

POLISH NEWS

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"Look how ruinous is pride and haughtiness before God. This man here who yesterday meant to rule over so many states and kingdoms, who thought that nobody was equal to him, now lies helpless, killed by them whom he meant to destroy, a vivid proof of how much worse is pride than humility."

JAGIELLO, KING OF POLAND
AFTER THE DEFEAT OF THE GERMANS
(ORDER OF THE TEUTONIC KNIGHTS)
GRUNWALD. JULY 15TH, 1410.

GRUNWALD

July 15th, 1410

The 532nd anniversary of the defeat of the Order of the Teutonic Knights.

The end of the XIVth century and the beginning of the XVth is a turning point in the history of Poland. The epoch of the Piast dynasty came to an end, and the Jagiellon dynasty began its glorious reign, during which Poland's frontiers extended from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

The epoch of the Jagiellons began with an event of far-reaching importance, not only for the history of Poland but also for the history of the whole of Europe at the close of the Middle Ages. This event is the personal union between Poland and Lithuania, brought about by the marriage of Jadwiga, Queen of Poland, and Jagiello, Great Duke of Lithuania. In consequence of this marriage Jagiello, the new King of Poland, became a Christian, as well as his brother, Great Duke Witold, and the entire Lithuanian nation. Thus fell the last stronghold of paganism in Europe.

The whole of Christian Europe welcomed this event with the utmost satisfaction. But there was a body which did not share the general rejoicing, although it ought to have been pleased with the new development of things. This body was the Order of the Teutonic Knights who had taken part in the crusades to convert the heathens to the Christian faith. Now, however, the last heathens had vanished, and the Order thus had no more reason to exist at all, since their sole purpose was to convert the pagans. This order had been invited to Poland about 200 years before, and had since then become a military power which lived and thrived on the pillage of Polish territory. It lived on war and was always carefully prepared

for it. In the same way as the Germans carefully prepared the present war for more than ten years, so the Teutonic Knights were always ready to exercise their real profession, *i.e.*, war. For them it was not a question of converting the heathen, but of expanding their territory, of waging war for war's sake.

Like Germany in 1937, so the Teutonic Knights after the personal union between Poland and Lithuania had become a fact, started a war of nerves with the same mastery as the Germans in the 20th century. Simultaneously they began to arm themselves, and started a diplomatic campaign all over Europe with a view to isolate Poland. The Teutonic Knights told everybody that they were being wronged terribly—exactly as the Germans did in 1938 before occupying the Sudeten territory, and again in 1939 before they attacked Poland. They lied and quoted forged documents, and claimed rights which never existed—exactly as the Germans did in 1939 when "sensational documents" were suddenly discovered after the capture of Warsaw. They used every means of propaganda, trying to whitewash themselves in the eyes of the world; while they were arming themselves to the teeth, their mouths never ceased to proclaim that they only loved peace. The Poles were depicted by them as cruel barbarians and ruthless aggressors. Well, the Germans have not changed during 500 years; in the present war they have also tried everything to show the world that they did not start hostilities. But actually they did start them unprovoked.

At first, the Teutonic Knights began to attack Polish forts and castles at the frontier where they committed atrocities comparable only to those which are being committed now in occupied Poland. Their emissaries instigated one prince against the other—in the same manner as the Germans utilized certain nationalisms in contemporary Europe. They used every means: slander, bribery, etc., to strengthen the position of their Order.

Under these circumstances war was inevitable, and Jagiello had to accept it, though he never willed it himself. But every neighbour of Germany has hitherto had to face that emergency.

The Teutonic Knights were splendidly armed—they even had guns and thus were thoroughly modern in those remote times. The roar of guns was to be heard for the first time at Grunwald in Eastern Europe. Besides, the Teutonic Knights had another military innovation at their disposal: incendiary bombs. Moreover, they wore heavy armour made of steel, whereas the Poles were much lighter armed, and the Lithuanians fought with their chests uncovered. The Germans, as always, were absolutely confident of victory, and even carried chains to fetter Polish prisoners with. Moreover, they sent King Jagiello two swords before the battle, adding mockingly that the Poles were certainly short of arms.

The pride of the Teutonic Knights went so far as to let King Jagiello choose the battle-field. But they were heavily punished for their pride; Jagiello not only defeated, but thoroughly routed them, and the Grand Master of the Order himself was among the thousands of slain knights.

This happened 532 years ago, on the 15th of July—a date which every Pole remembers. Nor have the Germans ever forgotten it; therefore, when the German army took Cracow in September, 1939, the first thing they did was to demolish the Grunwald monument, erected to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the battle. But the Poles will return to Cracow, and erect another monument in the same place which will then remind the world of two victories: over the Teutonic

Knights in 1410, and over their successors, Hitler's armies, as well.

Seeing his native country suffer terribly, every Pole now recalls Grunwald, which word means for him an omen of another victory to come. He also recalls the words spoken by King Jagiello when he beheld the slain body of the Grand Master of the Order of the Teutonic Knights:

"Look how ruinous is pride and haughtiness before God. This man here who yesterday meant to rule over so many states and kingdoms, who thought that nobody was equal to him, now lies helpless, killed by them whom he meant to destroy, a vivid proof of how much worse is pride than humility."

Poland's greatest artist-painter, Matejko, has painted a colossal picture representing the battle of Grunwald. This picture hung in the Royal Castle in Warsaw. When, after the last war, the Lithuanian State was resuscitated, the Lithuanians at once ordered a copy to be made for their national museum in Kovno. The former friendship between Poland and Lithuania, it is true, did not last; even after both countries had regained their political independence, an acute tension remained between them. But—as a symbol—the original picture of the "Battle of Grunwald" hung in Warsaw—and a copy in Kovno.

The battle of Grunwald teaches us a serious lesson. Alone, neither Poland nor Lithuania would have been strong enough to defeat the well equipped enemy: but united, they were able to gain a decisive victory. At Grunwald, moreover, the German expansionism met with the combined resistance of the Western Slavs, for together with the Poles and Lithuanians fought Ukrainians and Czechs. The latter were under the command of the famous Czech leader and general, Zizka. To-day when the Polish-Czech Federation has become a fact, it is well to remember that already 532 years ago, Poles and Czechs fought the common enemy side by side.

Thus Grunwald shows how victory can be gained by unity. In 1410, Slav unity made history; it will make history again—now.

NEWS FROM AND ABOUT POLAND

DECLARATION MADE BY THE POLISH GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY.

The principal object of the Polish Government is to liberate their country and restore its due position among independent nations. It is pursuing this purpose by the most effective participation of Poland and her armed forces in the war on the side

of the fighting democracies, and by securing for Poland a broad direct access to the sea as well as frontiers that will fully guarantee the safety and prosperity of the Republic.

Actively participating in the task of building a new world, the Polish Government is governed by the principle that this new order must

ensure a just and lasting peace. Based upon the mutual collaboration of free nations and on their individual right to free existence, it should be protected by organized force in the service of right. Blocs of federated nations, rationally and purposely formed in Europe, will introduce and ensure this new order and safeguard the world from the danger of war. The Polish Government will demand the complete and effective disarmament of the aggressors, which would exclude any future aggression, as well as ask for the severe punishment of those responsible for the present war, that is to say, Germany and her allies. They must be made to suffer merited chastisement for the injustices, crimes, and destruction they have committed and and at the same time must render full moral and material satisfaction to those whom they have wronged. This is enjoined by primary and eternal justice which must govern international relations.

The future political and economic structure of Poland will be ultimately decided by the Parliament of free Poland, endowed with legislative power as soon as hostilities have ended. To-day, however, when the moment approaches to decide upon post-war organization of the world and of Europe and when international opinion desires to know the nature of the future of Poland, in order to justify their confidence in that country, the Government of National Unity declares :

1) Poland will stand by Christian principle and culture.

2) The Polish Republic will be a democratic republican State closely conforming to the principles of legal government, responsible to a true national assembly fully representative of the common will of the people and elected by the method of general equal and direct secret vote. The Polish nation unreservedly repudiates all systems of totalitarian government and all forms of dictatorship, as contrary to the principles of democracy.

3) Poland will guarantee the rights and liberties of all citizens loyal to the Republic, regardless of national, religious or racial differences. Coupled with equality of obligations, equality of rights will be assured to national minorities fulfilling their civic duties towards the State. They will be given the possibility of free political, cultural and social development. Full freedom of conscience and expression, of association and assembly, will be guaranteed to all. The exercise of justice will be independent of any influence or the part of the State executive authority.

4) Post-war Poland will endeavour to ensure work and a fair livelihood to the whole population, thereby removing once and for all from her territory the scourge of unemployment. Every citizen

will possess the right to work, as well as the duty to work, while retaining choice of occupation. The national economic policy will be guided by this principle. It will be subordinated to the general principles conforming with the necessity of planned post-war reconstruction and of industrial development and the mobilization of all productive forces vital to the general welfare. Sound agricultural reform, ensuring the just partition of land amongst the peasant population, should, with the exception of a limited number of model and experimental farms, create medium-sized but independent, profitable and productive farms, husbanded as a rule by the farmer's household. On the basis of these legislative, political, economic and social principles, we shall raise the standard of life of the working masses, peasants, workers and intellectual professions, and assure to them their rightful co-operation in the development of our national culture.

5) The general economic development of Poland was delayed for political reasons during the partitions, and is suffering a setback by the occupation of the country. The Polish nation will make every effort to attain, in the shortest possible time, the level of the Western European countries, and it desires to collaborate in this respect with other democratic nations.

6) The spirit of self-sacrifice and of patriotism, as well as sound political judgment, of which our nation has given ample evidence during the war, demand that the whole public life of Poland be based upon the initiative and activities of the community itself. In particular the largest possible measure of public affairs should be left to the free administration and decision of local, economic and professional self-governments.

7) Poland will possess a strong and efficient executive power, capable of taking speedy and determined action to frustrate any intentions hostile to Poland, and of rallying in times of danger all the vital forces of the country.

“KUJAWIAK”

The Polish Naval Headquarters in London regret to announce that the Polish destroyer ORP KUJAWIAK was lost during recent convoy operations in the Mediterranean.

The British press is ringing with the praises of the Polish destroyer that saved a convoy from damage and shot down one German aircraft and drove off others, one of which was badly damaged.

Between 7-30 and 8-15 in the evening a convoy, in whose escort was the Polish destroyer “Kujawiak,” was attacked seven times by German dive

bombers, the famous JU88. The anti-aircraft fire of the "Kujawiak" was so accurate that it not only prevented the aircraft from doing any damage to the convoy, but scored hits on two of the attacking German bombers. One of these crashed into the sea, astern of the convoy, and the other was seen to be seriously damaged.

POLISH PILOT FIGHTS DESPITE LOSS OF HAND

The first Allied pilot to win the Distinguished Service Order is a Polish wing commander who lost one of his hands early in the war. He leads the Cracow Squadron, one of three forming a crack Polish Spitfire Wing, that has accounted for more than its share of the 450 German planes that stand to the credit of the Polish air force.

This wing commander is 36 years old and to be flying a Spitfire in combats at his age is in itself remarkable, but he flies with an artificial left hand.

Short and dark, he was a famous flyer in Poland before the war. He speaks excellent English and was attached to the Royal Air Force seven or eight years ago, when he flew Hawker fury biplanes, that were then the last word in fighters.

When Germany invaded Poland he commanded a Polish fighter squadron. On the second day of the war his airfield was attacked and a bomb destroyed his left hand. After a few days in the hospital he managed to escape, still in great pain, to Rumania and finally reached Britain, but was not allowed to fly solo. In a recent interview he said :

"In the Battle of Britain a British wing commander at my station lost the sight of one of his eyes and was told he could not fly again without someone 'looking out' for him. So we flew together. He was the hands and I was the eyes. I was soon able to use my artificial hand for the left-hand controls and after a refresher course they let me be a fighter again."

His comrades all say he is a grand pilot. No less than fifty-one cross Channel sweeps have been led by this wing commander who has just become the first Allied pilot to win the Distinguished Service Order.

POLISH AIR ACE KILLED

The famous Polish pilot, Stanislaw Skarzynski, who flew the South Atlantic in 1933, was drowned while returning from a recent raid on Bremen. The plane was shot down and Skarzynski was wounded and drowned when attempting to reach a dinghy.

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Polish bombers played a leading part in the attack on the Gneisenau now in dry dock at Kiel

and inflicted further damage on the German battleship. One Polish bomber failed to return.

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200 Poles are fighting in the Chinese Army of Marshal Chiang Kai Shek. Some Japanese military objectives were bombed by Polish pilots who are fighting with the Chinese Army.

NEW CRIMINAL CODE IN POLAND

Dr. Freisler, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Justice of the Reich, announced before an assembly of leading judges and prosecutors of the "Reichgau," Wartheland and the Districts of Danzig-Westpreussen, Eastern Prussia, and Upper Silesia, the promulgation of the "Criminal Code for Poles and Jews in the 'incorporated Eastern areas' of the Reich." This Code was published in the Statute Book of the German Reich on December 16, 1941, and was to take effect fourteen days after its publication, *i.e.*, on December 30, 1941.

The Secretary of State emphasized in his announcement that this criminal law is to be applied to Poles and Jews only, and not to members of any other national or ethnic groups. It is a criminal law deriving from the principles of State authority. It sets forth obedience to the Reich as the primary duty of Poles and Jews. This law, he states, has become necessary because of their special and unique position in Greater Germany, due entirely to their own attitude.

The "Criminal Code for Poles and Jews in the incorporated Eastern Territories," of December 16, 1941, reads as follows :

"The Council of Ministers for the Defence of the Reich hereby decrees :

I. *Substantive Criminal Law.*

1) Poles and Jews residing in the Eastern Territories incorporated in the Reich must comply with the laws and regulations promulgated by the German authorities. They must refrain from any action that may be prejudicial to the sovereignty and the prestige of the German people.

2) They are subject to *the death penalty* for any act of violence against a German because the latter is a member of the German people (*Volksstum*).

3) They are subject to *the death penalty* and, in lesser cases, to imprisonment, for the expression of anti-German feelings through malicious and provocative activities, anti-German utterances, tearing down or damaging public notices posted by the German authorities, and for acts injuring the prestige and welfare of the German Reich or the German people.

4) They are subject to *the death penalty* or, in minor cases, to imprisonment for :

a) Any act of violence against members of the German armed forces, including related authorities, such as the German police, its auxiliaries, the Reich Labour Service, and units of the N.S. D.A.P.

b) Deliberate damage of equipment or buildings of German offices and agencies, or of any property used by them, or of public utilities.

c) Encouragement of or incitement to disobedience to the ordinances and regulations issued by the German authorities.

d) Conspiracy to commit any act which is subject to penalties under par. 2, 3 and 4, section 1-3, of the present decree, offer to commit such an act, or acceptance of such an offer. Also failure to immediately report to the authorities or the person conspired against any plots of which information has been received, so that their execution may be prevented in time.

e) Possession of fire-arms, hand grenades, weapons, explosives, ammunition, or other arms, or failure to report immediately any information received about the illegal possession of the above by Poles or Jews.

II

Poles and Jews will be punished for any crime or misdeed according to the provisions of the German criminal law, and also for any action which demands punishment in the interest of the national welfare in the incorporated Eastern Territories.

III

1) Poles and Jews may be punished by imprisonment, fine, or confiscation of property. Imprisonment means confinement to penal camp for a period of three months to ten years. In grave cases penal servitude of from two to fifteen years may be imposed.

2) *The death penalty* must be imposed whenever the laws demand it. However, even when it is not prescribed by the law, it may be applied in cases when the offence reveals specially vicious motives or when it is, for any other reason, particularly grave. *In such cases even minors may be sentenced to death.*

3) No penalty may be lesser than the minimum prescribed by the German criminal law unless the offence has been committed against members of the defendant's own ethnic group.

4) A defendant who is unable to pay a fine imposed upon him shall be sent to a penal camp for a period of from one week to one year."

(Subsequent paragraphs are not quoted, since they are devoted to rulings on procedures.)

The new element in the Code is the wide latitude it gives Nazi judges to arbitrarily sentence men and women guilty of no crime specified by the law, and to impose, at will, even more severe punishments than those prescribed for given offences. This tendency to arbitrary administration of justice was long in evidence, both in the Reich and in the areas occupied by the Nazis, but here it emerges clearly and openly for the first time as an established policy.

Paragraph II of the new Criminal Code authorizes the judge to punish Poles and Jews "for any action which demands punishment in the interest of the national welfare in the incorporated Eastern Territories." Obviously, it is left to the judge or the prosecutor to decide when a Pole or a Jew is to be punished under this provision. This principle, as we have pointed out, is nothing new in Nazi political justice, but here it has for the first time received explicit formulation.

Par. III, Section 2, expressly permits the judge to impose the death penalty even when the law does not demand it. The death penalty may thus be imposed "in cases when the offence reveals especially vicious motives or when it is, for any other reason, particularly grave." This gives the judge and the prosecutor "legal" sanction to condemn anyone they deem dangerous to German rule. This, too, is not new in practice, although not previously so openly stated.

Perhaps the most characteristic aspect of the new Code is its encouragement of provocateurs and informers (points *d* and *e*, Par. I, Sec. 4). Making denunciation a public duty is but another indication of the general atmosphere of life under Nazism.

OFFICIAL INSULTS

A number of decrees have been issued in the "incorporated" territory as well as in the "Government General," having for their purpose the humiliation of the Pole.

In the capital of Polish Pomerania, Torun, a city of 60,000 inhabitants, of whom the Poles formed 96 per cent, Herr Weberstedt, the chief of the German police, issued the following regulations, published in the local newspaper, the *Thorner Freiheit* of October 27, 1939 :

"In order to curb the insolent behaviour of a part of the Polish population, I decree as follows :

1. The Polish inhabitants of both sexes must make way before the representatives of German authority in so far as the latter can be recognized

through their uniforms or armlets on their sleeves. The streets belong to the victors and not to the vanquished. (*Die Strasse gehoert den Siegern und nicht den Besiegten.*)

2. The Polish inhabitants of the male sex must show respect to all leading personalities of the State, the party and the military forces by **uncovering their heads.**

3. The Poles are forbidden to employ the German form of greeting by raising the right hand and crying *Heil Hitler.*

4. In the shops and at the market stalls all representatives of German authority, members of their families and all German nationals must be served before the vanquished.

5. The wearing of Polish school uniforms, of caps with Polish badges, etc., as well as the wearing of uniforms or badges by Polish railway and postal officials is prohibited.

6. It is forbidden particularly for young people to gather in streets and at street corners.

7. Anyone accosting a German woman or girl will receive exemplary punishment.

8. Polish women who accost Germans will be confined in brothels.

9. All vehicles and bicycles must be equipped with red rear-lights. Non-compliance will be punished and the vehicle confiscated.

10. Instructions issued by members of the National Socialist Motor Corps (Auxiliary Traffic Police) must be strictly observed.

All Poles, who have not yet grasped that they are the vanquished while we are the victors, and who do not comply with the above decree will be punished with all the severity of the law.

Torun, October 27, 1939.

Der Staatliche Polizeiverwalter, Weberstedt
("The State Police Chief, Weberstedt").

This document is reproduced in photograph No. 11 of the new Polish Black Book—"The German 'New Order' in Poland."

Similar regulations were published in many towns of Poznan, Pomerania, Silesia and the territories of Central and Southern Poland incorporated in the Reich.

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The district of Bialystok has been incorporated in the Reich. This district contains the sub-districts of Grodno and Lomza.

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Wolyn, a part of Podole-Palatinate (up to Pinsk) and Polesie form part of the newly created General Commissariat. Area: 100,000 km. Population: 4,500,000. Chief-town: Brzesc nad Bugiem, Governor: S. A. Gruppenfuhrer: Schoene. Higher Administration's Staff: Germans. Lower Administration's Staff: Ukrainians only.

BLACK RECORD

How unfounded is the German claim to superiority as a 'Master Race' may be judged by their conception of Justice.

Here are a few sentences recently imposed on Poles as reported in the German press:

For Stealing Coal

An unnamed Pole was sentenced to death for stealing coal from a railroad yard.

For Accepting Money

Joseph Staneo, Polish subaltern, was sentenced to death for having accepted 1000 zlotys from a German family in September 1939.

For Examining a Parcel

A Polish post-office clerk was sentenced to death for examining a parcel addressed to a German soldier.

For Alleged "Assault"

Stephan Stepien was sentenced to death for striking a *Volksdeutsche* in September 1939 with the butt of his rifle when taking the German to an internment camp.

For a "moral" Crime

Jan Jagorski was sentenced to death for a 'moral' crime. He had walked out with a German girl.

For Possessing a Gun

Romauld Michalak was sentenced to death for possessing an old shotgun.

For Leaving "Ghetto"

Fifteen Jews were sentenced to death and hanged in Warsaw for leaving the Jewish Quarter without permission.

For Railroad Thefts

Twenty-two Polish railroad employees were sentenced to death for thefts from railroad cars.

NAZIS SLAUGHTER 6,000 POLISH JEWS

The death rate in the Jewish ghettos set up by the Hitlerites in Poland, increases daily. In many ghettos, particularly in Warsaw and Lublin, food supplies were practically cut off last autumn. The people live on refuse. Despite terrible cold, no fuel has been delivered in the ghetto and in many places deaths from freezing have resulted. Near Lomza the Nazis machinegunned 6,000 Jews who had been summoned for compulsory work.

UNDERGROUND

THE BURNING OF GERMAN FARMS

Late in the fall of last year a German farm was burned to the ground. Many arrests were immediately made and hostages were executed in the neighbouring town of Lask.

The executions were conducted with usual Nazi brutality. At 6 a.m., all the inhabitants of the surrounding villages, men, women, and children, were driven to a nearby forest by German gendarmes and S. A. men. They were arranged in a semi-circle, and guarded by the men who brought them. German settlers from the other German farms in the neighbourhood were also brought to the place of execution. Later, German officers, police, civil officials, and professional people from the town of Lask arrived in motor cars. A fence was built facing the assembled Poles. Then a truck arrived, bringing the condemned men. Five of the victims were dragged from it and lined up while a German official read their sentences and delivered a speech in German, which was immediately translated into Polish :

"Listen, Poles! A German farm has been burned in Dobron. A German estate has been burned near Lodz. Granaries were burned in the country of Sieradz and in Marzenin. As punishment for these crimes committed by Polish gangs, ten persons from Marzenin have been sentenced to die. Polish criminals burn and destroy the bread prepared for the German army which needs it in its victorious advance. By destroying this bread you hope to stab the German army in the back, but, remember, this crime will be turned against yourselves. You will be punished without mercy. The Polish gangs of criminals and incendiaries will be ruthlessly exterminated. Remember that. If you break German laws, if you do not submit in everything to German rule, the punishing German hand will reach every one of you!"

After the Nazi concluded his speech, the doomed men were bound and turned with their backs to the assembled crowd. Most of them were young men. The firing squad was ordered to shoot.

Four other men were pushed out of the truck. They were told to kneel beside their murdered comrades and were shot in turn. Several of the assembled Poles were forced to bury the dead.

The tenth condemned man had remained in the truck, so cruelly beaten on the way to the place of execution that he was unable to move. He was finally dragged out and killed by one of the Nazis.

Many of the Polish women fainted. The Nazis of the S. A. shouted derisively: "That's right,

you Polish gang! That will teach you not to destroy German bread!"

GUERRILLA WARFARE NEAR WARSAW

The German press in occupied Poland has recently published frequent reports of the activities of Polish guerilla fighters who destroy German property and German transports. Guerilla warfare is being waged in different parts of Poland, but its main strength seems to be concentrated in and near Warsaw. The guerilla groups are usually successful in evading capture.

• A recent issue of the *Krakauer Zeitung* reported the appearance of an armed Polish group at Dobroszew, near Warsaw, and of two other groups in the Garwolin county, east of Warsaw.

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According to the *Breslauer Neueste Nachrichten* (18.4.42), the German Police in Katowice have promised a reward of 10,000 zloty for help in finding out an armed guerilla detachment which acting in the districts of Bielsko, Rybnik, Cieszyn and Pszczyna attacks in particular German military transports and wounds and kills the German sentries.

MORE SABOTAGE IN THE FACTORIES

Recently a great explosion occurred in the boiler room of a large electric power plant near Tarnow, Central Poland. Five workers and the director's assistant, who was making an inspection, were killed. The power plant had to be stopped because many of its buildings were damaged. Most of the factories in the surrounding area also were forced to suspend work for lack of power.

There have been numerous cases of sabotage in the electric power station in Krosno, Southern Poland. Unable to discover the culprits, the German authorities indiscriminately arrested sixty persons of various social positions.

In Radomsk, Central Poland, there is a furniture factory, 'Thonet,' working for the Germans. One day this factory was burned, due to 'undetermined causes.' The German authorities of occupation avenged this sabotage act by advancing the curfew hours, requisitioning the local joiners' shops, and arresting 200 Gentiles and 30 Jews. The arrested Gentiles were deported to the concentration camp in Oswiecim, the Jews to Czeslochowa.

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Poland in bondage and Poland in exile maintain regular communications and the Polish underground press publishes photographs within a few days of their release in London. Mr. Churchill visiting Polish troops in Scotland appeared in a Polish paper within ten days of the event.

POLISH—CZECHOSLOVAK COLLABORATION

All over the world the Poles and Czechoslovaks are working side by side within the great association of Allied Nations to pave the way for permanent good feelings and security when the peace is finally established. The latest important manifestation of fraternity is that which has just been reported from the U.S.A. where much enthusiasm is being shown by the foundation of the Polish-Czechoslovak Institute in Chicago. Similar organisations are in full swing all over the world, notably the Committee of the Central Organisations of the two Nations in London, a local Committee in Jerusalem and many others elsewhere.

In the meantime the Committee in Bombay proceeds in a most encouraging, smooth and friendly manner. The regular Saturday meetings in the common Home at Toyo House (Colaba Rd.) are always well attended. On June 13th Rev. Father Pluta gave a very instructive lecture on the future frontiers of the Polish-Czechoslovak Federation, on the following Saturday were shown some most artistic films taken by the Czechoslovak pianist and composer Mr. W. Kaufmann himself. On Saturday June 27th a well-known Bombay amateur-magician Mr. Fu-Ling-Yoo helped the colony to spend a very amusing and enjoyable afternoon.

Several joint delegates of the Polish-Czechoslovak Collaboration Committee were nominated for various localities in India, so that nationals of either country would be made to feel that they have someone on the spot to give them a helping hand.

TWO ANNIVERSARIES

Poles and Czechoslovaks living in India have not failed to commemorate within the last few days two anniversaries, both of the greatest importance to their countries. For the Poles the 15th July 1410 was the date of the battle of Grunwald, for the Czechs the 6th July 1415 the death of Jan Hus. Both events changed the course of history of their respective countries and many personalities having at the time participated indiscriminately in both events, it was doubly fitting that the two celebrations were held in common on each occasion.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the battle fought at Grunwald on the 15th July 1410 a celebration was held in the premises of the Polish Union in India and the Czechoslovak Society in Bombay on the 11th July.

The speeches were delivered by Dr. E. Sternbach, Vice-President of the Polish Union in India, Father F. Pluta, Chaplain of the Polish Forces, and Mr. Z. Augenthaler, Consul for Czechoslovakia. After a concert, pictures of "The Siege of Warsaw" were shown on the screen.

On the 6th July in the premises of the same two Societies the anniversary of the death of Jan Hus was celebrated. Speeches were delivered by Mr. Urban, Consul for Czechoslovakia, and Mr. Cz. Knoff, President of the Polish Union in India. A concert of Smetana followed and afterwards a cinema reel of the Czechoslovak Forces in England was shown.

Jan Hus is considered by the Czechs the greatest hero of their whole history. He was priest, Master of the Liberal Arts and also Rector of the University of Prague. At an early stage Hus gained merit as an awakener of the national consciousness and as an expounder of current questions in the national tongue. He preached in the people's tongue (instead of Latin) and out of this necessity arose his ingenious accenting of the Czech language and the system that has served as a model for some other Slavonic languages. But although the scientific importance of Jan Hus was very great and on the theological field as a follower of Wycliff he started a movement which led to far reaching historical events, the moral aspect of his life takes the first place. What he stood for was the freedom of man to direct his conduct in accordance with reason and conscience as against arbitrary authority. His strength lay in the loving unselfish spirit he showed and in his supreme confidence in the ultimate victory of truth, a confidence which was expressed in the motto afterwards adopted by the Hussites "Truth wins." This is now the motto of the Czechoslovak Republic, this is now again its creed and hope.

He wanted to reform the lives of Christians, not to alter Church doctrines. But as soon as his opponents began to attack him, he had to look for support in study and the books of theologians. Although armed with a safe conduct issued by the Emperor Sigismund, Hus after a long imprisonment, interrupted by repeated interrogations and after a public hearing full of moving incidents, during which he refused to recant what he held to be truth, was condemned as a heretic to the loss of his priestly office and handed over to the secular power for punishment. In vain the Czechs and also Polish nobles and knights intervened and tried to save him. On the 6th July 1415 by the order of Emperor Sigismund he was burnt alive at the stake outside the town on the banks of the Rhine.