

# POLISH NEWS

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*The valuable contribution which the Poles have made to the common cause of the United Nations has not been achieved without heavy sacrifices. But these sacrifices will be crowned by the restoration, to which we all look forward to a great and independent Poland.*

MR. CHURCHILL, PRIME MINISTER  
3RD MAY 1943.

## POLAND FIGHTS ON

Count Poninski, the Polish Ambassador to China at a press conference held on his arrival in Chungking spoke on Poland's contribution to the war effort, stressing its military, political and underground activities.

In view of the importance of the problems raised by the Ambassador we deem it wise to publish the extracts of the statement.

"The Polish Government and the Polish Nation, while throwing all their strength and resources into the scale to further our collective war effort, are watching with sincere admiration the heroic struggle of the Chinese Government and the Chinese people for the defence of their independence, and last but not least, of the principles of equity and justice. . . .

Only after the complete destruction of criminal Nazism with its satellites in Europe, and of the Japanese "Yamoto Damashi" mission of ruling over others in Asia will it be possible to begin the eagerly wished for new era in international relations. . . .

No change of territory or state structure effected by external pressure or armed force contrary to the intent of the populations and without the free consent of their legal governments has been or will be, acknowledged by us. Besides, we are convinced that the usurpation of thrones, and establishment of dictatorships, which have been taking place during these years of frightful, bloody turmoil, whether in Europe or in Asia, must be, and will be, liquidated even before our final victory is achieved.

After the removal of the discredited war-lords in Europe and in Asia, after the disarming of the

aggressors and of the cliques of Quislings supporting them, all of us should take up jointly a sound cooperative endeavour on the basis of equality and equity, and by means of necessary economic adjustments. . . .

The scope of the new peace organisation will have to be extended into the field of concrete purpose and action in such a manner as to prevent all those who foster evil designs—inveterate aggressors and violators of treaties—from creating trouble without incurring immediate and due punishment, or from circumventing international law. Let us also not forget that international law was created with a view to securing protection for the weak, not as a means to help further the unavowable designs of rapacious Powers.

We Poles, who are suffering such unnamable oppression at the hands of the Germans now exploiting our martyr soil, shall most decidedly insist on special guarantees of security for all the victims of aggression within the general framework of reconstruction and defence of the United Nations.

Our present diplomatic action for trying and punishing criminals who are persecuting with extreme brutality Polish citizens is an illustration of this. On several occasions the Polish Government has drawn the attention of the civilised world to the awful conduct of the German occupants in Poland and the degenerate methods employed by them to reduce and exterminate the Polish Nation. I also want to underline the fact that the most recent reports received from Warsaw present a really horrifying picture of the position to which the Jews in Poland have been reduced. The new methods of mass slaughter applied by the Nazi authorities during last year confirm that the German aim is the total extermination of the Jewish population in Europe.

The miseries of the Jews from the beginning of this war were very sensibly felt by the Polish Government who succeeded on many occasions in saving a number of them from their oppressors, and thus gained their gratitude. . . .

I consider it my duty to mention that the pre-war Polish-British treaty of alliance has happily outlived all the vicissitudes of the so-called policy of appeasement and that during the three dark years of war it has been carried out in letter and in spirit by both parties in complete good faith. The Polish-British Alliance proved indeed its usefulness in strengthening resistance during the period of military difficulties of the Democracies and remains the most eloquent instance of international sharing in the principles of equity and equality. . . .

Polish-American friendship and cooperation stands on a broad historical foundation and is of the greatest importance for the future.

The last visit—the third one—of Prime Minister General W. Sikorski to the White House in December 1942, was undertaken at the invitation of President Roosevelt for the purpose of talking out further war plans as well as of preparing the war aims of the United Nations.

On the occasion, General Sikorski received several American senators and representatives of Polish descent who especially called on him to express to him their full support and admiration for the achievements of the Polish Government and the deeds of the Polish Army, Navy and Air Force.

We are proud and happy that the American war effort is being actively helped by several millions of American citizens of Polish origin and by thousands of Polish citizens settled permanently in the United States. . . .

Poland expects that as a result of this war she will be able, in accordance with the principles of Justice and with obvious historical claims, to extend her coastline on the Baltic Sea. When Poland is assured of a larger and fairer access to the seas, than in 1919, she will be able to expand her maritime commercial relations with distant countries. . . .

Poles are excellent seamen. The Polish Navy as well as the Polish Merchant Marine have stood their test splendidly in this war. The heroic exploits of the Polish submarines are comparable with any other of the greatest. They have ably assisted their elder sisters of the British and American Navies, and are still continuing to do so. To quote just one instance, the Polish destroyer "PIORUN" was the first to spot the battleship "BISMARCK" after her engagement with the "HOOD" on May 26th 1941. Recently Polish destroyers took part in the landing of Allied troops in North Africa. The Polish Merchant Marine, whose present tonnage exactly corresponds to its pre-war capacity, takes its full share in all the activities of the British Mercantile Marine. The popularity of our sea wolves who succeeded in escaping from the tightening clutches of the Germans in the Baltic in 1939 is comparable only with the sympathy, friendship and appreciation shown by the R.A.F. to the Polish Air Force.

The Polish Air Force consists of many squadrons of day and night fighters, of bomber squadrons and cooperation squadrons. From the outbreak of the war up to January 1st 1943, Polish airmen bagged more than 500 enemy machines for certain and more than this number of probables in other;

words, they were able to claim one out of every seven enemy aircraft shot down by the Allies in the European war theatre during that period. Polish bombers, besides taking part in the mass raids on Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne, the Ruhr, Essen and Stuttgart, have made over 3,000 sorties over enemy territories and enemy-occupied areas, dropping about ten million pounds of bombs on important military and industrial objectives.

After the tragical collapse of France, an important part of the Polish troops could be happily evacuated to the British Isles. These troops are now taking an important part in the defence of the United Kingdom. Other Polish units distinguished themselves during the ten months of hard fighting at Tobruk, Gazala and in the Libyan Desert. During the last year a new Polish Eastern Army was formed in Russia and is now participating in the defence of the Middle East.

When we speak about Polish military achievements, we must keep present in our minds that in addition to the work of purely military units, they comprise too the great underground battle, waged without slackening since 1939, by all our occupied country.

Polish losses in this unequal but unrelenting struggle with the invaders, have been very heavy. Not counting the war prisoners of 1939 taken to Germany, 1,500,000 Poles were executed or died in the German concentration camps. However, we can well imagine, that the German losses are at least as serious as the persistent Polish sabotage is causing them a great deal of trouble.

The German "New Order" in Poland is, under these conditions, a complete failure. I am afraid that the bloody General-Governor Franck, residing in Cracow, will be himself sent, after a time, to a concentration camp by the wrathful Fuehrer, as a punishment for his non-fulfilment of his mission to pacify the country and organise a systematic and effective exploitation of this production area for the benefit of Greater Germany.

The Nazi "*Lebensraum*" on the Polish soil becomes buried deeper and deeper in a cemetery, where lie not only thousands of Polish patriots but also numerous Germans imported to work there for Nazi expansion.

Indeed, all the population of Poland continues to observe the orders of the legal Polish Government, at present in London, preserving the strictest National Unity and discipline. A direct contact and collaboration between General Sikorski, his military and political staff, and the population in occupied Poland, is kept by an underground central political organisation, working in the

country. Thus, the vital national force is not wasted and is rendered more effective by a purposeful and sound guidance.

The central underground organisation covers work of three kinds: military, civil and propaganda. It has branches all over Poland ("incorporated" provinces like Silesia, Poznan, Pomerania, the "General Government," as well as Eastern and Southern Poland, which was formerly occupied in 1939/41 for 20 months by Soviet Russia).

More than 150 underground newspapers, not including periodicals and pamphlets, are distributed daily throughout the Polish territory in thousands and thousands of copies, transmitting news about the Allied activities all over the world, and calling on the people to keep up their resistance.

The Germans managed to discover and break some of the distribution or editing services in several towns, but they never succeeded in unearthing the publishing centres, and so the newspapers are continuing to appear.

The demoralized Gestapo is unable to liquidate the underground movement. From all persecutions and difficulties, through all obstacles, the national spirit of the Polish people emerges stronger than ever. Officially, the Germans continue to rule the occupied country in the sunshine, but at night the underground Polish life is overwhelming the German barbaric order.

The Polish youth and women play an outstanding role in this gallant struggle, with complete disregard of the danger threatening them at every step. Even children of 12-14 do not remain idle in this moment of national emergency. It is the reason why the German persecution of Polish women and children is so savage; they are suffering mass deportations and are executed at the slightest suspicion of anti-Axis activities. Thousands of Polish girls, of our best families, were dishonoured by being placed in public houses for German military or abused even in a worse manner.

However, all these persecutions, deportations and infamies, do not provide a suitable contribution to the German war effort in Poland. The German administration and the new settled "*Volksdeutsche*," are still suffering owing to the disturbance of economic life and disorganisation of production, transport and uncertain life conditions.

Living in a rich, agricultural country, they are not able to draw the full profit of its products and natural resources of raw material. They even do not succeed in full exploitation of war industry, largely extended and reorganised by themselves.

They are still forced to call from Germany Hitler-jugend and many technical workers to work on the Polish soil under the close surveillance of the Gestapo.

It is necessary to emphasize that this German bankruptcy in Poland is not due solely to the Polish sabotage and opposition. Undoubtedly, administrative inefficiency of the German civil staff and insufficient preparation of the younger German elements contributed also to this failure.

This, for instance, is well proved by the chaos reigning even in those parts of "incorporated" Poland, where in place of Poles deported to Germany they settled tens of thousands of "*Volksdeutsche*."

This statement applies to the Nazi so-called re-organisation of the whole of Europe, which is beyond the German scope.

Especially, the German youth, demoralized by the Nazi school system, is now savage, cruel, degenerate, and unfitted to do any intellectual, creative work. On the other side, the old intellectual classes have lost their leading ability, and are deprived of real influence on the younger generation.

German democratic potentialities are perhaps existing among some anti-Nazi refugees in England or America, but they don't exist on the German soil or in occupied Europe. The democratic groups, including their leaders, surrendered there deliberately in the years 1937 (Austria), 1938 (Munich), and 1939/40 (beginning of the war). Since then they became Hitler's slaves, and will never be able to guarantee a democratic evolution of German politics, when the Nazi regime will be definitely broken by the military victory of the United Nations.

For this reason, we, the free Allied Nations, ought to plan and prepare already now a new, strong structure of the future Europe, not relying upon an eventually renewed, "better" Germany.

It is, as you will understand, very dangerous for diplomats to indulge in prophecies. At present, Western and Eastern Europe are still in complete disorganisation. This chaos, starvation and suffering have been brought about by the perfidy and oppression of German ruling methods.

Nevertheless, I want to emphasize the strong will and the power of regeneration of all European invaded nations, and especially those of France, who cannot forget for a longer period that she was "*la grande nation*," so full of merit for the progress of humanity.

As the Polish Foreign Minister, Count Raczynski, has already said in his exposé on March the 16th, that we must devote our utmost attention to the organisation of the post-war world, I permit myself to tackle this problem. I am personally convinced, that after the unconditional surrender of our enemies, the democratic conception of some European confederations or federations will be applied on a larger or smaller scale.

The declarations of the Polish and Czechoslovakian Governments in 1940/41 and 1942, starting already during this war a close confederate union of Poland and Czechoslovakia, were the first important step towards the realisation of this objective.

The Polish-Czechoslovakian confederation possesses all lasting elements, namely geopolitical, economical, cultural, historical, etc., to a degree rarely found between other neighbouring states. Hence, this Confederation, open to the participation of others, will have the value of important historical precedent. May it be an encouragement for the union of several middle-sized sovereign states into greater regional blocks, forming political and economical regions of security on our devastated continent.

The project of Confederation of Yugoslavia and Greece, as declared in 1942, is a further step towards necessary understanding which unfortunately, was neglected in the period between the two World Wars.

It is not necessary to underline that the Polish war aims are based upon the principle of guaranteeing the safety of Europe against a possibility of new German aggression. For this purpose, it is necessary to create in the Middle European zone a strong and close cooperative organisation composed of free states.

A close collaboration of the Allied Nations in Europe is a task to which the Polish Government is now devoting its special attention. Such co-operation should be progressively extended all over the world, including the British Empire, America, the Soviet Union and Asia, where the most important of all will be a permanent understanding of the Western Powers with China. A strong confederation in the middle zone of Europe separating Russia from Germany, will be favourable to the security of Russia by excluding the danger of German "*Drang nach Osten*."

The political structure of such a union will be based, naturally, on complete equality, without supremacy of any one country.

Universal peace and a normal development of international economic and financial relations, require that the Central and South-eastern Europe, organised on



*King George V and Gen. W. Sikorski*



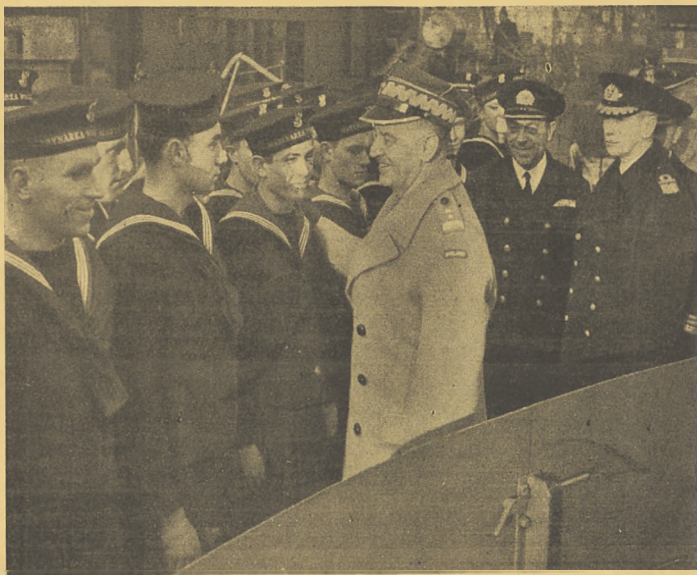
*The celebration of the Polish National Day in London.—Mr. Raczkiewicz, President of Poland, and Gen. W. Sikorski, Polish C-in-C.*



*On their way to Chungking. Members of the Polish Military Mission to China:—Col. A.K. Kedzier, Chief of the Polish Military Mission in China (fifth from left) and Lt. S. J. M. de Barylski, Military Attache to the Polish Embassy in Chungking (seventh from left) at Batanagar, welcomed by the members of the Czechoslovak community.*



*O. R. P. "Slazak" after her return from Dieppe.*



*Gen. W. Sikorski among the Polish sailors*



*A signalman from O. R. P. "Slazak"*

those principles, be not left isolated from Western Europe and the Anglo-Saxon world. The terrible consequence of Locarno and Munich may be an eloquent warning to all those heavy-minded politicians, who up till now have not realised that peace and security in Europe are one and

indivisible, that the so-called appeasement policy was the mother of the Second World War, and that a new temptation to its practice in Eastern Europe will infallibly lead the United Nations, sooner or later, to dangerous complications and finally to new crushing catastrophes."

## NEWS FROM AND ABOUT POLAND

### The Polish National Day in London

The Polish National Day, the 3rd May, was celebrated in London on Sunday afternoon in the Colosseum Theatre. Over two thousand persons were present. Sir John Anderson, Lord President of the Council and Member of the War Cabinet, delivered the address stressing his desire to do honour to the very gallant race of men. On behalf of the British War Cabinet he paid tribute to Poles as trusted Allies who at the same time are "our very welcome guests." Sir John Anderson said that there are many reasons why Poland should stand high in British esteem. He emphasized the part they already played in this war saying "they were first among the United Nations to resist Nazi aggression and thereby they called into action—none too soon as we now see very clearly—forces which are destined to save humanity." He continued that Poles although deprived of their own homeland almost at a blow have while exiled in foreign lands raised magnificent fighting formations of over one hundred thousand soldiers, over 12,000 airmen and over 3,000 seamen. "We are here in the presence of the Head of the Polish State and of General Sikorski, brave soldier, wise leader and trusted friend. Poland was the first of all the United Nations to take up arms and set her whole national existence at stake for the cause which was not only her own but that of all free peoples. . . We at once joined Poland in the fight in accordance with the Anglo-Polish alliance. There is therefore specially close relationship between this country and Poland forged in adversity during dark years when Hitler seemed to be carrying all before him in Europe. Poland has been to us a loyal and faithful Ally." Speaking about the Polish people Sir John Anderson said "no nation in Europe suffered more from the Germans, none has shown greater courage and steadfastness. Not a single Quisling has been found through the length and breadth of Poland. Looking for leadership to Sikorski's Government in London and for ultimate liberation to their Allies of the United Nations they have maintained unshaken their faith in victory. From wanton destruction of their cities and villages by the German Air Force to man-hunts and brutalities of the present day, their resistance to the Germans and their loyalty to Poland

have never wavered. Let us affirm to them our confidence in the future. Out of their sacrifices a new Poland will be born. From the efforts of us all a new Europe shall arise. Not from our individual strivings but from the joint struggle of the United Nations will redemption come. Germans know it. Despairing of military victory they now see their last, desperate hope in attempts to disturb the harmony of the formidable coalition which they see inexorably closing in upon them. Such manœuvres cannot be allowed to succeed. We must all look not to the past but to the future. Friends marching abreast must not fall out while the enemy is ravening close by. United Nations should not need to be reminded that in their unity lies their strength. That strength is our surest guarantee that Poland's greatness and prosperity shall be restored and that the day is not far distant when Poles will again celebrate their National Day in free Poland." Then Sir John Anderson read amidst great enthusiasm the following message from Mr. Churchill :—

"On the occasion of the Polish National Day I send you the greetings of His Majesty's Government and the British People. We celebrate this anniversary to-day with renewed confidence that Poland's liberation has been brought nearer by the joint efforts of the United Nations during the past year. Poles, those at home and abroad, are at one in their determination to continue the struggle against the German oppressors of their country. The valuable contribution which they have made to the common cause of the United Nations has not been achieved without heavy sacrifices. But these sacrifices will be crowned by the restoration to which we all look forward of a great and independent Poland."

Later an imposing service in commemoration of Poland's National Day took place in St. Paul's Cathedral at which a sermon was preached by the Archbishop of York. General Sikorski, the Members of the Polish Government and representatives of the Polish Forces were present. His Majesty the King was represented by Lord Leathers the Minister for War Transport. The Lord Mayor of the City of London with the Sheriffs, the Commander of the Home Forces, General Sir Bernard Paget, the permanent Under Secretary of the Foreign Office, Sir Alexander Cadogan and many others were

present. The Members of the Polish Army sang in the choir of St. Paul's Cathedral. The altar was decorated with Polish and British flags.

The following message was sent by the Leader of the Labour Party Mr. Arthur Greenwood :

"The whole world has been impressed by the strength of the Polish spirit. We all know the terrible sufferings and agony of Poland through nearly four years of ceaseless resistance. No people in modern times endured a greater martyrdom than the Poles have borne at the evil hands of Nazi Germany. This struggle and sacrifice and martyrdom can be understood only in terms of faith in human freedom and national liberty. We have a hard road to travel before we achieve the final victory but we shall continue to travel that road together. And when victory has been won, we shall, I am sure, carry the comradeship of war into the post-war years and continue to stand together and work together for the attainment of those political, economic and social aims which are the common incentive and inspiration or all the United Nations in their grim struggle against Nazi-Fascist tyranny and aggression. Our solidarity is secure and on the basis of that solidarity we shall go forward side by side to victory both in war and peace."

In his Sermon, the Archbishop of York said :

"Never before, not even in the worst days of its previous history, have Polish people suffered such unspeakable barbarities as those now inflicted upon them by a conqueror who knows not the meaning of chivalry, honour and pity. With cold-blooded and calculated cruelty the Nazis are attempting to kill a nation. Its land has become the bloodbath of Europe. But amidst this horror the soul of the people of Poland still lives. Within its borders its people, resolute and unbowed, carry on a ceaseless campaign against their tyrants. As we celebrate in this Cathedral Poland's National Day and as its people celebrate it in a strange land there should be three thoughts in all our minds. First there should be thankfulness for the devotion, sacrifices and heroism which have been so wonderfully shown by the people of Poland in their terrible and awful ordeal. They are giving mankind a shining example of endurance and steadfastness. Of those who died for their country we may use the words said more than two thousand years ago over the Athenians who died for their city : "They gave their bodies to the commonwealth and received each for his own memory praise that will never die and with it the grandest of all sepulchres not that in which their mortal bones are laid but a home in the minds of men where their glory remains fresh to stir to speech or

action as occasion comes." And next there should be intercession, not only for the people in Poland who are living always under the threat of death by violence or starvation, but also for those Poles who in this country or elsewhere in exile are in terrible anxiety over their relations and friends of whom they have had no news."

Mr. Benes, the President of Czechoslovakia, has sent congratulations addressed to Mr. Raczewicz, President of the Polish Republic. The Czechoslovak Prime Minister Sramek cabled congratulations to General Sikorski.

### Declaration of the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs

In connection with the statement made by the Deputy of the Peoples Commissar of Foreign Affairs M. Vyshinsky, the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Raczynski declared. "I am afraid that the statement issued by M. Vyshinsky will not help to produce the much desired harmony either in Polish-Soviet relations or among the United Nations in general. As for my part I wish to avoid such a result and shall limit myself to a few matters-of-fact and corrections. The Polish Army's evacuation from the U.S.S.R. was not intended by the Polish Government but should be attributed to the Soviet Government. The mutual agreement of 14th August 1941 provided for recruitment by means of voluntary enlistment in the Army of all able-bodied Poles. In the spring of 1942 the Soviet authorities suspended this recruitment and invoking scarcity of food supplies, reduced the food rations for the Polish Army to 44,000 men.

As by that time the Polish Army numbered over 70,000 men, about 30,000 officers and men were ultimately, in agreement with the British Government, evacuated to the Middle East. The evacuated troops had received no arms from the Soviet authorities. Neither did Polish troops, which remained on Soviet territory for several months longer, receive arms in spite of repeated requests, except in case of one division which received only part of its equipment. The Polish Government by a resolution passed on 13th June 1942 made it clear that it was not by the fault of Poland that the effectives of the Polish Army in U.S.S.R. had not been brought up to the establishment agreed upon and that the army did not receive adequate arms enabling it to take the so much desired part in the struggle against the common enemy. The resolution emphasized that the Polish Government are unanimous in their decision that the Polish Army in Russia should remain there and fight side by side with the Soviet Army. In August 1942 the Soviet Government unilaterally



took the decision concerning the evacuation of the Polish Army from the territory of the U.S.S.R. and carried out this decision by agreement with the British Government. These Polish forces, having received adequate arms and equipment, are passing through the final stage of training and will soon take part in the fighting. The difficult conditions in which the Polish population was deported to more distant provinces of Russia in 1940-41 amounting to about one and a half million, imposed on the Polish Government the duty of organizing assistance and protection for them.

M. Vyshinsky asserts that the number of these people is inconsiderable now. Although we have no means of ascertaining the exact number of Polish citizens in Russia and although we know that owing to their destitution and lack of protection the mortality among them was very high, it does not alter the fact that the problem of their welfare continues to be a matter of the greatest urgency and represents one of the fundamental duties of the Polish Government. The machinery of relief does not exist to-day, having been liquidated by the Soviet Government.

Until its liquidation, supply of material comforts for the deportees was based in the first instance on help dispatched from the U.S.A. and Great Britain. Distribution of this help was—with the consent of the Soviet authorities and at their request—entrusted to an organization acting locally on behalf of the Polish Embassy.

M. Vyshinsky now accuses certain officials of this organisation of having engaged in espionage and includes in this accusation men who up till now, as higher military officers or civil servants of the Polish Republic, are continuing to take an active and more devoted part in the common effort of the United Nations.

The insinuation that they acted in Germany's favour is so fantastic that I have no intention of answering it. Moreover, the accusation of having engaged in intelligence work on behalf of one of the Allied States repeatedly made by the Soviet authorities against our delegates is not only unfounded but I must admit inconceivable to me. It may perhaps be based on the special character of Soviet legislation and on conceptions of Soviet community which differ widely from those current in other countries. It does, in any case, contrast strongly with our views on the proper mutual relations of Allies engaged in a war against a common enemy."

### Activities of the Polish Air Force

According to an official report, during the first quarter of 1943 the Polish Air Force activities have been as follows. The Fighter Squadrons carried out various operations connected with the ever

increasing activities of the Allied Air Forces. The Fighter squadrons covered bomber raids, carried out sweeps, attacks on land targets, and enemy raiders. In all these operations 1,171 planes took part. Besides this, Polish fighters carried out night and day patrols. In fights with enemy planes Polish fighters shot down nine for certain, eleven probables and three damaged. Besides, locomotives and goods trains were destroyed by machine-gun or cannon-fire, and railway repair works, railway warehouses, military camps, and groups of enemy soldiers were strafed. Furthermore, during March, Polish pilots took part in the fighting on the African front. Polish Bomber Squadrons bombed enemy ports and industrial centres, laid mines in enemy waters, patrolled sea-lanes attacking enemy shipping and searching for missing crews. A total of 498 planes took part in these operations. During those attacks three enemy U-boats were probably sunk, one plane brought down, and one damaged. Polish co-operation squadrons carried out twenty operational flights covering convoys. Since their arrival in Great Britain, up to 31st March 1943, the Polish Air Force have performed the following exploits: fighter squadrons destroyed 512 enemy aircraft for certain, 135 probables, 146 damaged. The Bomber squadrons carried out 478 raids, in which 4,994 planes took part. The Bomber crew shot down ten enemy planes for certain, seven probably, four damaged. Polish bomber squadrons with the Coastal Command have probably sunk six enemy U-boats and damaged seven. The Co-operational Command carried out 38 operational flights.

### Polish Air Force in Tunisia

The Polish Air Force Headquarters in London received the news of the successful operations carried out by the Polish pilots in Tunisia. The Polish fighters went into action on the 17th March and within one month they destroyed 23 enemy planes for certain, 3 probably and damaged several planes. They have only lost one airman. This record proportion of one to 23 has never been heard of before.

The Poles form a separate unit composed of experienced pilots who received the permission of the Commander-in-Chief to "gain still more experience in that theatre of war."

### Polish Navy at Work

The crew of the Polish destroyer "Burza" (Storm) has received from the United States Navy a pennant as a token in commemoration of a common action with American ships against 6 German U-boats in the North Atlantic.

### O. R. P. "Slazak"

O.R.P. "Slazak" is one of the new Polish Destroyers. In spite however, of her short existence she has already distinguished herself in a number of naval engagements against the enemy, and took part in Dieppe operations. O.R.P. "Slazak" has adopted the name of one of the former Polish Naval vessels, one of the six ex-German small torpedo boats, which in 1922 were given to Poland by the Ambassador's Council. These vessels were built during the years 1915-1916 as a "War-Erzatz" but owing to the care and maintenance given to them by the personnel of the Polish navy, they served Poland almost until the outbreak of War in 1939. The last of those six torpedo boats O.R.P. "Mazur" was sunk in the Baltic during a combat with German planes.

The new O.R.P. "Slazak," three times larger than the old one, more strongly armed, with greater speed and equipped with all new installations achieved in the modern technique of Naval Craft, has already given evidence of her capabilities in operations gaining thus the sympathy and appreciation of the mighty Royal Navy. In all probability this destroyer has sunk an enemy U-boat, shot down a few enemy aircraft and together with the Warships of the Royal Navy has attacked enemy convoys. Not all the news about her activities can be revealed at present to the public, but it can be said that she together with other units of the Polish Navy is fulfilling her duties to the utmost. The other Polish ships of "Slazak" type have also a distinguished page in the history of Polish naval operations. And so for example O.R.P. "Krakowiak" took part in the Loffoten Raid, destroyed an enemy convoy in the English Channel, and participated in many other vital engagements with the enemy. O.R.P. "Kujawiak" after several similar achievements was sunk in the Mediterranean whilst escorting an Allied convoy from Great Britain to Malta. These two latter naval craft of the Polish Navy have also been called after the traditional names of the Polish torpedo boats.

### Awards to Polish Sailors

Sir Dudley Pound, the First Sea Lord, has decorated eight Polish Navy officers and men with the British awards for gallantry in action. The decoration was made during a special ceremony. The Polish group was the second largest among those present, the first being that of Norwegians.

### Conference of the Chiefs of the Polish Forces

On 29th April a conference took place between General Sikorski and all higher commanding officers of the Polish Armed Forces. Officers of

the Staff, the Polish Admiralty and the Air Force Inspectorate were present and higher officers of all three services, i.e., from the Army—Commanders of all larger units; from the Navy—Captains of all vessels not in action at the moment; from the Airforce—Commanding-officers of all bomber and fighter squadrons. The Conference was devoted to matters connected with the war and the present political situation. Those present learned that the position of the Allied armies was developing favourably and permitted more and more the actual planning of the invasion of the Axis continental fortress. It was also stated that the will to fight the age-old enemy of the Polish Nation had never been stronger among the Polish forces than now. The Conference was followed by a gathering at which members of the Government, of the Executive of the National Council and those who attended the Conference, were present. Views on the present situation were exchanged in friendly discussion which confirmed more than ever the solidarity of the Polish community with the Polish armed forces in face of the most vital problems.

### Deserters from the German Army

It is reported from Poland that there are still a considerable number of men who have deserted from the German Army, and the military authorities are searching for deserters in various Polish towns—20 deserters being in Warsaw and 26 at Grodno. In the so-called Stefanski prison at Wilno where only Germans are imprisoned—112 deserters have been shot since the outbreak of the German-Russian war.

### New Terrorist Acts in Warsaw

News of new terrorist acts by the Germans in Poland has been received in London; in one of the Warsaw churches Mass was being said for the souls of Poles who died in the Oswiecim concentration camp, when a Gestapo unit arrived and surrounded the church, while other S.S. men went in and while the service was going on, arrested some thirty men who were deported to an unknown destination. In Warsaw there have been further mass man-hunts in the streets. On the 10th April, at five in the afternoon, German police suddenly closed a large section of Marszałkowska Street. In order to ensure the greatest surprise element, Gestapo men were not wearing helmets or carrying rifles, which they usually have when carrying out any terrorist activities against Poles. In the closed street they carried out a most thorough inspection of everybody's papers. There were several thousands of people about at that time, of whom many were arrested.

## UNDERGROUND

### WILHELM KRUEGER, THE HEYDRICH OF POLAND KILLED

The Heydrich of Poland, Wilhelm Krueger, German Groupleader, Secretary of State for Security in the General Government, has been killed in Cracow by members of the underground Polish organisation. He was going home about 10 p.m. on May 2nd after making arrangements to prevent Poles celebrating their National Day. His car dived up at the Polish palace which he requisitioned, he stepped out and was riddled by bullets from tommy guns. Krueger's escort opened fire but the assailants escaped in the darkness. Four men wearing German uniforms had been patrolling outside the building earlier. German guards did not take much notice of them. All four were members of the "Polish execution squad" who have been detailed to carry out the death sentence passed on Krueger some time ago by the secret Directorate of Polish Resistance acting

under orders from Sikorski's government in London. Krueger lingered three days and died last Wednesday. The Germans are still keeping the death secret. Krueger was Himmler's representative in Poland, commanded the Gestapo as well as the German police. He it was who built up the elaborate terrorist regime chiefly responsible for the persecution system.

Other prominent Germans under sentence of death by the secret organisation include Warsaw *Kreishauptmann* Rupprecht, responsible for the massacre of the village Kutny in Warsaw district, Weisskampel, Inspector of the Brestlitovsk Concentration camp, Geld, Police Inspector who is responsible for hanging by the feet peasants who refused to deliver potatoes to Germans. These names head the black-list of Germans distinguished for cruelty towards Poles.

### Polish Underground Activities

Polish underground organisations are now sending warning letters on a large scale to Germans who have shown special cruelty towards Poles. Chiefly Gestapo agents receive such letters containing warnings that unless they change their behaviour within a certain period they will meet their deserved fate. According to news received by the Polish Authorities in London, from 26th to 30th

March alone, seven Gestapo agents and 20 German officials who had been sentenced to death by the underground organisations for persecuting Poles were killed. By order of the Directorate of Civilian resistance some large barracks at the Gdansk Station in Warsaw were burnt down in the night of the 5th-6th April. These barracks had been especially built by the Germans to hold Poles seized in street man-hunts, while they were waiting to be transported to Germany for forced labour.

## POLES IN INDIA

### The Polish National Day at Bombay

3rd May, the National Holiday of the Republic of Poland, was celebrated on Monday by the Polish community in Bombay. There was a large congregation at the Church of the Holy Name at 8-30 a.m. Among the distinguished personages present were Mr. L. Urban, Consul for Czechoslovakia, accompanied by Mrs. Urban, Consul Dr. Augenthaler and Vice-Consul for Poland Dr. T. Lisiecki. In the evening a special fete was arranged by the Polish Union in India. Dr. E. Banasinski, Consul-General for Poland, delivered an opening address in which he referred to the importance of the Constitution Act of 1791 which placed the Polish Nation among the first rank fighters for progress and liberty.

The President of the Polish Union in India, Mr. C. Knoff, delivered a short speech on the Constitu-

tion Act of 3rd May 1791 which during 150 years of oppression inspired the Poles with the spirit of freedom.

Consul Urban in his speech expressed the firm belief that the next national holidays of both Poland and Czechoslovakia will be held in their countries liberated from the oppressor.

### The Polish National Day at Calcutta

On the 4th May 1943, Dr. Maryla Falk, at the Rotary Club of Calcutta, delivered an address on "A Memorable Date in the History of the World." This date was 3rd May, 1791, which is regarded as the National Day of Poland. Polish history proves that nationalism is a psychological entity and that its primary aim is to develop the human conscience whose fulfilment lies not in the individual but in its extension to the entire world.

## Gen. Tokarzewski at Jamnagar

Lt. General M. Tokarzewski has spent the Easter Holidays along with Dr. E. Banasinski, Consul General for Poland in Bombay, in the Polish Children's Camp at Jamnagar.

## Gift for the Polish Children at Jamnagar

We are requested by the Polish Union in India to express their thanks to the Czechoslovak Association in Bombay for their gift of Rs. 150 for the benefit of the Polish Children at Balachadi, Jamnagar.

The Polish Union on their part contributed an equivalent amount to the same purpose and the total sum of Rs. 300 was transferred to the management of the Children's Camp before Easter.

## Polish Union in India

The Annual General Meeting of the Polish Union in India was held in Bombay on the 18th April 1943 with Mr. J. Osnos in the Chair. The Annual Report was adopted and the Annual Accounts passed. The following were elected Office-bearers for the current year :

<i>President :</i>	Mr. C. Knoff
<i>Vice-Presidents :</i>	Dr. E. Sternbach and Mr. F. Sarnowicz
<i>Secretary :</i>	Mrs. H. Brunner
<i>Treasurer :</i>	Mr. H. Cynowicz
<i>Members :</i>	Mr. D. Rabinowicz Mr. S. Rutenberg

The following were elected members to the Financial Control Commission :

Mr. H. Wachsmacher, Mr. B. Salomon, Mr. H. Statter.

The meeting recorded a vote of thanks to the retiring Administrative Board for their activities during the period 1/3/1942—1/3/1943.

On the 13th May 1943 a Women's Circle has been organised as a Special Section of the Polish Union in India, with Mrs. M. Osnos as Chairman.

## 400th Anniversary of Nicolas Kopernik

24th May 1943 is the 400th anniversary of the death of the famous Polish astronomer Nicolas Kopernik. This anniversary will be celebrated at the St. Xavier's College, Bombay.

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A book on Nicolas Kopernik, the Polish astronomer, has recently been published in the United States by the "Kosciuszko Foundation." Kopernik was the first to discover the theory of solar circulation, thus giving the astronomic science the new impulse to modern development.

## United Nations' Day

27th April was observed by the National War Front as United Nations' Day. There was a large gathering at the National War front "pandal" on the War Services Exhibition grounds where representatives of the United Nations acquainted those present with what their countries had been doing for the war effort.

Poland was represented by Mr. F. Sarnowicz who spoke about the underground warfare of the Poles despite Nazi terrorism, and said that they were participating in the common struggle with a clear vision.

The March Past, followed by a tableau in which men and women representing 22 United Nations participated was the *piece de resistance* of the programme.

Attired in their gorgeous national costumes and carrying the banners of their respective nations, the representatives presented a most spectacular pageant.

## Tribute to R. A. F.

Under the auspices of the Polish-Czechoslovak Collaboration Committee in Bombay, a member of this Committee Mr. Odo J. Litawski gave a lecture on the Royal Air Force, on the 27th April 1943.

Speaking of the history and organisation of the Royal Air Force Mr. Litawski referred to the co-operation of the Polish Air Force and the Czechoslovak Air Force in overpowering the "Luftwaffe" over England.

The lecture was attended by the members of the Polish and Czechoslovak communities in Bombay. Amongst those present were Mr. L. Urban and Dr. Z. Augenthaler, Consuls for Czechoslovakia, Madame W. Laguna, widow of Lt. Colonel P. Laguna, Commander of the Polish Squadron 303 which won fame in the Battle of Britain and a number of Polish officers.

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The death of Mr. Jan Werecki, well-known Polish journalist, aged 42, occurred at St. George's Hospital, Bombay, on the 25th March 1943. Mr. Werecki took a prominent part in the Polish social life in Bombay.