

# BULLETIN

## OF THE POLISH VOLUNTARY ARMY

### A CALL

TO SOLDIERS AND CITIZENS OF THE CIVILISED NATIONS. 1920

The great war of 1914 — 1918 showed to the nations fighting for Right and Justice that independent and free Poland is an indispensable condition for the establishment of an universal peace.

The Treaty of Versailles reconstructed the Polish Republic.

Unfortunately the Allied powers being in a great hurry to stop this bloody war didn't bring to an end their great task of strengthening peace all over Europe. They left Poland alone to fight against the anarchy of the East and to help the young nations rising on her eastern frontier. It is since 18 months that the young Polish republic already exhausted by the war and the dreadful German occupation, having to create her organisation and her civil service fought against her barbarous neighbour the bolsheviks defending at the same time whole Europe and the results of the Versailles treaty.

At the present moment the red army is menacing Warsaw. All Polish citizens joined the colours with the firm will to gain victory and to live in freedom.

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Poland enjoys the most democratic universal suffrage that ever existed, she has a parliament whose majority is formed by workmen and peasants; representatives of all the political parties including the extreme radical left constitute her government. We are a true democracy. We are a country of freedom, as we were always.

Poles were never absent when there was a question of fighting for Liberty, for the Rights of Man, for Justice, Civilisation and Progress.

Our soldiers and generals were fighting under the free colours of France for the Liberty of the U. S., for the independence of Belgium and Italy. Is it necessary to remind the names of Kościuszko, Mickiewicz, Pułaski, Poniatowski, Dąbrowski, Skrzynecki, and so many others, and all those unknown heroes who went with them abroad?



Our war-cry was always: „Free Poland among free nations“ Consequently no free and happy nations with Poland crushed.

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We polish Volunteers are very well aware of the fact we are fighting not only for our liberty but also for western civilisation and universal peace. We apply as the army of Justice and Liberty of Europe to the soldiers and citizens of all Allied and Associated nations and we ask them to strengthen the forces of a people fighting for Justice and Freedom.

Do you know that in Poland even women volunteered to fight? A detachment of women defending the passage of Vileyka fought against bolshevik forces ten times stronger. Some were killed while fighting, others taken alive were tortured and violated and died gloriously as martyrs.

In our ranks there are fathers with their sons, lads of fifteen and men of sixty, ministers of state, members of parliament, professors, directors of great news-papers, clergymen together with workers, farmers, students and school-boys.

Here we see the effort of Poland! At this last hour we appeal to true soldiers. History is watching you! There is still time to save Europe from an universal carnage.

The polish army will find sufficient forces to throw out the enemy beyond the frontiers of our country. But a complete union of civilised nations must gain a definite victory, if Europe is to be set free of the menace of a barbarian yoke.

It is only then the world will recover a just and permanent peace.

In the name of Polish Volunteers

General HALLER.

Warsaw, August, 18, 1920.

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## The defence of the capital.

Warsaw is not only the centre of Poland, not only her capital but also the heart of the country.

The enemy understands it very well. In his ranks are many late generals of the Tsar, who „ruled“ in Poland before the war and who know her perfectly well. That is why the bolschewik Government really intends to make peace only after taking Warsaw, making out it wants to conclude peace as soon as possible. All lies, perfidy in prolonging peace negotiations has only one aim: to enter into the Capital of Poland.

But fortunately, the Poles understand it too; the moment the news came Warsaw is menaced, the aspect of the town changed violently. The inhabitants of Warsaw, as the Parisians in 1914, understood immediately the earnestness of the moment.

The life of a great town changed into one movement of war — preparation.

To-day one almost does not meet — with the exception of Jewish quarters — men going in civil dress. All men, even almost children, join the army or the auxiliary service.

The Government makes everything it can. The famous defender of Cieszyn, General Latinik, was named military governor of Warsaw and adjoining districts with full power. A state of siege was proclaimed. Public circulation is prohibited after 10 p. m.

The municipal authorities organised on August, 4 the Council of the defence of the Capital and the municipal Guard. The first, a purely military organisation, is composed of men, who were not called to colours. They are to be used only in the sphere of fifty klm. round the Capital.

The municipal Guard organised on July 27, is divided in 6 districts oc-

cupying the whole town and its environs. It is composed of elderly men, mostly after forty—two and young boys from 15—17.

Conscription offices are full. The municipal guard is to occupy the place of the police force, which is militarised.

The task of fortifying the town was given to General Wroczyński, lately chief of the General Staff. The work is going on quickly owing to the great number of volunteers, who are coming to prepare trenches, to arrange iron fences and make all necessary preparations.

The Capital awaits a decisive battle.

The lot of Poland will not be decided in Minsk in negotiations with the bolsheviks, but on the large plains close to Warsaw.

That is why the Soviet Govt intends to make peace when the red army enters to Warsaw or when it will be far beyond the frontiers of Poland.

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## Workmen and the war.

The most striking dementi of the calumnies Poland fights for the reactionary imperialism of her capitalists is given by the actual attitude of Polish workmen. All workmen parties, all syndicalistic organisations of Poland put themselves at the disposal of the army. The Polish socialistic party, as well as the national workmen party and the Christian democrats appealed to their members to reinforce the army. They opened workmen recruitment offices, they organise in Warsaw and in other industrial centres great political meetings in favour of national defence. They publish and distribute hundreds of thousands of copies of appeals and manifestoes showing the enthusiasm of the Polish workmen class for their country.



Owing to a want of place we cannot publish integrally these texts. We give only some sentences so as to illustrate our informations. The central organ of the Polish socialistic party (Robotnik) writes in one of his recent numbers (April, 10): the volunteer movement began by the workmen comity of National defence occupies the whole country. We get news from Piotrkow, Pruszków, Lodz, Czestochowa, Sosnowiec that there are being formed battalions to fight menace to Warsaw and the workmen movement by the possibility of an invasion. A cry „down the invaders“ rises from the breasts of all Polish workmen. And the organ of national workmen (Sprawa robotnicza) of April, 8.:

„We get from all places accounts of public meetings organised by our party, attended by great numbers of workmen. They vote in favour of further recruitment and ask those unable to join colours to double the amount of work done in factories, they subscribe large sums to the National Loan. All speeches show complete understanding of the situation and specially of that of the bolsheviks. Bolshevism is considered as a scourge of humanity and particularly as that of workers. It is destructive to the cause of workmen and it compromises a solution of the working question as it loses it in a bloody anarchy and a savage absolutism“.

Listen, workmen of France, England and Italy, to what you are told by your brethren in Poland.

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## Polish Women.

It is a truth that cannot be too often repeated that a definitive success of Poland's defensive fight against the imperialistic wave of Russian bolshevism depends on the common

effort of whole Poland, as much on the courage of her soldiers on the battle-fields as on the mobilisation of her social forces in the interior of the country.

The Polish nation is conscious of this necessity and she organises quickly all possible means of social aid to the regular soldier at the moment when the enemy advances to the gates of her capital, bringing death and pillage.

There, on the battle-fields volunteers together with the regular army hold ground against thousands of Russian „moujiks“ pushed by machine-guns. At the same time Polish women in the interior of the country help to mobilise auxiliary forces. Besides the „Circle of Polish women“, (fugitives' service), the Red Cross (sanitary help), the White Cross (victuals, there is the „Women National Service“, that completes the work of those societies.

The last-named is organised as a social auxiliary centre and works in complete union with the military authorities. General HALLER, Inspector General of the Volunteer Army and commander of the North-eastern army issued an appeal on July, 22 asking the members of this society to consider themselves as auxiliary forces to the army and organising a severe discipline in all their functions equal to that of the military organisation.

The Women National Service is an emanation of 23 women societies of all groups of Poland; we see there representatives of the town and village, intellectuals and women-workers. It is best illustrated in the following division into sections: administration soldiers, help, finances, town, organisation of the country and propaganda.

The „Ligue of students“ is organised almost in the same manner. It comprises the University, The Polytechnicum and the Free University. Everywhere the same care, the sa-



me effort to help our polish soldier, who has not a lighter task than his french brother of 1914.

## The red army in Brody.

General Krajewski expelled the red army from Brody, a town on the eastern frontier of Galicia. The polish pursuit continues and the Russians are losing ground. The red invasion of Brody lasted 10 days. That time was quite sufficient for the valiant army of Trotskij to reduce this commercial town of more than 100 thousands inhabitants to a state of ruin and complete devastation. Scenes of this invasion can be compared only to the worst exploits of Huns and Tartars.

After having occupied the town the russian „general“ Budienny allowed his soldiers to pillage freely for three hours. Those 3 hours are a rule of the russian army; that is their usual „debut“ wherever they enter. Naturally those 3 hours lasted in Brody. 10 days and 10 nights. The spirit of equality of the bolsheviks did not allow to make any difference as to nationality, religion, sex and age: poles, ruthenians, jews, men, women, old men and children were assailed and violated with the same ferocity. No mansions, no dwellings, no lodgings, even the poorest were let free. Russian soldiers simply took away everybody's purse, watch, all valuables—dresses, linen, boots. The richest houses are reduced to penury. „Natural“ remains are the only trace of men, who want to set free the world. But all this destruction of material property is nothing in comparison with the atrocities committed on the inhabitants of Brody. Hundreds of families of all classes and religions presented themselves to the polish authorities after the expulsion

of the russians and described different acts of atrocities committed by the Russians: girls of eleven were violated, as their sisters and mothers; all of them were beaten, terrorised. Some cossagues invaded a house of a poor jewish worker, Szmul Majer and massacred with their sabres in the eyes of the terrified parents their sleeping child of 18 month.

60 polish soldiers fighting with the reds in the environs of the town were surrounded by the enemy and massacred; their heads formed one single mass, so that identification was impossible. The population even the jews knelt down at the sight of those corpses.

The joy of the population of being free is not to be described. Polish soldiers are received as saviours; all men joined the Volunteer army. Some owing to their very young or very old age were not accepted. Ruthenian soldiers declared: „it is better to kiss the boots of a polish soldier than have to do with Russian freedom.“

The russian occupation of Brody was an outrage on civilisation, humanity and freedom. It was bestiality of furious fools.

Fifteen cossagues shot down a carpenter, Frenkel, and a merchant of salt, Mendel Stojanover. Afterwards they violated, one after another, his daughter in the presence of her father's body.

On the very day of taking Brody the bolsheviks constituted an „Extraordinary Commission“ („Tchrezvytchaika“) and began their „work“ by arresting Father Prauss, Father Buszyński, Dr. Daniluk and many other persons. The bolshevik authorities ordered all shops to be open as the cossagues said it is difficult to rob closed shops. Pillage was made easy in that way.



## From the invaded country.

The bolsheviks organised in Vilno on August a great meeting of propaganda. Bronstein-Trotsky presided. The „tsar“ of the bolsheviks declared:

„The Soviet Government is officially acknowledged by the great powers. Kamienieff and Krasin are accepted with all honours of a prince of royal blood. The bourgeois politicians think to put off communism from their countries when negotiating with us. Be sure, we shall not sell our conscience as revolutionaries. I can guarantee that in a year communism and the soviets will reign in France and England.“

A prisoner declared the bolsheviks in Bialystok have confiscated everything. All shops are empty. A pound of bread that cost 7 marks two weeks ago, costs hundred roubles under bolshevik occupation. Town Concillors Siemionka and Gliński were shot. Lodgings of mayor Szymański and of the president of the Council Filipowicz are totally robbed.

During the first 3 days of the occupation the bolsheviks arrested three thousands persons, many women were among those arrested.

At the same time 16 inhabitants were shot.

In Human the bolsheviks sentenced to death 30 persons. They pushed those unhappy victims quite naked across the town. A lot of hungry dogs accompanied this procession. The dogs threw themselves on the bodies after the execution and were seen for some days to carry human bones about the town. Only a few families were permitted to bury their dead bribing the authorities.

A soldier of the red army shot down with his revolver a woman,

who did not accept his improper proposal.

Dreadful cases of bolshevik cruelty, quite inconciliable with elementary notions of human law happened when the bolsheviks entered unexpectedly to Zytomierz at the beginning of the actual offensive of the red army in June 1920.

We hasten to state one of the many horrible facts, absolutely authentic, deposited by testimony in a law suit.

The section of fugitives of the ministry of Social Help accepted a boy of 15 without eyes. This happened, according to him, in the following circumstances. The commander of the bolshevik detachment, that entered into the town ordered all children who could be seized to be assembled and asked them if there are among them any children of polish officers. The boy in question was so imprudent as to say he is the son of a colonel. He was seized immediately and one of the soldiers by order of the commander drew out his eyes. He was left then in the street — then taken to Warsaw by the fugitives, a living prove of bolshevik savagery.

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## Notes and documents

The official paper of the Soviets: „Izvestya“ of May, 29 № 266 publishes the following order, dated May 22, № 69.

The last facts that arose on the different sectors of the polish front, our continual advance on polish territory and the defence of the polish population, growing stronger and stronger oblige us to give to our camerades instructions how it is necessary to proceed on the above mentioned sections in order to create an organisation of the Soviet authorities.



According to the experiences of the actual civil war it is necessary to begin immediately to put down without mercy the whole Polish population till it is completely exterminated i. e. as long as this population is not totally massacred.

No compromise is permitted, accordingly it is necessary:

1) Rich peasants must be terrorised, put to death to the last as well as all other Poles who fought in any form against the Soviet Government.

2) All cereals must be seized and the population must be obliged to deliver them to certain set — down points of concentration. This applies to all other soil—products.

3) Necessary measures must be taken in order to help with all possible means Russian emigrants into Poland. Wherever it will be possible this colonisation must be intensely organised.

4) The immigrants will have the same rights as the ancient Polish population.

5) A complete disarmament of the Polish population must begin immediately and everybody found in possession of a single cartridge must be put to death.

6) Even the smallest Polish village must be occupied by military force and this occupation must be maintained till the complete pacification of the country.

7) Camerades—communists, who are entrusted with pacification must proceed with extreme severity in order to bring to a favourable end the above mentioned program.

8) The „tchrezvytchajkas“ must number five times so many members as the „tchrezvytchajkas“ in Russia. All the commissaires of those „tchrezvytchajkas“ in Poland must be inhabitants of Central Russia.

9) The Central Comity of the Soviets will work out means and methods necessary for the quickest

colonisation of Poland by the poor of Russia.

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The delegate of the international Red Cross of Geneva in Warsaw, Mr V. Gloor sent a radiotelegram to the President of the Russian Red Cross in Moscow.

**Solovieff President Russian Red Cross  
Moscow.**

By your telegram of May, 24, 1920 and by letter signed by Mr President of Soviets Lenin and by the Commissaire of Foreign affairs Tchitcherine you begged aid and assistance to the Russian Red Cross by the international Red Cross of Geneva and you acknowledged and engaged yourself to observe integrally the Geneva Convention. To-day we learn with horror the atrocities and massacres committed by the Red army in Proskuroff and Radzivillovka on the personnel of the Polish Red Cross. The Geneva Convention was violated in a most ignoble and cynical manner. We beg you to make an official enquiry. Put yourself on an exclusively humanitarian and apolitical ground and order immediately those facts not to be repeated. We learn also the Red army has taken as hostage Mr Anthony Tyszkiewicz and other aged persons and we beg you to set them free immediately and to send them back in a sure place. Prove to us you want to respect sincerely the Geneva Convention.

(signed) Gloor

(Delegate of the International Comity of the Red Cross in Poland).

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We give here extracts of appeals thrown about amongst Polish soldiers by bolsheviks:

...„the military clique under the influence of the commissaire of the French Govt to the Polish general Staff, General Henrys did not choose to speak with communistic wor-



kers, with bolsheviks, hateful to french capitalists. This clique has thrown the polish army—according to general Henrys expression: „french forces on the Vistula“ against Ukraina... Poland of to day is under the yoke of allied occupants. We independant revolutionists, fought once against Tharism, then against Prussian occupation; to day *we fight with the occupation of Poland by the Allies.*

We bring freedom to Poland. Russia is the first county where a general revolution of nations began... Brother soldiers, peasants and workers of all Poland... throw out officers bough by the Allies, allied bourgeois ambassadors, who govern Poland not asked.

Unite with the Reds, it is only they who want Poland to be truly free.

Away with the cursed and obnoxious to Poland anglo-french war!

*Away with Allied occupation of Poland.*

Independent Revolutionist, fighting in the rangs of the Red Army for true freedom of Poland.

## The Opinion of a Russian Revolutionist.

The famous chief of russian revolutionists, B. W. Savinkoff, who after a long stay in Paris, is living some weeks already in Warsaw, avowed his opinion on the present situation to a polish journalist. We extract from this interview („Kurjer Wieczorny“, August, 17, 1920) some sentences:

„The spirit of your army? I was in Brześć at the moment of the polish retreat and even then the polish soldiers I saw (it was General Sikorski's army) were full of the best spirit. At the actual hour when the armies are standing under the walls of Warsaw, this spirit is still mo-

re valiant. That is why I believe in the victory of polish troops. And this victory opens the largest perspectives.

„It is not phraseology to say that the lot of the world is played out here, before Warsaw. Because, if the bolsheviks gain here, on the Vistula, the next place to fight will be on the banks of the Rhine. I don't believe the Germans are going to fight against the bolsheviks, on the contrary, they will unite themselves in order to put down France and this would be the beginning of a world's catastrophe.

„But if the bolsheviks are beaten near Warsaw—I don't see for them a means to hold out further. The red army will be obliged to withdraw to the East and it will become disorganised, as this retreat will be a signal for revolutionary movements among the peasants.

„The next step after a bolshevik feat in Poland will be the break down of bolshevism in Russia. It would be sufficient for a russian military corps even feeble but truly democratic to march after the retreating red army and to attract the peasant and this body will grow like a snow ball An invincible force will push it to Moscow. It is only a peasant revolution that will be able to overthrow the Soviet-Government. But this revolution can begin only after a defeat of the red army on the polish front“.

We must add, Mr Savinkoff is the chief of the socialists-revolutionists.

## At the last Hour.

### Before the great Battle.

General Haller issued the following order of the day before the decisive battle:

Soldiers!

You attained the line of defence of Warsaw. Your present task is to



defend the Capital of your fatherland and the whole country. In this place we must gain victory, and we will. The line of the Vistula must become the tomb of the invaders. Polish soldiers, our dead heroes, the whole nation is looking at you. You have their whole confidence.

*General HALLER.*

The Polish regular army, reinforced by volunteers justified totally this confidence. The communiqués of our General Staff prove it.

#### Communiqués of the General Staff of August 15, 16 and 17, 1920.

Our counter-attack proceeds in a favorable manner.

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The behaviour of our cavalry, composed mostly of volunteers on this sector must be mentioned specially.

The divisions of the Northern Army are marching forward notwithstanding heavy losses and a stubborn resistance of the enemy, who has ten divisions in this region.

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The counter offensive directed on the sector of Modlin by General Sikorski meets with a stubborn resistance of the enemy. It is stated that bolshevik infantry is fighting only when terrorised by the commissaires. Our action is developing favorably. Serock was taken on the seventeenth. We have taken in the last days about 2000 prisoners, some dozens of machine guns and a great number of transports.

The attacks of the enemy against the line of defence of Warsaw failed, as beforehand.

During the fights of the 16th, de-

tachments of the Lithuanian-White-Ruthenian division near Radzymin beat the 185 and 186 Soviet regiments, detachments of the 10th division took 4 guns, 7 machine-guns and a great number of prisoners.

At the time of offensive of our central army, the left wing of the positions near Warsaw began an attack. The frontal attack with tanks resulted in the retaking of Dembe-Wielkie. Our detachments are marching in the direction of Nowo-Minsk.

On the whole front of the Vistula to the Bug our armies are marching forward, firmly and bravely pushing the fleeing enemy in complete disorder.

#### The volunteers in the Fire.

Volunteers!

My confidence in you was not broken. Your energy and your faith to gain victory, by which you are inspired, were a precious comfort for our regular soldiers, who are tired by two years of fighting. The strength of your arms and your enthusiasm defend the walls of Warsaw and the banks of the Vistula.

The bodies of our soldiers formed a living wall; all attacks against that wall will fail.

In the name of the service I thank You, Officers and men of the 201st, 205th and 263rd regiments. Your country is in debt with everyone of you. You have well accomplished your task of military honour.

Forward, towards victory, as your valiant chiefs.

Inspector-General of the Volunteers Army and Commander of the North-Eastern front

*General HALLER.*

#### A new bolshevik and pangerman attempt.

We just learn the Germans in Gdansk („free town of Dantzig“) use all means to prevent the disembarkment of volunteers of different nationalities, who are coming to fight with Poland.

The whole Polish nation protests warmly against this insolent violation of the treaty of Versailles, assuring us a free access to the sea by the port of Gdansk.



