities of the Danzig port were to be controlled by the Republic of Poland and the economic ties with the Polish "hinterland" were to be as close as possible. The Free City of Danzig was included in the customs area of the Republic of Poland. The water-ways of the Vistula and of the Baltic littoral as well as the railways were to be administered by Poland, while the Polish telegraph, telephone and postal systems were to provide communication between the hinterland and the port of Danzig. Even a monetary union was recommended for the sake of establishing a logical tie between the economic and financial life. Danzig did not have the status of a sovereign entity and yet constituted one of the most important coefficients of Poland's economic life. Poland was entrusted with the conduct of what has been termed Danzig's "foreign policy" in commercial treaties negotiated by Poland. For reasons of strategic security, Poland was accorded the right to maintain a small military garrison on the peninsula of Westerplatte. The Polish population of Danzig was granted quite extensive privileges, etc., etc.

The sum-total of the rights accorded to Poland looked very impressive to the outside world, but in reality the situation was intolerable. The structural defects plus the lack of good faith rendered all work, cooperation and harmonious understanding impossible. How was it at all possible to work in a region with as many as ten different authorities—overlapping as to the area over which they had jurisdiction and in the scope of their functions? The authorities were: territorial, economic, customs, excise, port, railway, postal, the Port of Danzig Authority, Westerplatte and Westerplatte Basin authorities. Let us take another example. It is logical to assume that relations between two countries can be easily regulated for years to come by two treaties, a political treaty and a commercial treaty, both covering several score pages. If we stop to think that after 20 years of "collaboration" between Poland and Danzig there were 18 volumes of documents regulating said collaboration and covering approximately 8,000 pages of covenants, agreements, amendments, commentaries, interpretations, etc., we cannot help but see that the entire structure must have been faulty from its very inception.

So much for the structural defectiveness. The defectiveness of the idea behind the creation of the Free City of Danzig was due to factors of a different nature. In the course of the Prussian regime, the old sea port had been "beached" as it were by the Prussian bureaucracy. Danzig's once proud patriciate became scattered all over Germany, Hussar bar-



Entrance Door of an Old House in Danzig decorated with the White Eagle of Poland.

racks replaced the old-time granaries, yards where Polish lumber had been stored in olden times had to make room for colonies of German pensioners. The wind from the sea and the tang of salty air no longer evoked memories of merchandise-laden ships. Danzig forsook its splendid tradition and became just another small German provincial town. The Free City of Danzig had no ambition to be free.

These defects in Danzig's structure and in the mentality of its citizenry were fully exploited by Berlin. There was never any doubt that Berlin, although it had lost the war, would ever abandon its hopes for the future and for the realization of its grandiose plans. The "Drang nach dem Osten" figured quite prominently among these plans.

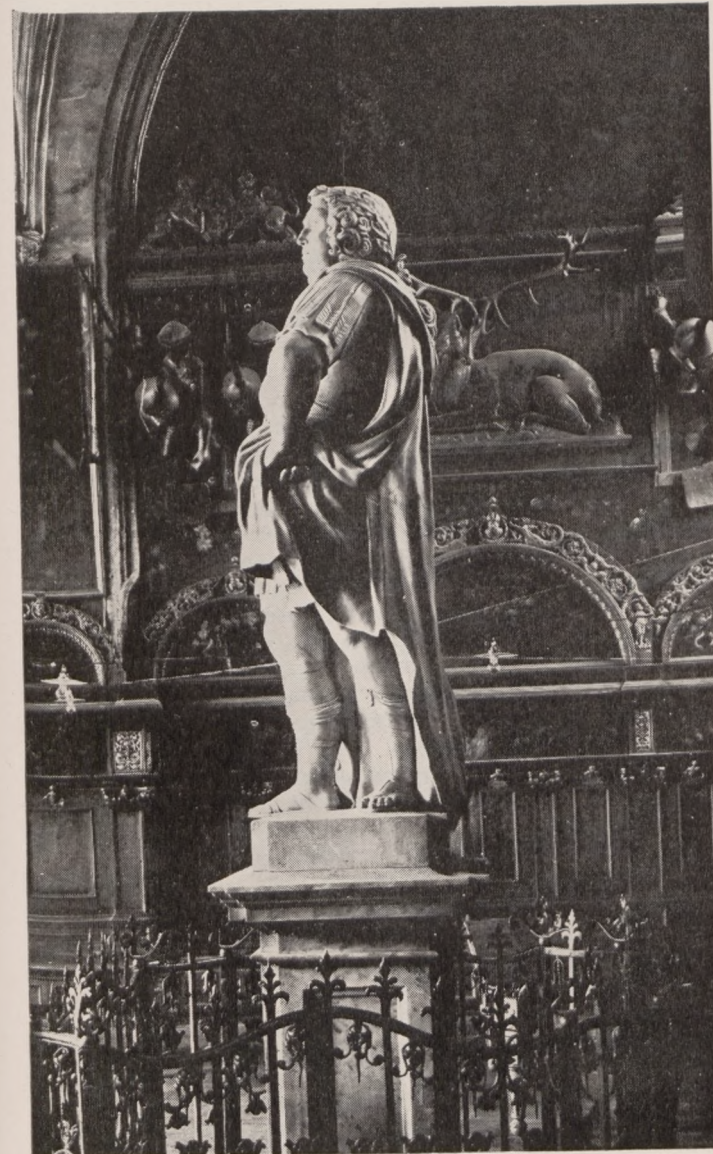
Danzig's history between the two world wars, observed from the side lines, proved that Danzig had been nothing but a tool of Berlin's policy. There had, however, been a difference as to the manner in which the Weimar Republic wielded the tool and the way the national-socialist Reich used it.

The Weimar Republic was weak, internally disrupted, economically disorganized, and socially confused. All this did not in any way hinder its efforts to bring about a revision of the Versailles Treaty. Since there were no prospects in the West, the Germans turned to the East, especially to Danzig, the "Free City" which was everything but free and by its very structure was bound to be a failure. Berlin was fully

aware of the fact that those responsible for the setting up of Danzig as a "Free City" were loath to be reminded of the stunted product of their labors, that the League of Nations possessed neither the requisite executive power nor the support of its members, that it was neither a superstate nor even a council of nations, but at best a forum where various selfish interests would be aired. By steadily agitating against Danzig, by fostering therein an atmosphere of unrest, by harassing Europe with slogans about "a situation which could not possibly be continued for any length of time," Berlin was gradually laying the foundations for a revisionist trend of thought. A possible first breach made in the Versailles Treaty would furnish a basis for revisionist operations on a wider scale.

But all the time the weak Weimar Republic was trying hard to keep up all appearances of loyalty to international law and to the obligations it had assumed under the Versailles Treaty.

Small wonder that under these circumstances, Danzig became in no time the ever-recurring refrain of complaints submitted either before the forum of the League of Nations or of the Hague Tribunal. Among the statesmen of Europe,



The Statue of the Polish King August III in Arthushof, Danzig.



Fountain of Neptune in Danzig. The gate in the foreground is surmounted by the White Eagle of Poland.

the conviction gradually gained ground that Danzig was a potential fire hazard and the sore spot of Europe. The issue was becoming increasingly embarrassing and the attitude of the outside world towards the Danzig problem was steadily growing more hostile.

The situation underwent a marked change with the seizure of power in the Third Reich by the National Socialist Party. Danzig did not cease to be one of Germany's political goals, but its specific gravity declined rapidly. The Nazis did not limit their political program to the revision of the Versailles Treaty, but they were getting prepared for a conquest of all Europe. Within the framework of this huge program, Danzig was but one of the minor goals; its return to the fold of the Reich was to come to pass automatically as a result of the realization of some of the major objectives. Until such time it was to be Danzig's task completely to co-ordinate its structure and life with the all-German pattern, to be loyal and blindly obedient to dictates emanating from Berchtesgaden, for this was the only way in which the Nazi Third Reich could execute either in Danzig or through Danzig, any political operations including provocations.

To the Weimar Republic, Danzig was to serve as a prelude to the overthrow of the Versailles Treaty; the Third Reich meant to re-possess it after having scrapped the Treaty.

On the surface Danzig's status showed no visible changes. The non-aggression pact of 1934 was followed by a period of real economic collaboration between Poland and Danzig.

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Westerplatte: Two Hundred Men Against Five Thousand

THE two shots fired on September 1, 1939, by the German battleship, *Schleswig-Holstein*, on the barracks of the Polish garrison at Westerplatte—the shots that like ominous symbols of a treacherous attack unchained the second world war in this century—are still reverberating throughout the world. They were followed by the ruin of burning Warsaw, by the white flag on the ramparts of Paris, by the wailing of sirens in embattled London, by the horrors on the blood-drenched sands of Dunkirk, by the sneak raid on Pearl Harbor over which flew the Star Spangled Banner.

In the course of five years of the most savage of wars, the world has lived through many memorable episode: Warsaw, Coventry, Malta, Wake Island, Liege, Bataan, Narvik, Guadalcanal, Cassino and Normandy. Westerplatte, however, shall stand out forever as a living document, pathetic by the grandeur of its heroic saga.

Here is an eye-witness account, made by Corporal Z. N., of the Battle of Westerplatte:

At 4:40 a.m. on September 1, 1939, the battleship, *Schleswig-Holstein*, after having steamed up through the harbor channel to within a thousand feet of Westerplatte, fired two shots from her 28 centimeter guns. The shells uprooted large trees on the peninsula. The blast from the shots upset the tents of the German labor forces as well as the first-aid tents. A bare few seconds later a hurricane of artillery fire started that lasted 20 minutes or so. Detachments of German sailors stormed the Polish defenses which they penetrated along the line of the railway track and through the railway gate that had been blown up, as well as through breaches in the fence near the gate. They came to within 350 feet of the defenders' machine gun nests, that all of a sudden cut loose with a withering fire. The sailors halted, hiding behind trees and in shell-craters made by German artillery fire. They wavered and began to retreat, leaving some of their wounded in the barbed wire entanglements.

After a short lull, the artillery fire started again, and the guns of the German flotilla from Pillau joined in the bombardment that lasted about 40 minutes. The sailors attacked once more, supported by patrols of engineers and labor service units which were to make a way for the attackers through the fallen trees and other obstructions. At the same time, the enemy from the west answered with a violent fire from heavy machine guns and tanks. Some of the German machine gun nests were put out of commission by a number of hits from the only "field piece" the Poles had on Westerplatte. After about 30 shots, that gun was silenced by a direct hit.

The sailors were again stopped by the fire from Polish machine guns. The attack was beaten off and the Germans had to withdraw from the peninsula.

The hostilities were interrupted for a short spell. Casualties of the defenders were light: four wounded and three killed. The field fortifications of the outer ring, however, had suffered considerable damage. The trenches and dug-outs had been shot to pieces by the enemy artillery; the fittings destroyed and considerable material lost. To avoid further

losses, especially in view of inadequate supplies of arms, the commander of the defending force, Major Sucharski, ordered the withdrawal of the southern garrison to the line of the block-house.

For the rest of the day the enemy artillery kept up a nuisance fire and during the night, from the first to the second of September, launched two attacks, hoping to take the Poles by surprise. The night attacks were, however, beaten off with ease. On September 2nd, the enemy, outside of continual bombardment, remained practically inactive until 5 p.m. The German storm-detachments had been withdrawn to the rear of the entrance positions.

At 5 p.m., squadrons of airplanes appeared over Westerplatte, coming in relays. Some of them dropped two-pound incendiaries and heavier bombs, while others dived low to release 500-pound bombs. Almost the entire peninsula was set aflame, trees and buildings going up in smoke. The small patch of land shook. Within 30 minutes, forty-seven airplanes discharged approximately 30 tons of bombs on an area of about 40 acres.

The havoc wrought by these bombs was considerable. One of the 500-pound bombs hit Block-house Number 5, demolishing it completely and burying its gallant defenders under the ruins. The other block-houses also suffered to a varying degree, their walls were all cracked and tilted. The upper stories of the barracks were completely wrecked, leaving only the ground floors littered with debris. The kitchen was completely destroyed, the water supply and sewage systems badly damaged. The radio station also suffered damage and was no longer able to send messages.

With the defense momentarily disorganized, one enemy attack could have liquidated the garrison without trouble. But the Germans waited with their attack until 10 p.m., while the defenders of the Westerplatte Peninsula had already reorganized by 7 p. m. This attack was also beaten off.

The days that followed resembled the first one, September 1st. The German artillery kept on harassing the defenders. At least during one or two hours out of every 24 the bombardment assumed the extent of a heavy barrage which became especially intense before each attack. There were all in all 12 attacks, but not one was successful. Each time the attacker suffered heavy losses. The Germans had no respite either from their fear, especially strong at night, of a sortie by the Westerplatte garrison which might fight its way through. The Germans therefore increased the depth of their defense, and prepared for a frontal assault.

On September 6th, a battalion of Prussian engineers was brought to Westerplatte. Since neither aerial bombardment nor artillery barrage had broken the Poles, the Germans decided to use craft. A sally to learn the technique of defense was first decided upon to prepare the ground.

About 1 a.m. on September 7th, a tank car filled with gasoline, oil and naphtha was shoved onto the railway track and sent rolling into the peninsula. A time bomb produced an automatic explosion. With a terrific blast, a deluge of burning liquid inundated a large section of the Polish lines, setting

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The garrison of Westerplatte surrenders and marches out to a prisoners' camp. The captain of the "Schleswig-Holstein" walks in front row with the tall Polish commander, Major Sucharski.



Polish Lancer by Wojciech Kossak.

Polish Cavalry Charges—Fragment of 1939 Campaign

by LIEUT. M. K. DZIEWANOWSKI

THE cavalry brigade of Suwalki had been fighting day in and day out on the right flank of the "Narew" army group, that was endeavoring to stop the left flank of General von Kuechler's army marching on Warsaw from East Prussia. The "Narew" army group, pushed back by the sheer weight of German fire power and armor, fell back step by step. The cavalry brigade of Suwalki, which fought on the group's right flank, being more mobile and having suffered less from fighting the head-on rush of the enemy, had relatively small losses during the first days of the hostilities.

In the early morning of September 7th, the brigade stood not quite 40 miles from the East Prussia border line, fighting a spirited defensive battle against a light German army group, reinforced by squadrons of a cavalry division, the only cavalry division the Germans possessed at that time. The advantage of numerical superiority was decidedly with the Germans, as all we could throw in against their 100 tanks was about 20 light armored scout cars. Insofar as fire power was concerned, the Germans' margin of superiority was approximately 9 to 1.

It seemed therefore that the Germans would, because of their superiority in fire power and armor, cut through the live mass of Polish cavalry like a steel knife through a loaf of bread.

And yet in the course of the first week of this unequal struggle a dozen of our brigade's small anti-tank guns destroyed 31 enemy tanks and we took over 200 prisoners. Each day our technique of fighting an enemy hiding behind armor improved, a technique of pursuit, of ambush and ruses. A machine that looked formidable at a distance and able to cover considerable ground in short time, began to show, especially at night, its impotence against dare-devils

who had the nerve to approach the tanks and to throw gasoline-filled bottles. Others crept up to wreck the caterpillar treads of these tanks.

From a proud cavalry brigade we had turned, within a week of war, into an outfit of tank hunters. By night we lost ourselves in woods and marched over trackless ground to harass the enemy's armored columns at rest stops or on the march, jumping him unexpectedly, raiding his lines of supply and communication.

The news grew steadily worse. On the evening of September 8th, we heard the Germans were closing in on Warsaw. We resolved, however, "to do our duty" come what may. Most of the time we were hungry and for a week we had not had more than about three hours sleep each night. Our poor horses could not be unsaddled for days on end. With fodder growing scarce, they were becoming dispirited and vicious.

We were fully aware of the fact that we had to adapt ourselves to new methods of warfare. After all, we, the generation of September, 1939, had to make the best of conditions imposed on us by a war not of our asking. One desire, however, was uppermost in our minds and we discussed it in our short talks at officers' roll-calls. Should modern warfare depose the cavalry, then we should make a dignified exit after just one more glorious charge at the enemy in the glorious tradition of Poland.

"If we only could get at them and have it out man to man," was the ever-recurring refrain of our talks.

On September 9th, we received the following order: "To relieve German pressure on Warsaw and to give the capital time to organize its defenses, the Suwalki brigade will make
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First Battle of Warsaw in the Second World War

A Broadcast by Mayor Stefan Starzynski to the people of the besieged capital of Poland on September 19, 1939:

"Citizens, another day of struggle is now ended; during the day there have been no heavy bombardments, but women and children queuing up before food shops were struck by bursting shells from German artillery.

"This brutal bombardment of the city and the innocent population will be in vain. Such methods will not achieve the results desired, and they are bound to recoil on the entire German nation as well as its leaders.

"I do not know why the German nation finds it necessary to destroy from the air such things as works of art, pictures, and magnificent monuments of civilization.

"Today I have seen the Royal Castle, the Belvedere, St. John's Cathedral, the Red Cross hospital, churches and monuments laid in ruins. In our country, the people are attached to their religion and their church. A people's hate is not quickly extinguished.

"Ephemeral victories, and even the temporary occupation of the entire territory of a nation, do not decide the future. War is not necessarily ended by such victories. But the destruction of all the wealth of a nation, the destruction of churches—these are things which are not forgotten. The Protestant church has been completely destroyed. A house where Germans captured by a raiding party were being held has also been bombed.

"The bombing of Warsaw is bound to have profound repercussions. The ruins will disappear; we shall build other monuments in their place. It is not the first time Warsaw has been destroyed. But the vital force of the Polish nation is so strong that we shall be able to carry through the work of reconstruction speedily, and we shall create monuments worthy of the nation. The vengeance will be bitter."

THE battle for Warsaw lasted just one month. For it began on the very first day of Germany's invasion of Poland, when Warsaw was bombed for the first time. Throughout the siege the Germans directed their attack mainly against the civilian population, in accordance with their conception of total warfare. Although on September 1st Hitler declared in the Reichstag that he did not want to wage war on women and children, during the siege the German air force and heavy artillery killed over sixty thousand of the inhabitants of the city, more than half this number being women and children.

At the end the Warsaw command had to capitulate, not because the Defense Army had been beaten, but because the responsibility for the civilian population was too great. Yet the civilians themselves had no thought of surrender, and the



Ruins of the Ministry of Finance in Warsaw.

news of the capitulation came as a shock to them. How long would they have gone on fighting? The answer is recorded in the history of the past twenty months. They are fighting still.

Of the 20,650 buildings standing in Warsaw on September 1, 1939, 1,956 or 9.5 per cent were totally destroyed and 8,172 or about 40 per cent were partly destroyed, during the siege. Altogether 10,126 buildings, or almost one half of Warsaw, were either wholly or partly demolished. The material damage suffered by Warsaw during those four weeks has been estimated at 2,500 million zlotys, or \$500,000,000.

The deliberate and concentrated bombardment of the civilian population with which the Germans began this war initiated a new era in the technique of warfare. That technique is the expression of the German spirit and the German method of fighting, which violates all the principles and rights which constitute human ideals.

Yet it can also be said that the Germans achieved a purpose which was not part of their plan. For the ruins of Warsaw will remain a testimony to German infamy, and also a testimony to man's endless struggle for the right to freedom, to that highest human right which can never be bought, and which does not hesitate before the greatest sacrifices.

(From *Two Septembers* by Stephen Baley, George Allen & Unwin. Ltd., London, 1941.)



Ruins of Warsaw. On the right the undamaged monument to fallen members of the Engineering Corps of the Polish Army.

THE BATTLE OF LANCUT, from the "Black Brigade" diary

by F. S. KURCZ, Chief of Staff, 10th Mechanized Cavalry Brigade

IT was a fine, warm day. Colonel Maczek, who was in high spirits, sat before the trench and watched through field-glasses an enemy armored reconnaissance approaching from Kraczkowa and Krzemienica. Armored cars with their characteristic roof aerials, were moving towards our southern flank.

Our artillery and anti-tank guns opened fire. The howitzer shells, bursting in open ground, seemed to carry their splinters far and wide, over a rather flat trajectory.

Colonel B. was cross and he told me in an aside: "Take your Commander and your good self away. You're just attracting artillery fire here."

No sooner had he spoken than we heard four successive heavy puffs behind the hill—like sneezes—buff, buff, buff, buff. The first salvo of the German battery exploded two hundred yards ahead of us—"Direction right, short."

Colonel Maczek went back to the car reluctantly, for it was just getting interesting. We had a short talk with the officer commanding a light tank patrol, which had just returned from front positions. Then we went to see a 75-mm. gun placed in an anti-tank position to the west of the town.

We did well to return to the castle. A few minutes after our arrival a dispatch rider, covered with blood, dashed in with an alarming report from the Reconnaissance Company: an enemy motorized cavalry unit headed by armored cars and supported by tanks had just surprised the Reconnaissance Company in a simultaneous attack from the west and from the south—from Blazowa.

Lancut was threatened with encirclement from the south. This was no tragedy, for we had reserves at hand, but the situation had to be dealt with quickly.

The most readily available reserve force was a company of light tanks. Colonel Maczek ordered Lieutenant Z. commanding the company, to move immediately to the southern side of the town, to the Albigowa road, where he would receive further instructions. Then he got into his car and we went together to estimate the situation at close quarters.

In the square we turned left onto the Blazowa road and stopped at the edge of the town before Hill 259. On the left of the road, there was a 75-mm. gun, very neatly camouflaged.

We dashed up the hill. Below us there stretched the long and narrow village of Albigowa, where some houses were already in flames—a sure sign that the Germans had already entered the village and were using incendiaries. Furthermore we could see black silhouettes of armored cars at the other end of the village.

Straight ahead, we saw in the fields from the east the low, dark outlines of tanks attacking Albigowa. At short intervals the muzzles protruding from the armored turrets would flash and a metallic report would follow. The tanks were using their quick-firing guns to full advantage.

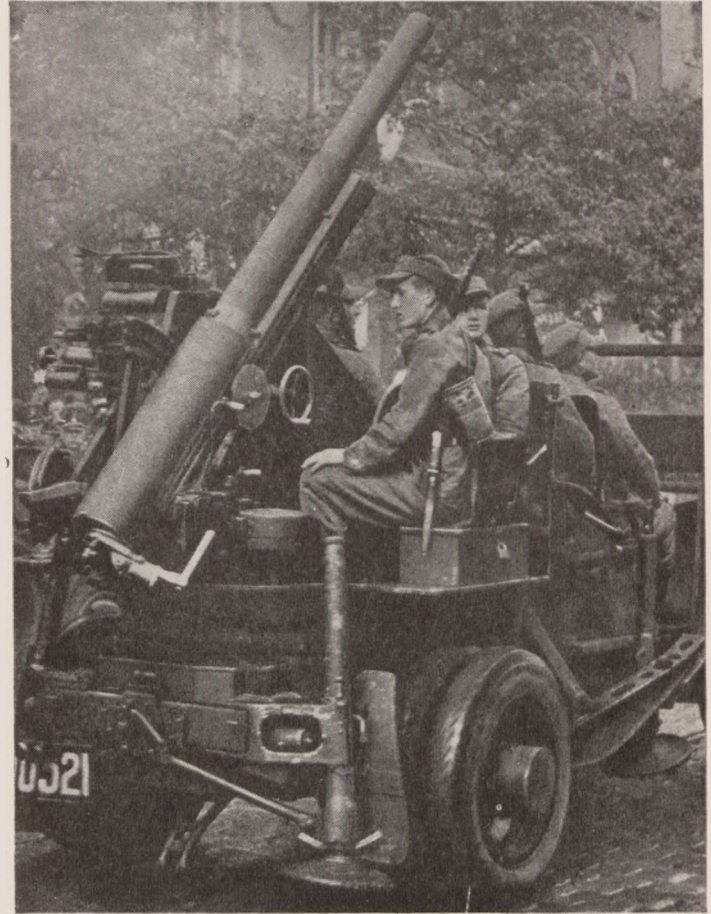
On the road from Kraczkowa, near our observation point, there appeared a single enemy armored car. Its crew had obviously noticed us, for it stopped behind some bushes. A thin streak of white smoke poured out of the turret and at the same time we heard a singing whine over our heads—then the subdued rattle of machine-gun fire.

The Colonel jumped towards our gun, crying to the corporal gunner: "Give him the works!"

I didn't know what had happened, but the corporal did not seem to see the German at all, though we pointed the car out to him very clearly.

"Can you see the bush next to the fence?"

"Yes."



Polish artillery in 1939.

"Then fire straight at that!"

"Range 800!"

The corporal aimed carefully and fired. A cloud of dust rose in front of the camouflage net, the gun jumped up and a bright flame leaped out of the black bush. The flame instantly died down, but a column of dark smoke poured out, as from a chimney stack.

We both embraced the gunner. "You deserve promotion! Good shot!" I took down his name.

The tracks of the light tanks were already jangling and crunching behind our backs. Small, rubicund Lieutenant Z. reported for orders. The orders were simple. The Colonel pointed to the turmoil below and ordered him to attack at full speed the exposed flank of the enemy.

"Yes, sir!"—Lieutenant Z. saluted and rolled down the hill like a rubber ball.

The light tanks went forward. At first they moved along the road, raising enormous clouds of dust. As they approached the village they dispersed to the left and right of the road. It was only then that the Germans noticed them at all. The fire increased in strength. Our splendid Polish heavy 20mm. machine-guns barked in a deep voice.

We were jumping about with excitement at the sight of the German retreat. One tank and then another and a third staggered and stopped. Their crews leaped out and were immediately mowed down by machine-gun fire.

The menace to our flank had been liquidated within twenty minutes, with heavy losses to the enemy. The Reconnaissance Company recovered Albigowa and sent out patrols in pursuit of the retreating enemy.

THEY TROD THE PATH OF GLORY



Prince Henryk the Pious fell at Lignica, Upper Silesia, 1241, shielding Europe from a Tatar invasion.



Wladyslaw of Warna was killed at Warna (now Bulgaria) in 1444, defending Christendom against the Moslems.



Stanislaw Zolkiewski, Polish Hetman, died at Cecora, 1620, to save the Commonwealth of Poland from Turkish aggression.



Prince Jozef Poniatowski gave his life in the "Battle of the Nations" at Leipzig, 1813, "for the honor of Poles."

STAINED GLASS WINDOW BY MICHAL BORUCINSKI

ZBYSZEK — Memoirs of a Polish Red Cross Nurse

by MARTA WANKOWICZ

It was the eleventh of October, 1939. We had just received new wounded from the field hospital at Leczna. We always seemed to have many more wounded than beds.

I managed to get a hay mattress and went to find someone to whom I should assign it.

"Slupecki! Come, help me, please!" I called to the orderly. "You know them better than I do, all these new ones. Send me one to *Separatka* 4. I have a mattress free. Someone who could lay on the floor."

A few minutes later Slupecki rolled in a cart.

"Look, little sister, what a handsome one I brought you!" he laughed from the doorway. "I picked him out just for you."

"Am I worthy of a bed, sister?" came from the cart a voice so masculine that I wondered how old the boy might be.

As I took down his registration information I found out: "Sixteen."

"Name?"

"Zbyszek Kowalski."

"Rank?"

"A volunteer. Lately attached to General Kleberg's army."

I abandoned the official questionnaire.

"Lately? When were you wounded?"

"A few days ago, sister . . ."

I threw the paper and pencil on the table. They slipped to the floor. I ran into the general ward.

"Listen!" Every face in the ward turned toward my excitement. "Listen! There's a new boy. From Kleberg's army. Wounded in a battle a few days ago . . ."

Murmurs echoed my last words: "A few days ago . . . in October . . . in a battle . . ."

"He says that his regiment is probably still fighting. When he was wounded there was no question of disarming. They are still fighting. What the Germans told us wasn't true. It wasn't true! . . ."

We all laughed for joy. Hans, the German patient with his arm in a splint, hurried in, always ready to laugh, wanting to know the cause of the general rejoicing.

"We're beating you, Heinies!" Goryczka called to him joyously, with a friendly clap on the back.

So at last we had news. Our radio gone, taken away by the Germans, it was only from the wounded soldiers coming to the hospital that we could learn the news of our country, by the reports of their battles in this or that locality "somewhere in Poland," of death or capture of this or that general, of the movements of troops. We had been told by the Germans that for two weeks, since the surrender of Warsaw, there had been no more fighting. And when Zbyszek told us that he was wounded in a battle in the first days of October—joy flew through the wards. Each day became important. Already we felt that all was lost. But each day of battle was priceless, each day—almost a new victory.

Zbyszek was enthusiastically adopted by the ward. He was sixteen, with a tousled topping, unbelievably bright, the color of golden ducats, gray, almond-shaped eyes, strongly arched brows, the profile of an aviator from an airmail stamp, profile of a young, strong, not yet fully feathered, bird of prey.



Polish nurse on duty.

He was tall and athletic. My mother would have said: "well fed." He had been "well fed"—at Warsaw. His mother stayed on during the siege. Was she there still? . . . or not . . .? Zbyszek tried not to think about that.

A burst of shrapnel had got him in both feet. It was nothing very serious, but painfully irritating. They had to amputate his little toe.

When I reentered the *separatka* where I had established Zbyszek as the fifth he lifted himself up from his hay mattress and turned toward me excitedly:

"Sister! Where is my German coat?"

"All your things are here," I showed him the closet. "What German coat?"

"The coat I captured! I, myself, killed the German that it belonged to. It was the first German I killed. And I took his coat."

Zbyszek looked at me, his eyes narrower than ever, covetous slits where two gray fires were shining. He looked like our Siamese cat, *Malvina*, leaning over her daily portion of raw, red meat.

For Zbyszek the war was a great adventure, one like boys read in tales of Redskins. First, he was lucky enough to join as a volunteer even though he was only sixteen. Many of his pals had not been so successful. Then five weeks of a harrowing adventure in battle. Zbyszek knew nothing about the tragic disarmament that was going on in the other parts of Poland. His group was fighting. They were fighting all the time. Up to the moment that one fine day shrapnel cut his boots to pieces and the flow of blood went *hlup-hlup* in-

side of them, as if he had just been walking in a heavy rain. Zbyszek fell, sharp pain in both feet. The battle had been near Leczna. A chauffeur picked up Zbyszek and some of the others who were wounded. He drove them to the Leczna field hospital. The road lay between two lines of fire: the Germans and the Poles both shot at them. The chauffeur himself was wounded during this reckless ride, but he drove on. One of Zbyszek's school mates who was sitting beside him was shot again while they were on the road. He died leaning on Zbyszek's shoulder. The car finally got to the hospital. More wounded Germans than Poles. Zbyszek received the bed next to . . . Marlene Dietrich's brother.

"Isn't that wonderful, sister?" Zbyszek looked at me aglow. "I saw honest-to-goodness letters from Marlene. I was so lucky! wonderful!"

Every day Zbyszek had me take his army coat out of the closet and he would piously contemplate his booty. Whenever one of our orderlies came into the room, Zbyszek would ask them to try the coat on. Then they would all voice a criticism, always the same: the waist line was placed too low, the shoulders were cut very oddly, the collar band of dark green velveteen was horrible, the material was of a very inferior quality compared with our uniforms.

This went on for a few days. But then, a German soldier who had no army coat, came through the wards. From ward to ward and room to room he went asking if anyone had a German army coat. Wherever there was one, he tried it on, and finding it did not fit, went further. So he came to Zbyszek's door. I happened to be in the *separatka* when he opened the door and inquired. Zbyszek looked at me uncertainly.

"What should I tell him, sister?"

"Whatever you want," I answered, trying to pray a reasonable thought into Zbyszek's tousled head. This German coat might become quite a bother . . .

"Well, I'm going to tell him," Zbyszek decided. "They might make a search or something here, so maybe it's better . . . You might get into trouble because of it, sister."

Zbyszek whistled towards the German head stuck in the partly opened door:

"Hey, Heinie! Look in the closet! Maybe you'll find a rag you can use in there!"

The great coat fit the German as if made for him. Zbyszek watched him sadly and not without some disgust.

"It's from a stiff, you know . . ." he discouraged. "That's bad luck. Who knows? You might get knocked off yourself . . ."

WESTERPLATTE: TWO HUNDRED MEN AGAINST FIVE THOUSAND

(Continued from page 6)

fire to the already charred trunks of trees. At 5:20 a.m., after a half-hour of heavy artillery barrage, a company of German engineers launched an attack that reached as far as Block-House No. 1 and the barracks. The attack, the thirteenth in succession, was also beaten off but only at the expense of the defenders' last ounce of strength.

Major Sucharski took stock of the situation. The news from Poland, via the damaged radio station was not at all encouraging. The prospects for the defense were considerably worsened by a heavy mortar shell that shattered Block-House No. 2.

One-third of the garrison was killed, about 60 were more or less seriously wounded and badly in need of medical assistance that was not available under the conditions.

The remaining handful of about 60 men was at the very end of their strength, having fought for six days and nights without interruption with practically no sleep or rest.

It was then that Major Sucharski had to make the most painful decision of his lifetime. On September 7, 1939, at

The German, understanding little of this, smiled and saluted Zbyszek in thanks for the coat. He left the *separatka*. Zbyszek enviously followed him with his eyes. Then, still a little sad, he turned toward me and said:

"I don't really know what I should have wished him . . . If I ever run across him and I have a chance to shoot, naturally I'll be glad to. But it's so good, so darned good to live . . .!"

Listening thirstily from the next bed leaned infantryman Olenski who was awaiting a leg amputation.

Shortly afterward I was ordered to send Zbyszek to a hospital annex in town. He was to return to his home soon, anyway, though he did not know if it was still there, if his mother and sister were living or not. Long afterwards I wondered about Zbyszek . . . if, when he returned to Warsaw, when he found neither familiar streets nor houses he knew, nor friends, nor relatives, when he would try to live in one unheated room in a ten-below-zero winter, eating frozen potatoes and *kluski* made of flour and water on week days, and horse meat on Sundays, when he would see German proclamations posted on the few walls standing, and the sidewalks full of German soldiers he could not shoot, and the cafes full of German officers he would best avoid, when he would see at the gates of our institutions and universities big German guards dressed in furs they stole from us, when he would see in the suburbs the misery of Warsaw, the suffering that streamed in from the West, those who stole lumps of coal from the huge German wagons carrying tons and tons to the "German" hotels and restaurants, those who were chased with whip lashings like dogs, when in the half-ruined stations he would see the vibrant mob that tried to bring something to eat from the country, and German non-coms dispersing them with their crops, spitting insults, slapping women's faces—I wondered if, when his marvellous war adventure would be over, when he would come back to the every-day crushed, dishonored life of Warsaw, I wondered if he could still tell me that "to live is so good, so darned good . . ."

I was never to see Zbyszek again, never to ask him. Anyway, I wouldn't have . . . Covering him well on his stretcher for transportation, I thought regretfully of the approaching end of his heroic epic and of the beginning of hopelessness. I thought then that Zbyszek would never again tell me, throwing his golden hair back with a short quick gesture: "It's so marvellous to live!" Now I think otherwise. Healing and youth are two fine things. And to live is always better than to perish.

10:15 a.m. in the ruins of the barracks, he assembled the remainder of his command calling on them to pay homage to their fallen comrades. He explained to them the desperate character of the situation. After thanking them for their soldierly behavior and bravery, he decided to capitulate.

General Eberhardt who commanded the German forces at Danzig permitted the Polish officers to retain their sabers in tribute to the valor of the garrison.

In this unequal struggle the Polish soldier of the Westerplatte Peninsula stuck to his post for seven days under the most appalling circumstances. His determination to do so was not due to his good arms and ammunition or because of the commander's skilfully planned operations, all of them crushed by the enemy's overwhelming fire, but by the two most lofty of military ideals, honor and love of country.

For this reason, Westerplatte, Europe's first Alcazar of this war, shall forever live in our memory as a symbol of Polish heroism and will to resist, displayed in those days of "blood and glory" by two hundred men fighting against five thousand of the enemy supported by artillery, naval units and bombers.

POLISH CAMPAIGN 1939—1944

GERMAN guns were still shelling Warsaw when General Sikorski began to reform the Polish Army in France. Much of the army escaped from the country in September. Many others who slipped through the fingers of their German captors, and often afoot crossed mountains and plains to the West, swelled the ranks of this new army. Seven months after the Polish campaign, General Sikorski put this new army of 70,000 Poles into the Battle of France.

In May and June, 1940, the first Polish unit to see real offensive action after the fall of Poland was the Highland or Carpathian Brigade that fought in Norway, taking an important part in the capture of Narvik. When this campaign ended, the Brigade returned to France in time to see action on that front.

Polish divisions in France distinguished themselves by refusing to surrender, even after the armistice. However, after the situation had become desperate in the over-run country, the Second Division, fighting on the southern Maginot Line front, was ordered to retreat into Switzerland. The First Division was to follow it into neutral territory, but it remained, at the request of the French, to cover the latter's retreat.

Those who could escaped to the British Isles. General Sikorski himself reached Britain by bomber. There he arranged with Prime Minister Churchill for the official transfer of the Polish Army to England where it would fight as part of the Empire Forces.

Now, four years later, these same Polish soldiers are once again fighting on French soil, but this time they are the victors, and it is the Germans who are in headlong flight.

POLISH air squadrons that in 1939 distinguished themselves in their heroic struggle against the superior German Luftwaffe, that were again decimated during the



Oath taken by Polish soldiers in France in 1940.

French retreat of 1940, finally proved their worth in the RAF. By the summer of 1940, Polish Spitfires and Hurricanes were patrolling the Channel and defending England during the crucial Battle of Britain. Polish bombers had been in action with the RAF even earlier.

On August 31, 1940, eve of the first anniversary of the German attack on Poland, the first Polish fighter squadron of the RAF took off on its initial patrol. By the end of September, 1940, its score was 108 German planes shot down and many more probably hit. Squadron 303 was soon joined by other Polish squadrons in the RAF fighter command. Although famed Squadron 303 shot down three times as many

Germans as the average of all other squadrons, its losses were but one-third of those suffered by the other units. Even after the Battle of Britain ended in success for the Allies, these Polish Eagles did not let up for a minute in their relentless pursuit of the enemy. Up to May, 1944, their score stood at: 620 enemy aircraft actually destroyed; 167 probably shot down; and 214 badly damaged.

The Polish bomber Squadron of the RAF has, since the beginning of 1940, participated in almost every important raid over the continent. This squadron has raided Berlin, Mannheim, Essen, Northern Italian cities, Bremen, St. Nazaire, Lorient, Kiel, Paris, Hamburg, and many, many other targets. Along with the British bomber squadrons, these Polish pilots helped soften up Germany's West Wall defenses preparatory to the Allied Invasion of Normandy. Polish fliers form the third strongest Allied air force in Britain.



Polish fliers have been fighting incessantly since the very first day of the war.

THE Highland or Carpathian Brigade, under the command of General Kopanski, that in the spring of 1940 fought in Norway and France, was later transferred to French Syria. When that colony decided to capitulate, the Polish Brigade fought its way to Palestine. From there it was transferred to the Egyptian Front.

The Carpathian Brigade (later made into an army division), held out during the seven-month siege of Tobruk. During this siege, it made numerous attacks on the enemy surrounding the fort, and inflicted heavy losses on the German forces.

After the Allied offensive in 1941 liberated Tobruk, the Poles helped chase the Germans from Cyrenaica. One of the outstanding Polish victories during this action was the capture of El Gazala.

AFTER the conquest of North Africa, the Polish Army in the Middle East was reorganized into the Polish Second Corps, composed of two divisions, the Carpathian and Kresowa (Border), and an armored brigade. This Second Corps fights as part of the British Eighth Army. Its commander is General Wladyslaw Anders.

During its first two months in Italy, the Polish Second Corps fought on the Adriatic sector under the command of General Sir Harold Alexander. Then early last spring, the Corps was sent to the stalemated Cassino Front. Though the German position there had been strong enough to withstand four months of Allied attacks, as well as the bombing of Monte Cassino Abbey, the Poles took both the town and the Mount within two weeks after the start of the offensive. On May 19, 1944, at 10 p.m., the red and white flag of Poland flew over the Abbey, followed a moment later by the Union Jack of Great Britain.



Polish and British flags float triumphantly over the ruins of the Monte Cassino Abbey in Italy.



They fought also on the burning sands of Libya.

Next in line for the Poles was the German stronghold of Monte Cairo and the nearby town of Piedimonte, both not far north of the Abbey. There, the Germans were so strongly entrenched that the Poles had virtually to dig them out with bayonets and grenades.

Despite heavy losses, the Polish Second Corps, not quite two months after the Abbey's fall, was again in the vanguard of the Allied advance upon the Adriatic coast to Northern Italy where they took the key bases of Ancona, Frontone and Monte Vecchio.

The Polish Navy never stopped fighting. Polish destroyers and submarines have served side by side with ships of the Royal Navy since September, 1939. All of the larger Polish ships escaped from the Baltic in 1939. One Polish ship in particular, the submarine *Orzel*, since lost on patrol in the North Sea, had an immortal saga of escape.

Up to the present, the Polish Navy has shot down about 100 enemy aircraft, escorted approximately 600 convoys, carried out over 600 patrols, covered a distance of more than 875,000 square miles, fought over 350 actions with coastal batteries, 160 against U-boats, and 30 against surface vessels, has taken part in 14 rescues of Allied warships, 17 of Allied merchant-men and 20 of Allied aircraft. At present it is even larger than it was in 1939. These Polish men-of-war recently convoyed Allied troops to Normandy. Later they shelled German positions on shore. Still more recently, they took part in the attack on Southern France.

THE SECOND BATTLE OF WARSAW, 1944*

AS the battle of the Polish Home Army for Warsaw entered its second week, the reasons for the date of the uprising were revealed by members of the Polish Government in London.

Jan Stanczyk, Minister of Labor and vice-president of the Polish Trade Union Council, stated that General Bor, commander of the Polish Home Army, had been authorized some time ago to rise whenever the situation seemed opportune. Since the end of July, the Germans had been using Warsaw as a key supply base and communication center for their Eastern Front. At the same time, they began a new reign of terror in the Polish capital by ordering civilians to evacuate the city, and by intensifying the number of mass executions and arrests. On top of that, four German armored divisions were scheduled to pass through Warsaw on their way to reinforce the collapsing Eastern Front.

General Bor and the Polish Home Army rose to stop these German divisions, as well as to put an end to the persecution of Warsaw civilians.

At 5 p.m. on August 1, the Polish forces struck in an effort to occupy the vital central part of the city along with the main streets that lead to the three bridges across the Vistula to Praga, the eastern suburb. General Bor reported to London that this uprising of the Polish Home Army saved 1,000 internees and prisoners of war from deportation set for July 31st. Many of these prisoners, his report continued, were officers and men of the Royal Air Force, shot down on

* The Battle of Warsaw has not yet reached its conclusion as this issue of *The Polish Review* goes to press.



German post blocking the road to Warsaw.

missions over Germany. Saved from the Gestapo, they now fight side by side with their Polish allies.

Despite their desperate shortage of weapons and ammunition, the inability of the Allies to supply them and the stalemate on the Eastern Front, General Bor and his patriot army have miraculously held out for two weeks solely through their unparalleled heroism and wise strategy. Thus, a band of 20,000 emaciated, ill-armed and poorly equipped Poles held at bay the "super-man" Wehrmacht that had so boastfully "conquered" all Poland five years previously. This unexpected insurrection greatly aided the Red Army.

During the first days, General Bor took the offensive, but as German resistance on the Eastern Front stiffened and Allied aid was necessarily limited, the Poles were forced to assume defensive positions in various parts of the city. Appeals were sent to both London and Moscow for military aid and supplies.

Both Britain and Russia were given full details of the plans and operations of the Polish Home Army.

Traffic on all three bridges across the Vistula was at first blocked, but during the first week the Germans succeeded in taking first the Poniatowski Bridge, most southern of the three. Not until August 6th were they able to take the middle one, the Kierbedz Bridge. In order to do so the Germans had to burn every building along the approaches to the vital bridge.

Desperate by the 9th of August, the Germans pressed two armored trains into service on the track that connects all the railway stations in Warsaw. These finally cleared a way to the third most

northern bridge, that carries both motor and rail traffic. One of these trains shelled Polish positions in a barrage that lasted 11 hours on the night from August 10th to the 11th, but in the end the Home Army rallied to retake the Stawki district. The Germans resorted to the most brutal methods of warfare. Sections of the city held by the patriots were fired by incendiary bombs, while all the fire-fighting equipment as well as most of the first aid supplies in the city were confiscated. Polish prisoners were not treated according to international law. Nevertheless, the Poles held, and valuable time as well as armed forces and equipment sorely needed by the enemy on the Eastern Front were used up in this latest Battle of Warsaw.

General Bor still held large and important parts of the city that lead to these bridges as well as several vital suburbs. The "Old City" quarter of Warsaw, that section lying along the central riverfront, was held despite fierce German counterattacks. The northern suburb of Zoliborz, one of the most fiercely contested areas, the Stawki sector with its vital freight assembly yards for the Danzig railway station still held by the Germans were all totally or in part controlled by General Bor.

So desperate did the German positions become in the Polish capital that the Wehrmacht had to rush six and eight-barrelled mortars, tanks and heavy artillery into the fray. German gunboats on the Vistula sent a searing cross-fire into the Polish sectors. General Bor ordered the Underground



The German "Kommandantur" in Warsaw barricades itself against attacks by the Polish Home Army.

outside of Warsaw to strike at general reinforcements flowing into the city, as well as to enter the city to strengthen Polish garrisons there.

At the end of the second week of hostilities, General Bor reported to London that if 400 Allied aircraft—200 combat planes and 200 transports with supplies were to come over Warsaw, the Polish Home Army would win the desperate battle within 24 hours.

On the 11th of August, following unsuccessful artillery barrages, the Germans hopefully sent an ultimatum to General Bor. Apparently unable to defeat the Poles on the field of battle, the Germans tried to do so by intimidation and "surrender or die" threats.

Saturday the 12th was marked by extremely heavy action in the "Old City" section which the Germans were furiously trying to retake. By Sunday, Polish garrisons in the Western part of Warsaw again took the offensive and routed the Germans from several streets, but the German attack on the "Old City," farther to the east, continued unabated. The "Old City," Zoliborz the northern suburb, and Stawki with the Danzig railway station, changed hands incessantly throughout the second week of the struggle. Flames and smoke, some from artillery barrages, some from houses deliberately fired by the Germans, engulfed every part of Warsaw, creating additional obstacles to General Bor's forces.

Apparently forgotten by the rest of the world, General Bor's Home Army was, however, fully supported by the citizens of the capital who offered supplies,

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POLISH CHILDREN MOURN THEIR EXECUTED PARENTS
Manifestation in Warsaw's Jerozolimka Avenue on the spot where Nazis publicly shot hundreds of innocent Poles.



Polish patriots hanged by the Germans from a house balcony on Leszno Street, Warsaw.

POLISH CAVALRY CHARGES

(Continued from page 7)

a raid on the enemy's rear, blow up the bridge over the Narew River near Zawadow and tear up the railway track between the station Rogowek and Chwalewo."

At the officers' roll-call, the brigade commander, General Podhorski told us: "Gentlemen! To carry out our assignment we must march all night over field-paths and avoid main highways. The engineering squadron will proceed with the wrecking jobs as ordered, while the balance of the brigade will act as a covering screen. Once the assignment is executed we shall head for the Bialowieza Forest."

Dead tired though we were, the news was received with joy by officers and men alike. We felt that at last we would have the chance for action as a large body of cavalry in a task for which we had been trained, prepared and were eager. On that very day we made four ambushes against tanks and fought two skirmishes. We had little more than two hours of sleep. Some of the squadrons had not even that much. But thought of the raid gave us new energy. At last our chance had come.

We marched off at 7 p.m. Regiment after regiment, squadron after squadron marched past at a trot before the brigade commander, reviewing his decimated but still hardy brigade.

It was a gruelling all-night march over broken ground, through thickets and over broken terrain. We were secured by a dense screen of patrols, but we avoided human settlements, cut across roads and stuck to forests and untravelled ground.

An early September dawn, misty and chilly, found the brigade at the northern edge of the large Zambrow forest, about 10 miles away from the bridge.

It was almost 6 a.m. when two patrols reported to the brigade commander that a battalion of enemy infantry was marching along the highway between Rogowek and Chwalewo. Our sentries did not see any patrols around the marching column, but reported that a column of transport trucks was moving parallel with the infantry.

The brigade commander was hard put for a decision. The conditions for a surprise attack were ideal. We were hidden in the woods about a mile and a half from the enemy. We were in a position to make a surprise charge. It was now or never. On the other hand, however, the risk was great. An attack by the entire brigade was bound to betray our purpose. At last our brigade commander decided to strike. He stopped his brigade and reversed the direction of our march. We crossed the strip of woods separating us from the enemy. Our regiments assembled at the edge of the woods. Between us and the enemy on the highway ran a strip of stubble field over a mile long. Close by the highway was a stretch of dried-up meadows.

Since we stood on higher ground, we saw plainly what went by on the highway. A serpent of troops more than two miles long wound its way lazily through a cloud of dust, while the motor trucks swiftly flowed by the slowly marching infantry.

Our commands came fast: "The First Uhlan regiment and the Third Light Horse Regiment will charge, the Second Uhlan regiment will form the reserve. The brigade's heavy machine-gun squadrons will support the charge with their fire. The anti-tank squadron will screen the brigade from the West against a possible tank attack. The engineering squadron will take advantage of the charge to reach the bridge and the railroad track."

The squadrons then pushed ahead to the edge of the forest. The engineering squadron fell out to proceed to the bridge. It marched off at a brisk trot. "Good luck! . . ."

The squadrons stretched out in attack formation on the

open field beyond the forest. The command: "Trot march!" rang out. The enemy had not yet seen us. The rising sun promised a clear day. There was a perfect stillness in the air.

The picture of the regiments emerging from the woods was so enchanting that it seemed unreal, a perfect model for a battle painter.

We proceeded at a slow trot. The Germans marched on unconcerned. Then, all of a sudden, our heavy machine guns, hidden in the woods, cut loose with a well-aimed salvo straight into the column of marching Germans. The battle was on.

The command "Draw sabers! . . . gallop march!" flew down the line of squadrons. Reins were gripped tighter, the riders bent forward in the saddles and forward they rushed, full tilt.

Meanwhile the highway became a scene of wild confusion. The German infantry slowed up their pace and suddenly stopped altogether. We, however, continued our charge at full gallop. The first German shots went over our heads. We were then about 1,500 feet from the highway and saw that under the fire of our heavy machine guns the Germans were turning into a frantic mob. Some German tanks stopped while others tried to ram their way through the confusion. Some of the German soldiers attempted to make a stand in the ditch by the roadside while others sought cover behind the trucks. Gradually the enemy fire from machine guns began to score hits in our ranks. Especially the van of the German column which had been nearing Rogowek seemed to have mastered its confusion and panic and its fire began to tell. We were then so close that we could see silhouettes of men in the cloud of dust. But we too were beginning to suffer casualties, men and horses fell dead or wounded. All of a sudden, our machine guns ceased firing to avoid hitting us.

Within a few seconds we reached the highway, using sabres and lances with a vengeance. The German infantrymen, pushed and ridden down by our frenzied mounts, tried to ward off our saber blows with their riflebutts or by simply covering up their heads with their arms. Our lances, however, reached even those who tried to hide beneath the trucks.

The wave of our charge crossed the highway, and pursued those who vainly sought flight. Stray shots from the thickets kept falling into the mob milling on the highway, killing the Germans and us as well.

A squadron of the Second Uhlan regiment which had thus far formed our reserve was dispatched in pursuit of the fleeing enemy. The battle on the highway died down slowly. The Germans began to surrender in large groups.

We were all out of breath, dog-tired but elated by the battle of which we had been dreaming ever since the first day of the war. What we rejoiced over most was that our victory was without great loss of life. The panic-stricken Germans were decidedly poor marksmen. The horses fared worst. We had a score or so of wounded and only three men killed.

Our bugler blew assembly. We came up slowly driving our prisoners ahead of us; we took in about 200, almost insane from fright. The villages of Rogowek and Chwalewo were aflame, belching dense clouds of smoke, which slowly rose to the skies. In withdrawing the Germans did not miss the chance to set the torch to the two innocent villages.

And then all of a sudden as if by command, the sound of two, and a few seconds later of another two explosions came from the north.

That was the signal that our engineers had blown up the bridge over the Narew at Zawadow and the railway track between Rogowek and Zambrow.

DANZIG—THE TINDER-BOX THAT SET THE WORLD ON FIRE

(Continued from page 5)

Superficial observers went even so far as to assume that the problem of Danzig had at last reached the point of stabilization. All those, however, who had the opportunity to watch closely the evolution of events and the divergence between Hitler's words and his deeds were fully aware that it was but a lull before the storm. The process of nazifying Danzig's government, institutions, and population, with the use of most drastic expedients, was going on speedily and the comparison between the wheedling words Berlin had for Poland and the systematic sabotaging of Poland's rights and interests in Danzig spoke for itself.

The tension was increasing. Western Europe was blind to the momentous changes taking place in Germany, changes that brought forth the creation of a force that could only be opposed by force. A little later, Europe was swept by a mania for appeasement and for a policy of giving a helping hand to evil.

Meanwhile, the German Reich which had reached the peak of its armed preparedness was plagued only by one nightmare, the mortal fear of a war on two fronts. Accordingly, having started to negotiate with Moscow, it attempted to win in the meantime one more bloodless victory—Danzig and a motor highway across the Polish Corridor. Germany's proposal was brutal and Poland's counter-proposal of March 26, 1939, was passed over in silence.

By then Danzig was to all intents and purposes in a state of war, the first incidents having occurred on the Polish-Danzig border. For Germany these incidents were unimportant as she had complete machinery ready for action in Danzig.

Then on April 28, 1939, Hitler delivered his notorious, violent speech in which he unilaterally abrogated the non-aggression pact with Poland.

On May 5th came the answer of Joseph Beck, Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs, an answer enthusiastically re-

ceived by the entire Polish nation, an answer which was proud, replete with a deep sense of Poland's dignity as a nation and a sovereign state, an answer which was a synthesis of deep thought, of Poland's unalienable rights and of her national feelings. It spoke of "Danzig not being an invention of the Versailles Treaty," of "Poland desiring peace but not a peace at any price." It stated for all to hear that "negotiations in which one state was formulating demands and the other state was compelled passively to accept them were not negotiations in the meaning of the Polish-German declaration of 1934 and were not compatible with either the vital interests or the honor of Poland." The die was cast.

The flow of events in Danzig assumed a dazzling speed. The city's economic life came to a complete standstill. Poland's rights and interests ceased to exist and the political relations between the Senate of the Free City and the Commissioner General of the Republic of Poland were de facto broken off.

The Nazi line of action became quite plain. By violating in a flagrant manner the vital interests of the Republic of Poland, the Germans endeavored to produce a tension strong enough to provoke Poland to make some imprudent move, to commit some act that Berlin could interpret as an aggression by Poland on the Free City of Danzig. But Poland did not fall for any of the Nazi provocations.

At last on August 23, 1939, the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact was concluded. The threat of war on two fronts was banished. A one-front war became a matter of hours.

And when at dawn of September 1, 1939, the window panes in the Free City of Danzig began to rattle from the explosions of the heavy projectiles of the German battleship "Schleswig-Holstein," another page of history was about to be written. The Westerplatte peninsula, smothered in an avalanche of steel but still undaunted, became a bloody seal on the historic document testifying to Poland's imperishable right to a free access to the sea.

THE SECOND BATTLE OF WARSAW, 1944

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homes, labor and even their lives in the unequal struggle. Among the civilians taking active part in the battle had been six professors of the University of Warsaw who were executed by the Germans in retaliation for the insurrection. These men were: Andrzej Tretiak, of the English and Philology Departments; Zygmunt Cybichowski, professor of international law; Jozef Rafacz, expert on old Polish Constitutional Law; Eugeniusz Wajgiel, professor of veterinary science; Adam Koss, professor of pharmacology; Wacław Roszkowski, authority on zoology and Anton Przeborski, professor of theoretical mechanics. These men were taken by force from a university building and five were executed by a firing squad. Professor Roszkowski died from a grenade explosion.

Warsaw today is covered by improvised barricades of uprooted paving-stones, sand bags and overturned trolley cars. Some crossroads have as many as four barricades.

Among the buildings fired by the Germans were the Town Hall, National Museum, Red Cross Hospital and Ateneum Theatre.

Members of the Polish Home Army wear white and red shoulder flashes with an eagle and the letters WP (Polish Army). Soldiers have steel helmets. Workers participating in the struggle wear work overalls and forage caps or berets. Many officers and non-coms still have their old Polish uniforms. In the name of the London Government, General Kazimierz Sosnkowski, commander-in-chief of Poland's armed forces made the following appeal to the world on behalf of the Home Army:

"You may hear that the Germans have taken Warsaw for

the second time. When that happens all Polish men—yes, and women and children too from all accounts—who have been true democrats will be butchered in cold blood.

"Do you realize here in London—where indeed you have your troubles, but not yet such troubles as that—what the extermination of these patriots will mean? Casualties are extremely high on the German as well as on the Polish side. The Germans are fighting hard because they realize that Warsaw in Polish hands means a great gain to the Allied cause.

"The strategic importance of such a capital once lost to them has not escaped the Germans. Five years ago, in 1939, the Poles attempted the impossible. They attempted it because they cared more for their freedom than for the price they would pay in trying to defend it.

"Poland defied the Nazis and accepted war in 1939, under British guarantee, knowing full well that Britain was not in a position to protect her. When Hitler's blitzkrieg in Poland was over, we were in a sorry state. We knew you could not help us but we also knew that surrender was as unknown to you as it is to us.

"I will not discuss the policy of my government—that is not my province—but on my behalf I will say just this: I am a soldier in uniform, but I think I am as good a democrat as anyone could be. I care for my people and my country and I believe that their liberty is the only thing worth fighting for.

"I do not want to speak about politics but I can tell you that, contrary to what has been suggested, I was always in favor of a genuine and fair understanding between Poland and Russia, based, of course, on full respect for mutual rights."



The General tries his hand during the division's range practice.

SEPTEMBER 1939 — SEPTEMBER 1944

(Continued from page 3)

is occupied territory, the Home Army has been able, through its activities, to immobilize in Poland the following German forces:

- 1) Five full divisions, i.e. over 60,000 men for "Special assignment," stationed at several points throughout the country.
- 2) Fourteen divisions, i.e. about 160,000 men on garrison duty.
- 3) Military Nazi party formations, in this 57,250 SS men, 95,000 party policemen, etc.
- 4) Formations of railroad, road and frontier guards, over 200,000 men.
- 5) About 180,000 civilians of military age doing military service in armed organizations, such as the "German Self-Defense" and the "German Security" (Sonderdienst) for defense against the Polish Underground Movement.

The Home Army is for this reason of tremendous significance in the total Allied war effort.

In conclusion, two figures should be borne in mind:

- 1) *Poland's losses in the war:*

Losses on the battlefield.....	900,000
Losses in Occupied Poland.....	5,700,000
Total	6,600,000*

* These losses amount to about 20 per cent of the pre-war population of the whole country.

2) *Strength of the Polish Armed Forces outside of Poland Today:*

The Polish Corps in Scotland.....	30,000
Polish Army in the East and Italy.....	75,000
Air Force	12,000
Navy	3,000
Total	120,000
Polish Units organized in Russia, fighting with the Red Army.....	80,000

The fate of Poland is now being decided on the international chess-board. We believe, for that is why we are fighting and have fought unceasingly from the outset, that no moves will be made in this international game of chess without the knowledge and free participation of the Polish nation and all of the small nations of Europe. We believe that the Atlantic Charter will light the way toward future peace settlements. We should like this peace to be permanent, so that a third, new, and even more horrible war may not bury our whole population in a sea of blood and rubble, a thousand times worse than that which German imperialism has let loose on the world in the present conflict.

The fate of Poland is the test case of the present war. The Poles are fulfilling their obligations as citizens of a free world, and they shall continue to fulfill them. We believe that sacrifices such as we and other United Nations have made will not have been made in vain.