

THE **P**OLISH REVIEW

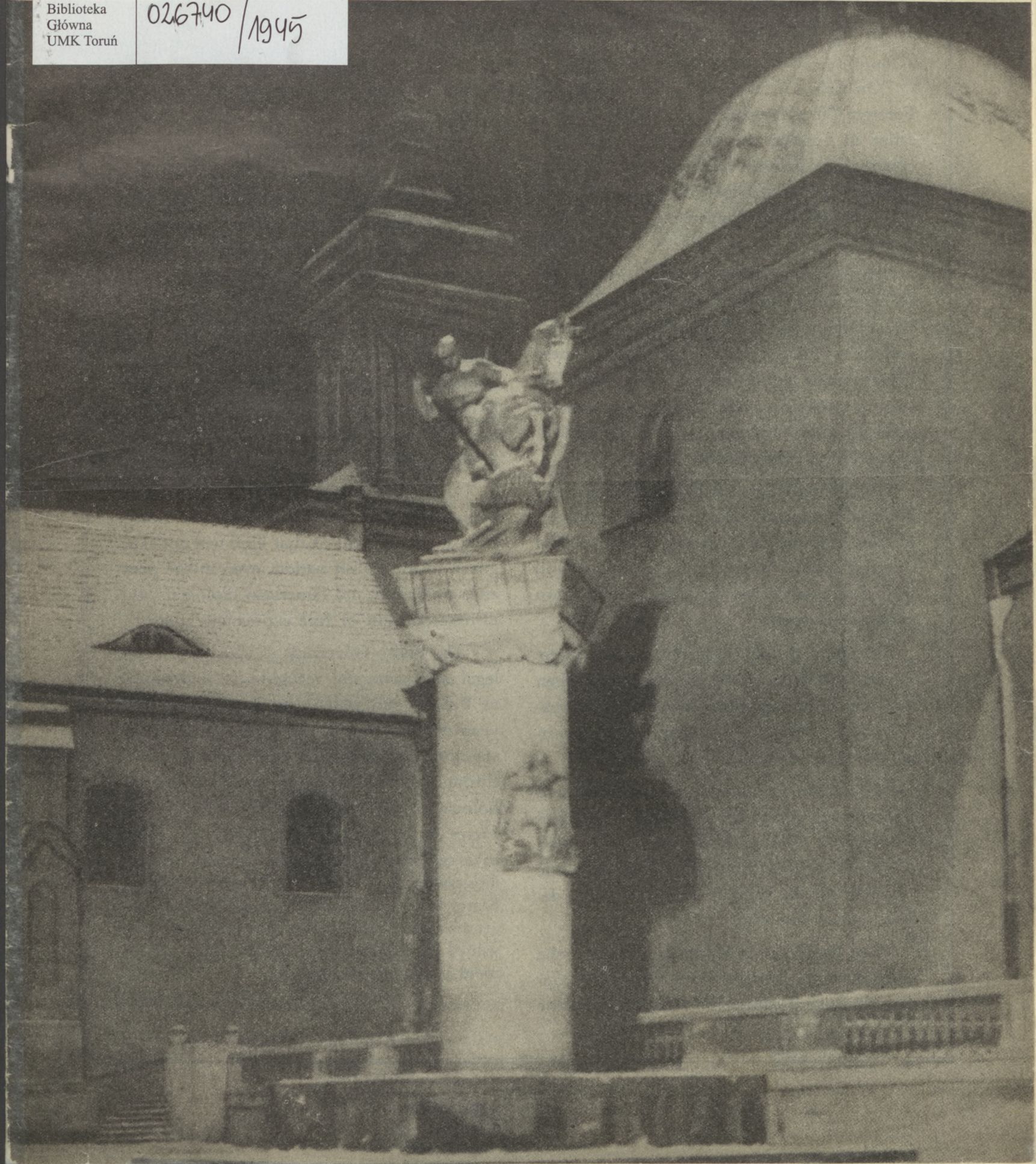
VOL. V

FEBRUARY 22, 1945

No. 7

Biblioteka
Główna
UMK Toruń

026740 / 1945



POLISH GOVERNMENT PROTESTS THE FIFTH PARTITION OF POLAND

"On Feb. 12, at 7:30 P. M., the British Foreign Office handed to the Polish Ambassador in London the text of the resolution concerning Poland adopted by President Roosevelt, Premier Churchill and Marshal Stalin at the Yalta conference between Feb. 4 and 11.

"Before the conference began, the Polish Government handed to the Governments of Great Britain and the United States a memorandum in which hope was expressed that these Governments would not be party to any decision regarding an allied Polish state without previous consultation and without the consent of the Polish Government.

"At the same time, the Polish Government declared themselves willing to seek a solution of the dispute initiated by Soviet Russia through normal international procedure and with due respect for the rights of the two parties concerned.

"In spite of this, decisions of the three-Power conference were prepared and taken not only without participation and authorization of the Polish Government but also without their knowledge.

"The method adopted in the case of Poland is a contradiction of the elementary principles binding the Allies and constitutes a violation of the letter and the spirit of the Atlantic Charter and the right of every nation to defend its own interests.

"The Polish Government declares that the decision of the Three-Power conference concerning Poland cannot be recognized by the

Polish Government and cannot bind the Polish nation.

"The Polish Government will consider the severance of the eastern half of the territory of Poland through the imposition of a Polish-Soviet frontier following along the so-called Curzon Line as the fifth partition of Poland now accomplished by her allies.

"The intention of the three Powers to create a 'Provisional Polish Government of National Unity' by enlarging the foreign-appointed Lublin Committee with persons vaguely described as 'democratic leaders from Poland itself and Poles abroad' can only legalize Soviet interference in Polish internal affairs.

"As long as the territory of Poland will remain under the sole occupation of Soviet troops, government of that kind will not safeguard to the Polish nation, even in the presence of British and American diplomats, the unfettered right of free expression.

"The Polish Government, which is the sole legal and generally recognized Government of Poland and which for five and one-half years has directed the struggle of the Polish state and nation against Axis countries both through the underground movement in the homeland and through the Polish armed forces in all theatres of war, has expressed their readiness in a memorial presented to the Governments of Great Britain and the United States to cooperate in the creation of a Government in Poland truly representative of the will of the Polish nation. The Polish Government maintains its offer."

London, Feb. 13, 1945

THE POLISH REVIEW

Weekly Magazine Published by The Polish Review Publishing Co., with the assistance of the Polish Government Information Center, Stanislaw L. Centkiewicz, Editor, 745 Fifth Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.
VOLUME V, NUMBER 7

FEBRUARY 22, 1945

CONTENTS:

Polish Government Protests the Fifth Partition of Poland ● "Some Truths About Poland" ● An Australian Who Fought with the Polish Underground ● Sixteenth Century British Exiles Found Refuge in Poland ● The Libraries of Modern Poland: 1918-1939 ● "Janek Writes" ● Harry Daniels: Polish-Jewish Painter ● Polish Military Achievements in 1944 ● Appeal by Premier Tomasz Arciszewski to President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill Before the End of the Crimea Conference.

Front Cover: Monument to fallen Polish Lancers in Poznan, Western Poland.

"SOME TRUTHS ABOUT POLAND" *

by WILLIAM HENRY CHAMBERLIN



WHEN Hitler attacked Russia, the Poles did not seek revenge for the Russian horror visited on their people. Though often accused of stiff-necked impossibilism, the Polish leaders showed both wisdom and magnanimity in joining the Soviet Union unreservedly as an ally. There was a disposition to "forgive and forget" in the interests of United Nations unity.

The Soviet Government signed an agreement with the Polish Government-in-exile, headed by General Wladyslaw Sikorski, on July 30, 1941. In this agreement Moscow recognized "the Soviet-German treaties of 1939 as to territorial changes in Poland as having lost their validity." The two nations agreed to support each other in the struggle against Germany and it was stipulated that a Polish Army, under Polish command, should be formed on Russian soil. The British Government, already pledged to uphold Poland's independence by the Anglo-Polish Treaty of August 25, 1939, declared that it did not recognize as valid any territorial changes in Poland. The United States, of course, had never recognized as legal the German and Soviet annexations of Polish soil.

The Polish Government, with headquarters in London, did everything in its power to aid the common cause. Some 140,000 Poles are fighting with the United Nations on land, on sea and in the air. They look to the London régime as their legitimate Government. Indeed, it occurred to no one to doubt that legitimacy until the Soviet Government broke off diplomatic relations.

Systematic efforts have been made by Communist and near-Communist sources to discredit the representative character of the Polish Government. Even some ill-informed non-partisan papers sometimes convey the impression that the Poles are deeply divided in allegiance, as between the Government in London and the so-called Polish National Council of Liberation, set up by Russia. This is a fantastic misapprehension of the Polish situation. It is as if one should describe the Norwegians as split fifty-fifty between their legitimate government in London and the followers of Quisling.

The fact is that the Polish Government in London is the

legal heir of the prewar Polish Government. But it is far more representative of Polish public opinion than that régime could have claimed to be. The Polish Cabinet until recently has been composed of representatives of the four strongest parties in prewar Poland. From the start it has worked in the most intimate co-operation with the active and heroic Polish Underground movement. The leadership of that movement has been in the hands of a deputy prime minister, and major policy decisions have been made, whenever physically possible, only after consulting the Underground.

Thus the Polish fighting forces inside and outside the country alike acknowledge the authority of their Government in London. The recent change in the Polish Cabinet, with a three-party combination under the veteran Socialist, Tomasz Arciszewski, replacing the previous four-party combination, headed by the Peasant Party leader, Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, reflects a difference in tactics, not in fundamental principles. It reflects the tragic dilemma in which the Government finds itself as a result of British (and to a lesser extent American) pressure for a settlement with Stalin at almost any price. It is in no sense a cleavage between "progressives" and "reactionaries."

By contrast with the exiled Government, the Council of National Liberation is a synthetic, made-in-Moscow puppet régime. It was never heard of until Soviet troops had entered what was, by Soviet admission, Polish territory. Formed on July 23, 1944, it was recognized as a provisional Polish administration by the Soviets, and only by the Soviets, on July 25. This was pretty quick work, even when it is a question of recognizing a régime of one's own making.

Most of the members of the Moscow-made Council are completely unknown in Polish life. And those who are known hardly inspire confidence. They are broken, discredited adventurers, just the kind of men who might be expected to turn out as Quislings. Take, for example, the "Minister of War," Michal Rola-Zymierski. Under the Pilsudski régime he was convicted of taking bribes from French manufacturers in connection with the supply of gas masks and was sentenced to five years in prison and the loss of his military rank and honors. Jan Grubecki, Minister of Communications, is a former member of the ENDEK, a nationalist youth organization, and was identified with many anti-Semitic outrages. The now deposed Minister of Agriculture, Andrzej Witos, tried to blackmail the Government into giving him a profitable export concession in 1923 by threatening to withdraw the parliamentary support of his political organization, the People's Party. Emil Sommerstein, a well-known Jewish lawyer, had been held for years in Soviet prisons and may well have

(Please turn to page 14)

* Reprinted in part by special permission from the February 1945 American Mercury.

An Australian Who Fought with the Polish Underground

by WLADYSLAW

HE first contacted me by telephone, calling from Union Station. He had just arrived in Washington from New York for a couple of days. He wanted me to find him a hotel room and then told me that he had to see me on an important matter. It seemed to me, as I put the receiver down, that I faintly heard him say "Dowidzenia, panu," "Good-by, sir" in Polish. Undoubtedly it was my imagination, for hadn't he said he was Flight-Lieutenant Keith B. C., an Australian flyer who came to this country just two weeks ago from London.

Two hours later he came to call in person, walking smiling into my room. He was rather small, muscular with dark, shrewd and merry eyes, and a turned up, but well-shaped nose and thick, unruly hair. On his RAF uniform gleamed Australian awards and the ribbon of a Distinguished Flying Cross.

He held his hand out eagerly and said clearly and without the slightest accent "Dzien dobry, panu," ("Good morning, sir!")

—and then seeing my surprise, added in Polish with the smile of a boy who has just played some good trick—"Yes, I speak Polish, for I lived in Warsaw for almost two years."

"When?" I demanded, "before the war? But surely you can't be more than 25 . . ."

"Before the war—not at all!"—he gestured—"before the war I was in Sydney, in Australia, studying medicine. I was in Warsaw just now, last year and this year, serving in the Home Army. I left last May."

For the next two days, with short rest periods, I listened to his story. This tale of Flight-Lieutenant K. B. C. will undoubtedly become one of the most magnificent legends of this war. I am writing of it now, but we must wait for the complete story until a time when a book can be written about the deeds of an Australian pilot who became a soldier in the Polish Home Army. Military reasons prevent me from giving the whole story, for Flight-Lieutenant K. B. C. saw much and lived through even more.

I cannot relate much of what he told me, but even that little bit that I can sounds like a fairy tale, a dreadful but wonderful tale written in blood, sacrifice, courage and—great humor. He told me that he always did have a pretty good sense of humor, but that such humor as I detected in him was developed in Warsaw—in all its various streets and districts, in Powisle, Zoliborz and Saska Kepa. He lived in Saska Kepa, a residential section of Praga on the Vistula, for a year and a half at the home of a Pole whom he came to love like a father and a brother combined, for whom he would have died, but whose true name he did not learn until he reached Brussels on his way to London. He found out from the Polish Underground's liaison agent in Brussels.

* Mr. Besterman, noted Polish newspaper man, is at present press counselor at the Polish Embassy in Washington, D. C. This story is condensed from *Tygodnik Polski*, New York.



How Warsaw appeared at the time Flight-Lieutenant K. B. C. lived in the Polish capital: A German military transport going up Nowy Swiat Street.

In 1939, Flight-Lieutenant K. B. C. left college to enlist in the R.A.F. From Australia, he was sent to Canada where he trained as fighter pilot. Then to England, where he got in on the last phase of the battle for control of the skies over the Channel and the British Isles. He flew a Spitfire in the famous squadron of Paddy Finucane, late New Zealand ace. A German plane shot him down over the Channel. He was rescued by the enemy and sent to one of the numerous prisoner of war camps for flyers in Eastern Germany. He planned a break, but failed to escape, was caught and punished. Nevertheless his spirit was unbroken and he planned anew to escape. Long months of toil and drudgery demanding much craft and courage and most wearing on the nerves and the physical and moral strength of the young pilot followed.

Finally—escape—success! The minute they got out, the powerful Polish Underground organization took care of the prisoners, getting them all safely to Warsaw. And at this point the Polish life of Flight-Lieutenant K.B.C. begins.

He knows Warsaw as undoubtedly none of us Poles who have spent half if not all of our lives there, do. He also loves Poland's capital, more perhaps than we do, for he saw it not when it was our beautiful, cordial and friendly capital, but a city mortally wounded, grieving, but fighting, that gathered him to its heart as if he were a native son. All Warsaw opened its heart to him—they hid him, fed him and imparted to him a bit of their own intrepid spirit that taught him, a son of the Antipodes, to be a fighter, shooting at Germans during battles carried out in the streets under orders of the Underground Army staff.

He knows Warsaw better than any of us do, for he has walked its streets from Saska Kepa on the east to Wola on the west, and from the southern suburb of Mokotow to Zoliborz on the north. He rode when he could and walked when-

M. BESTERMAN*

ever necessary, carrying out orders, communicating with unknown persons whom he nevertheless loves, honors and of whom he speaks most feelingly, eyes glistening with unshed tears and fist tightly clenched, of his wonderful brothers-in-arms in battles with Germans.

He wants to be completely accurate in all the details of the story he plans to write. He does not want to omit a single friend, nor a single street in Warsaw. We spent long hours on the Polish spelling of names of men, women and children and even of dogs—names of streets, squares and buildings, various Polish words that the lieutenant pronounces perfectly, but does not know how to write.

"How do you spell Kazio, Stefa, boxes, passport, cholera, Volksdeutsch, Senatorska Street, Szucha Boulevard, Main Railway Station, ash-tray"—the list grew longer and longer. "Ash-tray?" I inquired curiously. "What in the world does an ash-tray have to do with your experiences?"

"Quite so, an ash-tray," (*popielniczka*—he pronounced the Polish word perfectly), "once saved my life, so I must know how to write the word in its original Polish form."

"You see, sir," he began, "as a flyer I had certain technical assignments to carry out for the Home Army. I worked three weeks with a Pole who knew English perfectly—at that time I still didn't speak Polish—when one evening I carried in my pocket a number of typewritten slips—the fruit of our labor and most important to our commander, to whom I was delivering them. I was in a streetcar in the Zoliborz district and as usual, so as not to be drawn into any conversation and betray my accent, I pretended to be reading the *New Warsaw Courier*, that rag put out by the Germans. I was in the second of two cars hitched together. Do you recall those ash-trays under the windows of Warsaw trams? I was sitting beside one. Suddenly on Wilson Square, the trolley stopped, surrounded by uniformed SS men. Passengers had to get out one by one, being searched at the door. Inside the car

was brightly lighted, and outside it was dark, so the Germans could see everything within clearly. It seemed impossible to hide anything. People had already begun getting off. The slips began burning a hole in my pocket. A lightning decision had to be made. I purposely dropped my newspaper on the floor, bent down for it and slid the slips into the ash-tray. I walked out, they searched me thoroughly, without finding anything incriminating. My papers, forged of course, were in order. They kept us standing in the street a while until they had searched the cars. Then they ordered us back. Sitting down again by that same ash-tray, I once more pretended to drop my newspaper, leaned over for it and pulled the slips out of the ash-tray—that beloved ash-tray—and put them back into my pocket. I quietly got off at the next stop and walked the rest of the way. That's why I must know the Polish word for ash-tray."

He frequently traveled about Warsaw in trolleys. He told me a popular street car story that was making the rounds in Underground Warsaw: Two friends stood in opposite corners of a crowded street car. One yelled to the other, "You, Stefek, get off with me at the corner of Nowogrodzka Street and come to my house, we'll listen to the BBC from London." A deathly silence descended upon the car. Stefek pretended not to have heard, but his friend called again, "Get off, Stefek, it's five o'clock, we'll just make it to hear the news round up." The passengers all thought he was a madman. After a short while the street car stopped and the man got off, closely followed by someone bearing the earmarks of a Gestapo spy. The Pole walked briskly to an apartment house on Marszalkowska Avenue and bounded up the stairs, not bothering to look around and see if he were being followed. A few minutes after he had entered his apartment, the Gestapo agent banged on the door and roared, "Open up!" An elderly man answered. "Where is the man who came up the stairs a little while ago? Don't lie—talk. I am from the Gestapo." The old man, not at all put out, replied that it was his son, but that he couldn't be disturbed, for he was listening to a London broadcast in his room. The German turned red with rage. "What! Are you joking? I'll teach you—wise guys!" Pushing the old man aside, he tore into the next room. He was met by the blank, amazed stare of the man from the trolley who was sitting by an open window giving out onto a tiny court from which a voice could be distinctly heard, speaking in German, and calling the Fuehrer most insulting names. There was a death penalty for listening to such things. "Where's that coming from?" demanded the German hotly. "I'll beat you up—I'll, I'll . . ." he



Sikorski Avenue in Warsaw during the German occupation. Note the shabby worn-out apparel of the Poles. The sole automobiles are German military transports.

(Please turn to page 14)

SIXTEENTH CENTURY BRITISH EXILES FOUND REFUGE IN POLAND

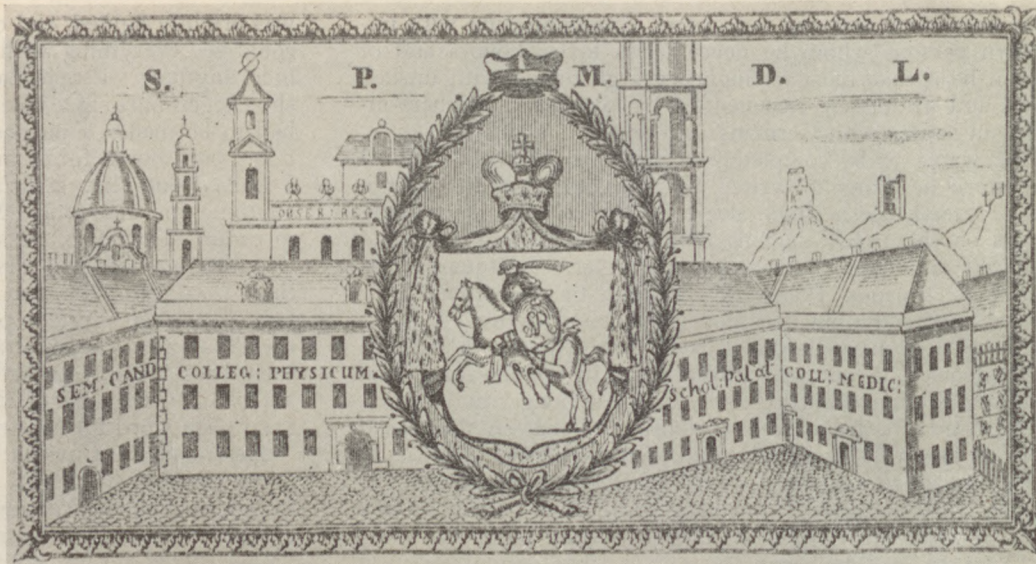
by DR. WACLAW BOROWY

POLAND has established a lasting reputation as a land of religious and political tolerance. Even when religious strife was steeping other countries in blood, Poland preached and practised freedom of worship. In the 13th century she opened her doors to the Jews, that most persecuted of all races. When the Counter-Reformation swept Europe in the 16th century, Protestants from near and far sought and obtained refuge in Poland.

In the last quarter of the 16th century, Poland served as a haven for a number of English and Scottish non-conformist Catholics who fled the British Isles to evade penal laws and escape reprisals.

Cardinal Stanislaw Hosius, great figure of Polish as well as general ecclesiastical history, was especially interested in the fortunes of Catholicism in England. Called "the most eminent theologian and best bishop of his times" by St. Peter Canisius, Hosius was a member of the Curia, a Cardinal-Legate to the Council of Trent, and from 1573 the Grand Penitentiary. For years he carried on a correspondence with his friend Reginald Pole, future Cardinal and Archbishop of Canterbury. Later he was in close touch with many English exiles. Among his intimates were Thomas Goldwell, Bishop of St. Asaph, last survivor of the ancient English hierarchy; Thomas Stapleton, famous divine and polemicist; Cardinal William Allen who had been one of the few ecclesiastics to forsake his preferments after the accession of Elizabeth to the throne and the abolition of the Catholic religion in England; Alan Cope, canon at St. Peter's in Rome, poet and theologian; Owen Lewis, Bishop of Cassano, great student of canon law and organizer of the English Seminary in Rome.

Hosius also maintained close relations with many prominent exiled Catholic English laymen. Such were Richard Norton, one time sheriff of Yorkshire; Sir Francis Englefield; Sir Thomas Copley, generally considered the leader of the English exiles; Sir Richard Shelley, last Grand Prior of England in the Order of St. John. One of these English exiles, Nicholas Sanders, wrote "which of them (the English) ever came to Rome, from whatever part of the world, who has not found his home in Hosius' house." This very Sanders, well known afterwards as polemicist and historian, was taken by Hosius to the Council of Trent, and subsequently accompanied him to Poland where Hosius went to carry out the Council's program. Sanders' great work *De Visibili Monarchia Ecclesiae* (1571), the earliest outline of the persecution of Catholics in England, is provided with a letter of grateful thanks to Hosius in which he calls him



The University of Wilno as it looked in the 16th century when it provided shelter for British exiles.

"cardinalis meus."

One of Hosius' first acts in Poland after the Council was to found a Jesuit college at Brunsberg in his own diocese of Varmia. Among the Jesuit fathers sent from Rome to organize it in 1564, was one Robertus Scotus, or Robert Abercrombie, active for many years as tutor of the novices. When the noviciate was transferred to Cracow, he moved thither and met the famous Polish preacher and hagiographer, Piotr Skarga. The Pole and the Scot became friends and on more than one occasion the latter gave evidence of the loyalty and affection he bore for his country of refuge. In 1588 Abercrombie went on a mission to Scotland and remained there nearly nineteen years. The conversion of Ann of Denmark, wife of James VI, is ascribed to him. A large sum was offered for Abercrombie's apprehension, and when in 1606 the Scottish Parliament passed a law inflicting death and confiscation upon those who concealed Catholic priests from abroad, he returned to Poland and died in Brunsberg at the age of 80.

An Englishman, Richard Singleton, native of Lancashire, regarded as a singularly able theologian, was one of the earliest teachers at Brunsberg. He was later appointed professor in the Jesuit Academy of Wilno, subsequently raised to the rank of University. He died in Wilno, a victim of the plague. "Father Singleton's funeral," the Polish historian of that province recorded, "was celebrated with deep grief by the townsfolk and especially by the students, by whom he was very much beloved."

The Brunsberg College student body boasted some thirty-odd Scotsmen over a period of sixty years. Of these some returned home, one turned soldier, one simply fled, but some, like William Abercrombie or James Lindsay were ordained Jesuit priests.

Scottish and English names also ap-

pear among the enrolled students and staff of Wilno College. In addition to Richard Singleton, John Hay, Arthur Laurence Faunt and James Bosgrave also lectured there. Faunt, a native of Leicestershire, had been in Poland since 1579, when he came from Rome to teach in the new college in Poznan. He soon made himself known not only as a pedagogue but also as a polemicist, and took part in several public debates with the Protestants. In 1589 he delivered the introductory allocution at the provincial synod in Gniezno. He made it his particular aim to convert Polish Protestant nobles who esteemed him as a scholar, an exile and a victim of persecution. He wrote a great deal and some of his works deal with Polish subjects. Summoned to Wilno to lecture on scholastic theology, he died prematurely at 37.

The fortunes of James Bosgrave were both varied and dramatic. Born into a distinguished family in Dorsetshire, he studied in Rome and became a Jesuit. Ordained a priest in Olmutz, Moravia, he was sent to Poland, where he seems to have been active in Cracow, Poznan and Brunsberg before becoming a professor of mathematics in Wilno. In 1580 he went to England where he was spied, arrested, and imprisoned in the Tower. Along with Edmund Campion and many others, he was declared guilty of high treason and sentenced to death in the usual way of being hanged, cut down alive, disembowelled and quartered. Polish King Stefan Batory, however, wrote to Elizabeth on Bosgrave's behalf. Appealing to her to understand "how much the cause of learning is injured" by the prolonged absence from the University of a professor and "man of great piety and learning," he expressed surprise that Bosgrave had been imprisoned for the sole reason of his faith, assured the Queen that English citizens of all denominations would enjoy full liberty in Poland, and hoped that England would reciprocate by according similar treatment to Catholics. It may be that this letter saved Bosgrave's life, for he was reprieved shortly before the time fixed for his execution and with twenty others shipped to Normandy. Returning to Poland, he spent the rest of his days there. Another of the reprieved, John Hart, settled in Jaroslaw, southern Poland.

Through these exiles, the Jesuit colleges in Poland became centers of English culture. When Poland's King Zygmunt III visited Wilno in 1589, the Academy's students prepared a pamphlet of poems in various languages written in his honor. The English poem (*To the Realm and People of Poland*) probably penned by a Pole, was certainly the first work of this type published in Poland.

In all probability there were many more religious exiles, but as they often assumed false names to escape the attention of English agents instructed to gather information about the recusants, it is sometimes difficult to identify them.

Because of his friendship of long standing with Robert Abercrombie and presumably with several other Scottish and English Jesuits, Piotr Skarga, the great Polish Jesuit preacher to the King, was very well acquainted not only with English history but also with recent English theological and polemical literature. He was particularly impressed by Sta-

pleton, and his great collection of *Sermons on Sundays and Holidays of Obligation* owes many ideas, quotations, illustrative examples and comparisons to the English divine. When Edmund Campion died a martyr's death, Skarga translated his missionary tract *Rationes decem* addressed to the members of Oxford University and published it in Wilno (1584) under the title *The Ten Theses on which Edmund Campion Challenged the Heretics of England to a Discussion*. The translation is hasty and popular and was evidently intended to be widely circulated.

But the work most concerned with English topics is that which Skarga himself considered his *opus maximum*, and the only one he intended as lasting reading for the general public: the famous *Lives of the Saints*. This vast compilation extending well over one thousand folio pages shows a particular predilection for English religious history, and perhaps Prof. Winda-kiewicz, the most distinguished student of Skarga's works is right when he says that "Skarga noticeably furthered and changed the acquaintance of the Poles with England." Having been interested and affected by recent happenings, he went deeply into the study of the past. He read the Venerable Bede and many other sources of English hagiography. He began his *Lives of the Saints* with the life of St. Augustine, which he prefaced by a note on early English history. Then he went on to the lives of St. Cead, St. Cuthbert, St. Guthlac, St. Dunstan, St. Elfeg. These were followed by the biographies of St. Edward the Confessor, St. Anselm, St. Thomas à Becket and many others, less well known.

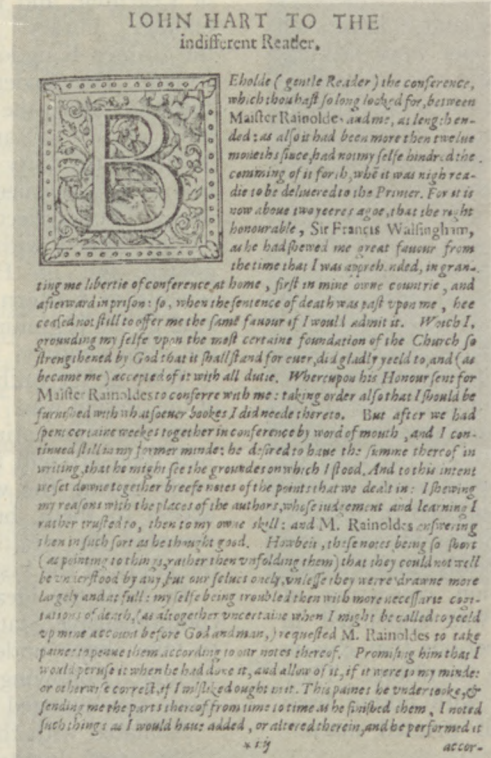
Nicholas Sanders' Latin outline of the defection of England from Catholicism provided Skarga with material for the chapter *On the Martyrs in England*, which was inserted in the supplement to the earliest edition of the *Lives* (1579). The supplement in the second edition (1585) was enlarged by a new passage on the life and martyrdom of Edmund Campion. Skarga was also the first to write about the trial and execution of Mary Queen of Scots, a dramatic description of these events being included in the sixth edition of the

Lives of the Saints (1603).

Skarga's interest in and sympathy with the Catholics in England became so well known in that country that when a new group was imprisoned in London for religious convictions, Henry Garnet, provincial of the Jesuits in England, wrote to him through the Polish envoy, asking him to obtain letters in their defense from the Polish King.

However, before any intervention could take place, the "Gunpowder Plot" was discovered in London, and Garnet himself, suspected of having had a part in it, was imprisoned and put to death. Moreover, the Jesuits in general were accused of having backed the conspiracy.

Skarga wrote their defense and narrated the events in a tract entitled *The Society of Jesus on Trial* (1607). The part containing the life of Garnet was added to the seventh edition of the *Lives of the Saints*.



John Hart to the Indifferent Reader from *The Summe of the Conference between John Rainolds and John Hart Touching the Head and the Faith of the Church*, London, 1609. John Hart, reprieved from a death sentence in England, settled in Jaroslaw, Eastern Poland.

THE LIBRARIES OF MODERN POLAND: 1918-1939

by MARIA DANILEWICZ

WHEN Poland became independent in 1918, the Ministry of Religion and Education became the supreme authority and the custodian of all the libraries in Poland. The network of educational and research libraries had to be so arranged as to enable every citizen of Poland to have a chance of getting a book, and to facilitate scientific study and research not only for those living near the Universities and towns, but also for students in the country districts. Methods of running the libraries had to be made uniform and organized accordingly, regulations drawn up, the existing state libraries taken over and new ones founded according to pre-arranged plans for their development. The labors of the social and self-governing institutions had to be brought into line and simplified.

Difficulties were piling up at every step and the needs multiplying from day to day. High schools and elementary schools, the country and the towns, adults and children, all were calling for books. Meanwhile the roofs were leaking, the shelves bending under the weight of the far too numerous volumes in the far too small halls, and then when the problem of housing the books was solved with much difficulty, the lack of means for the most essential expenses and the purchase of new books was painfully felt. Librarians were too few for the requirements of the libraries, now increasing in numbers and in dimensions from year to year. Numbers of men and women had to be trained in library work.

The reborn Polish State took over from the oppressors in Austrian-held Poland two Polish University libraries: the Jagiellonian in Cracow and that of Jan Kazimierz University in Lwow; in Prussian-dominated Poland the German library at Poznan University, and in Russian-dominated Poland the Library of Warsaw University, by that time greatly polonized. A fifth library, that of Stefan Batory University in Wilno, was to be immediately called into being, and this was done directly after this University was re-opened in 1920.

The work connected with the opening of new libraries and administering and re-organizing those already in existence took several years. A special commission consisting of learned Polish librarians and scientists was appointed in Leningrad and Moscow to restore the collections that Russia had appropriated from Poland during the partitions. They busied themselves for a number of years with taking back archives, museum pieces, manuscripts and printed matter.

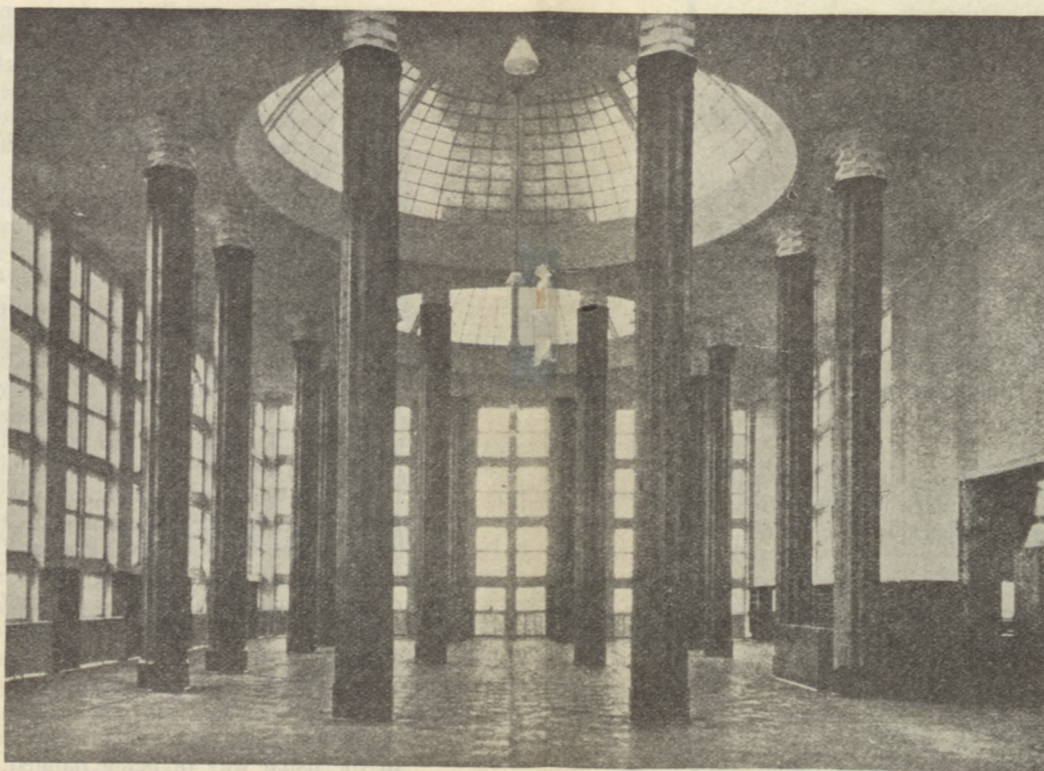
Only after something like a score of years of this arduous and responsible work, and after having proved the Polish origin of each article claimed, did they succeed in securing for Poland 13,000 manuscripts and about 50,000 volumes from the Zaluski Library, the Czartoryski Library, the Library of the Warsaw Association of Friends of Learning, and many another library from the former Kingdom of Poland. The Soviets refused to return the contents of the Library of Wilno University and that of Krzemieniec Lyceum. These collections, closely linked with the golden age of Polish schools in Eastern Poland at the beginning of the 19th century, were in Kiev at the outbreak of the present war. They

were not even entirely unpacked from the cases in which they had been brought from Poland a century before. Except for visits during the war of 1914-1918, Polish scholars had no access to them, but even these sporadic examinations had revealed the wealth of the material contained, especially for the study of the history of education in Poland.

In 1919 the idea sprang into being of creating a central comprehensive State Library; in 1927 the new library began to take shape under the supervision of its initiator, Stefan Demby. Following the death of Pilsudski in May 1935 its name was changed to Jozef Pilsudski National Library.

Affiliated with the National Library were the Bibliographical Institute, the Central Phonographic Archives, and the Polish Section of the Smithsonian Institution. The foundation of the National Library were the Rapperswil collections, brought from Switzerland to Poland in 1927, and the Zaluski Library, the contents of which began to return to Poland almost at the same time, to the number of several thousand volumes a year. The Kornik Library near Poznan and the Polish Library in Paris also sent to the National Library books amassed by Polish political emigrés of the 19th century.

From August 1927 on, the National Library received a free copy



Lobby in the Library Building, Academy of Commerce, Warsaw.

century incunabula and printed matter to be found in Poland, as well as a catalogue of Polish printed works of the 15th and 18th centuries. It was also engaged in research in the history of printing, paper making, bookbinding and graphic books.

Later, the department of the more modern manuscripts developed very satisfactorily, and it was becoming a center of research in Polish literature of the 19th and 20th centuries, the collections of this department forming the nucleus of the Polish Museum of Literature.

The Institute of Bibliography also developed very well. Beginning with 1927 it published a weekly official list of printed matter, listing all Polish publications and Polonica. It gave full bibliographical accounts of all works published in Poland, including the publications of the national minorities, transcribing into the Latin

alphabet bibliographical details concerning Ukrainian, White Russian, Russian, Hebrew and Yiddish printed works.

The collections of the National Library and of the offices connected with it were scattered all over Warsaw in rented premises. They were awaiting a special building to be erected, plans for which were being energetically pushed by the Library. The foundation stones were to be laid in the Spring of 1940 in a striking

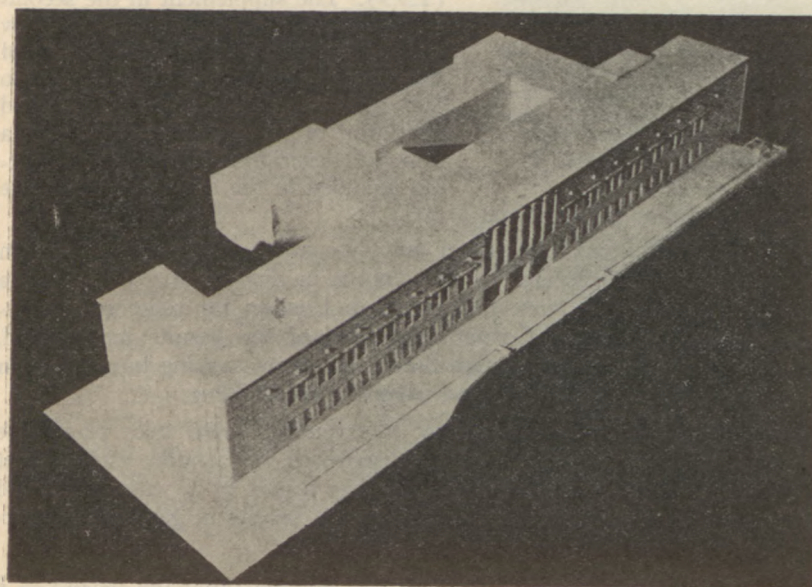
of everything printed. In 1939 the number of volumes exceeded 500,000, with 2,200 incunabula, about 20,000 volumes of manuscripts, 12,000 maps, 80,000 engravings, 4,000 musical manuscripts, 25,000 musical notes in print, 1,500 discs and phonograph records and a rich collection of photographs.

The glory of the library was its collection of manuscripts, including the 13th century *Holy Cross Sermons* and the 14th century *Florian Psalter*. The early printing department was proud of its beautiful collection of unique examples of ancient Polish printed matter. This department undertook bibliographical works on a large scale, preparing a complete catalogue of all the 15th- and 16th-



Map showing location of scientific libraries in Poland, 1939.

part of the city, on the site of the former race course. It was to be the second great library building erected in free (Please turn to page 15)



Architect's model of the Nicholas Copernicus Library in Torun begun, but not completed, before the outbreak of war in 1939.



Jagiellonian University Library in Cracow completed in 1939.



Krasinski Library in Warsaw.

“JANEK WRITES...”

In an attempt to recruit Polish labor for forced work in the Reich, the Germans had plastered gayly-colored posters on the walls of Polish cities and towns. On these posters were printed forged excerpts from letters supposedly written by Polish laborers in Germany praising the “wonderful conditions of work there.” These forged excerpts on the posters always begin, Janek writes: On April 2, 1944, a Polish underground publication, THE WORKER IN BATTLE, following the manner of these posters printed excerpts from true letters of Polish laborers. Here is what THE WORKER IN BATTLE wrote:

WE HAVE before us stacks of letters written by our young people, our Janeks and Marysias, Stachs and Zosias, who “willingly,” as a result of street round-ups or village-hunts, went to work in Germany. The best thing that we can do is simply to quote excerpts from some of them that appeared in German posters advertising the good points of labor in the Reich. We have grouped these extracts from the letters according to the order in which they appear on these posters, so that they will describe in turn living conditions, food, clothing, etc. We have added a few extras that are not mentioned either by the gayly colored posters or by the dignitaries of the *Arbeitsamt*, who often demand additional deliveries of human contingents for forced labor in the Reich.

The first reads in part: “So you want us to write of our life here. In the morning we have black coffee, for lunch four or five old potatoes boiled in skins and some dish-water soup, while for supper we get 25 decagrams (8-8/10ths oz.) of bread and marmalade. So if you don’t send us packages soon, we won’t last much longer.”

(from a Pole employed in a ceramic factory in Saxony).

* * *

“Today I didn’t go to the barracks for supper, because I no longer have the strength to run around for it, so Marysia brought me some. We had turnip, a couple of potatoes and sugar beets.”

* * *

“Dear parents, if possible, please send a few strips of bacon, beets and potatoes so that for once I can have a good meal.”

* * *

“I apologize for asking so often for my blue suit coat, but I can’t buy any here while the one in which I came is in tatters.”

* * *

“Send a comb in the package, for I can’t borrow one all the time, and send some hair pins too, as well as buttons, but don’t send money, for there’s nothing here to buy.”

* * *

“I don’t know what to put on my feet because I have to go four times a day from our barracks to the factory, 3 kilometers away, (about two miles) and back again. Walking 12

kilometers a day through the mud has torn my shoes, while I haven’t had stockings, even for Sunday, for a long time now.”

(written in January).

* * *

“It’s terribly cold in our barracks and there’s no fuel, so when we get off from the factory, there’s nothing else to do but cry from the chill.”

* * *

“Send some packages and forget about the one you already sent, but hurry please for we all have terrible stomach aches and diarrhea from this constant diet of turnips.”

* * *

“So when they took our youngest son into the army, we stayed with Bauer, only we two to care for the entire estate. We have to get up at 3 a.m. and work until 8 p.m.”

* * *

“I come home from the factory terribly tired and think only of lying down, for they awaken us at 5 a.m.”

* * *

“I have to lift bags of porcelain all day. They would be heavy even for a man. I’ve lost so much weight that you probably would not recognize me.”

* * *

“We can’t sleep much for the larks fly around so much and disturb us.”

(from a letter written at the beginning of January).

* * *

“There are constant storms here, the kind that leave the stars in the sky, but extinguish those on earth.”

* * *

“The other night—from Wednesday to Thursday—25 of us went to bed, but only 3 arose, while not even pieces remained of the other 22.”

(a letter from Essen).

* * *

“I wish to inform you that your daughter, Halinka, is in prison because when her landlady called her a Polish pig, Halinka replied that she was a German swine. Now she’s in jail and is forbidden to write. When they took her, she asked me to let you know.”

* * *

“Thank God I’m again able to write with my own hand. I was so beaten up that I couldn’t move an arm or a leg. My ‘emigration’ (attempt at escape) was unsuccessful. I’m lucky that, after beating me up, they sent me back to the same barracks, because one of the boys who tried as hard as I did to ‘emigrate’ did not return alive.”

* * *

These few little fragments seem conclusive proof that work which overtaxes human endurance, especially that of young people, hunger, cold, sickness, constant danger to life, are the daily lot of these unfortunate Poles, slaves who fell into the claws of the insatiable German beasts.

HARRY DANIELS: POLISH-JEWISH PAINTER

THE American British Art Center in New York recently featured a one-man show of paintings by Harry Daniels. Of the sixteen canvases on display, six dealt with Polish themes. There is a story behind these six Polish landscapes that is as touching as it is interesting.

Harry Daniels was born one of ten children in the small village of Kolo, Central Poland. When he was eleven, his father took him out of the Jewish school he had been attending and apprenticed him to a tailor. Several years later, the lad decided his small town was too cramping and set out for Warsaw, where he found employment as a tailor.

Even as a child, Daniels had been keenly aware of the world about him. Ala Story, Director of the American British Art Center, described his childhood in Poland in these words: “His grandmother used to take him on her milk deliveries. Around five in the morning they would start off and he would experience the day’s break and sunrise, the changing country throughout the seasons. There would be spring bursting into millions of apple blossoms and running brooks with reflections of hot summer trees, falling leaves and then the wide plains around Kolo would bleakly stretch under heavy covers of snow and make the trees stand up ghostly in their bare anatomy . . . He knew the stones of the tiny schoolhouse and the cobbles of the narrow streets,—the crooked window frames of tumbling down shacks.”

So it is not surprising that this sensitive youngster felt the need of self-expression and that he turned to drawing and later painting. He began to draw in Warsaw, showing his work only to his fellow-apprentices. The latter liked a drawing of Leo Tolstoy that he had made one sleepless night so well that they brought it to a book-dealer, who displayed it in his shop-window.



Country Peddler in Poland by Harry Daniels.

Meanwhile World War I had started. Daniels returned to Kolo. His success with the Tolstoy drawing spurred him to paint in his spare time. In 1915 the famous sculptor Gietzstein happened to visit Kolo. He praised Daniels’ work; but suggested that he learn a trade until such time as he could devote all his energy to painting. Daniels decided to stick to tailoring.

In 1920 he came to America. Cutting clothes in the daytime, he studied art at night. In 1924 he went to Paris and enrolled at the Academy of Fine Arts for one year.

Returning to America, he divided his time between tailoring and painting. The decade between 1929 and 1939 was spent abroad.

Since the outbreak of World War II, Daniels has devoted himself exclusively to his art. In the last few years his works have been seen at collective shows in the Brooklyn Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and others. He has exhibited in Poland and in France but the recent exhibition at the American British Art Center was his first solo show in America.

The Polish canvases in the exhibit are scenes from Daniels’ childhood, painted by an adult who has retained nostalgic and pleasant memories of Poland. The school-house where he spent so many hours poring over the Talmud, the poor Jewish peddler pulling a calf from village to village along a snow-covered country road, the blossoming apple tree in a Polish field, the Jewish peddler visiting a pair of kind-hearted Polish peasants—all these are very real to Harry Daniels. The simplicity and sincerity with which they are rendered make them all the more captivating.

The reactions of New York critics to the show. (Please turn to page 14)



Jewish Peddler in a Polish Village by Harry Daniels.

POLISH MILITARY

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1944

"Dziennik Polski," official newspaper of the Polish Government in London, reviewed on January 17, 1945, Polish military achievements during 1944. We reprint a condensed version of the Dziennik Polski's article:

THE year 1944, the fifth of the present war, witnessed numerous heroic achievements by Polish soldiers whose courage, daring and sacrifice amazed the entire world, and won its wide esteem and respect.

Three of the greatest battles in the history of the armed forces of Poland marked the year: Monte Cassino, Chambois and the Battle of Warsaw.

The war in Poland, the battle for France, the Norwegian Campaign, Tobruk and El Gazala, and the incessant warfare of the Polish Home Army never allowed the world to forget that Poland exists, fights and lives as a nation. The world was also reminded of this by the great successes of Polish airmen, close to the top among Allied flyers and by Polish sailors who took part in every major Allied naval operation.

In 1944, the Polish Second Corps under the command of Lieutenant General Wladyslaw Anders arrived in Italy—the first great Polish unit formed in the Middle East of Poles released from Russia, to whom the Carpathian Brigade of Libyan fame was joined.

Finally news came of a signal Polish victory. The whole world stood amazed by the news that on Thursday, May 18, 1944, Polish units took famed Monte Cassino, a stronghold that had resisted all Allied attacks for many months before.

The past year abounded with glorious Allied victories that have made the outcome of the war inevitable. The battles for Monte Cassino, however, will go down as some of the most decisive in the history of warfare. For five long months this hill blocked the Allied advance up the Italian Peninsula. At-



General Maczek, commander of the Polish Armored Division on the Western Front, with Field-Marshal Montgomery.

tacked first in January by American divisions, it proved an impenetrable German bastion guarding the road to Rome. Allied assaults were renewed in March by New Zealanders, but these also were driven back by the powerfully entrenched Germans who took full advantage of their superb strategic position. For weeks after that the Benedictine Monastery was shelled and bombed. Finally the Poles took it in the middle of May.

The successful Allied Invasion in France threatened the German hold of all Western Europe. At about the same time the victorious Red Army drove to the very gates of Warsaw.

Warsaw. The name of the Polish capital again appeared in war communiques. Warsaw, that from October 1st, 1939, had been occupied by the Germans, again became a battlefield, an important, active front of World War II. Great successes on the Western Front that brought Allied Armies before Paris and Brussels could not draw the attention of the world away from the tragedies occurring in the capital of Poland.

Warsaw fought for the second time in this war from August 1st, 1944 until October 3. The first Battle of Warsaw was fought in September, 1939. The known losses of this 63-day Insurrection of 1944 in which battles were waged for individual floors in houses, where buildings became improvised bunkers and blockhouses, when streets became front lines and foxholes were chopped out of asphalt, are frightful. Warsaw fell at last without getting any sustained effective

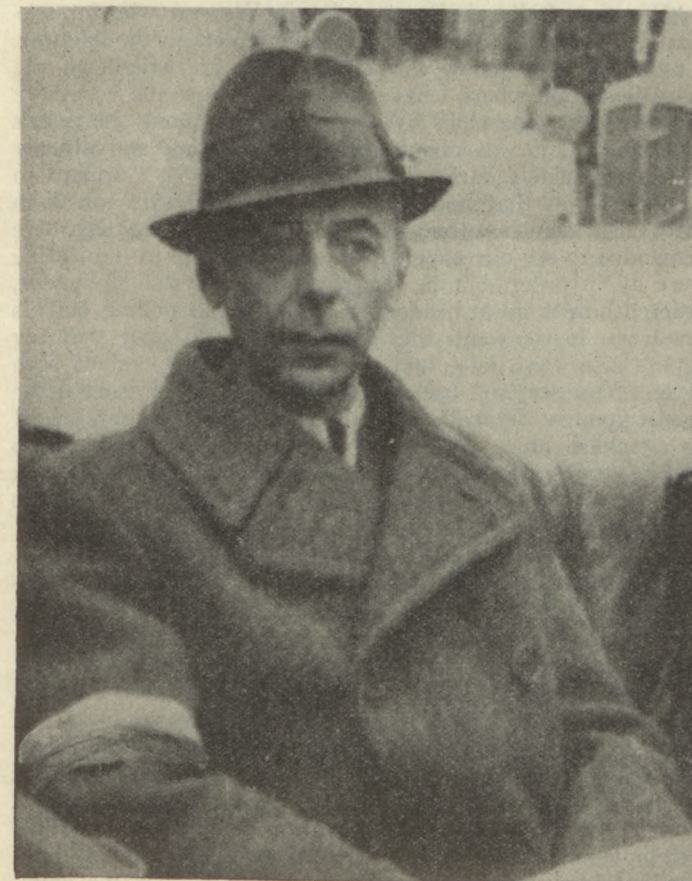


Hoisting the Polish and British flags after the Poles took the Cassino Monastery, Italy, 1944.

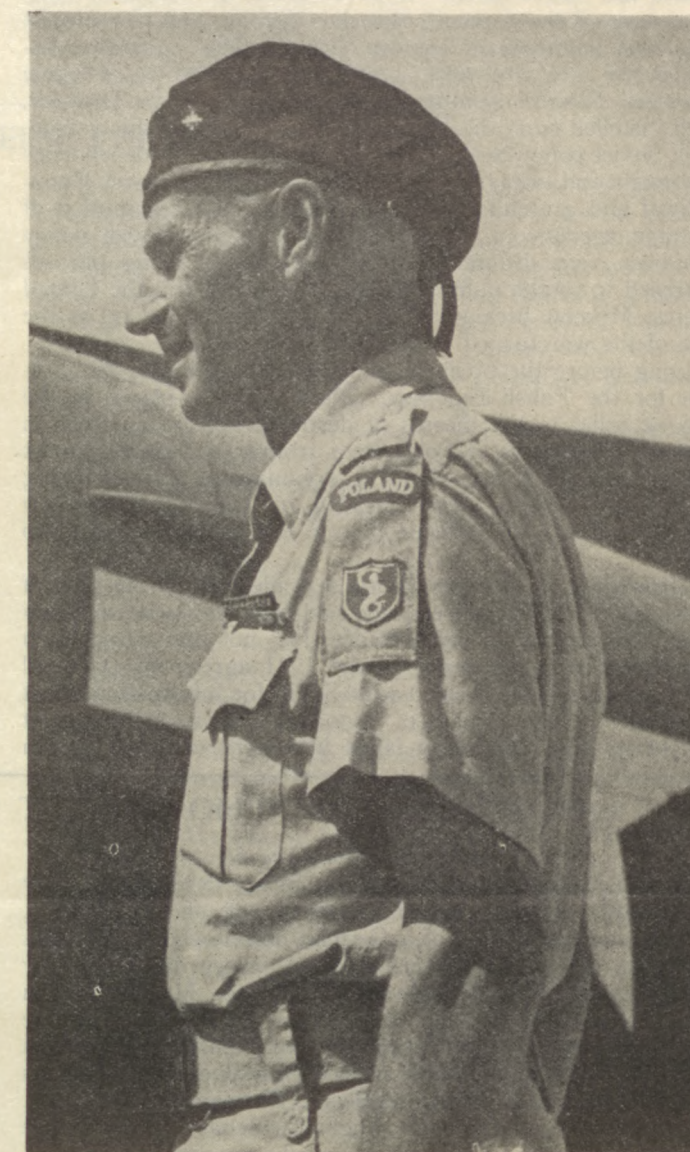
aid from the outside. Warsaw fell cut off from the world, at a time when on other battlefields Polish soldiers, well armed and well trained, made an enviable record for themselves, it fell completely isolated, doomed in advance to total extermination . . . The leader of the Uprising, named commander-in-chief the day before his capture, General Bor-Komorowski, did not forsake his soldiers, but went with them into German captivity. The fall of the capital was the greatest blow that has befallen Polish soldiers in this war. It brought mourning to all Polish units.

The First Armored Division, the most modern and best equipped force that Poles have up to the present, went into action on the Normandy Front on August 8, 1944. It was the Division's luck to be assigned to the toughest sector of the front. During the bloody and unusually hard operations near Falaise, the Division, commanded by General Maczek, gained wide recognition and praise among the Allied military for its outstanding work. These victories in the Falaise district were most instrumental in assuring the Allied conquest of all France. At the mouth of the Falaise "bag," in the vicinity of Chambois, the Armored Division closed the trap on the great German force. The Germans directed their most powerful attacks upon the Poles' position both from within the Allied pincers and from rescue forces without, attempting to relieve their entrapped comrades. The fierce battle continued for several days during which the Poles' fate hung in the balance. Thousands of the finest trained and equipped of German soldiers fell near Chambois. They had at last met more than their match.

Once Chambois was taken, the Division began its victorious march chasing the enemy across the Seine and Somme Rivers to the Belgian frontier. Then the Division crossed the border, liberating a number of Flemish towns among them



General Bor-Komorowski, commander of the Polish Home Army, after the heroic 63-day battle of Warsaw.



General Anders, commander of the Polish Second Corps in Italy.

Thielt, Roulers, Ypres and Gandawa. Further successes brought the Poles deep into The Netherlands where they captured the historic city of Breda.

Monte Cassino, Warsaw, Chambois. Memorials to the heroic deeds and limitless self-sacrifice of Polish soldiers. After five years of war, after five years of the bloodiest persecutions aimed at the liquidation of the Polish nation, at crossing it off the list of European nations, the Polish soldier has been able to endure, to live and to fight back. The Warsaw Insurrection revealed to the world the astounding secret of the Polish Underground State and its excellent organization that has weathered the worst persecutions and the vigilance of the Gestapo. This secret state proved that the nation and its political representatives in London are united. The deeds of the Home Army proved how futile are all attempts to find differences between so disciplined and sacrificing a commonwealth and a government that enjoys its confidence. The Home Army, the great corps in Italy, Polish soldiers in Holland or in Scotland, Polish airmen and sailors together form one inseparable union—the Polish Armed Forces, fighting under a common leadership and under the legal Polish Government in London.

(Please turn to page 15)

'SOME TRUTHS ABOUT POLAND'

(Continued from page 3)

joined the "Government" to avoid indefinite detention. The Chairman of the Council, Boleslaw Bierut, is a Communist who was unknown in prewar Poland. The Committee includes two men who were more or less well-known as fellow travelers, Edward Osobka-Morawski and Boleslaw Drobner, both expelled from the Polish Socialist Party for this reason.

A Soviet policy based on respect for Poland's independence and territorial integrity would have insured the Soviet Union a loyal and grateful ally in the event of any resumption of German aggression. Unfortunately the actual Soviet policy has been very different. Under pleasant-sounding phrases designed to soothe the public opinion in England and the United States, Moscow became increasingly hostile to Poland as the tide of the war turned in Russia's favor.

Long before the break in relations, Russia made life difficult for the Polish Embassy. Obstacles were placed in the way of relief to the masses of destitute Polish deportees in Russia. Thousands of Poles were arbitrarily declared Soviet citizens against their will. The organization and equipping of the new Polish Army, headed by General Wladyslaw Anders, became so difficult that it had to be evacuated to Iran.

Meanwhile much uncertainty prevailed as to the fate of some 12,000 Polish officers who had been in Soviet captivity since 1939 but who, mysteriously, had not been released in accordance with the terms of the 1941 agreement. General Sikorski repeatedly pleaded with Stalin for information about these men. Such a mass of important prisoners cannot get lost or mislaid. Had they fallen into German hands, Stalin

could have said so. There was no reason why he should accept responsibility for the fate of men captured by the enemy. It was only in the interests of unity, to avoid open controversy, that the Polish Government did not make public its demands for information about the missing officers.

In retrospect, that would seem to have been a serious tactical error. When the Germans in the spring of 1943 announced the discovery of thousands of corpses of Polish officers in the Katyn Forest, near Smolensk, the world at large, unaware of the long Polish efforts to find those men, dismissed it as another Nazi invention.

Acting perhaps unwisely, but under strong emotional pressure of Polish public opinion, the Polish Government asked the International Red Cross for an impartial investigation of this affair. The Red Cross declined. But this incident was used as a pretext for the Soviet Government to break relations with the Polish Government, thus opening the way for the subsequent creation of a puppet régime.

When the Smolensk region was again in Russian hands, the Soviet authorities held an investigation and naturally reached the conclusion that the Germans had killed those officers. But Moscow has never explained why, if the prisoners had actually been abandoned to the Germans, this fact was not revealed in due time.

Stalin tried to soften the effect of his unilateral breach of relations by declaring that he favored a "strong independent Poland." But at no time was there any sincere attempt to resume relations with the only Polish group that could plausibly be regarded as representative of the Polish people.

AN AUSTRALIAN WHO FOUGHT WITH THE POLISH UNDERGROUND

(Continued from page 5)

sputtered in rage. The Pole, his calm not deserting him for an instant, politely replied, pointing out of the window, "That, sir, is the radio of a German officer who lives across the court. He listens to this broadcast every day and never closes his windows, so I always hear it too. Maybe you can get him to explain it all." From that day forward, no one ever knew what had happened to that particular German officer in Warsaw who had suddenly disappeared. This was how the Poles got rid of unwelcome German neighbors . . .

Nevertheless, the tales of Flight-Lieutenant K. B. C. are not all humorous. They are primarily permeated with suffering, bloodshed and unlimited sacrifice, with an incessant day and night struggle against the Germans—fierce and zealous, carried on with an almost religious passion.

Flight-Lieutenant K. B. C. had a lot of favors to ask of me just before he took his leave. He was most anxious to obtain an accurate, detailed map of Warsaw to take with him to Australia where he had been assigned as flight instructor. He wanted to live again those days in the streets of the Polish capital when he helped rescue prisoners, or planned an ambush for some German detachment. Spreading it out on my desk he traced familiar streets with his finger, stopping fi-

HARRY DANIELS: POLISH-JEWISH PAINTER

(Continued from page 11)

ing was uniformly favorable. Howard Devree of THE NEW YORK TIMES wrote: "Self-taught, Daniels is nevertheless hardly a 'primitive' despite a certain naiveté in his work. In use of figures, manner of composition or some other aspect of the work one is occasionally reminded of Utrillo or Burliuk or Chagall. But Daniels has his own definite way of expressing things, whether he is picking out foliage in an autumn landscape, individualizing cobblestones in a village street or flatly depicting a Brittany town as on a stage backdrop."

THE NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM opined: "It's a good show, all things considered, and it bespeaks a man

of fresh vision, surprising technical proficiency and taste."

And Josephine Gibbs, Associate Editor of THE ART DIGEST, commented in the January 15, 1945 issue of that magazine: "Harry Daniels might be placed in the largest of all possible pigeon holes marked Primitive, but I would prefer (if such is necessary) to label his paintings just shown at the American British Art Center as naive—in spirit. And it is the spirit of the work of this mature artist, rather than his technique—which is smooth to the point of reminding one of Utrillo when similar subjects are used—that has the child-like quality found now and then in the paintings of peoples of Slavic origin . . . Blessed indeed are the pure in heart."

POLISH MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1944

(Continued from page 13)

The past year has proven once again how much the Polish nation owes to its soldiers. However, these soldiers must not have shed their life's blood in Warsaw, in the mountains of

Italy, and on the plains of Normandy in vain. It must be one more indication to the world that a nation which has proven itself so strong and enduring, has shown such willingness and skill in battle, a nation that has such soldiers and such citizens, has by its deeds bought the right to be free.

THE LIBRARIES OF MODERN POLAND — 1918-1939

(Continued from page 9)

Poland. At the moment of outbreak of war the new building of the Jagiellonian Library of Cracow University was in its finishing stage and was being made ready to receive its more than 600,000 volumes. State Libraries existed also in the Universities of Lwow, Poznan, Warsaw, and Wilno. In 1938 the five State University Libraries in Poland owned a total of 2,727,268 volumes and 24,257 manuscripts.

It was intended that all Poland be covered with a network of scientific libraries supplementing each other. A center of research for Pomorze and Poznan was formed in Poznan and collaborated with the Baltic Institute at Gdynia; a library specially concerned with the problems of Eastern Europe flourished in Wilno; one on the Southern and East Southern Slavs was assembled in Lwow, and so on.

As University libraries could not cope with this important problem of expansion, a system of minor libraries scattered all over Poland was planned. Some 550 libraries of an educational character were in existence by 1939. Among these were the libraries of the Technical High Schools of Warsaw and of Lwow, of the agricultural schools of Warsaw, Pulawy and Dublany, as well as of academic schools such as the Catholic University of Lublin, the Free Popular University of Warsaw, the Main School of Commerce in Warsaw, the State Geological Institute, etc.

There also existed in Poland numerous well organized pedagogical libraries for the benefit of school teachers, enabling them to deepen their professional and general knowledge in even the remotest provinces. The Pedagogical libraries in the school departments were of a scientific character, the number of volumes in each library ranging from 7,000 to 38,000. The needs of the pupils were met by the school libraries and the numerous libraries of scholastic organizations such as the Boy and Girl Scouts.

In 1937, 92.8% of Poland's public primary schools had libraries with a total of 4,869,000 volumes, while 98.3% of her high schools possessed libraries with a total of 2,109,000 volumes. In all there were 26,155 school libraries (below University level) with 10,511,000 volumes.

The Central Military Library in Warsaw with its 150,000 volumes was also an important librarian training center. It was one of the best organized and most modern of Polish libraries. Its courses in library science enjoyed an excellent reputation and trained a number of very efficient subordinate library officials. On the eve of the war there were 452 departmental libraries dependent on it, with a supply of books exceeding 1,500,000 volumes. These libraries were not restricted to the military; they were also very popular with the civilian population, especially in centers deprived of larger scientific libraries. Besides works on military matters, they had books on general subjects: technical, historical, geographical, etc.

Among the privately endowed scientific libraries the splendid collections of the Ossolinski Library in Lwow, possessing the most complete collection of newspapers in Poland, occupy first place. The Ossolineum also had a magnificent collection of manuscripts rivalling that of the Jagiellonian Library. The Czartoryski Library in Cracow ranked second only to the Ossolinski Library. It specialized in the history of 19th century Poland and in the history of education and, like the Ossolinski Library, possessed a rich collection of manuscripts. The Krasinski Library (80,000 volumes) and the Zamoyski Library (70,000) both in Warsaw, came next. The Kornik

Library near Poznan (80,000 volumes), and the Dzieduszycki (50,000 volumes), both in Lwow, and the Tarnowski Library in Dzikow were only a few of the famous private libraries.

Among the libraries belonging to the various learned societies, that of the Cracow Academy of Learning (160,000 volumes), the Poznan Library of the Friends of Learning (130,000 volumes), the fine Wilno Library, and the very recent one in Luck (of the Volhynian Friends of Learning), all did much to further Polish learning.

The various Cathedral Chapters, ecclesiastical seminaries, convents and monasteries also had libraries attached to them. They were numbered among the most ancient in Poland (Cracow, Gniezno, Sandomierz, Lublin, Kazimierz-on-the-Vistula, Plock and others), and prided themselves on their valuable manuscripts and rare specimens.

In 1936 the 9th Conference of the International Library Committee took place in Warsaw. A year later, in 1937, at the International Exhibition in Paris, the "Polish Library Association" obtained the "Diplome d'honneur" for the whole of the Polish Librarian Exhibition in the International Pavilion.

Apart from the various school and reference libraries, a number of educational institutions engaged in activity to further book reading. To this end, special educational libraries were founded throughout the country. In 1937-38 as many as 149 Central Libraries were already in being and they sent out supplies to 5,383 circulating libraries and to 884 permanent libraries maintained by the local governments. The Social Organizations besides, had as many as 280 Central Libraries (5,139 circulating libraries and 8,098 permanent libraries).

In 1936 the infant Warsaw Public Library, consisting of a main building and 63 branches, had 414,806 volumes and 568,189 readers. It was foreseen, as the ultimate outcome of the plans made, that for every 20,000 citizens of the capital there would be one library with 20,000 books. The Public Library was a pioneering outpost in creating new forms of librarian activities adapted to Polish readers. Within its walls *The Librarian* was published; in a bright, sunny hall, a central library for children teemed with activity; a new staff of young librarians, fully trained and filled with enthusiasm and confidence, left the building every year for work in the provinces.

Later on, one met these people in every nook and corner of the Polish Commonwealth. They worked enthusiastically, founding new libraries out of infinitesimal subscriptions, ready to help and advise anyone in need; they organized library exhibitions, competitions of good reading, fought for every new book, for every extra shelf in their libraries.

Numerous social institutions with traditions reaching far back to the times when Poland was partitioned, collaborated with the State Government and with the local governments to create new libraries. The figures are impressive. Here are a few: 2,400 libraries of the Scholastic Assistance Organization, 3,706 libraries of the Association of Folk Schools, 1,696 libraries of the Folk Libraries Association, 360 libraries of the Society of the Working-Men's Universities, 3,520 libraries of the Central Association of Young Country Folk, 1,932 libraries of the Young Country Folk Association, 397 libraries of the Central Organization of the Young Country Folk Circles, 486 libraries of the Polish White Cross, 127 libraries of the Association of Railway Workers, and others.

Besides the above-mentioned libraries, there were many others in Poland maintained by the scientific and social organizations of the national minorities.





Appeal by Premier Tomasz Arciszewski to Pres. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill Before the End of the Crimea Conference

"Mr. President:

"At this time the fate of many nations rests in your hands and in the hands of Prime Minister Churchill. The whole world expects that these important discussions in which you and the Prime Minister of Great Britain are taking part will result in the creation of foundations for a future peace which should bring to the nations freedom from fear and want. I trust that these essential freedoms will also be granted to our nation, which has been fighting unflinchingly for their realization at the side of the great American and British democracies.

"In particular, I trust you will not permit any decisions to be taken which might jeopardize the legitimate rights of Poland or her independence and that you will not recognize any faits accomplis with regard to Poland. If peace in Europe is to be durable it must be based on principles of justice and on respect for law, on good neighborly relations as well as honesty in international life.

"While I am writing these words the lives of many thousands of Poland's best sons are in danger. The so-called Provisional Government of Lublin has openly declared its intention of trying as traitors all soldiers of the Polish Home Army and members of the Polish underground movement. Mass arrests and deportations have already taken place. You are well aware that they have fought the Germans gallantly and regardless of sacrifice throughout the five years of occupation. You assisted them yourself with your aid, and in the memorable days of the Warsaw rising the American and British Governments recognized the Home Army as part of the regular Polish forces fighting alongside the United Nations.

"Today the lives of these soldiers are in danger because they recognize the independent, legal Polish Government and because they firmly insist on their rights as men and citizens. Therefore I beg of you to urge upon the Soviet Government, whose armies are at present in occupation of the territory of Poland, to give proof that they genuinely desire an understanding with Poland and to prevent the execution of the criminal plans of the Lublin men.

"Please accept, Mr. President, the assurance of my highest consideration."