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Poland will be stronger and greater than ever before

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STALIN

Moscow, 1941



POLAND AND RUSSIA

Four months have already elapsed since the conclusion of the ultimate Polish-Soviet agreement in December, 1941, and subsequent events have proved its usefulness beyond any doubt. Meanwhile, Polish divisions have been trained in Russia, and will soon be ready to play their part in the common struggle both in the USSR itself and in other theatres of war. The relations between Poland and the USSR are now really based on entirely new foundations, and the acts which led to the ultimate agreement between the two states, are of no small interest to the public.

Shortly after the German attack on Russia in June last year, the Polish Prime Minister, General Sikorski, delivered a speech in which he envisaged the possibility of a radical change in the relations between Poland and Soviet Russia. In the face of a common danger Poland took the initiative and offered to forget the past. This offer met with the full approval of both Great Britain and the United States, and was gladly accepted by Moscow.

As a result, negotiations between Poland and Russia began at once. They were crowned with success, and on July 30th, 1941, an agreement was reached which laid the foundations of a new development in the Polish-Soviet relations.

The significance of this agreement was twofold. Firstly, it liquidated the past, putting an end to the "state of war" which had existed between Poland

and the USSR since September 17th, 1939—when the Soviet armies had invaded Poland. By cancelling the partition treaty with Germany concluded in 1939, Soviet Russia automatically removed the reason of that "state of war," and consequently restored normal relations between the two States as they had been before September 17th, 1939. These relations had been based on several treaties and agreements, beginning with the peace treaty of Riga, 1920. Poland, on the other hand, stated

that she was not bound by any treaty directed against the Soviet Union. Poland thus stressed her friendly attitude towards her eastern neighbour and once more confirmed the fact that she had never consented to become the instrument of any anti-Russian coalition.

Secondly, the agreement opened a new chapter in the relations of the two contracting powers. Normal diplomatic relations were restored, and several problems of the highest practical value, as the *situation of the Poles in*

Russia and the creation of a Polish army there, were tackled.

The realisation of these first aims was entrusted to the newly appointed Polish ambassador in Moscow.

Four months passed. Then Poland took the initiative once more, and General Sikorski went himself to Moscow in order to clear up the Polish-Soviet relations once for all. He sought and

Again all Polish hearts are beating fast with the sad news.

On the 3rd March 1942 the Germans, in connection with the attack in Warsaw on a German Policeman, shot 100 innocent persons, in addition announcing that they will starve one-and-a-half million citizens of Warsaw.

Over the heroic suffering Polish Capital hangs this new threat.

Every day during the last two-and-a-half years dozens of persons have fallen victims to the German terror.

In deepest sorrow and mourning we bow our heads before the fresh graves of these new innocent murdered victims.

We shall not forget.

obtained a personal interview with Stalin which is reported to have taken place in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding. As a result of this personal contact, Sikorski and Stalin, on behalf of their respective countries, published a common declaration on December 4th, 1941, which goes far beyond the limits of the previous Polish-Soviet agreements.

Above all, it lays the foundations of a permanent Polish-Soviet collaboration not only for the duration of this war, but also during the peace which is to follow. It establishes a military alliance between the two powers with a view to defeat and destroy the common enemy, but beyond that it states that the future relations between Poland and Soviet Russia after the war will be based on the "good neighbour" principle, friendly collaboration, and the strict observance of all obligations voluntarily assumed.

Besides, the agreement gives an outline of those principles which, in the opinion of both the contracting parties, must govern the future reorganisation of the European continent, if a permanent peace is to be reached. It thus provides for a close alliance of all the democratic powers which with the help of a collective military force will maintain order and compel every country to recognise the principles of international law.

However, it is certain that Sikorski and Stalin discussed other questions of a more practical value as well. The problem of the Polish Army in Russia is likely to have played an important part in their conversations. We know already to-day that this army will amount to about several divisions part of which are to be sent outside Russia, probably to the Middle East to reinforce the Polish Army there.

Finally, it must be mentioned that, according to General Sikorski's own words, the Soviet Government were convinced that Poland would become larger and stronger than ever before, since a great and strong Polish State was indispensable for the maintenance of a permanent peace in Europe.

The Polish-Soviet agreement is an achievement of outstanding importance. Two peoples who, in consequence of their geo-political situation, are bound to co-operate in self-defence against the ever impending threat of foreign aggression, have very wisely decided to bury the past with all its misunderstandings and begin an entirely new chapter in their history. They have understood that their combined forces constitute an insurmountable barrier in the way of any aggressor. The credit of having taken the first step in that direction goes to Poland; but, on the other hand, it must equally be recognised that Poland's outstretched hand was unhesitatingly and firmly grasped by Russia. By readily recognising the importance of a strong, independent Poland for their own safety, the Russian people have shown the world that they possess that rare gift, viz., a good political common-sense. The lesson of the last 3 years, when both Poland and Russia were attacked by the same enemy, has certainly not been lost.

That even the worst calamities sometimes result in something good, is clearly shown by the fact that Poland and Russia have eventually found the way to each other.

Thus we see that the foundations of a bright future for both Poland and Russia are firmly laid. We may, therefore, safely assume that Poland will be called to play a major part in the reconstruction and reorganisation of post-war Europe.

NEWS FROM AND ABOUT POLAND

SOME MINOR EFFECTS OF THE RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN

Transport conditions in all the General-Government are chaotic, so far as civilians are concerned. Military transports monopolise all railways every few days, and at such times all civilian traffic, both passenger and goods, is suspended.

The Vistula is being used for the transport of large quantities of uniforms, taken from fallen soldiers, to the Reich to be cleaned before further use.

Warsaw is plentifully placarded with posters, warning the population against harbouring any escaped Russian prisoners of war. In one of the prisoners of war camps prisoners overcame and murdered the German guards and fled in all direc-

tions. Seven thousand were caught, and three thousand of those were executed.

The habit of modifying German propaganda posters to make them tell the truth is common in Warsaw, as elsewhere. One such placard read: "*Wir siegen in Osten*"—We conquer in the East. The "s" of "siegen" was quickly changed to an "l": "*Wir liegen in Osten*"—"We fall in the East.

When the Germans plastered the city with "V" posters all the accessible "V"s were graphically illustrated with tortoises.

DEFEATISM SPREADING AMONG THE GERMANS

Though there are no signs of widespread and wholesale revolt against the war, and the mood of the Germans could easily change with a sudden

change for the better in the military campaign, there are indications that war-weariness is setting in among the German troops and civilian authorities in the Eastern areas. One small but telling "straw in the wind" is the fact that the families of many military and civilian officials, which had shifted to Western Poland to escape the air-raids in Germany, have now shifted out of Poland into Slovakia, where they feel a little more sure of their position.

EASTERN POLAND GERMAN ARMY'S WINTER QUARTERS

The *Krakauer Zeitung* (12/11/41) states that the German authorities are organizing the requisition of all free vacant premises in the larger towns of the General-Government, including Warsaw, Cracow, and Lublin. Not only are dwellings, flats and houses being requisitioned, but also offices, shops, factories, and even garages. The space is required as living quarters for the troops withdrawn from the Eastern front to rest during the winter. Any one attempting to avoid the requisition is liable to three months imprisonment and a fine of a thousand zlotys.

MORTALITY IN GERMAN PRISONS

As a result of the atrocious conditions and failure to observe even the most primitive principles of hygiene in German prisons, mortality has been growing at a frightening rate ever since the Autumn. News continues to come through concerning the increasing number of deaths occurring in the War-

saw and Cracow prisons. Recently 7 priests died in one of the German prisons in Poland.

The following was the cynical reply of one of the prison governors when his attention was drawn to the appalling increase in mortality amongst prisoners: "Those who die here are fortunate; they are saved from a concentration camp. In any case everyone has to die sometime."

Most of those Poles arrested in the course of hunts organized throughout the streets and searches made at night throughout the houses, are sent to concentration camps after a short period of detention in one of the ordinary prisons. Approximately 70% of them are "sent on," and only 30% are set free after the lapse of a certain time, providing that they have not already died in prison. Even then the fact that a man has once been set free from prison does not mean that he will not be imprisoned again. Some Poles have been arrested by the Gestapo five times in the course of a few months.

POLISH-CZECHOSLOVAK BROTHERHOOD IN ARMS.

The same issue carried a message from the commander of the Czechoslovak forces in Tobruk, in which the Polish-Czechoslovak comradeship in arms was stressed. "Let us unite and harmoniously look forward to a better future for our brotherly nations," declared the commander. "Let Libya and Tobruk be a second Grunwald for our enemy."

A WORKER'S DAY.

What you will read in these pages is no figment of the imagination.

The material was obtained by searching through decrees and announcements issued by the Nazis in Poland, from newspapers, both legal and illegal, and from documents and papers smuggled out of Poland by the workers' "underground" movements. Part of the story has been told by persons who have escaped from Poland.

Out of this material we have pieced together a working-day, a day of living, toiling and struggling on the part of Jan Kowalski (the Polish for John Smith), a worker in Warsaw. Jan is a native of Warsaw, capital of Poland, where, in the hub of Nazi-occupied territory, the life of the worker stands out in greater relief than anywhere else in Poland.

It is time to get up for work. In the bedroom-sitting-room-kitchen—call it what you will, for it has to do service for all—the cold is intense. During the siege of Warsaw all the panes were blown out of the windows. The gaps have been partially boarded up, but this provides little protection from

the cold outside. The draught finds its way through the many cracks and crevices, damp seeps through the walls and moisture drips from the ceiling.

There is no hope of getting the room warm. True, Jan has his fuel coupons, but they are mere

useless paper since there has never been but one distribution of coal. Almost all Polish coal has either been sent to Germany or issued to Germans in Poland for their dwellings and offices. **There is not a scrap of fuel for the Poles.**

Jan troubles little on his own account, but it is a terrible ordeal for his wife and children, who have to go barefoot and ill-clad in the bitter cold. The Germans have laid their thieving hands on all stocks of leather, some of which has been issued to German residents. There is no rubber for soles and heels and the Poles are driven to wearing wooden clogs as a protection against frost and snow.

As for clothing, all that was any good had to be bartered long ago for flour and potatoes.

A POLISH AND A JEWISH GHETTO

Jan would have liked to move from this room to a warmer and more healthy one somewhere near his work. But the Germans have taken over control of all dwellings and strict regulations are in force relating to Poles and Jews. German sanction is required to let even a single room and Poles are forbidden, on pain of ejection, to give accommodation, even for one night, to a Jew.

Before the war Jan lived in another part of Warsaw, only a few minutes by tram from his work. Soon after the beginning of the occupation, he returned one day from work to find a police notice ordering him to quit within twenty-four hours. Bad as that was, he had reflected at the time that he was more fortunate than the poor wretches in Poznan, Pomorze and Silesia, who were given only thirty minutes in which to pack one bag and get out, leaving behind the house-key and all their belongings for the benefit of German settlers brought from the Baltic and other states.

The Germans had decided to convert all that part of Warsaw into a ghetto for the Jews. Half a million Jews were driven into the district, which was then surrounded by a high wall so that the Jews could not get out nor the Aryans get in.

Jan remembers the widespread anger amongst the workers over this incident. At one of the secret printing-houses, a proclamation was drawn up denouncing the barbarian Nazis and confirming the solidarity of the Polish and Jewish workers. The leaflets were strewn about or stuck up on walls in thousands. Not content with issuing leaflets, at night, under the very noses of the German police, some member of the revolutionary workers' movement tore down a part of the ghetto wall. When the police arrived in the morning, they found, floating proudly over the ruins of the wall, the red and white flag of Poland.

As Jan walks along, he thinks what a difference there is between the dwellings of Poles and Jews and the bright and healthy houses in another part of Warsaw, occupied by Germans and their families. This part of Warsaw includes parks, river embankments, administrative buildings, theatres and other places of amusement. No Pole can obtain permission to go and live there.

A HUNGRY FAMILY

The worst time for the worker is the morning. Jan finds it impossible to keep his eyes from the drawn face of his wife and the ashen cheeks of the children. His wife gets more low-spirited every day. Yesterday she stood all morning in a queue, only to return empty-handed from the shops. The children, lacking good food, seem day by day to be wasting away. Often a bad fright will hasten the process.

Thus, yesterday, two of the children returned from school, weeping and terrified. Between sobs they related how, after the second lesson, **German police had entered the school and locked all the doors. German doctors had then examined each child, choosing the most robust and taking from each about half a glassful of blood for transfusion into the veins of wounded German soldiers.** The teacher had tried to protest but had been quickly silenced by the threat of the concentration camp.

If they are to regain their strength the children must have more food. But how is Jan to get it for them? The Germans have taken most of the food, either to send to Germany, or for the consumption of German officials, soldiers, police and civilians. **The best food is issued only to German shops which are barred to the Poles.** How often has Jan passed such shops, their windows laden with white bread, rolls, cooked meats, preserves and fruits—but all for the Germans, even the Polish children may not have so much as a crust.

EVERYTHING FOR THE GERMANS

There is a wide difference between the rations of food allowed to victors and vanquished. For the week ending October 18th, 1941, Germans under six received 4½ oz. of margarine and all over six, 9 oz. Against this no margarine was allotted to the Poles. The sugar ration was 2¼ lb. per head to the Germans but only 9 oz. to the Poles. In addition, Germans received rations of oatmeal, sago or potato flour, jam, soup cubes and pudding powder, none of which was allowed to the Poles. The Poles did get 4½ oz. of synthetic honey per head.

People who have some money are able to buy in the black markets. Jan simply can't afford it. Two pounds of sugar on the ration-card cost about

8d. In the black market the price would be about 21/-. Similarly for bread and potatoes.

At times when the pangs of hunger refuse to be dulled, Jan longs for a meal in a restaurant—but even if he had money to spare, he could not get food there, as most of the restaurants and hotels are exclusively reserved for the Germans.

CHILDREN SUFFER MOST

The youngest child has been born since the war began. In peace time the Health Insurance Society would have provided proper treatment for Jan's wife, both before and after the confinement. There would have been a period of convalescence in a well-equipped home. Under the Germans there is no such treatment and the child is thin and sickly.

A doctor friend who has examined it several times only shakes his head. The child needs better food, more fresh air, ought to go to the country. Jan laughs bitterly at this. Before the war he could not only afford good food, but could easily manage to send his family for the whole summer, either to the seaside or into the mountains. There were children's holiday camps supported by the workers' clubs. Now, all these clubs have been closed. **Even recreation grounds are forbidden to Polish children. Notice-boards bear the words "Only for German children."** Swimming-pools, sports-grounds and playing-fields, all are reserved for Germans.

Even if he had the money, Jan could not send his children to the country. The people there have insufficient food for themselves. Then, **all Poles have to get a special permit to travel.** They must produce evidence of necessity and abase themselves before the Germans, often only to be insulted and refused. Better drop the idea, the less one has to do with the German authorities the better. **For the Jews it is even worse. They may not use the railways or steamers at all.**

The two youngest children attend the elementary school, but derive little benefit from it under the Nazi system. In the part of Poland incorporated in the Reich the Germans have closed all Polish educational establishments. The Poles now have to send their children to German schools, paying high fees only to have them educated on Nazi principles. Better to let the children run wild than that they should grow up Germans.

Jan sends his children to the German-controlled school but they are taught secretly, in private houses, the Polish language, history and geography. The Germans vigorously persecute those responsible for these private classes and not a few teach-

ers have been deported to Germany. But the fight for the souls of the Polish children still goes on.

NO EDUCATION FOR THE POLES

The eldest boy is Jan's most difficult problem. He is capable, studious and intelligent. He had always hoped to be a doctor. He was regular in attendance and punctual and was highly commended by his teachers. In two years he would have finished high school and might have got a scholarship to a medical school. But all his hard work has been in vain. The Germans regard the Poles as a slave-race, whose only mission in life is to supply muscle and brawn. An elementary school and a short term at a low-grade technical school is enough for the Polish children. **The Germans, therefore, closed all secondary schools, universities, technical colleges and theological schools. Warsaw University is occupied by the Gestapo and other educational buildings by the S.S. and German police.**

And so all the boy's efforts and all the sacrifices Jan has made to help him on have been wasted. He now mooches around, workless and in ever lower spirits and his mother is mad with anxiety lest one day he should be kidnapped in the street by the German "press-gangs" and sent off to Germany for forced labour.

Jan walks on. It will soon be time he was at work. He no longer goes by tram, although the alternative is a walk of some three miles. Anyway that is better than witnessing some of the things which happen on the trams. **There are separate compartments for Poles and Germans.** Often, when the trams are crowded, Germans squeeze into the Polish compartment and even the women have to give up their seats to them. How many times has Jan seen women and even children thrown out of the trams by German soldiers!

RICKSHAWS

Before the war it was a pleasure to walk in the streets of Warsaw. They were always filled with a gay and lively throng. Now the streets lead through a barren, desolate waste of demolished houses. The debris has been cleared away, but at every step ruined walls stretch upward in mute appeal to the skies. There are no streams of cars in the road, only an occasional car filled with German officers, or sometimes a horse-drawn cab, a vehicle which before the war had almost disappeared. **But mostly one sees only rickshaws. These are drawn mainly by Polish students and it is almost their only means of livelihood. They have attached trailers to their bicycles and go out plying for hire. Taxis are no longer to be seen.**

Jan misses the old familiar din of the street, the music and singing of street musicians. When the Germans came these musicians, instead of singing popular songs as before, wandered from street to street and courtyard to courtyard, playing and singing only Polish national and folk songs. In the end the Germans, remarking the enthusiasm evoked, forbade it altogether.

Some of the streets have been entirely destroyed and new roads made. Jan can't bear to look at the street names. The old Polish plates have been removed and German names given to all the streets. Even the most beautiful square in Warsaw is now called "Adolf Hitler Square."

Jan goes into a shop, not very hopefully, for cigarettes. The shopkeepers are a prominent Warsaw scientist and a well-known poet. The latter, with his author friends, abandoned their writing as they could not bring themselves to submit their works to the German censor. Both doctor and poet prefer to trade in matches, cotton, anything they can get hold of.

There are no cigarettes, as Jan had expected. As he goes along someone offers him a newspaper, the *Warsaw Courier*. Jan brushes it aside and spits. Although it is in Polish, he knows this paper is issued by the Germans. He can't read German lies and anti-Polish rubbish. He will wait until night when he can read an authentic Polish paper.

A ROUND-UP

Suddenly, instinctively, on an impulse born of much experience, Jan dives into a narrow alley, springs through the first doorway, races up the stairs and crouches in a dark corner. Outside, police whistles can be heard, accompanied by foul German expletives and shrieks of women. A round-up.

Jan knows that all male captives will be loaded into cattle-trucks and sent to Germany to work. A worse fate awaits the young women.

A few days before Jan had received a letter from his sister in another town. She wrote how, together with some five hundred other girls, she had been called to the labour office. They had been forced to strip naked and were examined by doctors, who then operated on them. After being ill for three days, she had received a card to prepare to go with a train-load of other girls to Germany.

When, laden with disease, these girls return from the German soldiers' camps, they are ruthlessly shot by German machine-guns.

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Jan waits for what seems an age. Then all is quiet and he emerges from his hiding-place. With quickened step he hurries on to the factory, he is afraid he will be late.

AN UNDERGROUND PAPER

At the works, he goes into his shop and dons his overalls.

In his hip pocket something rustles. He smiles to himself. They have done it again. For the moment he feels quite happy. His comrades, actively engaged in spreading secret communications, have already got a new leaflet through to him. He will read it to-night. And he must not forget, before leaving the workshop, to leave in his drawer his contribution to the publishing fund. This money will be secretly collected by some unknown person and handed to an equally unknown treasurer.

The money is urgently needed. The Germans have requisitioned all stocks of paper. They have even stripped the stationers' shops of nearly all their books and sent them to the paper mills for repulping. That is where the Germans get the paper for their noisome publications. So the "underground" workers have to send a long way for their supplies. The cost runs into large sums. Then the presses must be moved from place to place constantly.

Recently the Germans discovered one such place in Warsaw. When they knocked and received no reply, they threw in handgrenades and machine-gunned the house. Two comrades were killed and a woman was wounded and died later. But there was a fight and the Germans did not have it all their own way.

But no one grudges his share of the cost and the "underground" activities are growing day by day. Round-ups, concentration camps, even executions provide no deterrent.

Jan gets on with his work but soon begins to feel tired. His limbs ache and feel like lead. Insufficient food and work greatly speeded up by the Germans are too much for him. In order to get the maximum output to fill the gaps made by the R.A.F. in the west, the Germans have abolished the 8-hour day and the workers must do at least 10 hours. All holidays have been curtailed and the granting of them is left to the discretion of the employer.

STARVATION WAGES

Wages have generally been maintained at pre-war levels although the cost of living has gone up by about 500 per cent. For the same job the German workers in Poland get not less than twice the

pay of the Poles, plus a special living allowance which in itself amounts to as much as the total wage of a Pole.

There was a factory owner recently who declared himself ready to raise the wages of his Polish workers. When the Germans heard of it they immediately threatened to close his factory and put him in prison. The Germans have issued a decree forbidding, on pain of imprisonment, any increase of the wages or improvement in the working conditions of the Poles. Nothing is allowed for overtime and any worker who asks for an increase may be fined or imprisoned. The worker has no protection, his trade unions have gone, the leaders have been killed or imprisoned and all the funds appropriated. Strikes are out of the question. Machine guns are the Germans' reply to any such action.

"GO SLOW" WORK

Jan and his comrades have to be very careful in their work. There is a German decree which provides heavy penalties, not only for bad workmanship, but also for "failure on the part of the worker to show goodwill." All day and every day Jan and his pals run this risk. It is not their intention to deliver good workmanship. They make as fine a show of work as they can. But all the time they are wasting precious minutes, adjusting machineparts which need no adjustment, over-scrupulously examining materials, repeating as though unconsciously, the same operation, dropping their tools and retrieving them only very slowly, and generally delaying the work as effectively, yet as unostentatiously as they can. Thus the German effort at intensification fails. The workers have become very skilful in this form of sabotage and even the German supervisors can find no tangible proof of it.

From time to time the Germans become so infuriated that they choose at random a number of workers and send them to concentration camps. Many are executed—but this does not intimidate the victims' comrades.

Not the least active in sabotage are a number of workers who have been brought to Warsaw from Gdynia. Formerly highly-experienced dock workers, here they can do only odd and labouring jobs for a miserably low wage. Ill as they could afford it, the other workers have assisted the families of these men with small contributions to save them from semi-starvation.

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CONSTANT FEAR

The working-day is over and Jan is on his way home. The curfew hour is drawing near and the

streets will soon be quite empty. Even munition workers, waiters, doctors, nurses, those who have German permits to be abroad after this time, prefer to get indoors. Many times it happened that some worker, diving his hand into his pocket for his permit, has been shot by the Germans who thought he was reaching for a gun. Often people have been hit by stray bullets fired by the Germans who seem to be in constant dread even of their own shadows.

Jan walks as fast as he can. Fear for his family spurs him on. To-day, as every day, he is haunted by the fear that he will be met by one of his neighbours bearing dreadful tidings—the children have been carried off—his wife has been arrested or deported. In the few moments before he reaches home Jan dies a thousand deaths. He breaks into a run and arrives at the door sweating and exhausted. Is everyone here? Are they all all right?

And so day after day, there is the constant suspense and the fear of disaster.

Jan recalls the happy days before the war. Tired but cheerful after the day's work, there was always a glass of beer, a bit of gossip, perhaps a lively debate with his pals in the pub. Jan had a fair amount of leisure and he and his wife liked the cinemas. They never go now. All educational and instructional films have been banned and the films which are shown either caricature the Polish army and authorities or vaunt the "heroic" deeds of Hitler's hordes.

LISTENING-IN TO LONDON

Aftersupper there is a discreet knock at the door. The neighbours come in bringing books. They talk and read and their worries are momentarily lifted from their shoulders, their eyes take on a new light, shoulders loose their stoop, fists clench with heightened resolution. To-night there is a leaflet to read. It is a Manifesto which is going out to the world, telling them Poland will continue the fight until victory is won.

The hour of broadcasts from London draws near. Jan's wife goes to the door and listens. They have to be careful. Only recently, the Germans caught the occupants of a nearby house listening to London and sentenced them to twelve years imprisonment. Jan gets out the receiving set and tunes in. He adjusts the headphones and listens. "Hush, the English News—Last night British Aircraft of Bomber command bombed Hamburg, Cologne and Berlin. In this attack Polish pilots took part. All our planes returned safely to their bases. . ."

Fortified and cheered, the party breaks up with a fraternal handshake. Instead of a good-bye, they repeat the war-cry of the great underground workers' movement: **Freedom, Equality, Independence.**

So Jan and his family retire to rest. Jan stirs uneasily in his sleep. To-morrow the anxiety will begin anew, there will be again the dread of the catastrophe which lurks just round the corner ready to pounce.

UNDERGROUND

"In our country the fight of the Polish nation against the enemy is still being carried on. In the face of the greatest terror and persecution resistance does not weaken, but grows in intensity and strength, as the numberless legions of those who love the Motherland join in the struggle...."

(Extract from one of the secret Polish papers—Rzeczpospolita Polska.)

POLISH ROADS AND RAILWAYS ARE NOT SAFE FOR THE GERMANS

All German transports to the Russian front are now sent, almost without exception, by way of the great Polish communication lines. Special guards have been formed from army and S.S. divisions for the protection of both roads and railways. Altogether over 40,000 soldiers are now guarding Polish roads from sabotage.

In spite of all these precautions, the Germans do not find Polish roads safe. At the beginning of November part of a bridge near Przemysl was suddenly blown up. The first bay on the right bank of the river was destroyed. The German authorities admitted sabotage. Numerous arrests were made amongst the local population. The German soldiers set to guard the bridge were also arrested. The hold up in traffic on this main line lasted 4 days (i.e., up to 6th November).

On 10th November sabotage was carried out on one of the side roads running East from Warsaw. From German sources we learn that saboteurs made a deep hole in the middle of the road which they then covered over lightly with earth and branches. This was done the night before mechanized columns were to pass over this sector of the road. One of the transport lorries carrying war material fell into the trap with its front wheels and exploded together with the load which it was carrying. The same fate befell two other lorries. Five German soldiers lost their lives in the accident and the road was quite unusable for a distance of 200 metres.

But though many may perish in the struggle for freedom, many more will survive and terrible will be the retribution which will one day overtake those fiends out of hell, whose only joy is the misery and wretchedness of others.

This will be the day of the defeat of the evil forces now trying to dominate mankind; the fulfilment of the aims and longings of all the Jan Kowalskis and John Smiths of the world—**FREEDOM, EQUALITY, INDEPENDENCE.**

A car, in which a high official of the German communications bureau was travelling from Bialystok to Warsaw, was found on the road in a completely unusable state. Evidently it had crashed into some explosive material and had blown up immediately. The director of the German bureau of communications and his chauffeur lost their lives. A case containing papers and plans was completely destroyed.

POLISH RED CROSS

The first Polish Expedition to Soviet Russia under the leadership of the Vice Consul for Poland, Dr. T. Lisiecki, after having successfully completed its duties in Soviet Russia safely returned to Bombay on the 15th April.

The Expedition brought from Russia 161 Polish children, 10 guardians of the children and 1 chaplain.

The children are housed for the time being at Bandra.

POLES IN INDIA

A common centre of the Czechoslovak Society in Bombay and the Polish Union in India has been opened on the 11th April 1942.

At the special joint meeting a Czech-Polish declaration to collaborate in social, cultural and propaganda spheres has been signed by both Societies through their Representatives, viz: President of the Czechoslovak Society in Bombay Mr. K. V. Herbrych and the Secretary Mrs. Marie Scherlova and the President of the Polish Union in India Mr. Cz. Knoff and the Secretary Mr. O. J. Litawski. The meeting was attended by a large number of Czechoslovaks and Poles living in Bombay.

Consul General for Poland, Dr. E. Banasinski, Consul for Czechoslovakia, Mr. L. Urban, Consul for Czechoslovakia, Dr. Z. Augenthaler and Consul for Poland, Mr. W. Okonski were present.