

No. 8 News From Poland 1939

Seventh Year

(For Bulletin Boards and Private Persons)

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Lake front of the Polish YMCA Camp at Wiezyca

2,117 Boys In Y Camps

This summer we have had 2,117 boys in our three permanent and one transient Polish YMCA camps. Of these 71% were working boys, 15 to 19 years old. A distressing thing occurred in the Wiezyca Camp, near Gdynia. Out for a hike 10 of our boys walked through the forest across the unmarked frontier into Free City of Danzig territory. They were arrested by the Danzig frontier guards and thrown into prison for one month. Rather brutal in comparison with the treatment accorded the 16 Hitler Jugend from Danzig who a few days before crossed the frontier into Polish territory and were returned to their own side unharmed after two hours detention and investigation. Difference between the democratic and the totalitarian ideas of humanity and justice. Our Warsaw boys are still in prison at this writing.

Iwonicz

It was my good fortune to be permitted to spend three weeks of July in the splendid Excelsior Sanitarium of the governmental Social Insurance Institute at Iwonicz, a village in the lower ranges of the Carpathians in southern Poland. Here 250 of us were being built up in health by means of the curative waters and wonderful air of the region supplemented by electrotherapy, and under the careful supervision of four excellent physicians. I returned to work full of enthusiasm for what the Polish Government is doing for the health of its citizens, this being only one of a number of such sanatoria conducted by the Social Insurance Institute.

Two features of the Iwonicz Sanitarium made a deep impression upon me. First, the absolute democracy of the place. Here was a complete cross-section of the nation, from a former cabinet minister and a general in active service down through all the economic levels of society to simple workmen. A bit startling at first, this democracy soon impresses one profoundly and wins approval from all. Second, those belonging to the Social Insurance Institute who cannot well afford to pay are sent there at the cost of the agency. The man at my left at table was an Ukrainian sent there at no expense to himself. Sorry I cannot devote a whole page to this national health program.



Above: Dr. Tadeusz Dyboski, director of Poland's Social Insurance Institution and president of the Polish YMCA.

At the head of the sanitarium is the capable Dr. Tadeusz Pisarski. The head of the whole Institution is Dr. Tadeusz Dyboski, president of the Polish YMCA.

Below: Excelsior Sanitarium and its director, Dr. Tadeusz Pisarski.



A Modern Romance

Twenty-five years ago, August 6th, Joseph Pilsudski in command of one battalion of Polish volunteers, advanced from Krakow to attack the Russian garrison in Kielce, a city in Russian Poland some 70 miles north of Krakow. It was almost too utterly romantic to be believed, that this handful of men thought they might in this way contribute to the freeing of Poland from the Russian, Austrian, and German domination. The outcome is one of the most astounding things in history. Not immediately, but eventually, Poland was free, in no small degree due to the efforts of these very men. The leader of this adventurous band, Joseph Pilsudski, became the rebuilder of the Polish Republic and eventually the Marshal of its powerful modern army able on short notice to put a million men into the field with other trained millions in reserve. The living members of that group are today generals, cabinet ministers, important professors, and men in high office. As this is written tens of thousands of people are gathered in Krakow to celebrate the 25th anniversary of that seemingly foolhardy, yet as the outcome proved, profoundly wise adventure.

There were only 172 men in that original battalion, relatively untrained volunteers. Their trained successors number millions.



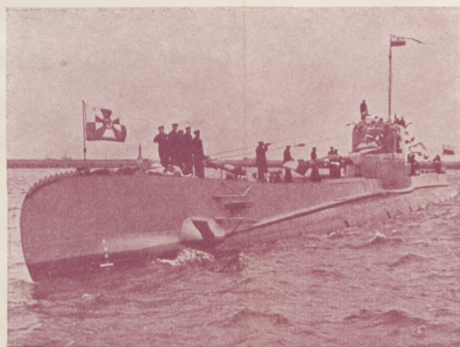
New stamp celebrating the march on Kielce of August 6, 1914.

War Work Courses

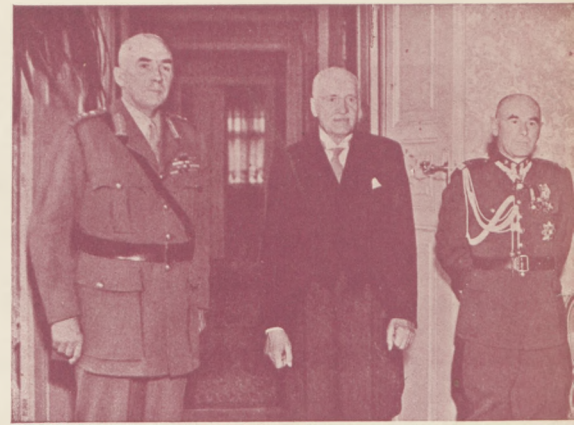
The various branches of the Polish YMCA are conducting courses for the training of YMCA war work personnel. The Warsaw Association has already conducted three such courses. In total, some hundreds of workers have already received preliminary training. If war comes, the Polish YMCA expects to be in it and prepared.

Want A Map?

"News From Poland" has received 400 copies of a new and very attractive map of Central and Western Europe showing the new boundaries. These maps are 18 inches square and printed in six colors. They will be sent free to persons asking for them and enclosing 5c or 2½d, in postage stamps to cover cost of mailing.



Two new units from Poland's expanding fleets for peace and for war. The submarine "Orzel" and the Motorship "Sobieski", the latter one of two fine new ships for the South America run.



General Sir Edmund Ironside, Inspector General of the British Overseas Forces, visiting President of Poland Moscicki and Marshal Edward Smigly-Rydz while on a military mission in Poland. The conferences held during this visit are described as "historic". They dealt with the principles and details of the British-Polish military alliance.

Three Books On Poland

1. *Poland*. By Dr. W. J. Rose, a "Penguin Special", July 1939. 6d. 224 pp. A timely and interesting book, though hastily written. It comes from the pen of a man who has specialized on Poland for 25 years, knows it from A to Z, speaks, reads, and writes Polish, and knows personally an astonishingly large number of Poles. This due to his residence in Poland from 1914 to 1927, a later residence of two years in 1932-1934, and frequent recent visits. Professor Rose, a Canadian Rhodes Scholar and a Ph. D. from Krakow University, is now director of the School of Slavonic Studies of the University of London. No man in the English speaking world is better qualified than he to write a book on Poland.

2. *Poland: Key to Europe*. By Dr. R. L. Buell. 364 pp. A. A. Knopf, New York. April 1939.

This is a cold-blooded and unsympathetic study of Poland made by a man who is a recognized expert on international affairs but scarcely an expert on Poland, prepared for this work by a visit of several months and related research, wide but not too deep and not fully understanding. He marshals innumerable facts and a due sprinkling of errors, none of these latter vital to his major thesis that Poland is the key to Europe and should receive the support of all the democracies. He takes a dig at Poland whenever he can and will certainly not be accused of sentimental attachment to this country. But in spite of his numerous criticisms of Poland, some surely unjustified, this is a book we suggest you read. Salt it with Dr. Rose's book. Ann Cardwell of Warsaw, one of America's limited number of specialists on Poland, says she finds an average of one error or half-truth to a page, errors of fact or interpretation.

3. *The Polish Tradition*. By Paul Super. 224 pp. Allen and Unwin, London. This book comes out of my long residence here in Poland, wide reading, interviewing, and special research. It is the result of three years of work. It will be out in October. Price about 8 shillings. The book seeks to state what a Pole is, what motives guide his actions, what ideals beckon him on, and what the nature of his actions is likely to be, due to his long established national tradition. The sub-title of the book is, "An Interpretation of a Nation".

If you will read all three of these books you will know something about Poland.

That Danzig Issue

The demand for additional copies of "News From Poland" No. 7, our Danzig issue, has been so great that we have printed another run of 1000 copies which will be mailed to persons asking for a copy. Packages of five or more will be sent to official bodies upon request.

Letters From Poland

The interest shown in my "Dear Frank" and "Dear Louis" letters and the intense desire people have these days for first hand information from the hot spots of Europe has led me to decide to enclose a more or less political letter with each issue of "News From Poland". But being a good European and a democrat I want to take a plebiscite on this. Would you care to receive these Letters from Poland? Not for the bulletin board but for your own reading; and printing if you care to reproduce them; or you may use them as a basis of public comment. The enclosed post-card with the proper foreign postage in the corner will serve to tell me what you think about this.

