

THE POLISH REVIEW

VOL. VI

FEBRUARY 21, 1946

No. 4



British Combine Photo

A Polish Little Girl in a Displaced Persons Camp in Germany Presents Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery with Flowers.

A. F. L. ADVOCATES JUSTICE FOR POLAND

"WITHOUT JUSTICE AND POLITICAL FREEDOM, THERE CAN BE NO LASTING PEACE"

THE Atlantic Charter states that powers signing it "desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned," and "they respect the right of all people to choose the form of Government under which they will live." Britain and the United States signed the charter on August 14, 1941, and Russia signed it when she joined the United Nations on January 1, 1942.

At Yalta, and again at Potsdam, Russia insisted that territory in eastern Poland be ceded to her, and that Poland in compensation be given territory in eastern Germany. The United States and Britain acquiesced in this arrangement, although it was contrary to the Atlantic Charter.

Few Americans realize the cruel fate this imposes on millions of people. Altogether 13,000,000 are being driven from their homes, transported to places where they have no means of livelihood, leaving behind their tools, their livestock and their possessions accumulated for generations.

A relief worker in Poland reports: Thousands of Poles have been driven out of their homes east of the new Bug River line to make room for the Russians. They are transported to the territory newly ceded to Poland in eastern Germany. They have no capital, no implements, no stock to operate these new lands. I visited 3000 of them packed on open coal cars, six weeks on the way, travelling from eastern Poland. They buried their children who died en route at the railroad stations. There are 25 transports a week being dumped in Breslau by the Russians without consulting the Poles. The Russians are everywhere in these parts and the Poles are not masters in their own new territory. Another report tells of Germans driven from their homes in the territory ceded to Poland and of rivers clogged with the bodies of those who drowned themselves. Thousands of Germans are being taken to Russia for slave labor. Another report describes conditions of peasants throughout Poland,—the farmers on whom the nation depends for food. About 75% of their livestock was destroyed, largely by Germans, and the Russians are now taking what is left. An observer reports the roads packed with tens of thousands of cattle and horses being driven from Poland into Russia. About 1,000,000 farms are without even a cow. Tools and implements are gone and Poles are digging their fields by hand to plant fall crops.

The Potsdam Agreement permitted Russia to take as reparations 75% of all movable property in her zone of occupation, but it did not provide for stripping the people of their means of livelihood. Russia, however, interprets this provision without consultation with the other allies. She permits no newsmen in her zone to tell what goes on.

Members of Congress and other reliable observers report from Europe that Russia is following a policy of indiscriminate stripping and looting of industrial plants, leaving the workers without tools or machinery. In factories around Vienna, after Russia had taken the equipment she wanted, what remained was deliberately broken up and destroyed, leaving the plants useless. In the great ports of Danzig and Gdynia, vital to Poland, all port facilities—cranes, trucks, loading machinery, etc.—have been sent to Russia. Poland must get supplies through ports under Russian control, such as Constanza in Roumania. In Constanza, 322 American

trucks, waiting for shipment to Poland and desperately needed, were stripped of tires, batteries and other movable parts by Russian soldiers. All machinery in Roumanian oil refineries, belonging to American, British, French and Belgian firms, has been sent to Russia without even an answer to our request for compensation.

Throughout Central Europe, farms and industries alike are stripped of equipment and the people left without any way of making a living. In the case of Roumania, stolen farm equipment was returned when the country, on May 8, 1945, made an agreement with Russia placing its economic life under Russian control.

Far from respecting the right of peoples to choose their own governments, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Balkan States are completely dominated by Russia.

The American Federation of Labor has taken a strong stand against the attempts of Soviet Russia or any other government to dominate postwar Europe and Asia. The Executive Council at its recent Cincinnati meeting said: "Under pressure of selfish power politics, our promises of according to each liberated nation the right of democratic self-government have not been fulfilled. . . . This is a highly dangerous situation. . . . We cannot continue to placate any nation at the cost of principles" . . . the victims of Fascism "must be accorded the opportunity of establishing free and democratic governments. . . . Our government must continue to resist attempts by selfish interests to set up spheres of influence which ignore the democratic rights of the people."

From *Labor's Monthly Service*, A. F. of L., Vol. 6, No. 11, November, 1945.

THE POLISH REVIEW

Bi-Weekly Magazine

Published by The Polish Review, Inc.,
Prof. Sigismund Stojowski, President
Stanislaw L. Centkiewicz, Editor.

516 Fifth Avenue, New York 18, N. Y.

VOL. VI. NO. 4

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CONTENTS:

- A. F. L. Advocates Justice for Poland
- Charles Rozmarek Speaks for the Polish American Congress
- Poles Lured Across Frontier Find Desolation and Poverty
- Polish Journalism in the Days of Kosciuszko's Insurrection
- Wit and Wisdom of the Poles
- Waiting is the Worst
- One of the 16 Poles Tried in Moscow Speaks
- German Crimes Against the Polish Nation
- The *Iza Angel* over Gdynia
- Polish Artist Selected to Design Poster

Annual Subscription, Five Dollars
Single Copy, Twenty-five Cents

Charles Rozmarek Speaks for the Polish American Congress

AN INTERVIEW BY FRANK STANLEY BARC

MR. ROZMAREK who as president of the Polish American Congress, is spokesman for six million Americans of Polish origin, received me in his well appointed office of the president of the Polish National Alliance, at 1520 West Division St., Chicago, Ill. I came prepared to ask several questions but instead found myself queried and on the receiving end of answers. I must admit that Mr. Rozmarek's forthright manner disarmed me after his answer to my first question. He put such pointed questions to me and supplied such convincing answers that I needed only to listen and glide my pencil over the pages of my notebook to produce a far better report of the interview than I had hoped for.

Here is my first question and Mr. Rozmarek's reply.

"Why did you so ardently take up the cudgel in behalf of Poland's cause?"

"It was," Mr. Rozmarek said, "because I was convinced early that adverse public opinion was being shaped against the homeland of my forefathers and because, in spite of the sacrifices and valor of the Poles, Poland was systematically being calumniated here in America. In all my utterances and written statements in defense of Poland's just rights, I have always spoken as an American, as one who believes in fair-play, and as one who has faith in America's principles of democracy and morality. Because of my profound faith in American ideals and integrity, I believed that the democratic leaders of America and Britain would not let Poland down.

"Long before March 4, 1944, when it was decided to organize the Polish American Congress and call it to convention at Buffalo, New York in May of that same year, along with representative leaders of our fraternal, our civic, educational, social, business and professional associations, I felt the need of an organized body to champion Poland's cause in the United States.

"The Polish American Congress did a splendid job not only in awakening American public opinion in favor of Poland but also in pointing out the dangers of appeasing a greedy totalitarian ally.

"The convention of the Polish American Congress at Buffalo united all Americans of Polish origin. That this is so, what better proof can there be than the fact that in a little more than a year and a half the membership in the Polish American Congress has risen from 3,000 delegates, who attended the Buffalo convention, to more than 6,000 members as of today. This figure represents that many parishes, organizations, lodges, clubs, etc., in 26 states.

"Since the convention in Buffalo, we have constantly spread the truth about Poland at public rallies, through statements to the press, through letters, memoranda to our leaders in Washington and through printed matter, all of which invariably reached the newspapers, the radio commentators and all the Senators and Congressmen. We have used every known means to awaken American public opinion.

"And when the Teheran, Yalta and later the Potsdam declarations were announced, we were quick to denounce them as unfair to our ally, Poland. We called a spade a spade, and we appealed to the conscience of America and the democratic United Nations. We are still doing that as free Americans, who want to see justice rendered not only to Poland but also to the Baltic and Balkan States."

Here I wanted to ask Mr. Rozmarek this question: Does the Polish American Congress obtain true information out of Poland today? But the answer came without asking in the following:

"The Polish American Congress is interested in all that takes place in Poland and through accessible channels receives



POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS DELEGATION PLACING WREATH AT GENERAL PULASKI MONUMENT IN WASHINGTON

Left to right: Senator Walter S. Pytko, Director, Polish American Congress; F. W. Dziob, Secretary to Mr. Rozmarek; John Mikuta, Treasurer, P. N. Union of America; Charles Rozmarek, President, Polish National Alliance and President, Polish American Congress; John Olejniczak, President, Polish Roman Catholic Union; Dr. Teofil Starzynski, President, Polish Falcons of America; Judge Thaddeus V. Adesko, Assistant Judge of Probate Court of Cook County, Illinois; Stanislaw Gutowski, former Secretary, Polish American Congress.

authentic information portraying the true conditions under which the people of Poland live today.

"All the information reaching us from Poland convinces me," continued Mr. Rozmarek, "that the Polish nation will not permit itself to be shackled and will fight for its freedom like it did while the Czars ruled Russia. This struggle is now going on and will continue for a hundred years if need be. The Soviets already know this and that is why they had to place their own generals in 17 Polish provinces with soldiery to destroy Polish patriots and intelligentsia or to drive the Poles into Russia for slave labor. There are legions of Polish fighters in the forests of Poland. No, Poland will not allow herself to be shackled by the Soviets.

"The Soviets are applying Hitler's methods. Hitler knew that people cannot be enslaved, but lands can be taken by murdering the inhabitants or moving them elsewhere.

"Yes, the Soviets are resorting to the same methods. The Russians are driving out the Poles from the lands taken by force from Poland: the plain people into central and western Poland and the potential leaders into Russia.

"Stalin does not want populations. He wants land, because land will not rebel."

(Please turn to page 4)

CHARLES ROZMAREK SPEAKS FOR THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

(Continued from page 3)

This prompted me to ask: "How about the western lands given to Poland per the Potsdam agreements?"

"Poland has a right to these lands not by way of compensation for what Russia grabbed in Eastern Poland but by just claim to the return of lands historically and ethnographically Polish, lands stolen from her by Germany in past centuries. It is natural that these lands should be returned to Poland after the defeat of Germany, if Poland is to be strengthened and Germany to be weakened.

"A weak Germany is to the advantage of all peace loving nations and to Russia's advantage. Stalin recognized that when he supported the return of the ancient Polish lands in the west to Poland. However, he is making a grave mistake by depriving Poland of her rightful eastern lands. The Poles will never relinquish their claim to the provinces grabbed by Russia."

Mr. Rozmarek evidently anticipated a question I wanted to put to him here, for he answered without my asking.

"Russia will not keep her agreement made at Yalta in regard to guaranteeing Poland's independence. Even Hitler stated a truth when he said that the Russians will never willingly depart from any place where they march in. Poland is still under Soviet occupation. The Russian generals and the dreaded N.K.V.D. secret police control the Polish cities.

"Just recently, our American press carried a news item that Russia turned over 15 air fields to the Polish-authorities in Poland, but it was not stated that soon after this transfer Russian officers returned to these air fields in Polish uniforms."

I had to interrupt Mr. Rozmarek here to ask this question: "Will there be a change in Poland after the elections?"

"Nothing will change," said Mr. Rozmarek, "when Mr. Mikolajczyk was in Canada recently, his colleague, Gomulka, a colonel of the Russian N.K.V.D. police, called him a reactionary, which in Poland is a step from a fascist. Gomulka is in Poland what Stalin is in Russia.

"Gomulka made it known that the method of elections in Poland has not been decided yet. However, according to the general opinion, there will be formed a so-called united front and each party will get an equal number of mandates. If Mikolajczyk, who is leader of the largest party in Poland, the Peasant Party, does join this front, he will get only as many mandates as the smallest party. If he refuses to join, he will not be able to place a single candidate in the elections.

"The United States and Britain will have just as much to say about the elections in Poland as they had in Bulgaria.

"Terrorism continues in Poland. People are dragged out of their homes during the night. Many, who do not side with communism, are being openly arrested. Even Mikolajczyk's leaders are being liquidated. Nobody is safe. Life is cheap. The Soviet and their agents' methods are the same as Hitler's.

"Economic conditions are terrible. What the Germans didn't rob, the Russians took. Even the Polish peasants, who were blessed with agrarian reforms, are dying of starvation.

"The Polish American Congress seeks the true facts on what is taking place in Poland," continued Mr. Rozmarek. "We bring everything to light through our publications, memorials and statements to the press.

"A free and independent Poland is in the interest of America for political and economic reasons. For Poland to become communistic, would mean the spread of communism among Polish Americans, thus strengthening communism's fifth column now existent in this country."

Charles Rozmarek, president of the Polish American Congress, was born July 25, 1897 in Wilkes-Barre, Penna. He holds a B.A. and an LL.B. degree. He was city solicitor of Larksville and Pringle, Penna., assistant to the state attorney of Pennsylvania, and former State Mercantile Appraiser for Luzerne County. A member of the Polish National Alliance since 1917, he was elected its national president in 1939 at the National Convention in Detroit, Michigan, for a term of four years, 1939-1943 and was re-elected at the Boston Convention for 1943-1947. On May 30, 1944 he was elected president of the Polish American Congress at Buffalo, New York.

Wishing to end the interview on another note, I asked Mr. Rozmarek: "Will the Polish American Congress continue, if normal conditions return to Poland?"

Mr. Rozmarek's emphatic reply to this was, "First there is little hope that normal conditions will return to Poland for a long time. But even if they should return soon, there are hundreds of reasons why Americans of Polish origin should continue united through the Polish American Congress. Let me recall for you the aims and purposes for which this organization was founded at the convention in Buffalo, New York, and later incorporated in Illinois on September 17, 1944."

Here Mr. Rozmarek read for me the following excerpts from the By-Laws of the Polish American Congress, which outline future activities of this organization:

"The purposes and objects of this association shall be:

(e) Impartial information to the American public on Poland's historical role, her aims and her needs.

(f) Activities in the direction of closer and deeper cooperation of American democracy with the democracy of Poland, in the fields of civic, ideological, cultural and social-economic life.

(g) Drafting and applying a constructive program of activities for the welfare of Americans of Polish descent, with the view of raising their material well-being through increasing the ranks of their fraternal, professional, ideological and other associations, through supporting and protecting the Polish press, schools and parishes, and through general support of Polish industry and trade in America."

"To carry out these and other objectives the Polish American Congress has the following permanent commissions:

- (a) on religious matters
- (b) on information and publication
- (c) on Polish-American affairs
- (d) on culture and education
- (e) on economics
- (f) on post-war reconstruction

"It is apparent from the foregoing that the Polish American Congress is here to stay. Its program encompasses cultural, educational, humanitarian, reconstruction and self-betterment activities on a wide scale among its own community in America and includes objectives for specific aid to Poland in her post-war reconstruction."

I left Mr. Rozmarek's office with the feeling that he is not only an able defender of Poland, but also a champion of all oppressed nations.

Poles Lured Across Frontier Find Desolation and Poverty

by J. EMLYN WILLIAMS

Staff Correspondent of *The Christian Science Monitor*

Mr. Williams has recently returned to Berlin from a close first-hand survey of conditions in Poland.

TOMORROW the former German territories which Poland has acquired since the war may blossom like a rose, but today they are as barren and neglected as a desert.

The results of recent fighting, the desolate countryside, and absence of any population recall most vividly Oliver Goldsmith's picture of "The Deserted Village." From Poznan, a journey of 150 miles to Stettin leads through a countryside where the rich soil of the undulating plain indicates enormous agricultural possibilities despite the human ravages of the past six years. Farming standards formerly were exceptionally high for this part of Europe. Today, however, we saw only patches of un-dug potatoes and clover crops gone to weed where formerly were horses, cattle and rich crops.

Hay, which should have been stacked weeks ago or gathered into barns, still lies about the fields. Soil, which should have been plowed up, is lying untouched. Rarely did we see a plow anywhere, not even of a primitive sort, and as for tractors, we only caught sight of one a few miles out of Poznan.

Home of "Volksdeutsche"

During this trip we passed scores of deserted villages, deserted except for a few women and one or two children. The most pathetic scene probably was the sight of a small child playing alone amidst the ruins. Hardly one small town or village was undamaged by shellfire or machine-gun bullets which had peppered the houses on all sides. Scattered everywhere were pieces of furniture, pots, and pans, indicating a hasty retreat.

This was the district where formerly dwelt the "Volksdeutsche," Germans living on the Polish side of the former German-Polish frontier, or German citizens who had lived on the German side of the frontier.

Frontiers generally ignore the landscape unless it is of strategic importance, but here they certainly influenced the scenery. For when we entered the former German territory, the desolation was much greater and most villages had two sets of flags. There were the red and white flags of the new Polish settlers and generally one red flag with a hammer and sickle which hung from the house of the local Russian commander.

A great amount of propaganda was carried over the radio and the Polish press a few months ago to get the Poles to settle here. We met many from the Warsaw and Krakow areas who responded and moved westward as pioneers.

Unfortunately their experiences had not been too happy, as we found after talking with them. Typical was the story of an intelligent artisan who got a lift in our automobile. He left Krakow with his wife and two children last July to seek "nowe bogacwo," new wealth, which Russian propaganda told him was to be found here. He was bitter and disillusioned and wished to return whence he came like many other Poles, who, according to him, were richer only in experience after being here. He seemed to expect trouble, and complained that life was insecure here. This he attributed largely



Polish peasants moving West from East of the Curzon Line. "Unfortunately their experiences had not been too happy."

to the presence of Russians who formerly were imprisoned in German camps, were released last summer, and allowed to make their way homeward as best they could.

Little Aid from Russians

These, he declared, swooped down like swarms of locusts on the farms of the new Polish settlers and stole everything movable, especially farm animals and implements. The Poles, he declared, were unable to deal with these disorderly bands and lost everything. Thus hundreds of Poles were compelled to return in greater poverty from promised paradise.

In reply to a question as to why the Poles did not take these problems to local Russian authorities, he said their protest simply led to the guilty Russians being imprisoned overnight. When they were released, they returned and took revenge. According to him and many more, there was no redress and no security.

In this and similar areas the Polish Government is planning to settle thousands of Poles who were repatriated from Germany and from former Polish territory east of the Curzon Line. I have met them with their pathetic little packages containing all their worldly possessions. Many of them were looking eagerly toward beginning a new life on the land. They will find plenty of land but few of them will get habitable homes for themselves or the animals they may hope to acquire some day.

In fact, one of the greatest needs is for animals of some sort, for a horse or cow with which to start farm life. At present, they have none, not even a goat, which is the commonest animal in Poland's countryside today.

Such a situation is harder to bear, since the Poles meet on the road hundreds of horses being convoyed eastward by Russians from the former German territories. The Soviet Union undoubtedly is correct, as far as the letter of the agreement is concerned, in taking all of these animals home as war booty, since they formerly were German-owned. But

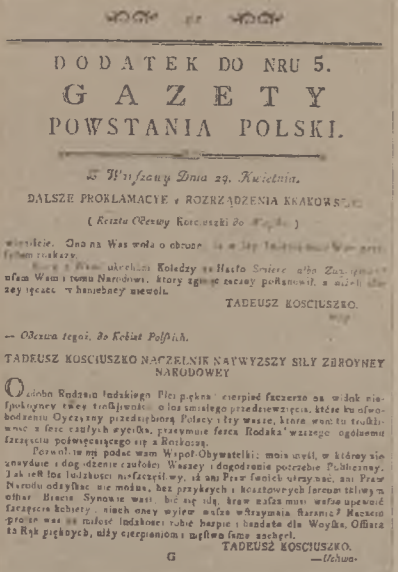
(Please turn to page 12)

POLISH JOURNALISM IN THE DAYS

by DR.

OF KOSCIUSZKO'S INSURRECTION

NADINE KLEIN



THE echoes of the French Revolution resounding throughout Europe found a strong response in Poland. The ideals of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity inspired great Polish statesmen such as Stanislas Staszic and Hugo Kollontay. The Great Parliament of 1788-1792 undertook the realization of those democratic ideals: it voted the memorable Constitution of the Third of May 1791, and greatly stimulated the growth of political literature which in turn spread revolutionary thoughts.

Manifesto of Tadeusz Kosciuszko in the Gazette of Polish Insurrection, April 29, 1794.

Niemcewicz, Mostowski, and Weyssenhoff, all three members of the Diet, founded the "National and Foreign Gazette" to support the reform party. Kosciuszko, on his return from America where he had fought under Washington for the independence of the United States, based his revolutionary appeal upon the principle of universal equality. His official seal bore the words: "Liberty, Equality, Independence."

In his camp near the town of Polaniec, Kosciuszko, on May 7th, 1794, issued his famous proclamation granting individual liberty to the peasants, reduced taxes payable in labor and exonerated from them peasants who enlisted in the Insurrection army. Even Russian sources agree that the Polaniec proclamation greatly impressed the peasants, and prompted them to enlist in the army. Kosciuszko divided voyvodships and counties into so-called "supervision" areas and appointed trusted men to receive the complaints of the peasants and arbitrate their disputes with the nobility. He

further appointed country school teachers to enlighten the people as to the aims of the insurrection. The teachers received their instructions from so-called Order Committees which were subject to the Department of Instruction of the Central Administration.

During the Insurrection the Department of Education to some extent replaced the Committee on Education. It was formed by the Insurrection authorities to enlighten the masses. It was also the Insurrection's official information service. During the siege of Warsaw in 1794 by the "united" Russian and Prussian armies, the Instruction Department published a "Government's Gazette" and distributed copies to the teachers. The Gazette contained government reports on the progress of the Insurrection, on battles fought, correspondences and special instructions. This Gazette was a great improvement on the information poster the Insurrectionist Government had previously used for propaganda and to give news of the Insurrection. Placarding posters had many disadvantages: it was expensive, it could be used only for general purposes, it was possible only in cities. The Insurrection sought to embrace all former Polish territories, those annexed by Prussia, Austria, Russia, as far north as the Baltic provinces. Under such circumstances a gazette was the best medium for reaching and influencing the masses. Copies of the Insurrection papers were distributed not only in Warsaw, the center of the Insurrection, but all over former Poland. They were translated into German, Ruthenian and Tatar to be accessible to the foreign minorities who were living on Polish territory.

After the defeat of the Kosciuszko Insurrection, and after the second partition, when General Dabrowski had formed his Legions as a Polish armed force fighting under the tricolor of the First French Republic "For our freedom and yours"—an excellent gazette called "The Legions' Decade" was published by the poet-soldier Ciprian Godebski and General Paszkowski. It was edited in a truly democratic and republican spirit. Its aims were the education of the soldier and to promote the idea of fighting for Poland on foreign soil.

Francis Dmochowski was appointed by General Kosciuszko as director of the Education Department. A prominent publicist in the days of the Great Parliament, a protagonist of radical reforms, a member of a political party called "the Jacobins" in Poland because of its close relations with the French revolutionary movement—Dmochowski was censor, editor, publisher and reporter. A man of action whole-heartedly devoted to the cause for which he fought, he set up a special Press Section in his Department. He collected invaluable historical material. As editor of the "Government's Gazette" he supplied it with excellent reports from the battlefield, which he censored himself; he also published the reports of prominent leaders on the progress of the revolution in towns and country, reports of the Insurrectionist Government, up-to-date editorials on the interior situation and the attitude of France, Sweden and Turkey towards Poland.

The offices of the "Government's Gazette" were situated in the very center of Warsaw, in the Old Market Place near St. John's Cathedral, the Royal Castle and the King Sigismund Monument, now destroyed by the German barbarians.

The Gazette appeared without interruption from July to November 1794, up to the fall of Warsaw, the fire and massacre of the population of the Praga suburb by the Russian armies under Suvoroff's command.

"The Government's Gazette" was the first daily paper published in Poland. It had branches in the



Warsaw Gazette, May 7, 1794.

Dmochowski by no means limited his activities to the "Government's Gazette." He also published the "Free Warsaw Gazette" and the "Civic and Patriotic Gazette," the last mentioned, edited by Father Meyer, a noted patriot and conspirator who like Dmochowski, belonged to the national-liberal party. Kosciuszko's insurrectionist press was established by democratic groups, "the Jacobins." The latter did not in that stormy period, dispose of enough leisure to publish political

provinces. "The National Gazette" in Wilno, and the "National Gazette" in Cracow. These reprinted a part of the official Warsaw paper adding local news, and collecting valuable data concerning the history of the Insurrection in Lithuania and in the provinces annexed by Austria. Such were the origins of Poland's metropolitan and provincial press. Official papers, inspired by Dmochowski's patriotic effort, were soon to drop their official character and became regular political organs.

The views of the party were vividly expressed in the "National Insurrection Gazette," edited by Father Meyer with Dmochowski's assistance. This was a periodical in a class of its own. It contained no news, only articles. It was published for intellectuals and its purpose was to arouse educated public opinion and call attention to problems of importance to the Insurrection. Among others it discussed the government's financial policies facing steadily growing difficulties; it demanded judiciary reform, quite particularly with reference to the settling of disputes between the peasants and the nobility; the establishment of criminal courts, a revision of emigration policies. Finally it branded social prejudices.

Special mention may be made here of an article entitled (Please turn to page 14)



Russian Ambassador Igelstrom's headquarters destroyed by Polish insurgents, 1794. After a contemporary drawing.



Kosciuszko leading Polish peasants to the attack at the Battle of Raclawice. Detail of panorama in Lwow by Jan Styka and Wojciech Kossak.

WIT AND WISDOM OF THE POLES

by HALINA CHYBOWSKA

PROVERBS are the wisdom of nations" goes an old Polish saying. Proverbs are the outcome of each nation's experience, a reflection of its defects and virtues, but as human nature is essentially the same everywhere, the wisdom distilled into a national proverb may well be of universal application and interest.

Poland, in the course of her centuries-old evolution, has evolved thousands of proverbs which form an indispensable and revealing part of her cultural equipment. The proverbs included in the paragraphs that follow have been chosen with a view to highlighting certain fundamental Polish attitudes—attitudes that have undergone very little change since they first found conscious expression in concise, pithy form. It should be noted that many Polish proverbs are quotable little rhymes with a pleasing swing that unfortunately is lost in literal translation.

Poland as a country has always set great store by liberty and tolerance. This tradition of personal, political and religious freedom is attested by Polish proverbs: " 'Tis no business of the king's to forbid free speech," "Thoughts do not go to the bailiff," "Every man is lord on his own pile of rubbish." Even the lowly servant is conceded to be free to choose his master: "There are two fools in the world, the master who keeps a dissatisfied servant and the servant who serves a dissatisfied master." When the Inquisition bathed Europe in blood, Poland said: "To church when you please, but to the city-hall you must." One must not, however, abuse one's freedom, for "Who does as he likes, suffers what he does not like."

Fundamental in Polish mentality is the conviction that "Everyone is the blacksmith of his fate." The Pole, of course, firmly believes in God, but "It's a long way to the Lord."



"When the devil is at a loss, he sends a woman." Woodcut by Maria Dunin.

Moreover, "God does not give equally, to one man he gives a goose, to another an egg." Therefore, the Pole's advice to himself is "Call upon God, but don't spare your own effort." Should we seek the protection of the mighty, the Pole warns us "Never lean on a lord or a dry balustrade." It is only the hard way of self-reliance that we may hope to achieve success: "By dint of thrift and work people become rich."

The Polish people share the renowned Slavic hospitality. "A guest brings the Lord into the house." It matters little whether the home is humble or rich: "What the hut has it offers gladly." And a proverb insists: "Even bread and salt are good when offered with good will." However, just to insure that you will always be a welcome visitor, another proverb suggests: "Where you are welcome, visit rarely; where you are not welcome, visit not at all."

It is not surprising that the Pole's home is open to others. It is what he values most: "It's fine everywhere, but best at home," or, "Even the smoke is sweet in one's own little hut." That the Polish soldier is, when the need arises, a most fearless and stubborn fighter, has been demonstrated time and again. He does not, however, in contrast to the German, look upon war as the height of his ambition. On the contrary, "Sitting at home, it's pleasant to listen to tales of war" and "Better cabbage at home, than veal at the war."

Like the Chinese, the Pole bows to the inevitable. He does not worry about death. He accepts the idea of the impermanence of man philosophically, stating in his matter-of-fact way: "There is but one way of coming into the world, and a thousand of leaving it." The Polish equivalent of the Chinese "The Great Wall stands; the builder is gone" is "The forest was, when we were not; the forest will be when we are gone." The futility of man's race with time is perhaps best epitomized in the following: "Time flees, death pursues, eternity waits." Nevertheless, each generation leaves its mark, for "People have built for us and we for people."

Death is not alone in being unavoidable. There is no escaping misery: "Go slowly, trouble will overtake you; go quickly, and you will overtake trouble."

Polish proverbial literature further maintains that "Death and one's wife are predestined from God." Women in general occupy an important niche in Polish proverbs. Their good points are praised, their failings criticized—but in any case, they are to be reckoned with. "A good wife is her husband's crown." "Strong wine, a charming woman will make a fool out of the wisest." A relic from the distant past, but nonetheless a tribute to woman's superior insight is, "When the devil is at a loss, he sends a woman."

From womanhood to motherhood is a natural transition. The Poles, like all Slavs, are a fertile people—a factor of the greatest importance in their ability to survive centuries of aggressive attacks. Thus, "One can never have too many glasses or too many children." But it is not enough to bring children into the world. They must be trained to become good citizens, mature, well-balanced human beings. In short, they must master the art of living. Hence, the importance



"No sweat, no bread." Woodcut by Maria Dunin.

of building character, evidenced in so many Polish proverbs. "Even a mother who punishes is dear," "She is not the mother who begets, but who brings up," "What Johnny did not learn, John does not know," all stress the importance of early education. "A firm upbringing makes children strong and healthy" is still a sound precept.

Respect for intelligence and learning is an outstanding Polish trait. In his proverbs, therefore, the Pole expresses his impatience with stupidity, especially that stupidity which believes itself all-wise: "A beard does not make a sage," "There is no cure for stupidity," "The wise man does not speak until the stupid fellow has stopped," "Sometimes the egg wants to be wiser than the chicken."

However, wisdom alone does not make the perfect human being. "Intelligence and virtue make a good combination" an old proverb sums up. If one should require further proof of the importance of virtue, he need but consider the following: "Where harmony is, God resides," "He who envies his fellowmen, poisons his own life," "He counsels well who does not create dissension."

Introspective by nature and at the same time genuinely fond of people, the Pole has devoted much thought to the psychology underlying people's motives in their dealings with others. He knows, therefore, that "The man is not yet born who could satisfy everyone." He knows, too, that people are complex and that "You will eat a barrel of salt before you really know a person." Meditating upon behavior as an index to character, he came to the conclusion that "He who wrongs a friend in small things, will wrong him in great." His long experience has also taught him that "When someone is too insistent in offering his services, either he has struck you or is preparing to strike."

Long before psychology came into its own as a science, he had formulated psychological statements such as "We prefer to talk about that which hurts us," "What the sober man has on his mind, the drunken one has on his tongue," "A crowd is a huge person," "He who has a gay youth, has a sad old age," "Fear drives people together."

As a result of her unfortunate geographical location, laying her bare to the attack of numerically superior forces, Poland has known many and bloody wars, which have left their imprint on her proverbs: "Where there are many commanders, the battle is lost," "It is well to fight in large numbers, but best to hold council in few." Particularly picturesque is the saying, "Better an army of stags under a lion's command, than an army of lions under a stag." A neat application of the golden mean is: "At war, do not push yourself forward and do not remain in the rear."

Polish-German relations form a special category in Polish proverbs. In a position to observe his German neighbors since the dawn of history, feeling periodically the effects of Teutonic greed and aggression, the Pole came to know the Germans well. What he saw he preserved for posterity in proverb form. He saw clear as day that, all German protestations of friendship notwithstanding, "So long as the world will be, never will the German be a brother to the Pole."

Analyzing the German mind, he succinctly remarks: "Germans are two-faced." But he found a remedy for German cunning—more cunning: "It is by cunning that Germans are beaten." And to be on the safe side, "Never approach a German without a stick!" But the Poles do not have high regard for German mentality. Cunning the Germans are, yes, but stupid also: "The German is tall as a poplar green, but stupid withal as a lima bean." And they heard Germans scream Hitler-fashion for so many generations that they finally coined the proverb: "The young oak creaks, the German shrieks." Even the German language comes in for its share of contempt: "He put his tongue in the kneading-trough and now speaks German well enough." Polish opinion of the Germans is decisively summed up thus: "Germans are good only when they sleep."

The question might conceivably be asked whether any hope for the future can be gleaned from Polish proverbs. The Poles are optimists by temperament, and their optimism is mirrored in their maxims. Mistakes, inexcusable mistakes, have been made in the past by all concerned, but according to the proverb, "To admit a mistake is a step to virtue." International cooperation is consistent with Polish psychology. The proverb, "Mountains cannot come together but human beings always will" applies to all human beings of good will regardless of nationality. Our final proverb is "If the horse knew his power, none would sit on him." If the non-aggressor nations of the world resolve to work together for the common good, they can forge a union of unsurpassable strength that would do away with appeasement of imperialist powers and offer the promise of a stable, peaceful future to our war-torn universe.



"Fear no nightmare—have faith in God." Woodcut by Maria Dunin.

WAITING IS THE WORST

by ALEXANDER JANTA

THE Polish parachutist brigade was back from Arnhem, at the Brussels airport waiting for planes to take it to England.

I walked among these men, fresh from battle, whose eyes still smarted and bore an expression of surprise that they were still alive.

No one spoke of the recent past. The first reaction was—to forget. Over thirty per cent of them had remained behind. Every one was missing a friend.

It was useless to question them about their battle experience. "Have you not read the communiques?" they would ask, "There is nothing to talk about." It was the curious restraint of people, who feel, that they have done things; of people who have seen death face to face, and are not yet quite used to the fact of living again.

A cadet-officer in his camouflaged smock, with heavy equipment bulging from all the pockets just got up from where he was sitting and said: "the worst thing was waiting."

I had already heard that part of their story. For six days before Arnhem, they had been in a state of alert. Any minute they would start. The planes were ready. Orders were issued. At the last moment there was a change. And again that unbearable nervous tension, and again the consciousness that it could begin all over again at any moment. Twice the planes took off—and twice they returned to base. Only the third time did it actually happen.

"Do you know his story?"—a parachutist officer pointed to the cadet-officer, strolling about with a far away look in his eyes. "I glanced in his direction and shook my head in the negative: "What do you mean—his story?"

"This is what happened when we took off for the second time: the Dakota, in which his stick of ten men plus equipment flew up nearly crashed into another plane, so dense was the formation and so thick the clouds into which they flew. The pilot zoomed up steeply. The men in the plane tumbled one over the other, the pilot thought he had lost balance and gave the *go* signal. The stick-man jumped. He was at the door, and you know how automatic the reaction of these men is to that signal.

"But the pilot got his plane back to balance, before any



Polish paratrooper.

other man had had time to obey his command of jumping out."

And now imagine the lone parachutist dropping from a low sky over the countryside of South England. He was lucky they were not over the sea. He landed safely not knowing where he was. There was an airdrome nearby, and everybody there got alarmed. Parachutists being dropped over South England. The whole security service got roused. They caught the cadet-officer, and brought him to the airdrome. When he realized that he was still in England he exclaimed, very excited: "Get me a plane, quick, I have to follow my men. They are to jump in an hour or so in Holland."

Nobody at this base knew anything about it. They gave the excited man a cigarette, patted him on the back, and said: "Calm yourself, that's all right, don't be nervous." In the meantime telephones were buzzing. An investigation started. How on earth did you find yourself over this territory? Why did you jump? Nobody believed his story. It sounded too fantastic. With every word he said they grew more suspicious. And he grew more desperate. They don't understand that he has to be in Holland just now, where his men are already fighting—without him!

"Contact our base, they will tell you!" They did. After half a day of tenseness, of investigation and telephoning back and forth, they ascertained the facts: he really was a Polish cadet-officer, and not a



Polish air-borne artillery.

(Please turn to page 11)

One of the 16 Poles Tried in Moscow Speaks



MR. ZBIGNIEW STYPUŁKOWSKI, one of the 16 leaders of Underground Poland, who were tried in Moscow by a Soviet Court in June 1945, has recently arrived in Rome, Italy. In his statement to the press he gave the first authentic account of the kidnaping of the 16 leaders who were lured into disclosing themselves under the pretext of an invitation to Marshal Zhukov's headquarters and flown

straight to the ill-famed Moscow prison, the Lubianka. He also disclosed the first authentic news of Soviet methods of inducing prisoners to admit their guilt and make full "confessions." Here is his story:

"In March 1945," he said, "the Polish Vice Premier, M. Jankowski and the last commander of the Polish Home Army, Gen. Okulicki, (the two chief defendants of the 16 Poles tried in Moscow), received a letter from the Russian High Command, sent on behalf of Marshal Zhukov, inviting them to discuss two subjects: the securing of the rear of the Red Army during the final offensive on Germany and the reviewing of the conditions under which Underground Poland would be willing to come into the open. We were of the opinion that this proposal could not be rejected, as our refusal could be exploited by Russia as a proof that Underground Poland had decided to fight with the Nazis against the Red Army. The invitation also contained a safe conduct and assured us of our personal security.

"The first talks were unofficial and very sincere. The Soviet side was represented by Col. Pimenov who complained of sabotage and attacks on Red Army Units East of the Curzon Line. We protested against the arrests of the Polish Underground administration and the treating of Poland by the Red Army as if she were to be annexed to Russia. Both sides agreed that the negotiations would cover only military affairs and that political problems, the question of frontiers and of future relations between Poland and Russia would not be touched upon. Both sides agreed that the ground was sufficiently cleared by these unofficial talks to proceed with official negotiations. It was agreed that we would be invited to Marshal Zhukov's headquarters at Pruszkow near Warsaw for March 28th 1945. Our delegation was to consist of 16 members, representing all the Polish political parties. It was also agreed that two days later, on March 30th 1945, eight of us, including myself, would be flown in a Soviet plane to London to consult the Polish Government. The Russians stipulated only that this part of the delegation would consent to return to Poland, to which, of course, we agreed.

"On March 28th we appeared at Zhukov's headquarters in Pruszkow. We were greeted very warmly by a Soviet General on behalf of Marshal Zhukov, and the reception was altogether extremely friendly. We were told the conference would be held a few miles away where a better building was available. In this other building we waited a couple of hours. High Soviet officers repeatedly apologized to us that Zhukov was late, but they claimed that the unexpected success of the offensive kept him at his desk. Thus we waited all night. Next day we were told that Zhukov was inviting us to his field headquarters and was sending a plane to fetch us. When we objected that our families would be worried by our

prolonged absence we were told that we would be back quickly, and we were promised that our families would be informed. We flew as we stood, in summer clothes, because at that time the weather was exceptionally fine. We had expected to fly westward in the direction of Torun, but we immediately saw that we were flying eastward. We landed in Moscow. Here the greeting was much cooler. A fleet of cars were waiting for us; we were told we would be driven to a hotel. I was seated in a car next to Jasiukowicz (who was later sentenced to five years). The cars stopped at the gates of a palatial building. I remember Jasiukowicz's remark: 'What a magnificent hotel.' It was the Lubianka prison.

"The judicial interrogation began. All in all, I was interrogated 141 times—some 500 hours, while others were interrogated 200 times. Here I must pay tribute to the experience and cunning of the NKVD. Their immense and hard working staff creates conditions in which the defendant slowly loses his own individuality and becomes mere subject matter. He loses his faculty of criticism, his self-preservation instinct and he becomes subject to hallucinations. All the interrogations aimed at one thing only—to extort a confession.

"The first interrogations were a very mild affair. The 'juge d'instruction' assured me that it was probably a mistake, that I would soon be released. He was very courteous. But all this changed at the 12th hearing. He accused me of being a spy and he ordered me to divulge for whose intelligence service I was working. Then, again, at the 60th hearing when my physical resistance was lowered, and insomnia was getting the better of me, the 'juge d'instruction' adopted a mild and even an affectionate tone; he said that the Soviet Government was not at all anxious to keep me in prison or send me to a concentration camp. Russia, he went on, had the historical mission to organize Europe, she needed men of brains and character. We regard you as such a man—you have nothing in common with the bourgeois world, you are intelligent, we need such men, he went on. You may still play an important part. You do not want to serve us, all right—serve Poland. But Poland can only exist if she has the friendship of Russia and thus you must declare yourself a friend of Russia. This demands a psychological readjustment and to bring it about you must honestly tell us all that you know. Only then shall we be able to collaborate with you. Or refuse to talk altogether—then the situation will be clear—we shall know then that you are an inveterate enemy of our country and treat you accordingly.—You can imagine how exhausted I felt after such night interrogations.

"I was 'sentenced' to 4 months by the Moscow Court. As the period of imprisonment while waiting for trial was included in this 'sentence' I was released shortly after the 'trial' and on July 12th I arrived in Warsaw."

WAITING IS THE WORST

(Continued from page 10)

fifth columnist, or a spy dropped surreptitiously over Southern England. The more his story had sounded truthful, the more the security had gotten alarmed. A spy always has an excellent explanation to justify his presence, when he is caught, hasn't he?

But now they knew. "We shall get a plane to take you back to your base"—they told him.

The cadet-officer sighed, "What's the use now? My boys are in Holland, fighting."

He flew back. And to his great surprise he found them all at the base. The expedition had once again been called off—from over the continent. They did not jump over Holland. He did not miss the fight. They started again next day, this time for good, for the battle.

"The worst thing in war is waiting," repeats the cadet-officer after the battle of Arnhem.

German Crimes Against the Polish Nation

HALINA TOMASZEWSKA REPORTS ON THE NUREMBERG TRIAL

ALL of us are familiar with the Reich's policy of germanization of which the Germans—certain of victory—made no secret even in wartime. But it is interesting to view it in the light of the documents recently made public. As the prosecution at the Nuremberg trial brought out, Poland, the first of the overrun countries, was in a sense an experimental field for the Germans.

Hans Frank declared at the trial that he came to Poznan on October 30, 1939 with exact instructions from the Fuehrer to carry out a program of ruthless exploitation: This meant shipment of all equipment, raw materials, machines, factory installations to Germany; placing at the disposal of Germany and of its war machine all Polish labor; reduction of the economic life of the General Government to an absolute minimum; closing all educational institutions, especially the universities and technical schools, to make impossible any increase in the new Polish intelligentsia. "Poland will be treated as a colony," declared Frank, "the Poles will be the slaves of the great German World Empire."

Frank's policy was doubtless arrived at in agreement with the government of the Reich. But there was much enthusiastic improvisation in Frank's plan. It was not until October 13, 1939 that the policy of the Reich with regard to the exploitation of the occupied areas was definitely decided upon at a Ministers' meeting. On October 19, Goering, as the head of the Four Year Plan, issued appropriate instructions to Frank and his gauleiters in the larger Polish cities. This plan mentioned the shipment of raw materials, machines etc. to the Reich. "Only enterprises absolutely essential for the minimal existence of the population" were to be left in Poland.

However, this applied only to industry in undamaged cities. On November 20, 1939, Rudolf Hess, the Deputy Fuehrer, announced the following order: "I learn from party members arriving from the General Government that such institutions as the Staff of Military Economy, the Ministry of Labor etc., intend to rebuild some factories in Warsaw. In conformity with the decision of Minister Frank, approved by the Fuehrer, Warsaw will not be rebuilt. The Fuehrer likewise has no intention of reviving any industry in the Government General."

A characteristic document in this connection is the secret outline presented in court that was drawn up by the German Academy of Law in 1940, i.e., in the period when Frank was its president. The outlined project was concerned with the racial purification of the Western areas of Poland incorporated into the Reich, in which the presence of seven million Poles constituted a serious danger. Leaving this many foreigners in the newly acquired areas would mean that for every twelve inhabitants of the Reich there would be one Pole. As an alternative German lawyers proposed the deportation of Poles to the General Government—Jews in the first place, then intellectuals, potential political leaders, industrialists, and landed proprietors. "The remaining Polish urban communities would be ringed by German communities. Besides, this was merely a temporary measure: final victory was to make possible the "deportation of the surplus Poles to Siberia or the neighboring areas . . ." "The resettlement of several million Jews, say to Madagascar, might also create more room."

As far as the deliberately produced overpopulation in the General Government is concerned—the author of the project continues, "one might remove to the Reich 150,000 Germans from the voivodship of Lodz and place three million Poles there." It might also be possible to import hundreds of thousands of cheap Polish laborers into the Reich for a period of several years; "in this way the natural population increase will be stopped."

We know how the question of overpopulation was finally settled. On "Metz Day" some time after the French campaign, Himmler declared in a speech to SS officers: "Very often SS members think about the task of deporting these people . . . Today, thinking of this same thing, I observed your work and the work of the security police . . . Exactly the same thing which happened in Poland in a temperature of 40 below zero, where we had to deport thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, where we had to be hard—you should hear this and forget it immediately—hard enough to shoot thousands of leading Poles."

Among the 30 documents presented to the Tribunal at Nuremberg were found the minutes of a conversation between Himmler and probably Frank. Secret, dated in Cracow with the heading "General Government, Chief of the Department of Internal Administration", this document discusses the plan of deporting Poles from the districts of Lublin and Zamosc. An unidentified chronicler records that Himmler "is especially interested in the quickest and completest historical restoration of the German Center in Lublin" and "the market center in Zamosc." "German peasant families from the areas east of the Dniester will in the near future be settled in the region of Zamosc, and," the document goes on to say, "to avoid a panic among the local peasants which would have a bad effect on the harvests, the Germans should for

the time being be settled on the larger estates." So much for one of the most cruel crimes committed by the Germans in Poland.

On October 14, 1943, Himmler delivered one of his "Herrenvolk" addresses at Bad Schachten. "In such a human melting pot," said Himmler, "there will of course be some good racial types. It is our duty in such cases to take away (from foreigners) children to Germany, to remove them from under the influence of the old environment, and if the need presents itself, even to steal or kidnap them. We have two alternatives: either to win for ourselves all the good blood we can use or to destroy this blood."

POLES LURED ACROSS FRONTIER FIND DESOLATION AND POVERTY

(Continued from page 5)

it naturally increases the Polish peasant's bitterness at his own impoverishment if he can, as did we count more than 2,000 horses heading for Russia in the course of a few hours in this part of new Poland.

Only after the security problem has been settled and after the Polish Government has found some way of supplying these new pioneers with their basic needs can this new territory expect to prosper.

(From *The Christian Science Monitor*, November 17, 1945.)



THE IZA ANGEL OVER GDYNIA

An interview with Capt. Henry Nagorka by Leonidas Dudarew-Ossetynski

“TO come home is to come up into the light of a sunny world from being hopelessly lost in the maze of a filthy, choking sewer. To kiss the good American earth is not enough. . . . One wants to pray and cry and laugh all at once,” said Captain Henry Nagorka, Squadron Commander Eighth Air Force, who after 19 months as prisoner of war in Germany, is back home and the target of this reporter, who would like an interview for THE POLISH REVIEW.

“Well, if you absolutely must have it, let me begin with the plane’s name,” Capt. Nagorka commenced his interesting narrative. “To the great satisfaction of our entire crew, we called it *Iza Angel*. I was the happiest of all at this choice of name. My fiancée’s name is Izabella and she is an Army Nurse—an angel of mercy.

“Our base was in East Anglia, where most of the Eighth Air Force was stationed. Here I met Polish fliers about whom I had heard a great deal already in the United States. Here I was able to see for myself that they were not only excellent fliers and unequalled Don Juans, but also unaffected, pleasant, swell pals. I became good friends with many of them and we spent all our free moments together. It got so, that my American comrades called me the ‘mad Pole.’

“My first raid was easy. Just flak—and not too much. We came back with just a little nick in the left wing. The second raid—very bad. We met the Abbeville Kids (Goering’s Squadron) at the coast. They picked our unit because it seemed to be the best target for them—and it was. Those yellow-nosed Focke-Wulfe 190’s made a traffic pattern around my low squadron and stuck with us like a pack of mad hornets for two hours and five minutes. That was the worst air battle I’ve ever seen. I learned how it feels to see one’s good buddies going down in flames all around—and wondering all the time if *Iza Angel* would be next. The *Angel* limped home all right, but after we landed, they took one good look and used her for spare parts.

“Then a few raids later a lucky Nazi sank a whole burst of cannon into our left wing. *Iza Angel II* almost tore herself apart. We sneaked out of the formation and hoped to get back to the Channel from Rouen. Eight Jerry fighters jumped us. By the grace of God and the evasive maneuver lecture in Advanced which I very suddenly remembered, we knocked down four of them, damaged two more, and scared the hell out of one. But the last Messerschmidt was tenacious. We called him ‘Persistent Ferdinand.’ We couldn’t get him and he missed us. After shooting all his ammunition, he pulled out of range and escorted us, dipping his wings. I felt sure he was trying to say ‘OK—Your day today!’ We flew through some horribly close ack-ack on the French coast and after singing ‘Coming in on a Wing and a Prayer’ all the way across the Channel, we landed at the first base we saw.

“That’s where we left *Iza Angel II*. Everyone in the crew missed her—she had taken us on some tough ones and brought us back every time. And she had even taken us safely to Africa and back on the only shuttle mission of the kind ever flown by the Eighth.

“A short time after the ‘Persistent Ferdinand’ incident, we ran into some weather coming back from a dusk raid on submarine pens in France. We lost all contact with the formation, then later our radio went out and we lost all contact with the ground. It was impossible to break out of the overcast. When we finally did come out, it was too late. We’d been flying for thirteen hours—the gas was gone! The engines gave out one after the other. With one engine still going full blast, we made a crash landing in the North Sea



Left to right: Capt. Henry Nagorka, Pfc. Leonidas Dudarew-Ossetynski, and Lieut. Tadeusz Orzazewski.

at 12:44 in the morning, pitch black—drizzling weather. Only two were killed.

“The British salvage units pulled pieces of *Iza Angel III* out of the water weeks later.

“We were given a week long vacation after that job. One or two of the members of the crew were so tense that they spoke—or rattled—in a high soprano. The squadron CO decided it was time for a break.

“*Iza Angel IV* would surely carry us on through the rest of our missions, we said to each other. Three times and out—but we went out the wrong way.

“The last raid was a mission to Gdynia, Poland. To me it was a great experience. A son of American parents of Polish descent, I had great respect and affection for every-thing Polish. At the age of 20 I had gone to Warsaw and enrolled in the State Conservatory. Studying the violin, I worked in the Polish Radio as an English announcer. After two years, I was almost a Warsawian. Came the war. I returned to America and enrolled in the Juilliard Institute of Musical Art to complete my studies. . . . On October 9, 1943 I received orders to bomb Gdynia. Again I was on my way to Poland, this time accompanied by the roar of a thousand engines.

“We took off at 7:30 A.M. Our fortress *Iza Angel IV*, groaning under the heavy load of bombs and gasoline, barely managed to leave the ground. After getting out of the fog, we saw the bright sun. The crew breathed more easily and even *Iza Angel IV* became more spirited. We flew over the North Sea without mishap. It was not until we reached Denmark that the Germans began to pepper us with flak. But their aim was poor. We reached the Baltic around noon, and headed in the direction of Germany and Poland. Over Kartuzy, west of Gdynia, our plane lurched violently several times as if someone were hammering at it. Our earphones rattled. ‘Radio operator to pilot!’ ‘Radio operator to pilot!’ ‘Pilot to radio operator!—What is it?’

“‘The bombs have gotten loose from the rack and are lying in the opening of the bomb bay,’ replied the radio operator.

“I asked whether the bombs were in danger of exploding. The radio operator responded that the propellers were turning . . .

“I cursed roundly and gave the order: ‘Salvo!!!’

“In less than five seconds we were free of the bombs. We

(Please turn to page 15)

Polish Artist Selected to Design Spring Book Festival Poster

Miss Irena Lorentowicz, Polish painter and illustrator, has been selected as the artist to create the poster for the tenth annual Children's Spring Book Festival, sponsored by the New York Herald Tribune. Five thousand copies of the poster will be distributed throughout the country in schools, libraries and bookstores, where the Children's Spring Book Festival will be celebrated next May 18 to 25.

Miss Lorentowicz is the artist who illustrated the story "The Nine Cry-Baby Dolls," by Josephine B. Bernhard, which won honorable mention in the 1945 festival.

Born in Warsaw, the daughter of Jan Lorentowicz, author and critic, and founder of the P. E. N. Club of Poland, Miss Lorentowicz attended the School of Art in her native city, stimulated by her mother who was an artist. She did much painting for restored medieval churches. The French government offered her a scholarship at the Sorbonne. She worked for several years in Paris, where she acquired a name for her theatrical designs and her scenery for ballets.

Escaping from Paris just before the Germans entered in 1940, she lived for two years in Spain and Portugal before reaching New York. Here she began to specialize in children's book illustrations, developing a spirited and colorful style which added much to the attractiveness of the books. Her first book was "Lullaby," followed by "Matthew the Young King" and "Mr. Bunny Paints the Eggs."

(From the New York Herald Tribune, January 2, 1946)



Poster designed by Irena Lorentowicz for 1946 Festival sponsored by The New York Herald Tribune.

POLISH JOURNALISM IN THE DAYS OF KOSCIUSZKO'S INSURRECTION

(Continued from page 7)

"The insurrection in provinces annexed to Prussia—and means of struggle against Prussia." The author discussed two methods of warfare. One purely military and the other of an economic character by establishing a commercial blockade and the absolute stopping of Polish exports of swine, grain, leather, wool and hemp, all items urgently needed by the Prussians. The writer cited America's economic policies during the War of Independence.

Three papers in French and German were also published during the Kosciuszko Insurrection. This however was not a novelty. During the reign of Stanislas Augustus, ten French and sixteen German periodicals had been published in Poland. The large number of French periodicals revealed the deep interest of French public opinion and French diplomacy in Polish affairs; while their German counterpart were a symptom of German pressure and an indication of the ever present threat of a "Drang nach Osten." The foreign language press rendered the Insurrection services similar to those of modern information services. The Insurrectionist Government hoped to be able to expand its foreign propaganda and to secure the aid of nations friendly to Poland. These hopes proved to a large extent a disappointment. Technical difficulties stood in the way because of poor postal services, impeded by the war with Prussia and the "armed" neutrality of Austria. The papers could reach Western Europe only if carried by messengers of the Government. The foreign press, though availing itself of news published by the Insurrectionist papers, did not discuss Polish events in the spirit of the original but adapted its attitude to the interests of its own country. Thus the attitude of the Paris "Moniteur" was one of utter perfidy and dogmatism; the London "Morning Post" sympathized with the Insurrection so long as it was to the interest of the Tory opposition against the Whigs. The attitude of the official Vienna Gazette was

one of procrastination. The main thing for Austria was to maintain peace in its annexed Polish province of Galicia. The Prussian press was openly disloyal and slanderous. Yet, in spite of all this, Polish papers were distributed abroad by special emissaries and aroused pro-Insurrectionist sympathies. In October 1794, a revolutionary conspiracy directed by Martynowicz, a former professor of the Lwow University, was discovered in Hungary. In Courland, Mirbach was stirring up a rebellion among the peasants. In the Baltic provinces Kosciuszko's war cry of liberty, equality and independence greatly impressed the Letts. Budding sympathies for the Insurrection were noticeable even in the Russian army. It is well established that young Russian army officers eagerly read Polish revolutionary pamphlets. The "National and Foreign Correspondent" of October 28, 1794 contains a dispatch signed "Nosarzewski" which reports that Russian war-prisoners having learned the aims of the insurrection "had taken an oath to share with us freedom of thought."

Special mention should be made of a journal published in Warsaw in 1794 in the German language. Its title was "Warschauer Zeitung fuer Polen's freie Buerger." This was the first underground paper published in Poland.

Michael Groell, a publisher of merit and formerly the King's librarian, issued and edited the "Warschauer Zeitung." He had his own information office, owned a printing shop, an auction hall and a circulating library. He firmly believed that he would win for it the support of Polish Protestants of German descent who, at the end of the XVIII Century, numbered about 150,000 in Poland. Beati credentes . . . Groell was greatly mistaken. As a matter of fact, Polish Protestants of German descent favored Prussia. Together with some Dutch colonists they had formed secret military training schools; they were the original Fifth Columnists working for more "Lebensraum" for the alleged "Master race."

(Please turn to page 15)

THE IZA ANGEL OVER GDYNIA

(Continued from page 13)

took a deep breath. One second more and they might have exploded inside the bomber. Having gotten rid of my load, I still could not turn back because I was leading the squadron. The raid was a success. The boys dropped the bombs straight on the port of Gdynia without harming the city. I was darn glad of that because I love the city the Poles had built in a few years out of a tiny fishing village. Besides, I had family, friends and acquaintances in Gdynia. We were flying high, but it seemed to me that crowds of Poles in the streets were waving in tribute to America. My comrades insisted, however, that my vivid imagination was playing tricks on me.

"Back in Denmark the German Luftwaffe had prepared a reception for us on the way home. When we came along, they had everything in the air that would fly, from trainers to night fighters. My left wing man went down burning, then they came after me. The boys were doing some good shooting again and at least three Jerries stopped combat flying that day. But one Jerry was doing good shooting too. He threw enough 20 mm cannon shells at us to knock out a whole squadron. Most of them hit us. The steel rattled around in the cockpit, blew off the plexiglass nose, wounding the navigator and bombardier, set our right wing afire, knocked out three engines, all the instruments, the interphone, and set fire to the bomb bay and radio room. After I gave the order to bail out, the co-pilot who is a rather phlegmatic individual, took one look at the right wing, shouted, 'Fire! Fire! Jump!' and was gone. The rest of the crew left at the same time. When I couldn't see my chute on looking around, I almost became panicky. It was under the seat. After fighting the controls while buckling the chute, I tried to get out quickly and got stuck between the two pilots' seats. I made another try and almost ran through to the escape hatch. As soon as my feet were out of the ship I felt better—then I knew that if it blew up, it would throw me out into the air. Just a little longer and I was out.

"I landed in the North Sea about five to ten miles from the west coast of Denmark. My life vest kept me afloat after I almost drowned while getting away from the parachute. It kept getting tangled in my legs and started pulling me down.

"When the German Coast Guard picked me up, it was only about an hour later—but I thought, and now I know, that it was very close to the end. When I felt well enough to go up on deck, I learned that I was the only survivor abroad. A few days later I met five more of the crew. The remaining four had drowned.

"After going through the usual humiliation of Nazi handling, we arrived at the comparative quiet of the Country Club of German prison camps—Stalag Luft III—an Air Force officers camp. Things weren't too bad there. We got horse-turnips or old kohlrabi to eat when the potatoes ran out in the winter. But thank God for American Red Cross parcels—they kept us alive. If you were to walk into a place like that, you might not think much of it. But after a year or so one gets accustomed to being a little filthy—and a little hungry. And you even begin accepting as routine some of the ugliness of the Jerry guards. You forget that you are better because they constantly remind you of your inferiority. They like to play a kind of refined cat and mouse game. They have their bad moments too. One fine morning the Gestapo shot 47 of our inmates.

"As the Allies were rapidly approaching our camp, the Germans decided to move us to Stalag 7A—where I met Poles. I shall never forget the impression made on me when in the adjoining camp, separated from ours by barbed wire, I heard the Polish evening prayer sung. I immediately wanted to get in touch with them but the guard refused to permit me to contact them. In the morning I was awakened by the Polish morning hymn. . . . There was no question but

that there were Poles nearby. I wasted a couple of hours before I succeeded in diverting the guard's attention. I ran up to the wire and introduced myself to the group nearest me. They couldn't come any closer. They began to ask me about fliers they knew. Each threw in a few names. They thought I was a member of the Polish air force in England. I was able to tell them about a few airmen I had met in Britain. From subsequent questions asked by them I realized that they had very little awareness of what was going on in the world. At first I thought they had been prisoners for a number of years. They were terribly wan and their ragged clothing barely hung on them. After several minutes of conversation I knew they were soldiers of the 63 day Warsaw uprising. When in turn they learned that I was an American, every single one of them asked me, 'When will the Americans enter Warsaw?'

"For several days I spent all my stolen moments at the barbed wire fence listening to the experiences of these unhappy but heroic madmen. In very simple language, without bragging, they told how for several years, hiding in the forests, they had carried on the most fantastic sabotage and often waged open warfare with the Germans. When the Soviet authorities appealed for help from within, they began the battle to free Warsaw. We all know what happened and comments are superfluous. I was able to smuggle several packages of cigarettes over to them and then our gab-fests were over. The guard had noticed me and from that time it was officially forbidden to come within 100 meters of the barbed wire fence, otherwise the machine guns would come into play. . . .

"After trying to escape for over a year, my chance finally came at this camp. Three of us succeeded in walking out of camp at noon right under the noses of the guards. The hardships of illegal travel without identification were worse than the original escape. We had no heavy clothing, no coats, and we were outdoors in all kinds of weather. That constant dread of being apprehended is worst of all. One's heart pounds hard enough to make itself heard on the slightest provocation.

"We had trouble with the Americans too. They strafed an area very near our hiding place two or three times daily. Twice just missing us. Then when it was time for them to show up, the Jerries put some heavy artillery in our woods. We could almost hear their conversations! They shot at the advancing Yanks, and our boys of course shot back. Fortunately the Germans retreated during the night and the Yanks came through the next morning. They looked so good that we couldn't stop laughing when we met them. They couldn't take us to the rear so we hopped into a jeep and helped lead a tank column. We were on top of the world!

"Three weeks later we stepped aboard a nice, clean American troopship. A few days of travel and we were home!" concluded Capt. Nagorka, who besides area ribbons, wears the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, a Presidential Unit Citation, the Caterpillar Club Pin for those who save their lives by jumping in a parachute.—and the Goldfish Patch for membership in the RAF club of that name for those who crash at sea.

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(Continued from page 14)

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