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POLISH YOUTH

YESTERDAY, TO-DAY and TOMORROW

M-37

Polish Students Association in Great Britain.

London, 1943.

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NEVER WITH YESTERDAY, TO-DAY,
OR TO-MORROW

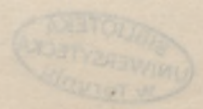
POLISH YOUTH

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Revised Edition published April 1914

STOWARZYSZENIE STUDENTÓW
POLAKÓW W PARYŻU
Association des Etudiants Polonais
& PARIS
Rue de Valenciennes

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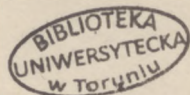


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POLISH YOUTH—YESTERDAY, TO-DAY, AND TO-MORROW.

*From the "Manifesto of Polish Youth" published
"Somewhere in Occupied Poland"*

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Message to the Polish Students Association in Great Britain from the Executive Committee of the International Council of Students in Great Britain.

"On the occasion of the second edition of your pamphlet on Polish Youth we should like to offer our best wishes and our hope that the pamphlet will be of service in awakening its readers in this country to the stark reality of the sufferings of their fellow students and young people in occupied Poland to-day. This knowledge will help us all to understand fully the enemy against which we are waging a united struggle, and increase our determination and our practical efforts to defeat him in the earliest possible future. The participation of the Polish Students Association in the work of the International Council of Students is helping to develop understanding between the students of Poland and those of Britain and the other nations represented here, which will be of incalculable worth in building our future when the victory over fascism is won."

Excerpts from the "Manifesto of Polish Youth," issued somewhere in occupied Poland.

"Because of the inscrutable plans of Providence, we, the happiest generation of young Poles, brought up in a free Poland . . . have been forced under the yoke of the invader, who is murdering our fathers and brothers, destroying all our cultural inheritance, robbing us of our possessions and undermining the foundations of our young, growing State. A shadow has been cast over us.

This shadow, however, can neither weaken our faith nor lessen the feeling of our national dignity. We are far from desperation or despondency and we do not feel any humiliation. We believe in our country and are proud of being Poles. We believe that Poland will be free again before our youth is gone. We believe in it not only because faith is the privilege of youth. We believe in it for we believe in the victory of Truth over Falsehood, of Good over Evil. . . for we believe in the logic of history which tells us that states built on violence and materialism are always short-lived. . .

We realise how many opportunities have been wasted by our own fault, how many were not made the best of in the fight against the enemy. . . we know, however, that Man was bound to lose in a fight against Machines. In this fight, however, the Pole has distinguished himself by such courage, that he is now the object and source of our faith and pride. This again does not mean that we do not realise that the whole of our future will depend on changes within ourselves.

The fight goes on relentlessly. The enemy is not idle. We, young people, must come to realize why our universities and secondary schools have been closed. We must come to realize why we have been deprived of all our cultural institutions, why the invader is trying to feed us with pornography and worthless German publications. He does it to check the spiritual development of the Polish people, to abase them—to make them the beggars of Europe. The closing down of schools is not a result of the German occupation. It is a deliberate

attack on Polish intellectual life, directed especially against us, the young generation. The enemy wants to sink us through forced idleness into moral dissipation and to destroy all our vitality. His purpose is to prevent us, when the day of final struggle for our national existence comes, from producing soldiers. . . armed with spiritual force and a fist of iron. The enemy wants our nation to become dull and fallow. He also wants to deprive us of our main strength—our youthful energy. . .

We accept the challenge! In spite of the enemy's anger, the pulse of our life will not weaken for a moment. We know the importance of time and energy. We shall not lose either of them. . . Every one of us without exception, whether a young farmer or a young worker, an artisan, student or schoolboy, whether he lives in the country, or in the town—must make the following important decisions.

First of all he should choose according to his best knowledge and to his conscience his future unit when the time of supreme struggle comes. He should train himself physically, watch and be ready at the first sign. The youngest of us, who are yet incapable of carrying arms, should gather information useful from the military point of view.

Secondly, Poland will be strong spiritually, physically and intellectually only if every one of us builds up stores of moral strength, enriches his mind and submits his body to the hardest physical effort. And so our great duties are to build character, to amass knowledge, to train the body. . .

. . . This is our Manifesto! It contains living truths in which the young generation of Poles believe, and at the same time it forms a clear plan of action. This Manifesto does not contain political or social slogans. It only proclaims the urge of self training because for an active political and social life, strong character and learning are essential. That is why our aims are expressed not by words but by action. . .

. . . In the underground of our national life we must create a real moral organization of Polish youth. We shall not write statutes or elect boards, but we shall be bound together by common morals and common ideas, to which we have pledged our youth and our whole lives . . .”

Yesterday

POLISH UNIVERSITIES

“ Hitler's Attitude Towards Polish Learning.”

Letters are still being received in Warsaw from foreign scholars and scientific institutions asking why they no longer receive copies of the latest Polish scientific publications and also enquiring about the development of all kinds of research work on which views were exchanged with other countries before the war. Foreign scientists still ask for copies of Polish pre-war publications and cannot understand why they receive no reply. The reason is simple. Polish learning no longer exists. **There is no Polish Learning Under German Occupation.**

For us Poles in this country, who feel deeply for our compatriots in their daily struggle for existence under German rule, these questions about Polish learning and education at the present time only prove how little the outside world really knows of what is happening to Polish learning in occupied Poland to-day.

The German attitude to Polish learning is best illustrated by the following fact: —



A Courtyard of the oldest Polish University,
the Jagiellonian University in Cracow.

The academic year at the University of Cracow opened on the 4th October, 1939. On the 6th October all the professors and lecturers of this oldest Polish University, were "invited" by the Germans to attend a lecture held in one of the halls of the Collegium Novum. This lecture was to be given by the representative of the German authorities on the subject "The Attitude of Chancellor Hitler Towards Polish Learning." Attendance was in actual fact compulsory. When as a result of this about 200 Polish scholars, from the oldest professors to the youngest lecturers, were assembled together in the hall, the Germans suddenly seized them and put them under arrest. They were sent to the concentration camp of Oranienburg near Berlin. They were kept all through the severe winter of 1939-1940 in unheated huts, and subjected to the cruellest torture and humiliation. 17 of these Polish scholars died as a result, while the rest became seriously ill, or were completely exhausted and incapable of further work.

Such was the first official sign of the intentions of the German authorities with regard to Polish learning.

Short Historical Review.

The Jagiellonian University of Cracow is not only the oldest Polish University, it is also the oldest University in Eastern Europe. Founded in 1364 in Cracow by the Polish King Casimir the Great, and extended in 1400 by King Ladislas Jagiello, it was modelled at first on the lines of the Italian universities and later on the university of Paris. The XV century was the golden age of development for the University of Cracow. Its professors of theology and law played a brilliant part in the General Councils of Constance and Basle. At one of the Councils of Constance, Paul Wlodkowic, a Rector of Cracow University, criticised the lust and rapacity of the Teutonic Knights, who, ever since they settled in East Prussia in the XIII century, had massacred and oppressed the population of that region. Paul Wlodkowic defended the theory—an unusual one for those days—that people should not be converted to Christianity by violence and the sword.

In addition to theology and philosophy the studies of mathematical science and astronomy stood very high in the University of Cracow. It was at this University that Nicholas Copernicus, the world famed Polish astronomer studied. The Jagiellonian University also had many students from Lithuania, Ruthenia, Hungary, Germany and Bohemia and even from more distant countries such as England, Switzerland, Spain and Scandinavia. At the beginning of the XVI century the Jagiellonian University became the centre of the Humanist Movement in Poland. The period of the Renaissance gave Poland many of her

famous writers—Kochanowski and Skarga, as well as many political and pedagogical writers. Of these, perhaps the most famous is Andrew Frycz-Modrzewski (Fricius Modrevius) whose work "De Republica Emendanda" was translated into the French, Spanish and German languages. By the end of the XVI century Poland had no less than three universities—the Jagiellonian in Cracow, the Vilna Academy founded in 1578 and the Zamoyski Academy founded in Zamosc in 1595. In 1661 academic courses were started in Lwow. The beginning of the XVIII century, however, saw a decline in Polish learning. The reasons for this are various and cannot be entered into here.

The year 1741 meant the opening of a new era of development for Poland, in which Polish learning again took its rightful place in the culture of Europe. In 1773 an Education Commission was formed, and this may be said to be the First Ministry of Education in Europe. It was responsible for widespread reforms. After the Third Partition of Poland in 1795 the Commission ceased to exist, but the reforms which it had carried out were still effective. It was owing to the influence of the Commission that the young Tzar Alexander I carried out measures of school reform in Russia at the beginning of the XIX century. Throughout the 150 years of Partition Poland people everywhere, whether under Russia, Prussia or Austria, tried to create some sort of



The University of Lwow.

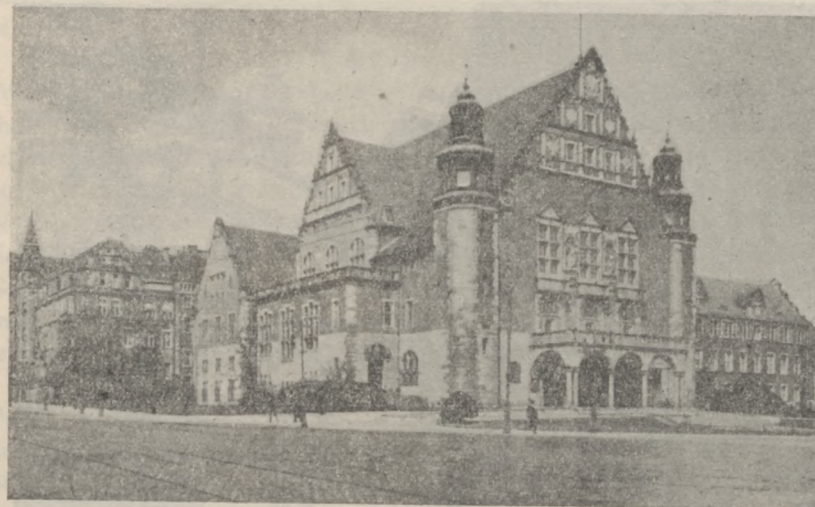
Polish cultural life. The only places where this was possible were the University of Vilna during the reign of Tsar Alexander I (closed 1832), the new Warsaw University, founded in 1816 during the time of the Congress Kingdom (1815-1831), the restored University of Cracow in the so-called Cracow Republic (1815-1846), and the *Szkola Glowna* in Warsaw (1862-1869). Under Austrian rule, two Polish Universities were open (from 1867-1918) in Cracow and Lwow, and there was an Agricultural Academy in Dublany. In 1873 an Academy of Sciences was founded in Cracow.

The policy of all three Partitioning Powers aimed at restricting Polish learning and at closing down the new and restored Polish Universities. All this time the Polish nation, under conditions immeasurably worse and more difficult than those enjoyed by the free nations of the West, continued to develop its learning and culture. During the Partitions many famous Polish scholars, writers and poets, such as the great Romancists Mickiewicz and Slowacki, emigrated abroad and carried on their work there. It is sufficient to mention the name of the Polish woman scientist, Maria Curie-Sklodowska, and the famous anthropologist, Professor Bronislaw Malinowski. The works of Joseph Conrad and the discoveries of the explorer, Paul Strzelecki, are especially famous in Great Britain.

Progress from 1914-1939.

At the time of the outbreak of the Great War (1914-1918) there were two Polish Universities in existence in the Partitioned Territory which was later restored as the Polish State. One was in Cracow and the other in Lwow. In the latter town there was in addition a technical University College and Veterinary College, founded in 1881. There was also an Agricultural College in Dublany. There was a University and a Technical University College in Warsaw, but these had been taken over by the Russians and was therefore boycotted by Polish students. In the year 1910-1911 there were altogether 10,000 students in the Universities of Cracow and Lwow and in the Lwow Technical University College.

In 1915-16, a University and a Technical University College were organised in Warsaw; shortly after the restoration of Poland in 1918, Universities were founded in both Poznan and Vilna in 1919. A mining Academy was set up in Cracow and a private Catholic University was founded in Lublin. Agricultural Courses which had been taking place in Warsaw since 1905, led to the formation of a College of Rural Economy. Courses in Commerce developed into the College of Commerce, and certain private courses led to the formation of the



The University of Poznan.

so-called *Wolna Wszecznicna Polska*—the Private University in Warsaw, with an extra-mural Department in Lodz. A College of Dentistry and an Academy of Fine Arts were founded in Warsaw. An Academy of this nature had already existed in Cracow. At the same time other private colleges were started such as Colleges of Commerce in Poznan and in Cracow, a College of Foreign Commerce in Lwow, a College of Political Science and a College of Journalism in Warsaw. Before the outbreak of the present war there were 28 Universities and Colleges in Poland. The number of students attending them was increasing rapidly and in 1933-34 the total number was 49,600. This means 1.4 to the thousand, whereas in England and Wales for 1932 the figure was 1.2 per thousand, in France 1.8.

Polish Universities and Colleges had to carry on their work under extremely difficult conditions—the financial means of a country ruined by war are very limited—and with very little financial help from abroad. In spite of this many new schools were built. These were essential in view of the constantly increasing number of students. At the same time modern laboratories were set up—fitted out with all the necessary equipment, like the Institute of Experimental Physics in the University of Warsaw—the latter received financial help from the Rockefeller Fund—the Institutes of Technology in the Warsaw Technical University College and the Institute of Chemistry in Warsaw University.



A part of the University Buildings in Vilno.

The standard required from students was a very high one. In the last few years before the war, the Government and University authorities set about reforming the university programme and—without lowering the general standard—they endeavoured to make the task of the student easier and hours of attendance shorter. More financial aid

was given to students, the majority of whom had been forced to do other work in order to pay their university fees.

During the 21 years of Polish independence following the Great War, Polish universities and colleges fulfilled their task well, providing the Polish State with necessary and properly qualified workers, of whom there had been serious lack during the first few years after 1918. It must be remembered that in partitioned Poland all positions of importance in State Administration, in the Courts and in Education, were occupied by Russians in the Russian part of Poland and by Germans in the German part. In the latter all key positions in industry in Silesia and other regions were held exclusively by German engineers.

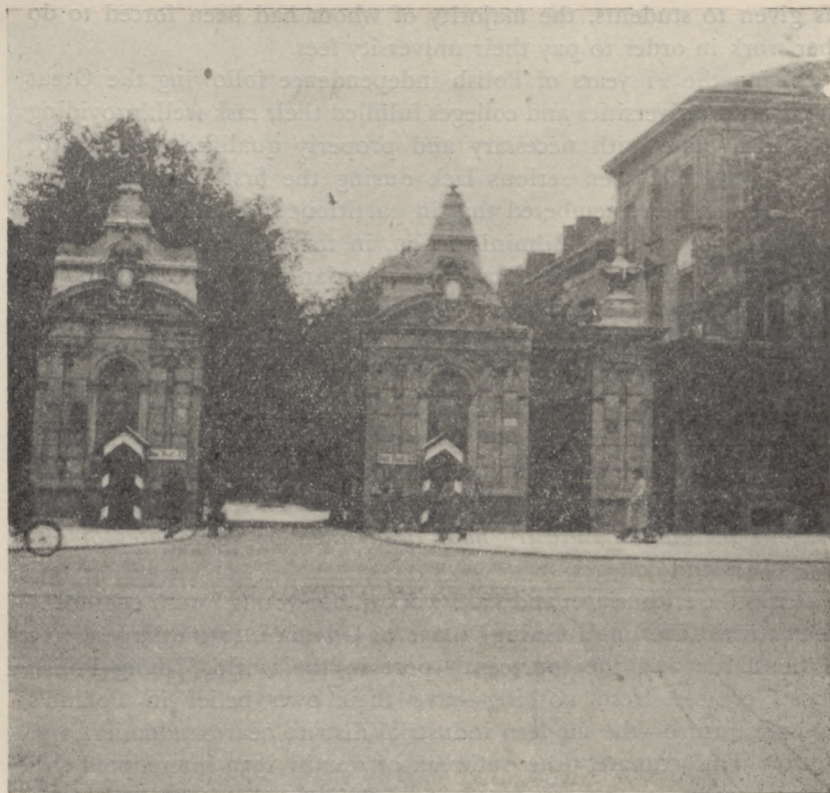
Therefore we may say with real pride that after the restoration of Polish independence in 1918 Poland succeeded in taking over all offices and factories in face of enormous difficulties, without adequate means of her own and without assistance from abroad. *In recent years all key positions in Silesian industry have been filled by graduates of our universities and colleges.*

It was the enthusiasm and hard work of our young Polish engineers, which turned the small fishing village of Gdynia into the largest port in the Baltic and the fourteenth port in the world. Young Polish experts created from nothing—save their own belief in Poland's economic future—the modern industrial district near Sandomierz and Rzeszow. Unfortunately the outbreak of war in 1939 interrupted this daring enterprise and rendered its completion, on the vast scale intended, impossible.

Education in Poland was not only confined to universities and colleges. There were in existence many other educational institutions, especially in those towns which did not possess a University of their own, such as the Society for Learning, the Copernicus Library and the Baltic Institute, in Torun, the Silesian Institute and Museum in Katowice as well as many others. In Poland, before the war, there were over 500 independent societies and institutions for learning and education, and it is interesting to note that in 1937, 440 publications were published by Polish educational associations.

The entry of the German armies into Poland and the taking over of Poland by the Nazis has interrupted the work and activities of Polish universities, colleges and foundations.

All the universities, without exception, have been closed down. The Germans have set about destroying systematically the whole of Polish intellectual life and the whole of Polish learning. Looting and the



German Sentries in front of the gates of Warsaw University, now a German barracks.

destruction of property of universities, of intellectual associations and foundations, the imprisonment, deportation to concentration camps, or shooting of Polish scholars and scientists—are the methods the Germans use to achieve this end. Those who have been fortunate enough to escape prison or the concentration camp, or those few who have been released, are now entirely without means of livelihood, and are totally unable to resume their own work. The losses which were suffered during the September campaign and during the three years of occupation by Polish universities and colleges are only in small part due to the natural consequences of war. They are largely the result of deliberate and well thought out German policy, which aims at the complete destruction of Polish culture, and the wiping out of all traces of Polish State and national life. By removing all means of education for the nation, the Germans hope to make Poland merely the producer

of raw materials, and agricultural products. All this under German technical and state control, while the Poles, if not entirely exterminated, are to be reduced to the level of slave workers.

POLISH YOUTH BEFORE THE WAR.

Poland, a Country of Young People.

Poland before the war was a very young country as far as the average age of the population was concerned. When war broke out 43 per cent. of the population were under 20. In France and Germany only 30 per cent. of the population were under 20, whilst in Great Britain it was 33 per cent. and in the U.S.A. 39 per cent. The young people of Poland, whether working in the country or the towns, whether studying or combining their studies with other work—a fairly common state of things in a country where many people were poor—immediately put on uniform and came to the defence of their country on the outbreak of war. After the campaign of September 1939, hundreds of thousands of young Poles found themselves in prison camps in Germany and Russia, and thousands more succeeded in crossing the Hungarian and Rumanian frontiers and reaching the Polish Army in France.

Poland, before the war, was not only a country of youth, but a country where the young people led an exceeding active life. The largest youth group in Poland, the Country Youth, as well as other groups, had its own political, social, sports and educational organisations. The most important youth organisations were the Union of Village Youth—"Wici," the Central Association of Village Youth—"Siew," and the Catholic Young Men and Young Women's Associations. These organisations, all of which worked on similar lines although their programmes were sometimes different, aimed at raising the standard of living in the Polish countryside, and assuring the latter a proper position in the political and social life of the nation.

Polish working youth had its own organisations. Young workers were members of the youth sections of the labour parties; many belonged to the P.P.S., the Polish Socialist Party, which possessed an excellent organisation for the education of workers, called the Society of Workers Universities; others belonged to the Youth sections of the Trades Unions and a number of other special organisations.

Young people of school age were organised in various groups: in the Scout organisations, in Red Cross Circles, in the League of National Air Defence, in the Maritime and Colonial League, and in school organisations.

The most important of these organisations was the Polish Scout Movement, which was open to schoolboys between the ages of 8 and 19, and was divided into two groups, in addition to which there was the Ranger Group. The boys who joined the Scouts were mostly from the towns, and in industrial districts such as Silesia a large percentage of the boys were from the working class. The percentage of boys from the country districts in the ranks of the Boys Scouts was about 20 per cent.

Our Scouts took part in all the International Jamborees, and the Polish Scout Movement was affiliated to the International Scout Bureau, while the Polish Girl Guides belonged to the World Guide Bureau.

Among organisations for older youth, the following are worthy of mention:—the Polish Y.M.C.A., the Senior Scouts, the Society of People's Schools, the Society of People's Libraries, and others.

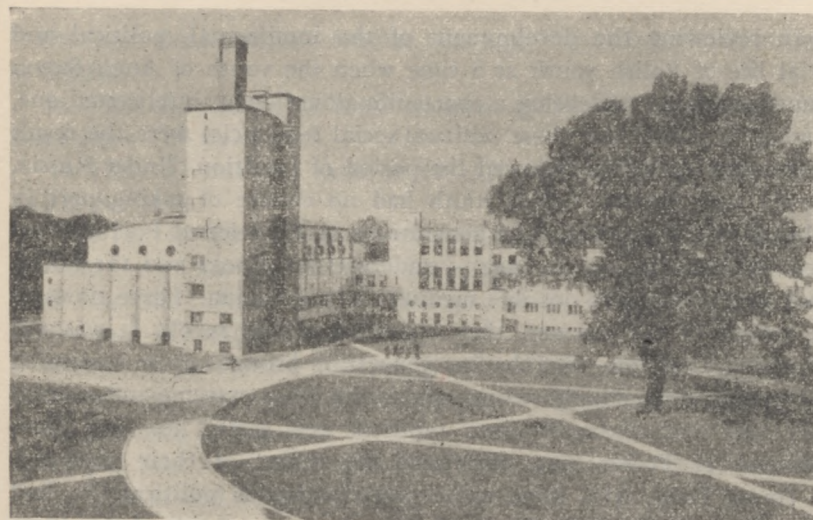
Academic Life.

Academic life was particularly well developed. It was concentrated in the associations of Brotherly Help, learning circles, sports associations, discussion clubs, and in political and ideological organisations of all kinds. Because of this widely-developed organisation of Polish University life, the University of Poland was not only a centre of learning but a school of social life.

In 1938-39 Poland had 28 Universities and Colleges, with 50,000 students and with 580 various organisations for the youth of Poland as well as for that of the minorities. *The largest number of these organisations—namely 149—were attached to the Warsaw University and Warsaw Colleges; after Warsaw came Cracow with 132, then Poznan with 102, Lwow with 88, Vilna with 80 and Lublin with 29.*

These organisations and associations were of various types. There were a dozen or so ideological—political organisations, and almost every political youth group had its own special associations, which played a very important part in University life.

The Brotherly Help organisations which were attached to every University and College were of a different character altogether. When we consider the modest means of Polish students, these organisations fulfilled a very useful role. They ran modern hostels for students, as for instance in Cracow and Lwow, and the students colony in Warsaw which accommodated 2,000 students; they ran kitchens and canteens, clubs and libraries; they granted financial assistance and loans, and they organised medical centres. In all Universities and Colleges, the election of candidates to the Brotherly Help Committee was the cul-



Central Institute of Physical Culture in Warsaw.

minating point of the academic year. Altogether there were 57 of these Committees in Poland.

An important role was also played by the students education organisations. There were 196 of these attached to Polish Colleges and Universities. Their work was to run libraries, organise educational discussions, excursions and mutual aid of all kinds.

Sports in Poland were not so widely practised as in the Anglo-Saxon countries. Nevertheless in 1938 there were no less than 7 inter-collegiate sports organisations in Poland, with the Academic Sports Association and the Academic Maritime Association in the leading place. As regards sports, the life of Polish students also centred around the Central Institute of Physical Culture in Warsaw, a modern and well organised college, which produced the highly trained sports teams, which so often were prize winners at the International Sports and Olympic Games.

In addition to organisations of this type there were 320 other associations for self-tuition, education and social work and for the promotion of regional and international understanding.

For a time there was a Head University Committee to supervise all Polish youth organisation, but in 1932 this Committee ceased to exist.

Polish students eagerly entered into close co-operation with students abroad. Recently a Pole was twice chosen as President of the Confederation Internationale des Etudiants.

In reviewing the development of the intellectual, political and social life of Polish youth at a time when the youth of Anglo-Saxon countries tended to develop a sports life alongside an intellectual one, it must be stated that these political-social tendencies were the result of the reaction which followed the period of Partition. Under Russia, Prussia and Austria, Polish youth had no chance of taking part in political and social life. The generations of Partitioned Poland lived their national life—so to speak—underground. Books and the Polish word were their only possible mediums of expression. Three times in the course of the century, they organised armed revolt. It was not surprising, therefore, that the first generation brought up in a restored and independent Poland swung over to the other extreme and entered fully and enthusiastically into political and social life. For them problems of Polish State life were the centre of their existence.

Young Poles, with their active participation in political life, had also to cope with certain financial difficulties. As a result of this there was considerable competition for jobs, which has a great deal to do with the problem of anti-semitism in Polish Universities and Colleges. As this problem was given a good deal of publicity abroad, it is worth our while to devote what may seem to be a great deal of space here. We shall not try to justify anything. We condemn every abuse and restriction to freedom. Nevertheless it is just as well to know the statistics.

The problem of anti-semitism in Polish Universities and Colleges has been wrongly associated abroad with anti-semitic trends in the totalitarian states. On page 79 of the official Nazi publication "Judenviertel Europas" (published by Hans Hinkel, Volk und Reich, Berlin, 1939) we find the following characterisation of anti-semitism in Poland;

" Polish anti-semitism comes from differences of economic interests, not from a sense of racial superiority. It is not a question of differences of blood; it is rather an instrument for economic struggle in the hands of a nation which has a large Jewish population, the majority of whom live in the towns."

Further on, describing the period just before the present war, the same publication states that:

" Anti-semitism in Poland is rather an economic problem than a racial one."

The Jews in Poland formed 9.8 per cent. of the total population (there were 3,113,000 Jews in 1931), while the percentage of Jewish students at Polish Universities and Colleges was, according to Dr. Langnas—one of the leaders of Jewish youth in Poland—in his book

"The Jews and Academic Studies 1921-1931" (published Lwow 1933) as follows:—

In 1921-22, out of a total number of 34,266 students 8,426 were Jews (24 per cent.)

In 1930-31 out of a total of 48,155 students, 8,923 were Jews (18.5 per cent.)

The fall in the percentage of Jewish students was therefore accounted for by the constant increase in the number of Polish students. This increase caused many students, both Orthodox Jews and Christians, to study abroad.

Poland, a state which was young economically, had:

63 per cent. of its population engaged in agriculture

20 per cent. in industry

17 per cent. in trade, communications, education, the free professions and others;

while the Jews (9.8 per cent. of the total population) had:—

0.7 per cent. in agriculture

58 per cent. in trade

21 per cent. in industry (94.7 per cent. of the textile industry was in their hands and 95.6 per cent. of the leather and fur (industries)

21 per cent. in the free professions, education, etc.

It is only natural that such a state of affairs should create a whole series of economic problems. The unproportional percentage of Jews at the universities, which is explained chiefly by the urban character of the Jewish population, resulted in protests and even in action on the part of certain Polish youth groups, who wished to restore the balance in the professions. The percentage of Jews was especially high in the medical and legal professions, and the protests of certain students' groups were accompanied by action—for instance no more than 10 per cent. Jewish students were accepted in the Medical Faculties. Such a restriction, however, was never introduced in Poland by law.

The methods sometimes used by these youth groups were often not very wise, and anti-semitic demonstrations—entirely inexcusable from the point of view of students' constitutional freedom but not on the scale ascribed to them by enemy propoganda—were condemned not only by the majority of Polish youth but also by the older population. This condemnation was shared by the Polish Government, which tried to counteract them, without infringing on the autonomy of the universities. At this period similar anti-semitic demonstrations took place in many other European states which had no connection with

anti-semitic trends in Germany and Italy.

As soon as Poland regained her independence after the last war, one of her first acts was to abolish all anti-semitic laws (e.g. the Russian ones) which remained from the time of the Partitions. During the 21 years of her independence not a single anti-semitic decree was issued.

To-day the Jews in Poland are suffering unexampled persecution at the hands of the Germans. When thousands of Jews are shot and poisoned en masse in the Ghettos, the Polish people, both young and old, extend their fullest sympathy and help towards them.

Numerous examples may be quoted of executions carried out on Poles for helping the Jews, for gaining access to the Ghetto illegally in order to take food or money to Jewish families. Recently Professor Raszeja, the famous doctor from Poznan University, was seized by the Germans in the Warsaw Ghetto, into which he had gone in order to attend a dying Jew. As ill-luck would have it a row was started in front of the very house where he was, and the row soon developed into a massacre. When the Germans broke into the house they discovered Professor Raszeja, a non-Jew, in it. They immediately shot him. This incident shows clearly the present situation in Poland and the attitude of the Poles towards the Jews.

Today

EDUCATION IN OCCUPIED POLAND.



The Polish Ministry of Education in Warsaw is now the Gestapo Headquarters.

German Policy with Regard to Universities and Schools.

One of the characteristic features of the educational policy of the occupation authorities in Polish territories is the endeavour to debar Poles from any education above the most elementary standards, and in this way to rear future generations of Poles as slaves who will execute heavy manual labour for the benefit of the German Reich.

The above-mentioned tendencies, which are clearly outlined in the German press and German official declarations, found expression even at the time of the siege of Warsaw in the systematic destruction of

historic monuments such as the Royal Castle or the theatres and such centres of scientific learning as university buildings. The Germans began their work of destruction on a great and general scale after the termination of hostilities in Poland and have been prosecuting it consistently during the three years of their occupation. Monuments and works of art, archives, experimental equipment, libraries and the entire contents of scientific laboratories have been removed or destroyed, all literary publications have been forbidden, public and private libraries have been destroyed, whole truckloads of Polish publications testifying to the existence of Polish culture, literature and science having been burned, buried or sent away for repulping. In pursuance of the German policy of depriving Poles of their cultural interests, the theatres have been closed down, public performances of classical music, particularly that of Polish composers such as Chopin, have been banned, the only form of spiritual nourishment permitted is in pornographic revues and light music, and finally an absurd propaganda drive, with not the remotest adherence to truth, is being carried on, based on the argument that everything of value which is to be found in Polish territory, including even the Royal Castle on the Wawel at Cracow was created by the Germans.

Such manifestations of destructive activity directed against science and culture were not afforded by former wars, nor are they to be found even now in the other countries under German occupation, such as Belgium, Holland, Norway or France, where the old laws in connection with war and occupation are respected at least to a certain degree—though alas a very small one. Therefore the situation in Poland with regard to science and culture is without parallel.

As a result of their policy of destroying Polish cultural life, the Germans have closed all colleges and universities in Poland. The German Institutes which are to-day in existence on Polish territory, at Cracow and Poznan, and which are forbidden to Poles, are not universities. The institute at Poznan has barely 200 students, and its purpose is to prepare German cadres for the combat against everything Polish in the undefined "East." A high German official, Drendel, defined its task as follows, at a conference of German lecturers in January, 1942:—

"The existent state of affairs, in which representatives of a foreign race are living in the sphere of our colonial expansion, compels us to exert direct control over these territories. It is not our task to be sowers of culture, nor to help on in any way the progress and development of an alien nation."

In the same way the entire Polish secondary school system has been liquidated. As the last official act of the Polish educational authorities, the Ministry of Education published at the beginning of November, 1939, a circular with regard to November 11th, a day which was always solemnly observed in Polish schools. The circular announced:

"It is directed that on Independence Day this year normal activities should go on as usual. At the same time members of the teaching profession are informed of the necessity in this tragic period of our country's history, of explaining to their pupils the reasons which make imperative the discontinuation of celebrations of Independence Day in its previous form. It is therefore ordered that on November 10th, as the day preceding the holiday, suitable discussions should be arranged in the schools. It is left to the discretion of directors and headmasters of the various schools how their pupils are to be acquainted with the decision of the Ministry, whether by an address to the whole school by the headmaster, or by discussions organised by the masters in the various classes."

The concentration camp provided the epilogue to this last act of the Polish educational authorities, and it was not only for many representatives of the educational authorities and school teachers. When the boys and girls of their own accord went to the service in church on Independence Day, as for instance in Piotrkow, they were arrested on the following day with a group of teachers and were sent to concentration camps, while the schools were closed. During the year 1939-40 secondary schools in Poland were suppressed. 234,000 boys and girls who had attended these schools in 1938-39 were bereft of education, and German "aid" to them took one form only—arrest or deportation to forced labour-camps in the Reich.

By the German regulations only one source of knowledge is available to the Poles—the elementary schools and the trade schools. Meanwhile, from the reports for the school year of 1941-42 it is to be seen that the elementary and trade-schools in present-day Poland have been forced to cut down their work and activities to the minimum.

For this there are many reasons. Above all, however, one must remember that even these two elementary types of Polish school exist to-day exclusively in Central Poland, in the so-called General Government. In the territories of Western Poland, "incorporated into the Reich," education for Poles does not exist at all, whereas the children of the German settlers brought from the Reich or the countries of Eastern Europe receive an intensive education.

The situation of the Polish schools in the Eastern provinces of Poland is especially difficult; the German invaders, having occupied these provinces in summer 1941, liquidated all the Polish secondary and academic schools; professors were arrested, students and undergraduates deported to Germany to forced labour camps. The Germans have liquidated too, a large percentage of Polish trade and primary schools. The few remaining ones are working in extremely hard conditions. Large numbers of school premises have been requisitioned for the German army. The Polish textbooks had been destroyed earlier by the occupying Soviet authorities. The Soviet textbooks, in turn, were scrapped by the Germans, and so the schools must now do without any books.

Forced by the Germans into the appalling conditions of the ghettos, the masses of Polish Jewry, in spite of very critical hygienic and health conditions, in spite of a frightening mortality among the children and young people, are making the utmost efforts to organise courses and private lessons for children.

Elementary Schools and Trade Schools.

Primary as well as trade schools are supposed to be the only source of learning for Polish youth in the General Government. These schools are now facing complete disorganisation.

In theory the Germans allowed elementary schools to remain open under the system of compulsory learning previously followed by the Poles. In practice, however, they disorganised all learning—making it practically impossible for children to study. At the same time they forbade the teaching of history and everything regarding Poland, geography of Poland and finally geography in general. Polish was supposed to remain the language of instruction, but already in 1939 the General Governor, Dr. Frank, in his order No. K Zl. 292, ordered all Polish books, including even textbooks of any sort to be confiscated. This had to be done by 20th January, 1940. The children's books were taken from them and they could not read Polish. At the same time they introduced four hours compulsory German a week. In a decree of 31st March, 1941, the Germans forbade the study of religious textbooks, to come into force immediately.

Working conditions are impossible in Polish elementary schools. Work is constantly interrupted. Schools, in both town and country, are constantly taken over for the needs of the German army. The German soldiers billeted there are quite ruthless in their treatment of these schools—destroying school equipment and libraries, which is fatal to

learning in schools, since all publication of Polish books and textbooks is forbidden.

The schools in Poland are regularly closed, for a winter period of three months due to lack of fuel. Due to the misery resulting from the economic exploitation of the Polish people and the terrible hygienic conditions in elementary schools, the health of Polish children is appalling. Children frequently faint or have hæmorrhages during lessons. They are completely run down and weak, with resultant very low capacity for learning. Tuberculosis is widespread.

Four German decrees dealing with the system of education in Polish schools say that trade and agricultural schools especially are "protected" by the Germans. This again follows their plan that the Polish nation must be a nation of enslaved peasants and workers. Even these "protected" schools are in the same state of disorganisation as the elementary schools.

By the decision of the Polish Parliament before the war the level of education in secondary schools and special trade schools was equalised. The latter students of course received education in additional special classes. The classes in general education in these schools were stopped by the Germans. A very limited number of these special technical classes were allowed to remain. The use of any Polish books, even of a purely technical nature, was forbidden. In Warsaw, Radom, Cracow, and Lublin all school equipment, including that of the laboratories, was taken away to Germany or destroyed.

The trade schools are struggling to-day against the same difficulties as elementary schools: low attendance of students, constant breaks in work, scarcity of buildings, fuel and teachers. Also more and more often the Germans come in lorries and take the students to forced labour in Germany, so that the latter cannot take anything with them—not even warm clothes, nor can they see their parents before they leave.

Even those schools "protected" by the Germans—elementary and trade schools, are faced with grave difficulties.

Owing to the great misery in which the Polish people live, and to the fact that many families have no means of earning their living, young people in elementary as well as trade schools are forced to look for any possible way of earning money, sometimes even stooping to begging.

It often happens that young boys and girls must think for themselves how to find their daily bread as their father is perhaps in the army abroad, and their mother imprisoned or in a concentration

camp. The fall in attendance at school is disastrous.

If one considers that in the school year 1938-39 nearly five million children and young people attended Polish elementary schools (4,953,000) while 90,800 attended trade schools, 5,800 agricultural schools, and 120,300 evening classes, one can understand the full force of this tragedy. So without exaggeration one can say that not hundreds of thousands but millions of Poland's young people are away from schools and their influence.

Teaching Staff.

The situation with regard to teachers is just as tragic. The fact that at present none of the schools or training colleges for teachers are open and no teacher can receive instruction, is especially dangerous for the future of Polish education. As a matter of fact teachers in Poland are persecuted heavily and it should for example be mentioned that in one district in Central Poland 14 teachers were killed, 28 died in concentration camps, 79 are in forced labour camps, 1 in prison, 23 lost their situations and of the others no news is available. So, to-day, in Poland there is a great shortage of teaching staff. This is best illustrated by the fact that in the Radom district 14 trade schools are open (2,363 pupils attending) and the teaching staff consists only of 16 teachers. They have extreme financial difficulties. This applies specially to those from the Western parts of Poland, who were deprived of their homes and were expelled to the Government General without any possibility of earning their livelihood.

The German New Order in Polish Schools.

The official publication of the German school authorities in occupied Poland "Wissenschaft, Erziehung und Volksbildung," published at Cracow, writes in the issue of February, 1941:

"From the ruins of the Polish educational system, German efficiency German organisation genius, German knowledge and German diligence, have built within a mere 15 months a school organisation which now is working smoothly. The German schools which (in pre-war Poland) had faced the perspective of liquidation, now flourish, thanks to the anxious solicitude of the authorities. In the Polish schools which have outlasted the storm of the breakdown, never before had there reigned such an order as there reigns now."

Quite rightly—never before.

This statement is a typical proof of German morbid boastfulness and is false from beginning to end. The Polish schools suffered relative-

ly little as a result of the hostilities and their re-opening after the end of the Polish campaign in autumn 1939, would not have presented any difficulties. The work in the schools in Warsaw, started on September 30th, 1939, *i.e.*, after the terrible bombing and the capitulation of our capital, has been stopped by the Germans already at the beginning of October, when on the occasion of Hitler's visit to Warsaw, all the teachers were arrested and were kept in prisons for many weeks or months, some even indefinitely. The work of the Warsaw schools was interrupted by the Germans several times in Autumn 1939 and Winter 1940; the excuse for it being an epidemic of typhus (which in reality did not exist at that time), then the refusal of allotting fuel to Polish schools, etc. In Lodz the Polish schools were opened already in the middle of September, 1939, and worked under the supervision of a Citizens Committee which started its activities on September 11th—but very soon afterwards were closed down by the Germans.

The German schools in pre-war Poland benefited from complete autonomy and, as was proved during the war, acted in many cases to the detriment of the Polish State. Of the total of 741,000 German inhabitants of Poland (census of 1931), there were before the war: 54 nursery, 600 primary, 95 secondary and 7 German trade schools.

In the false German statement only one sentence is true: that which says that in the Polish schools which "have outlasted the storm of breakdown never before has there been such an order" as that which was issued after 3 years of occupation. It is an order they did not know before—that of a prison.

GERMAN POLICY WITH REGARD TO POLISH YOUTH.

General Outline.

The Germans did not find any "Quislings" in Poland. They did not succeed in organising a "puppet government." After defeating the Polish Army, they were unable to force the Poles to obey them. The struggle in Poland goes on.

"In ten years there will not be one Pole on this soil, or anything which will recall Poland," said Föster, gauleiter of Pomerania, in July, 1940, meaning the Western parts of Poland, illegally incorporated into the Reich.

"Our army has planted our standard firmly and nothing can ever remove it from here"—Governor Frank said in Cracow, in April, 1941,

and emphasised that the so-called General Government was always to be under German rule.

These two statements, amongst many others, give a clear idea of German policy in Poland. The Western part is to be "freed from Poles," and the remainder of Poland to be treated as a conquered country. The Polish population in these parts is to be terrorised and stunned into easy acceptance of German rule. The method employed by the Germans to achieve their goal with regard to the Poles is that of terrorism. This terrorism has, apart from anything else, to assure peace in Polish territory, which is after all the border of the German front in Eastern Europe.

The German terror does not spare anyone, but the worst sufferers are the young people who cannot easily bear slavery or force, being the most lively and independent part of the nation.

The first action of the Germans in Poland was, as already mentioned above, to deprive the Polish boys and girls of their most precious treasure—the possibility of learning. Simultaneously they started to arrest and execute the young people of Poland en masse and to deport them to forced labour camps in Germany, or to concentration camps.

Polish Youth Sent to Forced Labour in the Reich.

Frank's first proclamation of January 25th, 1940, appealed to all Poles over the age of 14 to volunteer for work in the Reich. The entire German and German-controlled press underlined the voluntary nature of such a "change of place." In practice, however, they were already beginning man-hunts in towns and villages. German soldiers would throw a cordon round a village or a number of streets in a town, seizing all the men and women they found there, and then, after an immediate selection, all those fit for work were herded into lorries or on trains and were sent off to the Reich; these people were given no opportunity of saying goodbye to their families or of collecting warmer clothes, food or money. These man-hunts were carried out throughout Poland on a great scale, and even in the first year of the occupation over 350,000 Poles had been deported. In the western territories of Poland, where over 1 million Poles were expelled from their land in order to make room for Germans, the young people were deported for forced labour.

The second proclamation of Frank on 24th April, 1940, announced: "It is hereby decreed that the inhabitants of the General Government are to present themselves to the Labour Exchanges for agricultural

work in the Reich. This duty affects men and women born after 1915 and before 1924. Refusal to obey this order will be punished severely and failure to report will be traced by the police."

After this the man-hunts became more and more frequent. In Warsaw only, in 1940, man-hunts took place on 8th May, 12th August, 10th September, 19th September, and 6th December. These man-hunts were organised by the German police or by military detachments, with the help of the German youth organisation, the "Hitler-Jugend." Sometimes the police received orders to seize only young men. For example, in the man-hunt of 6th December, 1940, they only detained young men from the ages of 16 to 25. Some of the young people seized in all these press-gang hunts were sent to forced labour and others to concentration camps, as a punishment for not responding to the Governor's first proclamation. For instance, the young people seized in the man-hunt of 8th May, 1940, were sent to the concentration camp at Matthausen, those caught on 12th August to Ansbach, and those caught on 19th September to Oswiecim.

In Germany at the present moment there are nearly 2,000,000 Polish workers who were deported forcibly. Over 70 per cent. are young men and women below the age of 30.

Living conditions for the Poles who work in Germany are appalling. They are not protected by any laws, they work over 10 hours a day, and receive the lowest pay for their work; they are not permitted to change their place of work nor do they ever receive adequate holidays; their German employers treat them with extreme brutality, as they are told to do by special regulations. Frequently there have appeared in the German press appeals to German pride and self-esteem as members of the *Herrenvolk*, and warnings against "the criminal and treacherous Poles, who are still dreaming constantly about the defeat of Germany, which they await." For this reason the Poles are compelled, during their stay in the Reich, to carry a special badge on their sleeves (a purple P on a yellow square), in order that Germans may know with whom they have to deal and be cautious. At the entrances to the factories where the Poles are working together with Germans, posters are set up with the warning that the Poles should be treated as enemies. In the country, those few German proprietors who "forget that they are the *Herrenvolk*" and treat their Polish labourers too gently, have to pay fines. It is not surprising that in these circumstances nobody comes back from the Reich except those who are crippled, ill or unfit for work.

Compulsory Military and Auxiliary Service.

In the beginning of 1942, the Germans initiated a very active drive to enrol Poles on the so-called Volksliste, in the western territories of Poland "incorporated into the Reich." At first they tried by propaganda to publicise the incredible German "benevolence," which permitted Poles who inscribed themselves on these lists to receive German ration books, and other privileges reserved for German citizens; but since they found no volunteers, they began a compulsory enrolment of Poles of calling-up age on these lists, often even without their knowledge.

Soon the practical purpose of this German action became evident; hundreds of thousands of young Poles over the age of 18, in Silesia, Pomerania and Poznan, began to be seized from their houses, in the streets, villages and towns, and to be enrolled in the German Army. This situation is becoming unbearable for the Poles. Young Poles are escaping in great numbers from the Western territories to the General Government. Many of them are killed while crossing the frontier, which is guarded by the Germans. Others take refuge in forests, and remote villages. The Germans organise hunts for these so-called deserters with machine guns and armoured cars. Some of them are then drafted straight away into the army, as happened for example in Torun in May, where they caught several score of 18-year-old boys and sent them to the Reich. Others are executed publicly, in order to terrorise other Poles and to force them to enrol themselves voluntarily on the Volksliste, and later in the German ranks.

Here is an example of a public execution, the description of which is taken from an eye-witness account:

"In the Silesian mining district, three Poles stood by a gallows; their names were: Joachim Achteлик from Ruda, Kokot from Bielzowice and Sergeant Nowak from Godula, all Silesians. The gallows at Ruda was prepared for Achteлик, but Kokot and Nowak, for whom similar gallows were waiting in Bielszowice and Godula, were compelled to watch the torture and death of their colleague. Thousands of Poles were forced to attend this execution in Ruda. The Germans from the neighbourhood came of their own accord.

Who was Joachim Achteлик?

His father was a Pole, but his mother, who was of German origin, brought up the young Achteлик as a German. Achteлик had some talent for painting. With the aid of the Polish community he was enabled to study this subject. During his artistic studies he came to know Poland and the Poles more closely, and became himself a Pole; at the moment

which was critical for Poland he had no doubts about sacrificing his young life for her. He was sentenced to be hanged.

On his way to the place of execution, he held his head high, he bowed to the crowds of assembled Poles, and a deep cry went up from them. During the reading of the sentence in German, he paid no heed to its contents, merely asking the Poles round him about his mother. When they began to read the sentence in Polish, he stood to attention. Before they put the noose round his neck, he prayed to God, in the words of Christ at His Crucifixion, for strength for himself and forgiveness for his executioners. The onlookers knelt at this moment. The Germans ordered them to get up, and the rifles of the Hitler-Jugend enforced this order. Achteлик died amidst the universal weeping of the assembled people and their heartfelt prayers for those who were to die.

Although he asked for a priest, he was not allowed to see one before he died."

In the General Government, in May 1942, appeared a German proclamation which had all the characteristics of a general mobilisation order. This order introduced in these areas the auxiliary construction service called the "Baudienst," for "administrative and political" purposes. All non-Germans from 18 to 60 were conscripted for this service. They are called up by age-groups. Calling this conscription for auxiliary building service is only a pretext. In reality it is a compulsory call-up of Poles in order to strengthen the ranks of German workers in the war industry of the Reich, as well as the ranks of the German auxiliary service.

This decree provided a new pretext for mass and individual arrests and deportation of young Poles, the German methods being as usual those of moral and physical terror. For an example, if a boy called up for this service does not report on the appointed day and hides from the German authorities, the German police arrest his entire family, including even children under 10 years of age, as a reprisal, and send them to prison or to a concentration camp.

The Principle of Collective Responsibility.

The usual method of the Germans in occupied territories is to hold responsible for any anti-German acts many people who are not at all responsible for these acts and have in no way taken part. Hundreds of innocent hostages are being shot by German execution squads or are dying in concentration camps in nearly all the occupied countries of Europe.

But the principle of collective responsibility of the population is nowhere observed with such ruthlessness and on such a vast scale as in occupied Poland. From the first days of their occupation of Poland, the Germans, in pursuance of this principle, have been carrying out massacres of more and more Poles, great numbers of them being young people.

Here is the story of the terror in Bydgoszcz in 1939, recounted by an eye-witness:

"After the German troops entered the town on the 5th September 1939 they started a real orgy of revenge. It began with a press-gang hunt in the streets for schoolboys and boy-scouts in uniform. The boys so seized were all killed. Then they began to seize men and boys between the ages of 14 to 60 in the streets and even from private houses. These were marched off with their hands over their heads to the old Market Square or the military barracks.

All anti-German acts, or even acts of self-defence on the part of the population were at once punished by death. During these few terrible days nearly 2,000 people were executed in the Market Square, amongst them several hundred young boys. All these Poles were shot for being "collectively responsible" for the allegedly cruel treatment by the Poles before the war of the German inhabitants of Bydgoszcz."

Similar mass executions took place and are still taking place in many towns in the western parts of Poland.

In the General Government mass-executions of Poles were carried out in the following circumstances (authentic reports):

"On December 27th, 1939, two German soldiers were killed in a small restaurant in Wawer near Warsaw. German police arrived from Warsaw during the night, and went from house to house, rousing the innocent inhabitants from sleep, and arresting many men. Several hundred men were seized, and were forced to stand in the freezing cold for several hours, with their hands above their heads; then they were brought to the military headquarters in Anin, where a parody of a trial took place, which consisted merely of taking the names and ages of the arrested men. After the "trial" some of the men were released. The remainder, 107 men aged between 15 to 67 years, from all social classes, were executed in groups before dawn, with rifles and sub-machine guns. Hardly one of those who were executed knew anything about the incident which was the cause of their cruel death."

In January, 1940, a youth named Kazimierz Andrzej Kott was seized in Warsaw, and after being handcuffed, was put under arrest.

Shortly afterwards he escaped. The police were clearly anxious to recapture him, because next day posters were put up bearing Kott's photograph and offering 1,000 zlotys reward for information as to his whereabouts. Kott was a converted Jew, so he did not belong to the Jewish community, but despite this the Germans arrested Czerniakow, the head of the Jewish community, promising to release him if the community would give 300 hostages in his place. The community refused this demand. Czerniakow was released but in his place 255 Jews of different social classes but mainly from the intellectual class were taken as hostages; it was announced that unless Kott were found within 24 hours, 100 of these hostages would be shot, and that a further 24 hours would cost the lives of another hundred. Kott was not found. The hostages were taken away to an unknown destination. The police would not divulge the place where they were kept. Their families received no news from those who had been deported. Finally, as a result of the community's incessant inquiries, the police in July, 1940, gave a list of 158 hostages who had been shot, so that their families might be informed. Probably they had been executed even as early as February. One must conclude that the remainder of the hostages also are no longer alive. There is no doubt that the hostages were executed without trial; for which court could pass a death-sentence on people who did not even know of the existence of Kott?

"On September 14th, 1940, three German policemen, who had entered a flat at No. 1 Lwowska Street, Warsaw, to search the premises, were shot at by men hiding in this flat. Two policemen were killed and the other wounded. The persons who were to be arrested fled. As a reprisal the police arrested all the inhabitants of this block of flats (except for very small children, who were left under the care of old women), and some men from the adjoining blocks. A few days later, on September 17th, 20 women and 103 men, who had nothing at all to do with this affair, were shot in a place called Palmiry near Warsaw. The big street raid in Warsaw on September 19th, which resulted in about 1,500 men being sent to the concentration camp at Oswiecim, was also said to be a reprisal for this shooting."

Among these 1,500 men was an 18-year-old university student, Jan Kwiatkowski, a boy scout who was deported on this memorable September 19th, to Oswiecim. There he was forced to stand in freezing water up to his waist and to carry stones from the river bed to the shore, after which he had to throw them back again into the water.

He did this every day for six hours without a respite. After a few weeks he got pneumonia and when his condition was hopeless the Germans freed him, because they knew that he could not survive in any case. By some miracle he rejoined his mother in Warsaw, who did not know what had happened to him since the street raid. He died on the morrow of his return from the camp. We know this story from a friend of his who visited him after his return from Oswiecim. This young scout was the only one of the 1,500 arrested men who returned, the only victim of the German principle of collective responsibility who could speak. . . There are very many boys and girls under 18 in concentration camps, and even 12-year-old boys. Thousands of them have perished in a similar way.

Here are some more reports:

"In 1940 a German colonist was killed in the village of Jozefow Maly in Central Poland. Lorries carrying a punitive expedition from Lublin were bogged in the mud. The peasants—11 of them—who were brought from a neighbouring village to free the lorries were shot after carrying out their job. Afterwards the following men were seized and shot: in Jozefow Maly all the men who could be found, including even boys of 11, in all 30 people; in Jozefow Duzy, 14; in Bronislawow Stary, 70; in Zakepie, 60; in Bielawy, 25; in Ruda, 18; in Nowiny, 26; in Serbie, 13; and an additional number not stated in the villages of Sero-komla, Hordzieszow, Okrzeja and other hamlets, 400 people in all. The victims, men, women and children, were lined up and shot with machine guns."

"At the end of March, 1940, a skirmish occurred between the German forces and a guerilla band in Central Poland. After the band was broken up a punitive expedition came to a village, whose inhabitants were suspected of giving assistance to the partisans. On April 7th and 8th 40 people were shot in the village of Chlewiaka, 123 in Krolewiec, about 360 in Hucisko and Lelitkow, 43 in Galki, 360 in Skloby. After the punitive expedition arrived the village was surrounded from all sides. All the inhabitants, men and women alike, were arrested. In the village of Szalasy all the men over 15 were murdered; some were shot and others herded into a school and burnt alive. After the men were shot, the women and children were ordered to bring out their moveable goods from their homes within an hour, and then every cottage was set on fire. The burnt-out walls were destroyed by hand-grenades. The following villages were razed to the ground: Hucisko, Krolewiec, Lelitkow, Skoby, Galki, Szalasy and Wisniowiec."

It was in Polish villages that the Germans were trained in the bestiality of which Lidice was the victim many months later.

In 1942 many executions were carried out on hostages, in reprisal for the murder of Igo Sym, the director of the German Theatre in Warsaw. Among the hostages shot on this occasion was a professor of the University of Warsaw, Stefan Kopec and his son, a University student.

"From the beginning of February, 1942, reprisals on a huge scale were carried out all over the Lublin district. Soviet prisoners of war, who escaped from the camps, formed there guerilla bands which hid in the forests and villages, living on food brought from the peasants. Whenever the inhabitants of a village are suspected of co-operating with Soviet guerrilla bands, punitive expeditions are sent, people are shot out of hand, and whole villages burnt. In a country where Soviet partisans killed an S.S. officer, 214 Poles were shot this spring."

German Courts of Law in Poland.

The youth of Poland is being murdered both in mass-executions, carried out without any legal proceedings, and as a result of individual sentences by German law courts.

In the territories incorporated into the Reich a special penal code for Poles and Jews has been in force since December 4th, 1941. As the stipulations of this code are extremely elastic, it gives unlimited opportunities to the German law courts of inflicting the death penalty or sentences of hard labour. This code includes the following stipulations: "The death penalty is to be applied also in cases where the code does not provide it, if the offence shows a particularly low way of thinking, or is of a particularly low nature for other reasons. *In these cases the death penalty is permissible for youthful offenders.*" It is not difficult to imagine what offences are considered "particularly low" in the eyes of the German occupation authorities.

In the General Government, in theory, "the Polish law remains in force if it is not contrary to the fact that the administration has been taken over by the German Reich," (Hitler's decree of October 12th, 1942).

Orders for this territory may be issued by various superior authorities in the Reich and by the Governor General, Frank, a German, as everybody knows. In practice he is almost the only legislator in this territory. Every order of his gives the law courts or the German administrative authorities almost complete freedom in the imposition of penalties.

Owing to these decrees of Frank, a "legal system" unknown in the civilized world is now enforced in Poland; it occurs daily that legal regulations are applied in retrospect, that the death penalty is imposed in spite of the principle "*nullum crimen sine lege*," in particular for deeds committed before the German occupation, and lastly, that legal regulations are promulgated with a retrospective date. An example of this is that the Germans started two law-suits against Polish prisoners of war and shot them for "torturing Germans" during the September campaign.

The General Governor has the right of pardon. It should be stressed that he has never taken advantage of this right in Poland.

Police courts introduced by a decree of Frank on October 31st, 1939, pass sentences of death for "acts of violence directed against the German Reich or against the German authorities." In practice, the majority of the "offences" committed by Poles are tried under this paragraph.

The Police courts consist of three police or S.S. officers. The only paragraph of the procedure says: "The names of the judges of the defender and of the witnesses for the conviction must be noted in writing, and also the offence, the day of the sentence and the day of the execution of the sentence." Of course, there is no counsel for the defence. These courts, which pass thousands of sentences and pronounce only one penalty, that of death, are practically only a police organ in view of their composition.

These are the other tribunals acting in occupied Poland: the Special Tribunal (Sondergericht), which tries the offences against the special decrees of Governor Frank; the Military Tribunals, which try civilians accused of acts directed against the German armed forces, and lastly the Penal-Administrative Tribunals, which are also an organ of the police and of the administrative authorities.

Cross Examination under Torture.

Before a sentence is passed—the accused must go through the ordeal of an examination. Here are some excerpts from the latest reports from Poland:

"Examinations in political cases are carried out by the secret police, the Gestapo. They mostly take place in the headquarters of the Gestapo, where the prisoners are brought either immediately after their arrest or from prison.

"At the inquest all the familiar methods of extorting evidence are applied: long interrogations, often at night, at the revolver's point,

production of a signed admission of guilt by a man suspected of being a partner in crime, etc. Deprivation of food and dark cells are other methods often used to break the prisoner's resistance.

"Beatings and tortures, however, are most frequently used to extort information at an examination. They are applied as a rule in cases when there is hope of tracing an underground organisation, owing to the fact that explosives, arms or copies of secret papers have been found.

"Men and women alike are beaten with iron rods . . . or with rubber truncheons. . . They are beaten on the head, on the face or eyes, on finger-nails and toe-nails. They are hit in the face while the Gestapo man holds the victim's hands so that the prisoner cannot avoid the blow . . . Examinations in which such methods are applied sometimes take place three times during a single day. It often happens that the face and head of the accused are one enormous bleeding wound, where the eyes are invisible; that the prisoner cannot move his legs, that his kidneys are displaced, that his broken spine does not allow him to walk . . .

"Cases of death as the result of, or during examinations are quite frequent. Thus for instance in July last year a young boy scout, Czeslaw Rebowski, possibly in order to avoid tortures, jumped out of the second floor window of the Gestapo quarters in Szuch Street in Warsaw. (Before the war the building was occupied by the offices of the Polish Ministry of Education). He died without recovering consciousness, after being taken to the Pawiak prison."

Sentences.

A large percentage of the Poles sentenced to death by the German courts consist of young men and women under 30. The list of German sentences passed on young Poles is very long, despite the fact that only a few sentences are made public by the Germans. It would be impossible to give even a partial list of the names of those sentenced and one must therefore be content with enumerating the offences punishable by death. These are:

Murder of a German;

Membership of underground organisations;

Sabotage of communications:

Blowing up of railway tracks and bridges;

Destruction of roads;

Damage to roads;

Damage to railway coaches and trucks;



An execution in a forest near Warsaw.

Economic sabotage:

- Arson, theft or damage to stores;
- Non-delivery of food quotas;
- Black Market in foodstuffs;

Anti-German demonstrations such as:

- Tearing down of German posters or proclamations;
- Anti-German inscriptions on the walls;
- Propaganda of anti-German views;

Listening to the wireless;

Spreading news of allied successes;

Helping British or Soviet prisoners;

Editing, distributing or reading the secret press. . .

These are of course only some of the characteristic examples of sentences quoted by the German press.

It is difficult to determine the exact number of young people who have fallen victim to the German persecutions. How many boys and girls perished before German firing squads in mass executions, how many were shot after the German courts had passed the death sentence, how many were tortured to death in camps and prisons . . . the data which are in our possession tell only of the losses suffered by the Polish nation as a whole. We know that the total of victims of the German terror in Poland is over 1,750,000 Polish citizens. We may guess that in

this number the percentage of young people under 30 is certainly very great.

The Deliberate Demoralisation of Polish Youth.

The Germans wish to accomplish the wholesale destruction of Polish youth. Those whom they cannot kill, imprison or send to concentration camps and labour camps—they try to destroy by demoralisation. Everything in Poland is extremely expensive, but vodka costs only a few pence.

One of the Poles who succeeded in escaping from a labour camp in Germany confessed that the Polish workers in the locality to which he was sent, used to receive a bowl of soup, a small portion of bread and a pint of vodka every day.

There are no Polish books published under the German occupation, but the Germans are flooding Poland with hundreds of German pornographic books and periodicals published by special German firms. Scores of films and theatre shows, to which young people are easily admitted—serve the purposes of utter demoralisation.

Instances of transportation of Polish girls to soldiers' camps in the Reich or to military barracks in Poland itself are ever more frequent; specially selected Polish girls of a "Nordic" type, with fair hair and blue eyes are seized in the streets or from their homes and placed in special camps for "race improvement" where they must bear children for young Nazis, children who immediately after birth are taken away from their mothers and sent to the Reich. Suicides are very frequent among these unhappy women.

In their policy of demoralising the Polish nation, the Germans have declared relentless war on the Catholic and Protestant religions in Poland. Hundreds of Polish priests have been shot or tortured to death in German concentration camps. This policy is pursued with special persistence in the Polish Western provinces, where in many parishes there are no Polish priests left, and where the Catholic church is sub-ordinated to . . . Himmler!

The Poles there are in fact deprived of any religious comfort, which they badly need in the present appalling conditions.

Resistance against all these barbarous methods employed by the Germans in their war against Polish youth is extremely difficult; it might seem too difficult for young and inexperienced people on whom innumerable misfortunes and sufferings have descended all at once.

THE ATTITUDE OF POLISH YOUTH TO THE GERMANS.

Polish youth is aware of the policy consistently applied to it by the Germans and so it has been able to adopt an adequate attitude towards this policy. "We accept the challenge" says the manifesto of Polish youth. "In spite of the enemy's anger the pulse of our inner life will not weaken for a moment . . ."

Many other announcements in the secret press and the whole activity of youth under the occupation proves that the fight in Poland from the outbreak of the war until to-day has not ceased "in spite of the enemy's anger . . ." and will not cease until the hour of liberation from slavery strikes.

The Attitude of Youth in the Light of the Secret Press.

There are over 140 secret papers published in Poland to-day. Several of them are publications of the youth organisations, edited and published by young people, for young people. The contents of the articles published in the secret press is best proof of the mood now prevailing in Poland among youth as well as the remaining parts of the nation.

Thus we read in an article on "Two Polish Armies," published in one of the underground papers in autumn 1941:

"The Polish Republic has at present two armies. One of them is scattered all over the world, thus sharing the traditional fate of the Polish wandering soldier . . . Lucky, a thousand times lucky are the soldiers of this first of the two Polish armies, for they have the opportunity of fighting, or preparing to fight openly, freely, for they have arms in their hands and when they face the enemy, they do so as adversaries in war who have equal opportunities for fighting.

Much more difficult is the role of the second army of the Polish Republic: the ranks of fighters in Poland itself . . . Thousands of reckless fighters of this second army of the Republic have been resisting the enemy here in Poland for over two years. Among them there are grey-haired men, thousands of courageous women devoted and ready for sacrifice. There are young boys and girls, almost children, there are people whose health, social position or conditions of life would fully justify them in keeping away from the dangers of active fighting against the enemy, but who none the less risk being in the thick of the battle. Without uniforms or badges, in the darkness of conspiracy, quietly and namelessly . . . all these soldiers of the second Polish army

perform their daily duties . . . Many have died from the enemy's hands, many have been put into Gestapo casemates, into prisons and concentration camps; the rest march on unshakably, inflexibly, fighting the enemy. And so they will march and fight until Victory is won . . ."



"There are over 140 secret papers published in Poland to-day . . ."

And these are excerpts from another article in an underground paper of November 28th, 1941:

"The enemy is not idle after having occupied Poland. He works with effort and devilish cunning at crushing, dividing, paralysing and demoralising the Polish people, at depriving them of their will for freedom, of the faith in its ever being regained, of the will to fight for it. .

In these conditions the daily repelling of the enemy's attempts, the levelling up of his evil and demoralising influence, the keeping of the nation in a moral and organised readiness, the preparing of the future acts of liberation—such are the most vital and important tasks of the Poles fighting here, in the Motherland, and of the whole underground Poland . . . Thus, in spite of the fact that it is terribly hard to behave in a Polish manner in to-day's Poland, in spite of the raging terror of the enemy—the continuation of the fight, however great the obstacles, burdens and sacrifices, is and will remain until the day of liberation—the supreme need of all Polish hearts."

There are, among others, the following papers appearing in underground Poland: "Young Poland," "The Fight of the Young," "Fight and Freedom," "The Popular Guard," "Truth will Win," and a number of others. Looking through these or reading them carefully, you may find the best characteristic of the present attitude of Polish youth towards the general principles and single elements of the German order in Poland.

And so in the issue of May 28th, 1942, of a secret paper, we find the following short paragraph:

"In the recruitment offices for workers who are to be sent to the Reich at 9, Wolska Street and 15, Targowa Street in Warsaw, windows were smashed.

Street posters, summoning people to volunteer for work in Germany were deliberately damaged or torn off by passers-by. Throughout the city leaflets are posted bearing the slogan: "He who wants to contract consumption should go to Germany."

These slogans are not pasted up in order to counteract the German propaganda for there are no applicants for a voluntary departure to the Reich. They are pasted up merely to show the Germans that the Poles know very well what lot awaits those transported to Germany and to show that they won't be "taken in."

The German lawlessness—and this is what the forced call up of Poles from the Western Polish provinces into the German army amounts to—has also found its reflection and its echo in the Polish youth papers. This is what a paper wrote on May 27th, 1942:

"The Poles from the Western provinces have been put before a desperate dilemma: they have the choice of either endless persecution,

financial ruin, confiscation of their ration books, a concentration camp or imprisonment—or the discarding of their nationality and the enlisting in the hateful enemy army . . . Let us try to understand the position of these people before we cast upon them the stone of condemnation . . ."

"Our fellow countrymen who under duress have their names now put formally on the list of renegades—remain Poles in their souls. The Germans will not have much profit from them either here or in the army . . . A Pole from Silesia, Poznania or Pomerania will not become either a patricide or a fratricide, he will not turn his arms against his own nation . . ."

"At first in the barracks or in the training camp he should carefully try to avoid personal persecution in order to lull the enemy's suspicion. But at the same time he should surreptitiously and by hints spread doubt in the enemy ranks, undermine hopes in Germany's victory, shake the morale, sow the seeds of mistrust . . . Wherever possible he should imperceptibly when alone, damage the enemy's war material, pursue an internal seemingly invisible but harmful sabotage.

And should it happen that the Pole would find himself on the front, he should remember that none of his shells is to hit Germany's enemies, for it would hit his own country. And when you fire skywards, the enemy's ammunition is wasted . . ."

More and more often there appears news in the British press about groups of Poles who, after being sent to the Russian front with the German army are now passing on to the Soviet side, c.f. *The Times*, October 23rd, 1942.

At the same time the *Oberschlesische Zeitung* of October 27th, gives the following news:—

"The German martial court in Katowice sentenced to death twenty Poles from Silesia, enlisted into the German army, found guilty of belonging to secret organisations preparing high treason against Germany."

This is one more proof that the Polish secret paper was right in saying that "the Germans will not have much profit from them . . ."

In another secret paper we find an article entitled: "The Fight Goes On." The first part of it is an extremely realistic description of one of the street manhunts in Warsaw:

"It is a calm summer day . . . On the streets the traffic seems to be the same as before the war. People are walking, trams and buses are passing, the noises of vehicles and the human voice are intermingled.

But all of a sudden the quietness of the day is interrupted by an ominous sound of black, tarpaulin-covered lorries being stopped by shouts of a foreign command—by shots. The streets become crowded with a throng of hateful green uniforms. The German soldiers occupy instantly all the street corners, and getaways, they are to be seen everywhere . . . Sunlight shines on the barrels of the guns pointed towards the crowd. A manhunt. The passers-by scatter in all directions. Whoever is capable of escaping, flees as fast as he can. Human nerves are taut, human hearts are beating fast. . .

And the enemy is gathering his terrible harvest. The black lorries are being filled up with the defenceless inhabitants of Warsaw. They drive away. In another moment they disappear. . .

And again everything seems to revert to order. Only some men and women sneak stealthily against the walls of houses, and the city is strangely silent, with a silence which is more piercing than a cry. . .

And so it goes on all the time with short intervals, and even these are filled with arrests."

The last line of the same article characterises best the whole meaning of the suffering and sacrifice borne in this war by Polish youth:

"We have worked together—and now they are no more. Some say: 'They were taken to-night.' Only yesterday he talked to his mother—to-day he is far away in the Reich after being caught in a street hunt. But this does not matter. We go on working, only our fists are clenched tighter. . . A brother officer is in hiding, a friend escaped from Prussia—nobody is idle, everyone does what should be done. We are not broken; we become more active and tougher. They, abroad, the Government, the army, our brothers, they are all fighting for Poland. Our duty here is to last out, to remember and to be ready. Neither hunger, nor executions nor arrests will break us. For we know what is the true sense of our suffering and dying. We will last out. . .

"Our sacrifice is part of the struggle of the Polish nation, our will to resist is part of the common war effort. Our blood is not being shed in vain. . ."

Only knowing the intensity of the German terror in Poland can we realise the strength of resistance of the Polish youth. Its attitude

towards the German aggressor is best characterised by an excerpt from one of the secret papers dated October 22nd, 1940:

"The compulsory evacuation of the Polish population from whole areas of the country, manhunts in the streets, arrests, deportations to the Reich of adults and children, tortures in the camps and prisons, executions and shootings . . . nothing will break us or teach us to be obedient and submissive to the raging German barbarian. We will oppose physical force by moral force."

Polish youth believes passionately and unshakably in the victory of this "moral force." It will not allow itself to be disarmed. It combats the German demoralisation at every step. And here again is a proof of this written by a young boy.

"Lately the Germans have been applying another method: to poison the people so that, completely demoralised, they should become dung for the oppressor to do what he likes with it. They are trying to divert the attention of the Poles from the historical happenings of momentous importance, to push them into a trackless sexual tangle, to drive them to drink and gambling. . . They are printing long pornographic novels in instalments. . . While there is a complete lack of the necessary staple foodstuffs, or else they are many times dearer than before the war, the German 'guardian angels' have introduced a cheap brand of vodka. . . But we will not let ourselves become demoralised."

In Warsaw the Germans have opened a special gambling den exclusively for Poles. They were animated by the desire to drive the Polish people to gambling so justly observed by the secret paper. On the premises of the "casino" a few weeks after its opening, a bomb exploded. The culprits were never found.

A particular trial for young Poles is the fact that for three years they have been without any schooling. In connection with this the secret press writes a good deal about the need for self-teaching among young people. One of the papers for instance announces the fact that in spite of the closing of public libraries, the liquidation of Polish textbooks and the compulsory closing of Polish publishing houses—reading is on the increase among young people, serious and scientific books being especially valued. In underground Poland a special pamphlet was published on *Directions for Circles for Self-teaching*. Its style

and profound knowledge indicate that it came from the pen of one of Poland's best social writers. This pamphlet is one more proof that the need for shaping the minds of young Poles is not confined to a sphere of nebulous dreams and desires, but in spite of difficult conditions is being realised by modest and readily accessible means—among others—by the secret press.

It is perhaps worth mentioning that a small volume of poetry, written during the occupation was published not so long ago by the underground press. These poems, mostly very simple and even primitive in form—give through their subjects the most eloquent picture of the inflexible attitude of the Poles in Poland.

The Fight of Polish Youth against the Germans.

Until the end of the war the names of to-day's anonymous heroes in the underground struggle must remain secret. And not only the names but also the facts. The time is not yet ripe to disclose the facts which will in future form a part of a great new epic about the experiences of thousands of people through many months and years.

These young boys and girls who are fighting the enemy to-day in underground Poland do not consider their behaviour as out of the ordinary. In every act of their resistance against the Germans there is the usual element of youthful revolt against oppression, there is the simple instinct of self-defence and the will to deal blows. In the ranks of fighting Polish youth are to be found fire, energy, vigour and a fierce stubbornness, but no false pathos. There is an avoidance of high-sounding words, and there is the will to act. "In spite of the enemy's anger, the pulse of our life will not weaken for even a moment . . ." The young people of Poland, like those of any other country, live and will always live their own rich and exuberant lives, they will never allow themselves to be forced into ways of thinking imposed from outside, will never permit artificial obstacles to impede their independent spirit.

The Germans know this and despite their arrogance and would-be contempt for the vanquished, they still treat conquered Poland as one of the areas where battle still goes on.

The temporary conquerors do not feel safe in Poland and though they continually fortify themselves with the impression that "the myth of independent Poland is finished for ever," they do not neglect any precautionary measures. It is not an exaggeration to say that the Germans are afraid of the Poles. How otherwise can one explain the decrees for instance which in the territories incorporated in the Reich

forbids the Poles in a number of cities "to walk on the pavements in groups of three or four" (a decree issued at Ostrow on June 10, 1940). A German walking alone prefers not to meet several Poles at a time—it might be dangerous for him. And here is the description of an authentic incident which proves that it is a serious enough danger for three Germans to meet one young boy in a lonely spot:

"At the end of October, 1939, a German officer, Major Spielvogel, walking with two soldiers along the Cracow Road at Okecie near Warsaw, asked a Polish boy of 16 a question. The boy shrugged and mumbled something. The officer slapped him in the face. The boy jumped back, brought out a hand grenade and threw it. The soldiers fell to the ground and the officer was blown to pieces. The boy escaped."

There are many more such cases. Mass repressions follow them, but fail to bring any results.

A young Pole, Jan Zart, who succeeded in escaping from Poland to Great Britain not so long ago and is to-day an airman in the R.A.F., in a report from Warsaw (Polish News No. 132) writes:

"They are genuinely afraid of us. This can be seen not only from the mad wish to exterminate us, from the terrible repressions, from the fanatical speeches of the Greisers, and the pamphlets distributed by the N.S.D.A.P. inside the Reich, in which the necessity for hate is justified by the 'Polish danger.' The German fear showed itself in May, 1941, for instance, in words of the infantrymen in the Zamosc district, where they asked outright whether it was true that the Poles would slaughter them, whether it was true that the Poles would take their revenge on the 'innocent' German soldiers. . . They despise us, because their national propaganda orders them to do so, for the spirit of this nation orders them to despise those who are physically weaker, those who are poorly clad, those who may be beaten, robbed, cheated and wronged with impunity. But they also respect us, they respect us for our wild and fanatic resistance. . . for the unbreakable spirit of the Pawiak prisoners and of those in the Lublin castle, for the 'I know nothing' of a 19-year-old boy, fettered, lying flat on his back on a table and being tortured by the German assassins. Every soldier respects the Poles for the aloofness of the women of Warsaw, every official—for the stiffness with which he is asked to do this or that, the N.S.O. for the unwonted incivility which he encounters."

On the other hand, it is difficult to understand the scorn and contempt which every Pole now has for the Germans. One would suppose terrible atrocities and repressions would awaken in Poland rather a

fear of the invader's overpowering cruelty. The opposite is, however, true.

"Mister temporary citizen" shouts the Warsaw newsboy, selling a German yellow paper in the streets, after a German passer-by—"Do buy this paper, for if you don't, who will?"

With regard to this specific attitude of the Polish population towards the Germans, one should stress that this attitude is nowhere so striking as in Warsaw, that very Warsaw, which has suffered most from the Germans. Jan Zart (Polish News, No. 121) writes:

"It is enough to observe how the Poles pass the Germans in the streets of the provincial towns and in Marzalkowska Street in Warsaw, and we shall at once understand everything. In the provinces people pass a German by as if he were a mad dog, often they make a detour, cross over to the other side of the street, or quicken their step. In Warsaw they do not see the Germans; they treat them like trees which one sees everyday but at which one does not look, like a log over which one must be careful not to stumble."

The Poles not only do not show any fear of the Germans, but on the contrary, provoke them at every step and "pull their legs" in cold blood. The Germans cannot cope with the inscriptions written up on the walls of Warsaw and other Polish cities.

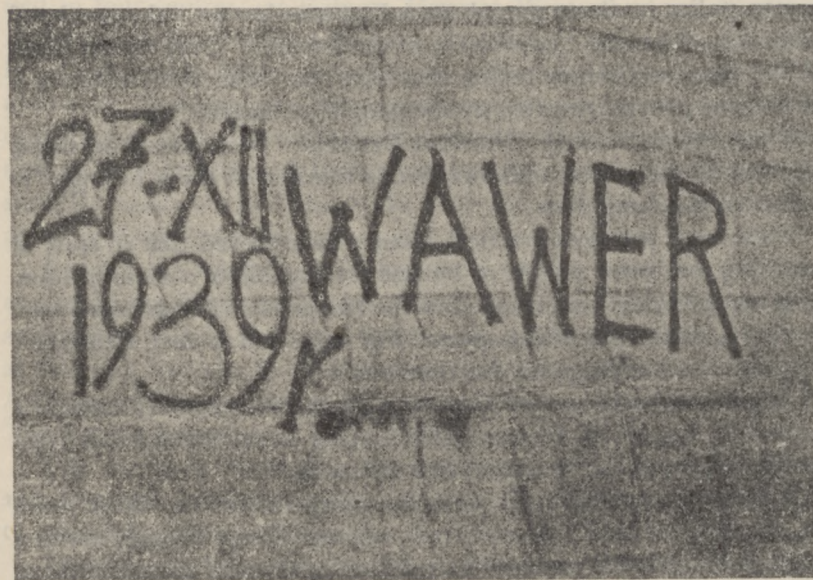


Labels printed secretly by a Polish printer are stuck on the walls in Polish towns. The inscriptions read:



(Top) "Down with Germany." (Lower) "Poland will Win."

In the autumn of 1939, 11 people were shot in Zielonka near Warsaw for writing on the walls: "Long live Poland, long live her Allies, France and Great Britain." New inscriptions appear every night. On the Polish National Day the words "Poland lives, Poland will win" appeared simultaneously in almost all parts of Warsaw. At the same time Polish flags were hoisted on many lamp-posts. On the anniversaries of German mass-executions of Poles there appear reminders to the Germans: "Remember Wawer 27, XII. 1942." "Remember Palmiry."



"On the anniversaries of German mass-executions of Poles, there appear reminders like this to the Germans . . ." (It was at Wawer that the Germans carried out a terrible massacre, Christmas, 1939)

When last year the Germans put up posters showing the territorial gains of the German army in Russia—at night some young hands painted on these posters in red ink: "Remember 1812."

In the spring of last year hundreds of copies of a German poster were displayed in Warsaw; in large black letters on a yellow background it was announced: "The Fuehrer said . . ." after which followed quotations from Hitler's latest speeches.

After a few days new posters, almost identical with these in size, colour and lay-out appeared on the walls of the city side by side with the old ones. The first words were in German: "The Fuehrer said . . ." and then followed a Polish text in which quotations selected mali-

ciously from Hitler's speeches were given. All the false statements of the Reichskanzler about the so-called destruction of the Soviet army, all the forecasts of victory over the Allies before the end of 1941, etc., etc., were enumerated.

The Germans, not understanding the text, thought that this was a Polish translation of the German posters which had been put up a few days before. So when Poles began to gather in front of the posters showing an amusement which the Germans could not understand, German police in alarm posted special sentries lest an unknown hand should tear down the "holy words of the Fuehrer." Only late at night did the Nazi authorities realise that they had been the victims of a mischievous joke perpetrated by the people of Warsaw.

When notices marked "Nur fuer Deutsche" were placed on shops, cafés and in the parks, unknown hands transferred them by night to cemeteries and lamp-posts.

These were harmless practical jokes, which proved that in spite of everything the young people of Poland are capable of a sense of humour in the grimmest conditions. But the reactions of Polish youth were not always of this harmless nature. The signs "Nur fuer Deutsche" bring their own revenge on the Germans.

Only a few weeks ago, on October 24th, bombs exploded simultaneously in a number of Warsaw cafés bearing these very signs. A great number of people fell victims. "Nur Deutsche."

There is no underground work for independence in which youth does not take the lead: news of fresh sabotage filters through continually from Poland. We are not in a position to say who are the authors, but surely not old people!

The young people of Poland participate in the active struggle against the enemy by working in the underground press, and in passive resistance all over Poland. Thousands perish in the struggle but they are replaced by others, full of unshakable faith, faith in the coming moment of liberation and in a terrible punishment for the criminals; a time of just punishment. "Nur fuer Deutsche."

POLISH YOUTH ABROAD.

Polish Students in the Armed Forces. Education Abroad and in Prisoners' Camps.

Many young Poles left their country after the September campaign. Some crossed the Hungarian, Rumanian or Lithuanian frontiers, in uniform, in September and October, 1939, with their military units.

Others had to sneak out by night, in civilian clothes, without passports. All headed for France, where a new Polish army was being organised. The conditions in France did not favour education, for it was a period of intensive training and then fighting. Nevertheless a Polish university was established in Paris. Its work was cut short by the German invasion. There were many students among the soldiers of the Polish 2nd division which, after fighting in France, crossed the Swiss frontier and are at present interned in Switzerland.

The university studies of Poles interned in Switzerland are organised in four centres: at Friburg, Herisau, Winterthur and Wetzikon. Altogether some thousand students are taking courses of study. Each Polish university centre is linked up with a Swiss University and is under the direction of a Swiss professor, who is responsible for the organisation of studies and who is assisted by Poles with full qualifications. The programme of studies takes into account the traditions and scientific needs of the Poles, while it is also in line with the requirements of Swiss universities.

Perhaps the students at Friburg have the best conditions of living and studying. They are accommodated in a former university building, and enjoy a certain degree of freedom. Last year the University centre at Fribourg had 115 students and two complete faculties: of Law and Arts. In addition a dozen or more students are studying Catholic Theology at Fribourg.

The centre at Herisau is for economic and commercial subjects, and has over 100 students. In addition nine students are preparing to take their doctor's degree.

The camp at Winterthur is the most important Polish educational centre in Switzerland. It has several hundred students, studying in Departments of Architecture, Constructional Engineering, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Agriculture and Forestry, Chemistry, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Law, Psychology and Pedagogy. Unfortunately the technical departments do not possess adequate equipment, laboratories, auxiliary teaching assistance, etc.

The centre at Wetzikon prepares interneers for their matriculation and for university studies. The Wetzikon matriculation certificate is officially recognised by Polish and Swiss scientific and educational circles. The examinations are held in Polish, but a certain standard of written and spoken French or German is compulsory.

All these students' centres follow the Polish tradition of possessing Brotherly Help and similar organisations. The Polish students in Switzerland spend their vacations working on the land, in order to

repay their Swiss hosts for the assistance they are giving Polish education in its time of need.

The Polish students have published manuscripts which have already become a basis of knowledge for more than those interned in Switzerland, for they are being used by the university centres in the Polish prisoners of war camps in Germany.

As we have mentioned, after fighting on the French front in the summer of 1940 the Polish Second Division fought its way through to the Swiss frontier, and was interned there.

A smaller group of Poles was interned in Spain, and is living in much worse conditions. These are Poles who, after France signed the armistice with Germany, tried to make their way to countries still carrying on the fight, by way of Spain and Portugal. The largest internment camp in Spain is at Miranda de Ebro, near Burgos. This camp contains peoples of many nationalities, including Spaniards, and at present there are over five hundred Polish officers and men held there. They are studying English, Spanish, French, and other foreign languages. In addition regular lectures on all kinds of subjects are given in Miranda de Ebro, the lecturers being drawn from the internees themselves. However, the camp suffers badly from a shortage of primers and auxiliary teaching staff.

The Polish Carpathian Brigade, which distinguished itself in action in Libya and in Tobruk, also has many students in its ranks. On November 15th, 1941, there were in the Brigade 747 students. It is not possible to disclose the proportion of students and graduates in the Brigade, but it is high. It may have been reduced when the Brigade was reinforced by thousands of Polish soldiers from Russia.

The part of the Polish army evacuated from France to Scotland had among its soldiers, exclusive of officers, 1,765 students and 832 university graduates (figures for November 15th, 1941). In the Polish Air Force in Britain there are 596 students and 132 university graduates in the ranks; in the Navy there are 58 students and 3 graduates. These figures have been increased by the arrival of many soldiers from Russia, as well as volunteers from South America and U.S.A. The number of soldiers with university degrees has also increased owing to the fact that some of the students took their degrees in Britain.

There are in Britain to-day several Polish schools and colleges, as well as special courses and educational organisations. At the university of Edinburgh there is a Polish Faculty of Medicine, with about 180 students, 120 of whom are on leave from the army. In Liverpool there is a Polish School of Architecture, and in Glasgow a Polish College of



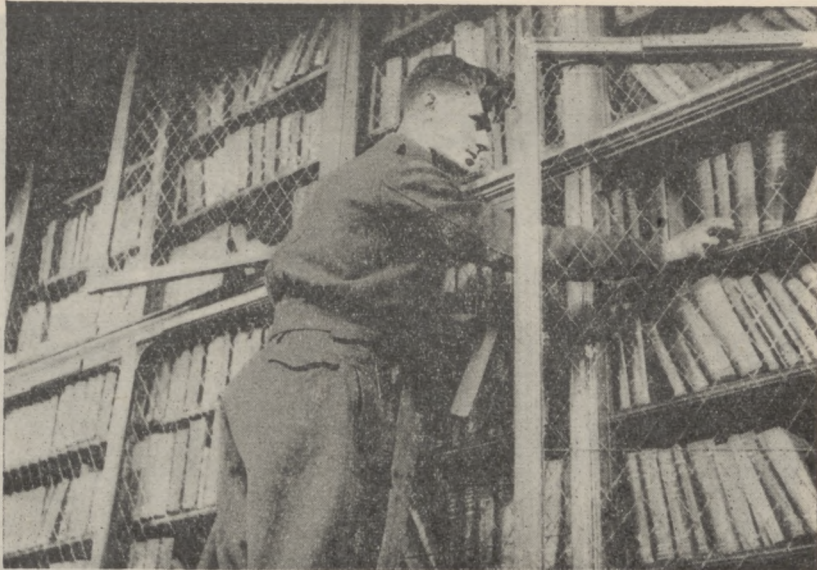
Students at work at the Polish Faculty of Medicine in Edinburgh.

Foreign Trade. In the U.S.A. a Polish Institute of Arts and Science was opened. The Institute shall assure for the duration of the war the continuity of Polish research work, at present rendered impossible at home.

Besides the university colleges active in Great Britain and Switzerland there are Polish elementary and secondary schools in many countries, notably in Hungary, in Sweden, in Palestine, in Persia and in Rhodesia.

A larger group of Polish girls after being matriculated at the Polish secondary school at Livingstone, North Rhodesia, has recently been accepted for study at universities in Cape Town and Johannesburg, in the Union of South Africa. The Polish school at Livingstone was organised by the local Polish colony, with considerable support from the Rhodesian governmental authorities. The lectures are given in Polish, but knowledge of English is compulsory.

Although the Polish war exiles are doing their utmost to educate youth, since they realise that the Polish youth in the home country is at present deprived of education, their efforts are entirely inadequate in proportion to the educational needs of a country of 35,000,000 people.



A Polish Student in the Library of the Polish Faculty of Medicine attached to Edinburgh University.

The Polish Students' Association in Great Britain.

In the autumn of 1942 the Polish students in Great Britain founded a society which is called the "Polish Students' Association in Great Britain." The central office of the Association is in London, where a considerable number of soldiers and officers on special leave from the Army are carrying on their studies at the City and Guilds College. Other groups of students are to be found at St. Andrews, Birmingham, Cambridge, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool and Oxford. Edinburgh possesses the largest group of Polish students, to the number of 230. Any Pole who is studying at a British or Polish university in Great Britain is eligible to belong to the Association, as well as those Poles whose studies have been interrupted by the war. The Association numbers the following amongst its official aims: to collaborate in any activity directed towards the restoration of the Polish State, and in particular any activity connected with the problems of the education; to provide help for the pursuit of scientific studies; to provide material help; to maintain contact with other groups of Polish university students outside Great Britain.

Education in Prisoners' Camps.

According to German data there were in the autumn of 1939

649,000 Polish prisoners in Germany. The scarce reports from the prisoners' camps state that in spite of three years of captivity the spirit of the prisoners is good and they try to learn as much as possible. The officers' camps have organised numerous educational courses, mainly for the teaching of languages, with the help of dictionaries and Linguaphone. There are also some technical, legal, literary, historical and agricultural courses, but they are suffering from an acute shortage of suitable books. Unfortunately the prisoners who are not officers cannot organise any educational activities, for they are used by the Germans for hard labour in farms and factories.

Tomorrow

At the End of Hostilities.

When we are at last able to return to Poland a strange "immigration of people" will begin.

This homecoming will be strange. The young people of Poland will return in uniforms and in rags. They will return from the sands of the African desert and the snows of Siberia, from battlefield and prisons, from camps and forced labour-gangs in Germany.

They will return to Poland from every part of the world. Home! How many among them will never find their homes or their nearest . . .

The entire younger generation will have to face great and difficult tasks after its return to Poland. One must consider the losses suffered by Polish youth in this war, to understand the immensity of its post-war tasks.

The Tasks of the Polish Youth with regard to its War Losses.

One of the most painful losses suffered by the younger generation of Poles is that sustained in personnel and equipment by science in Poland under the German occupation.

In Poland, as a result of military action and the persecutions and misery caused by the occupation, 103 professors and lecturers of universities and colleges have died. The losses among the teachers of secondary and primary schools are no less. But decisive loss of men in Polish science is not caused by death alone.

Conditions under the occupation have brought it about that an important percentage of the teaching personnel of universities and colleges will never return to active academic life. The destruction of laboratories built by twenty years of effort, the loss of materials which were the fruit of long years of research or even of a lifetime's work, the misery resulting from a total lack of income, the life in an atmosphere of police supervision, permeated by incessant anxiety and worry for one's daily bread—has reduced many people, mostly elderly professors and Polish scholars to such a state of exhaustion, that even now many of them realise that they will not be able to cope with their post-war duties, when it will become necessary to rebuild Polish science from the very foundations in many spheres. Only after long years of work will these losses be made good by the influx of new forces, which Polish youth will have to produce by natural selection from among its ranks.

The falling off in the scientific potential in Poland will also be reflected in the output of scientific work in the first post-war period. At the end of the war it will be impossible to direct the available forces to normal creative effort.

Polish scholars will have to make good the time lost, by becoming acquainted with the progress of science during the war years in those countries of Europe from which they have been completely shut off. Nor should we forget that the war for many years in Poland has checked the flow of new Polish scientists and scholars, beginning with professors, and finishing with the students of secondary schools.

In the first two years alone the interruption of education deprived Poland of over 15,000 academic diplomas! And how many former university students will never be able to return to their studies, for many different reasons! Conditions under the occupation have forced a large part of our young people to turn to various other sources of income. This generation is so busy earning its living, that its return to the universities is very unlikely. Too many years have elapsed, they have gone too far away from their former interests, there would be too much to be learned anew. And whence would the universities draw their undergraduates when the secondary schools are shut and there are no new matriculated students?

The task of Polish youth in free Poland should be first and foremost to learn. Young men and women of Poland, realising the losses suffered in this respect will return to learning with added zeal and will make good the time lost.

In enumerating the losses suffered by Polish youth it is not enough to point out the losses among the young people themselves, losses which run into tens of thousands, nor to present the tragic material and physical conditions in which they now live under the occupation. There is one more class of irreparable losses, and painful blows which have fallen on these young people during the occupation, blows which will leave wounds that can never be healed.

This class of loss is constituted by scars which the German persecutions have left in the mentality of Polish youth. All the things from which here, in Great Britain and in other free countries of the world, we turn away our eyes, about which we do not want to read, hear or think, things which it is sometimes hard to believe—for they are too cruel and monstrous—all these form the pattern of everyday life for Polish youth under the occupation.

We here, safe and free, do not want to know what is happening daily in the occupied countries, and if sometimes we come across a

description of German manhunts, tortures and executions—these chase sleep away from our eyes, keep us awake, make us see the nightmare faces of the German torturers at night. And then we promise ourselves that never, never again will we read such descriptions—the more so as there is so little we can do at present. But they, over there, in Poland, must see these horrors with their own eyes, they are forced to watch mass executions, or the torturing of their families.

They are threatened by death every instant not in dreams but in reality. They are persecuted by German torturers not in dreams but in reality; at every step, guilty or not guilty, they may fall into German hands. . . and perish under the most monstrous tortures.

The eye-witness testimonies of mass executions which are quoted in this pamphlet tell us also of things not directly connected with the fate of youth. Sometimes we do not know whether there were young boys and girls among the victims when an execution took place. But even if they had escaped being shot—they did not escape the spectacle, the bad news could not be hidden from them. . . The young people in Poland must have lost much of their youth . . . they must have lost much—maybe irrevocably—of the joy of living. . . And yet once the war is finished the duty of rebuilding Poland will repose on this same youth.

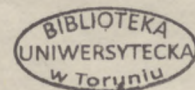
Tomorrow . . .

In his speech at the "International Students' Assembly," President Roosevelt, addressing the youth of the whole world, said:

"The cause of the United Nations is the cause of youth itself, it is the hope of the new generation—and the generations that are to come—hope for a new life, that can be lived in freedom and justice and decency . . . We are deeply aware that we cannot achieve our goals easily . . . and that there will still be an enormous job for us to do long after the last German, Japanese and Italian bombing planes have been shot to earth. But we do believe that with divine guidance, we can make—in this dark world of to-day and in the new post-war world—a steady progress toward the highest goals that men have ever imagined. . . We maintain the offensive against evil in all its forms. We must work and we must fight to ensure that our children shall have and shall enjoy in peace their inalienable rights to freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom from want and freedom from fear . . ."

The Polish youth thinks and feels the same. *To-day* it is giving all its strength to the struggle for the great common aims of the United Nations. But it knows that even in the future these aims will be achieved only by enormous efforts and great pains; of this it is well aware and tomorrow it will undertake this heavy task together with the youth of all the other United Nations.

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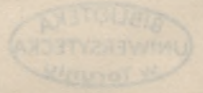
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its strength for the struggle for the great common aim of the United
Nations, but it knows that even in the future there will be
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