

# THE POLISH REVIEW

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# SENATOR MEAD SPEAKS ON POLAND\*

**T**ODAY we recall the life and accomplishments of Casimir Pulaski. His story is that of a man who made one of the greatest personal sacrifices of the War of the Revolution. He demonstrated great ability and leadership, supreme loyalty, and painstaking devotion to the course of the Revolution. This great man came to this country from his own distant land. He offered his services to the struggling American colonies and followed the leadership of General Washington until he met his death at the siege of Savannah. This heroic officer, who fell under heroic and valorous circumstances, made as I have said, one of the great and outstanding sacrifices of the Revolutionary War.

"In behalf of the 6,000,000 American citizens of Polish ancestry who have made a remarkable contribution to the Nation's war effort, it may be said that their ambitions and their desires for the land of their fathers should naturally enter into any discussion of this kind.

"Not only for them, but for the 7,000,000 Polish people who died in the recent war, I believe that the circumstances which caused their deaths may properly enter into a discussion of this character on a day such as this.

"The late President Roosevelt's observation in October, 1944, to the effect that world opinion will back up our objective of reconstituting Poland as a great nation was heartening to the friends of Poland in the United States and everywhere. His stand was in keeping with the guaranties embodied in the Atlantic Charter.

"The pledges of the Atlantic Charter were held out to all freedom-loving people of the world who joined with us in the common effort undertaken as members of the United Nations. As members of the United Nations the United States and the Republic of Poland pledged mutual assistance to the end that the "four freedoms" shall become the heritage of the peoples of the earth.

"Another observation which is fitting and appropriate on this occasion is the observation of the late Cardinal Hinsley of England who paid tribute to the courage of Poland in a broadcast to the Polish people on Easter Sunday of 1940, in the following moving words:

**"You, through all history, will have the glory of a brave resistance against overwhelming odds, and of heroic suffering heroically borne. The like brutality and the like cruelty of exterminating hate, the world has never seen before—Poland will rise again. "Fear not those who are not able to kill the soul."'**

"At the outbreak of hostilities in Europe in 1939 brave

Poland, after concluding an alliance with Great Britain, offered the first resistance to the then overwhelming strength of Hitler and his Nazi war machine. The story of the epic struggle of Poland, shut off as she was from any real assistance by other powers, will live forever. The heroism of Poland inspired the freedom-loving nations of the world, and brought home to them the Axis threat to civilization. By thus engaging Hitler in the early days of the war, Poland prevented a surprise attack by Hitler on France and England, who were unprepared. Had Poland compromised instead of resisting aggression, the whole course of history might have been changed.

"Justice in the treatment of Poland and of all other nations, great and small, will enhance the prestige of the United States, Great Britain, and Russia, and will insure the ultimate success of our present objective, a just and lasting peace in a world no longer subject to the threat of the aggressor.

"So on this day, the day on which we observe the anniversary of the death of Gen. Casimir Pulaski, it is our hope that Poland will take her place again among the strong nations of the world, and that she, along with all the smaller nations of the world, will be admitted to membership in the United Nations and there receive the encouragement and support of the larger nations of the world."

## THE POLISH REVIEW

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\* These remarks by Senator James M. Mead of New York are included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 91, No. 178, Pg. 9717, Washington, October 11, 1945.

# "WHO IS A RUSSIAN?"

by T. WALTER

"The difficulty at the Foreign Ministers' Council was to answer the seemingly simple question, 'Who is a Russian?' Mr. Molotoff claimed that any person who lived in territory now claimed by the Russians, including Lithuanians, Estonians, Latvians and Poles were 'Russian' and should be repatriated by force if necessary. Britain, France and the United States held that such persons should have the right to choose their citizenship. No agreement was reached."  
(From Herbert L. Matthews' dispatch to *The New York Times*, London, October 4)

ONE of the many difficulties which contributed to the breakdown of the Big Five Conference in London was the question of repatriation to Soviet Russia of persons displaced as a result of war activities.

Although the press has not devoted much space to this problem, it has undoubtedly become one of the most important points of misunderstanding among the victorious Allies. The reason for this is that any decision reached on this subject must, by its very nature, involve the basic principles in the name of which World War II was fought.

The whole problem boils down to the fact that Soviet Russia demands the repatriation of vast numbers of Poles, as well as Lithuanians, Latvians, and Estonians, who have no wish to return to territories under the jurisdiction of the Soviet Union.

The Russians claim that Poles who had their domicile in the areas incorporated by Soviet Russia in 1939 and nationals of the Baltic States whose territories were absorbed by Russia in 1940, are now Soviet citizens and should be repatriated to their former place of residence voluntarily or by force. It might seem that the whole problem is a very simple one and that there is nothing wrong with a government's demand for the return of its citizens to their former place of residence and under the jurisdiction of their lawful government.

However, the question is not as simple as it appears and requires the taking into account of a number of arguments of a legal nature as well as of the most fundamental principles of justice and democracy. These considerations will compel every objective individual to concede that those who do not wish to return to territories under Russian jurisdiction and influence, are in the right.

On September 17, 1939, when Poland was resisting the German invasion all alone, Russia dealt Poland a stab in the back. In violation of all binding international agreements and especially of the Polish-Soviet pact of non-aggression of July 25, 1932, which in accordance with a protocol of May 5, 1934 had been extended to December 31, 1945, Soviet armies crossed the Polish frontier at many points and on the basis of a secret agreement with Germany occupied the Polish territories up to the so-called Ribbentrop-Molotoff line. Later in that same year the Soviet authorities engineered a plebiscite in these areas which was a mockery of all principles of democracy and self-determination, and finally, on the basis of this plebiscite and the alleged expression of the will of the peoples of the Western Ukraine and White Ruthenia—they accepted these areas into the Soviet Union.

The Baltic States were compelled in 1939, to grant military bases to the U.S.S.R. while later on as a result of the elections and the expressed will of the voters, they too were incorporated into the Soviet Union.

Russian demands in the question of repatriation, are based on the fact that by the very incorporation of these territories into the Soviet Union, their entire population acquired Russian-Soviet citizenship. This contention derives from Article 21 of the Constitution of the Soviet Socialist Republics which declares that "a single Union citizenship is established for all citizens of the U.S.S.R. Every citizen of a Union Republic is a citizen of the U.S.S.R." On the strength of this Article a great number of persons was forced to become citizens of a power alien to them.

As far as the Baltic States are concerned, this problem

really comes down to an evaluation of Russian acts and the elections held during the occupation of these territories by the Russian army. Very few will believe that Russian acts toward these states were friendly ones or that these small States requested the protection of the Red Army inside their frontiers. As for the elections, their type and value can be easily appraised in the light of methods currently used in the territories of Germany's former satellites—Bulgaria, Hungary and Rumania—methods to which the great democracies are so violently opposed.

As regards Poland, all activity in this respect is obviously contrary to the basic principles of democracy and is illegal. The Soviet Union has violated all international agreements, laws, principles, and customs in Polish territories incorporated into the Union.

The Treaty of Riga defined the boundaries between Poland and Russia and outlined a method whereby persons in the territories of each of these States might declare for the other and transfer their residence to it. These principles were frequently confirmed upon various occasions. The non-aggression pact between Poland and Russia was in force at the time the Red Army occupied these territories, not to mention international treaties intended to avoid war. Furthermore, Poland was at that time in a state of war with Germany. Hence, all international laws and customs binding in wartime should have been applied to the occupied territories by Russia.

The question whether Poland and Russia were in a state of war as a result of Russia's act of September 1939 could be the subject of lengthy legal discussion. It has no bearing, however, on the problem under consideration in this article. Regardless of whether there was a theoretical state of peace or of war between Poland and Russia, it is obvious that the taking over of the territory of the Polish State took place in wartime and therefore was in the nature of a military occupation. Russia occupied a portion of Polish territory on the basis of an agreement entered into with a State with which the Polish Republic was at that time at war, and the occupation of this area was effected through the use of armed force, frequently involving armed struggle, and over the resistance of the Polish Army, which was trapped between the German and the Red Armies. It follows from these facts that the occupation of Eastern Poland bore the character of a military occupation in wartime.

This type of occupation was regulated by the Fourth Hague Convention of 1907 respecting the laws and customs of war on land . . . , which, declares in Article XLIII:

"The authority of the legitimate power having in fact passed into the hands of the occupant, the latter shall take all the measures in his power to restore, and ensure, as far as possible, public order and safety, while respecting, unless absolutely prevented, the laws in force in the country."

In Article LV the Convention states that "The Occupying State shall be regarded only as administrator . . ."

Most important, however, is the provision in Article XLV which declares: "It is forbidden to compel the inhabitants of occupied territory to swear allegiance to the hostile Power."

The provision is clear and leaves no doubt as to the disposition of the entire problem. The occupying State is merely an administrator and the fact of any occupation or intervention whatsoever cannot constitute the basis for the trans-

(Please turn to page 15)



# POLES IN GERMAN ARMY

# HELPED ALLIES TO WIN EXPERIENCES ON THE EUROPEAN FRONT

JAN PARGIELLO TELLS HIS

**A**FTER more than four years of army service, three of them overseas, Jan Pargiello finds it hard to believe that he is a civilian again. This personable young ex-soldier who amassed the impressive total of 106 points toward his discharge (without dependents to boost his score), is American-born, but was brought up and educated in Poland. A youth leader

active in the *Związek Młodej Wsi*, a democratic cultural and educational youth organization, he came to visit the New York World's Fair in 1939 and was cut off from home by the war. In June, 1941, Pargiello enlisted in the Polish Army and in 1943 was transferred in London to the American Army. He wears a Presidential unit citation for what he calmly calls "three days of hell on earth" on the Franco-Belgian frontier, a ribbon for the European-African campaign, a medal for American Defense, and five battle stars for active fighting in Northern France, Belgium, the Ardennes pocket, the Ruhr Line and Central Europe as a tank gunner doubling as an M.P. in the First Army's famous Third Armored Division. This Division, better known as the Spearhead Division, was the first armored division to invade France on D-Day, the first to enter Belgium, the first to break through the Siegfried Line, the first to reach Cologne, the first to close the Ruhr Pocket, and fittingly enough the first to meet the Russians on April 28, 1945. It was also the one that stopped the German counter-attack in Belgium in December, 1944.

In the eleven months that Pargiello moved with the front across Europe, his role was that of questioning Polish soldiers captured with the German Army. The Spearhead Division took 79,000 prisoners. Out of this number Poles forcibly drafted into the *Wehrmacht* totalled 12,000. It was Pargiello's duty to obtain military intelligence from these Poles, who in every case were more than eager to divulge it. Indeed, the strategic and military advantages gained from the Poles were very great. They deserted to the Allies at the first opportunity and brought with them valuable information about German positions and plans that enabled the Allies to advance as much as 20 miles at a time, surprise the Germans from the rear and take enemy machine gun nests without loss of life. One Pole furnished the Americans with data that made it possible for them to capture twelve machine gun nests without bloodshed. Another Polish prisoner came supplied with the photographs and plans of an underground German factory which the Allies had not known existed. He had been a slave worker in it and had secretly taken pictures. When he escaped, he made his way to the Allied lines with his precious information. Then there was the case of a drafted Pole who had been assigned to a German general as his chauffeur. The battle-weary general happened to

fall asleep during a ride in the bouncing German staff car. His alert driver promptly drove him across the lines into Allied territory. When the general awoke, he was very much surprised and rather put out to find himself a prisoner of war. But his fury could no longer harm the Pole, who would certainly not have lived to tell the tale, had the armed general awakened a few minutes earlier. Poles who had been impressed into the German Army came for the most part from Western Poland, which had been "incorporated" into the Reich. It was obvious that they were delighted to meet up with Poles again and all were sent to England to join the Polish Army. Frequently the Poles within a German battalion got together and decided to surrender, but they had to overcome fanatical German opposition before they could carry out their plan. Upon one occasion, Pargiello relates, he woke up at five in the morning. It was still dark. He went out into the courtyard and saw 300 Germans walking toward him. He was unarmed and when he saw all those Germans advancing his heart skipped a beat. But when they came nearer, he noticed that the soldier at the head held a white flag. Although wearing a German uniform, he spoke Polish and it soon developed that 50 Poles had disarmed 250 Germans, including 22 officers, and forced them to surrender to the Allies.

Following the conclusion of hostilities in Germany, Pargiello was assigned to investigate Germans who had committed crimes against Allied soldiers. For three months he was stationed at Darmstadt near Frankfurt. Also at Darmstadt was located a camp for 7,000 displaced Poles, former slave laborers in the Reich. In his spare time Pargiello helped the Poles with the publication of a camp newspaper "Wielka Polska" and had occasion to get acquainted with conditions in the camp. He also visited a number of other camps for displaced Poles in the American zone of occupation. He describes conditions in these camps as depressing. Camp quarters vary depending on what purpose they served prior to Germany's defeat. A few were formerly German army barracks, others concentration camps, with their attendant primitive conditions. There are camps without roofs, while many have no windowpanes left. At one time last June a group of 300 Polish men, women and children had to spend a rainy week in a forest before new quarters could be

found for them.

As many as 12 persons of both sexes and all ages live in a single average sized room with no privacy and without conveniences. Displaced persons sleep on wooden beds softened with some straw, minus pillows or bed linen. Only two blankets are issued to a person: one to sleep on and one to be used as a covering. Frequently the only means of keeping clean is to go out into the courtyard and wash at the well. As the Germans are required to pay for the upkeep of these displaced persons, the bare necessities and food issued to them are from German stocks and of very inferior quality.

When Pargiello was in Germany, displaced persons received 2,000 calories, a minimum subsistence diet, but even this was better than rations under the Germans. In practice, however, all this meant was one kilogram (2.2 lbs.) of bread every other day plus an insufficient amount of fats distributed in the late afternoon, soup at noon, and coffee for breakfast and supper. No provision was made for vegetables,

fruits or sweets. Just recently, the quota has been raised to 2,300 calories, which is still a pitifully low allowance for people who have been suffering privations for six years.

There is of course no fuel to be had in any form and the approaching winter is sure to take its toll in human lives. Furthermore, the displaced Poles have no warm clothing whatever. The majority wear only what they had on when liberated. Since packages and letters may not be sent to any displaced Pole in the

American zone, there is no hope for their receiving help from friends on the outside.

Hunger, cold and discomfort are not the chief handicaps under which these internees are laboring. Worst of all is the lack of anything to do. To be sure, the Poles are making a valiant effort to organize some kind of camp life. There are church services on Sunday. Sports events—soccer is a favorite—are arranged for the benefit of the displaced persons. Every other day at twilight a fire is built by boy scouts out in the open and several hours of singing and amateur theatricals ensue. Nurseries for the children, classes for adults and for children—20% of the camp population at Darmstadt are children—have been started. However, all this is hampered by a tragic lack of equipment. There are no textbooks, no toys or games; there is no library. There is only the camp newspaper, avidly read by everyone, and a newspaper issued for the entire occupied zone.

Theatrical companies organized by the YMCA tour the camps. An occasional concert is given. Lectures and discussions take place. But all this consumes an infinitesimal amount of the time that hangs heavy for all internees. Boredom and monotony are the daily lot of all.

Displaced persons are free to move about the area surrounding their camp. They may visit the German town. But

as they have no money, they can purchase nothing. There is no ban on fraternization with the Germans. There is no need for such a ban. Hatred of the Germans for what their brutality has wrought in these past years is so deep that to all intents and purposes Poles and Germans dwell in worlds apart.

A very real problem for all these unfortunate men and women is what to do in the future. Should they return to a Soviet-dominated Poland or should they remain in their present impossible circumstances? According to Pargiello, about 25%, chiefly older people with children, are willing to take the risk, while the remainder, including 12-year-old veterans of the Warsaw Uprising, want to return only to a free Poland. —H. Chybowska

## 200 JEWISH OFFICERS IN THE POLISH SECOND CORPS

*At a recent press conference held in the Middle East, General Wladyslaw Anders, Commander of the Polish Second Corps, which chalked up a brilliant record during the fighting on the Italian front, was questioned about Polish-Jewish relations. Here are two questions asked by the newspapermen and General Anders' replies:*

**QUESTION:** "The press has recently printed a number of items about pogroms of Jews in Poland, organized by units of the Home Army. Do you have any information on this matter?"

**ANSWER:** "Yes, I have. Complete information. The pogroms in Poland are organized by the NKVD (Soviet secret police). This is done in the name of the principle 'divide and rule.' The same pattern may be observed in the case of the Polish-Czech controversy. None of us has any illusions that the Czechoslovak government or its Warsaw counterpart are independent. The misunderstandings between the Czechoslovak and the Warsaw governments and the communiques about pogroms of Jews in Poland are intended: (1) to vilify the Poles in the eyes of the world, (2) to set one group against another. We know exactly how few Jews were left in Poland after the German massacre. We also know that those who were saved, were rescued thanks to the help of the Poles, especially the Home Army. In the Warsaw Uprising Jews fought side by side with Poles and it is inconceivable that these comrades-at-arms should have forgotten today about the six years of battle uniting them."

**QUESTION:** "What are the relations with Jewish soldiers in the Second Corps?"

**ANSWER:** "Relations between soldiers of the Second Corps, regardless of religion or extraction, have been and are excellent. In all the battles of the Second Corps, Roman Catholics, Greek Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox Catholics, Jews and Mohammedans fought side by side. They won together and they died together. On September 1st of this year, we dedicated the cemetery at Monte Cassino. The clergy of all faiths took part in these ceremonies, for just as Poles of various faiths fought there, so today they all lie together in the cemetery. Proof of how positively the participation of Jewish soldiers in the battles and labors of the Second Corps is recognized, is the high number of decorations received by these soldiers and the fact that out of some 900 Jewish soldiers close to 200 are officers. In particular, I wish to underline the self-sacrificing work of Jewish physicians who, together with their colleagues, saved the life of many soldiers of the Second Corps, often working in the first front line."



Jan Pargiello



Two S. S. men who had murdered 32 persons, including 2 Americans and 17 Poles in the Dessau concentration camp 15 minutes before the arrival of the American Army.



Entrance to the Polish camp Lwow at Darmstadt.



These members of the Hitler Jugend had offered savage resistance at Dessau.



# POLAND'S CROONER FOILED GERMANS\*

by GLADWIN HILL



Photo-Dorcas, 1938  
Mieczyslaw Fogg.

THE Bing Crosby of Poland, who bears the unlikely name of Mieczyslaw Fogg and the unlikely rank of honorary shield No. 5 in the Jersey City Police Department, is heading once more for the ranges, vocal and topographical, of Hoboken and Hamtramck.

Mickey, who is slight and bespectacled—"with Crosby it's a toupee, with me it's spectacles"—but effulgent with pep and personality is the man who, after a couple of trips to the United States in the Nineteen Thirties, introduced

American cowboy songs to Poland—in costume—as well as Negro spirituals, which he sings in Polish, substituting the word "Mississippi" for "Old Man River," which, he says, the Poles wouldn't understand.

With some 2,000 phonograph records, many of which were played by Polish radio stations in the United States, and fifteen years in European concerts behind him, Mickey turned restaurateur to beat the Germans during the occupation and now is the leading Boniface in the stringently limited night life of ruined Warsaw, alternately wringing mitts, drinking Russian vodka and mounting the rostrum to warble spirited Polish songs.

Most of the Polish singers refused to entertain the Germans and sang for coffee and cakes in cafes, operated by the Warsaw resistance forces, that filled the dual function of a meeting place for the underground. Mickey, who was an active resistance figure, killed two birds with one stone by having started his own cafe, in which he sang, along with assisting the smuggling of weapons, diverting German freight cars and kindred conceits that harassed the Germans plenty.

After the unsuccessful Warsaw uprising last year Mickey, along with thousands of other patriots, took to the forests outside the city, living for months on smuggled food. When he finally got back he found the city in utter ruin as the result of the Germans' vengeful demolition campaign.

He walked into town with his 18-year-old son, Andrew.

"He say to me, 'Papa there's nothing here. What's the use of staying? Warsaw is gone.'"

Mickey recounts, "I say to him, 'We must stay here. You and I are Warsaw.'"

Mickey didn't have a zloty in his pocket but he had a song in his heart. It was a song called "Warsaw," written secretly in Siberia by a Pole using the pseudonym Albert Harris, whom the Russians had deported there. It is melodic and heart-catching, on the line of "The Last Time I Saw Paris," only it tells the story of a city ruined but still beloved and resurgent.

\* This dispatch by Gladwin Hill, *New York Times* correspondent in Poland, was radioed from Warsaw on October 11, 1945. It appeared in the *Times* on October 12, and is reprinted by permission.

## THE SONG OF WARSAW

As the smile of the girl that you love,  
As the bursting of Spring all anew,  
As the flight of the redfooted dove,  
The smell of fresh grass all adew,  
As the love of youth's heart all alight,  
As the song of the nightingale bright,  
So my heart does rejoice at this sweet melody  
That Warsaw is always to me!

Oh! Warsaw, beloved, dear Warsaw!  
I dream of you night and day  
I dream of your fully thronged streets  
I dream of your gaily decked highways.  
I know that you're calling to me,  
Awaiting the day you are free.  
How deeply I long to regard you again,  
Oh! Warsaw, I dream of your fame!

How I long to retrace my own steps,  
The steps of my long flown youth.  
The streets all lit by the moon,  
Let's stroll down the old Avenue,  
Let's gaze at the "Wisla" again,  
And wait for a train all in vain,  
And see you rejoicing and laughing once more!  
Oh! Warsaw, beloved, dear Warsaw!

I know that you're not now the same,  
That dark blood has washed all your streets.  
I'm proud that you know no shame,  
Though now you have caused me to weep.  
And now though you're low in the mud,  
I'll build with my own sweat and blood,  
So Warsaw shall rise once again to her might,  
I swear on my heart and my life.

Mickey was the first one to sing it in Warsaw. After he had been fed by the Red Cross for ten days he arranged a concert and with the receipts, journeyed to relatively prosperous Lublin, returned with a load of food and opened his new restaurant, which has flourished. Every night about 11 o'clock when vodka has flown freely the patrons start their own singing and shouting and Mickey beams, "Ah! Just like Hoboken."

His roots are in Warsaw but some tendrils, which he is eager to reinforce, still extend to the United States.

In addition to holding Jersey City police Shield No. 5—bestowed in appreciation of a concert he gave before the war—he is an honorary member of the New Jersey State Police Benevolent Association and wants to bend a chord once more with his pals in blue. He has garnered enough zlotys to make the trip and with the sanction of the Polish Government hopes to shove off within a few weeks to tour the United States, singing and telling about things in Poland, get a new cowboy suit and catch up on the American scene. "What is big dance in New York now?" he asks. "Beeg Apple?"



# POLAND HONORS AMERICAN PROFESSOR

**A** CEREMONY honoring Professor George Rapall Noyes, Emeritus, of the University of California took place in the Regents' Room, Administration Building on June 8, 1945. Acting President and Provost Monroe E. Deutsch and 50 guests were present. The occasion was the bestowal of the Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta on Professor George Rapall Noyes by the Polish Government. Dr. Wacław Lednicki, Professor at the University of Cracow and at present Professor at the University of California, read an address from which we quote:

" . . . The present ceremony, honoring Professor George Rapall Noyes, is an expression of Poland's devotion to the dignity and priceless worth of true scholarship. This homage is all the more touching since Poland has lost most of her own sons, who would have represented these irreplaceable values of life. It is with true affection, as for an adopted son, that the Polish Government confers on Professor George Rapall Noyes, one of its highest decorations, the Commander's Cross of the Order of *Polonia Restituta*. The great achievements of Professor Noyes in the field of Slavic studies, his numerous translations from Polish, from Russian, Serbian, Croatian and Bohemian; his noble studies marked by the best qualities of genuine and highly honest scholarship, have made him the most outstanding s a v a n t among American students of Slavic philology. His merits were recognized and appreciated in Poland many years ago. Professor Noyes is a member of the Polish Academy of Letters and Science in Cracow; this is the greatest distinction which Poland can confer on a scholar. In addition the Polish Government conferred a decoration on him in 1923.

"Those among us who for so many years have admired the indefatigable work of Professor Noyes in the field of Slavic studies were happy to learn that by a felicitous chance, his latest publication was a Polish one. Slavic philology is perhaps the most political of all philologies; its paths are tortuous and lead to controversy. But Professor Noyes is one of those rare Slavic scholars who during his half-century of scholarship succeeded in creating around him a climate which remained serene; never were the horizons of his Slavic world darkened by any threat of turmoil and storm. The secret of this tranquility is the great integrity of his mind and the strong feeling for justice which is evident everywhere in his works and in his teachings.

"These traits were developed in him by his classical studies, by his New England tradition, and by the atmosphere of this university. They led him to that profound admiration which he has for the greatest Slavic epic, *Pan Tadeusz*. It was not quite accidental, I dare to say, that the last book of Professor Noyes, "Poems by Adam Mickiewicz," which has appeared in the most tragic period of Polish history, is devoted to Mickiewicz. We feel the touch of destiny even in his preface and in his excellent introduction. This book must

be considered a monument which Professor Noyes, with his able collaborators erected in America to the Polish poet. On the base of that monument in bas-relief are his own and his collaborators' translations from the Polish poet of the 16th century, Jan Kochanowski; from the Polish poets of the 19th century, Krasinski, Slowacki, Fredro, Konopnicka, Wyspianski, and Kasproicz. But in the center of the bas-relief stands of course his great *Pan Tadeusz*. The figure of the poet which Professor Noyes, the chief architect and sculptor of that monument has fashioned, is carved with a severe, sharp and precise chisel, well under the control of the New England classicist who accepts no concessions to anything opposed to his high principles and philosophy. And it is precisely this, that makes his admiration for Mickiewicz and his recognition of his poetic genius, the more significant and suggestive.

" . . . Mickiewicz never separated the idea of Polish freedom from universal freedom. In these disastrous days we see this truth more clearly than ever before: Poland will not be free unless the whole world is free; and the whole world will not be free unless Poland is free.

"Professor Noyes did not express this in political words. But the fact that he has devoted a book to Mickiewicz, a book which he himself considers his last legacy, is eloquent enough. It is an unpolitical gesture, delicate and modest, which conceals in it, as poems often do, the unexpressed evidence of beliefs and moral valuations."

In the absence of Mr. Jan Ciechanowski, Ambassador of Poland in Washington who was unable to be



Professor George Rapall Noyes decorated by Dr. Władysław Sokółski, Polish Consul General in San Francisco. Witnessing the ceremony are Professor Wacław Lednicki (left) and Monroe E. Deutsch, Acting President of the University of California.

present, the Polish Consul General in San Francisco Dr. Władysław Sokółski, presented the insignia and decree. In bestowing them Dr. Sokółski said:

"It is a great pleasure for me on this occasion, to be able to express, not merely in words, Poland's devotion to Letters, Art and Science. During her whole history, Poland never ceased to regard true scholarship and learning, as the greatest manifestation of national spirit and human quality. Even in these tragic days, my country is faithful to that tradition.

"The Polish Government is conferring one of its highest decorations—the Commander's Cross of the Order of *Polonia Restituta* on Professor George Rapall Noyes in recognition of his great merits and scholarly achievements in the field of Slavic philology, and especially in the study of Polish literature. This is a tribute not only to Professor Noyes, but to this great University as well, which has produced so many illustrious and inspiring scholars, and which has on many occasions shown its concern and sympathy for Poland."

Professor George Rapall Noyes made the following speech of acknowledgment:

"For this high honor I return my heartfelt thanks to the Republic of Poland and to its government, represented in this room by Dr. Władysław Sokółski, the Consul of Po-

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# ERICA GORECKA-EGAN IN THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART



Erica Gorecka-Egan's impression of herself. (Gouache)

**E**ERICA Gorecka-Egan, the young versatile American artist of Polish extraction who already has won professional recognition for her work, currently has on display at the New York Museum of Modern Art's Costume Carnival a series of paper sculptures illustrating three basic costumes — the draped gown, the poncho and the kimono—as well as highly stylized contemporary costumes.

By means of paper sculpture, wooden cutouts, drawings and a gaily colored merry-go-round, the Costume Carnival indicates the historical sources to which the contemporary costume designer refers for his free and imaginative interpretations. The exhibition, designed by the Museum's Department of Dance and Theatre Design for children of all ages, will later be circulated to schools and small galleries throughout the country.

Models and drawings emphasize the fact that fashion has never been static and that variations and elaborations of basic patterns throughout the centuries have provided the costume designer with an unlimited field of ideas and inspiration. In addition to paper sculptures by Erica Gorecka-Egan there are ten wooden cutouts on the merry-go-round which span the fashions of many centuries, the figures exaggerating and emphasizing the peculiar characteristics and oddities of the period. A dance figure by Alexander Calder straddles the top of the merry-go-round. Among the artists whose costume designs have served as inspiration are Picasso, Léger, Schlemmer, Dali and Mérida.

Mrs. Egan has evolved her own style but frequently turns for inspiration to the beauty and freshness of Polish peasant art. In recent years she has been active in a variety of fields. In 1942, despite her youth, she was appointed to the staff of Cooper Union. Her large paper sculptures for the Polish Pavilion at the International Women's Exposition in New York showing the famous Cracow Barbican in 1942 and three women from Polish history in 1943 won the first prize for that Pavilion in both years.

Mrs. Egan's arrangement of the "Poland's Underground State Exhibit" shown at Radio City in 1944 was so successful that six copies of the Exhibit were sent to Canada, Chicago and South America.

Paper sculpture exhibits by Mrs. Egan at Bergdorf Goodman's and other stores have been frequently mentioned as outstanding in the Display World. Illustrations by her have appeared in Harper's Bazaar, Vogue and Town and Country. Her illustrations were seen by the Publishers of the

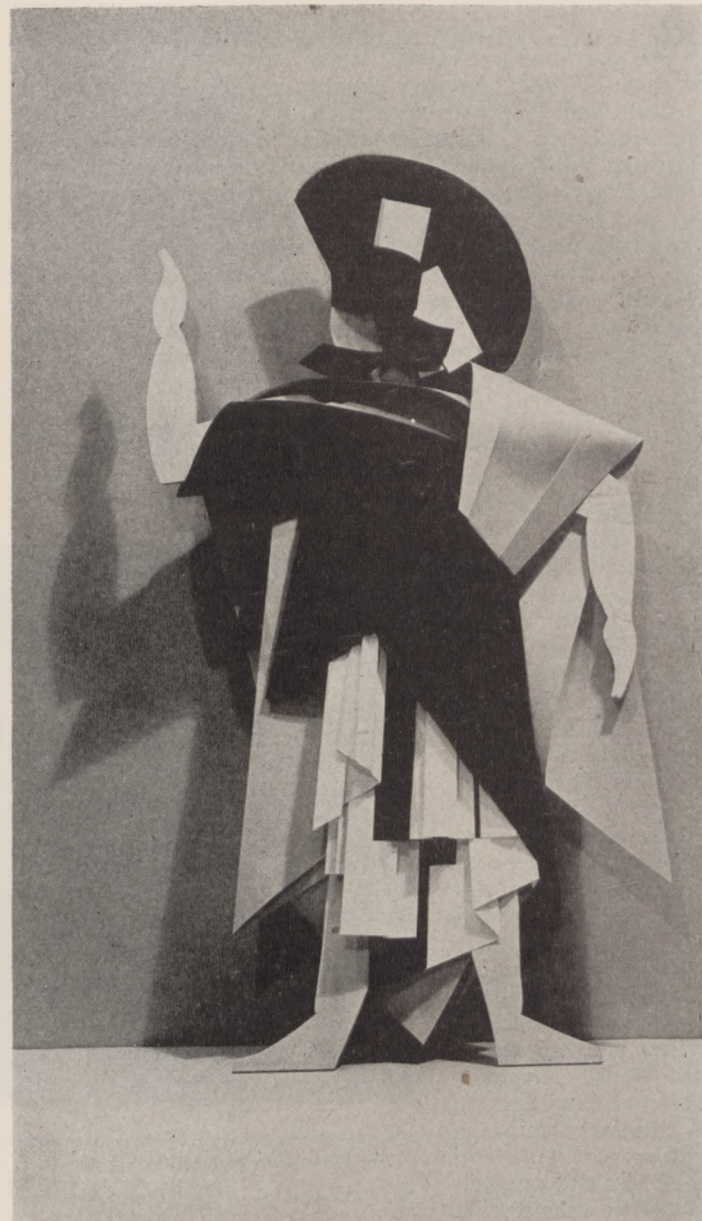


Photo of Museum of Modern Art

Erica Gorecka-Egan's interpretation in paper of a costume drawing by Alexander Vesnin for Racine's *Phedre*.

Peter Pauper Press, who commissioned her to do Russian Fairy Tales and the Turkish Fairy Tales, which have just been published.

Mr. Leo Lerman, author of Leonardo da Vinci, Artist and Scientist; Michael Angelo, A Renaissance Profile, and contributor as critic to such magazines as Atlantic Monthly, Saturday Review of Literature, Harper's Bazaar, has this to say about the Turkish Fairy Tales:

"The Tales themselves are fascinating, but what truly makes this book extraordinary are the illustrations and decorations by Erica Gorecka-Egan. The art of book illustration and decoration is a difficult one. Mrs. Egan is, however, a superb practitioner. She knows what to put on a page because she is an excellent designer with a fine sense of color and fun. This is a beautiful book, and it makes me want to

see all sorts of fairy tales with Egan illustrations and designs. Hers is a rare and precious talent. The book is the perfect gift for anyone of any age who loves beauty."

And Mr. Leonard Weisgard, well-known illustrator and designer, wrote this:

"It is so seldom that you find a well-designed and happily illustrated book, and when you do the people who are re-

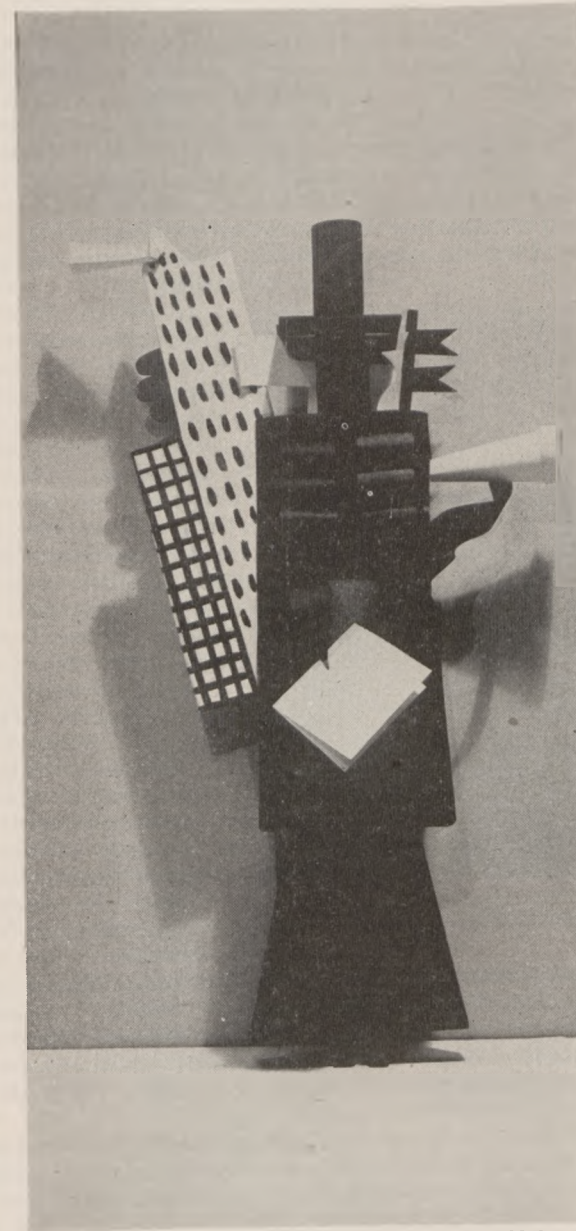


Photo of Museum of Modern Art

Erica Gorecka-Egan's interpretation in paper of a costume drawing by Pablo Picasso for Satie's Ballet *Parade*.

sponsible for it are seldom congratulated. May I tell you how much I enjoy Russian Fairy Tales, the tales, the format, the color and especially Erica Gorecka-Egan's pictures."

Mrs. Egan is also the designer of attractive and interesting Christmas cards, about which Dr. Irena Piotrowska, well-known art critic, wrote:

"Inspired by Polish art, Erica Gorecka composed a number of Christmas cards representing human figures dressed

in strongly stylized Polish peasant costumes. The radically simplified contours confer a monumental, almost hieratic quality upon her compositions. Though this severity of outline is, to be sure, an echo of the abstract trends prevailing in contemporary American art, it harmonizes perfectly with the conventionalizations characteristic both of Polish peasant art and modern Polish decorative painting. Simultaneously, through their hieratic severity, Erica Gorecka's designs show a certain affinity to Byzantine art. Thus they not only link American art with that of Poland, but also the most modern art conceptions with some of the oldest manifestations of Christian art."

Universal Newsreel has filmed a short of Erica Gorecka-Egan at work on paper sculpture, which is to be released in the near future.



Photo of Museum of Modern Art

Erica Gorecka-Egan's interpretation in paper of a costume drawing by Alexandra Exter for Oscar Wilde's *Salome*.



# ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN POLAND (1918-1939)

**A**FTER the first World War the education department in the restored Polish State faced an urgent problem. Schooling and education were vitally necessary to the rebuilding of unity in a nation which had been torn into three parts during its enslavement. It was therefore imperative to unify the school system and create an essentially homogeneous education, which all three sections of the people could share.

No less important was the instruction of wide masses of the population whom the enemy had kept in ignorance, or treated to some substitute for education, characterized by its hostility to Poland. Lastly, the economic needs of the reunited country demanded the speedy training of past numbers of people to useful levels of proficiency in every kind of occupation and profession. Age-old neglect in every institution of public life had to be repaired, and that quickly and strongly. For the restored State's first and worst problem in its youth and weakness was how to survive in an actual fight for existence. This explains the marked importance of Government action, the need for centralization, and the striving after uniformity in posing and solving problems of planning and organization.

As a beginning school attendance was, for the first time, made compulsory throughout Poland. Then a new program of school work was planned so that teaching and education throughout the country should be governed by identical aims and principles. Such a syllabus for state and municipal elementary and secondary schools was published as early as 1920. Work was then begun on the Education Act.

It lasted for a number of years, members of the teaching profession collaborating, and was voted by the Sejm in 1932. By this act a single system was made to govern school life everywhere in Poland. Briefly, the object was to see that the best possible training for life was available to every citizen, according to his (and her) inborn tastes, aptitudes and character.

A distinguishing feature of the Polish school system is the value attached to trade schools. These schools had formerly been attended almost entirely by boys who lacked means to follow the long courses at secondary school and college. But now a principle of equality with the secondary schools was established. The act of 1932 aimed at giving these schools pupils as gifted though on different lines, as the average candidate for secondary schools.

The Polish school system included nursery-schools for children from three to six years old, where physical and mental development was cared for. These schools were run partly by various institutions, partly by private persons, and flourished best in towns, particularly in Warsaw and Katowice, where the municipal authorities realized their constructive worth. Nursery-school care ceased for every child when it reached the age of compulsory school attendance.

Elementary schools made considerable progress after the

restoration of independence, even if in practice they did not yet quite satisfy the purpose of the act by which they had been created. Statistics for the year 1937-38 show that the national net average of children of school age receiving teaching was 90.5 per cent. In the western, northern and southern voivodships the figure reached 100 per cent. It was lowest in the eastern provinces which had been systematically and deliberately neglected by the Tsarist bureaucracy. But even here it had risen from zero under Russian rule to 78 per cent.

The work of the elementary school was from the first imbued with both national and universal ideals. The curriculum was designed to give a thorough knowledge of Poland, her culture and civilization, though due attention was naturally paid to foreign achievement. The schools' local environment was to form the starting point, so that, though the school program was in principle the same throughout the country, it allowed for suitable variation in execution, according to the different characteristics of this or that province, town or village.

In respect of the language of instruction the elementary school system presented considerable variety. The rights of territorially consolidated national minorities to have not only private, but also State schools conducted in their own language, were taken into account; where populations were mixed, and a considerable percentage demanded schools with the language of the minority, bilingual schools were opened. Thus there existed, beside purely Polish elementary schools, others in which the language of instruction was Ukrainian, White Ru-

thenian, German, Yiddish, Hebrew, Lithuanian, Russian and Czech, either singly or accompanied by Polish. Where the minority was not numerous enough to attain a percentage justifying the creation of a bilingual school, its language was made an obligatory subject in a school having Polish as its language of instruction.

The Education Act of 1932 definitely made the seven-year elementary schools the foundation of the whole school system. Their first six forms led up to the secondary school, which was in principle planned for pupils with gifts for theoretic studies. They also opened the way to a considerable number of trade schools. Pupils entering the secondary school were at least twelve years old, and on completing the four-year "gymnasium" course, which was, as we have indicated, a course of general academic education, they could either enter a trade school or the two-year "lyceum," which possessed facilities for four different types of study—philological, classical, natural history, or mathematics with physics. In their turn these schools laid a foundation for college education.

Unlike the elementary schools, a large number of secondary schools were private. In the year 1936-37 there were in this group 222,410 pupils attending 756 schools. Of these 117,587—i.e., 53 per cent.—attended 307 Government schools; 104,823 pupils—i.e., 47 per cent.—attended 449

non-Government schools. These figures include minority schools, for Poland not only permitted the minorities to organize "gymnasias" and "lycea," but even established and kept a number of them at State expense. There existed, for instance, fifteen German "gymnasias" and thirteen "lycea" with a total of 2,900 pupils. Their average attendance, lower even than the attendance of the Polish private schools, shows that their number was in no way insufficient.

The aim of the Polish trade-school system was not to turn out narrow-minded technicians, but men and women possessing such general knowledge and education, in addition to their skilled training, that they would have an understanding of their civic duties and be capable of fulfilling these by their work.

Trade schools were of two kinds, the first for young people already at work, the second for those preparing to enter on some employment. The latter kind were the more frequent and comprised three standards, according to the varying grade of grounding. There were lower-standard trade-schools, with mainly practical training and a course lasting either two or three years. Then there were the so-called "trade gymnasias," for which a grounding of six elementary school forms was required. Their courses were of two, three or four years, mainly, however, of four. These gave practical training, a suitable theoretical preparation in the given occupation, and general knowledge. The third type were the so-called "trade lycea," for pupils who had passed through an ordinary "gymnasium" course of four years; here practical training was supplemented by a more thorough theoretical foundation and a wider course of general knowledge than that of the "trade gymnasias." The "trade lycea" were two- and three-year schools, mostly the latter. Their graduates were as eligible for college training as those of secondary schools, after they had passed certain supplementary examinations for some faculties.

In the year 1938-39 there were 102,506 pupils not yet in employment, attending trade schools, mostly private. Trade continuation schools were mostly public ones—that is, they were established and supported by the State and the municipal authorities jointly. Trade schools for pupils not in employment were in great part supported by municipal authorities, public professional institutions, and private individuals, often with the help of grants from the school authorities. Sometimes also these authorities received financial aid from large industrial establishments.

In accordance with the tradition handed down from the Board of National Education, much importance was attached in Poland to the training of teachers. Candidates for the post of elementary school-teacher had two roads open to them: they could graduate from a four-year "gymnasium" to a three-year pedagogic "lyceum," or they could study at a two-year "pædagogium" after six years of secondary school (i.e., "gymnasium" plus "lyceum"). The syllabus of both types comprised general knowledge, pedagogic theory and practice, social and civic training. In addition to this, the "pædagogium" included specialized training in selected groups of subjects. For purposes of practical training, elementary schools were attached to these institutions. Graduates from "lycea" could also study at university grade schools on condition that they passed supplementary examinations in certain faculties.

Great importance was attached in Poland to the training of elementary school-teachers. When first this nation-wide campaign for general education was undertaken, there was a serious dearth of qualified Polish teachers everywhere, except in the former Austrian-ruled provinces. Therefore the figure of 75,693 active, fully qualified teachers, attained in 1939-40, may be considered as a very satisfactory achievement. In the same year there were 3,310 students at the "pedagogic lycea,"



Polish Ministry of Education, Warsaw.

1,519 at the "pædagogia," in all 4,829 in training.

The teachers at secondary schools and "pedagogic lycea" on principle received college training. After graduating in a chosen subject, the student entered on a pedagogical course of at least one year's duration. Such courses comprised theory and practice, and were organized at a university or privately.

The complicated problem of training teachers for trade schools was solved in varying ways for different categories of schools and the required equipment of instructors in each.

The restored Polish State also did its best to supply schools of all types and standards with suitable accommodation. Many large comfortable school buildings were erected, especially in eastern and central Poland, as also in Silesia, as well as a great number of more modest houses for school purposes. The housing of elementary schools was mostly accomplished with the effective aid of the municipal authorities. We will give only one figure to serve as an example: the number of schoolrooms in public elementary schools in the year 1936-37 was 70,168, an increase of 67.6 per cent. since the year 1920-21. Considerable efforts were also made to give the schools, particularly the secondary and trade schools, numerous and well-furnished libraries, workshops and other necessary apparatus.

The Polish school system also recognized the possibilities of study out of school and after normal school age. There existed various other institutes of the continuation school type which helped youth above the age of eighteen, and specialized in adult education. Their examinations conferred the same rights as school certificates. Even college matriculation was possible under some conditions without a normal school certificate.

Nor were the minorities precluded from carrying on similar work. The German *Gustav Adolf-Verein*, the Ukrainian *Prosvita*, the Jewish *Tarbut*, and others, corresponded to Polish institutions of this kind.



# LEST WE FORGET\*

by HANIA WARFIELD

MR. and Mrs. Latinek, old friends of my parents, had been well-to-do people. Their home had been in Poznan, and Gaither and I, when we lived in that city, had enjoyed their hospitality frequently. I found them in a small, almost bare room. They kissed me, but they were so changed that for a while I could not trust myself to speak. Mrs. Latinek sat down on one of the two iron cots, I took the only chair, and Mr. Latinek went out to borrow a chair for himself from a family of refugees living in the adjoining room.

I asked about their daughter. "Where is Danuta? And how is her husband?"

"She is still on the staff of the hospital in Torun, and Boleslaw is in a war prisoners' camp in Germany."

"Why are you here?"

"We were deported in the first days of December," said Mr. Latinek bitterly. "I thought they would not bother us. We are old people, and I never took part in political activities."

"How are the Manowskis, the Hoppes, the Hedingers?"

"Killed. All killed."

They told me of unbelievable murder and terror that had descended on the western provinces of Poland with the invasion. In Szamotuly, a small town near Poznan, the brother of one of our former maids had been put to death with five other young peasants. In Otorowo, eight had been shot on October 2, eighteen on October 23, and forty-two on November 7. In Gniezno not only professional and businessmen but also many workmen and peasants had been executed. They told me about the terrible period between October 20 and 25, when mass executions had taken place all over the district of Poznan.

Mr. Latinek had one day found himself in a crowd that was suddenly surrounded by the S.S. troops, who hurried them into the market square. The square was decorated with flags and greenery, as if in readiness for some festivity. Finally the police marched in five men and lined them up with their backs to the wall of the Municipal Building. Their clothes were soiled and torn, their faces bruised. One looked as if his eye had been put out; another, too exhausted to stand alone, had to be supported by his companions. As the firing squad approached, many in the crowd tried to break away. But the S.S. guard would not let them go. Women screamed and fainted. After the execution the witnesses were allowed to disperse. The bodies were left lying where they had fallen. The Latineks estimated that in the district of Poznan alone twenty thousand people had been killed from the time of the invasion up to the last of December, 1939.

"But how were you deported?" I asked Mrs. Latinek.

"In the usual way. We were among the first from the city. A German had been billeted with us for several weeks, and we thought this was a guarantee against our being put out of our home. One evening the lights went out. We simply thought something had happened at the power plant."

Towards three in the morning, they were awakened by pounding on the door. Mr. Latinek, in his dressing gown and slippers, went to open it. He was pushed aside violently as six armed soldiers trooped in. One of them flashed a light into his eyes and barked out, "Get dressed and get out. I give you fifteen minutes. Put your money and your jewelry on the dining room table before you go."

"Why, you can't—"

The soldier struck him on the head. "Shut up! The Fuehrer's orders. Get going!"

They were told they could carry away only what they had on. They searched in the dark for clothes and shoes.

"My hands shook so," said Mrs. Latinek, "that I could hardly fasten my dress."

"And I," added her husband, "didn't notice until the following day that one of my shoes was brown and the other black."

The soldiers followed them down the steps, adding to their confusion by swearing and shouting constantly. Mrs. Latinek begged to be allowed to take two pillows and some sheets, but they were given only a blanket apiece before being brutally pushed into the street. Here they joined a large group of people evicted like themselves.

It was December 8, and bitterly cold. They were held in the street until the whole quarter had been evacuated. Then all were marched to an empty factory on the outskirts of town. The building was soon filled with hundreds of *evacues*. There was little straw, and most of them sat on the bare cement floor, weeping and sobbing. Someone tried to kill himself. An elderly man who had lost his mind writhed on the floor. A young woman who had become separated from her child in the confusion shrieked wildly. Cold and hungry, these people were kept there for several days. The Germans searched them repeatedly to make sure they had not concealed any valuables. Wedding rings were taken away. Dry black bread was doled out in small quantities, and a bit of brew which was supposed to be coffee. New deportees were added every night.

In a corner of the hall a woman gave birth to a baby. A doctor was found among the imprisoned, but there were no medical supplies, no hot water, nothing to wrap the infant in. But the news spread, and people started bringing whatever they had. One woman tore off half of the shawl she wore, the only possession she had carried with her. A man surrendered his only handkerchief for a diaper. Others brought their rations of coffee to bathe the baby in, this being the only liquid at their disposal. Listening to this, I thought of the Nativity, with a factory building instead of a manger and destitute people bringing gifts more precious than the gold and frankincense and myrrh of the Magi.

On the eighth day of their imprisonment, they were taken to the station and packed into freight cars. Before the Latineks' car was sealed, the police tossed in a blood-soaked bundle. It was a woman who, when the soldiers had come for her, had slashed her throat with a razor. She had been brought wrapped in her own blanket, gurgling with spouting blood. The people locked up with her could only watch her agony helplessly.

During the four days their journey lasted, the deportees were given neither food nor water. They sat on the cold, bare boards of the floor, trying to guess what their fate was to be. They thought the journey would never end. At last the doors were thrown open, and they were ordered out.

"It was a terrible moment," said Mr. Latinek. "nothing but snow-covered fields on both sides of the tracks, not a house in sight, not even a road."

Pushed by the guards, they jumped stiffly from the high boxcars and fell into a deep, snow-filled ditch.

When the Latineks reached a small hamlet, some peasants took them in and fed them hot soup and potatoes. They informed them that they were in the district of Lublin.

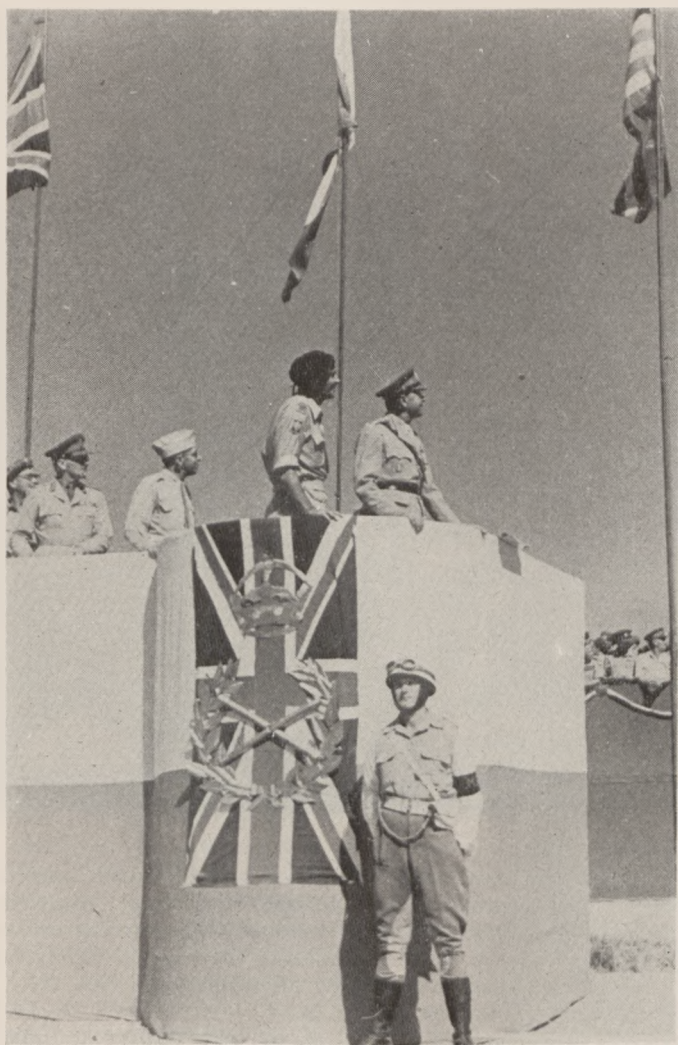
"The trip from Poznan to this part of the country should not have lasted more than twelve hours. They must have made a wide circuit on purpose," added Mrs. Latinek.

By and by they got to Warsaw. And so they were here, living on what friends could give them until they could find some means of making a living, and eating at public soup kitchens.

\* From CALL US TO WITNESS, by Hania and Gaither Warfield, 434 pp., Ziff-Davis Publishing Company, New York, 1945, \$3.00.



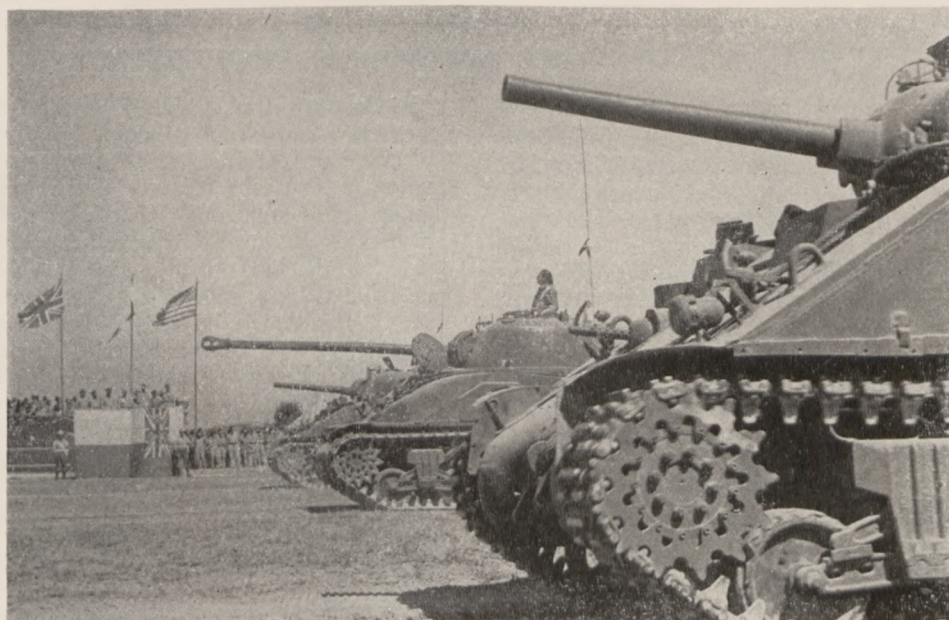
# Polish Forces in Farewell Review for Marshal Alexander



Marshal Sir Harold Alexander and General Wladyslaw Anders reviewing the Polish troops in Italy marching past in farewell tribute to Marshal Alexander, August 15, 1945.



Polish Regimental Colors carried during the review.



The Polish Armored Division passes by.



# Polish Gold Service Cross for American Officer

ONE day last spring, Leonidas Durdarew-Ossetynski writes us, the campus of the University of Indiana formed the background for a brief but moving ceremony—the decoration of Lieutenant Ignacy Irving Lubocki of the U.S. Army Specialized Training Program by the Polish Government.

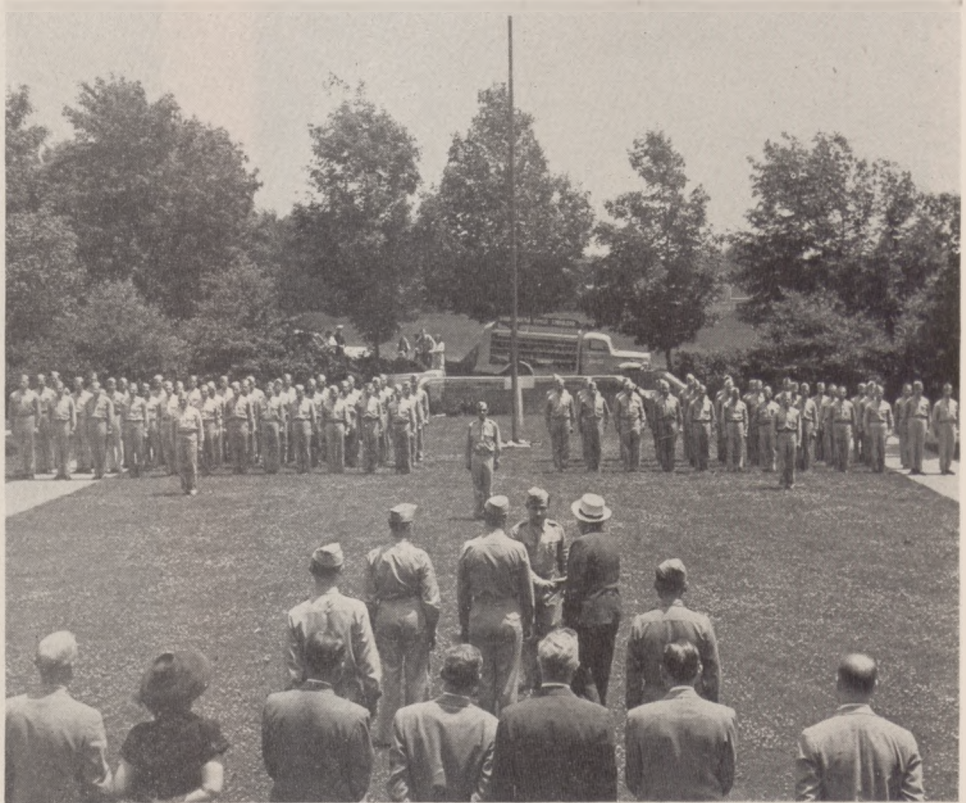
Lieut. Lubocki was second in command of the Interrogation Team of the Field Interrogation Detachment in the European Theatre of Operations. Some twenty per cent of the German troops participating in the Cherbourg battles were Poles forcibly drafted into the German Army. Lieut. Lubocki helped clear these Polish prisoners from suspicion and turned them over to Major Szarski, liaison officer of the Polish Army. After a short period of training with the Polish Armed Forces, they were returned to the front, where they gave a fine account of themselves in fighting the Germans.

The citation accompanying the decoration was read by Lieut. A. W. Darnell:

“The Republic of Poland’s Prime Minister certifies that the President of the Polish Republic has presented to Lieut. Ignacy Irving Lubocki the Gold Service Cross for the first time, for service of great personal sacrifice and risk in finding Polish prisoners of war. The document is dated in London the 15th of April 1945, and signed by Prime Minister T. Arciszewski.”

Major F. T. Reed, Commander of the 1551st Service Unit, then handed the Cross to the University of Indiana’s President, H. B. Wells, who pinned it on Lieut. Lubocki’s chest and made the following remarks:

“A distinguished alumnus of Indiana University, Mr. Wendell Willkie, not long ago wrote a book called *One World*. Modern transportation has caused the world to shrink, and physically it is becoming one world. The shrinkage that has taken place is illustrated by the fact that you are receiving this decoration here today in this quiet spot far removed from the field of battle.



“If we are ever really to have a unified world, however, rapid transportation is not enough. All people must subscribe to the highest ideals of conduct. By your bravery and your service, you have exemplified those great ideals—the ideals which when accepted by all people will bind the nations together into one world.

“We are honored to have you, sir, as a student at Indiana University. I extend to you my personal congratulations and the congratulations of the University, and wish you well in the future.”

The picture shows President Wells congratulating Lieut. Lubocki as Col. J. A. Riddick, Major Reed, Lieut. W. Groves and Lieut. Darnell look on.

## POLAND HONORS AMERICAN PROFESSOR

(Continued from page 7)

land in San Francisco, and to the Polish Academic World, represented by the distinguished literary scholar Waclaw Lednicki, Professor in the Jagiellonian University of Cracow, Poland’s oldest and most famous university. In a sense I am embarrassed at accepting this award, for, though I have lived the greater part of my life in California, my whole mental outlook has been shaped by my New England traditions, traditions very different from those of Poland and in some ways opposed to them. However that may be, I can only say that no people have treated me with more kindness than the people of Poland, that I always feel at home in a Polish gathering, and that in no poet of a foreign nation have I found so much enjoyment as in Adam Mickiewicz, the national poet of Poland.

“Until I was twenty-five years of age Poland was hardly more than a name to me, and of the great men of Poland, whether soldiers, statesmen, men of science, or men of letters, I knew almost nothing. Then when I was attending the University of St. Petersburg, I began to study the Polish language, and the first Polish book that came into my hands

was the best of all Polish books, the epic poem *Pan Tadeusz*, written a trifle more than a hundred years ago by Adam Mickiewicz. At once, in its opening paragraphs, I found that union of simplicity, dignity, and sweet human sympathy that make the whole work the finest narrative poem not only of Polish literature but of all European literature since the close of the seventeenth century. I read on with ever increasing delight, revelling in the constantly changing tone of the poem, which blended harmoniously into a fervent yet modest loyalty to the Polish fatherland, a fatherland that when the poet wrote had already for many years been under foreign rule. I resolved that some time I would try to translate that poem into English. Here in California I carried out my purpose and made a version that has all the shortcomings of a prose translation of a great poem. Yet my sadly inadequate translation has been my favorite piece of literary work and has given a few Englishmen and Americans, “through a glass, darkly,” some faint idea of the finest work of the Polish genius.

“This poem I associate with two men whom I remember  
(Please turn to page 16)



## "WHO IS A RUSSIAN?"

(Continued from page 3)

fer of sovereign rights to the occupying power. This is categorically stated by paragraph 273 of the Rules of Land Warfare of the War Department of the United States:

"... Being an incident of war, military occupation confers upon the invading force the right to exercise control for the period of occupation. It does not transfer the sovereignty to the occupant, but simply the authority or power to exercise some of the rights of sovereignty. The exercise of these rights results from the established power of the occupant and from the necessity for maintaining law and order, indispensable to both the inhabitants and to the occupying force."

In this state of affairs all activities engaged in by the occupying Russian authorities in the Polish territories east of the Ribbentrop-Molotoff line were illegal.

The legal invalidity of these acts was admitted by Russia in the agreement between Poland and Russia of July 30, 1941 which declared: "The Government of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics recognizes the German treaties of 1939 as to the territorial changes in Poland as having lost their validity." The latter treaties were the basis for all future Russian activities on Polish soil. When these treaties were declared invalid all acts committed on the basis of these agreements likewise became null and void and can have no legal consequences. The above-cited provision and its consequences are clear and no subsequent interpretations can change its meaning or the intentions of the parties whose chief aim was to rebuild Poland within her pre-war frontiers and restore to her sovereignty over the entire territory and over all her citizens.

The above agreements, treaties and laws are obvious even though they have been violated frequently by unilateral action.

Still another question requires discussion, namely, the question whether a subsequent imposition upon Poland by the Allies, in agreement with Russia, of boundaries very similar to the Ribbentrop-Molotoff Line results in the acquisition of Soviet citizenship by persons within and outside that territory. There may be some argument as to whether such consequences can hold true with regard to persons who were in that territory at the time the agreement was concluded and sovereign rights were transferred to Russia. But in no case can they apply to persons who at that moment were beyond the territory incorporated into Russia, in which case Russia's demand to repatriate displaced persons as Russian citizens is completely groundless, in as much as these persons were at that time outside of the area which passed under Soviet jurisdiction. All this is independent of the arguments following from the fact that the taking of these territories away from Poland was done without Poland's consent and participation, through the agreement of third parties.

In these circumstances the question arises why Russia is so insistent upon the repatriation of citizens of the Baltic States and of Poles, when they do not wish to be Russian citizens and prefer an emigré existence rather than return to a homeland under Russian control.

We may find an indirect answer in a pamphlet by D. Gaidukoff entitled "Citizenship of the U.S.S.R." This is an

official publication of the "Bulletin of the Supreme Council of the U.S.S.R." issued late in 1940. Its preface states: "The goal of this pamphlet is a political as well as legal and juridical analysis of the Soviet citizenship laws."

On page 30 of this pamphlet following a discussion of the new provisions dealing with citizenship, it is stated that:

"Life, the desperate struggle with the enemies of the socialistic regime, created a necessity to solve a number of problems, one of the most urgent being the problem of revoked citizenship. This was a most urgent problem because: firstly, —at the time of the October revolution there were many people in foreign countries—Russian citizens—who went abroad at various occasions and who had lived there for a shorter or longer period of time and had not prepared themselves for return to Soviet Russia; secondly,—already after the

October revolution a variety of individuals belonging to elements hostile to the Soviet regime had escaped abroad. They were mainly remnants of the beaten White Armies, landlords, capitalists and other trash, those who managed to flee the Soviet countries by one means or another in order to organize their forces in foreign countries and endeavor to use them against the Soviet regime."

And further on, on page 32 there is a statement:

"This shows that the law regulating citizenship was one of the means used by the party and Soviet authorities to strengthen the Soviet State and its defense from internal and external enemies."

The above-quoted excerpts from an official Soviet publication suggest that Russia's demands to repatriate displaced persons are conceived as political weapons in her struggle with opponents of the Soviet system.

The Great Democracies promised to the peoples of their Allies and other overrun nations the right to choose their own governments and the right to individual freedom. They also guaranteed them "freedom from fear."

Soviet demands to repatriate to Russia citizens of States and territories illegally incorporated into the Soviet Union are contrary to international law and violate the fundamental concepts of freedom and democracy.



This interpretation of Warsaw's traditional coat-of-arms, the Mermaid, was made by Roman Adler, a Polish artist now residing in New York, in tribute to the heroic Polish capital. Replicas of Mr. Adler's work may be purchased from the Polish Women's Relief Committee, 163 E. 66th St., N. Y. City.

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## POLAND HONORS AMERICAN PROFESSOR

(Continued from page 14)

with profound respect and affection. The docent at the University of St. Petersburg with whom in the year 1898 I began reading *Pan Tadeusz*, was a young man named Jan Los, who had not yet acquired any great fame as a scholar, but who soon impressed me as the most gifted of all my teachers on the St. Petersburg faculty. A few years later I was glad to learn that Jan Los had been called to the Jagiellonian University in Cracow as Professor of the Polish language. When in 1921 I went to Cracow and sat on the student benches with lads thirty years younger than myself, I renewed my friendship with Jan Los, now a famous master of his subject. Simple, unaffected, kindly, with a whole-hearted devotion to his calling and a flawless intellectual integrity, he is one of the teachers to whom I am most in debt.

"Outside the university classrooms in St. Petersburg I exchanged lessons with my fellow students, teaching them English, in return for help in Polish. But during my first year I found no teacher who would keep appointments regularly. At the opening of my second year a student came and asked whether I would exchange lessons with him. 'You Poles seem to be an irregular lot,' I told him. 'Will you come on time?' 'I don't know, sir, but I'll try,' he answered humbly. Throughout the year he came twice a week, punctually at nine o'clock, except on a few occasions when he gave me advance notice. At the end of the year he inquired, 'Have I been regular enough to suit you?' 'You certainly have,' I assured him. 'I wished to show you,' he replied, 'that a Pole can keep appointments just as well as an American.' Since the year 1900 I have never seen Mr. Morgulec nor have I heard of him, but he has left his mark upon me. That young man showed true love for Poland and in his own way he did good service for the Polish people.

"With Mr. Morgulec I finished *Pan Tadeusz* and read numerous other works by Mickiewicz. Years later, here at the University of California, I found pupils and friends who had skill in English verse, with whom I cooperated in making verse translations of many poems by Mickiewicz and other Polish authors. A volume of our joint work, the largest collection of translations from Mickiewicz that has yet appeared, has prompted the generous act of the Polish government toward me that you have witnessed today.

"Through the many years, almost a half century, that have passed since I read the first lines of *Pan Tadeusz*, I have spent much time with the great poet of Poland and have found never failing joy in the companionship. Being a New Englander still, I have an uneasy feeling that a man deserves a reward only for doing things that are disagreeable, so that I am abashed at being rewarded for work that I might have undertaken had I been living like Crusoe on a desert island, with no hope of rescue and no comrades except a few Polish books, a ream of writing paper, and pen and ink. Nevertheless I accept with gratitude this gift of my Polish friends, of a people who have passed through many periods of misfortunes, one of the darkest of which may even now be beginning, but who have never ceased to trust in their own vitality and endurance, never abandoned their radiant, cheerful outlook on life. A nation that has produced such workers in science as Copernicus and Mme. Sklodowska-Curie, such musicians as Chopin and Paderewski, such novelists as Sienkiewicz and Reymont, such a poet as Mickiewicz, and—this is no anticlimax—many thousands of men and women with characters like those of my two teachers Los and Morgulec, that nation has deserved well of humanity. Government of the Polish people by the Polish people and for the Polish people, must not perish from the earth."

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