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THE POLISH REVIEW

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From the
Atlantic Front



VOL. IV. No. 20
MAY 24, 1944

Polish artilleryman
removing empty
shell cases.

What Poles Are Doing to Save the Jews

DETERMINED to carry out a complete extermination of Jews on Polish territory, the Germans are using terrorism to prevent the Polish population giving help to the Jews.

During the bloody liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto, a number of Jews managed to escape and hide among the Polish population of Warsaw and the surrounding suburbs. The German authorities put up proclamations in Warsaw announcing the death penalty for concealing Jews, giving them shelter or supplying them with food or any form of transportation. The proclamation stated that those Poles who informed the German police of the hiding-place of any Jew would go unpunished.

Despite the death penalty threat, the Polish population did not hesitate for one moment to stand by the Jews. The Poles did not hesitate to seal their solidarity with their deeds and their blood, their martyrdom and death.

In an ammunition plant at Skarzysko Kamienna, the Germans publicly executed a workman named Nowak who had given help to a Jew. All the factory workers were driven to watch the execution. Nowak walked bravely and calmly towards the gallows set up in the middle of the yard. Standing erect, he cried out: "LONG LIVE POLAND!" This made the hangman set the rope around his neck with all the more speed. Nowak hung for a moment, but the rope broke and he fell to the ground. The workers thought the Germans would grant him life, but just then the commandant of the factory guards, S.S. Officer Krause, ran up and shot him with his revolver. So died a Polish worker who, despite German terror, regarded the order to aid the Jews as more important than his own life.

This is but one of a long list of Poles who have perished for aiding Jews. Here are a few of them: In Sadowne Settlement, Wegrowski District, the Germans shot the local baker, his wife and son for selling bread to a Jewess. In the village of Antonowka, Krasnystaw District, a farmer named Pulawski and his family were murdered for having concealed Jews. In Kruszc—Kobylin Commune—a man was killed for hiding a Jew. In Ciepeliow—Ilza County—the owners of five farms were bestially murdered for concealing Jews. They were shut up in a shed which was then burned. In Cracow a tailor named Jan Grabiec was sentenced to death for hiding Jews. In Radziejowice near Cracow, several peasants were shot for concealing Jews.

The following Catholic priests died a martyr's death for hiding Jews: Father Urbanowicz from Brzesc nad Bugiem, who was shot in June, 1943; Canon Roman Archutowski, Rector of the Clerical Seminary of Warsaw, who was sent to Majdanek where he died after torture in October, 1943; the Dean of Grodno Parish and the Prior of the Franciscan Order were sent to Lomza from Grodno in the autumn of 1943 and there shot; Father Marcei Godlewski, seventy-seven years old, remained in the Warsaw Ghetto of his own free will, though he was not a Jew, even by origin, as did the Vicar of Grzybow Parish, Dr. Raszeja, the famous surgeon and professor of the Poznan University,

who was called upon to operate on a Jewish patient in the Warsaw Ghetto and there perished in July, 1942.

Another who perished was the engineer Raczynski who, though fully aware of the possible consequences, did not wish to leave the Ghetto. In Cracow a confectioner from Podgora arranged by means of a pre-war acquaintance with the Municipal Council that Jews who were former store-keepers on his street should be assigned to clean the streets near his house. This was, of course, prior to the Ghetto's liquidation. He cooked meals for a dozen or more of these frozen and exhausted people. After the Ghetto was closed, he concealed his former neighbors in his own house.

One old woman over seventy, who lived on the outskirts of Warsaw used to go to early Mass every morning, carrying a basket full of food. In the woods along her way she would meet about thirty Jewish children who lived there like savages and feed them. Finally the Germans organized a hunt for these children—and shot them. The old woman risked her life every day to save children dying of hunger and cold. In a house on Filtrowa Street in Warsaw, plates containing cereal and potatoes were put out on the veranda every night. Children who had escaped from the Ghetto would come there to eat the food and sleep on the veranda.

After the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto, when a number of Jews hid in cellars and sewers in the Ghetto itself, they were provisioned by Poles who reached them through the sewers although special German detachments were engaged in destroying every sign of life and searching every corner. Wearing rubber-soled boots and equipped with special acoustic devices, the Germans even tried to ferret out the Jews in the sewers. Despite all dangers and at the risk of their lives, the Poles brought help within the very Ghetto walls. It must be added that whenever the Germans caught a Jew they forced confessions from him by torture so as to find out which of the Poles had helped him. The breakdown of the man being questioned meant a death sentence for the Pole in question.

Despite the many sacrifices made by the Polish people for their help to the Jews, the Poles have not desisted. The only known instance of Jews in hiding being given up to the Germans was by Boguslaw Jan Pilnik, a Gestapo stool-pigeon in Warsaw. The Polish Underground Authorities imposed the death sentence on him. By sentence of a secret Polish court, this betrayer of Polish honor, this exterminator of Jews, was condemned to death and the sentence carried out by an underground firing-squad.

The foregoing is irrefutable proof that in the most grievous periods of the German terror and despite martyrs' deaths suffered by many Poles for helping Jews, Poles of all classes—workers, peasants, intellectuals, clergy, etc., have stubbornly maintained a deep feeling of sympathy for the tragedy of Polish Jews and this feeling has been expressed in full and active assistance.

"There is in the Polish nation a great, profound, universal sense of noble-mindedness, honesty and sincerity. A schemer and a cheat will never win popularity in Poland."

—Adam Mickiewicz (1798-1855)
"About the Great Man of the Future" (1833)

BATTLE OF POLAND CONTINUES

IN an attempt to dispel skepticism concerning the speed and efficiency with which Polish officials in London are able to contact the Underground, a report as complete as is now possible has been made on the Underground's resistance to the Germans and its co-operation with the Red Army now on Polish soil. Some of the facts recorded are sensational to say the least.

Certain bridges leading to Lwow had to be destroyed for military reasons. The Polish Government decided to make a test case of them. Orders were issued from London and two days before the time limit set, news of the successful destruction reached British official sources direct from the Polish Underground.

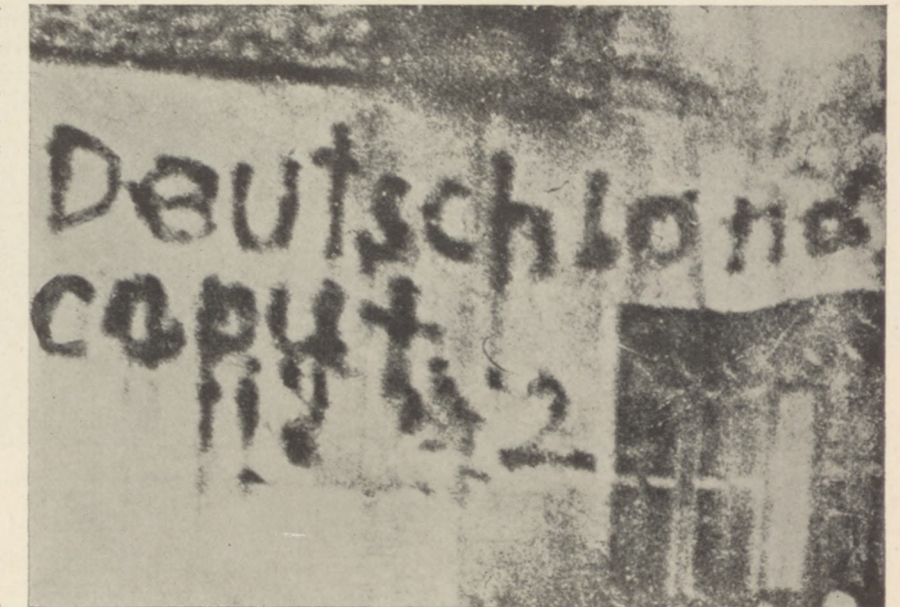
To date the Underground is known to have wrecked 83 German trains, destroyed nearly 10,000 railway cars in addition to 2,013 locomotives and 212 tank cars containing 562,000 gallons of gasoline. It has blown up 19 railway stations.

Poland's Underground organization has been long and carefully planned. During the siege of Warsaw, nearly five years ago, before Poland was defeated, plans were made for continuing the struggle after the occupation of the country by the Germans. Four men, chosen by their parties, began to work together: Niedzialkowski of the Polish Socialist Party, Rataj of the Peasant Party, Kwiecinski of the Labor Party and Debski of the National Party, all of whom have since been murdered by the Germans.

According to a statement recently made in London by Wladyslaw Banacyk, Polish Minister of the Interior, these four men set up a master plan to co-ordinate and guide the efforts of all patriotic organizations scattered throughout Poland. Owing to their initiative all civilian resistance was soon directed into one channel and the remnants of the Polish army that had not been able to escape formed the cadres of a modern underground army, the characteristic feature of which is that it was and still is a people's army comprising every element of Poland's national life and reflecting all trends and ideas of the Polish community.

The whole underground organization is under the representative of the Polish Government. He is a member of the Polish Cabinet and ranks as a deputy Prime Minister. The Underground Army has its own commander in chief, who takes orders direct from General Kazimir Sosnkowski, the commander in chief of the Polish armed forces, who in turn is responsible to the Polish Government in London. The Government itself co-ordinates its military activities with the plans of the Allied supreme command. Thus with the re-establishment of civilian authority, the Polish administration has been reconstituted in secret in Poland and now awaits liberation. It is served by the Polish Home Army.

The Home Army is divided into two groups: "special detachments" and "reserve units." The former are in action constantly, fighting the Germans wherever and whenever possible, while the reserve forces wait for the time when they can join in a general attack on the enemy, in the meantime, training constantly in their secret forest hide-outs.



Deutschland caput (End of Germany)
Painted up by the Underground on the walls of Warsaw.

By January of this year, the special detachments had grown to a force of 250,000. The reserves are at least as large. Armed resistance is now concentrated in Eastern Poland where the Germans' rear lines of communications to the Eastern Front can be most seriously damaged. There too the terrain, a wild land of forests, hills, and great marshes, provides the best cover for surprise warfare.

Since Hitler's attack on Russia in June, 1941, the Polish Home Army has consciously and deliberately taken upon its shoulders the task of aiding in every possible way the Soviet Army. For the past years the Underground has planned action to expose German Armies attacking the Russians, to hamper their moves, to cut them off from reserves and supplies. It is estimated that the efficiency of the German Army on the Eastern Front has been reduced by 20% because its supplies have been destroyed by the Poles. Three out of every four lines of communication from the Eastern Front to Germany pass through Polish territory where they are never safe.

In addition, nearly 500,000 German soldiers are immobilized by the need to maintain watch over the invisible Underground and its Army. Besides the reserves held in Poland as replacements for the Eastern Front, there are 15 German army divisions, 6 S.S. Elite Guard divisions and a German Police force of 50,000 stationed there.

At first, news of underground military operation was withheld for six months, so that the enemy would not gain valuable information. Later, this policy was relaxed in an effort to give the world a better appreciation of the ceaseless struggle carried on against the common enemy.

Early in April, for example, the Underground blew up three railway bridges in the Przemysl and Sanok regions, thereby cutting both main and secondary supply routes from
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PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTIONS IN POLAND

If one surveys the history of Poland, a definite trend towards freedom and representative government is apparent. From the earliest days of her existence, Poland was one of the few countries that adopted the elective principle and as early as the 16th century, some form of parliamentary institutions existed. An 18th century Italian poet, Alfieri, speaks of Italy and Poland as two countries "where tyranny is unknown." Early in their history, the relations of the ruler to the nation, and of the people to the State had been defined.

Originally Poland was governed by Councils of nobles, over which the king presided. Some of the nobles were such large land-owners that their estates were in themselves small kingdoms. Other nobles might have, attached to them in some capacity or other, fifty or a hundred of the landed gentry, men of noble birth but acknowledging the leadership of the great lord. In other countries in the same period they would have owed him feudal allegiance; in Poland they were theoretically his political equals not responsible to him in any way for their actions, but only to the State. It was this lack of a feudal system in Poland that favored the development of representative institutions.

The Great Council, in time became an Upper House, the Senate, over which the King sat. After the Polish-Lithuanian Union of 1569, it was composed of 135 members, 33 palatines, 85 castellans, two archbishops, and 15 bishops. Twelve members of the Royal Cabinet, namely the Hetman or Field-Marshal of Poland, the Hetman of Lithuania, the Grand Chancellors of Poland and Lithuania, four Chancellors, the Lord High Treasurer, and the Marshal of the Royal Household also had seats but took no part in the voting.

The growth of the Lower House of the Polish Parliament coincided with the struggle of the lesser gentry for their rights. At first they assembled in local Diets, or *sejmiki*, to which the burghers were also admitted. Soon the nobility, the *szlachta*, not only dominated these assemblies, but gave them national importance. We see Casimir IV confronted by the power of the Teutonic Knights going from one *sejmik*



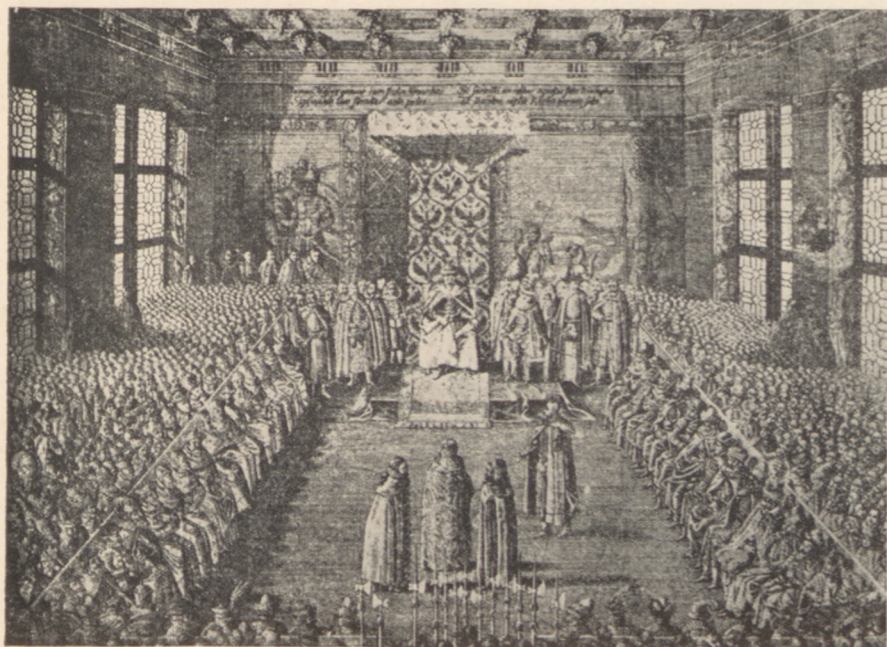
Polish Sejm in 16th century. Woodcut from the *Statute of the Polish Kingdom* by Jan Laski. Cracow, 1506.

to the other, asking for men and money to carry on a war against the enemies of Poland. The functions of these assemblies were soon so vital to the State that they merged into a general Diet, the *Sejm*, members of which were selected by the *sejmiki*.

At the time of the Reformation the *Sejm* played an important part. Neither the King nor the *Sejm* resorted to religious persecution or coercion. King Zygmunt August told the Diet of 1569: "Let no one think that I wish to force anybody to the faith by cruelty or punishment, or that I would cast a burden upon any man's conscience. Truly such is not my intention, it is not for me to build up the faith."

At the end of the 15th century in the *sejm* which elected John Albert as King, the cities of Cracow, Lwow, Torun, Poznan and Danzig were still represented, but later no one not of noble birth was ever sent to *sejm* or to the *sejmiki*. Up to the Constitution of May 3, 1791, Poland was a republic over which an elected king reigned and that was ruled by the representatives of the *szlachta*.

Early in the 16th century, the *sejm* acquired greatly enhanced power: it controlled the national purse and the army. Frequently the *szlachta* refused money and personal service to the King or exacted concessions from him in return for the grant of supplies. John Albert, and especially his successor and brother Alexander, granted to the nobility a series of concessions restricting the Royal patronage, that this movement culminated in the Statute of Nihil Novi in 1505, that provided the King should not alter the Constitution, or enact any new statute, except with the consent of the Senate and the *Sejm*. At the same Diet was adopted the guiding principle of Poland's internal policy until the first partition: unanimous rule was substituted for majority rule in the Diet. So, even the smallest minority in the Diet, was able to exercise an enormous nega-

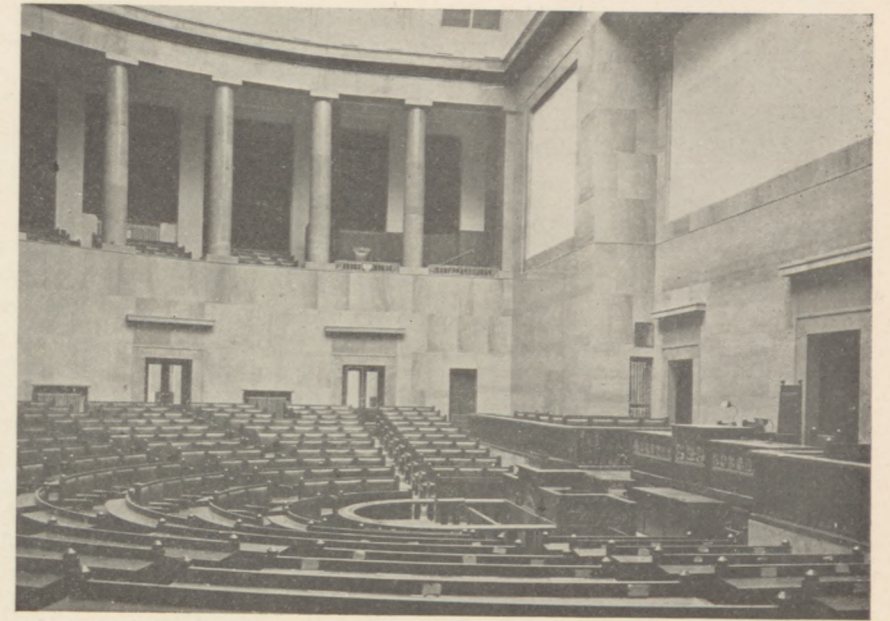


Sejm in Session, 1612. After a contemporary engraving.

tive influence. The utterance of the phrase "*nie pozwalam*" (I protest) not only put an end to further discussion of the subject before the House, it also ended the session of the Diet, nullifying all previous decisions of that particular session. This constitutional principle, called the *Liberum Veto*, contributed in a marked degree to Poland's internal decline. A state of anarchy existed within the country's highest legislative body; bribery by the rich ruling class was used to kill undesirable laws and to weaken the power of the Parliament.

Sessions of the *sejm* were opened with prayers, and an address by the King welcoming the delegates. The chancellor explained the reason for the convocation and read proposals received from the Senate. Discussion followed, after which agreement had to be reached by the two chambers. From the 16th century onward, the Polish Parliament met at least once every two years; in case of emergency an extraordinary session was called. Each biannual session lasted from two to three weeks, or longer if necessary. The usual place of assembly was Warsaw, but every third Parliament met at Grodno, and Coronation *Sejms* were held in Cracow.

During the 18th century, the *Sejm* lost much of its power, when the *Liberum Veto* made normal activity of the legislative body impossible. The growing danger of foreign intervention finally led to demands for reform. A genuine wave of self-criticism arose among the public-spirited men in Poland. It was mainly Hugo Kollontay, who, supported a number of friends, prepared and stimulated by his writings, the work of effective reform finally accomplished

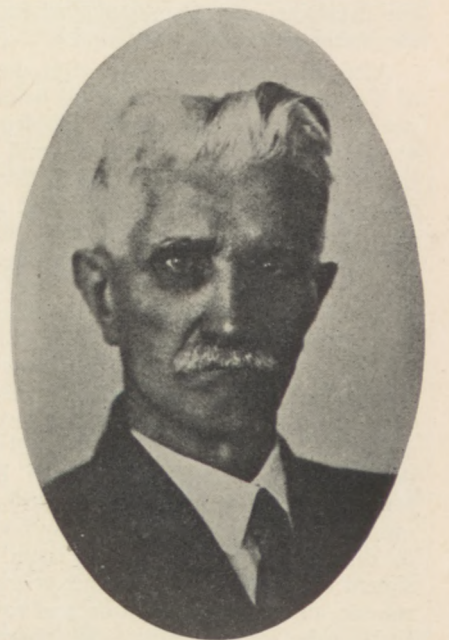


Chamber of the Sejm in Reborn Poland.

by the Four Year Diet, the Great Parliament of Poland, which sat from 1788 to 1792.

In the midst of grave political preoccupations, the Diet had to convert all the liberal ideals of democratic Poland into legislative acts and to meet the turbulent opposition of a reactionary minority which prevented unanimous decisions. The Diet therefore resolved to sit as a Convention, and abide by a majority of votes. To reinforce its authority it doubled the number of deputies by new elections and became a truly national assembly. Inspired by the tendencies of the French Revolution, but following the lines of Polish historical evolution, it adopted important reforms such as the creation of an army of 100,000 men that involved heavy financial burdens and substantial concessions to the third estate. The Diet finally accepted the famous Constitution of the Third of May. Critical of the past and full of plans for the future, the great Diet marked the beginning of a new social order. It came too late to save an already weakened country from the grasp of its aggressive neighbors whose fear of democracy sealed Poland's doom, but it will ever remain an inspiring example of enlightened legislation.

The second partition of Poland which followed was a monstrous crime against a nation ripe for reform. It is significant that to nullify the new Constitution the Confederates of



Ignacy Daszynski, Polish Socialist leader, Speaker of the Sejm (1928).



An election day scene in an old Warsaw alley.

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Targowica refused to call a Diet to confirm the second dismemberment of the country. Under pressure from Russia, the election of a subservient Diet was arranged. But even this Diet, assembled at Grodno in 1793, refused to yield. The Russian ambassador had to proceed to arrest the deputies and to confiscate their property. The Diet was surrounded by Russian troops. But in spite of all, nothing could be obtained beyond complete silence in sign of protest. This was interpreted by the partition powers as "unanimous consent." A last protest was signed by the helpless King and Diet: "I, the King of Poland," it ran, ". . . and we members of the Diet, hereby declare that, being unable, even by the sacrifice of our lives, to free our country from the yoke of its oppressors, consign it to posterity, trusting that means may be found at some happier period to rescue it from oppression and slavery: such means unfortunately are not in our power and other nations abandon us to our fate . . ." The last indignity inflicted on the Diet of Grodno was to force it to revoke the Constitution of the Third of May, and to pledge fidelity to the old order.

So ended the last Diet of old Poland.

During the partition period, the *sejm* of the Duchy of Warsaw and the *sejm* of the so-called Congress-Poland, united with Russia from 1815 to 1830 in a personal union, were mere shadows of a real Parliament. The first was an instrument of Napoleon's will, the second hardly more than a screen for the absolute powers of the Russian Emperor and his Viceroy. The provincial Diet of Galicia, which enjoyed comparative freedom and tolerance, although representing only the upper classes, was able to exert some influence on the autonomous administration. Polish deputies also sat in the Austrian and Prussian Parliaments, and after 1906 in the Russian *Duma*.

After the first world war, after the signature of the Treaty of Versailles, two years elapsed before reborn Poland was at peace. The most important problems facing the new State were the creation of a constitutional government, based upon the principles of liberty, equal suffrage, and democracy. For a century and a half, the world had seen the rise of democracy, the industrial revolution, and the transfer of power from aristocracy and the landowning classes to the middle class, the peasants and trade unions. During this time, Poland was silent under the heel of the last champions of despotism. Reborn Poland was exhausted after four years of war, invasion, famine and unsettlement, and was quite inexperienced in popular government and administration. The new Constitution was promulgated the day before peace with Russia was signed at Riga. It was based on all the principles of modern democratic universal suffrage of both sexes, proportional representation, a lower house and a senate, parliamentary immunity, a president elected by both houses with no power to dissolve parliament or to issue decrees, unless countersigned by a minister. For four years urgent problems of land reform, financial stabilization and foreign policy were tackled and partly solved despite the absence of any homogeneous majority in the *Sejm*. The Peasant Party, the Center of the Diet, formed coalitions alternatively with the Socialists on the left and the Nationalists on the Right and was now supported, now opposed by various minority groups.

After the establishment of the new regime under Marshal Pilsudski, after the *coup d'etat* in May, 1926, the Constitution was revised. The new constitution left the form of the State and the liberties of the citizens in general unchanged, but radically modified the relations between the President and the parliament. It permitted the Head of the State to dissolve the lower house and to legislate by presidential decree and it

limited parliamentary discussion of the budget to four months. The position of the *Sejm*, and the Senate was further weakened by the Constitution of 1935. The amendment of the electoral law deprived the legislative bodies of their truly popular character; the power was shifted to the President and the government.

Looking back at the activities of the *Sejm* and the Senate, there is no doubt that in spite of all political difficulties, both legislative bodies enacted in the first decade or so of independent Poland a broad program of economic and political reconstruction, establishing firm foundations for future development.

The problem of unifying the three divergent economic and monetary systems was great, as was that of amalgamating the various methods of public administration and social insurance. A codification of the three different systems of law was nearly completed.

Land reform bills were passed providing for the break-up of agricultural estates over a certain size and their sale to landless peasants under a system of state finance. A series of bills dealing with social reforms such as labor disputes and working hours became, law, and a vast educational plan was adopted.

In the last years before the war there were in existence the following main political parties: 1) the Polish Socialist Party, embracing a certain number of intellectuals and the majority of industrial workers of Poland; 2) the Peasant Party supported by several million peasants; 3) the National Democratic Party; 4) the so-called Party of Labor comprising two Catholic groups; 5) finally there was the pro-government party of National Unity.

However, from the moment of Germany's unprovoked aggression, all party differences were set aside, and when the government appealed to the population to defend Poland, it met with an unanimous and enthusiastic response from all parties.

Like the first world war, the European war of 1939 began with the invasion of Poland by foreign armies, her devastation and mutilation in body but not in spirit. The Polish Government in London is a Government of National Unity. The four largest groups, representing the greater part of the Polish nation, established cooperation on a common political and social platform. To coordinate the activity of the Government with public opinion in Poland, a representative body of the nation, the National Council—a War Parliament—was set up. In this National Council, a substitute for the *Sejm*, the most important trends of Polish political thought are represented. It is of course appointed by the President, as no elections are now possible in occupied Poland. Many of the members of the Council escaped to London from under German and Russian occupation, as representatives of underground organizations. The National Council held its first meeting on December 9, 1939. Its successive chairmen were Ignacy Paderewski, Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, the present Prime Minister, and Stanislaw Grabski, professor of political economy at Lwow University.

Poland places her hope of ultimate liberation in the defeat of despotism and the triumph of democracy. Future Poland can only be—as stated by the Government of National Unity and confirmed by the National Council—a democratic and republican State, strictly observing the principles of legal Government responsible to a true national assembly, fully representative of the common will of the people and elected by the method of general, equal, direct and secret vote.

A new chapter of the century old history of Poland's *Sejm* will then begin.

—DR. ALFRED BERLSTEIN.

Father Jan Beyzym—Polish Ministrant to Lepers

by ARKADY FIEDLER

HE was already 48—and at an age when others desire a peaceful life, he began to travel widely. They say that he was inspired by the experiences of a missionary who had worked among the lepers in Asia. That perhaps was the last link in the chain of causes, but the most important incentive was the seed that had lain in his soul for many years, a seed shared with the audacious conquistadors and the holy apostles, the seed of revolt against a life of constraint.

In him there was gathered a vast fund of love, of compassion and self-sacrifice, stored all those years, and that marked him off from other people and even from his brother Jesuits. He carried out his teaching duties in Jesuit seminaries in Poland with good heart and joyfulness, but to satisfy his longing he needed to find the lowest depths of human misery, and sought a hell on earth.

Father Beyzym went to Madagascar, where for thirteen years he tended the leper colony. The missionary who goes into the wilds to convert the heathen is a hero. He risks his life, but he has prospects of victory and often returns to civilization. Father Beyzym, in devoting himself to lepers, went consciously to a slow and certain death. A man who worked as he did could not return whole from such work. Father Beyzym attained the highest degree of heroism.

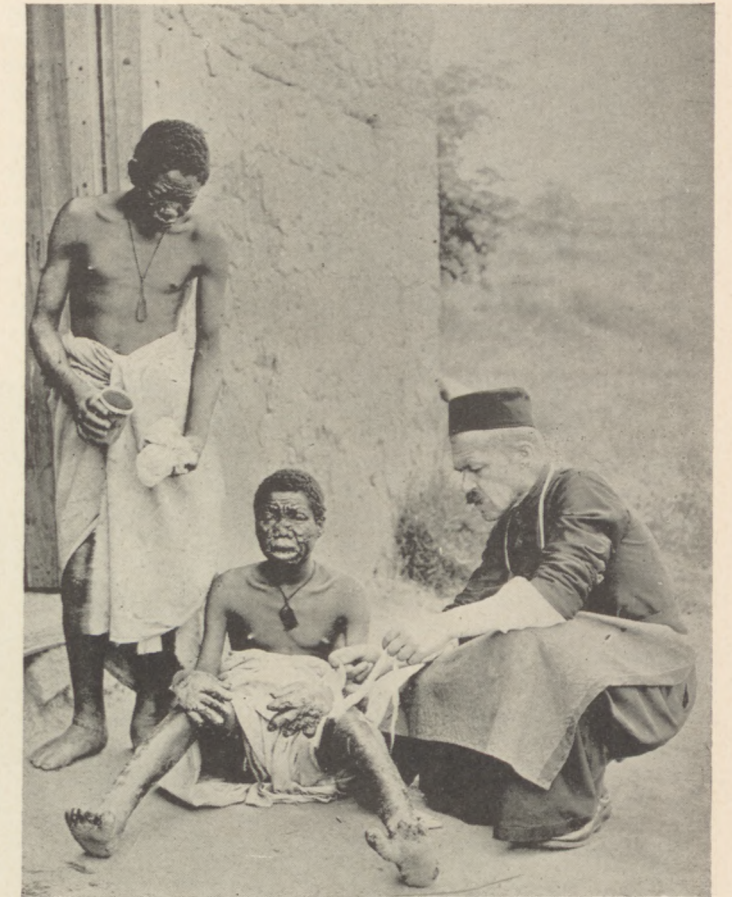
He went to Madagascar at the end of the nineteenth century, barely three years after the French conquest of the colony, before the island was fully pacified. The French authorities, weighed down by more urgent care, could not devote much attention to the sick. The government leper-colony at Tananarywa was completely neglected.

Father Beyzym was not appalled by the difficulties, but rolled up his sleeves and set to work. He was alone and without help. He defended his charges from the cudgels of their neighbors, saw to the daily rice supply, bargained for clothing, shared his own food with the sick, did the most menial work, and kept a cheerful and smiling face.

He was far from handsome, for his coarse features derived from his Tartar ancestors. But his face was so illumined with inner goodness that it was a solace to the lepers, who called him their father. Many Europeans shook their heads at such self-denial, while others were amazed that the descendant of a great family in Poland could devote himself so unrestrainedly to the most wretched Malagasy rabble, moral and social pariahs. But it was not a question of their being pariahs. These sick people simply represented the deepest abyss of human misfortune, and it was to this misfortune that the missionary devoted his life.

Almost from the first he conceived the idea of building a great, up-to-date leper colony with Polish money. He began to ask for contributions in Poland, calling on people of goodwill to be generous. His letters were published in "The Catholic Missions," and described Madagascar, the lepers and his plans so fervently and convincingly that contributions began to pour in. Like a real apostle he knew how to reach the hearts of his listeners, but he needed so much money that to the day of his death he never ceased his appeals, and we have a picture of what was going on in his own soul and around him.

He achieved his aim by indefatigable energy; his Leprosarium at Merana in the Betsileo district, the main battleground of the disease. "My hospital is rather a slap in the face for the local officials, for there is not another such institution on the whole island," wrote Father Beyzym to Poland with justified pride. Even today this leper-colony is something to look at. The visitor to Fianarantsoa, the provincial capital of Betsileo, usually spends several hours in Marana to see the spacious buildings, and learns with amazement that this was the work of a Polish missionary.



Father Beyzym tending lepers in Madagascar.

Father Beyzym's letters to Poland are most moving. Cheerful, at times jovial, they are of child-like simplicity; perhaps a little diffuse, but each page breathes unbounded love, tenderness, and an honest simplicity of mind so heart-stirring that the reader becomes ever more bound up in the fate of the lepers and the building of the colony.

With Father Beyzym we live through his joys and cares, his victories and defeats. How moving, for instance, is the story of the Polish trees. Amidst the foreign fauna the missionary longed for his own forests, and asked Poles to send him "birch seeds, any kind of birch, and also hornbeam seeds." To his great joy some compassionate person from Wilno sent him various kinds of seeds. He carefully planted them in a frame, to be replanted in the ground later, and even put a picture of Our Lady of Czestochowa by them, whose help he never failed to implore. But the terrible climate killed the dream of white birches in Madagascar and Father Beyzym had to live without his Polish trees.

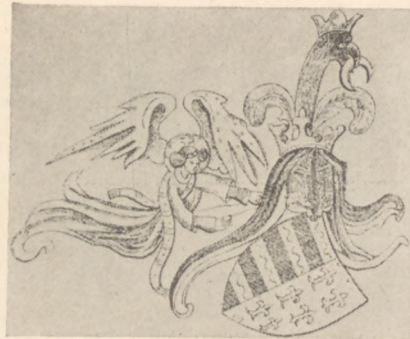
At times, despite the squalor of his work, he would find something interesting nearby. Thus he was concerned to discover how a spider could spin its web across a river. In the next letter, some months later, the problem was solved: it was done with the help of the wind. The missionary also observed a wasp taking spiders to its nest. He lamented the plague of locusts, and did not spare his indignation against the fleas which bit the legs of his lepers.

He regarded the natives as a loving father does his children, with great understanding. But sometimes even his angelic heart was ruffled. "The native of Madagascar is rare-

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ARTISANS AND HANDICRAFTS IN OLD POLAND

by ARNOLD Z. WIECZOR



Ornament on goblet belonging to Queen Jadwiga, 14th century.

It is a curious fact that although Poland is predominantly an agricultural country, the oldest national legend refers to craftsmen not to farmers. The founder of the first royal house in Poland elected by the people in Kruszwica more than a thousand years ago was the wheelwright Piast. It is also notable that the oldest coats of arms in Poland are connected with crafts. It is known to heraldists that among the oldest Polish coats of arms are those including a horseshoe. According to legend King Boleslaw Chrobry was besieging the castle of an enemy prince, on top of an icy slope. Then a blacksmith made shoes with which the horses of Boleslaw's knights no longer slipped on the ice. The king rewarded the blacksmith by granting him a coat of arms with a horseshoe.

Western Poland was a country of hundreds of large lakes, connected with each other and with the Baltic by the Vistula. Castles and towns in early Poland were invariably built on islands. The rich and varied seafaring vocabulary of old Polish proves to what an extent navigation was part of early Polish life. There are in old Polish about



Kazimierz the Great's scepter (14th cent.) as drawn by Jan Matejko.

twenty different words for a boat or ship. Polish ships navigated on inland waterways as well as on the Baltic and the North Sea. In a country of lakes and marshes civil engineering and the construction of dykes played an important part, mainly for strategic reasons. There were cases when whole armies were sunk in the marshes and for that reason the building of bridges and dykes was particularly important. Unfortunately none of these bridges has been preserved as they were

built of wood. Another very early trade was the production of honey and wax which developed particularly in the large forests, leading to the establishment of special communities, ruled by their own laws and customs.



Missal showing Polish eagle, Cracow (1501).

The production of salt was known to the earliest Slavs. They poured salt water into flat receptacles which were placed close to a fire. When the water evaporated, a crust of salt formed and was sold in that form.

Already in the XIth century, salt was mined in the Wieliczka mines that are still being worked today. In 1105 King Boleslaw granted to the monastery of Tyniec the right to share in the salt production of Wieliczka, which proves how old are the mines of that town. Mining was not, however, limited to salt as the lead mines of Olkusz were worked in the earliest times. There was a considerable development of mining during the reigns of Wladyslaw Lokietek and Kazimierz the Great. Lead, silver and copper were extracted in various places and prospecting for mineral wealth was encouraged by the King and aristocracy. The high level to which mining in Poland attained at that time can be judged by the fact that the charters of the Wieliczka salt mines and the Olkusz metal ore mines, granted by Kazimierz the Great, eventually became standard mining law for the rest of Europe and were imitated in France, Germany and Bohemia. Certain crafts derived from mining acquired importance, notably the production of tin plates and other metal utensils, which replaced wood and earthenware.

Since the XIth century there appeared in Poland settlements of craftsmen who supplied various products for both town and country. At that time the specialization introduced by the guilds was not yet enforced and many craftsmen were virtually jacks of all trades.

The ancient Slavs had no mills, and women ground grain with hand stones, but water mills appeared in Poland early in the XIth century. Millers were hereditary and enjoyed a privileged position on account of their wealth.

Beer has always been a popular beverage in Poland. Originally it was brewed in every home, but later innkeepers became brewers and then breweries sprang up in every town, as for instance in Breslau in the XIIth century. Brewers paid taxes to the prince who controlled their activity. How important beer was in Polish life can be seen from the fact that in 1202 King Leszek Bialy (The White) excused himself to Pope Innocent III

for not going on the Fourth Crusade because beer was unobtainable in the Holy Land!

Artisans appeared in Polish towns and cities early in the XIIIth century as part of the general evolution and progress of trade and industry. Formerly Polish artisans had worked almost exclusively in the country for the nobles and landed gentry. The growth of the towns produced a separate class of artisans who at first served only the needs of town-dwellers. The more wealthy classes who should have been their best customers continued to employ their private artisans or to buy foreign products from merchants.

This was greatly to the disadvantage of the tradesmen who had gradually to win new customers, including all the classes of the population. It was not until the XIVth century and particularly the reign of Kazimierz the Great, that the artisans of Polish towns finally established themselves on solid foundations, at the same time enlarging the scope of their production. The rural population

began to buy in the towns various household objects, cloths, and adornments. It was then that various handicrafts, hitherto pursued in the country, were transferred to towns, pottery for instance. About this time, Western tradesmen brought to Poland a knowledge of several new branches of production, so that those who previously had bought foreign goods could now obtain them made in Poland. The growing prosperity of the towns was reflected in the improved condition of the various crafts.

Polish artisans soon began to work not only on individual orders but also to make goods for sale to the general public. Production in the XVth century supplied not only Polish customers and fairs but also foreign markets (in the XVth century, Cracow bootmakers exported considerable quantities of their products to England).

Polish merchants assisted in the distribution of the produce of craftsmen, although the latter frequently sold their wares themselves. Some artisans, notably gold and silversmiths charged one of their number with the sale of articles produced by a group of workers. This was done mostly in the case of objects made by an artist craftsman without any definite order but in the hope of effecting a sale. Nevertheless the bulk of craftsmen remained quite distinct from merchants and continued to work mainly on private orders.

The wide range of articles produced by Polish arts and crafts in the XVth and XVIth centuries appears also from an interesting document in the Jagiellonian Library in Cracow, illustrating the professions and crafts of medieval burghers. Indeed, the XVIth



Shoemakers' workshop from Codex picturatus by Baltazar Behem, Cracow, 16th century.

century, known as the Golden Age of Poland in the political and cultural sense, was very favorable to the development of arts and crafts. The rise of a more democratic class of nobility, the increased prosperity of the country and of the cities under conditions of perfect tolerance contributed to this development. Artisans were called upon to sup-

ply the landed gentry, the inhabitants of towns and even the magnates who till then had bought everything abroad. This demand included every article of clothing, furniture, jewelry, domestic paraphernalia, and had to satisfy the needs and tastes of all classes. The gentry true to their ancient knightly tradition, showed increasing taste for oriental splendor

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Polish eagles embroidered on book belonging to Queen Anna Jagiellonka, 16th century.

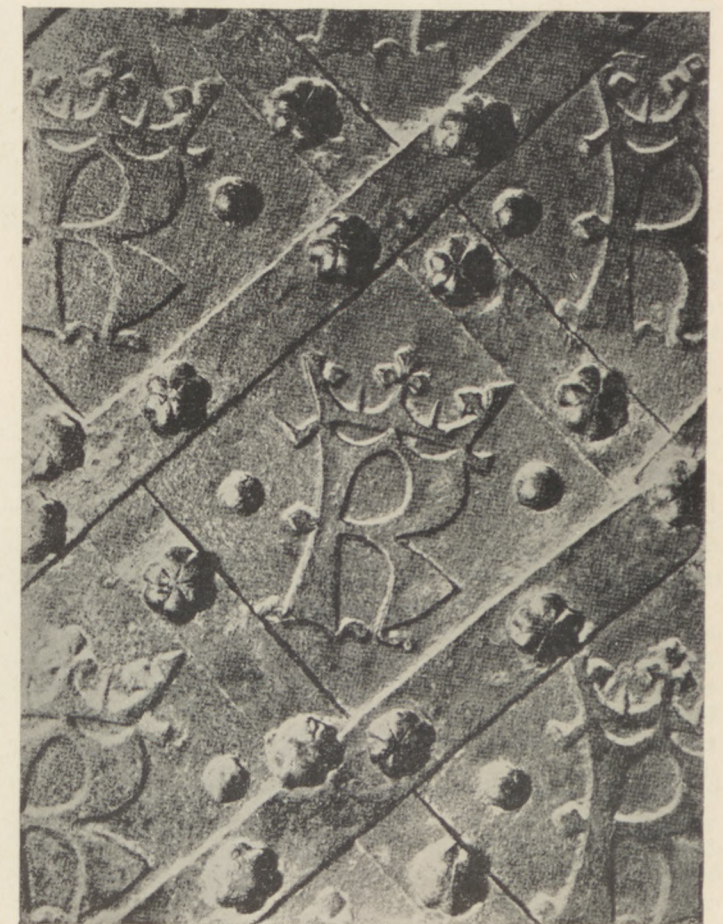


Polish eagles embroidered on book belonging to Queen Anna Jagiellonka, 16th century.

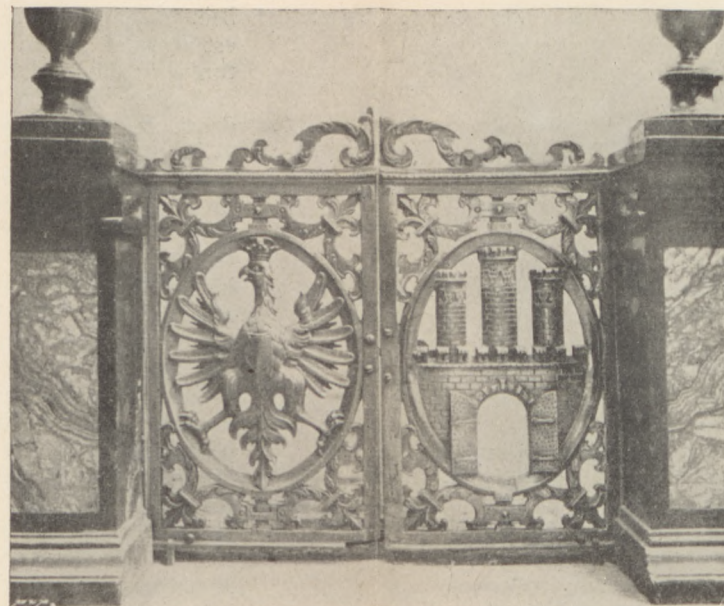


Silver cock of sharpshooters' fraternity.

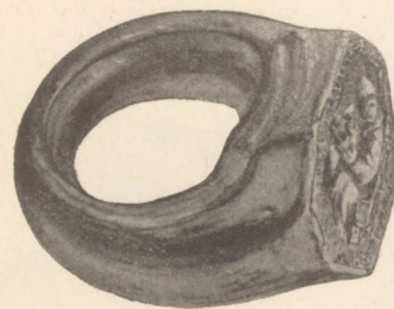
Hand-wrought door, Wawel Cathedral, Cracow.



Hand-wrought door, Wawel Cathedral, Cracow.



Bronze gate in St. Mary's Church, Cracow.



Ring used for hall-marking articles of gold.

(Continued from p. 9) and asked for richer armor. Armenian armorers settled in Lwow excelled in the fabrication of gorgeous suits of mail. Lordly manors and the houses of city people displayed splendid cutlery. Gold- and silversmiths found powerful protectors in King Zygmunt II and the hero of Vienna,

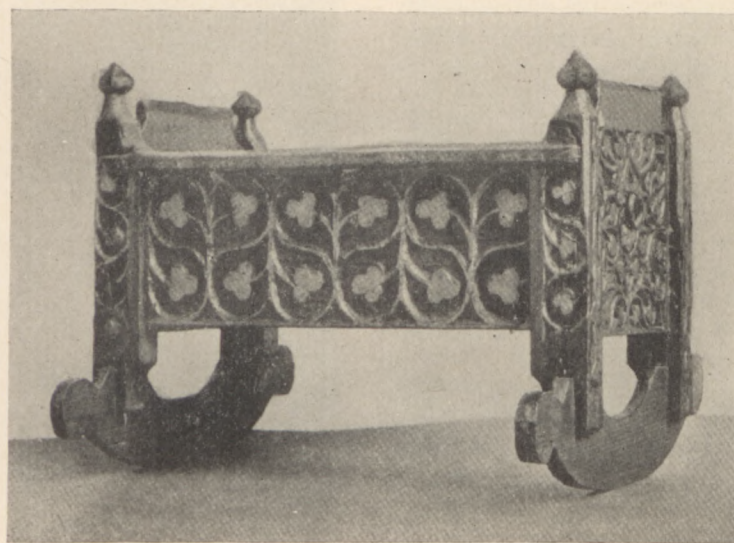
King Jan Sobieski, lover of rich caparisons and accoutrements. Artistic ironmongery and ironwork prospered no less. The same was true of joiners and furniture-makers. There existed in Poland two renowned furniture centers: Danzig and Kolbuszowa. Danzig boards and cupboards, Kolbuszowa writing desks, while conforming to the general exigencies of the style of the century, showed such strong individual characteristics that they may be considered as the first type of really Polish furniture.

A special category of craftsmen was employed in pressing and gilding leather, used afterwards under the name of cordoban leather for covering walls and chairs.

Other specialists produced belts, carriages, cutlery, gold and silver vessels and cups of high artistic and technical finish. These articles followed the fashions of the period, but always showed signs of individual and national taste. It must be noted that every kind of handicraft was passed on from father to son and for generations formed a family specialty.

Speaking of arts and crafts in Poland, it is impossible not to mention the guilds which played such an important part in the growth of industry. The guilds controlled and supervised the activities of individual workshops, fixed prices, controlled the labor market, provided raw material for members and exercised many religious, military and cultural functions. When the guilds appeared in Poland they included members of different trades, and then underwent a gradual process of specialization. This specialization eventually reached a high degree, especially where the collaboration of several craftsmen was necessary to make one article (blacksmiths, cartwrights, wheelwrights, etc). Conflicts of jurisdiction between guilds were a feature of city life in medieval Poland. The two last monarchs of the Jagiellon dynasty and King Stefan Batory promoted the development of crafts. In 1567 the Poznan clothmakers were granted the monopoly of purchasing homegrown wool. To promote the development of the tanning industry, King Batory in 1579 prohibited the export of raw hides.

Guild members were various groups including the aristocracy of artisans, the goldsmiths, silversmiths and bell-founders. The work of the goldsmiths attained a high artistic level and moreover they were monetary experts and in some cases bankers. Next in influence stood craftsmen providing for the needs of the widest masses of population: bootmakers, tailors, butchers, joiners, black-



Hand-carved cradle from late 15th century.



Archers' Fraternity from *Codex picturatus* by Baltazar Behem, Cracow, 16th century.

smiths, saddlers—a numerous group present in every small town. Another group was concerned with the production of cloth: weavers, clothiers, dyers, etc. The production of cloth was concentrated in those parts of Poland where sheep breeding was developed. There were about 1,500 separate mills producing the then impressive total of some five million yards. Besides supplying the whole country, part of this production was exported to Silesia, Brandenburg and elsewhere.

Art was not absent even in those branches of handicraft that produced articles of common use. Characteristic of these times were the "masterpieces" each craftsman had to execute before being admitted

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POLISH BLOOD ON EL GAZALA'S SANDS

by MIECZYSLAW PRUSZYNSKI

IN February after the siege of Tobruk was raised, the Carpathian Brigade marched across the desert toward the West in pursuit of the retreating Axis army. We had already gone 60 miles when orders came from the British high command:

"At the crossroads near El Gazala, the radio told us, an outpost of British military police will give you all instructions."

As I marvel at the organization made possible in this war by radio, we miss the British outpost in some way, and our advance patrol reports a strong line of enemy defenses ahead. The commander of the 13th British Corps orders the Polish brigade to advance and take the enemy position near El Gazala.

Realizing the serious nature of the task, Captain Jurczynski, commander of our anti-tank division, gives me the following order:

"At three this afternoon both infantry battalions will attack. Our brigade commander wants your battery to protect the left wing of our forces from the counterblow by German tanks."

I take my battery into the desert. Our assignment demands great accuracy of range—an error of a mile and we shall fire on our own soldiers instead of the Germans. We advance four miles and join up with the New Zealanders at the appointed place. They have an anti-tank battery all set up, ready to open fire.

It is nice and peaceful and safe here, but two miles too far from the left flank we are to protect. A new idea strikes me; to abandon the New Zealanders and drive those two miles straight through the desert to the spot where we should meet our advancing battalion.

Visibility in the desert is always good, so our trucks are deployed and ordered to remove their canvas covering so as to make them less visible. Out of the tumult of battle comes our adjutant, asking where I think I'm going with my battery.



Monument to Poland's glorious dead in Libya.



Polish tank in the desert.

"We're carrying out orders!" I yell back.

As we advance we draw the fire of the enemy. Corporal Mokrzycki of the divisional group is killed. I expected artillery fire, but not that the Allied batteries would join in the attack on us.

After driving the two miles, we hide in a fold of the sands. A halt. We meet there an advance platoon of New Zealand infantry with their commander, a young captain, recently decorated in Tobruk by General Sikorski.

"The battalion's advance has been halted by heavy fire," he tells me, "its front line is several hundred yards behind us." So our battery is actually in front of the battalion's left flank. What better place could we have to carry out our orders?

Captain Klis sends a message to the battalion commander, telling him we have reached our present position. Our batteries are ready. The enemy's artillery fires into our ranks, and their machine guns chatter away sending bullets flying over our heads. The dip in the ground is a priceless protection.

"Sergeant Jezierski is wounded," someone calls, "no it missed him, he was only showered with rock."

Platoon leader Kwiecinski drives up with new orders from the brigade's staff. In a minute, we're in the trucks and pounding away across the desert to the south.

February mornings in Libya are cold, especially after a

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Even Polish Spas Are Seized By the Germans

by DR. W. KOS

IN the twenty years of her independence Poland was able to develop world famous health resorts so modern and well-equipped that the Germans, usually critical of anything Polish, praise them in their official papers and use them as resting places for the Army. Morszyn, the most famous, is the favorite spa of German officers.

Morszyn lies some 50 miles south of Lwow in the Beskid Foothills. The Germans have now re-named it "The Galician State Spa in the Eastern Beskids," and "The Unique Therapeutic Institute."

The Germans praise the assets of this spa, its pure highland air, beautiful modern buildings, the value of its mud baths and mineral springs, and its modern equipment which meets every demand of its present unwelcome patrons. German newspapers describe Morszyn in detail, its architecture, excellent spring pavilions, the Boniface Spring, and modern medical equipment. They even emphasize the historical Polish development of Morszyn, as well as the creative thought and excellent modern methods by which reborn Poland improved the spa.

What is the cause of this unusual praise? Undoubtedly it is because Morszyn, pride of the Galician spas, is so extraordinary that even the Germans are forced to recognize its merits, and whenever they find anything worth-while they immediately turn it to their own advantage. They have therefore made of Morszyn, "The State Health Center of Galicia."

In Poland, taking the waters has been practiced for many centuries. As long ago as the 11th century, Judyta, wife of Wladyslaw Herman, took a cure at the mineral springs at Inowlodz near Pilicz. Later the curative value of mineral water at Swoszowice near Cracow, in Szklo, in Lubien Wielki near Lwow, and of the iodine salts of Iwonicz was discovered.

In 1578, a Dr. Wojciech Oczko, mentions in his writings "the hot baths at Szklo." In 1617, Dr. Erazm Sykst published a work on "The Mineral Springs at Szklo." With the passing of time, the value of mineral water became more widely known throughout the world. Prominent people took the waters. The medical profession began to study this phenomenon and to widen its knowledge of the therapeutic value of the springs. Balneology or hydrotherapy formed the scientific basis of this new branch of medicine. It soon gained repute not only in Poland but also in France, England, Germany and many other countries which had mineral springs. Polish health resorts improved constantly and now they rival the most famous of foreign spas. Before the war they accommodated an ever increasing number of Poles and foreigners who took the waters.

Morszyn's history dates back to 1538. It was discovered much earlier, but in 1538 King Zygmunt I granted Stanislaw Branecki, then owner of Morszyn, the right to weigh salt. At that time, there were four salt wells, but the salt discovered there had such unusual and hitherto unknown properties that it did not lend itself to general use. Its mining, therefore, was soon abandoned, for at that time the curative value

of salt springs was not yet known. This value was not realized until many years later.

Stanislaw Branecki could have gained world fame as a great discoverer, but he did not have the knowledge of Dr. Oczko or Dr. Sykst. Morszyn fell into oblivion for more than 300 years.

During the second half of the 19th century, Morszyn was for a time the property of Francis Smolka, a great Polish statesman. After numerous auctions, the estate was purchased by Boniface Stiller, a resident of Lwow who proved himself a generous philanthropist and good citizen. In 1878, Stiller rediscovered the wealth of Morszyn. With the aid of the Polish Medical Society of Galicia he re-opened the spa, and established it as a foundation in honor of this organization, on condition that the profits should go to the widows and orphans of Polish physicians.

Nevertheless, before the first World War this spa was not fully developed. In 1913, the Society decided to sell it, but could not obtain the necessary consent of the Galician Parliament. During the first World War Morszyn was destroyed. After the war it came into the hands of the Polish Medical Society of Lwow, the initiative and vision of this latter society rescued the watering place for Poland.

It is the only health resort of its type in Poland and the first one in the world. The chemical contents of its springs are unsurpassed. The Medical Society of Lwow, in conjunction with those of Stanislawow, Tarnopol, Krakow, and several others in Southern Poland administered the modern and well-equipped resort.

The administration of the Society insured a first-class spa where scientific methods were used in every department. Its natural wealth was used for the greatest social benefit. A committee of three professors from the Department of Medicine of the Jan Kazimierz University, along with the directors of the resort worked out a plan of treatment based on the latest scientific data and a long practical experience.

The properties of the Epsom Salt and Glauber's Salt are tested by students of geology, who found the supply to be almost inexhaustible. Hydrologists and bacteriologists analyze the properties of the sweet and salt springs as well as their purity and give reports of their exact chemical contents. The salt and mud baths are also constantly tested. The best methods of cure have been developed in the medical laboratories at Jan Kazimierz University. Forestry students and gardeners planned the parks and gardens, engineers laid plumbing and sewer systems, installed electrical lines, gas mains, built bath houses, spring pavilions and villas. They also had in mind a hospital, laboratories, free clinics for the poor, convalescent houses, etc. An entire scientific literature sprang up about Morszyn. This new town with its modern gardens, beautiful parks, woods and hilly terrain 900 feet above sea level sprang up almost overnight.

This social outlook was realistically based on the co-operation

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Sanatorium at Morszyn, Southeastern Poland.

FROM THE ATLANTIC FRONT

by STEFAN F. GAZEL

"To conquer the world, Hitler must first gain control of the seas. He must destroy the bridge of ships stretching across the Atlantic, over which are rolling the tools which will wipe him and his kind from the face of the earth."

—PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

THE distance between the East coast of the United States and the Western ports of Great Britain is about as far as from New York to San Francisco! Three thousand miles of sea where every ship is exposed to the attacks of submarines, pocket battleships, raiders and, in the Eastern part, long range German bombers.

Three thousand miles in the average convoy means a voyage of two weeks, every day, every minute of which may be the last for those on board, where the officers and men, sleeping after their watch, may be awakened by the alarm, a torpedo, the explosion of a bomb, or the rattle of machine gun fire to spend the rest of his "off" time behind a gun, or . . . in the lifeboat—if he is lucky.

If he isn't—some time later an obituary notice appears in the papers:

"To the memory of Jan Sliwinski, officer of the Polish Merchant Marine, who lost his life in the North Atlantic while fighting for the integrity and independence of his country."

That is all the press and it's readers know about it. But tragedy and heroism lie behind this announcement!

Four of five air attacks repulsed in an hour! Days and nights spent in flooded engine rooms repairing damage. Later—the crash of another torpedo—flying splinters, friends boiled in the escaping steam . . .

Attempts to launch lifeboats in a raging Atlantic gale—only to see them smash against the ship's side, the swinging out of another, and then the long days and weeks on the mountainous waters, the hellish thirst, and in the end perhaps death from exhaustion, cold and hunger.

They do not always perish. Some survive . . . 72 days in an open boat left to the mercy of winds, gales and seas. Two survive out of thirty. They are washed ashore—two living skeletons.



Polish merchant ship firing at enemy.

* * *

Yes,—the bridge over the Atlantic is held. So are and will be all other sea communications, necessary in peace time—essential now, that Allied armies on all continents have to be supplied with everything, from sand bags to high octane gas.

The bridge over the Atlantic is held, but it's upkeep is paid for in human lives, the lives of those "who go down to the sea in ships."

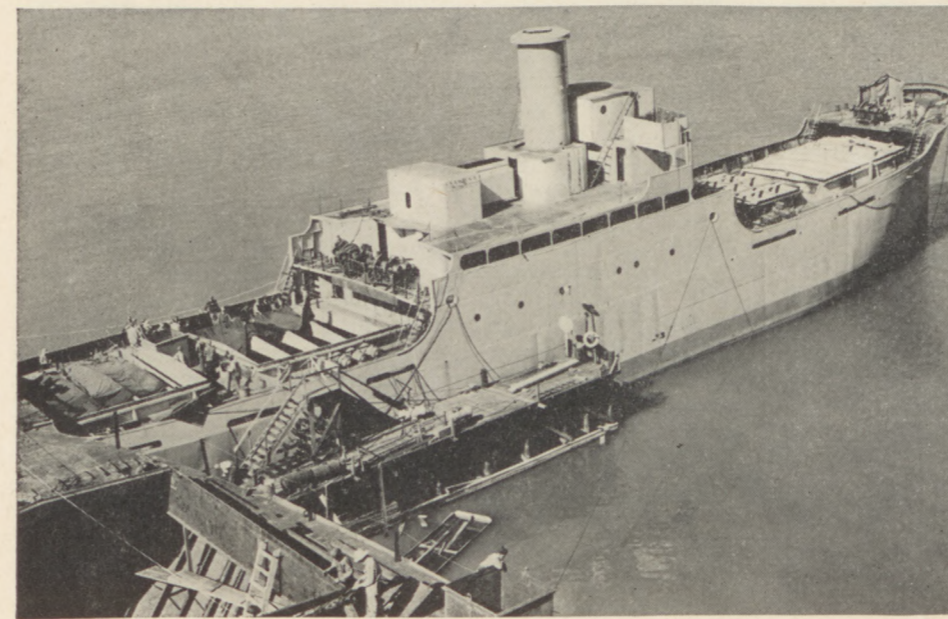
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In all land operations weeks and months are spent in preparing for action. There is intensive training interspersed with periods of rest. Even bomber or fighter pilots returning from their dangerous missions have one or more days of rest, during which they can "go to town" or spend time in comparative safety, in a changed atmosphere, without the ever present tension.

At sea it's different. There—day and night, for weeks and months—years now—sailors fight a battle in which there is only one front line.

There is never any leave! From the moment they steam out of port, for two

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U.S. Maritime Commission Photo

SS Kowel (formerly Judah P. Baker) transferred to Polish Registry.

THE BATTLE OF POLAND CONTINUES

(Continued from page 3)

Berlin to Lwow, a key base on the Eastern Front. For 24 hours all traffic was interrupted. This materially affected German plans for the defense of Lwow and forced postponement of any planned counterattack.

One of the bridges destroyed was near Przemysl on the doubled-tracked main line from Berlin to Lwow via Breslau and Cracow. Every day more than ninety German supply trains passed over this line. Another bridge was near Sanok on a parallel line between Cracow and Lwow, the only connection between Lwow and the Carpathians.

The Polish radio station SWIT reports that as a result of increased sabotage by the Polish Underground Army, the Germans are forced to defend not only the main railway lines and roads but even the secondary roads as well. Motor convoys passing over main roads must carry machine guns. Convoys going to the Eastern Front must be protected by armed motorcycle squads preceding and following them. Large police patrols ceaselessly watch these roads and examine all civilian passes. At important junctions, heavy police detachments are stationed in fortified buildings. German officers and apartments are always on top floors to prevent sabotage from the street. Cellars and first floors in German-occupied buildings are strongly fortified.

One of the most successful sabotage actions carried out in the Germans' rear was the ambush of a military train about a mile from the Lipa station on the Lublin-Rozwadow line. Eight hundred German soldiers were on this heavily pro-

tected train, which was equipped with machine-guns, anti-tank guns and was preceded by a pilot locomotive. Polish Underground soldiers let the pilot pass, but set charges for the train itself. As it passed, violent explosions of dynamite shook the earth. Most of the carriages were thrown off the tracks and completely destroyed. German soldiers, fleeing panic-stricken, were mowed down by machine-gun fire. A hospital train had to come for the 350 killed and wounded. The track was badly damaged and traffic was interrupted for several days.

So critical has the situation become for the Germans that they have been forced to cut down all trees on both sides of railway tracks. This measure is intended to prevent Polish forces from waiting in ambush for trains. Even Governor-General Frank's express was recently derailed by dynamite charges, but unfortunately he escaped death.

Polish Underground action is by no means confined to attacks upon railroads. Countless pitched battles are fought daily between guerrilla forces and the oppressors of their land. In two engagements recently, German police units, S.S. guards and regular soldiers tried to surround the Poles and kill them. On each occasion the Poles broke through and escaped after inflicting severe losses on the enemy.

The Germans' fear of Poles and the ever-increasing precaution they take for their personal safety and the protection of their war equipment are the best indication that the Polish campaign has never really ended, and that this hidden Polish Army is an increasingly important cog in the Allies' plan for victory.

FATHER JAN BEYZYM—POLISH MINISTRANT TO LEPERS

(Continued from page 7)

ly honest," he wrote. "Thievishness is appallingly deeprooted . . . They are enormously greedy and covetous."

And in appraising the great sacrifice he made for Madagascar, one must understand the peculiar soul of the natives, who know not the feeling we call gratitude. All ethnologists agree that gratitude is foreign to the Malagasy, who explain away good deeds done to them. It must be supposed that even the lepers did not feel much gratitude to Father Beyzym, and thus his heroism and self-sacrifice were all the greater. It is true that the missionary several times mentions the attachment of his charges, but he looked at them only through his own unbounded goodness, and was blinded by his own feeling. He loved them. Whether they loved him is not so certain.

The letters of the last years read like a growing tragedy. The fine hospital was already built, and thus his most important work was done. But Father Beyzym dreamed of new endeavors, of still greater sacrifice. He asked his superiors in Poland to send him to Sakhalin, where he had heard that people were living in the greatest misery. He commended himself half-jokingly as still being strong enough. "I shan't twirl my moustache, because I haven't one, but by God's good grace I am still fit. Despite my three-score years I am not yet like a worn-out boot."

But at that time his health was already seriously impaired. He had become infected with leprosy. Nevertheless, his let-

ters continued cheerful, and full of confidence and dreams of further deeds. Did he feel a presentiment of his illness? Probably. Perhaps he believed in some miraculous cure. Perhaps he hoped that the northern cold would check the progress of the leprosy, and for this reason he was so anxious to go to Sakhalin.

Even in his last letter, written to Poland a month before his death, he was as happy as a child to think that he would soon see Poland again. This letter shows all his soul, joyful and on fire for the north and his own people.

Some days later he took to his bed and never rose from it again. He bore bravely, with great calm the pangs of approaching death. He died as he had lived, a humble and indomitable knight. Only once—and the pain must have been terrible—did he utter a half-conscious groan. "Everything hurts . . . I am on the rack . . ."

On October 2nd, 1912, his heart stopped beating.

His grave is at Marana, on the mountain-side, where one must climb to it by a tortuous path beside a steep precipice. From the summit is a wide and superb view over the populous rice-growing valleys and the leper hospital.

To this shrine come pilgrims of all races and all creeds; many of whom still remember the missionary with coarse-featured face and tender heart. But almost everyone knows that he had a curious custom: he would hang over the bed of every patient a picture of Our Lady, whom he called the Queen of the Crown of his far homeland, in the north, but who had a dark face like the people of Madagascar!

POLISH BLOOD ON EL GAZALA'S SANDS

(Continued from page 11)

sleepless night, with no supper and little prospect of breakfast. Around noon more new orders. We are to protect the brigade's staff from an expected tank attack. Later a report tells us we have won the battle, that the enemy's position at our right wing was broken yesterday, and that not an hour ago the enemy on our left was routed. The motorized artil-

lery had charged like tanks.

In the evening in the rays of the setting sun a long procession of prisoners winds toward the rear, best proof that we had won the battle.

After we had taken El Gazala, Rommel ordered a general retreat along his entire front. The victory of the Polish Carpathian Brigade near El Gazala was largely responsible for this.

ARTISANS AND HANDICRAFTS IN OLD POLAND

(Continued from page 10)

to the guild with the title of master. We read in the statutes of the clockmakers' guild in Poznan that each companion who wanted to become a master had to make a clock striking the hours and quarters, as well as a small clock no bigger than a thaler, striking the hours.

In the XVIIth century the Polish clock-making industry flourished particularly in Danzig and Wilno. The most renowned clockmaker of Wilno was a certain Jacob Gerke. Clocks made of tiles were a specialty of many Polish towns such as Warsaw, Cracow, Danzig, Wilno, Lublin, etc. Standing clocks were often made in the form of towers or chapels. Musical clocks were also very popular in these days. During the XVIIIth century, the clockmakers' art acquired its highest development in Warsaw where lived the best clockmakers of the period: Gugenmus, Janiszowski, Krantz and many others. Watches ornamented with gold and jewels appeared as exquisite specimens of the goldsmiths' and watchmakers' art.

Polish guilds preserved with care all the documents and articles relating to their activity. Curious seals and medals,

insignia, vessels, musical instruments, embroideries, etc., remain to prove the high degree attained by this form of collective life and the artistic taste of the people who so richly decorated the premises of their guild.

In the XVIIth century the prosperity of Polish towns declined and the devastation of XVIIIth century wars contributed to make even worse the condition of the guilds and craftsmen.

In the second half of the XVIIIth century, a new and more prosperous period began for Polish arts and crafts. The reign of Stanislaw August Poniatowski brought considerable improvement but the *per capita* production failed to reach the high level of the XVIth century. At the same time larger factories founded by wealthy landowners and burghers began to compete with the artisans. At any rate the situation was far better than in the late XVIIth and early XVIIIth centuries. Unfortunately the partitions of Poland at the end of the XVIIIth century dealt a severe blow to the economic life of the country. Polish artisans, however, gave numerous proofs of their patriotism during the XIXth century and preserved their ancient traditions until the day when Poland won back her independence.

EVEN POLISH SPAS ARE SEIZED BY THE GERMANS

(Continued from page 12)

tion of many. It is an example of Polish creative thought and the persevering methods of people interested only in public welfare.

Under this wise management, Morszyn quickly became a modern health resort. The springs were again-in use, while the mechanical equipment guaranteed a high salt content for the baths and hydrotherapeutic clinics. Masseurs, electrical equipment, mineral and mud baths were proof of the modern technique established there.

Finally, in 1938, at a cost of \$500,000 (two and a half million zloty) a new spring pavilion was built, exactly 400 years after King Zygmunt I granted rights to Morszyn's first owner. This pavilion was not only modern and comfortable but had the latest medical equipment. It had 125 rooms,

with balconies, modern furniture, a library, salon, restaurant, coffee shop, medical supplies, rooms for X-ray treatments, spring houses, and baths. All this built solely by Polish initiative and with Polish capital.

The Morszyn health resort progressed rapidly. Its products such as the Epsom salts, mineral water from the Boniface Spring, excellent hypotonic water were widely used throughout Poland and gradually won a high reputation on the foreign market.

Today Morszyn serves as a health resort for Germans exclusively. Nazi propaganda, usually so critical of Poland, calls Morszyn the best resort in Galicia and recommends it highly as a vacation spot, but only for Germans. These German "supermen" are now so afraid of the reprisal they so richly deserve for their brutality that they dare not allow Poles near them.

FROM THE ATLANTIC FRONT

(Continued from page 13)

or three weeks, officers and men alike live on the constant alert even if off watch, ready for the alarm gong. And there are days when the gong is heard more than once.

There is no "going ashore" on arrival in port. Unloading day and night repairs, painting and cleaning, reloading—all in a hurry—because every day counts. They must sail again as soon as possible. Go down to sea once more!

It's either a raging Atlantic with waves smashing the superstructure, throwing men out of their bunks, a time when you have salt in your soup, bread, mouth, and nose, the cabins are flooded and men sleep in rubber hip boots, or it may be cutting subpolar winds with the temperature well below zero, or tropical heat so fierce that, as one maritime writer said, the mast melts down and the cook scrambles eggs right on the hot steel deck.

* * *

In the Battle of the Atlantic and the fight for the freedom of the seas, along with others whose traditions are centuries old, the youngest of them all—the Polish Merchant Marine—is doing its full share.

Small in tonnage—but not in achievements.

At Narvik, Dunkirk, Crete . . . in landings on Madagascar and the North African coast . . . in the invasion of Sicily and Italy . . . everywhere the Polish flag flew over Polish ships.



President Racziewicz Replies to President Roosevelt's Message

In reply to President Roosevelt's Message to the Polish People sent on the Third of May, President Racziewicz has sent the following cable to the White House:

"On behalf of myself and my countrymen, I wish to thank you, Mr. President, and through you the people of the United States, for the good wishes conveyed so cordially on the occasion of Poland's National Day.

"The inspiring words addressed to the Polish people by the President of the great American democracy will find a powerful response in the hearts of all my countrymen, wherever they are—above all, those in Poland who, with undaunted determination, are continuing their struggle against brutal oppression.

"In this time of anxiety the unfailing friendship of the American people is for us Poles a mighty source of encouragement and fortifies us in our belief that the victory of the United Nations will assure the realization of those ideals which we are proud to share with the American nation."

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