

POLISH NEWS



11TH NOVEMBER

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POLISH NEWS

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Poland although deprived of her homeland has an Army the fifth in strength among the United Nations.

GEN. SIKORSKI
Polish Prime-Minister
London, August 14, 1942.

11TH NOVEMBER IN POLISH HISTORY

11TH NOVEMBER 1918

Poland, the largest state in Europe in the XVI century, thrice partitioned by the neighbouring powers: in 1772, 1793 and 1795 regained her independence on the 11th November 1918, on the day on which the legionaries, the members of secret military organisations, and the public began to disarm the German troops in Warsaw and in the whole of Poland, although the eastern German army was still undefeated.

The Germans, overwhelmed by the development of events, surrendered arms. The Germans themselves have branded the compromising defeat they suffered in Warsaw as "the most shameful episode" in their history. Thus an independent Polish State was created on the very day on which an armistice was signed in the West. November 11th has been observed in Poland as Independence Day.

The re-born Poland since the restoration of her complete freedom achieved stupendous work of reconstruction; unfortunately she was not left in peace for long. In September 1939 she succumbs again to an alliance of imperialisms.

11TH NOVEMBER 1940

JOINT POLISH—CZECHOSLOVAK DECLARATION

But Poland keeps invincible faith in her future, her independence, and is already making plans for the post-war organisation of Europe.

The first serious effort in this connection was a joint declaration of the Polish and Czechoslovak Governments in November 1940.

The two Governments considered it imperative to declare solemnly that:

"Poland and Czechoslovakia, closing once and for all the period of past recriminations and disputes, and taking into consideration the community of their fundamental interests, are determined, on the conclusion of this war, to enter as independent and sovereign states into a closer

political and economic association which would become the basis of a new order in Central Europe and a guarantee of its stability".

Moreover, both Governments express the hope that:

"in this co-operation, based on respect for the freedom of nations the principles of democracy and the dignity of man, they will also be joined by other countries in that part of the European continent."

January 1942 another pact specifying all points of interest, including political and cultural, common to both the nations, and which virtually amounts to a confederation of these two states has been signed.

THE POLISH—CZECHOSLOVAK UNION

What is the source and inspiration of the Polish Czechoslovak Union? The answer is simple: Poland and Czechoslovakia are uniting in order to be stronger, in order to increase their powers of resistance by combining their armed forces in peace and in war. Poland and Czechoslovakia desire to create a new Power—which in co-operation with Great Britain will be in a position to resist aggression in Europe, no matter whence it comes. Each of the two parties has a rich dowry to bring to the Alliance. Czechoslovakia has a considerable industrial potential, greater than the Polish, while Poland, in addition to industry and agriculture, has her access to the sea, the strongest of guarantees of the economic independence of the Alliance. And she also has her merchant navy and her fleet and therewith the possibility of developing her maritime trade. This Union will provide both nations with the opportunity of full and free national and cultural development without fear of domination of any kind.

The proposal for the Union springs from the conviction that any kind of co-operation between Central European states and peoples, and especially between Poland and Czechoslovakia, cannot be set up by decree but must be the result of growth. It is

based on the need for a common policy in various spheres and does not postulate common federal bodies. If the future reveals the need for the creation of certain common organs, they will be set up as required.

The structure of a Central European federal association should not be modelled on the British Commonwealth or the United States or Soviet Russia, or any other existing federation or confederation, conditions in Central Europe being peculiar. It must be borne in mind that there has never been a single political unity in Central Europe. Various attempts have been made to set up larger regional formations on the basis of friendly co-operation between neighbours, but there have been still more attempts to increase the territory of one State at the expense of another.

Even between Poles and Czechoslovaks there are many outstanding questions. The change in Polish-Russian relations and Hungary's entry into the war have clarified at a stroke matters that would otherwise have dragged on.

The original Polish suggestion was for complete unification of the two States with a single parliament. But the conception of federation is a very far-reaching one, and it aroused some doubts among the Czechoslovaks, as well as in certain Polish circles. As it is essential for the alliance to be entirely voluntary if it is to be strong and permanent, and nobody must be compelled to go farther than he wishes, in the terms of the joint Polish-Czechoslovak Declaration of January 19, 1942, the alliance is to conform to the confederation idea. According to that Declaration the object of the confederation is to assure a common policy in the spheres of foreign affairs, defence, economic and financial matters, social questions, communications, and posts and telegraphs. As in the Polish view the most important task confronting the alliance will be common defence, especial importance was attached to that paragraph of the Declaration which lays down that the confederation will have a joint general staff, entrusted with the task of preparations for defence. Both the Polish and the Czechoslovak Governments, speaking in the name of their respective States, declared themselves unequivocally in favour of the democratic principles of government; personal liberty, the equality of all citizens and the parliamentary principles are all recognised as the very basis of the future alliance. Both governments are prepared to see the Polish-Czechoslovak Confederation enlarged to include other European States with which the two countries are linked by ties of vital interest.

One of the aims of the Confederation is to assure a common economic policy. The question imme-

diately arises whether in these days it is possible to distinguish and separate economic from political matters. It seems that so far as the future Polish-Czechoslovak Union is concerned it would not be advisable to tackle political questions apart from economic questions. Undoubtedly the most important post war task for both Poland and Czechoslovakia will be to find full employment for their respective populations while achieving a general rise in living standards.

Thus, the Polish-Czechoslovak Protocol declares that the confederation will co-ordinate the policy of foreign trade and customs tariffs of both States with a view to the conclusion of a customs union. The question arises as to how Poland and Czechoslovakia can most rapidly prepare the way for the future complete customs and economic union.

In the financial sphere both parties readily agreed to two currencies and two banks of issue. For in both cases the bank of issue is the chief source and controller of credit, and therefore the chief promoter of economic development. But a fixed rate of exchange and facilities for exchange between the two currencies must be guaranteed. The two States will co-ordinate their taxation policy and also their social policy, in order to establish equal conditions of production in the two countries and to prepare the way for the gradual achievement of complete economic unification. One of the chief factors in the rapprochement between the two nations will consist in the provision of all possible facilities for inter-communication by railways, highroads, waterways, airways, postal services, and also in regard to passport and visa arrangements. Plans will of course be made for new unified railways and waterways, running in one direction to the Baltic, and in the other to the Danube.

In spite of some differences between Poles and Czechoslovaks there are many links between the two peoples. They are both northern Slavs, their languages are so closely akin that they can understand each other. In the past the two nations have been united for periods, which have been amongst the most prosperous for them both. They have both a common threat in neighbouring Germany.

It is the instinct of self-preservation that urges both nations to make common cause.

The Poles and Czechoslovaks approach the solution of their problems cautiously and deliberately. They wish to co-operate loyally and to build up a Polish-Czechoslovak federal association as a pillar of the future solidarity of Central Europe. In this spirit they welcome the agreement between

Greece and Jugoslavia, and their declaration that they are prepared to co-operate in a Central European confederation. They have prepared their plan carefully, but they do not claim that it cannot be improved upon. They are resolved to reach an understanding and firmly believe a Polish-Czechoslovak federation will be achieved after the war.

THE POLISH ARMY

THE SEPTEMBER CAMPAIGN 1939

In September, 1939, 200 Polish tanks, representing two motorized brigades, one of which had not yet finished its organization, opposed 16 German motorized divisions, representing a total force of 4,200 tanks. Furthermore, only 377 Polish aeroplanes of often doubtful value tried to resist 4,000 excellent German planes; and 59 German infantry divisions, splendidly trained and equipped met with the heroic but futile opposition of only 39 Polish divisions, much inferior in equipment, and half of which could never be properly mobilized. Moreover, the average German division had twice as many artillery at its disposal as the corresponding Polish division.

This **disproportion** of armament made the final result of the struggle inevitable. The only thing the Polish soldier could do in these circumstances was to **save the honour** of his country and, by doing so, secure its future rebirth. And so it actually happened. But he could not save his country from disaster.

Poland was then in a most difficult position, owing to the entire lack of preparation on the part of the Western Democracies. However, the outcome of the war would have been very different, indeed, if Poland had systematically prepared her army for at least several years, and if, moreover, all the men governing the Polish State had lived up to that fateful moment of history as fully as for instance, **Stefan Starzynski**, the last Polish Lord Mayor of Warsaw.

The value of Poland's armed resistance in 1939 was at first not understood by the world at large. Its tragic glory was darkened by the incredible swiftness of the downfall. But now we are in a better position to judge. By engaging the main striking force of the German Empire alone, and crippling it to such a degree that it took several months to reorganize it, Poland gave the Western Powers a much needed **breathing space**, in which they could prepare for the next move. At the time, however, people did not see the Polish war in that light; they merely saw Poland abandoned by her own government, and drew erroneous conclusions from that fact.

An immense effort was needed then. The Polish nation, by its splendid courage under the yoke of

AND TO-DAY

The fulfilment of these plans will depend on the defeat of Nazi Germany and her allies and the victory of the United Nations and therefore Poland as one of the members of the United Nations is fighting hard.

the foreign invader, and a new Polish Army abroad by its deeds of valour, had to show the world the real value of Poland and her heroic struggle against superhuman odds.

When, after the defeat, a new Polish Government was formed in Paris to demonstrate Poland's determination to continue her life as a sovereign state the Polish Armed Forces were represented by only a few vessels of the **Polish Navy** and a small **recruiting centre in France**. The number of troops did not exceed 2,500. When the Polish Commander-in-Chief, General Sikorski, demanded that the Polish Army be reformed in France by using the manpower of the local Polish immigrants and those Poles who had managed to escape from Poland, the French Government replied that according to a treaty concluded by General Skladkowski's Cabinet, the Poles were merely entitled to organize one army unit which was to fight together with the French Army. Tremendous difficulties had to be overcome, until at last a new treaty was concluded which fundamentally changed the whole outlook, and rendered the **organisation of a new Polish Force** possible. From that moment the real work started. The Polish soldiers who, determined to continue the struggle, had found their way to France, had now to wait for arms. Despite the most urgent appeals to the French High Command, the equipment of the Polish Forces proceeded at a snail's pace, and some of the army units never got any equipment at all. This slackness was partly due to the fact that France objected to having a separate Polish Army on her territory, but fundamentally the reason lay in the entire lack of preparedness for war on the part of France. The mental attitude created by the September defeat did not favour the formation of a new Polish Army, either, nor did it remove any obstacles in its way.

THE REVIVAL OF THE POLISH ARMY

The only ray of hope in those gloomy days was the **patriotic devotion** of the Polish emigrants on French soil. At the end of December, 1939, the Polish Forces there already numbered 30,000, and within the first five months of 1940 this number increased to 66,953. They were grouped into 2 infantry divisions, 1 brigade of Podhale Rifles

and 1 armoured brigade. Two more infantry divisions and a brigade of Carpathian Rifles were being formed in Syria. Moreover, the Polish Army had recovered 75% of the Polish airmen mobilized in 1939. The first unit to take an active part in the war was the brigade of Podhale rifles under the command of General Szyszko-Bohusz. Its soldiers displayed a high standard of valour and military efficiency in **the Norwegian campaign**, from May 17th to June 7th, 1940.

THE POLISH ARMY DURING THE CAMPAIGN IN FRANCE.

The following units took part in the French campaign: the 1st Grenadiers Division, the 2nd Foot Rifles Division, and part of the 10th Motorized Cavalry Brigade.

The 1st Division, under the command of Gen. Duch, fought with high distinction near the Maginot Line, covering the retreat of the French Army. A famous episode occurred during the fighting on that front: Gen. Duch disobeyed the order of the Polish High Command to make his way into Switzerland. The general had to choose between two possibilities: either to obey the order, or to save the honour of the Polish Army by complying with the request of the French Army to cover its retreat. After a short conference with his regimental commanders, Gen. Duch chose the path of honour. Thus his division suffered heavy losses, and most of its soldiers were unable to reach Swiss territory. But **General Duch has shown the world how the Polish Army understands its duty towards its allies.**

The 2nd Division under the command of Gen. Prugar was to defend a certain section of the Maginot Line. However, as the Germans outflanked the Line, the Poles never had a chance to fight from their carefully prepared positions. After two days' heroic fighting against overwhelming odds, the 2nd Division, taking all their wounded with them, crossed the frontier into Switzerland in excellent order.

Their behaviour was admired even by the neutral Swiss who welcomed the Polish division on their soil with full military honours.

The 10th Motorized Cavalry Brigade, under the command of Gen. Maczek, went into action near Eprenay. It executed its assigned task in the most satisfactory manner, delaying the invading German Army considerably. The French High Command were **full of praise** for this unit of the Polish Forces too.

This short sketch, of course, only gives a general idea of all the toils and pains the Polish Army went through during those frightful days of the French

collapse. But it enables one to realize the valour and gallantry of the Polish troops as a whole. Dark though those days may have been, they nevertheless showed the world the unbroken spirit of the Poles, and did much to dispel the totally erroneous ideas about the Polish Army which certain circles had been trying to implant in the average Frenchman. The whole world had to revise its judgment, having before condemned Poland uncritically for the September campaign, without even trying to realize its heroic, though tragic, character. Now people all over the world began to understand. They had just seen the mighty French Army crumple, and the French Nation break down, and could, consequently, **appreciate the spirit of Poland in its true light.**

THE POLISH ARMY IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE

The Carpathian Brigade, under the command of Gen. Kopanski, **crossed the frontier into Palestine**, having marched out of Syria with all its equipment. The brigade was immediately put at the disposal of the British High Command, and was soon to earn glory on the field of battle.

The Polish Air Force had already given a very good account of itself in France. Polish pilots shot down 55 enemy planes there.

The **restoration of the Polish Armed Forces** for a second time, in Great Britain, was a far more difficult task. After Gen. Sikorski's dramatic conversation with Marshal Pétain on June 19 1940, the entire Polish Army was threatened with destruction. When the French authorities suggested that the Polish Government and National Council should board an English man-of-war, waiting at Bordeaux, and leave the Polish Army behind them in France, this suggestion was unanimously rejected. General Sikorski flew to London and thus saved the situation. Winston Churchill then proved to be a real friend of Poland: he put several units of the British Navy and Merchant Marine at General Sikorski's disposal, and thus **enabled him to evacuate a considerable part of the Polish Armed Forces from France to England.** At the end of June, 1940, about 30,000 Polish soldiers had arrived safely on British soil. Among them were about 8,000 airmen who were quickly reorganized; but the reorganization of the remaining land forces presented considerable difficulties, owing to the impossibility of getting new recruits from the continent.

AMERICA

The Polish Government then intended to call **up volunteers** from among the numerous Polish emigrants in the United States and Canada, but

met with difficulties resulting from the peculiar legislation of the United States which could not be quickly overcome. The results of this action in America were, therefore, not up to expectations. Nevertheless, General Duch's voyage to America was by no means fruitless. It roused the Americans of Polish descent to a fervid patriotism, and brought the Polish Government in London nearer to their hearts.

South America, and particularly the Argentine, gave the Polish Army many volunteers who, especially in the Navy and Air Force, have already proved to be excellent soldiers.

POLAND'S HEROES OF THE AIR

The quick revival of the Polish Air Force on British territory is one of the brightest spots in the history of the Polish Army abroad.

Polish airmen earned everlasting glory already during the battle of Britain in August-September, 1940. To-day we know, and have a right to say, that the action of the Polish Air Force in those fateful days did much to repulse the onslaught of the Luftwaffe on the British Isles. The Polish pilots at that time accounted for **195 enemy planes**. By 1941 the Polish High Command had already organized more than **ten air-force units**—squadrons for day-bombing, night-bombing, fighters, etc. All of them are fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Royal Air Force, contributing their share to the common victory, and earning laurels wherever they fly. The Polish Air Force is already twice as strong as it was at the outbreak of war and made Poland's name known all over the world by its daring courage and its spectacular successes. **Polish airmen have, up to June 1, 1942, destroyed over 500 enemy planes for certain, and 250 more probably destroyed.** This means the total loss of **1,800 enemy pilots, quite apart from the material lost by the enemy.** The Polish bomber squadrons have hitherto taken part in more than 3,000 flights, and dropped over **8,000,000 tons of bombs on military objectives in Germany.** Polish airmen have partly taken their revenge for the wanton destruction of Poland in 1939, by bombing such German cities as Berlin, Bremen, Lubeck, Cologne, Hamburg, Mannheim, and Munich. The Polish losses, as far as the fighter squadrons are concerned, were 99 killed, and 54 missing, 17 of whom are prisoners of war; the bombing squadrons lost 174 killed, and 223 missing, 85 of whom are prisoners of war. These losses are comparatively small.

THE POLISH NAVY

The Polish Navy is taking a most active part in the war on these seven seas. At the outbreak

of hostilities, three destroyers—"Grom," "Burza," and "Blyskawica"—managed to escape to Great Britain, together with two submarines—"Wilk" and the famous "Orzel." To-day the number of ships has considerably increased, and all of them are doing their duty splendidly, **convoying merchant vessels**, and executing the various dangerous tasks assigned to them. Their crews are heroes, and have already won the friendship and esteem of the famous British Navy and all the other seafaring nations of the earth. It must be stressed here that the Polish Navy is not the only representative of the Polish Republic on the seas; the **Polish Merchant Marine**, too, still proudly flies the Polish flag, while doing its duty in the most dangerous circumstances. It is also noteworthy that the **total tonnage of Polish shipping has not decreased since the outbreak of war** despite heavy losses. The Polish Government are determined to develop both the Navy and Merchant Marine still further. In September, 1941, 35 midshipmen were promoted lieutenants, and, generally speaking, **the Polish Fleet does not lack crews or officers.**

THE POLISH ARMY IN RUSSIA

In July, 1941, the Polish Army as a whole suddenly gained new prospects of further development. The Polish-Soviet treaty, concluded at that time, enabled millions of Poles in the Soviet Union to recover their liberty, and, beyond that, made it also possible for them to take up arms again.

Originally the Polish-Soviet treaty provided for the organization of an army of 100,000 men in Russia, while 30,000 men were to be sent to the Middle East. There also the Carpathian Brigade, under the command of General Kopanski, was reorganised after its famous victories near Tobruk. Afterwards difficulties arose on Soviet territory, especially with regard to the equipment for the Polish Army there. Eventually it was decided to **evacuate the whole of the Polish Forces from Russia which will enable the Polish High Command to concentrate a strong army in the Middle East.** These soldiers, divided into motorized divisions and tank brigades, will doubtless play an important part in future operations.

It should be noted that in spite of the heavy losses incurred in this war, **the Polish Army still ranks fifth in strength among the United Nations.**

PRISONERS OF WAR AND INTERNEES

The Polish prisoners of war in Germany, unhappy though their fate is, nevertheless show a high degree of discipline and an excellent morale, which has won them not only the admiration of their fellow prisoners, but even the esteem of the enemy.

The Polish internees in Switzerland live, of course, in much happier circumstances. They are given facilities to continue their studies, and form one great family there. About 250 officers of the Polish Army joined the British Colonial Service at the darkest moment of the war, when France collapsed, and are now performing their new duties well.

About 500 Polish soldiers are interned at Miranda, Spain. They are now being looked after by the Polish Red Cross, and conditions there have recently much improved.

THE MORALE OF THE POLISH ARMY

The morale of the Polish Army is everywhere very high. The Commander-in-Chief, General Sikorski, has always given his special attention to the problem of uniting the officers with the rank and file, since the time for formalities has now passed once and for all, and only the most cordial relations between officers and men will to-day

enable an army to give its best. Gen. Sikorski has hitherto availed himself of every opportunity to visit his troops and establish contact with the soldiers.

THE POLISH ARMY IS A THOROUGHLY SOUND ORGANISM. IT WILL DO ITS DUTY WHEREVER THAT MAY BE. IT HAS ALREADY EARNED ETERNAL GLORY BY ITS HEROIC DEEDS, AND HAS MADE POLAND'S FLAG RESPECTED WHEREVER IT APPEARS. PROCEEDING IN THIS WAY, THE POLISH ARMY WILL SEE ALL ITS SACRIFICES REWARDED, AND POLAND RESTORED TO MIGHT AND GLORY. THE YOUNG POLISH SOLDIERS OF THE PRESENT GENERATION ARE NOW SHEDDING THEIR BLOOD SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS MAY LIVE AND DEVELOP IN PEACE AND HAPPINESS.

NEWS FROM AND ABOUT POLAND

POLISH SOLDIER'S FEAST

On the August 14, 1942, the eve of the Soldier's Feast, a solemn meeting of the Polish National Council has taken place. After an address by the Prime Minister, General Sikorski, the Council passed a resolution in which it is said that "on the day of the Soldier's Feast and the anniversary of the decisive moment in the life of the Polish nation who after having united all their strength attained victory, the Polish National Council in the present not less decisive moments being associated with the government of the National Unity are uniting themselves with the Polish Armed Forces. The Polish Forces are fighting heroically in the air and on the seas but they are also preparing themselves for inflicting a decisive blow in the land fighting on all the fronts. The Council is encouraging all of them in their faith in victory of the Allied Armies and the Polish arms, which will be the victory of good over the evil of the whole humanity.

The Polish National Council are also uniting themselves with their native Country, which during three years already is continuing the uneven struggle with the hostile invasion as well as with their countrymen in Russia and in all the other remote parts of the world.

FAMOUS POLISH CAVALRY

General Anders, Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armies in Russia, speaking of the famous Polish cavalry to which he belongs, said :

"The wings worn on the shoulders, the armour worn on the chest and a high morale. The cavalry is now out of fashion, but it gave its wings to the air force, its armour to the tank corps, and its high morale to all the Polish forces which have shown and continue to show the highest qualities of patriotism and valour."

CARPATHIAN BRIGADE WINS HIGH PRAISE

On the occasion of the transfer of the Polish Carpathian Brigade from the Western desert to a new position, General Ritchie, sent the following letter to General Kopanski, the Polish Brigade commander :

"I learn with very great regret that your magnificent Brigade is leaving my command. These regrets are shared by men of all ranks of the Eighth Army where you made so many friends and won the admiration of everyone. Your tireless, skillful, energetic work in holding Tobruk perimeter was of inestimable value both during the siege and in subsequent battles. Again in the rôle assigned to you in the Gazala action, you achieved success by combining relentless pressure on the enemy and inflexible will to defeat him in battle. Since then you have shown the same thoroughness and professional skill in all you have undertaken. Please convey to the troops under your command my warmest thanks for all they have accomplished and assure them that wherever the fortunes of war may take them, the good wishes and esteem of myself and of the Eighth Army will be theirs."



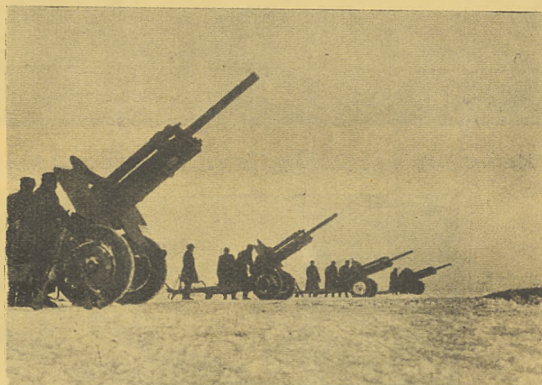
Gen. Sikorski, the Polish Prime-Minister, with Dr. Benes, President of the Czechoslovak Republic.



Gen. Sikorski with his staff during the marching of motorised infantry.

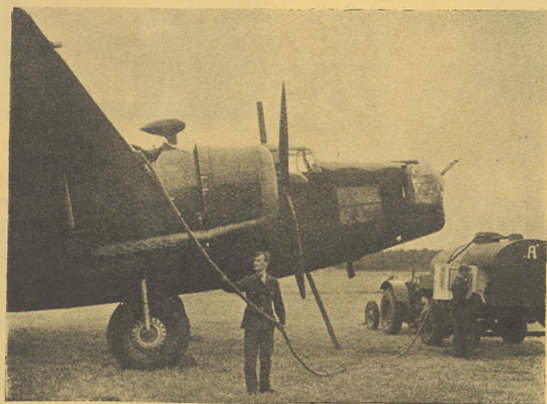


Polish tank troops cross-country advance.



Polish Artillery in training.

(Below) Training of Polish Parachutists.



A Polish Bomber.





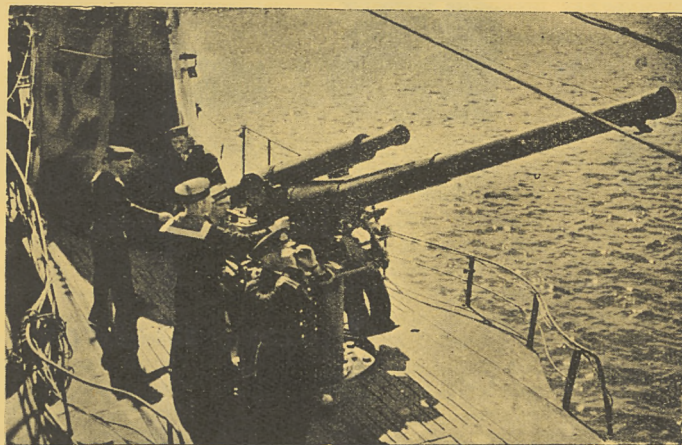
President Raczkiewicz of the Republic of Poland with General Sikorski, the Polish Prime-Minister.



*KF13-3 918G TOKARZ, C/P
A Polish Hero of the Midway battle. Captain G. P. Tokarz, an American Pilot, who sank a Japanese Aircraft carrier and damaged a cruiser.*



The three branches of the service being trained for the Polish forces. From left to right is an airman, a soldier and a sailor.



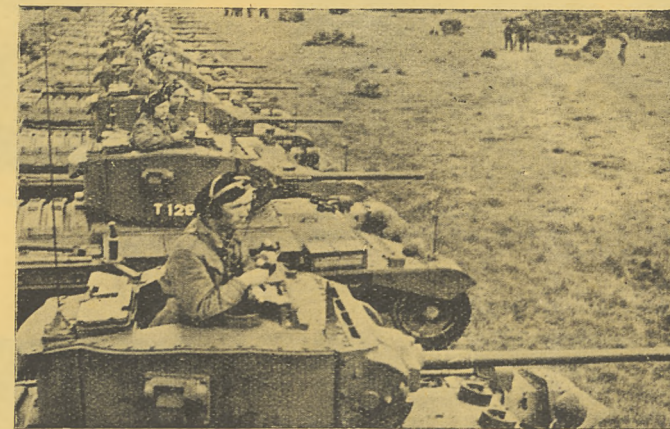
Polish Navy. At the Guns.

(Below) "Persecution of women in Poland and Czechoslovakia." Mrs. J. Kwapinska addressing the Protest meeting.



Bombs ready for loading.

(Below) The Polish Army in India.



A unit of Polish tanks in line.

(Below) "Persecution of women in Poland and Czechoslovakia." View of Protest gathering.





Polish Army in Russia.



The Polish Army "somewhere" in the Middle East."



Polish and English students of the Marine School saluting the flag of the Polish Marine School in Gdynia which is at present in U. K.

(Below) The mechanic cleans out the pilot's cockpit.



On the deck of the Polish Submarine "Sokol."



Polish Tanks in training.

ACTIVITIES OF THE POLISH ARMY IN SCOTLAND

A few months ago Sir James Irvin, Dean of St. Andrew's University, opened a special Polish section for Law and Administration. Mr. Wladyslaw Raczkiewicz, President of the Polish Republic, attended the inauguration ceremony, at which more than four hundred members of the Polish forces in Scotland were enrolled. Among the speakers on this occasion was General Marian Kukiel, Polish Minister of War Affairs who gave some interesting details of what the Polish soldiers have been doing in Scotland since their arrival in Great Britain. Some people, he said, had described the state of the Polish forces as being one of "armed unemployment," but he was able to give the lie to this assertion by revealing what the Poles had achieved after many months of hard work. With British help they had organized a large armoured unit, a motorised unit, and large numbers of parachute troops. Many thousands of troops had been sent to Russia and Africa, whilst others were held in reserve for when the time comes to take the offensive on the European Continent. Polish soldiers have organised the defence of the area entrusted to them by the C.-in-C. of the Home Forces, and last autumn, to repay in part the kindness shown to them by the Scots, they had helped bring in the harvest. "Surely this could not be described as 'armed unemployment,'" said General Kukiel.

But this was not all, and he went on to describe how the education of the Polish soldiers had not been forgotten. About two hundred and fifty members of the Polish forces had been granted special leave to study at the Universities of St. Andrews, Glasgow and Edinburgh, where a few months ago a special Polish section of the Faculty of Medicine was opened; about 1,000 were attending special courses in agriculture, industry, etc., while about 800 young soldiers were attending courses of secondary school standard. Finally, many thousands of Polish soldiers, helped by seven hundred Scottish teachers, have acquired a working knowledge of the English language; two hundred have even qualified as teachers of English, while one hundred and fifty have received diplomas as translators.

WITH THE POLISH TANK TROOPS

Even the firmest opponents of the mechanisation of the army had to admit that the course of the war so far, points unmistakably to the decisive importance of the tank. It was with tanks that the German Panzer Divisions broke their way through almost every frontier in Europe and made possible the occupation of the European mainland. The

lightning campaigns of 1939 and 1940 were the product of the efficient co-operation of the *Luftwaffe* and the armoured forces.

The Polish Army had only 200 modern tanks in September 1939, fully equipped for modern warfare. The remaining Polish tanks were out of date and too thinly armoured to resist effectively the swarms of the enemy's armoured cars. But the now Polish army in exile, reorganized and mechanised their forces. Its tanks are heavy, fast, well armoured, and they have a great fire power.

In the spring of 1941 the first steel monsters made their appearance in the streets of a small town "somewhere in Scotland," where the Polish armoured forces had their headquarters.

The training of the tank soldier is far from being either easy or simple. He must have all the knowledge of an infantryman, the professional skill of a lorry driver, the quick reaction of a cavalryman and something else which cannot be defined and without which no one can ever hope to become a good "tank man." This "something"—is a kind of instinct, a sense of the terrain, a sense of direction. Nor is this all. The tank soldier is always part of a team. Teamwork whether in one tank, in a platoon, or in a company is essential. Every one fully realises that he is just a cog in the huge machine, that only harmonious team work can achieve good results. This team spirit was characteristic of the tank soldiers trained in Poland. How many of our tanks turned back to take in tow another damaged tank and trail it to safety. No one was left without help—and during these sad September nights when instead of resting we had to make long marches, our tanks were covered with soldiers whom we thus transported to their new positions. Our tank men who were trained in France have been imbued with the same team spirit, and we are passing it on to our volunteers who came from the Western hemisphere to join the ranks of our armoured forces. Our tanks, scattered in small woods, carefully hidden from the keen eyes of the airmen, are waiting for orders. At last zero hour comes. The orders are transmitted by wireless to the company commanders, then in turn to the platoon commanders and to single tanks. "Crews to the tanks." "Start the engines". A moment or two later further commands give the order of advance, and after a little while the steel monsters are in action. No film, no description could convey the scene as the tanks go in action. The clatter of the tanks and the drone of the engines make such a noise that one is likely to forget that these are mere exercises. One hears the shutter of machine guns, the short sharp thud of gun-fire. The tank's value as a weapon of war is not merely dependent on its mass, its tonnage and its moral

effect, but also on its quick-firing automatic guns, with shells capable of piercing the heaviest armour of enemy machines. It would seem that nothing can stop this mass of steel on the move. Meanwhile the crews are working in the armoured turrets; the driver drives the machine over difficult and dangerous terrain, closely through his periscope following the prescribed route, the wireless operator receives the orders and reports, the commander of the tank directs the work of the whole crew, he chooses the targets for the gunner, and maintains contacts with the commander of the whole unit. The nearer we get to the enemy formation, the heavier grows the fire of the anti-tank guns. These anti-tank guns are our deadliest enemies. Their small shells can pierce even the thickest armour, provided, of course, the guns are well lead. That is why the drivers do not follow a straight line, but twist and zigzag, never remaining for long in the direct line of enemy fire. If the enemy opens fire from his anti-tank guns and misses, then his end is near; the tanks know his gun positions, and will destroy them with cannon and machine-gun fire. The steel dragons have already overwhelmed the enemy lines and the exercises come to an end. The tanks slowly return, now in march formation. A short respite: the equipment must be looked over, and the crews also deserve some relaxation. A mobile canteen drives up.

Back "home" the normal life of the tank soldiers begins. It is life with his tank, life near his tank. There is no need to tell the crews to clean up the tank, to look after the engine. Everyone knows that a tank in service means victory, but that any trouble in the tank means exposure to the deadly, precise and effective fire of the enemy's anti-tank guns. Such is the life of the Polish tank troops. They are earnestly preparing themselves for the difficult, bloody encounter with the enemy. Some day, perhaps today, perhaps tomorrow an order will come and the Scottish town which is now the H. W. of the Polish armoured force will grow empty and sleepy again while our tanks will face the enemy with whom we have so many unsettled accounts.

We may look into the future with sober confidence. The Polish armoured columns who stubbornly and relentlessly fought the Germans in Poland in September 1939 and in France during June 1940, are now quietly and unostentatiously working hard to raise themselves to the height of efficiency. In that last struggle for victory these men will not fail.

THE POLISH BOMBER FORCE

When all the might of Germany was hurled against Poland in September 1939, our army had

to confront an enemy force three to four times as large as its own. And as the German technical predominance was equally great, within a few weeks of the outbreak of war the Polish armed forces were defeated, and a desperate resistance continued only at isolated points. In the September campaign the Polish Airforce was in worse position; to every Polish aeroplane the Germans could oppose ten, each of them armed far more powerfully, each of them faster, than the Polish machines by as much as 100 to 150 kilometres an hour. None the less, the Polish airmen were ready for the struggle that they could not only defend themselves, but also inflict powerful blows. At the outbreak of war the Polish Bomber Force consisted of only 86 machines fit for action. Too weak to undertake bombing raids over enemy territory, it was able to support the army, and to carry out many effective bombing attacks on enemy's armoured columns. The Polish Bomber Brigade alone carried out 33 such attacks, how effective they were can be judged from the report made by the commander of the fourth German armoured division to the commander of the tenth Army, which was intercepted by the Poles. It stated that as the result of air bombing the division had lost 28% of its personnel and equipment.

After the September campaign there was a long silence in regard to the Polish Bomber Force. During this period our pilots and bomber crews were being trained on modern British machines, with a view to giving the lie to Goering's assurance that no German town was threatened with bombs. The attempts to conceal Berlin, Hamburg, Bremen, Frankfurt, Kiel and other places beneath the blackout were useless; the darkness was lit up by the fires caused by the bombs, and many thousands of these bombs were dropped by Polish airmen. It was useless for the German industry to take shelter in the towns of occupied France, Belgium and Holland: there too fly the Poles, and there also the Polish bombing raiders make their way through clouds and mist. It was useless to range anti-aircraft artillery all over Germany, and for the searchlights to cut the black sky over Germany into shreds of brilliant light with their scissor blades: every Polish bombing expedition reached its objective, drives the sleep from the eyelids of the Herrenvolk, and reduces to ashes all the might of the Third Reich. The Polish Bomber expeditions are laying down a road back to their home country over the ruins of the towns of the Third Reich, just as the Germans laid down roads into the heart of Poland with bombs of their Luftwaffe.

Today Poland bomber force can boast of new successes, for the Polish airmen are continuing and will continue to bomb Germany until victory has been won over the Third Reich.

The Polish force is writing ever new glorious deeds in history. Deeds of heroism and devotion performed by the Polish airmen, who by their labours and heavy toil, their self-sacrifice and blood are carving out the road back to the Homeland, in the rear of their air screws and the thunder of their bombs they are telling those left behind at home : we are here, we are fighting, we shall win. The Polish bomber force personnel are continually adding to the services they have contributed, they are continually receiving fresh Polish and British distinctions in recognition of the magnificent fighting qualities of the bomber crews of the Polish squadrons in the R.A.F. But they are continually making fresh sacrifices also.

Some time ago the Polish Airforce was presented with a standard which had come by secret roads from Poland, hundreds of miles away. The standard had been woven by Polish women, loving, believing and faithful Polish women, in one of the Polish towns, in the greatest of secrecy from the occupant authorities. This standard is to be held in turn by each of the Polish airforce units. "Love demands sacrifice," says the inscription embroidered on it. The bomber force are fully entitled to take their turn in guarding this precious gift. For all that they have done since they first renewed the fight on British soil is a genuine and beautiful confirmation of that truth.

* * *

Two women members of the Polish National Council in London, Mme. Elzbieta Korfantowa and Mme. Zofia Zaleska, have cabled Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt to thank her for her message of hope, broadcast to the Polish people. In her address Mrs. Roosevelt said :

"I am happy to have this opportunity of paying tribute to the courage of the Polish people who are fighting with the other Democracies for a free and happier world. At the same time I want to say a word to those in Poland who are carrying on the fight just as surely as if they were taking part in the battle that is being carried on in the rest of the world. By their courage, by their endurance, they are making it possible for their soldiers to have more courage wherever they may be. I think that the women and children of Poland must realize that when they were first attacked, at once the heart of America became interested and touched by what was happening to innocent people who had no desire to be at war. We ourselves have never wanted to settle international questions by war, but since the day has come for all of us, we can be grateful that we have the allies we have, we can be grateful that we have a cause we feel is just and great. Some day Poland will again be a free and independent nation. Some day the women and

the children who have stood steadfast and strong, and somehow have borne their sorrows through these years will again be happy and reunited with their families throughout a world at peace."

HOW POLES IN POLAND KEPT 3RD OF MAY

The Polish Government in London has received reports on how the Third of May was celebrated in Poland. The graves of Polish patriots were decorated with white and red flowers. The tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw was covered with wreaths. On Sunday morning, thousands of Poles passed in silence before it. At noon, when the silent procession had assumed mass proportions, the German police intervened and tried to disperse the Poles. German mounted police rode into the crowds.

In Wawer, one of the Warsaw suburbs, where two months ago, a mass execution of a hundred Polish hostages was carried out, their common grave was made a place of pilgrimage by many Poles. The walls of Warsaw and other large cities and of many houses were apainted with the Polish "V" sign a combination of the letters "P" and "W". "Polska Walczaca."

German police were kept busy washing off these signs which were mostly indelible. In many places the Polish National flag was flown, although the Germans had announced that those who committed such a "crime" would be arrested. Patriotic songs and pamphlets were distributed everywhere.

In the evening special editions of Polish underground newspapers gave accounts, taken from BBC broadcasts, of the impressive celebrations held in the United States and Great Britain.

LONDON PROTEST AGAINST THE NAZI TREATMENT OF JEWS

On October 29th, in the Albert Hall in London a meeting of protest against the Nazi treatment of Jews took place.

The Prime Minister of Poland, General Sikorski assured Polish Jews that they would benefit fully from the blessing of victory of the United Nations on equal terms with all Polish citizens. He said: as a soldier I warn the German torturers that they will not escape retribution for the crimes they have committed."

Mr. Churchill said :

"The systematic cruelties to which the Jewish people have been exposed under the Nazi regime are amongst the most terrible events of history and have placed an indelible stain on all who perpetrate and instigate them."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Chief Rabbi and others also addressed the meeting.

The meeting unanimously carried a resolution recording its profound indignation at the unparalleled atrocities committed by the Nazis and their satellites.

POLES IN POLAND ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN:

- 1) To speak Polish in public, or use Polish names of cities or streets,
- 2) To print any book, magazine or paper in Polish,
- 3) To play or sing any Polish music, or patriotic song,
- 4) To worship in church,
- 5) To belong to any religious, scientific or social organization,
- 6) To attend any school or college,
- 7) To go to operas, theatres or concerts,
- 8) To visit museums, libraries or educational centres,
- 9) To pursue any professional career except medicine under German law,
- 10) To enter any public park or garden or sit on any bench in a public place,
- 11) To eat in restaurants or cafes, etc.,
- 12) To visit barber shops, except those partitioned off to segregate Poles,
- 13) To travel without permit, or to use express trains and motor buses,
- 14) To use automobiles or ride bicycles, except for cycling to work,
- 15) To use playing fields or swimming pools,
- 16) To visit health resorts or bathing beaches,
- 17) To buy clothing or footwear, except work clothes and wooden shoes,
- 18) To shop except in certain stores and at certain hours set aside for Poles,
- 19) To buy imported foodstuffs,
- 20) To own cameras, radio sets or phonograph records,
- 21) To own or use boats on and between the Oder and Vistula Rivers,
- 22) To own land or any real estate whatsoever.

THE BOOKS THE GERMANS ALLOW POLES TO READ

The "Gazeta Lwowska," a daily published by the Germans, published the interview of one of its reporters with a well-known-bookseller. The book seller revealed that manuals of the German language and a recently published Polish-German dictionary were among the few books he was able to sell.

Hitler's "Mein Kampf," the Nazi "Bible," sold very poorly. Only a few hundred copies of it were bought during the several months of German occupation. Aside from dictionaries and German manuals, detective and adventure stories accounted for more than half of the sales. The Nazis have purged the book stores and libraries of all books dealing with Poland and Polish life. No book which has the word "Polish" or "Poland" in its title may be sold or circulated.

Since no new books are being published, book stores are stocked with second-hand copies, purchased from their former owners for a fraction of the original price, and selling at approximately 60% of the pre-war prices.

Books dealing with practical household problems are in great demand. Thus many books are sold which tell the reader "How to Wash With Little Soap," and "How to Cook Economically."

UNDERGROUND

POLES BLOW UP NAZI BARRACKS

A heavy bomb planted by Polish patriots exploded in a Nazi Barracks in Warsaw and killed 18 Nazi Soldiers.

Three Nazi officers and nine soldiers were shot in a Warsaw suburb and many others were killed when a bomb exploded in a theatre attended by Nazi officers and soldiers on leave.

NAZI REPRISALS UTTERLY FAIL TO STOP SABOTAGE

The Nazi *Krakauer Zeitung* complains bitterly that sabotage is greatly on the increase throughout the entire Government General. Especially buildings under construction by the German army are being constantly destroyed. In no case has it been possible to discover the persons responsible in spite of immediate and most careful investigation.

The secret broadcasting station *Europäische Revolution* says that the *Krakauer Zeitung* omitted to mention the fact that after every sabotage the Germans, in their impotent rage, send hundreds of men and women to *Straflager* camps, for special hard labour punishment, so severe that many of the prisoners die. The same station says that in Bydgoszcz six cases of arson occurred within

only ten days, and in Poznan more than forty cases in the month of January alone. The pitiless reprisals on the part of the Nazi authorities have utterly failed to break the Polish spirit. Neither death sentences nor *Straflager* camps can counteract the wonderfully organized underground service of the Poles.

* * *

POLISH—CZECHOSLOVAK COLLABORATION POLES IN INDIA

PERSECUTION OF WOMEN IN POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

On the October 17, 1942 in the presence of a large gathering a solemn protest against the Nazi persecution of women in Poland, Czechoslovakia and other countries occupied by the Germans was lodged by the Ladies' Committee of the Polish Union in India and the Czechoslovak Association in Bombay. Mrs. J. Kwapinska, wife of the Polish Minister for Commerce, Industry and Navy who presided over the meeting, addressed the gathering, portraying the methods applied by the Germans in order to break the morale of the Polish woman; but all in vain: murdering, deportation to special camps, imprisonment fail to achieve their objective.

Mrs. O. Urbanova, wife of the Consul for Czechoslovakia described the plight of the Czechoslovak woman in Czechoslovakia.

Finally the following resolution was passed by the meeting:

"The murders and atrocities which are being perpetrated by the Germans in Poland, Czechoslovakia, and other countries of Europe, have reached such a scale that the whole world cries out in protest against such inhuman cruelty, and urgently demands an adequate punishment. To-day, on October 17th, we propose to honour the courageous women of all those countries by a minute's silence, as a token of our solidarity with the innocent victims of German rule. We, the women of the Polish Union and the Czechoslovak Association in India, summon every decent man and woman in this world to join us in this solemn protest. May this meeting prove that wherever human hearts beat, a wave of indignation surges at the inhuman atrocities of the Germans. May this protest be a foreboding of the severe punishments which awaits the perpetrators!"

The meeting also honoured the victims by observing a minute's silence.

The Ladies' Committee included Mrs. W. Knoffowa, Mrs. L. Stefanova, Mrs. K. Sternbachowa and Mrs. G. Zmijewska.

There has been a new and mysterious wave of fires in the Polish territories illegally incorporated with the Reich. Five German farms were burned down near Poddembice and Zdzichow. Near Kempno a German barn with all the farm machinery and stock of corn was also destroyed by fire. At Turek station a large German barn with harvested crops was also burned down.

The meeting was attended by the Consul-General for Poland and the Consuls for Czechoslovakia and Poland.

* * *

In his message of condolence to the Czechoslovak Government on the occasion of the annihilation of Lidice, President Raczkiewicz on behalf of the Polish nation wrote:

"May I express my profound conviction that out of the blood, tears and suffering of our nations, a durable and fraternal solidarity will arise to form the foundation of a closer union of Czechoslovakia and Poland."

CZECHOSLOVAK INDEPENDENCE DAY

The 28th October, the anniversary of the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic, was celebrated at the Taj Mahal Hotel in Bombay, where the Consul for Czechoslovakia and Mme Urban held a reception.

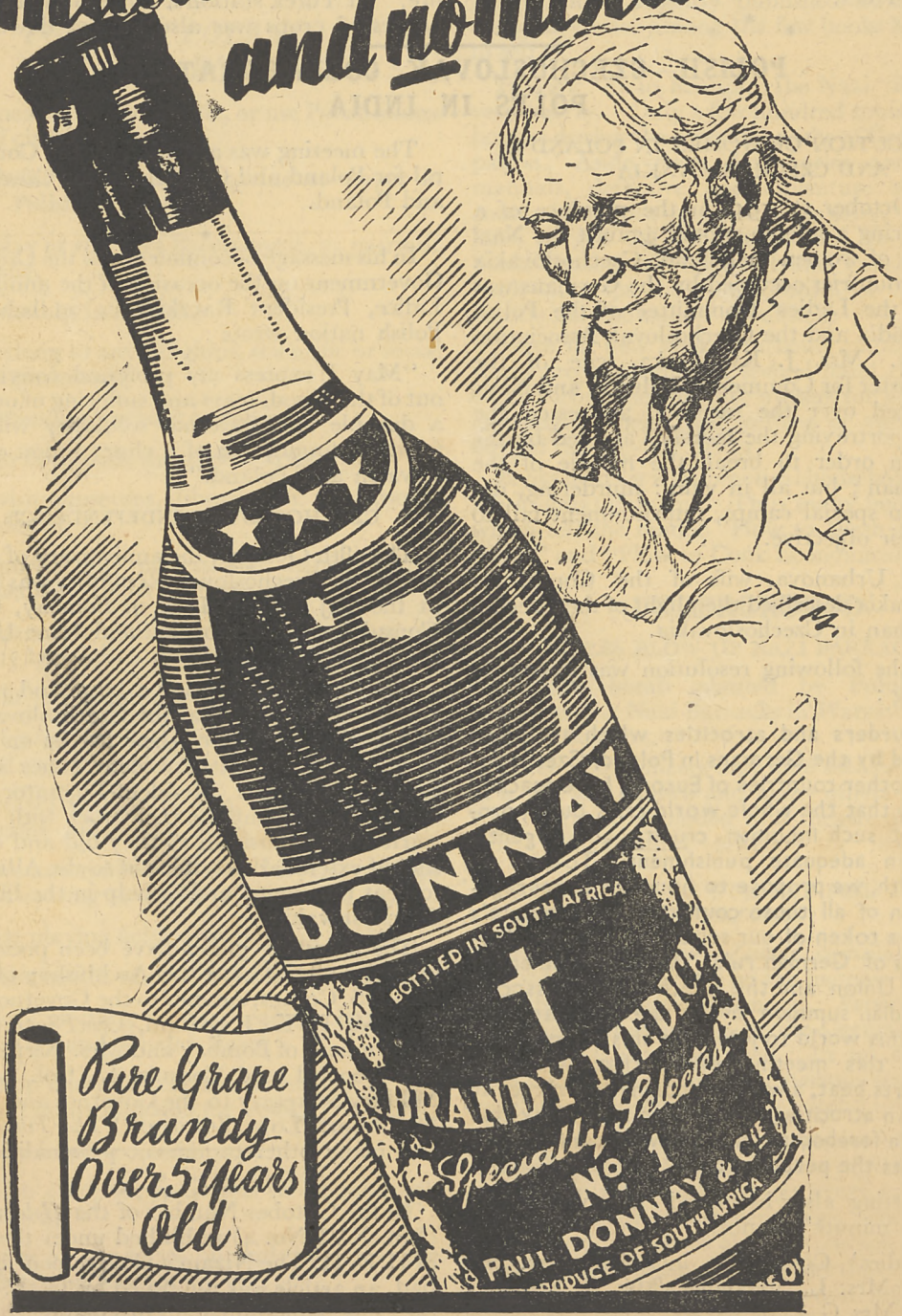
The Consul addressing a large and representative gathering said that the Czechoslovaks abroad will not be worthy of their heroes on the home front, of their great President Benes and of the heritage of their President-Liberator Masaryk if they do not continue their work with the same spirit and enthusiasm as they did and do. They should extend all possible aid to the Allies in order to beat the enemy and to help in the liberation of Czechoslovakia.

The following guests have been present at the reception: His Grace the Archbishop of Bombay, Mr. F. S. Collins, Adviser to the Governor of Bombay, Mr. H. K. Kirpalani, Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay and Mrs. Kirpalani, Consuls General and Consuls, Lt. Col. L. C. Palk, Military Secretary to the Governor and Mrs. Palk, Mr. Francis Low, Editor of "*The Times of India*" and many other prominent personalities.

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In the October Number of the "*Islamic Culture*" (Vol. XVI No. 4) published under the authority of H. E. H. The Nizam's Government in Hyderabad, an article was published by Dr. L. Sternbach on "The Muhammadans in Poland."

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