

TYGODNIK POLSKI

THE POLISH WEEKLY

SPECIAL
ISSUE
DEVOTED
TO
WARSAW

Rok I, No. 42, 43 44

Nowy Jork, 24 października, 1943 — New York, 21, N. Y., October 24, 1943

Cena 25 ct.

TRIBUTE TO WARSAW

Four years have elapsed since those memorable days when the capital of Poland, Warsaw, defenseless and deserted amazed the world by resisting a powerful foe.

Having sacrificed her sons, beauty and wealth, she succumbed only when all her physical resistance was exhausted.

Whenever, during the four years of this dreadful war, armies or cities had to fight in self-defense, resistance grew weaker and hope faded, the example of Warsaw brought confidence, instilled the sense of duty and heroism into the hearts of the invaded nations.

Warsaw continued fighting though she was aware that success was to come from anywhere, though she knew that her walls would soon be a heap of ruins, that her children would perish. Though ready to be buried under those ruins, Warsaw did not fight a hopeless fight.

She stuck to the faith that her example, her courage, would awaken the conscience of the world. She never ceased believing that the news of her struggles, of the unspeakable sufferings of her inhabitants, would reach the freedom loving nations the world over, that these sister nations would unite in a fight against brutal force, that the innocent blood shed by her sons would be avenged, that the world would be reborn to freedom.

SAM RAYBURN
Speaker of the House
of Representatives

This month, September 1943, marks the fourth anniversary of one of the tra-

gedies of history, which, at the same time, is one of the monuments of the world of human heroism. It was an event which never will be forgotten by us of the United Nations.

On the dawn of September 1, 1939, the Germans began with bombs their treacherous attack upon the noble city of Warsaw capital of one of the bravest people on the earth. Seven days later the ruthless enemy began the investment of Warsaw with a bombardment by heavy artillery, firing indiscriminately at the city and its 1,500,000 people from all sides. Warsaw had no fortifications whatsoever, but the people of Poland had been given to understand by the Nazi Fuehrer that they would need no fortifications to protect them from him. The old fortifications left over from the Russian occupation had long since been converted into parks and playgrounds.

The brave but hopeless defense of their beautiful city was one of the splendid episodes in the history of the Polish people. The government had scarcely hoped to attempt a defense. But defied it was, at the insistence of the people under the leadership of a heroic Mayor, Stefan Starzynski.

Literally everybody in Warsaw took part in the fighting, side by side with the tiny garrison. Women and children helped in digging the trenches and building the barricades in the streets.

The whole world watched with admiration as the people of Warsaw achieved what seemed to be impossible. They

fought off the tanks of the German Army, fought back the Panzer Divisions, endured a withering crossfire from heavy German guns. Warsaw did not surrender until the waterworks had been destroyed, no drinking water was available, and all food and ammunition had been exhausted.

Two-thirds of the buildings were either totally destroyed or critically damaged. Fires raged which could not be extinguished for lack of water. The Germans destroyed all the most beautiful landmarks of the city: the University, the ancient Royal Castle, the Grand Opera, most of the hospitals and virtually every cultural monument. Not

one window-pane was left unsmashed in the Polish capital. How many people perished will never be accurately known. The dead were estimated at anywhere from 50,000 to 80,000.

Thus ended an heroic defense that will be an inspiration to all people for all time to come. It will serve as a luminous example of human fortitude, of unselfish sacrifice, brightening the pages of history. It will enshrine the Polish people in the hearts of all who love their country, who love freedom, for so long as man admires courage and greatness in the soul of a people.

THOMAS DEWEY
Governor of New York State

The issue, which the editors of the "Polish Weekly" are presenting today to its readers, asking for its widest distribution, — pays homage to Warsaw, her defenders, alive and dead; it is a greeting sent to her people, who so gallantly resist the oppressor every minute of the day.

Our intention was that the name which for so many is only one among countless geographical names, should become a living truth. We intended to rebuild in articles, essays and reminiscences before the eyes of our friends, our capital and her life, to give a vivid picture of the soul of the people of Warsaw, and thus to bring them closer to the American reader. In this way to let the American people really conceive the beauty and world-importance of the defense of Warsaw and her immense suffering today.

In the declarations of our American friends, and especially in the declarations of the Mayors of the single cities, time and again the beautiful idea is voiced that the United States should take the initiative in rebuilding Warsaw, as the first city which offered resistance to Hitler, and was destroyed by him. If this great initiative will be realized, as everything indicates, then our Warsaw issue will be of great propaganda value. And that was also our aim.

In spite of many easily to understand difficulties and the lack of material, we were able to carry out our intention, due to the enthusiasm and eagerness of all those to whom we have turned for help and cooperation. To all of them we are expressing here with our sincerest thanks, first of all to the American friends of Poland and Warsaw, to the Governors, Mayors, Congress Delegates and publicists who have all reacted with sincerest readiness to our appeal.

With deepest gratitude we have to mention the help rendered us by His Excellency, Jan Ciechanowski, Ambassador of Poland to the U. S. A., Minister Plenipotentiary Sylvin Strakacz, Polish Consul General in New York, and Mr. Józef Junosza; by the distinguished artist Stanislas Ostrowski, whose initiative is to be credited with the creation of this issue; by Stefana Zahorski, who has with unusual speed collected the articles of the writers in London and has valuably assisted in the editing of this copy; by Wladyslaw Besterman and Jan Walczak. We are extending our most cordial thanks to them as well as to all other authors and cooperators.

The climax of the siege of Warsaw, capital of Poland, came on the twenty-ninth of September, four years ago. From September 1 to 29, the citizens of Warsaw, led by their gallant mayor, Stefan Starzynski, valiantly withstood the onslaught of the invading Nazi hosts.

Warsaw at last fell, but the heroism of her people became the inspiration of free men everywhere. The anniversary of the epic defense of the capital of the republic of Poland deserves especial remembrance.

Now, therefore, I, Dwight H. Green, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, September 29, of the present year as Tribute to Warsaw Day throughout Illinois. And I request the people of Illinois to join in the appropriate observance of the occasion. The course of events now encourages the confident hope that the historic city of Warsaw will in due time resume its rightful place among the capitals of democracy, its traditional position as chief city of a free and independent Poland.

In Witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield, this twenty-eighth day of September, in the year of Our Lord One Thousand, Nine Hundred Forty Three, and of the State of Illinois the One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth.
DWIGHT H. GREEN
Governor of Illinois

Four years ago this month, Poland was being torn asunder and crushed beneath the full might of the Nazi invasion. The valiant defenders of Warsaw were pouring out their last drop of blood against overwhelming odds. The brutal Nazi invader, bent on utter extermination of 35 million people, seeking to destroy a nation with a 1000-year old Western culture, failed to quench the indomitable spirit of the Polish people. Unconquered, that spirit has lived on — to fight as our ally on numerous battle fronts.

To pay fitting tribute to this heroic struggle, Michigan citizens of Polish descent under the auspices of Central Citizens Committee — an association of over 215 Polish fraternal, veterans, labor, civic, church, cultural and political organizations — will honor Poland's heroes during the week of September 20 to 27.

Americans of every race and creed are conscious of Poland's vast contributions to the cultural achievements of our modern civilization. The history of our nation records the mighty role that Poland's sons played in the heroic struggle to secure our independence, and in the building of our nation.

Therefore, I, Harry F. Kelly, Governor of the State of Michigan do hereby designate the week of September 20 to 27 as "Tribute to Poland Week" and call upon all our citizens to join with those of Polish descent to give proper expression to the bonds of mutual understanding and friendship which bind these nations together in a single noble cause.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Michigan, this sixteenth day of September, in the year of Our Lord, one Thousand nine Hundred forty-three, and of the Commonwealth, the one hundred seventh.

HARRY F. KELLY
Governor of Michigan

The City of Warsaw will live forever in the memory of mankind as a symbol of heroism and sacrifice in defense of freedom.

Four years ago there was enacted in this proud seat of Polish learning and culture a tragedy of death and destruction inflicted with inhuman, savage cruelty upon a people devoted to the ways of peace. The fate of Warsaw brought stark realization that our civilization was at stake, facing the gravest crisis in history.

Polish heroes gave no thought to the overwhelming odds with which they were confronted as the enemy swept across their land. First to resist the armed might of the Nazi hordes they gave their lives on the altar of liberty to save the world from enslavement. War-

saw fell, but the free spirit of the Polish people fights on, unconquered and unafraid. Poland's sons serve the cause of freedom in every theatre of war. Their courage and devotion to duty have won everlasting admiration.

As we approach Warsaw's tragic anniversary it is appropriate that Americans express their gratitude and acknowledge their ever-increasing debt to the heroic Polish people. From Pennsylvania, birthplace of American freedom, we send them a message of assurance that Liberty and Justice soon will rule the world once more and Poland will be restored to her honored place among the free nations of the world.

EDWARD MARTIN
Governor of Pennsylvania

It is fitting that at the end of four years of terrible war we pay our respects to Poland, the first nation to challenge the forces of darkness at a time when such forces threatened to engulf the world. Poland was the first nation to challenge the Nazi hordes, and the first country to leave the ranks of the appeasers and to fight for her honor and her independence. The spirit of proud Poland will always live, and from a defeat of our common enemy there will arise a greater Polish nation.

RAYMOND E. BALDWIN
Governor of Connecticut

There are certain pages in the histories of nations which are referred to future generations with pride and reverence. Poland can proudly point to many such pages. The valiant defense of Warsaw by its people and by the heroic and martyred mayor, Starzynski, four years ago, is one.

Through more than a thousand years Poland has more than any other nation run the long range of experience, reaching from the twilight of political nonentity and the progress of ruthless denationalization to the highest summits of development and achievement. She has saved, upon occasions, contemporary civilization from barbaric destruction and she has helped other countries, including America, to regain their own freedom. In the present war, as Mr. Churchill pointed out, Poland's fate has been the harshest of any of Germany's victims, but she has proven to all that a people with the will to live can never die.

Today, after four years of war, the commemoration of the heroic defense of Warsaw gains a special significance and the spirit of Mayor Starzynski still lives in the people of Poland who are so valiantly contributing to a common victory for the allied cause. On this occasion, the people of Massachusetts join with the people of oppressed Poland in a sincere prayer and fervent wish for the restoration of their country to its former historical power and glory.

I. EVERETT SALTONSTALL
Governor of Massachusetts

I have spent so many hours in Warsaw that it is horrible to me to think of the destruction of the city and of the sufferings of its inhabitants.

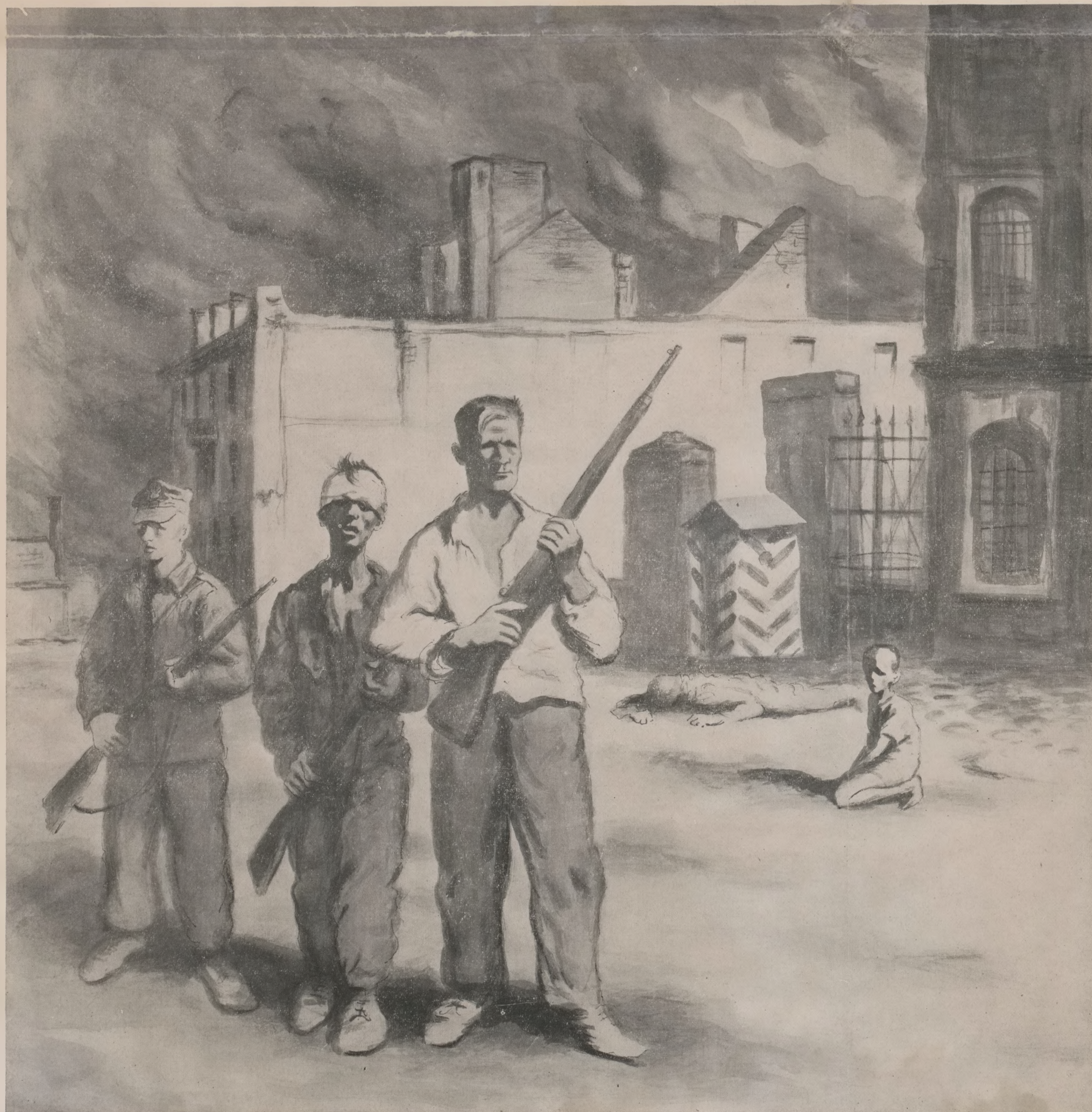
Warsaw has always been the noblest bastion of Western civilization in Eastern Europe. It has produced great artists, musicians, scientists, statesmen, soldiers and churchmen. But best of all, it has produced on the part of its people the attitude toward life that is expressed in the great words: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me."

For centuries Warsaw has fought the good fight for truth and God against barbarian hordes.

It was, therefore, fitting that at the outset of this war, Warsaw should be the first city to fight against Hitler's barbarians. And the city carried on the fight with a heroism so immortal that praise would be almost an insult.

Before a sacrifice so sublime one can only stand with bowed head thinking: Warsaw remains worthy of itself.

WILLIAM C. BULLIT
Former United States Ambassador to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of France, and more recently, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy



The Last Defenders of Warsaw

by Z. Czernański



ZYGMENT NOWAKOWSKI

A SIREN FOR A CREST



On the 8th of September 1939 when the first shells from the German artillery began to fall in the centre of Warsaw, the president of the city, Stefan Starzyński, made this announcement by radio and placards: "We shall defend Warsaw and not surrender it". By that time Warsaw was completely uncovered, war operations seemed to some extent to have passed it by, the campaign had moved on and from the north waves of stragglers from the routed army began to flow into the city. It was exactly at that moment that the capital decided to defend itself. For the other side, that is for Poland, the "Blitzkrieg", prepared with such genius and infinite care in every smallest detail, was a debut, and for Warsaw most particularly. No one had foreseen the situation, no one had reckoned with this eventuality, the capital had neither troops, equipment nor stores of food, it was not in contact with the government which had evacuated itself eastward, it had no leader, it stood on chance. Its defiance was an absurdity but it was a necessity as well. On the sombre day of September 8th Starzyński announced this defense which was maintained for twenty long days. Of all European capitals attacked by the Germans, Warsaw defended itself the longest. In the fever and distraction of those first days of a war the like of which till then had been unknown in the world, this strange thing occurs: the government orders all men capable of bearing arms to leave the capital, whilst simultaneously the capital determines to defend itself. What tragedy, what bitter irony in the concatenation of those two decisions! Deprived of all means of defense Warsaw, realizing that it is digging its own grave by doing so, defends itself.

Ten centuries of history lie behind Poland during which time Warsaw was for barely two centuries the capital of an independent and for twenty years of a re-nascent Poland. When in the second half of the XV century the Polish King Zygmunt August proposed to move the capital from Cracow to the centre of his gigantic kingdom, Warsaw never occurred to him. The last of the Jagellons had his eyes turned eastward and for that reason wished to raise Knyszyn to the dignity of a capital. He took no count of Warsaw, then but a miserable townlet, and in the XIIIth century scarcely a village.

But it was predestined to become a capital. It was situated in the geometrical centre of Europe, at the intersection of two straight lines leading from east to west and from south to north. On a river, at the junction of so many roads from Europe to Asia its position then was the same as in the XIX century, when Lesseps, the creator of the Suez Canal prophesied that it was bound to outdistance all the cities of Europe and become the biggest, happiest and richest of them all, a city which could not be untouched by any great occurrence, which was bound to be involved in any affairs of world wide interest.

To-day it still lies at the intersection of those two straight lines and of all European cities is the most unhappy; a city which far from being untouched was the first to be touched by a great occurrence, an affair of world wide interest embraced by the one world war. On a river, at the intersection of a horizontal and perpendicular line lies Warsaw. It lies in ruins.

Sirens started wailing over Warsaw in September 1939. Their sinister, doleful, terrifying note we hear to this day and never shall we forget it. It has a particular eloquence and a particular importance: it seems to ratify Warsaw's privilege in using for its seal an armoured siren. An unusual crest and unusual seal. Whence this siren came, is unknown. Exotic, out of harmony with the world of Polish imagery and beliefs, unsuitable, incomprehensible, of uncertain origin, neither a washerwoman nor a Vistula deity, it has nothing in keeping with the Slavonic Olympus. An intruder-siren, which ousted the likeness of St. George from the ancient seal. An accidental, borrowed figure, without birth certificate; a vagabond reflex of classical mythology appearing on Mazovia's plains. And suddenly this seal is invested with deep significance. It is telling, explaining clearly and only too comprehensibly that Warsaw has and always will have a siren for its crest from the voice of those sirens which announced a war originating at the point where two straight lines cross each other, where lies the centre of the very heart of Europe. Warsaw is entitled to that crest.

We usually simplify certain complicated processes, certain stages or epochs by giving them the name of a single person although in reality they were the outcome of the endeavors of a number. In such simplification there is always a certain modicum of truth, there is exaggeration too. There is however no exaggeration in saying that for us to-day both in substance and idea Warsaw is closely coupled in our minds with the name of Stefan Starzyński.

The material development of the town in the years immediately preceding the war, its burial under rubble and its moral greatness — shining ever more brightly through the gloom of our disaster — all this in our minds is bound up with Starzyński. He raised Warsaw up, he deliberately allowed it to be dashed to earth, and he saved it. Shattered and in ruins, Warsaw in a certain sense is greater and finer than it was before.

During the middle ages Warsaw occupied just a few hectares, later it extended over no more than two thousand hectares, which figure increased six-fold in the third year of the world war, that is immediately after the Russians left the town. From that time it began to spread with increasing rapidity.

But the town was ugly, indeed very ugly in some districts. It was an ugliness deliberately and consciously imposed upon it by the Russians, who wished to crush it, who did all in their power to obliterate the traces of its former greatness and beauty, to deprive it of sun, of air and greenery, to hide even the Vistula. In every town there is always a focal and most beautiful point, be it a square, a church, a palace, monument, fountain or bridge, but the greatest and most imposing building in Warsaw from the days of Russian rule was the citadel. Its foundations were being laid in 1831 as the November revolution died. On the immense space of two hundred and fifty hectares the Russians pulled down the finest parts of the town there to erect this citadel, alike a symbol and constant living threat. "At the slightest disturbances I shall order the bombardment of the town, I shall destroy Warsaw and it will certainly not be I who will build it" said Tsar Nicholas I in the year 1835 to a Polish delegation.

The citadel overshadowed the town which was enclosed by a throttling chain of fortifications in the vicinity of which no building was allowed without special permission and even the planting of trees forbidden. Warsaw was gripped with iron clamps and for a century became a specimen of truly barbarian urbanism. Starzyński's Warsaw declared war on this state of things. He had many gifted collaborators, but the idea itself was his. A logical, persistent and sage idea Warsaw must become a great, beautiful and healthy city. A gigantic plough and harrow must be driven over its whole surface to extirpate all Russian traces and to restore the forgotten vestiges of former beauty from beneath the ruins of the citadel, forts, orthodox churches and barracks.

A mass movement began from the congested courtyards to the wide spaces where one could breathe. There was in this a certain dashing gesture, there was youth, ambition and even voracity. Warsaw was literally taking shape before our eyes. It was a race, a sport.

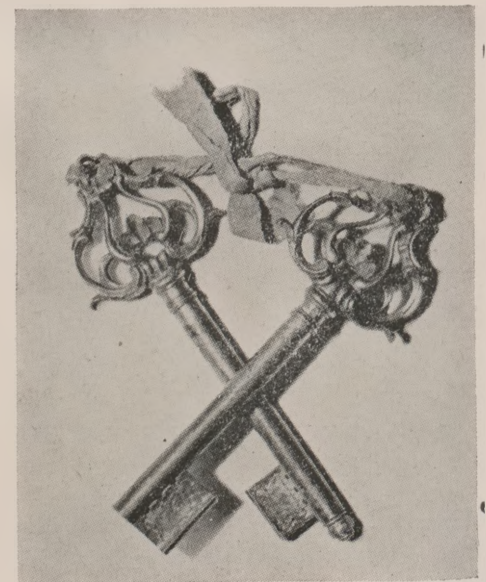
On the 1st of September 1939 the whole of this work stopped dead.

Called into being by Starzyński the defense began. From day to day and hour to hour, this man could see Warsaw — his creation — being destroyed, collapsing into ruins, going up in flames. A different plough and another harrow were scarifying the entire centre of the city and all its new and beautiful districts. Conflagrations, bombs, cannon shells made no distinction between the old and new, between ancient and fresh young beauty. Equally, with ruthless justice they attacked the whole of Warsaw, its churches, palaces, libraries, theatres, stadiums, gardens, residential blocks and buildings in the process of erection.

The guns fell silent on September 27th and German troops began to enter the ruins of the capital. Starzyński — a romantic in so far as the decision to defend the city was concerned — proves to be just as active after the capitulation as he had been throughout the siege. In the light of the reports and accounts we see him entering into negotiations with the occupying authorities, we see him trying to restore at least a semblance of life in Warsaw despite the catastrophic conditions. Fighting the brutality, stupidity, ill will and terrorism of the German authorities, he defends Polish property and that of the city, tries to get hold of credits, to issue a local currency, thinks of introducing a moratorium and in face of the general impoverishment and misery, aims at a radical reduction of rents. He endeavours to obtain help from America in the matter of feeding the starving people; intervenes in the cause of those arrested. He is everywhere and everything.

On October 27th, Starzyński disappears. Summoned by the president of the police for a conference, he never returns from it. Lost in the darkness of a prison or concentration camp, Starzyński seems only nearer to us. Dead, for us he lives. The substance and idea "Warsaw" is more closely bound up with him than ever. Starzyński is at it were a synonym for the city which lies at the intersection of two straight lines, in the very centre, the very heart of Europe.

A city which bears the warning siren for its crest.



The keys presented by the City of Warsaw to the Polish King Stanislaus August

KAZIMIERZ WIERZYŃSKI

DO POETÓW

Bóg wziął nas do swojego na termin rzemiosła
I nakazał w niem służyć wśród burz i rozgromu,
By wiara nasza góry nad światem przeniosła
I u stóp mu je kładła, pod próg jego domu.

I otośmy wybrani i stało się słowo
Pośród nas, którzy błędząc w marzeniu i dźwięku,
Gdy wieczny ciężar dźwignąć pragniemy nanowo,
Śmierć świata mamy w oczach a rannych na rękę.

Cokolwiek szept nasz powie, jęk wszystko zagłuszy,
Cokolwiek wyśni serce, przekreśli się zbrodnią,
Wojna świat ten uniosła, nie Bóg ludzkiej duszy,
Góry nikt nie podźwignął, my padliśmy pod nią.

I tak padać w tej służbie będziemy do końca
I tylko gorzka prawda osłodzi konanie,
Że w nas był wiary świata jedyny obrońca,
Że minie nawet wojna a słowo zostanie.

JAN ROSTWOROWSKI

CUDZOZIEMCOWI

Jeśli spytacie czemu dzieci ziemi owej
Dotąd krawawą ranami ulice Warszawy
Dotąd ludzie bezdomni patrzą w niebo ciemne
Nad przerażoną Wisłą, nad zdrętwiałym Niemnem,
Jeśli spytacie czemu dzieci ziemi owej
Usypiały tragicznie pod Gdynią i Lwowem
Lub bezbronność młodości i niemoc rąk nagich
Niosły w potężne zbrodnią bezkarną stalagi,
Jeśli spytacie czemu dzieci owej
Młode głowy od polskiej uchroniwszy burzy
Liczyli stopy granic "przechodzonych nocą,
By dojsz tam, gdzie stanydary wolności łopocą
Zdumieni cudzoziemcy, oto wam odpowiem:
Giną by rzec Ojczyźnie: "Ty jesteś jak zdrowie".
Kiedy na rannym wietrze kołyszą się zioła
Kadzidłanym zapachem wiejskiego kościoła,
A nikt tych ziół nie łamie ręką bezrozumną
Kiedy w słońcu jesiennym lud idzie za trumną
W chwale lat cichej pracy zmarłego człowieka
A nikt dzieci zmiadzionych z ruin nie wywleka,
Kiedy w kłatach ogrzanych ciepłem zachwycenia
Stuchają baśni starych młode pokolenia,
I nie znają miejsc pustych, gdzie otów wykruszył
Ostatnią piędź i spalił ostatni strzęp duszy.
Kiedy drzewo jest hymnem ku niebu rozpiętym
Gdzie każdy liść na wietrze szepcze: "święty, święty"
A nikt kopomyj sznurem kłanarów nie pęta
Szydząc: "ratuj ojczyznę wieszana Orleń"
Gdy krew jest kwiatem ciała, nie bólem rozdartym
Kaźdej, w płomieniu wojen, odwracanej karty.
Zdumieni cudzoziemcy, jeśli jeszcze teraz
Spytacie, czemu Polak tak pięknie umiera,
Cóż mam rzec? Bóg widocznie nie wszystkim zezwolił
Brać z rąk gwoździ przebitych Sakrament Niedoli.

LT. COLONEL J. WIEJSKI

WHY WARSAW WAS DEFENDED

It is only now, after the fall of many countries, that looking back on events, people begin to understand the part played in this war by Poland. She was the first to stand up against aggression, and the overwhelming German army.

I was one of the officers who were in command during the siege of Warsaw. It is well known to me that Poland risked her life and her army by opposing the enemy. Nevertheless, I also knew, as well as many others that the only issue for my country was: to defend itself as much as it could, to destroy as many enemy divisions as possible, in order to contribute to the entire destruction of the German military forces.

On the 17th day of fighting, when we were preparing for a second "phase" of defence behind Vistula, which was supposed to give the Allies time to strike from the West, we were stabbed in the back by our treacherous Eastern neighbour. We realised then perfectly well that we were going to have terrific losses.

All Polish staff officers closely watched the growing strength of the Germans, during the summer of 1939. We knew exactly the formations of every new squadron of the Luftwaffe, and even every platoon of the German military concentration. With great confidence we also observed the preparations made by the Allies, and particularly by the French. We realised well enough that our share would be to bear the brunt of the first attack — thus giving the Allies time to mobilise. We were cold-bloodedly determined to fight and die, knowing that final victory would be on our side.

This was the morale of the Polish army, when the war broke out. It must be noted that the general mobilisation, which had started a few days before the outbreak of war, was interrupted at the request of the French and British ambassadors, in order not to make the Germans "nervous". Therefore, when war broke out on September 1st, 1939, and during the days that followed, men were pouring from everywhere to their units. They all knew that General Gamelin had promised an armistice intervention in the West on the 14th day of war, that is on the day when the first part of the French mobilisation was to be completed.

Every Pole fought knowing that all the odds were against him, but supported by one idea: to divert as many German divisions as possible. Then the French and British would join the fight, throwing in their strong armies and their air power. I remember so many miserable peasants who

looked at the swarms of German planes coming to machinegun them, with the hope in their eyes, that they were French or British.

The determination of the Polish people was manifest. It is not only the proof of their patriotism, but also of their steadfastness. Only such a morale can explain the reckless defence of towns, the attacks on tanks by cavalry, all those heroic deeds which often made the specialists of "modern warfare" shrug their shoulders.

Once this is realised, one can easily understand the defence of Warsaw. It becomes a natural sequence of the spirit of "defending every inch of Polish soil" in the hope of engaging the greatest possible enemy force.

There are two distinct phases in the siege of Warsaw. The first is spontaneous and unorganised. Units of the 4th German Panzer Division which were approaching the outskirts of the city, were pushed back by troops concentrated in the Warsaw, district, and by the Warsaw population who spontaneously took part in the fight. Inspired by a feeling that something should be done, the Mayor of the city, Starzyński, executing the general instructions of the Commander-in-Chief, organised voluntary units from all those men who had not managed to join their own army units. The city was quickly divided into sectors, trenches were dug inside, barricades established outside. This under continual German bombardment and machine-gunning.

It would be difficult here to describe all the different stages of the defence of Warsaw. Due to many factors, it was the nerve centre of defence. Polish divisions fighting in the West, slowly retreated towards the capital, thus drawing towards it the greatest concentration of enemy forces. During the entire siege, the Germans were compelled to maintain around Warsaw one third of their army fighting in Poland, one fourth of the whole army fighting during the September campaign.

The headquarters of the defenders of Warsaw were keeping record of every enemy unit, and broadcasting the information to Paris, firmly convinced that by engaging the German army, even if it were only for a few weeks, the beginning of the Allied offensive in the West was greatly facilitated. We defended ourselves until we had no more ammunition, sacrificing our women and children, in order to achieve this aim.

Warsaw and the people of Poland have fulfilled their task.



Stefan Starzyński

ADAM LISIEWICZ

THE CITY AND ITS MAYOR DURING THE DEFENSE OF WARSAW

From the very first day of war, its approach was clearly felt in Warsaw. Waves of silent refugees poured on foot, and in vehicles of every description, from both South and West; on the squares and courtyards people camping saw the conflagration getting nearer, which forebode the enemy's approaching.

Suddenly, on September 5th and 6th, Warsaw faced an unexpected evacuation on a large scale. All government offices, banks, public institutions, personalities of politics and the press — left Warsaw in the course of these two days. The city was as though petrified. The populace looked at it with amazement, considering it a sign of great military defeats, which, however, were not believed in by the man in the street. When it became manifest that the city was left over without a garrison and with no arms, the people's anger flared up.

The will to defend the city was as conspicuous amongst the youth as in the Workers' Unions and all other groups of the population. "We have to defend ourselves" — was on everybody's lips. And in that moment the man was found who captured the people's hearts, who was not hesitated to employ his authority for organizing the defense. For Warsaw, this man of providence was Stefan Starzyński.

Having assumed, apart from the civil powers held by the Mayor of Warsaw, the powers from the government as the Civil Commissar for the capital, he held in his hands the whole civil power without restrictions, and used it for the defense of the city. It was, however, not his formal title, but the will of broad masses, their tenacity and sacrifice that rendered possible the exploitation of all forces.

How to start defense without army and arms? The answer was: with shovels. On September 6th, Starzyński issued an appeal calling the population to gather voluntarily on the outskirts, with picks and shovels if possible. They had to construct dams, antitank traps, trenches for the Army that was approaching. Sappers and engineers had designed the plans of the fortifications and chosen suitable positions. In the evening, at the defined places, crowds of people — young and old — gathered, and set to work. Those who could find no place to work, had waited until dusk, and replaced those exhausted. In the morning the work had to be interrupted, as air raids began, but the next evening the work continued. Thus, when on September 8th, the first tanks came close to Warsaw, the fortifications were ready, and the enemy's attempts were foiled.

Two more matters of prime importance were to be settled: 1) — the contact with the public opinion, so as to be able to uphold the morale of the population in the most difficult moments, and to find out the feelings of the defenders; 2) — the creation of new city service departments whose need arose from the war situation.

The first matter was dealt with by a small Committee, called upon by Starzyński, and comprising all groups of the public opinion. A Press Office was created, its task was to inform the public of the happenings, and to assist the publication of newspapers. Owing to damage done to printing offices and to shortage of staff, only one newspaper appeared. When even this could not continue, the Committee issued communiques on placards which were posted by volunteers at all points of the city. Another sector of activity was to broadcast the information not only for the population, but also for abroad.

Both Committee and Press Office have shown outstanding solidarity, there was no friction, no personal enmity. They have been a true picture of the society they served: homogenous, both in fighting and endurance.

As to the civil defense, Starzyński rightly understood that eliminating all traces of war was essentially necessary for keeping the people fighting fit. He therefore ordered that the outer face of the city be maintained, that the shops remained open, that the transport continued, and that order and cleanliness be safeguarded. Anticipating the shortage of water, he ordered the digging of new wells. All these measures were no easy task since many men had been called up, and others eva-

uated; particular difficulties had to be met in respect of the many refugees from other parts of Poland and their food supplies, when transport was immobilized.

In order to comply with all these tasks, Starzyński called into being the Voluntary Citizens Guard which was subdivided into districts. There were salvage and rescue detachments ready to a number of tasks like repairs of water and electricity lines. City Cleaning Department was used for removal of corpses, for clearing the debris, disposal of dead animals, bomb removal etc. The Red Cross was supplied with a number of dressing stations and small aid centers which were organized by individual help. Hospitals were reserved for badly wounded and became crowded within a short time. Shortage of dressing material was soon felt, as the big military stores were hit early in the first days, and burned down. The collective food service for homeless and refugees was organized by Starzyński. Bread was carried to all the outskirts, and distributed through Borough stations, or Churches.

Warsaw had no provision of food, but there was sufficient flour and corn. After the power station was bombed, an unexpected difficulty arose, as all bakeries were cut off, not having the current, and the few old bakeries without electric installation were not able to take up work. The total lack of bread, and afterwards of water, proved to be the worst difficulty. But the slaughter houses were also destroyed, and supply of meat was out of question. The food situation grew worse when the ring of the besieging German units closed on September 14th, cutting off the city from every supply. Feeling of being aloof and of depending on their own power did not smash the spirit of the population; on the contrary, they were stimulated by the consciousness of heroism and sacrifice.

The fire squadrons suffered heavy losses in both killed and injured; their activity became even less effective with the progressing lack of water and diminishing number of fire stations. Bombing took place almost all-day long, and there were very few defenses. The city was at the mercy of the enemy. But nights gave moments of rest: then the Town Hall was working. At Starzyński's office, all service chiefs gathered, reporting to him and planning for the next day. Starzyński himself had always been on the move. His small car reached every corner of the city. He inspected the destroyed buildings, the work of the rescue squads, the hospitals, the trenches; he attended the sittings of the Committee and the meetings of his subaltern bodies. The population had seen him everywhere, watched him when he went into every detail of city life, and were confident. Without this state of mind, without the confidence of the man in the street that the city was functioning, the excellent soldier in the trenches would not have stood up to the strains, and the defence would not have lasted as long as it did.

In the last week of the siege I had the opportunity to talk more than once daily to Starzyński on duty matters. I never heard one word of complaint, although the position was already hopeless. He sometimes complained about some work not being done. All who knew Starzyński from his work as Mayor of Warsaw in the pre-war days, remember how much love and fondness he had for the city. It must have been a tragedy to him, when he resolved to deliver to bombs and shells, the fruit of his own work, and that of the population he had so much esteem for. Some people reproach Starzyński in not having said, in the last days of the siege, that there had been enough sacrifice. If surrender were declared earlier — they argue — a part of the city would have been saved from destruction. But Starzyński did not. He knew that the population did not want to surrender, that the people's instinct had chosen another way, from which there was no return for any material reason. We others, having survived until today, know that Great Britain went the very same way, when sacrificing her capital in 1940, — and that thanks to this determination she steps forward to victory.

JADWIGA SOSNKOWSKA

REMINISCENCES OF A NURSE



The destroyed Capuchin Church in Warsaw

I was standing on the top of a hill in a small Polish town, looking at the infinitely peaceful sight of the passing of another golden summer. It was the 24th of August, 1939. Crowds of people were there, smiling and talking; women, dressed in bright summer dresses, among them many in our lovely national costumes, soldiers, laughing and talking about the ending harvest. Poor heroic boys! They did not know to what harvest they themselves would soon be going! This year the gardens were full of fruit, the first glorious colours of autumn were showing on the trees, the autumn flowers were blooming abundantly. In the fields work was proceeding at top speed, while in the towns, people were repainting their houses, renewing their apartments, as many new buildings had been begun. Life as a whole was smiling and full of hope.

Suddenly I heard the little news-boys raise their shrill young voices: "special edition"... Everybody ran to get a paper. Then those who had so recently been laughing and chattering gayly, began to gather into little groups and whisper together. A soldier ran by towards the station, so I called to him: "What's happened? Why are you running?" He stopped for a moment and turned his young, set face to me. "It's war!" he said "You'd better hurry if you want to get to Warsaw today."

The trains were crowded, so I had to stand all the way in the corridor among the mobilized men. They were not yet in uniform and they made light of it saying, "We must make some demonstration, of course, but who wants war? In three days perhaps we shall be home again." "And if they really attack us, what then?" I asked.

"Well, we shall show them how we can defend our country, there's no doubt about that!"

On every station there were hundreds of women bidding their loved ones goodbye. There was not a tearful face among them, old and young alike were smiling. "Good-bye", they were saying, "Don't worry! We shall soon be together again, and if not—why! we shall be waiting for you and looking well after the house meanwhile." How many, many times in our history have our women said these words, and they have been true, a promise faithfully kept.

On the morning of August 25th I went to present myself as a voluntary reserve nurse of the Polish Red Cross in one of our big military hospitals. The first days of my hospital work were quiet, but the nightmare of anxiety was constantly present. The Polish nurses, whose colleague I am honored to be, have a very high standard of professional and social solidarity, of friendship and sense of duty. Besides our concern for our country we all had our private worries but not a word was spoken of them. Those hours and days passed, heavily charged with anxiety and threat.

It was very early in the morning of the 1st of September, 1939, that I saw for the first time, high in the blue and serene sky, the first German bombers over Warsaw. I was hurrying to the hospital when the first bombs fell. People still only half-dressed gathered on the threshold of their houses, some were already running to the embankments of the Vistula and looking at the rising smoke with unbelieving eyes, as if it were something unreal—a theatrical presentation. Everyone was staring into the sky as our Polish fighter planes went up and the battle in the air began. Still people went on asking—perhaps these are only manoeuvres? Can this really be war? Then more bombs fell and the A. A. guns began to fire, while the dry monotonous rattle of machine guns filled the fresh peaceful air. This was the answer, then: it was war.

Not the slightest sign of panic was in evidence, however. Trenches were to be dug, and thousands of people came for-

ward with spades to meet the necessity. Curiously assorted groups of people were to be seen marching by—middle-aged city gentlemen, school-children, ladies, workmen, housewives and a group of leading Polish actors, comprised one of them. Word was given that beds and linen were needed for reserve hospitals that were being organized. Barely an hour had gone by before queues of people appeared in front of our hospital with cushions, blankets, sheets, parts of beds, chairs and lamps. Many of these people came from the simple working class homes of Warsaw; people who were indeed, the best and most responsive friends of our hospitals. In every one a special room had to be set aside to house the gifts which were streaming in day and night.

Those three weeks of the siege of Warsaw remain present in my mind and heart as one great picture of incredible horror and yet, at the same time, of incredible beauty. In such destruction fire death and innocent suffering, lies the horror of it all, but in the wonderful courage, in the charity and love, stronger than war and even than death itself, lies the beauty that was revealed by the people of Warsaw. More and more patients were brought in to us and soon a flood of wounded soldiers inundated our hospital. They came on stretchers or in cars and even, as I myself saw many times, they were brought in by their exhausted, grimy colleagues. These moving scenes of the faithfulness and comradeship among the soldiers and their superiors occurred every day. Sometimes they could hardly speak themselves, and were only able to whisper that this wounded companion was their lieutenant, that his leg was broken and badly severed and only bound with a bit of dirty string. Many of the men were suffering cruelly, but never a word of despair or anger was to be heard. When I shut my eyes for a moment I see it all again, the corridors, the dressing rooms and operating theatres full of soldiers lying there, and the building shaking with the constant explosion of bombs. During the night, artillery was shelling the city and the fearful roar of guns was drawing nearer and nearer. It was on one of the many such evenings when we had been working unceasingly for over 10 hours and still new wounded were being brought in, that a bomb fell quite nearby. All the lights went out, the windows and doors fell and in the darkness that followed we heard glass breaking into a thousand splinters and the wounded moaning... In a few moments blankets had been put over the gaping windows, lamps and candles had been brought and the work was carried on. Not only the nursing staff and doctors were called upon. All were helping. I cannot omit to speak with deep emotion of our boy and girl scouts. They were working magnificently. One could see youngsters 10 or 12 years old hurrying continually from building to building, bringing fresh supplies of dressings, medicine and cigarettes. These youth organizations were always at hand, the young people never hesitated to take a bicycle or to run through the darkened streets under artillery fire, bringing aid or news whenever they were needed. All the pupils from the Nursing School, which had been demolished by a bomb, came to us as volunteers. I shall never forget our "daughters", as we used to call them, girls of 17, 18 and 19 years, who did such splendid work. One of the pavilions was ruined but they cleaned and repaired the other undamaged half of the building; they brought the beds, put flowers on every table and tried to keep all "peace-time rules". One night another bomb fell on the hospital and three of the girls were killed, but the others never left their patients. The staff as a whole carried on wonderfully, never sleeping and scarcely eating. The matron simply said: "The nurse never leaves her patients" and she and her staff remained on duty, unceasingly. On the worst day of the bombardment, when four of our hospital buildings were in flames,

when the artillery, the dive-bombers and the fighters with their machine-guns were turning Warsaw into one sea of flames, the nurses, under fire, carried the wounded from one house to another. They had words of encouragement for all, they put out fires in the course of their duty, and they rescued people from under the debris. I shall never forget four young girls who were killed as they carried the wounded on a stretcher. One of them died clutching the handle of the stretcher in her hand.

In those terrible days we not only had wounded soldiers in the hospital, but hundreds of the wounded civilian population. They suffered terribly, often lying only on mattresses or on the floor for hours. They did not always get water for that was cut off, nor medicine, for they were so numerous, that it became impossible to deal with them all. They never complained, instead they urged the nurses to attend to the children and soldiers first. The big lec-

ture room was full of wounded; one fair young girl, her legs terribly mutilated, whispered that she did not regret to die for her country...

When the first rays of the sun fell through those broken windows I saw with an agonized heart that all along the middle of this long corridor thin river of blood was running, slowly and continuously.

In these glorious and cruel days we were all like one great family. The spirit of absolute solidarity and mutual understanding was wonderful. People opened their hearts and their homes to all those who were suffering. The courage, the generosity, even the indomitable Warsawian humor were always present. Improvised services in the city were soon reorganized. And when all was over and the simple hard facts had to be faced, the supreme courage did not flag, and still the people of Warsaw carry on their fight in work and sacrifice.

Four years ago Warsaw, incessantly bombed for four weeks, finally severely shelled by heavy artillery, its water supply, gas and electricity destroyed, 35,000 war graves covering its streets, 30% of its buildings demolished—surrendered to the Germans.

Warsaw was the first city to be thus bombed and destroyed in this war which since spread into a world war and has now evolved into a victorious struggle of democracy against the forces of evil and enslavement.

Poland is a charter member of this coalition of free nations which came into being after many years of appeasement, of lack of faith in the forces of freedom, of continuous concessions and shameful acceptance of German blackmail.

Poland being the first nation that delivered armed resistance to Germany—Warsaw will always be regarded as the symbol of resistance.

Isolated from distant Allies, Poland's Warsaw fought without hope, without any chance to withstand the enemy's onslaught.

Warsaw fought because she was sure her courage would awaken the conscience of the civilized world.

For her courage and her moral victory over the forces of tyranny and oppression, for writing one of the finest pages in Poland's history, Warsaw paid an exorbitant price. For the noble privilege of being the torch bearer of freedom, Poland's beautiful Capital City sacrificed her historical buildings, her palaces, her monuments as well as her renowned most modern housing projects created by Warsaw's heroic Mayor, Stefan Starzyński. The same man, who so painstakingly helped build modern Warsaw, did not hesitate to sacrifice his life's work in defending her honor.

It is the duty of the whole civilized world to help rebuild Warsaw after this war is won. It is the foremost duty of America where the defense of Warsaw in 1939 was watched not only in sorrow, but with the greatest admiration.

It is our profound belief that men of action should get together at once and prepare and plan for the restoration of Poland's beautiful Capital. It is a sacred duty of ours, as sacred as our duty and pledge to restore a Poland free, independent and entire.

Representatives:

LEONARD W. SCHUETZ
of Illinois

JOHN D. DINGELL
of Michigan

GEORGE G. SADOWSKI
of Michigan

THOMAS S. GORDON
of Illinois

JOSEPH MRUK
of New York

JOHN LESINSKI
of Michigan

THAD. F. WASIELEWSKI
of Wisconsin

B. J. MONKIEWICZ
of Connecticut

MARTIN GORSKI
of Illinois

ALVIN E. O'KONSKI
of Wisconsin

STEFANJA ZAHORSKA

AUGUST 1939

FRAGMENT OF AN UNPUBLISHED NOVEL

In those last days before the war life still remained intact. Children were coming back to town from holiday camps, the mountains and the seaside, to get ready for school in September. Parents who could afford it were already buying school books, as if by doing so they could make this September like the September of every year. Houses were cleaned in the morning as usual, carpets which had been packed away with mothballs for the summer were now beaten and put down for the autumn and winter. Winter was still far ahead, but amidst the general uncertainty it was a fixed point. So furs and coats were ostentatiously aired on balconies and porches as if to bewitch fate by this old ritual. It seemed as if the common round of everyday life had suddenly gained a ceremonial solemnity. Dinners were more carefully prepared, meals were served with greater punctuality, families gathered round the table, and for a moment their anxiety was soothed. Dishes were consumed as if they were the body and blood of peace.

Apart from that, people went about the streets, busy with their own affairs. Every morning you could hear the usual cries of the street sellers, the peddler of brushes hung with his wares, the rag-and-bone men stuffing old shoes, trousers and hats into their bags. The tinker would bawl out his traditional tune, the crab seller would dash in, breathless, to hurl his challenge through the shady courtyards: Crrrabs, Crrrabs, Crrrabs. Then they would all pause for a while, scanning the windows for the all-important event—a sign heralding a deal. Sometimes, as often happened in the end of summer, a gypsy appeared in the courtyard and with shrill voice invited all maids uncertain of their future to learn the truth from their cards and in this as in other years she foretold a dark and fair man, a love-affair, letter on the way and the great chance.

As August days sped by, anxiety deepened. On bright days it was concealed beneath the bustle and worries of everyday life. Of an evening the noise of the radio

poured from an open window, music drifted through the quiet streets, gently borne on a whiff of warm wind, somebody hummed a tune. But suddenly the word "war" would fall from a loudspeaker. It shook the stillness and sent a shiver through the girls walking linked arm in arm with their men. The word had no body, no substance. But it darkened the starry night, women clung more passionately to men, mouth sought mouth, and eyes closed they drank the kisses as if they were the last.

At night the dark rows of windows were suddenly broken by a light from a shaded reading lamp, shadows moved behind a curtain and you knew that up there nightmares of war lurking in the cobweb of shadows on the ceiling looked down with bloodshot eyes. Mothers dashed to the cots of their children. Wives listened to the breathing of their husbands. The short sleep which came at dawn brought no relief, day dawned pale and livid. The teapot duly appeared on the table but this ritual of greeting the day was already a dead gesture lacking faith. The nightmare of war was creeping closer, gaining more and more of a stranglehold.

A man-of-war has arrived in Danzig.

The news fell from the wireless in the early morning. A quiver went through press and the city, as if people had suddenly caught a glimpse of gun muzzles trained on the Polish shore. The papers were reassuring: it was only a visit, they wrote, quoting what the Germans had given out. The truth behind that steel plating remained hidden. Nevertheless when that German man-of-war anchored within a firing distance of Westerplatte, something suddenly snapped in people. Something new was born.

Scavengers pausing in their work to read the paper, tram conductors forcing their way through the crowded passengers, labourers on their way to work, clerks and merchants, people who had never been out of Warsaw, who had never seen the shore, seemed to have their eyes full of the blueness of the sea, their ears resounding with

the roaring waves. The sea rolled roaring and thundering through the streets of Warsaw.

—We won't give up.

The affairs of everyday life had suddenly shrunk into insignificance. People who the day before had been thinking out clever plans for packing belongings and locking flats, now stopped talking of their families and of the safe hiding place they had found for them. Perhaps keys and trunks were not safeguards. Suddenly they stopped saying "I". They said "We."

The "we" sprang spontaneously into life without conscious reason. It embraced the people, the earth under them, the sky above them. It embraced the houses and the jagged pavement, the signs over the shops, the trees in the squares. Past and coming days were included in it, past wrongs and sorrows. It comprised great joys and little joys, springing from great raptures and the little bar at the corner, from fights and quarrels, from giving somebody a hand, from grinding oneself down. The "we" forgave nobody and nothing, the "we" was not oblivion or compromise, the "we" was not acquiescence to what had been and was, the "we" was nothing but a simple truth, like day and

night, the river, the earth, the city, the country.

—We will defend ourselves

Suddenly the memory of the fall of Czechoslovakia revived in people's minds. People who not long ago read with indifference that Hitler had occupied Czechoslovakia and was breaking promise after promise now drew together in anxious groups. Their gestures as they talked seemed to point out a sore spot inside themselves, an acute pain, a bleeding wound.

—He lies—they cried—he is cheating.

The ignomy of it seemed to be a living thing, offending everybody's self-respect, weighing on everybody's conscience. Above the anticipation of danger suspended over the whole country rose the feeling of moral injury, a wrong inflicted on man. Nobody counted the loss or profit that would come from yielding the seashore. Nobody reckoned the risks of war. Everybody indignantly rejected the ignomy of surrender.

And thus people made the decision to defend their land and moral existence. And thus it happened that they pronounced the word "war" without fear.

LYDJA CIOLKOSZOWA

LABOR DEFENDS WARSAW

Traditions of fighting for freedom and independence have never ceased to live among the Warsaw working class. Not just as some old time legends or sentimental recollections, but as the very substance of their every day life. Still alive were some of those men who, in 1904 by a series of shots proclaimed that Labor had declared war on Tsarism for an independent and democratic Poland. Still alive were those who, in the revolutionary days of 1905-1908 in the ranks of the Fighting Organization of the Polish Socialist Party used dynamite and bombs to blow up the pillars of the tsarist rule in Warsaw. Young boys, born after the First World War, were sharing their working bench with those who, in 1914, at the call of the Workmen's Organization joined the Polish Legions to fight the German occupiers, and again those veterans who, in 1920 volunteered by the thousands to join the Workmen's Regiment for the defense of Warsaw, who with the battle hymn "Warszawianka" on their lips marched to the front line.

So, when the never to be forgotten September of 1939 came and the first German bombs fell in the streets of Warsaw, when first waves of refugees filled the railroad stations and the squares of the capital, Warsaw's workmen knew well what they had to do. Led by the Polish Socialist Party, just as in those other years, they formed in the very first days of the war the Workmen's Committee for Social Assistance. This Committee had to cope with all the new problems that war created: assistance for the families of drafted workmen, inspection of home defense in the workmen's quarters, maintenance of civilian defense duties.

The next days were hard for Warsaw. It was abandoned by the Government and high business circles. Evacuation cars jammed the roads leading from the capital. But the heart of the city, its workers remained. For the workmen there was but one course of action: not to surrender without struggle, not to give up the city. In cooperation with the Polish Socialist Party, Gen. Czuma, military commander of Warsaw, announced that Workmen's Volunteer Groups would be formed for the defense of Warsaw. In the Citizens' Committee, consisting of all social classes, Labor was also represented. At the head of this Committee and directing all its activities was the Mayor Stefan Starzyński.

On September 8th, the two Labor papers "Robotnik" and "Dziennik Ludowy" made a spirited appeal to the working men of the capital to sacrifice all for the cause of independence. Gen. Czuma's order of the day proclaimed that "Warsaw would be defended by the regular army and by volunteer groups of the city population."

The news spread rapidly through factories and mills, suburbs and workers' quarters. From the early morning of September 9th, volunteers poured into the recruiting centers set up by the Polish Socialist Par-

ty. On the first day four Companies were formed. In the following four days the number reached sixteen, and new volunteers were still signing up. Before the eyes of amazed Warsaw the Workmen's Voluntary Brigade was growing fast, composed chiefly of workmen with a generous sprinkling of white collar workers. Peasant youth brought to Warsaw with the tide of refugees also joined up.

Company after company left the house at 7 Warecka street, the home of the "Robotnik" marching and singing, as they did in 1905 and 1920... The old leaders, experienced veterans, but too old to fight waved their farewells...

The first assignments of the Workmen's Volunteer Groups were digging fortifications, laying defenses and collecting food supplies. Then, fully armed, they joined the regular army in the frontline of defense injecting new vigor and enthusiasm into the exhausted and overtaxed ranks.

September 14th—Warsaw was surrounded from all sides. Each day the bombing became heavier, the fires more furious and the food scarcer. Concentrated efforts were made to prevent the destruction of sanitary facilities for fear of epidemics. Under the heavy rain of bombs from enemy planes, the sanitary service made up of street car conductors attempted to clear the streets, courtyards, cellars and basements, though half burned walls threatened to crumble any minute and flames barred access. Sometime later, in London, when the battle of Warsaw was over and the flames turned to grey ashes of despair—Adam Lisiewicz wrote thus in his memoirs: "When I try to find the most beautiful episode in this ocean of sacrifice, I would talk about the Warsaw workmen's groups of the Polish Socialist Party and of the Red Cross and hospital staffs."

The day before Warsaw's fall German bombs hit and demolished the office of the "Robotnik". The editors moved to other quarters and continued their work of exhorting people to fight. All Warsaw was in flames. It rained shells and grenades almost without interruption. There was no light, no water, no food. The radio was silent. Ammunition was about gone. Warsaw must surrender. But the editor of the "Robotnik" Mieczyslaw Niedziakowski, deputy to the Sejm and socialist, refused to put his signature to the act of capitulation. His words on this occasion have become history: "Labor does not surrender, Labor fights on!"

His last statement on behalf of the Polish Socialist Party issued on September 26th, 1939 said that all that could be done for the defense and honor of Poland, had been done by labor group, and called on those groups to continue their good work under German occupation. Later Niedziakowski was executed at Palmiry, but the fight goes on. Today workmen of Warsaw are in the frontline of the fight for democracy kept raging by the underground.



A scene in the wrecked Warsaw

STANISŁAW STROŃSKI

Warsaw, The Heart of Europe

In the course of centuries Warsaw had to survive many a stormy and dangerous moment. At the time of the invasion of Swedes, Prussians, Hungarians and Moscovites, in 1655-56, Warsaw was twice taken and subsequently freed; on the eve of the second partition of Poland, in 1794, when the news came of Kościuszko's rising in Kraków, the City has thrown out the Russian garrison; but in the autumn, it was reconquered by Suwcow, after the slaughter of the suburb of Praga; in the walls of Warsaw, at the night of 30th November, 1830, the great national rising against the Russian domination broke out; around Warsaw there was desperate fighting, until it fell again on September 8th, 1831. For some hundred years — from the beginning of the XIX century, to the beginning of the XXth century — there was no other city in the world where invaders would have been fought with so much determination or fierceness, as in Warsaw.

When, in 1830, Warsaw shook off the domination of the powerful Tsar Nicolaus I, the great poet Adam Mickiewicz said: "Warsaw alone defies thy power..." These words must have come in mind to everyone in September, 1939. Hitler, who conquered Vienna and Prague without firing a shot, was faced with a defiant Poland, where in spite of the smashing superiority of the enemy, and in spite of the hopelessness of the resistance, Warsaw refused to surrender. And at that time, in September, 1939, the Polish capital, devastated with bombs and shells, and falling into ruins, became the city most venerated by the entire freedom-loving world.

Unforgettable will remain the Day of Prayer in 1939, in Warsaw. Every year, on November 1st, the dead were commemorated by lighting candles on every grave at the cemeteries. In the course of battles in September, 1939, hundreds and thousands of inhabitants fell in the streets; they were buried where they fell, on the nearest grass verge. In the evening of November 1st, 1939, candles flared up on all squares of this city-cemetery.

Juliusz Słowacki, another Polish poet wrote a hundred years ago: "If Europe be the nymph, Naples be her blue eyes, and Warsaw her heart..." Has Warsaw not really become as though the heart of Europe subjugated by Hitler?

Warsaw — the city in which no citizen in the last four years could be sure of reaching home safely and evading the German killers; the city where universities and schools have been destroyed, looted and shut so that scientists had to clean streets; the city of hunger and most terrible starvation; the city of executions and deportations to death camps; the city of which the Jewish ghetto has become something worse than a hell on earth; the city of overcrowded churches, as though there was nothing left to the people but the prayer — that Warsaw went, from the very beginning, underground, had its own secret authorities, conducted an incessant struggle with the invaders, listened in secret — day and night — to the broadcasts of the entire world, and published — in the capital alone — 80 clandestine periodicals.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.

Thus became Warsaw an example for all; indeed the heart of the prostrate, but resistant Europe which awaits the moment when it can shake off the yoke. I often think that, if the United Nations will raise a freedom statue after this war, it will be erected in Warsaw.



Architectural Phantasy of Warsaw's Castle by Lucjan Korngold

ANTONI CWOJDZIŃSKI

THE LAST PERFORMANCE IN THE SUMMER THEATER

It all started when anti-aircraft guns were placed in the Saxon Garden and ammunition was stored in the Summer Theater. And then the air raid came and bombs began to rain on the park.

"It would be enough if now this shack started to burn. Everything will explode: the guns and a few of the neighboring blocks together with the people. There will be more damage than from a hundred bombs," frightened people whispered in the shelter.

The actors at the National Theater tried to look cheerful. Of course, when everything goes to pieces, it is difficult to be sentimental about this wooden barn, which since the last century, has been an outrage against all safety regulations, and only by a miracle did not burn down in peace time. But it is difficult to count on good fortune now when half of Warsaw goes up in smoke. No one will even regret it. A beautiful little stone theatre which has been planned long ago, will be erected in its stead.

And yet the peoples' hearts were bleeding, one actress had begun her career in the Summer Theater, an actor played there uninterruptedly for so many years — way back in Director Sliwiński's time. A third experienced there his most beautiful love which real life never granted him, while another actress wore there gowns which life did not give her. ... Will they again some day stand on those rotten but dear boards? They interrupted their conversation because the radio was broadcasting the communique of the city command. Mayor Starzyński was calling on the men to take the ammunition away from the Summer Theater and carry it under the trees in the park. In case of an explosion, at least a part of it would be saved.

Silence fell among the actors. No one in his right mind would stick his nose out of the shelter. Outside hell itself was let loose.

It's a terrible thing to perish with an ammunition box in one's arms," began one of the actresses. "Nothing will remain of one."

"Some dust in the air."

"And some smell of smoke," added another.

"Yes, this is not death on the stage," interjected the old manager, who was sitting with them in the shelter. "Here one must do without taking a bow before the curtain after death. Here it's real, not pretended."

Actors have pretended all their lives, think people like him. But they knew how very real acting was; that pretended truth on the stage has to be lived through more sincerely than real truth in life and that one must have more courage on the stage than at the boxoffice of the theater manager.

"Aeschylus also used to act," the manager continued, when the argument subsided, "but of no achievement in the theater was he so proud as of the fact that he had fought at Salamina. He had only this inscription engraved on his tomb: 'He fought against the Persians.'"

A fine time for showing off his philology! But he never produced Aeschylus, for he wouldn't have had any box office returns.

One actor shrugged his shoulders and turned his back. Another showed his contempt by looking for his hat which was suddenly misplaced. A third was helping him for he had seen it somewhere in the other corridor. Someone else later found the hat in its place and ran after them. Still another hurriedly followed for it turned out to be his hat. And so it happened that not a single man was left in the shelter because when the others failed to return, the manager became so irritated that he also went after them and didn't come back, either.

On the street, quite empty, a quarter of an hour ago, they unexpectedly met a crowd of people.

JÓZEF JUNOSZA

A DAY IN WARSAW

Another peaceful night... Rumors that there would be a raid in our part of town did not materialize, but there was one in Mokotów. A common Gestapo trick: rumors of raids and arrests are spread in one section of the city, when there is to be a man-hunt elsewhere.

At 5 A. M. — end of curfew — a timid traffic in the street begins.

Well, I can sleep an hour longer. The trolleys are running now that the tracks have been repaired. Instead of a two-hour walk to the shop, I can do it in half the time, partly by trolley, partly on foot. What luxury.

Breakfast at A. M. I am lucky to have some hot potato soup before going to work.

A detachment of uniformed Volk-deutsche is marching down the street, their goosestep beating time for their brutal German song:

"Today Europe belongs to us;

"Tomorrow the whole world...."

I look at the insolent snouts grown fat on our Polish bread. They are being trained by German instructors to apply "civilizing methods" to us, to govern Poland with whips and concentration camps.

To shorten my long trip to work I build castles in the air. How wonderful it will be when we can get at them. Meanwhile one must be patient and master one's nerves.

There is a new guard at the factory's gate. The old one has disappeared. Rumor has it that he was arrested last night. The sixty year old Pole fell into a German trap. His old neighbor, a Volksdeutscher, meeting him in the street, had greeted him cordially and slipped him an underground paper, really a sheet published by the Germans for just such purposes. A few steps further, he was arrested by the Gestapo. All efforts of the factory management to have him released, failed. He was being sent to a concentration camp; the German Labor Office wanted to have their own man at the factory's gate....

The new man is already at his post. His provocative smile, his attempts to win the workers' confidence and make them talk were typical of the German awkwardness. A former German farmer from a Warsaw suburb....

Work in the factory is like tacking in a flood of decrees. Fortunately this hampers production. It takes weeks and months to get a permit to buy needed material. It is not hard for us to make things more complicated. The so-called "Treu-handlers" — the German administrators of seized Polish properties usually know little about factory organization. Besides, they are often changed for they steal too much. Our production sabotage is greatly facilitated thereby and we run little risk of detection.

At noon we hear the dinner bell, a joyful sound. Every fifteen minutes group by group, we go in for "eats." Again a plate of soup, sometimes potatoes, sometimes black and bitter pulse, sometimes frozen cabbage. With it a piece of dark bread. But for a brief spell a pleasant feeling of warmth in our stomachs....

Today they sent me downtown to the German "Bewirtschaftungstelle" for forms that have to be filled in for purchasing coal. There are a number of such "Bewirtschaftungstellen"; one for iron and steel, another for lumber, another for coal, for fats, for leather, for bricks, etc.

Arrogant puffed-up German super-men are seated at the desks. A long line of "natives" forms before them. A fat policeman of the German "Ordnungspolizei" watches the crowd.

I am in a hurry to present my application. I shall surely be told that the forms will be wrongly filled out by us and after listening to a tirade on the stupidity of "Polish cattle," I shall be instructed in how the filling out is to be done.

It will be done tomorrow. Two days later I shall again stand in the endless line. The application will be pigeon listed for a few days; then it will be forwarded to the main office in Cracow where it will be approved or rejected. Six weeks may elapse before the order of the German railroads is executed. The "Treu-handler" will be reproved for the delay, and may even lose his job. But this is just what he was hoping for. During the three months of his "work" in Warsaw he has lined his pockets well. He no longer feels secure here and writes to his family in Germany that he feels like "sitting on a volcano." A new "Treu-handler" will be appointed, bringing along his own "new order." What a marvelous opportunity for production sabotage....

Just as I had expected, it took me two hours to settle the matter, i. e. not to settle it at all. It was high noon, when I found myself in the street again, not without misgivings. As she passed, an elderly woman whispered: "A man-hunt, mister..." I jumped back into the German office. No arrest was possible there. Only men working in factories on German war orders, were to be found there. Once inside again I looked out of the window: Gestapo men with light machine guns were leaping out of heavy trucks. Spreading out in open order they were chasing into the street from private houses, cafés, stores, trolleys, all men between sixteen and fifty or more. The hunted crowd with hands above their heads grew steadily. From time to time one heard shots: someone had tried to escape. The Gestapo fired into the crowd. What did it matter? The more Poles killed the better: the more "lebensraum" for the Germans....

The man hunt was over by two o'clock. On that day — August 12th 1940 — more than ten thousand Poles were arrested and those not sent to forced labor in the Reich were shipped within a few weeks to the concentration camp in Oświęcim. After a few months, these were only living skeletons. People of advanced age or weak physical constitution cannot stand more than sixty days in a German concentration camp....

At five p. m. I return home from the factory. I walk through streets lined with bombed houses, heaps of ruins and rubble. The sun shines brightly upon us as upon our foes. It seems indifferent to man's misfortunes.

In a side street a few musicians are playing. The music is great! Little wonder: the men are former artists of the Grand Opera, of the Conservatory of Music, of the Philharmonic Orchestra. Modest alms are their reward — a passer-by gives a piece of cake, another a couple of tomatoes or a cucumber. Everything is valuable today, especially eatables....

The sun still shines bright upon the foliage of the few-lucky trees that escaped German bombs and fire. The slogan of Warsaw's former mayor, Starzyński, comes back to me. — "I want to see my city green and full of flowers"... Yes, truly, Warsaw was a city of flowers before the Germans came. Warsaw was in bloom from early spring till late autumn. Garlands of nasturtiums and petunias hung from balconies. Ivy and vine climbed the walls of houses. Public squares were resplendent with flower beds: an ever changing rainbow of tulips and jonquils, of daisies and peonies, of dahlias and asters. In May the intoxicating aroma of lilacs filled the air.

One sees few flowers in Warsaw now. Every bit of ground has been turned into "victory-gardens." They help us to hold out in the winter time. A few potatoes, carrots, cabbages... They do more, for a time those who till them, those who do not work in factories, are able to forget the dread reality....

When I get home, I am greeted with joy by my people who were wondering whether I was free, whether I was still alive. They had just heard that some of our friends had been caught in the raid, others shot down in the streets. Our neighbors are in tears: their son has not come home, as yet. Tomorrow they will visit German offices and if possible ransom their loved one. One can buy anything from the Germans: a gun, a radio-receiver, even freedom and life. Usually the latter is redeemable but for a short term....

It is still two hours to curfew. I shall avail myself of them for the task entrusted to me: visit several people of my district, give them envelopes containing money, that I have in my pocket. Help for the sick, for the very old, for those who can no longer work, for those hiding from the Germans who have to live each day in a different house, in a different street, for those on whose heads the Gestapo has set a price, for those, too, who daily risk their lives publishing underground papers....

I am back fortunately a few minutes ahead of curfew.

Woe to him who after that hour is caught in the street without a pass by a German patrol! He is certain to spend several weeks in prison and be mercilessly beaten up. One of the German ideas of sport is to hunt such adventurous individuals. They shoot them down without even asking for their permits.

Twilight and silence enshroud the city. An apparent silence.

Let us listen to the throb of underground life.

Secret papers are being feverishly printed on hand presses. Well-hidden radio receivers bring news about the outside world, every word is carefully written down, every word that the free waves bring from the free countries....

Twilight enshrouds the ruins of the Royal Palace. Against the background of darkening skies one can still distinguish King Sigismund's column and the towers of the cathedral. Among the ruins one can make out some erring shadows... Are these the ghosts of men who perished under Warsaw's crumbling walls, who fell victims of firing squads, who were seized in man-hunts and perished in concentration camps? Do they return to places where once they were happy?

No, they are the living heroes of underground Warsaw, carrying secret papers for distribution, disappearing in mysterious fissures and crevices of the demolished houses of our beloved capital. Of Warsaw once laughing, boisterous and magnificent — of Warsaw more worthy now of our love and admiration....

The City is asleep. A short spell of oblivion.

Slumber is restless, interrupted by raids, arrests, firing in the streets.

A dreary shadow lurks behind every door. None is secure from the impact of the butt-ends of German rifles. People clench their fists and wait....

Warsaw remains inflexible. Warsaw is undaunted. Warsaw will not surrender. Warsaw smiles with contempt at the "Master-race"....

We shall rebuild that dear city of ours. We shall rebuild her more beautiful, more magnificent than ever. Tulips and daisies will again bloom in her public squares; garlands of nasturtiums and petunias will again hang from her balconies and again shall we see "our city green and full of flowers"....

Entrance to an old building

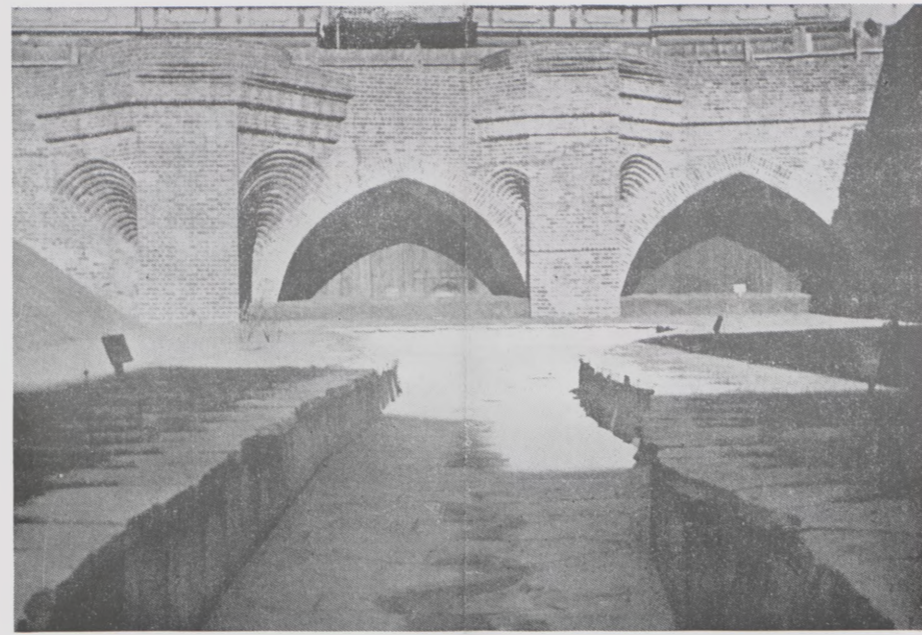


Monument of Bogusławski, the Father of the Polish Theater by Jan Szczepkowski

OLD WARSAW



City Hall



Old Walls from the 13th Century
(Reconstruction by President Starzyński)



Staszic Palace (Building of the Society of Science and Letters)
and Church of the Holy Cross



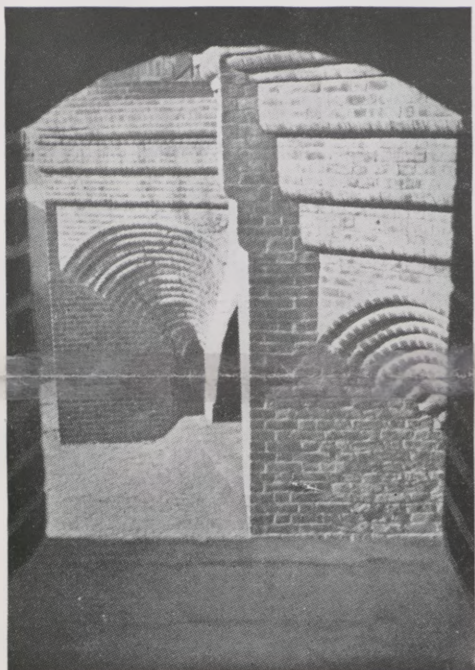
Church of the Visiting Sisters
(One of the most beautiful
Monuments of Polish Baroque)



Roofs of Old Warsaw with the Towers of the Cathedral of St. John (destroyed in 1939)



The Carmelite Church



View of the Old Walls



Monument of King Jan Sobieski



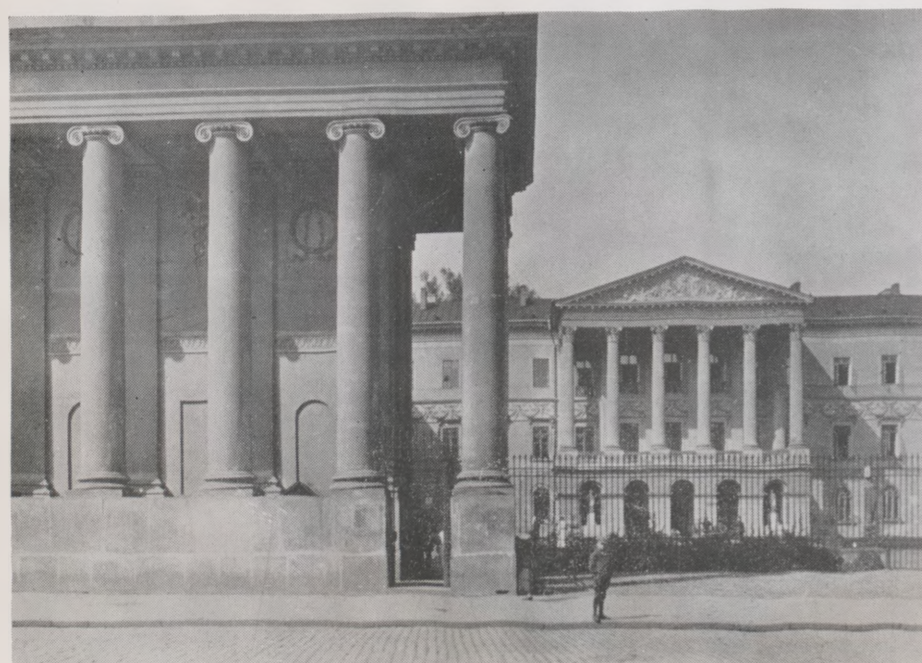
Saxon Park Collonade of the General Staff Building



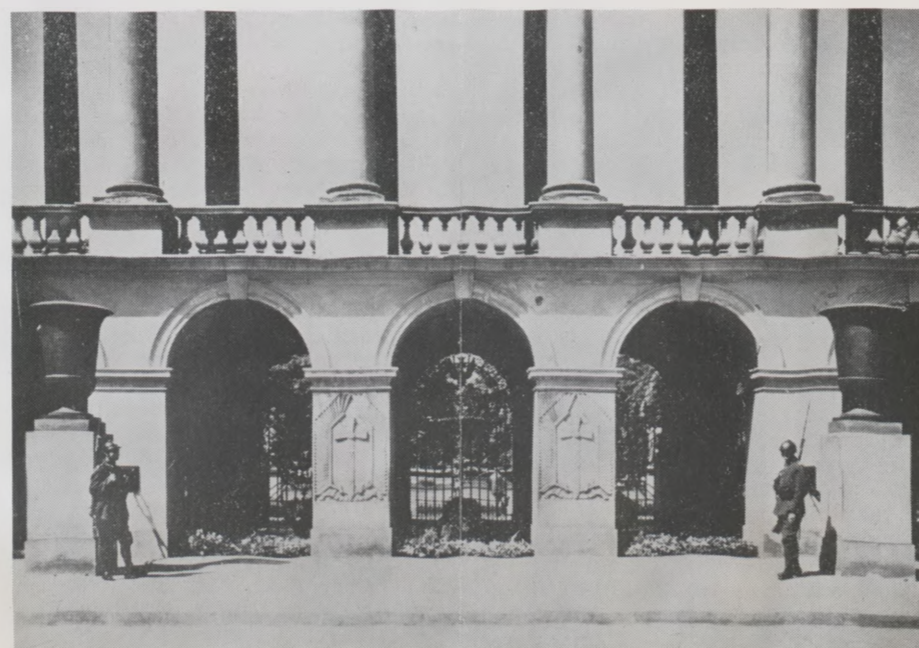
Market-Place, Old Town (with a beautiful polichromy,
accomplished in 1928 under the Direction of Stanislas Ostrowski)



Łazienki Palace of King Stanislas August



Treasury at Rymarska Street (destroyed in 1939)



Monument of the Unknown Soldier among the Columns
of Saxon Palace (By Stanislas Ostrowski)



Great Theater (demolished in 1939). Architect: Anton Corazzi



ROMAN SOLTYŃSKI

WARSAW HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE

Europe has preserved many old and picturesque towns. Some of the capitals are larger, more wealthy and imposing than Warsaw.

Yet one can hardly find an example of a town in which architecture gives a more distinct and vivid picture of a nation's life throughout the centuries. Warsaw, like Poland, had its days of glory; has suffered together with the nation and has been hard at work during the last 20 years to recover and achieve the standard of Western Civilization. Old and new buildings stand sometimes together with distinction and without mockery, recalling the ancient prosperity and display the spirit of our newly regained Independence.

The history of Warsaw began in the XIII century when a little settlement was founded in the vicinity of the castle of the Dukes of Mazovia. It became a commercial centre, when Poland regained her access to the Baltic in the XVI century and in 1596, shortly after Lithuania was united with Poland, the capital was moved from Cracow to Warsaw which was situated nearer the new provinces.

By that time the period of a flourishing Polish Renaissance was over. Few of the original Gothic houses of the old town escaped intact from the fire in 1607. They were later rebuilt and enriched with porticoes, crowned parapets and decorations in bas-relief. In spite of later alterations the medieval character was preserved in the square form of the market place, in the maze of narrow, closely built streets and steep lanes leading to the river. Old houses supported by buttresses and linked by suspended passages dream in the shadows there.

After the complete reconstruction of the royal castle in 1623, splendid residences of important and rich noblemen arose on the outskirts of the medieval city. They were built on the edge of the escarpment, along a road which later became the main thoroughfare of the capital. The early palaces, built in the XVII century surrounded by gardens, preserve with their wide and long wings the spaciousness and grace of the country mansions. The later ones of the XVIII century were higher, more urbanised and their exaggerated Rococo decorations and elaborate wrought iron gates stressed the position and wealth of their mighty owners.

Along the main road, called the Suburb of Cracow, stand some of the most noble examples of Baroque ecclesiastical architecture, which was introduced to Poland from Rome by Jesuits during the strong catholic movement in the XVII century. Warsaw acquired rather later forms of this style with the fronts of churches carved in quaint forms, patterned with columns, half columns and powerful cornices, breaking the light at varied angles. The interiors were invaded by the figures of saints who seemed to be animated by real and strong emotions. No other Western style was better suited to the Polish artistic and creative talent. Baroque gave full expression to the exuberant, vigorous temperament of our ancestors and to certain feelings of unrest which characterized the period.

At the end of the main thoroughfare, two miles from the Royal Castle, lies the Łazienki Palace, summer residence of Stanislas Augustus, the last King of Poland. Built in 1773 it is beautifully balanced and light and perfect in details. It is the equal of the most famous of the French and Italian palaces. The King, who studied at Oxford, had an important influence on the work of his architects. The palace is built on an island in the lake and surrounded by a lowly park. The whole lay-out demonstrates a distinct English influence and conforms to some extent with modern ideals. Another example of the King's taste, the Królikarnia house originally built outside Warsaw, recalls with its columned porch the manor houses of Southern States of the United States.

The King assembled a team of architects and artists and encouraged them to create the independent and restrained style called by his name. He proved that the quality of a building does not depend on its size, a principle which has been adhered to by our modern school. The King was also interested in town planning. His excellent schemes were only partially realized when the Partitions of Poland arrested the proper development of Warsaw.

After the Congress of Vienna in 1815, until the revolt against Russia in 1831, a truncated Poland including Warsaw had a semblance of limited freedom. With their political rights severely restricted, the Poles concentrated on developing economic and cultural progress. The two most impressive buildings of this period The Opera House and the Ministry of Finance built in classical style modelled on the architecture of Napoleon's Empire has been completely obliterated during the siege of Warsaw in this war.

In the XIX century the rapid progress of industry increased all urban populations in



In front of the Royal Castle

Europe. The people were housed in closely built, badly ventilated and inadequately lit slums. Building space was obtained by cutting down the outlying forests and filling in the vacant yards between the mansions. Railway lines, goods yards and factories were located among the houses. Heaps of cinders, dumps of ash and refuse grew up in the outskirts and children played on tram lines. Technical problems dominated architecture. Cheap imitations of the styles of the past were regarded as a short cut to beauty.

Our capital suffered from many of these universal evils. It had, moreover, its own troubles, due to the wilful neglect of foreign administration. The Russians regarded Warsaw, situated at the boundaries of their Empire, as a second class town. In spite of millions of roubles paid by the inhabitants in taxes, the streets were badly paved, the few schools and hospitals built during this period of Russian occupation were both inadequate and insanitary. Fortifications and military training grounds hampered the natural development of the town while its appearance was spoiled by the construction of hideous barracks and administrative buildings in a style alien to our architecture.

It was not until 1921, that the work of reconstruction began after the end of the Polish-Soviet War. The Warsaw municipality was faced with three urgent problems: the modernizing of existing streets and improvement of communication, planning of new residential districts and the construction of buildings conducive to the health, education and welfare of the people. Besides, the various State departments, offices and national institutions lacked adequate accommodation. New buildings in Warsaw met all the needs of a modern state, from laboratories and research institutions to transcontinental telephone exchanges. They were numerous for Poland wanted to make up for the time during the occupation and to equal the more fortunate and wealthier capitals of the West. These buildings were designed in a fairly uniform and moderate contemporary style and helped to eliminate the marks of alien occupation.

Houses built like austere boxes, with large horizontal holes have never been popular in Warsaw. The bare surfaces of the walls frustrated our innate passion for decoration and the clumsy forms offended the instinct for proportion. Soon it was realized that a sound conception and logical, efficient plan would help to find a balanced and harmonious outward appearance.

Frame construction with its equal distance between pillars offered new opportunity in the treatment of walls. Interesting methods of shaping and arranging stone for panneling purposes were evolved. Sculpture, painting began to play an important part in the decoration of interiors and some of the mural paintings and hand woven tapestries are among the finest of their kind in Europe.

The housing problem was a difficult one as new building sites on a large scale had to be equipped and the people after years of war and monetary inflation had not sufficient money to build a house of their own. They had to be assisted by means of public funds. The Warsaw Housing Cooperative, with its crèches, kindergartens playing-grounds, communal meeting and reading rooms, as well as shops and laundries run as a common property, formed a self-contained little world of equal, friendly people, eager to help each other with their problems, sharing their joys like good neighbours. It was among one of those 3 story blocks of flats of the Society for Workers' Housing that the first German bombs in Warsaw burst in September 1, 1939.

The new Warsaw dwelling houses widely spaced and full of sunlight and air looked most attractive, when framed in foliage. In new districts even before any houses were built young trees were planted, the old being carefully preserved. Lawns with flower beds were a feature of all the public squares and many of the streets. The balconies and terraces of blocks of flats were bordered with window-boxes. Even the lamp-posts had hanging flower pots and there was an unusual competition in Warsaw for the best flower decoration.

The grim fortifications, sad legacy of foreign rule, were turned into parks, with the moats converted to ornamental ponds. Much of the improvement, development and embellishing of Warsaw was due to Mayor Stefan Starzyński, the same man who preferred ruin and destruction to surrender in September 1939. He was a man of vision and imagination, capable of putting his bold plan into practice. He proved what hard work and sound planning can do within five years to improve a city of over a million inhabitants. He managed to arouse not merely interest or sympathy for his schemes, but the enthusiasm of wide masses of the population. He began the work with what he considered most important: the construction of 28 big new schools, the ordering and cleaning up of the suburbs and the piercing of new thoroughfares. The scope of his work was growing wilder every year. New hospitals, play fields and sport grounds were built, broad boulevards were constructed along the banks of the Vistula and a long Avenue with a wide view over the river was made along the edges of the higher plateau. Then he completed the National Museum, carried out the reconstruction of old palaces and the unearthing of the old Gothic city walls with drawbridges and remnants of a tower. Finally, the town planning on a great scale, reaching far into the future was interrupted by the War.

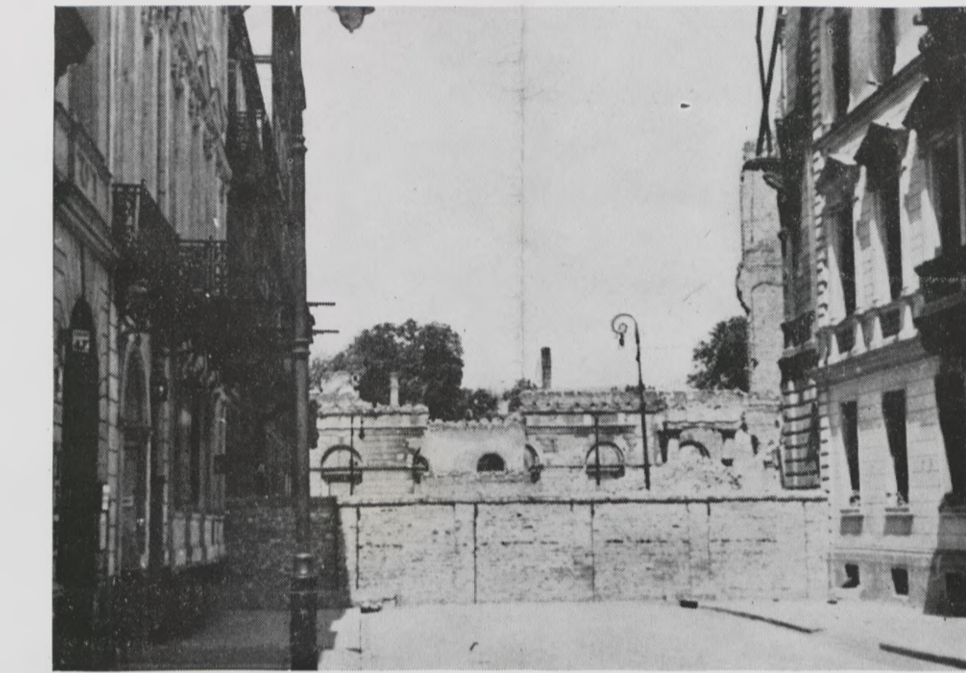
The period of Independence, not always free from error, was full of vigor and eager for improvement. Every year was marked by distinct progress as a new generation brought up in freedom, succeeded the older men. Bombs and fires destroyed blue-prints waiting for realization and unfinished buildings. Warsaw will emerge greater and more beautiful from the struggle, when love of country and the faith in the nations future will help the architects in their post-war reconstruction tasks.

JACOB KENNER

The Jewish Community in Warsaw

The Jewish community of Warsaw is not the oldest in the history of the Jews in Poland, but it was until recently the largest in the country and the second largest in the world. Furthermore, it was pre-eminent in the cultural and spiritual life of European Jewry.

In other parts of Poland, such as Galicia or the Lublin district, there were Jewish communities as early as the thirteenth century, and according to some historians even in the twelfth (e. g. Kraków, Lwów, Lublin and others). There was an early Jewish community even in Plock which is in the Warsaw district. But the first Jews known to have lived in Warsaw date from the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. This can be explained by the fact that Warsaw as a city is much younger than Plock and other cities in Poland. There were probably a few Jews living in Warsaw, when it was still a village, employed as tenants and factors to the landowners,



The Wall of the Ghetto

and their numbers increased when it grew into a city in the fourteenth century.

The most prosperous period for the Jews of Warsaw and of the Mazowsze principality of which it formed part was the fourteenth century during the reign of Prince Janusz, who was brought up at the court of Kazimierz the Great or, as the Jews called him Kazimierz the Good, the king who gave refuge to the persecuted Jews of Germany. The prince followed in the footsteps of his royal guardian and invited the Jews to settle in Warsaw, the capital of Mazowsze and develop it.

In 1527, when on the death of the last Prince of Mazowsze, the principality was joined to the crown kingdom under King Sigismund the First, the Jews of Warsaw suffered a severe blow. The King, whose residence was in Cracow, heeded the demands of a delegation consisting of Christian traders and artisans from Warsaw and in March 1527 issued a decree expelling the Jews from the city. The Jews settled in the nearby towns of Blonic, Czersk and Zakroczym where they kept their stores and workshops.

Late in the sixteenth century, when the Polish Sejm made Warsaw its seat, the Jews were permitted to return to Warsaw and Sigismund's decree was ignored. In 1699 the Jewish self-governing body ("The Council of the Four Countries") succeeded in inducing the Sejm to remove the ban officially. This had a tremendous effect on the growth of the Jewish population in Warsaw and on the growth of the city in general. The increase in the Jewish population contributed towards the city's development, while the development of the city attracted more and more Jews. The following table taken from Jacob Leschinsky's book *The Development of the Jews in the Polish Cities*, indicates the growth of the Jewish population in Warsaw.

Year	Jewish Population	% of General Population
1781	3,532	4.5
1810	14,061	18.1
1856	44,149	24.3
1882	127,917	33.4
1897	219,141	33.9
1914	337,074	38.1
1917	343,263	47.0
1921	310,322	33.1
1931	352,659	30.1
1939	375,000	29.0

This table could stand some comment, but we shall leave it out for lack of space.

The Social-Economic Role of the Jews in Warsaw

There is a wide-spread misconception about the place occupied by the Jews in the economic structure of pre-war Poland. Many think that most Jews were bankers, traders and speculators who lived on the labor of the surrounding working population. The real picture is different, as may be seen from the data on occupational distribution collected by the economist Joseph Thon of Lwów out of official government statistics.

42% of all Jews in the Polish Republic were laborers and craftsmen. 37% were merchants, traders and clerks. 13% were in the liberal professions. The remaining 8% were employed in insurance companies, transportation, agriculture etc. The smaller the town, the larger among its Jews the percentage of traders and merchants. In large cities, especially in Warsaw, the Jewish population was overwhelmingly of working class character.

One of the most striking features of the economic position of the Jews in Poland generally, and in Warsaw particularly is the fact that Jewish wage-earners were employed almost exclusively in small workshops or in small factories. Because of a series of historic reasons, they were hardly ever to be found in large industry,

in agriculture or in public utilities. They were confined to such specific branches of production as clothing and foodstuffs, but they were nonetheless a highly productive element. Also, those Jews who earned their livelihood by trade and commerce fulfilled an important function in the economic organism of the country. This was the case in Poland generally, but more particularly in Warsaw.

Jewish artisans in Warsaw, especially the various small factories of leather-goods, metal-work and shoes, supplied the countryside with sweaters and shawls, buttons and hosiery, children's toys and ladies' purses, soap and candles, slippers and furs, employing tens of thousands of elderly and younger workers whose hard labor contributed to the comfort of their fellow citizens.

The Jews of Warsaw had their economic and labor associations, as instruments in their daily struggle for the improvement

of the greatest novelists, poets, short-story writers, essayists and scholars in the Jewish world, many of whose works have been translated into other languages.

An important part in the communal life of Warsaw Jewry was played by the Jewish health association TOZ led by Dr. Wulman and Dr. Lazarowicz, which maintained its own dispensaries, summer camps for poor children and gave service to all Jewish elementary schools.

The Jews in the Last World War

In 1939 when the danger of Hitler's invasion hung over Poland, the Jews of Warsaw displayed the same patriotism as had their grandfathers in 1863 when the Poles were fighting for their independence against the tsars. Rich and poor contributed to the **Fund for National Defense**, a very substantial portion of the total 25,000,000 dollars given by the Jews of Poland being the contribution of Warsaw's 375,000 Jews. Leaders of Polish opinion pointed to the Jews as examples to be followed by the rest of the population.

The Jews of Warsaw always showed a keen sense of civic duty and of patriotism. In 1863 the rabbi of Warsaw Berish Majesels called on the Jewish youth to join the battalions led by Colonel Berek Joselowicz, a famous Polish Jewish hero, and collected money for financing the rebellion among the wealthy Jews. In 1905, during the abortive revolution in Russia, the first to be hanged in Warsaw for underground work in behalf of Polish independence was the Jewish young man J. Krause. Mendel Finkel was the second Jew among the first five men to be condemned to death for the fight for Poland's freedom. Baruch Schulman, a Jewish laborer, went to the scaffold for an attempt to take the life of the tsarist satrap, and for many years the people sang **The Song of Baruch Schulman**. The ascendants of Berek Joselowicz and Rabbi Maisels and the brothers of Mendel Finkel and Baruch Schulman showed the same heroism in 1939 in fighting for the soil of Poland and in defending beleaguered Warsaw. Masses of Jewish laborers who

were not in the army, went to build defenses around Warsaw late in August and early in September of 1939. Led by the secretaries of their trade unions, most of whom are now in New York as refugees the Jewish tailors, shoemakers and carpenters marched to dig trenches to defend their home city of Warsaw.

The power of the enemy's motorized divisions proved stronger than the bravery of the workmen and the city of Warsaw was destroyed. The Jews of the beautiful city, like the Jews of other cities in Poland, were placed behind ghetto walls where for three years they were oppressed, impoverished and starved and finally exterminated by the brutal sadists. Only 35,000 Jews were left in the Warsaw ghetto by the spring of 1943, most of them young people physically able to perform the tasks assigned to them by the Nazis. The spirit of the Maccabbees awoke in them and, without the slightest prospect of success, they rose up in arms against their oppressors and tormentors, being supplied with arms by the Polish Underground. For three weeks they fought desperately against cannons, tanks and machine-guns. They fell like heroes, killing over one thousand of the Nazi brutes. The outcome of this epic struggle was the complete burning of the Warsaw ghetto by the Nazis in which some 3,000 Jews were burned alive under the ruins. But some of the fighters, nevertheless, succeeded in breaking through the German cordon and escaping. They joined other Jews in the woods, forming guerrilla bands which harass the enemy.

The refugees from the ghettos find shelter and protection among the Polish peasants in spite of continuous agitation by irresponsible elements.

It is to be hoped that the grim experience of the war will sober up those elements in Poland who have until recently been intoxicated by race-hatred, and that all citizens of liberated Poland will, on the coming of final victory, work together for the building of a free democratic and independent republic which will be a source of joy to all its inhabitants without distinction of race or creed.

OUR POLISH CONTRIBUTORS

- STANISLAW L. CENTKIEWICZ — Publicist, editor of the "Polish Review"
 LUDWIKA CIECHANOWIECKA — Publicist.
 LYDIA CIOLKOSZOWA — Member of the Foreign Committee of the Polish Socialist Party in London.
 ANTONI CWOJDZINSKI — Playwright.
 OSKAR HALECKI — Historian, professor of the University of Warsaw, director of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America.
 JÓZEF JUNOSZA — Publicist, director of the Polish Information Center in New York.
 JAKÓB KENNER — Historian.
 MANFRED KRIDL — Historian of literature, critic, professor of the Universities of Wino and Brussels.
 MARIA KUNCEWICZOWA — Novelist.
 JAN LECHON — Poet, critic, publicist.
 ADAM LISIEWICZ — Diplomat, aid to Mayor Starzyński in the defense of Warsaw.
 MIECZYSLAW LISIEWICZ — Poet, squadron leader Polish Air Forces.
 ZYGMUNT NOWAKOWSKI — Playwright, novelist, political columnist, editor of the "Polish News" in London, former member of the National Council.
 IRENA PIOTROWSKA — Art Critic.
 ADAM PRAGIER — Member of the Polish Socialist Party, former Diet-deputy, member of the National Council in London.
 JAN ROSTWOROWSKI — Poet, now serving with the Polish Forces.
 ROMAN SOLTYŃSKI — Artist, architect.
 JADWIGA SOSNKOWSKA — Promotor of various relief and charitable organizations. Wife of the Commander in Chief of the Polish Army.
 STANISLAW STRONSKI — Politician, political columnist, professor of the Universities of Lwów and Lublin, Diet-deputy, former Minister of Information of the Polish Government in London.
 STANISLAW STRZETELSKI — Diet-deputy, editor, writer.
 WOJCIECH ŚWIĘTOSŁAWSKI — Chemist, former Minister of Education, Rector of the Institute of Technology, Warsaw, vice-chairman of the Polish Academy of Science.
 JERZY TEPA — Playwright, publicist.
 LT. COLONEL WIEJSKI — Military expert.
 KAZIMIERZ WIERZYŃSKI — Poet, novelist, member of the Polish Academy of Letters.
 JÓZEF WITLIN — Poet, novelist, author of the "Salt of the Earth".
 STEFANIA ZAHORSKA — Novelist, art critic.

W. ROZEK

FURRIER

157 EAST 64th STREET

NEW YORK

Tel. REgent 4-3892

STANISŁAW STRZETELSKI

The Debt of The World

At dawn on September 17th the Polish armies engaged in a mortal struggle with the Germans, were unexpectedly attacked from the rear by Soviet mechanized divisions.

A few hours later an American newspaper, under the caption "This Dark Hour" printed an article full of sympathy for Poland, the closing paragraph of which read:

"Russian intervention immediately and profoundly affects the whole character of the war. It is not only that the last shreds of Polish resistance must now vanish. At the very best, Poland cannot now be re-established except on Russian sufferance."

At the same time on September 18 appeared an article "This Dark Hour" in the St. Louis Post Dispatch". The author closed his considerations which were full of sympathy for Poland with these words:

"The gloomy German philosopher Spengler predicted the decline of Western civilization and the advent of an age of Caesars. Evidently the test of this prophecy is at hand."

The terrific impact of the Blitzkrieg and devastating fury of Hitler's treacherous attack on Poland shocked civilized opinion. And when, on September 17th the alliance of the two great totalitarian powers of aggression became visible against the sinister glare of the Polish campaign, even the hearts of Poland's staunchest friends were filled with apprehension.

"No one can predict the turns of events, now that Stalin has thrown the weight of his 'benevolent neutrality' on the side of his quondam foe, Hitler" — "The Spokesman Review" wrote on September 18th and the "El Paso Herald" added:

"Indeed, it is not difficult to believe that the harried Poles, their country now invaded by overwhelmingly superior forces on both sides, have little heart for strong resistance against an army that comes seeking 'new and glorious victories' in the name of neutrality."

But these expressions of doubt and mistrust did not apply to Poland alone, for the next day the political editor of the "Asheville Citizen" remarked that as a result of September 17th, "the democratic cause will have suffered a severe — if not fatal — blow."

Here and there anxious voices were raised: whereas any forces in the world were able to stop the fury of this Blitzkrieg, this driving onset of the two totalitarian powers, which, in their relentless march forward, crushed everything, like some unknown force of nature suddenly unleashed — would England and France under the circumstances be willing and able to keep their pledge to Poland?

These fears proved groundless. The governments as well as the peoples of England and France, supported by the overwhelming opinion in the United States did not for a minute entertain the idea of surrender. Those who remember the psychological atmosphere of the days following September 17th, like those who now turn to the yellowed pages of the newspapers of that time, realize that it was not manly decision or will to fight that was lacking: it was the enthusiasm that comes from a heart inspired by unquenchable confidence.

A sense of honor on the one hand, a cold calculation visualizing the catastrophic result of a possible victory of totalitarianism on the other hand, excluded all thought of capitulation. Around this decision, prompted by cold determination rather than enthusiasm, a multitude of doubts and questions swarmed, but ever foremost the disarming question spread by the black magic of German propaganda: whose turn next?

Then came a sudden change. As if a refreshing breeze had dispersed the sultry air, the voice of Poland, of Poland by many already given up for lost, was heard again, the voice of struggle and resistance and confidence in victory. Every 30 seconds besieged Warsaw broadcast a few chords of Chopin's Polonaise...

— What? Warsaw still holding out? This city of a million inhabitants, unprepared and unfortified, almost defenseless? Some heroic gesture no doubt, this cannot last... William L. Shirer wrote in his diary on September 18th, 1939:

"If Warsaw does not surrender, it means that one of Europe's largest cities will be blown up by the German army and a good share of the human beings living there with it. Certainly history knows no parallel..."

Yes, modern history knew no parallel and so on September 20th the editor of "The Daily Oklahoman" closed his tale of Warsaw's tragedy and the symbolic Polonaise:

"Chopin also wrote a funeral march and for a time, it will take the place of the vigorous, inspiring Polonaise."

September 20th dawned and passed away... Warsaw had not ceased to broadcast its proud signal: Chopin's Polonaise. Its sounds went out to the world along with the whizz of bombs and the blast of German shells. — Are they still fighting? How?

POLISH WEEKLY

Editorial Office:

806 Lexington Avenue
New York City, 21
Tel. REgent 7-4168

Publishers:

Association of Writers from Poland

Editors:

Zenon Kosidowski
Jan Lechoń
Jerzy Tepa
Kazimierz Wierzyński

Subscription:

Monthly 40 cents
Half yearly — \$2.40
Yearly — \$4.50

do they do it, in the face of the overwhelming superiority of the Germans in men and machines?

September 21, 22, 23.....

Infuriated by Warsaw's stubborn resistance Hitler ordered his airmen and artillery to bomb the city without mercy or respite, he kept up a constant stream of his elite detachments, and when this failed to subdue Warsaw, threatened to use poison gas.

But Warsaw answers with the chords of Chopin's Polonaise and the voice of the heroic Mayor Starzyński inciting his people to ever greater efforts in the unequal struggle that was eventually to arcuse the conscience of the world.

A week later, a world that felt sorry for "poor Poland" after September 17th no longer spoke of "poor Poland" or "poor Warsaw." The world no longer analyzed in awe the invincible power of the totalitarian war machines. Something had happened. The world knew that it would have to fight and that it could win.

September 25, 26 and 27... days of inferno in besieged Warsaw. The German Luftwaffe with 127 aircraft lost, continued to arrive in unimpeded waves to drop its bombs, German artillery surrounding the city sent over an endless rain of shells, 60,000 civilians were killed. Warsaw was without gas, electricity and water, but still hurled back the German attacks.

"The New York Times" writes on September 25:

"Warsaw is the best answer to the German thesis that the war is now over and it is time to make peace.... The defense of Warsaw will live among the heroic epics of history. The hope that help is on the way only deepens the tragedy of the doomed city for those far away who listen to the voice over the air that neither guns nor German interference nor death can silence."

At last the end came — not of heroism and untold sacrifice — simply the end of physical means of resistance.

On September 27th, Mayor Starzyński spoke over the radio for the last time: "The entire city is in ruins. After twenty days of incredibly savage siege, Warsaw capitulates, handing over to the Germans a heap of ruins."

But the doubt and resignation so widely spread among the friends of Poland after September 17th, disappeared after the Battle of Warsaw.

The fall of the splendid and beautiful city has become the triumph of the debris covered City of ruins and wreckage.

"No war in modern history" — said the "Los Angeles Times" on September 28th "has ever seen a country more ruthlessly beaten than Poland; no great city more brutally destroyed than beautiful Warsaw. One would have to go back to the days of Attila to find a parallel..." And to explain this unyielding Polish resistance under the circumstances the author quotes what Voltaire said of the Poles: "Their strong love of liberty makes them always formidable. They may be conquered, dispersed, or even held for a time in bondage, but they soon shake off the yoke. They compare themselves to seedlings that a storm may bend to the ground but that rise again when the winds drop". The article ends "The unconquerable spirit of Polish democracy, sooner or later, will raise her again to share in the ultimate victory of right over might."

"In their defeat the defenders of Warsaw accomplished a triumph of the spirit" — such was the general tone of the English language press.

Looking at the matter not from a Polish but from a general viewpoint let us ask: Could Warsaw's defense — the sacrifice of a single city — have any great effect on the history of this global war? Did it have such an effect?

Great wars are not decided solely on the checkerboard of war by momentous strategic moves, by balances of war production and the results of diplomatic chess games. In the inner mechanism of war spiritual forces are a decisive factor. Enthusiasm, confidence and readiness for sacrifice, unponderable factors difficult to define play no mean part in war potential. No one can calculate their weight but it is certain and beyond doubt that wars cannot be won without confidence in victory and enthusiasm.

Future historians dealing with the psychological aspects of this war will have to take into account the heroic defense of Warsaw. This sacrifice did no damage worth mention to Hitler's war machine but it broke the magic spell of the supernatural power of Blitzkrieg and it rekindled the faltering faith and will to fight of civilized nations.

Chords of Chopin's Polonaise coming from dying Warsaw, echoing in the hearts of millions of Poles, also quickened the conscience of the world.

Although by many considered an act of madness and suicide, Poland's NO to Hitler on September 1, 1939 decided the course of history for centuries to come, just as the defense of Warsaw showed that no physical power can break the spirit of a nation. Poland placed into the hands of the civilized nations of the world the first banner of Freedom for which she sacrificed herself.

In the psychological chronology of this war Warsaw stands first. Not only as the capital of the nation that was the first to fight, the first to offer up its very existence on the altar of democracy, the only one among the conquered nations which has no Quisling — paying for its refusal to yield with the lives of 3,000,000 of its children, but as the spiritual inspiration of the United Nations.

The defense of Warsaw has been followed during four years of war by many other epics, some famous, some unsung, in many lands, at sea and in the air, but all had their seeds in the September days, in the deliberate sacrifice of the Polish capital and in the chords of Chopin's Polonaise.

All that is good and free in the world, owes a debt to Warsaw, to the Great and Royal Warsaw, now in rags and ruins!

That debt is yet unpaid by the world



Monument of Marja Skłodowska-Curie by H. Nitsch

The American people owe a historic debt to the people of Poland, not in dollars that can be measured nor repaid in dollars or in zloty, but a debt of gratitude and of brotherly affection. That is a kind of debt whose payment is honorable and beneficial to both parties. It is a kind of debt which can never be extinguished and which nevertheless is not burdensome, because it is indeed, a mutual debt, and every act of friendship which is paid on account generates fresh obligations.

Names of streets and of cities throughout the United States continually remind us of Putaski and of Kościuszko both of whom fought and one of whom died in our war for national independence. And of Kościuszko we ought to remember that in after years he emancipated his Polish serfs and that by his will he provided a fund in our country, to be used in purchasing negro slaves and giving them their freedom.

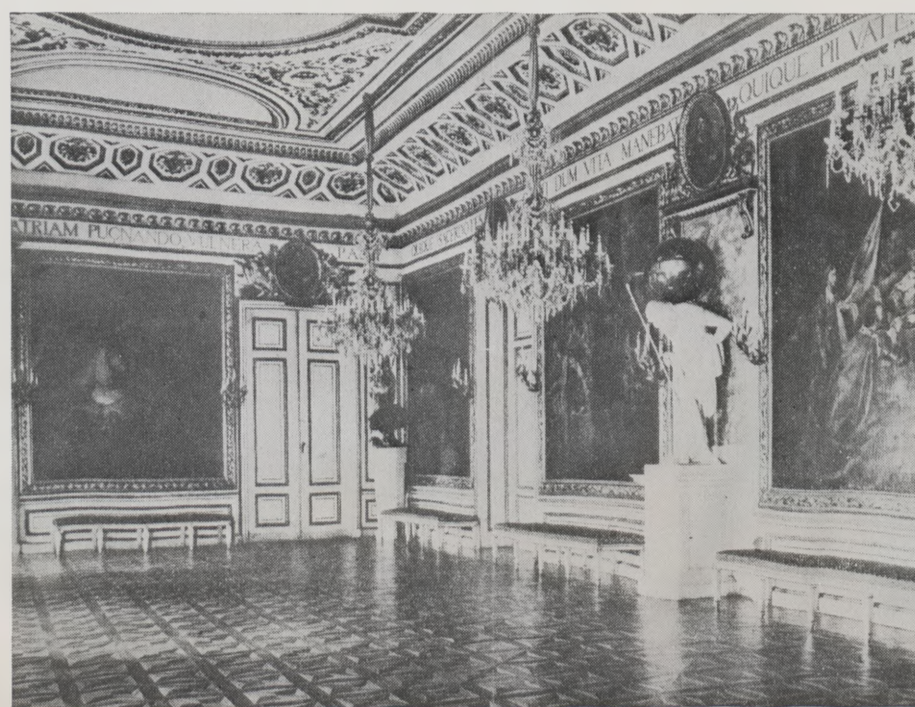
The debt is mutual. United States has been a place of refuge for exiled Polish patriots and a home for Polish immigrants fleeing from economic exploitation. And they in turn, have by their labor and their talents, contributed to our material wealth and to our democratic culture.

The debt is mutual in another sense. The example of the young Republic of the West gave hope to the Polish people in their struggles against the Romanoffs, the Habsburgs, and the Hohenzollerns. But their struggles in turn, gave encouragement to Americans who were striving to uphold and develop our own democracy.

Near my late mother's birthplace in rural Pennsylvania there is a tiny village named Warsaw. It took that name a few years before her birth. There were no Poles there, only native American and British immigrants. They gave the village its name in honor of the unknown heroes who were then fighting and dying in the Polish revolt of 1830-31.

After 1830 came 1863, and after 1863 came 1918, and through all the intervening years the underground struggle went on. And whether they knew it or not, those who fought for liberty in Poland, were serving the cause of freedom in all lands.

ALGERNON LEE
State Chairman of the Social Democratic Federation and President of the Rand School of Social Sciences in New York



Hall in the Royal Castle

ADAM PRAGIER

Poland's War Aims

The internal reconstruction of Poland, as foreseen by the Polish underground movement in Poland itself and by Polish circles abroad, has to be based on the following principles: a republic, with a government responsible to a freely elected parliament, widespread self-government, equality of all citizens before the law and complete freedom of expression and assembly. In the economic sphere the program postulates a national control of the main branches of production, in particular transport, mines and the principal raw materials and a planned economy aiming at a greater industrialization of the country, and the raising of the standard of living of both, the urban and rural population.

A Poland formed on these lines is to participate as an independent member in a wider international alliance — that is in a federation of the Central European Zone. This zone has a population of upwards of 110 millions. Such a Federation should be given considerable political and economic cohesion. It should conduct a common foreign policy, both unified defensive measures, and pursue a single economic policy, both at home and abroad, based on a common plan. Each member state should renounce part of its sovereign rights in favor of the Federation in all those spheres in which this is necessary or the efficient working of the whole Federation. This will enable the federal bodies to take decisions in all questions of federal foreign policy, defense, and economy. The foreign policy of the Federation must be based on close collaboration with Great Britain, the U. S. A. and Soviet Russia.

The problem of Poland's frontiers arose only recently. This is quite natural since Poland had no intention of starting war or increasing her territory. In fact she had no territorial war aims.

The real meaning of the second World War — as a German attempt at world conquest — is quite clear today. We must therefore shape the future frontiers of Germany in a manner that will make a fresh military attempt of this kind impossible. This is not only a Polish-German, but also a general European problem; it includes territorial questions such as the Baltic Straits and the Kiel Canal, over which Great Britain and the other United Nations must have control; it also includes the Franco-German frontier region. As for the German frontier with Poland and Czechoslovakia, the German enclave in the East — East Prussia — and the German wedge between Poland and Czechoslovakia in middle and lower Silesia, must be eliminated. This will make it possible to form a Polish-Czechoslovak defensive line as a further continuation of the shortened and straightened western frontier of the whole Central European Zone.

In view of the necessity for Czechoslovakia and Poland to be linked together in a Central European Federation, the frontier dispute between the two countries may be dismissed as of no importance whatever. It is now being artificially fostered by third parties wishing to weaken the idea of federation.

It is obvious that a satisfactory settlement of frontiers constitutes only part of our defensive measures against potential German aggression. Equally important is the industrialization and economic development of the Central European Zone so that the latter will no longer be a raw material base for German industry. This will compel the Germans to import their raw materials from overseas and to seek markets not through political domination in a disorganized Central Europe and the Middle East, but through economic cooperation on terms of equality with all the other countries in the world. It will therefore be an effective means of depriving Germany of economic autonomy as a basis for war economy. In addition Germany must be effectively disarmed by the reduction to reasonable proportions of Germany's heavy, metallurgical, machine building and chemical industries. The Germans have built up these industries not to cover their own needs, and frequently not even to export, but for future war. To carry these plans out Allied troops will have to occupy Germany for a number of years. Such occupation will in the course of time help to transform Germany into a state capable of peaceful relations with the rest of the world. This is an essential condition of all effective control of Germany's disarmament, and of all serious plans for reeducating Germans.

In regard to Russia, Poland has no war aims whatever. At the outbreak of the second world war, Polish-Soviet relations were completely normal. The Riga Treaty of 1921 has settled a territorial conflict by a compromise solution which both parties had accepted as a basis for future friendly relations. In point of fact, there was no territorial dispute between Poland and Russia during the following eighteen years, until September 17, 1939, neither side questioning the territorial integrity of the other. A pact of non-aggression was concluded in 1932 and extended for further ten years in 1934. When on September 17, 1939, Soviet forces attacked Poland from the East, while she was fighting the German aggressors in the West, Soviet Russia fulfilled all the criteria applying to the aggressor as laid down by the pact of 1933. Soviet Russia then broke her own pact of non-aggression. It is understandable that Russia took this aggressive step as a strategic measure of defense against an anticipated attack by Germany. But new circumstances came into play. The Soviet authorities deported from the occupied area over a million Polish citizens — Poles, Ukrainians and Jews — from all classes: peasants, workers and intelligentsia. The great majority were placed in forced labour camps in the remote North, where those who have survived starvation and terrible conditions are still working. Finally, under military pressure, the population of the occupied area was forced to vote in the elections to the "national assemblies" and subsequently it was announced that the areas had been incorporated in the Soviet Union. All this was done in accordance with the Soviet-Ger-

man treaty for the partition of Poland. This treaty was annulled by the Polish-Soviet agreement of July 30, 1941, shortly after Germany had attacked Russia.

Today the Soviet armed forces are arousing the admiration of the whole world. The Poles were not among them, for they knew Russia better than others do. They know the tremendous effort made by Russia in the last twenty years and appreciate the moral principles which guided the Soviet masses. The victories of the Soviet army against Germany were apparently regarded by Soviet political circles as the right moment for rising territorial claims against Poland. The Ribbentrop-Molotov line which gave Russia 51% of the Polish territory was invalidated by the German-Soviet war, the Polish-Soviet agreements and by the Atlantic Charter. Now certain Soviet circles wish to restore this line without any fundamental changes. Recently the Soviet side has put forward the doctrine of the "Soviet" "sphere of interests" in Central Europe. Repressive measures have also been applied against Polish citizens now in U. S. S. R., Soviet citizenship has been imposed upon them all, although they have shown no desire to change their nationality. The help sent by the Polish Government and the United States to these people has been held up. The execution of the two prominent leaders of the Jewish Socialist movement in Poland — Earlich and Alser — throws an ominous light on the condition in which Polish citizens in the Soviet Union live.

All political groups in Poland reject Russia's claims and the arguments produced to justify them. They have always decidedly rejected all suggestions of aggression against Russia, whether they were made by Germany or by certain circles of the West. But at the same time they reject all claims and "fait accompli" designed to give legal sanction to the Russian occupation of Polish territory carried out at a time when Russia was cooperating with Germany.

Only by rejecting any kind of aggression can conditions for a political and economic collaboration in Eastern Europe be created. Only in this way can security and lasting peace be assured.

Poland's magnificent patriotism and spiritual integrity enabled her people to overcome the destruction of the first World War. An equivalent spirit has been present as well in Poland's financial dealings as I was able to observe at firsthand during the years from 1927 to 1930 when it was my privilege to serve as Financial Advisor to the Polish Government and thus enjoy the hospitality and friendships of Warsaw.

The high character of the Polish people which, despite the ravages of successive occupations has perpetuated their spirit as an example of just patriotism, was I recall everywhere appreciable in Warsaw — the beauty of refinement is the Łazienki Palace the parquet floors of the Zamek, Corozzi's Opera House, so faithfully attended by the Capital's citizens, the shoots of Swięty Hubert, organized in much the same spirit as a golf game near an American city, the Belvedere so like the White House, King Sigismund's column, the Nowy Świat, the Place de Saxe, the grave of the Unknown Soldier, the ancient square of Stare Miasto under the snow — all these now destroyed, I think on with keen appreciation as evidences of an indelible spirit which will know how to make again of Poland's capital the cultural and ideological center it has been in the past.

CHARLES S. DEWEY
Representative of Illinois
Former Financial Advisor
of the Polish Government

The immediate question of Poland's future is a military and diplomatic question, not one which comes under the jurisdiction of the Congress.

However, as a friend and admirer of the Polish people, I join millions of other Americans in hoping that Poland will be liberated as soon as it is militarily possible and that it will have the post-war right to self-determination which is implicit in the Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms.

Once a cynical world idly watched the repeated partitions of Poland by plunder-hungry European powers. Even a woman, Maria Theresa, participated in this criminal seizure of Polish territory, though it is said that she wept while demanding her share.

We have learned the hard ways of tears and suffering and regret, of the inevitable reckoning which follows a cynical or indifferent attitude toward the fate of weaker nations. I hope the lesson sticks this time. After all, wasn't the protection of Poland's sovereignty the ostensible cause of this war?

The Atlantic Charter and the four Freedoms must remain "just words" until Public Opinion, force and the structure of viable international policy are put behind them to allow them to operate for the freedom of all nations as they were intended.

CLARE BOOTHE LUCE
Representative of Connecticut

OSKAR HALECKI

SIX CENTURIES OF WARSAW'S GLORIOUS PAST

(1339 — 1939)



View of Warsaw in the 16th Century

Warsaw's past can be traced back much farther than 1339. But it is so happened that exactly six hundred years before the tragedy of 1939 Warsaw appeared for the first time on a memorable page of Polish history. And the issues which were discussed in Warsaw in September 1339, were exactly the same which six centuries later inspired the heroic defenders of Poland's capital.

The Polish city of Dantzig had been conquered by the Teutonic Knights in 1308, after a massacre of its population. Pomorze, Poland's maritime province, had proved impossible to defend, since the German conquest of East Prussia in the thirteenth century, had made it a "corridor" between Brandenburg and the new German colony. After having been cut off from her Baltic coast, and after more than twenty years of vain protests and armed resistance, Poland had been invaded by the Teutonic Order and cruelly devastated. Bohemian and Hungarian devastation having failed to settle the problem, it finally was brought in 1339 before an ecclesiastical court: French judges, appointed by the Pope, came to Warsaw and during seven months carefully listened to the statements of 126 representatives of all Polish provinces and all classes of Polish society, which proved that the lost territory was Polish from time immemorial, and described the atrocities of the invaders.

It was in vain that the court decided in favor of Poland: the award published in Warsaw was entirely disregarded by the German side and it lasted more than one hundred years before the wrong done to Poland was repaired, only to be repeated at the end of the eighteenth century, in the time of the partitions, and again in our days. During these centuries to come, Warsaw which in 1339 was a small town of one of the Masovian duchies not yet completely reunited with the Kingdom of Poland and therefore considered almost neutral territory, was steadily growing, eventually to become the capital of Poland, old and new, and one of the largest cities of Europe. The six centuries of that development can be divided into two almost equal parts: a little more than three hundred years of peace, prosperity and happiness, followed by almost three hundred years of tragic vicissitudes, including a succession of gallant fights and untold sufferings.

The first of these main periods of Warsaw's destinies might be divided again into two different stages. For almost two centuries Warsaw was happy, because it practically had no history, at least in the military and political sense. The whole province of Masovia, surrounded and defended by other Polish territories wherever nature itself had not protected it by forests and lakes, recognizing the sovereignty of the Jagellonian kings of Poland, but without actively participating in their international policies, was living a rather quiet life under a branch of the former royal dynasty, the Piasts. And quietly Warsaw, without having been the original capital of Masovia, nor even the capital of one of the chief duchies, benefited by its favorable situation in the very heart of the country in order to outgrow the old centers, Plock and Czersk, and to become the residence of the last Masovian dukes who died in 1524 and 1526.

It therefore was in Warsaw that the fate of Masovia was decided and that in 1529 the Polish Diet, for the first time meeting in that city, eventually made the whole province an integral part of the Kingdom. In spite of Masovia's purely Polish character, there remained some local regionalism, hardly less conspicuous than in the Lithuanian, Ruthenian or Prussian parts of the Jagellonian federation. Soon, however, the central, Masovian region, and more especially its present capital, were to play a leading part in the peaceful process of unification of the Commonwealth. And it was then, not much later than the decisive date of 1526, that Warsaw entered an epoch of more than a century, where the happiness of the city resulted from the real greatness of its historical role.

On several occasions, the Polish Diet, from the fifteenth century usually meeting in Piotrków, returned to Warsaw where it was easier for the Lithuanian Diet to be represented by official delegates. And when it was agreed in Lublin, in 1569, that Poland and Lithuania, strengthening the ties of their federal union, would henceforth have one common Diet and elect in common their common ruler, it was decided that in the future that Diet

would regularly meet in Warsaw and the election of the King take place in one of Warsaw's suburbs, at Wola.

The first of these Parliaments of the Commonwealth, in 1570, was followed as soon as 1573 by the first royal election at the gates of Warsaw, and it was during the preliminary discussions of that year that the so called Confederation of Warsaw definitely guaranteed peace, and liberty to all religious denominations making the city where it was signed, rightly famous in the general history of freedom of worship.

In the history of Warsaw, the decisions of 1569 were only a first step towards its recognition as capital of the Royal Republic. The next and final one was made soon after the election of Sigismund III, in 1587, who wanted to be nearer to his Swedish home land and to the Baltic, and therefore, towards the end of the century, transferred his residence from Cracow to Warsaw. It was his royal castle which was to be destroyed by the Germans during and after the bombardment of 1939, and his statue, astonishingly unharmed, is still looking down, from a high column, on the unfortunate city...

But its happiness remained undisturbed during his and his successor's, Władysław IV, reign. Never had Warsaw been more flourishing, adorned by new constructions, and famous all over Europe as center of a country whose boundaries had never been larger than in the first half of the seventeenth century. A Tsar of Russia was brought to Warsaw as a prisoner of war, and the successors of Albrecht von Brandenburg — the first Hohenzollern who as duke of East Prussia had paid homage to the king of Poland, one hundred years before, in the old capital Cracow — did it now in the new one.

The tide was, however, turning, and Warsaw, after having shared with the whole country its days of prosperity, entered with her, in 1648, into a long period of calamities. Though alarmed by the Cossack insurrection which started at that date, the capital was never reached by these internal enemies. But the foreign invasions of the so called "Deluge" soon made the very center of Poland for the first time a battle ground. In September 1655 Warsaw was occupied by the Swedes, and scarcely liberated, felt again temporarily in the hands of the aggressors, after an unsuccessful battle of three days which in July 1656 had to be fought near the city, not only against the Swedes, but also against the Prussian vassal of Poland who had betrayed her.

The glory of Sobieski who had his favorite residence in the castle of Wilanów, next to Warsaw, did not last, and fifty years after the first Swedish invasion, a second one led to another battle of Warsaw, in 1704. After the decline of the country and of its capital under Saxon kings who preferred to stay in Dresden, the reign of Stanisław August Poniatowski, Poland's last King who was crowned, in 1764, not on the Wawel, but in the cathedral of Warsaw, seemed to favor the city. He made it the center of a splendid cultural revival, of which the Łazienki palace was to be a lasting testimony, and the scene of a promising reform movement: Warsaw's greatest days were believed to return when Poland's Great Parliament was in session there for four years and when the constitution of May 3, 1791, was adopted, amidst the enthusiasm of the population.

Unfortunately, the anticlimax came the next year, when Russia whose ambassadors already had terrorized Warsaw in a recent past, occupied the city after a short campaign which crushed the defenders of the new Constitution. And Kościuszko's fight for Poland's independence which started in Warsaw only a few days after Cracow, brought to the capital a siege by both Russians and Prussians and finally the massacre of the suburb Praga by the victorious army of Suvorov. The third partition in 1795, gave Warsaw to Prussia, making it artificially a frontier city.

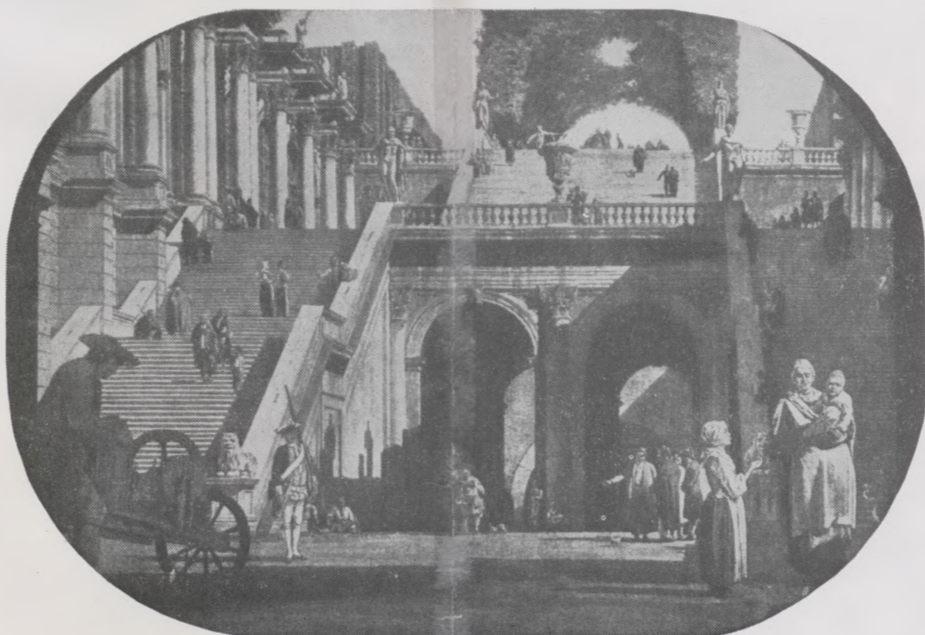
When Napoleon twelve years later liberated the central part of Poland, but hoping to appease Russia, avoided to revive Poland's name, he called his creation the Duchy of Warsaw, certainly a tribute to the city's historical role. In 1809, after the battle of Raszyn, not far from its walls, the capital was in turn occupied by the Austrians, but only for a very short time. The Russian occupation which put an end to all the hopes raised by Napoleon, was, on the contrary, to last a whole cen-

tury: from the Congress of Vienna which sanctioned it, until the first World War.

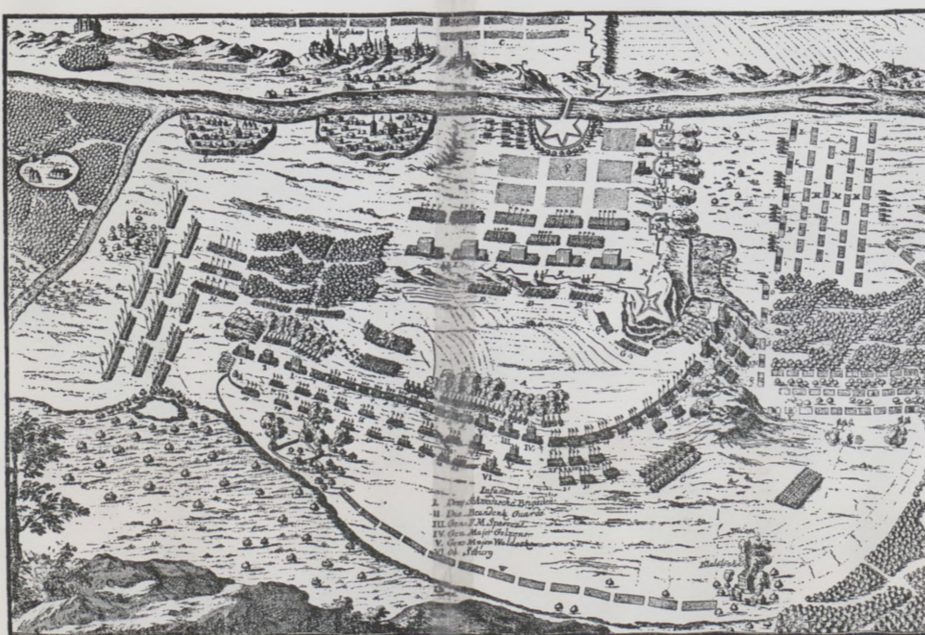
The same century was, however, a period of Warsaw's resistance against Russian rule, truly symbolic of Poland's unconquered spirit. Recognizing the fictitious character of the autonomy granted in 1815, Warsaw started the November insurrection of 1830 as well as the January insurrection of 1863 which both did not end before "order" was reestablished in the heroic city. In vain a Russian citadel was built at Warsaw's outskirts and a Russian cathedral on its largest square. In vain everything was superficially Russified: from the University to the names of the streets. In vain the city was punished, sometimes by bloody repressions, and con-

My thoughts go back to Warsaw as a father to me, of whom I cannot think without being deeply moved; Gruszczyński with his splendid voice, which unfortunately died away so soon; Zbońska-Ruszkowska, worthy of the biggest stages of the world, Dygas, Michałowski, Kiepusza, the stage-manager Kawalski, my best friend Franek Freszel from Stryj—how many names, people and experiences are connected with those times. Today the beautiful over one hundred years old building of the Great Theatre is in ruins. No other music than the whistling of the wind resounds between the wrecked and burned walls. The city of my youthful love has become the city of tragic heroism and of most terrible experiences. But the stronger the heart clings to these walls and the more our best thoughts turn toward them. Once more I take my refuge to dreams, I can see the rebuilt theater walls, can hear voices of an awakened life. Have I to add how much I would like to witness such a re-birth?

ARTHUR RODZINSKI



The Royal Castle of Warsaw in the times of King Stanisław August Poniatowski, by B. Canaletto



The Battle of Warsaw in July 1656

tinuously by the neglect of the administration. It rebelled again in 1905 showing that Poland was ready for her liberation.

That liberation was preceded in 1915, by another occupation, the German one. Warsaw utilized the change and the struggle between the two invaders in order to prepare itself for being again the capital of a free Poland. In 1918, after the breakdown of the German army, it proved easy to disarm the foreign garrison in the streets of Warsaw where both Piłsudski and Paderewski were enthusiastically welcomed one after the other. But before enjoying what seemed to be a new period of happiness, Warsaw had to live one of the most dangerous moments of its history. The battle of Warsaw in August 1920 was not only a highlight of the heroism of an already glorious city but a turning point in world history.

It was only after that "miracle of the Vistula" that Warsaw could lead the restored Republic of Poland on the way of peaceful reconstruction and general progress. Only nineteen years were granted for that purpose. It proved an illusion that a new era of prosperity was beginning. Warsaw's heroic age had not yet reached its climax. The same Mayor Starzyński who had hoped to achieve Warsaw's transformation into one of the most beautiful cities of Europe, decided rather to see achieved its complete destruction than to abandon a tradition of six hundred years. For the same cause which was discussed in the small and almost unknown Warsaw of 1339; for the greatness of Poland which made Warsaw's greatness in 1569; for the honor which was saved even in the defeats of 1656 or 1794; in memory of those who died in the streets of Warsaw or in Siberia after each of the insurrections; in memory of the boys led by a priest, almost as young as themselves, into the desperate struggle of Radzymin in 1920; in memory of the unknown defenders of Warsaw in all ages — Warsaw was defended again without any hope of avoiding the greatest tragedy in its history.

Today, after four years, we all realize that the ordeal of September 1939 was only the beginning of this tragedy. God only knows when it will end.



Warsaw at the beginning of the 19th century with the column of Sigismund III in the background



Warsaw at the beginning of the 19th century (with the Staszic Palace, headquarters of the Society of Science and Letters in the background)

MIECZYSLAW LISIEWICZ

Warsaw's Aviation Future

The people of Warsaw often used to complain that there were no mountains in the vicinity of the city, where they could devote themselves to skiing. But I believe that after the war their mind will be changed. Since just the plains around Warsaw will become their blessing and a source of good income. For the most wonderful air-fields can be built easily upon such fairly dry plains, and with not too high expenses.

Many air-fields will have to be built in the vicinity of Warsaw after the war. If you know a pilot then ask him please, what way an English pilot has to choose in order to get to London from Baghdad, or which route a French pilot may select to come to Moscow from Paris. What are the best air ways leading from the Baltic to the Black Sea? And after he will have explained all that to you beautifully put one more question before him. Ask him about the route of the projected gigantic air way, which is projected to encompass the whole Northern hemisphere, and which is popularly called the New York - New York route. And when in a not too distant future planes on their way from America to Europe will transverse the North Pole passing Fairbanks and Trondheim, where and over what European center must they take their way so as to find the best connecting point to Moscow, Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Cairo, Baghdad, to Australia, or the Indies?

From your informant's answer you will quickly guess that all existing or projected European - Asiatic communication - lines either lead over Warsaw, or end in Warsaw. If not in Warsaw itself, then, at any rate, in its vicinity, in a radius not bigger than 150 miles. Do you still recall which route all the American and English record fliers took, who crossed the Eurasian continent? If a forced landing became necessary, this always took place in Poland, around Warsaw. You certainly remember where Amy Johnson landed on her way back from her flight from London to Sidney. You know, it was in Poland, not far from Warsaw!

The year 1939 brought about a revolution, a revolution so big that mankind had a similar experience only once in the course of its development, — in 1492, when Columbus discovered America. This discovery as well as the discovery of the way to the Indies by the Dutch and Portuguese has completely remodelled the aspect of the world. For then the period of continental and river communication came to a stop, and a new period began: that of sea and intercontinental transportation.

Communication is the expression of all life upon earth as well as the basis of the development of nations. Changes of communication lines create consequently changes of the political conditions of states and nations. Up to the time of Columbus those continental cities which were traversed by important land and river ways became centers around which economic unities were built. Later when the transportation of goods across the seas instead by roads became more and more common, — the harbors began to play the role of great economic and cultural centers.

Since 1939 we are conscious of the fact that air-planes can destroy not only harbors but equally ships on the sea. The harbors have ceased to dictate their will to the continent. For master of the port is he who has the air basis on land. History has described a circle and has returned to the starting point. Due to aviation the continent again dominates the sea. A short time ago the one was the mightiest who possessed most of the sea-ports. Today the mightiest position is determined by the possession of the key air-bases.

Due to her central situation in Europe, Poland, and especially her capital, War-

saw, becomes one of the most important world air-communication centers. If not the most important in Europe.

One may object: The air is free, one can fly where one wants. But this is not the case. Also the sea can not be crossed arbitrarily. The water ways as the air ways are determined by climatical and meteorological factors. The air-ways, however, have to take into consideration one more factor: the ground below. Air-ways cannot be planned above grounds where storms are prevalent, or eternal fogs, they cannot be established above high mountains or above regions which are lacking in water. The severe and stern principles of safety and economy dictate the route of the air-ways. And these are as unchangeable in the sky-blue space of the air as are the railway tracks on the ground.

Europe is divided into South and North Europe. Both parts are separated from each other by mountain-ranges of great altitude, highly disadvantageous to air-flights. If one wants to fly truly safely from European capitals to Africa, Asia, or Australia, one must choose the air-way over the Polish plains, where there are sufficient airports and terrestrial communication lines, and where no meteorological surprises are to be expected. Coming from the Polish plains one reaches the Rumanian plains, or the Russian steppes. Thus every communication plane flying from West to East, or from North to South, from Paris to London, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Riga or Helsinki, must land on Polish territory — in Warsaw.

To exclude Poland is impossible. Therefore the aviation future of Warsaw will be enormous after the war. The existence of air-centers will decide about the development of a city, just as in the past the existence of a sea-port was decisive. And since Warsaw will be with all certainty one of the biggest air-centers in Europe, in direct and indirect connection with all central stations of the Transatlantic communication system, therefore Warsaw will in a short time become one of the biggest cities of the world.

E. S. WITKOWSKI

in tribute

to

HEROICAL

WARSAW

MODERN PRE-WAR WARSAW



Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Architect: Bohdan Pniewski



Vistula Boulevard



Navy Department



Friends' Avenue



Monument of General Joseph Sowiński, Warsaw's Defender in 1831, by Thaddeus Breyer



"Prudential" — one of the tallest buildings in Europe



"Prudential" — an architectonic detail



Employees' Houses in Warsaw

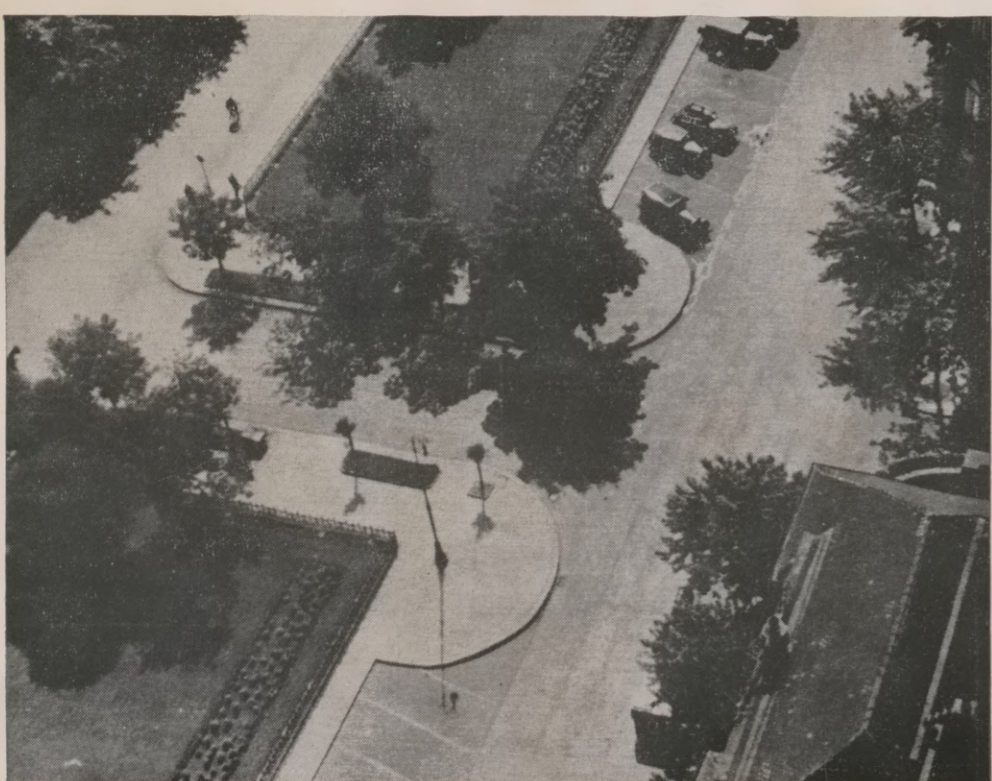


WARSAWA. Pomnik Chopina - VARSOVIE. Monument de Chopin.

Chopin Monument. Sculpture by Wacław Szymanowski



"Professors' Colony" — Górnośląska Street



A Square from the Bird's View



Modern House



Modern Houses



JERZY TEPA

Poland's Fighting Underground

The record of the Polish underground is written in blood of the nameless heroes on the slopes of the Citadel, the walls of the Polish towns and villages. This record passes into the history of Europe as a completely exceptional phenomenon. Little is known about it. Legends are formed and told about the Polish underground, in which reality mingles with phantasy, concrete facts with the unknown to us atmosphere of conspiratorial fight, the truth about the revolutionary uprising of the nation with the magic of rumors coming down to us from the mysterious land on the Vistula, which for 150 years fights desperately, and yet always victorious for its independence.

The legend of the Polish heroism was brought to the American continent by George Washington's two heroic companions in arms: Kosciuszko and Pulaski. When Poland, yielding to the superior forces of Germany and Russia was compelled to lay down her arms for a time, Kosciuszko and Pulaski joined full of enthusiasm the American ranks, in order to fight, true to the Polish parole, "for freedom, ours and yours, alike." The legend grew in power and scope. Under Napoleon it was spread over seas and continents by the famous legions of Dąbrowski and by the heroic figures of the princes Poniatowski and Sułkowski. Three times in the course of the nineteenth century the Polish nation seized the arms, in the year 1831, 1848 and 1863 to wage war against the occupying forces. And in the twentieth century the Polish nation again took up arms, to rebuild in the year 1919 "from the smokes of fires and the waves of blood" a state which has earned the admiration of the whole world by its dynamics and greatness.

Today the legend is reborn rising as the Phoenix from the ashes. Poland went underground, she fights and awaits the order for an uprising. The nation, which for 150 years "went to bed with the gun to get up ready for the attack", knows, as no other European nation, all the means and methods of conspiratorial work, she gathers the fruits of her rich historical experiences in leading an every day fight against the oppressor. The legend has not lost its wings, but, on the other hand, it has won a new weapon: the help of the world democracy. And a second one: the uniform organization supported by the steady contact with the staffs of the Allies.

Therefore in evaluating the four years of the Polish underground fight against the invader, one must pierce the mists of the beautiful legend and remain on the hard ground of reality. Let the facts themselves speak. They are more interesting and, it is true, more tragical than any legend.

8,000,000 Poles Sacrificed Their Lives For Freedom

The struggle of the Polish Nation for freedom and integrity of Poland cost the nation 8,000,000 victims. During that time 2,500,000 Poles were murdered by the Germans.

500,000 Poles were starved to death by the Germans.

2,000,000 Poles were sent to forced labor in Germany.

1,600,000 Poles were deported from Western Poland to the Government General.

1,500,000 Poles were deported by the Soviets to Russia.

348 villages have been burned to the ground and ploughed under like Lidice. 1,080 have been evacuated and all the inhabitants either killed or deported.

The System of the Polish Underground Movement and the Organization of Tribunals

The single actions of the underground movement (the guerilla warfare, acts of sabotage and attentates) which in the first year of its existence were not coordinated for reasons which can be only too well understood, have begun to function in conformity and coordination already in 1940. This was achieved after the establishment of a steady contact with the government of General Sikorski and the Polish Army, at first in Paris, and then in London. The nation realized soon that unorganized actions could only lead to a quicker liquidation of the foci of resistance and to a conspiracy of the fighters. In a series of secret meetings it was decided to form the Directorate of Civilian Resistance which was to direct the whole of the partisan fights in Poland. The Directorate of Civilian Resistance is in direct contact with the delegate of the Polish government, who came to Poland from London with full powers from the Polish government.

To the delegate of the Polish government are subject all secret cadets of the Polish civilian authorities which are prepared to immediately take over all the offices at the moment of the uprising in

Poland. The organization is worked out for the whole territory according to the former voivodeships (województwa) corresponding to the single states in the U.S.A.

At the same time an organization of tribunals has been passing immediate verdicts against Germans who have evinced particular cruelty against Poles, have performed illegal executions, have robbed the possessions of the Polish state and its citizens. The verdicts are sent by letter to the delinquents a few days before their execution, and are printed in the underground press, which comprises around 180 papers. The following is a characteristic proclamation as appeared in the secret Polish paper: "Rzeczpospolita Polska", on April 18, 1943:

ANNOUNCEMENT

From the sentences by the Polish Special Tribunal is herewith communicated an extract from the following verdict:

IN THE NAME OF THE POLISH REPUBLIC!

On February 12, 1943. The Special Tribunal in Warsaw after having discerned the case of Herman Gleist, leader of the Arbeitsamt (labor-office) in Warsaw, born on July 2, 1901 in Berlin and accused in 1942 in Warsaw of a.) being the leader of the Arbeitsamt was the main organizer of the street raids and one of the promoters of the action to deport the Polish population to Germany, and has shown cruelty in performing his duties in relation to the Poles, b.) taking advantage of his position forced profit for his own person in using against the persons interested the threat of deportation to forced labor to Germany, — has passed the verdict: to recognize Hermann Gleist, born on July 2, 1901, leader of the Arbeitsamt, guilty of the crimes accused of, and has condemned him to the PENALTY OF DEATH. This verdict has been executed on March 8, 1943 by shooting.

The Directorate of Civilian Resistance

"The verdict has been executed" announced that day the Polish secret radio "SWIT" informing all Germans that the orders of the Directorate of Civilian Resistance are being immediately afterwards executed, and that they must not be disregarded.

Commissary Gleist did not disregard them. From the moment he had received the letter containing his verdict, he never went out without escort. He was shot together with the Gestapo agent who accompanied him. Thus perished also Hugo Dietz and Bruno Kurtz, chief of the German bureau of social welfare. He was shot in the street at the moment, when he had just finished reading the letter with his verdict. He had found the letter in a German paper handed to him by a newspaper boy. The boy disappeared in the crowd, the Gestapo agents seized a man whom they supposed to be the attempter. But having convinced themselves that the man succeeded by them was blind and had no revolver they let him free. The blind man got lost to the sight. He was not blind, and he had thrown away his revolver into a laundry basket. The laundress passed unnoted through the police cordon. Nobody had seen how the revolver was thrown between the laundry for two ladies quarrelling passionately with each other, covered the basket with their umbrellas. Henceforth this fighting five were called the "Kurtz five". The laundress and the newspaper boy both are in England now. They are the wife and son of a known Warsaw businessman, who was shot on the slopes of the Warsaw Citadel in 1939. Mrs. R. is a lieutenant in the Polish Womens Voluntary Guard, and her son is a cadet on one of the Polish merchant marine ships.

The Polish vengeance acts immediately. In the beginning of May 1943, 55 Poles were executed in the Pawiak prison in Warsaw and in street encounters 340 Poles were killed. The Directorate of Civilian Resistance stated the names of the organizers of the massacre and three Gestapo officers, a colonel and two lieutenants, were killed on May 22 in the Warsaw café "Adria". In April 1943 the Polish National Tribunal punished with death because of crimes committed against Poles, 14 Gestapo agents in Kielce and 40 in Lublin.

One of the most daring acts of the Polish underground was the shooting of the Polish Heydrich, Wilhelm Krueger.

The Death of Cracow's Hangman

Wilhelm Krueger, the main representative of Himmler in the Government General, S. S. group-leader and chief of the

so-called Safety Department was the highest Gestapo authority upon Polish territory. To him were subject the German police, Gestapo and S. S. formations. In his position Krueger developed an incredibly bestial energy which manifested itself in thousands of executions and in the imprisonment of ten thousands of Poles behind the wires of concentration camps.

When he headed the list of German hangmen who surpassed the others in cruelty — the list being prepared by the Tribunal of Vengeance — the Directorate of Civilian Resistance condemned him to death.

It was on the evening of May 2nd, at 10 o'clock, Krueger having inspected the city came in his car to the main police office in Cracow. He was not surprised to find an enforced guard numbering 4 Gestapo agents on the steps, since he himself had ordered the alarm that night. This was the evening before May 3rd, the greatest Polish holiday, — the anniversary of the day, on which in the year 1791 the Polish nation established the first democratic constitution in Europe. The national holiday of May 3rd, so solemnly observed in the free Poland, has become a day of massacres and repressions after the German occupation, a day of street fights and mass demonstrations.

The adjutant opens the door of the car. Krueger gets out and stands on the steps of the building, rendering the Hitler salute to the guard. As answer shots fall from Tommy-guns. The German guard has fired at Krueger and his escort. Krueger collapse



The Royal Castle in Ruins.

ses bloodstained on the pavement. In alarm police comes running from the building. Silence. The fighters from the Directorate of Civilian Resistance, who have waited in Gestapo uniforms, for an hour in front of the police building, have disappeared having performed the verdict. And the night was their accomplice.

In the same night from May 2nd to 3rd all the Polish monuments, which had remained in Warsaw as well as the places where formerly monuments had stood, were covered by piles of red and white flowers. Polish flags appeared in the morning on many places of the city, hung out by unknown hands upon German buildings.

In the afternoon of May 3rd crowds of Polish people gathered on the places of Warsaw and in silence they gave reverence to the memory of the fallen as it has been the case during all the national holidays from September 1, 1939 on. The silence was disturbed by "official" German loudspeakers, posted at the corners of the streets and playing incessantly noisy marches and waltzes.

Suddenly a deep silence. The German transmission has been interrupted. After a short while, however, the loudspeakers are heard again. The wonderful majestic strains of the revolutionary "Rota", the Polish Marseillaise are sung by an invisible choir. Then comes a pathetic appeal by the delegate of the Polish government, calling up to resistance and perseverance. Then the national hymn:

"Poland is not yet lost
As long as we live
What the alien power has taken from us
With might we shall regain..."

Before the German police could disconnect the loudspeakers, the transmission was over.

The masses remained standing in silent admiration. Somebody screamed, someone cried. And then silence again. Warsaw has celebrated in dignity the day of the 3rd of May.

Krueger, who had announced to the Poles in the Government General that there would be no more a 3rd of May holiday, was dying in a hospital in Cracow. He did not keep his promise. But the Directorate of Civilian Resistance kept its promise given to the Polish nation — "the verdict was executed!" Krueger, doomed to death, was dying in the capital of the Government General, at the moment when the 3rd of May was celebrated in the capital of Poland by the national Polish hymn, transmitted through the official German street loudspeakers, for a cable had been connected with the main cable by mechanics of the Polish radio station.

The Polish Underground Creates a Regular Army

Immediately after the contact with the Polish government has been established by the Polish underground, the organization of the cadres of the Polish army, the so-called "National Army" was begun according to the instructions received from the Polish staff in London. Forming normal detachments, the National Army continues the military training under enormous difficult conditions preparing for an organized uprising at the moment which will be announced by the supreme command of the Allied Armed Forces.

The strictly military secret does not permit to publish details of the continuous

contact between the command of the National Army and London. A fact which proves the existence of this contact are the constant efforts of the German secret police to paralyze, and be it only partly, the splendidly organized military communication net, the organizers and executors of which are silent heroes of the great cause of freedom.

The National Army has special detachments (S. C. D.) trained by instructors and specialized in the sabotage of objects being of military importance.

Communications from Poland give a picture of the work of these formations, particularly in the central and eastern parts of Poland. In March 1943, 424 Germans were killed and wounded and great damage was done and disorganizing actions were committed to the transportation, stocks of material and railway-cars.

In the eastern parts of Poland 17 trains were derailed in the course of one month — March 1943 — whereby 53 railway cars and 9 locomotive engines were destroyed. 60 gasoline, 20 olive oil and four wood spirits tank cars were burned. Taps were removed and the cisterns opened, containing round 800 gallons gasoline, the same damage was done to cisterns containing mineral oil and gas. One train carrying gasoline was completely destroyed, equally was destroyed a whole transport of 36 trucks.

In the same period of time, the action of one of the formations has brought about in the central parts of the state the derailment of trains and retaining of the traffic in 20 places, due to damage done to tracks and telegraph wires. Thereby seven locomotives and 112 railway cars were ruined, 53 being completely burnt. During these actions many of the accompanying German soldiers perished. In general, in central Poland, aside from the above actions,

riety of Krasnobrod a man-hunt for the population hiding before the deportation, and for the Polish partisan fighters in the woods. The fights began on February 4 and lasted until February 12. The Polish side received help from an intervention detachment of the National Army which striking from outwards, tore apart the enclosing ring and opened the way for the surrounded formations. According to received communications, our casualties were more than 20 men."

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

The Directorate of Civilian Resistance published on March 6 an addition to its announcement from February 26:

1.) The battle of Krasnobrod began already on February 1.

2.) On the Polish side took part units of the Armed Forces.

3.) On the German side took part round 2000 excellently equipped men; they used planes, tanks and anti-panzer cannons. The losses of the Germans resulted in about 40 casualties.

4.) The horrible cruelty of the Germans made itself manifest in a village beside Łuszczacz, where 60 innocent persons were massacred and in the district of Hamernia where in the villages women were raped and children and women were murdered.

The content of both announcements bears clearly witness to the fact that the guerrilla fights have taken on the aspect of regular battles between the National Army and detachments of the German Wehrmacht.

A new evidence of this action has been given by the famous battle in the Warsaw ghetto, about which much has written the whole American press. In this battle lasting from April 18 to the end of May, took part on the German side 6000 soldiers supported by panzers and artillery. The Jewish Fighting Organization with the help of the Polish Underground afflicted severe losses to the Germans, — but in the action perished 2000 Jews and 3000 corpses have been found in the burnt houses and under the ruins of the ghetto.

The Liberation of Political Prisoners in Warsaw

On an April afternoon 1943, when throngs of people filled the streets of Warsaw, a panzer-car left the Gestapo headquarters at Szucha alley, it was guarded by five Gestapo detectives and carried 24 Polish political prisoners for execution in the Pawiak prison. At the corner of Bielańska and Długa Streets a huge cart loaded with wood crossed its way. The impatient convoy leader hurried the driver of the cart to give way immediately. The driver did not understand the order and looked dull before him. Suddenly he rose and threw phlegmatically a metal object under the Gestapo car.

A deafening explosion followed. The hand grenade tore the motor of the car and

WOJCIECH ŚWIĘTOSŁAWSKI

WARSAW, THE CENTER OF LEARNING

There are six cities in Poland to which the hearts and the souls of Polish people are attached. Lwów and Wilno on the East, Cracow, Poznań and Częstochowa on the West and Warsaw in the middle. Each of those cities played a very important role in the history of the nation. They became symbols of unity, of Polish sentiments and devotion. They are now in our dreams of the new rebirth and reconstruction of Poland.

In the modern history of Poland, Warsaw should be recognized not only as the capital of Poland but also as the great center of learning, since it was the place in which was the greatest accumulation of men of learning and students of all kinds of schools. There were located also the largest and the most important institutions of scientific, industrial and medical research.

The Warsawians knew well, that not Warsaw but Cracow was proud of having one of the oldest universities in Europe. They knew that Cracow was the seat of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences and that the history of Polish culture and fine arts, as well as of science, was closely associated with the activities of great men living in Cracow. The Warsawians knew also that Wilno was the city in which

The defense of Warsaw will forever remain an example of what a people can do in the face of overwhelming force. It was obvious even to far away Americans that Mayor Starzyński and his heroic fellow citizens were neither hoping nor expecting to be relieved. They knew that their city was doomed and they with it. And yet they did not submit. In contrast with the behaviour of certain other peoples in not too distant moments, that of the Poles remains in my judgment, one of the greatest models of conduct that has been offered to the world in our time. If all others had done the same, the world would be a different place.

The defense of Warsaw represents a pure triumph of the human spirit than which there is nothing higher on earth.

EDGAR ANSEL MOWRER

killed two of the German detectives. In the same moment a huge truck coming from the Bielańska street struck the Gestapo car with full might, turning it on the side. Shots fell; before the Gestapo detectives managed to seize their arms, they had bullets in their breasts. And simultaneously a few efficient mechanics were breaking up the door of the car with iron bars. They freed the prisoners and disappeared with them in the crowd.

The action was performed in less than two minutes. The soon arriving police and SS formations found only two broken cars and the corpses of the Gestapo agents. The crowds moved along the street indifferently, as if nothing had happened. Nobody had seen the "accident".

In the same manner were liberated in May 1943 the Polish political prisoners in Malogoszcz and Celestynów.

The Directorate of Civilian Resistance does not limit itself to the armed fights only, it directs also the whole of the active and passive sabotage and the planning of the boycott, and it informs the population, how to behave in the different phases of the fight. Along each German proclamation placarded against the walls of the cities, is to be found the next morning the proclamation of the Directorate of Civilian Resistance, which directs the whole net of Polish emissaries and instructors, the transportable high power radio station "SWIT", and the underground press. Its orders are passed on by the leaders of the "fighting fives".

The Polish underground, organized and in steady contact with the Polish government in London, awaits the order to an uprising. It will fulfill it at a moment found as the most suitable by the staff of the Allied Armed Forces. It has been waiting for this moment for four years, and is ready for it.

Franciszek Ficek

JEWELER

serving Polish and American Customers for 44 years

Specializing in Engagement and Wedding Rings, Bulova, Hamilton, Waltham, Benrus and other watches from \$25.

Highest prices paid for Gold and jewelry with or without stones.

between First and Second Ave.

330 EAST 72nd STREET
New York City

Tel. RHinlander 4-6280

SECOND FLOOR

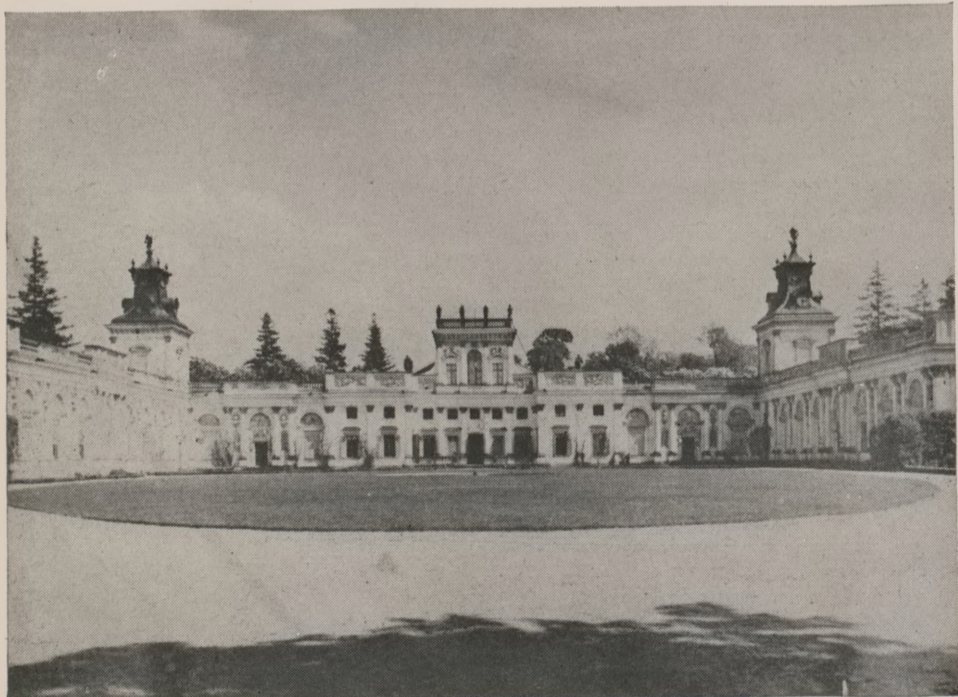
Hours 10 A. M. - 12 Noon
and 6 - 9 P. M.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. S. Niedbalski

Holy Trinity R. C. Church
2220 Reed Street
Erie, Pa.

Bernard A. Kozicke

Justice
8420 — 11th Avenue
Brooklyn, N. Y.



Palace of King Jan Sobieski in Wilanów, a suburb of Warsaw

STANISŁAW L. CENTKIEWICZ
WARSAW IN THE EYES OF FOREIGNERS

It was a strange city — Warsaw. Few European cities had suffered as much from fires, wars, invasion and foreign barbarism. Everything had conspired to vilify it, to make it ugly, but after every defeat it emerged more beautiful, more pure, more perfect.

In the "ENGLISH ATLAS" by Moses Pitt, Oxford, 1680, recently reproduced in New York, we read: "Warsaw was much beautified by successors of King Sigismund the Third". It was in this very period that Warsaw was recuperating from the catastrophic fires of the Swedish invasion in the middle of the 17th century. In the 18th century, under Stanisław August, last King of Poland, Warsaw was famous as one of the loveliest cities of Europe. This was doubtless partially due to the splendor of the court of Stanisław August, who soon made the Polish capital the equal of any capital in Western Europe. This great liberal and enlightened patron of the arts personally supervised the landscaping, built public parks and erected fine palaces. Stanisław August's summer palace, the so-called "Łazienki" or Bath-Palace in the Ujazdowski Park in Warsaw is still considered a very pearl of



King Stanisław August by M. Bacciarelli

18th century taste. This shortlived and glorious period was brutally interrupted by the partition of Poland by wars, and by fire. After crushing the Kościuszko uprising, Russian troops under Gen. Suvorov horribly massacred the inhabitants of Praga, a suburb of Warsaw, on the opposite bank of the Vistula (1794).

But the people of Warsaw could not be kept down. Their capacity to recuperate is shown by the fact that only a few years of freedom under the Duchy of Warsaw (1806-1813) sufficed, and Napoleon I was able to say after his visit to Warsaw: "A Varsovie le monde s'amuse toujours, sans cesse, Varsovie est un petit Paris".

Partially destroyed by the Russians during the siege growing out of the Polish insurrection of 1831, Warsaw became the prey of the most savage, barbarous Russian oppression. Tsar Nicholas I thought to turn it into a Russian provincial town by means of a single "ukase". He ordered beautiful period houses to be plastered over and painted in his favorite color, green. He tried to eradicate every trace of beauty, everything that savored of the West. The Russian tsars hated the West. Nevertheless, in the eyes of the Russians themselves, Warsaw was the answer to their dreams of Western beauty and elegance. Every Russian official, every Russian officer who came to Warsaw to persecute and bully, returned to Russia years later, with a permanent nostalgia for Warsaw. There is ample evidence of this in Russian literature and poetry.

To be sure, Russian longing was tempered with imperialism. As late as 1915 Uriy Shalchurin published in Moscow a monograph about "Staraya Varshava" (Old Warsaw) in the series "Koolturniya Sokrovishcha Rossi" (The cultural treasures of Russia). The author, a Russian historian of art, sought to "prove" that the architecture of 19th century Petersburg was responsible for the beauty of Warsaw. At the same time he admitted that Warsaw was and always had been a typical "capital" and a city eminently Western in spirit.

When Warsaw was still under the Russian yoke, an American, Louis E. Van Norman, visited Poland and described his impressions in a book "Poland, the Knight among Nations", New York, 1907. He wrote:

"To thoroughly enjoy Warsaw, understand it, and appreciate it, one must enjoy good music, understand good painting and good acting, and be able to appreciate fine public gardens, splendid horsemanship, good eating, and — beautiful women. The subtle, cultured taste of the Poles is especially conspicuous in Warsaw in all of these: in the music they hear, the painting and drama they see, the parks and horses they enjoy, and the fascinating women who make their streets and drawing rooms so alluring..."

But this seemingly carefree Warsaw could also be serious on occasion. Viscount D'Abnerton wrote in "The Eighteenth Century Battle of the World" that when in 1920 he arrived in Warsaw, then close to the front, his "first impression was that of surprise at the normal aspect of the population".

Just as soon as Warsaw regained its freedom, it set to work with fervor. A Frenchman who paid it a visit in the early post-war years compared it to an ant-hill busily repairing its galleries following the intrusion of an enemy. Warsaw changed with incredible speed. As if by the touch of a magic wand the traces of a century of Russian occupation were wafted away: from beneath the plaster and the stucco reappeared the classic facades of Polish schools, libraries, palaces. The city that had been cramped with a ring of Russian fortifications, began to grow like a mushroom after rain. New sections sprang into being, surrounded by attractive gardens and shaded

boulevards. Warsaw in flowers was the slogan of the last Mayor of Warsaw, the heroic Stefan Starzyński.

"Warsaw is a bewitching city, the great capital of Eastern Europe, the Paris of that region, the intellectual and artistic center, radiating a Polish Slavism sharpened and heightened by occidental and Latin culture" — wrote M. and L. Barot - Forlière in "Notre Soeur — La Pologne", published in Paris in 1928.

Foreigners who came to Warsaw were, in the main, businessmen or diplomatic and consular officials. Most of them had travelled extensively, they knew the world and all it had to offer. One might have thought that poor Warsaw, so often destroyed and burned through the centuries of its history, would not attract, enthral or seduce those who had seen the glory and the glamor of other lands. And yet Warsaw cast a spell over more than one foreigner. There was Mr. John Bryce Clark, an Englishman, who came to Warsaw on business in 1919 for 6 weeks and who stayed... 20 years. He married a Polish girl and became a top executive of important Polish banking concerns. His assistant, Mr. Allan Thomson, also an Englishman, remained in Warsaw 19 years, having intended to stay several months. The British consul, who later became minister plenipotentiary, Mr. Frank Severy, was known as a Warsaw patriot, delving into its relics, and interested in all the manifestations of its cultural life. He once attended the opening night of Cyprian Norwid's dramatic poem "Wanda" in the experimental Jaracz Theatre and followed the play with a copy of "Wanda" in his hand. His knowledge of Polish was amazing.

In the cult of Warsaw, Americans were foremost. An American envoy John P. Stetson, was an ardent collector of Warsaw relics, a frequent visitor of all the antique shops on Świętokrzyska Street and all the art collectors on Mazowiecka Street and Teatrny Square. He chose as his residence the imposing Kościelski mansion on Świętojanska Street, in the heart of the old section, abounding in relics, old books etc. Another American who collected Polish items of interest for many years was Mr. Paul Super, director of the Y. M. C. A. in Warsaw.

The love of foreigners for Warsaw, was not, however confined to collecting curios, visiting museums, churches, strolling in the narrow streets of the Old City. They felt at home in the metropolitan pulsating rhythm of Warsaw; they drank in its humor, carefree spirit, buoyancy and hospitality; they appreciated its excellent cooking, the charm of its café life, the allure of its beautiful, well-dressed women, who carried themselves as only women of Warsaw know how. Reflected in all this was the great energy of a city where something was always happening, a city throbbing with the brisk life of a young state.

In the ancient, 300 year old Fukiér wine-cellar in Warsaw was a Guest book, in which outstanding visitors wrote their names. The autographs of many statesmen, army men, and scholars were interspersed with drawings and caricatures penned by noted artists. The confessions of love for Warsaw recorded in this volume acquired an oddly ecstatic tinge... Perhaps because the wine at Fukiér's was old and good.

Torn away from Warsaw, foreigners often were consumed by deep longing for it. I remember a conversation in Rome with Mr. William Taylor, an American now dead, whose apartment was furnished with articles acquired during his three year stay in Warsaw. With genuine interest he asked how the houses and streets of the city looked and what operas the Teatr Wielki presented. Then there was a Swiss scientist, Dr. J. L. who lived in Poland for years and on his return to his own beautiful Switzerland, succumbed to nostalgia for Warsaw.

Warsaw did not disappoint its foreign friends. In September 1939, Warsaw supposedly lightheaded and lighthearted, took up the hopeless fight against the greatest armed might in history. For three weeks it gloriously resisted the furious onslaught of the enemy. There was something noble and splendid in this defiance of Warsaw, something that went back to knightly traditions of old, something of the legend of the half-god of early 19th century Warsaw, Prince Joseph Poniatowski, who perished in the waters of the Elster at Leipzig in 1813 to "give up to God the honor of the Poles."

The first period of the defense of Warsaw brings to mind the American photographer and reporter, Mr. Julien Bryan, who came to Warsaw to do a Polish documentary film and a few days later became the capital's true defender. I remember how stirred I was by Bryan's radio appeal to the American nation for help. I listened to his broadcast in a shelter, while the house above us shook from the German artillery that was rocking the city. And I remember thinking: — here's another friend of Warsaw.

September 21, 1939 is very vivid in my mind. On that date following an agreement between the defense command of Warsaw and the German army, the foreigners were permitted to leave the besieged city that was being systematically and treacherously destroyed. They were to meet before the Bristol Hotel. One would think all these foreigners would be overjoyed at this heaven-sent opportunity to escape from the hell of burning, crumbling Warsaw. But the majority were in tears and many waited until the very last minute, before they entered the automobiles sent to take them away, as if they wished to enjoy as long as possible the view of Krakowskie Przedmieście with the King Sigmund Column glistening in the distance. A court command forced them to hasten their leave-taking but I know of instances where people left their cars en route and came back to share our bitter lot and death.

Warsaw will never forget its friends, either those of the gay and happy days, or those of the sad and desperate hours. When at long last the day of liberation dawned, Warsaw will cloak its ruins in its best smile and extend its arms to all who knew it and loved it.

JAN LECHOŃ
The Spirit of Our Town

Those Americans who have ever made a prolonged visit in our Capital — diplomats, literary men, members of various permanent or transient commissions, scientists, journalists, businessmen — there made many lasting friendships, and left Warsaw with war memories which they like to recall.

For Warsaw to those who have had a chance to know it well had that direct charm, so appealing, especially to Americans — the charm of being human and alive, made even deeper and more endearing by the fact that unlike other magnificent capitals it was a charm not apparent at the first contact.

Of course, Warsaw had its beautiful landmarks too. Connoisseurs of architecture dwelled with delight on the various specifically Polish subtleties of the Rococo. Even Dresden or Nancy could be proud to own such jewels as the Island Theater, or the Palace in the Łazienki Park. Our Great Theater could easily incite the jealousy of any city. Also Warsaw's monuments, those of Prince Joseph and Copernicus by Thorwaldsen, or King Zygmunt on the Zamkowy Square were among the most beautiful in Europe.

However, on the whole there was little to admire in the streets of Warsaw for those who came from Paris or those who knew Italy and Spain. It would have been natural for those people to endure their stay in an indifferent mood and to forget the city as soon as they had left her.

But talk about Warsaw with Anthony Drexel Biddle, that most accessible of all Ambassadors, or with Charles Dewey, for a time financial advisor to our government, or with the truly apostolic director of the Polish Y. M. C. A., Paul Super whom we simply call "Superski" or "Superman". You will detect in their words that same warmth with which Parisians speak of their Paris and with which each of you refer to the city of your birth, warmth as human and alive as Warsaw is vital.

No one would venture to deny the facts known from every text book and guides that it is Cracow the magnificent and monumental, Cracow with her many Renaissance and gothic churches and one of the most beautiful royal castles in the world that is the most historic city in Poland. But Cracow's great royal past ended with the Renaissance. After that this seat of Polish learning and art, this staid university city, appeared in its historical role only on rare occasions for instance, royal funerals and coronations. Beginning with the XVII century it had been Warsaw that furnished the background of all the most important events in Poland's history. Not only was this so in cases when as the capital she claimed the distinction, but especially when, martyred and downtrodden by the enemy, she rightfully acquired that leading place.

Though so deeply historic, Warsaw never for a single moment became a city of the past, a museum of relics, a cemetery of history, for the interest of tourists alone. What could be taken for the lack of historic consciousness, for the want of an understanding for tradition was actually an instinctive realization that history was not a cult of the past, but the ability to create on an historic scale, continuous building of the future.

Warsaw's professors, workers, clergy and businessmen felt instinctively that to make history was simply to live and live abundantly. Thus Warsaw became one of the most alive cities of Europe.

Reaching her greatest splendor in the Rococo age, most of her outstanding buildings were built in that period. She was to preserve forever something of the spirit of that age. All that Warsaw did and felt was light and gay and poetic. All that happened in Cracow bore invariably a Renaissance dignity, a scientific solemnity. In Warsaw "tout finit ou tout commence par la chanson".

Few people know and still fever would believe that the "Marriage of Figaro", the match that set off the French Revolution, was staged in Warsaw before it was performed in Paris. This fact could be taken as a symbol of her temperament. Again, in 1794, when Kiliński, the valiant Warsaw cobbler led an insurrection against the Russians, the Warsaw theater resounded with the humor of the play "Kraakowiaci i Górale," ("Peasants and Mountaineers") and its gay couplets singing of freedom and brotherhood were the rage of the city.

Warsaw's beloved hero, Marshall of France, Prince Joseph Poniatowski, who, in 1813 carried the responsibility of Poland's honor as did Mayor Starzyński in 1939, embodied that spirit of the duty performed with a smile. Songs and poems preserved of him sing not only of a gallant cavalry officer with a menacingly raised saber, but of a charming lover of great ladies and humble townswomen. The spark that ignited the revolution of 1831, before it engulfed the entire country, scintillated in the conversations and criticisms of Warsaw's cafes (through which the sparks of all future events were always to pass) — in the incomparable "bon mots" and infallibly pertinent characterizations of people and events.

The soldier of Warsaw goes to fight with a song on his lips. In 1794 it was the couplets of "Kraakowiaci i Górale"; in 1831 "Warszawianka", born in France of the pen of Delavigne and immediately adopted by Warsaw; in 1920 a song of Makuszyński. In our day no historical event was to escape the satirical pencil of Czermański or the humorous pages of the "Barber of Warsaw" or fail to be recorded in the sketches or poems of Hemar, Stoniński or Tuwim. No wonder that the theater became Warsaw's passion or that Warsaw's theater became one of the best theaters in the world.

It is generally known that the greatest stars of the Russian Ballet (Nizynski and Nizynska, Krzesińska, Wojcikowski, Idzikowski) were Poles born in Warsaw. But it is little known that no other city in the world had as many, as good, and as enthusiastically received performances of Bernard Shaw. In fact, two of his plays, "Appelcart" and "Geneva" were staged in

Warsaw before their performance in London.

And another deep thought hidden element of Warsaw's temperament. It apparently did not live in its streets. National holidays were not celebrated by street dancing as in Paris; the city was not addicted to public parades, corner speeches or soap box oratory. A casual observer would insist that there was a distinct division between the higher classes and the working population. In reality, every true Warsavite lived, like every true Parisian, the life of the entire city. A strong, though invisible bond of common national and religious tradition, of identical temperament and way of reacting tied together the rich merchant, the priest and the laborer. This bond was the reason that these people of different birth, education and wealth felt and acted together in a crisis as the siege of Warsaw in 1939.

Newspaper boys, cabby, messenger, bartender, marketwoman, represented well the soul of Warsaw. Patriotic, religious, tolerant, always gay, exaggeratedly ambitious and very sensitive on the subject of ambition, the people were all proud of their city and considered it their own, even those things that were materially out of their reach. Each president of the Republic of Poland, Piłsudski or Paderewski, and many others, was to the people of Warsaw, their own and thus subjected to their collective judgement; however only its most integral honest and worthy men enjoyed this popularity.

When Gilbert Keith Chesterton, a great friend of Poland arrived in Warsaw 20 years ago, he experienced two very surprising moments on the first day of his visit. The first was when, on alighting from the train, he was welcomed by the whole staff of officers of the most distinguished cavalry regiment, whose command happened to be a fervent admirer of the "Napoleon of Noting Hill"; and again when before the dignified Hotel Europejski, a group of newspaper boys overwhelmed him and his escort of the fashionable Polish poets with their lively banter and familiarity.

Warsaw's unique dialect, lively and picturesque, inclining toward exaggeration and biting sarcasm, full of subtle shades and nuances depending on the part of the city, admirably rendered the thought and sentiments of its bellicose, gay, and human people. A few years before the war, an obscure director of a suburban theater was called upon to act as a reporter for the petty court trials. He at once realized the unfathomable well of treasures to be found in the language and drew from it the materials for his incomparable short stories. Writing under the pseudonym of Wiech, these stories of the humble people of Warsaw became the rage almost overnight.

The hospitality of the Warsaw salons (though perhaps sometimes too lavish), well known and praised by foreigners, had its excellent counterpart in the birthday receptions of the city's shoemakers and laborers.

Sound judgement, a sense of humor and true respect for hierarchy and justice were inborn in the people. Always ready to stand firm against a stronger opponent, to incur the disfavor of the Germans or Russians, a Warsaw worker would never stoop to condemnation or hatred of a weaker man.

Another comparison to Paris occurs. Just as it was possible for a man born in Warsaw to become a Parisian, so people from other cities often succumbed to the spiritual individuality of Warsaw and made her their own. Her fiction is full of tales of country gentry and foreign-born who came to the capital and became passionately attached to it.

If the Americans who still remember the description of Mme Curie's childhood in the beautiful biography by her daughter, Eve, would reread that book, they would be able to appreciate the real temperament of the people of Warsaw. Mme Curie's father dedicating his life to educate his children, her sisters stifling their own dreams to give her genius a chance to develop, and above all, she herself worrying about her unpaid debts to her country and to those who were deprived of bread and education were as typical an illustration of that temperament as the cocky cabby or the old veteran of the Polish insurrection.

During her 100 years of oppressions Warsaw lived in circumstances not as terrible as today, but yet as suppressed. This period formed two outstanding types of people immortalized by the drawings of Arthur Grotgier and by the pen of the great writers Prus and Żeromski. One type was the conspirator generally illustrated by a student who, with his girl, faced certain death in defense of freedom; the other, a teacher like Mme Curie who sacrificed all to spread knowledge and to relieve misery. Mayor Starzyński who, by his concentrated efforts, did so much to build up and beautify the city was a typical citizen of Warsaw.

When you think of that distant city which was the first to oppose the superior forces that are now being crushed, think of the people, my dear American friends. Look for their faces in the portrait of Lincoln, in the yellowed daguerotypes of others who lived for the people and for freedom. Look for the soul of Warsaw among those friends of yours who still believe that overwhelming force and greed for money and power do not rule the world.

You, who were taught from childhood to fearlessly look all danger in the eyes and who based the pattern of your life on this courage, think of those two small newspaper boys who, in September 1939, stood in the rain of bombs, with the walls of buildings crumbling around them. One of them had an attack of hiccupps.

"Stop!" says one.

And the other one, referring to a age old remedy for hiccupps, answered:

"Scare me, and I'll stop!"

Think of that and you will understand Warsaw.

JÓZEF WITTLIN
THE WARSAW "MAKE — BELIEVE"

It is hard to say what is more tactless in front of the ruins of Warsaw: to pretend that we have loved her, or to admit openly that we did not like her, when she was still undestroyed, flourishing and free. That only her tragical fate has opened our eyes for her beauty, which we did not see, or did not appreciate before September, 1939. This terrible fate made us avow our guilt, has awakened in us a love akin to the love, we sometimes feel towards dear ones, who have passed away and whom we have hurt as long as they were still alive. But Warsaw is not dead, and therefore we can speak of her without concealing our feelings for her. Our, that is of people coming from other parts of Poland.

Warsaw is not dead. In the glory of her ruins and in the glory of her underground, which fights constantly and so gallantly against the oppressor, she has grown in the course of those four years to a symbol of the life of the whole nation. This nation may be little attractive in its every day life under normal conditions of security, but in tragical hours it reveals to the world a countenance worthy of an antique sculpture. This is sometimes the case with people, who are uninteresting in their normal life, and it is only during a catastrophe that their hidden virtues come to the fore.

Many a Lwovian like me, looks today at the ruins of Warsaw with a feeling of guilt and shame for he had reprimanded her for ugliness and lack of character. But those claims were flat and were caused by a psychic shock, since the real Warsaw as seen for the first time in 1918 was for most of the Lwovians entirely different from the Warsaw known to them from songs, literature and revolutionary legend. Numerous Warsaw students, who had moved after 1905 to Lwów, contributed to the myth of the Warsaw of bloody Sundays, Pawiak prison, of Okrzeja and Montwiłł, of the capital of Polish conspiracy. Having combined the elements of that vision and added to it such pictures as the Insurrection of Kościuszko, the Masacre at Praga, Sowiński on the Barriacades at Wola, Olszanka in Grochów, Traugut and rows of gallows on the slopes of the Citadel, we formed a picture, rather a cycle of frescos, which when confronted with the sober reality of a very business-like, very industrial city, of necessity brought about a disillusion. I recall my first excursion to the Olszanka in Grochów, where I found no graves of heroes, but — tile works. Only the Łazienki park and the Belvedere preserved to the end the aureola woven around them by the Stowacki and Wyspiański theater.

Shortly: our claims to Warsaw developed because of the disproportion between myth and reality.

We also took it amiss that this city of our dreams, had disappointed just those dreams, that it was not a super-Lwów nor a super-Cracow, that it possessed only one cathedral while Lwów had three, that in comparison with these cities Warsaw was young and burdened with all the sins of youth. We did not like the way she spread on a sandy plain of the beautiful but how melancholy Vistula river. We argued with her why she, called "Paris of the North" was not at all like Paris, why she was not built on seven romantic hills as were Rome and Lwów; why she was not embedded in the greenness and the sweet scent of parks like Florence and Lwów. We, the sons of the fertile and fruitful South, bred on the white bread of a soil which geographical manuals include in the so-called "Black Sea Area", did not always feel at home in the vicinity of the Vistula, flowing into the cold Baltic. We were different by our temper and our habits, different by our "larger nature", and, last not least, by our so characteristic language. This without being a dialect, is nevertheless quite different from the classic Polish through its melodiousness and its accent, by which every Lwovian will immediately recognize his fellow-man. And may he speak even on the radio from — hell.

We refused to acknowledge Warsaw's supremacy over the other Polish cities, even when she, having lost her regional Mazovian character became the true metropolis of the country, where the best cultural forces of the nation concentrated. As soon as that was achieved, we objected that she had pushed down Lwów, Cracow, Wilno and Poznań to the level of provincial cities. We did not want to acknowledge the truth that Warsaw had accepted us with open arms, offering us a wider field for our talents and our energies. We took revenge for the fact of the provinces being impoverished while she absorbed the staunchest politicians, the greatest artists, scientists and industrialists, and we forged a few unflattering phrases. Among them triumphed the slogan of the "Warsaw make-believe". That slogan became so popular, especially in the first years of Poland's independence, as to be used even by native Warsawians. What did it really mean? Did it mean that among the citizens of Warsaw there was a number of not serious persons, of liars and swindlers? It was only natural that Warsaw as the biggest Polish city had a great number of jolly fellows and fibbers than the time-honored Cracow with its many doctors and professors, or Lwów, where many grave retired dignitaries of the former Austro-Hungarian monarchy lived. But in looking closer at the population of Warsaw, the impartial observer was on the contrary stricken by its unusual soberness. If we consider labor in the strictly Marxist sense, then Warsaw had a huge proletariat, which in Lwów, on the other hand, formed only a very small part of the population. Well, it is difficult to accuse the proletariat of a make-believe. And it is equally impossible to accuse of it the hundreds of scientific research workers, the thousands of teachers, officials, business-men, officers and soldiers. It could only be applied to the so-called cream of the society, which did not work at all, but liked to play and to criticize the work of others. We, however, used the phrase of the Warsaw

"make believe" abundantly, in fact as often as something did not please us. When the first sixteen story skyscraper was erected in Warsaw, we said right away: The Warsaw "make-believe!" When Mayor Starzyński, conscious of the poor floral appearance of the city, proclaimed the slogan: "Warsaw in flowers!" urging the people to plant flowers in window-boxes and on the balconies, we shook our heads, suspecting a new "make-believe". And when, due to the incessant energy of the Mayor, Warsaw developed and grew more beautiful from day to day, we looked for analogies between her and other European capitals, and again the comparison was not in her favor. So haughty, so merciless were we towards her, we, the sons of the North and East. And as to the four quarters of the globe we had a very own interpretation. Although every decent map will clearly show that Warsaw lies a few hundred miles westwards from Lwów, we insisted with a stubbornness of maniacs upon her being an oriental city. The main argument was that during 150 years of slavery she had sometimes succumbed to influences from Moscow and Petersburg. We felt offended by the Russian style of some of her streets and some of her institutions, we felt offended by the Russian "bows" on the backs of the horses drawing the peasants' hackney-coaches. The famous and very numerous cab-drivers in Warsaw had through all the twenty years of Polish independence not got rid of their Russian appearance. Beginning with their caps, reminding one of the Cossack's caps, and ending with their mostly filthy, wedged cloaks, adorned by glittering buttons showing a sham royal crown, those cab-drivers contributed most to the oriental appearance of the city. We hated particularly the metal plate showing a number on their backs, as if they were slaves, or dogs registered at the magistrate. The modern streets of Warsaw with the rows of monotonous houses, built in the last decades of the 19th century, and their colorless names, Wspólna, Krucza, Hoża, Koszykowa did not arouse our enthusiasm. No wonder, indeed, or they were really not beautiful. The relics of the old and beautiful architecture were lost in the sea of rent-houses, styled at their best, after Charlottenburg, or the Vienna secession.

And yet, at the thought of the demolished Bankowy square, our hearts bleed.

I saw Warsaw for the first time in the year 1919, in the company of a friend of mine, a so-to-say professional Warsavian, who loved this city phanatically. He was a historian of art, and a great aesthetic. He led me through the back streets of the Old Town, as I had guided him through the district of the Ormiańska street in Lwów. He showed me the Barzycki house, the Fukiér house, the canony, the Royal Castle, Łazienki as if they were his family relics. He was a very subtle, sensible, noble man. And he was a pacifist. Is he lecturing today on philosophy and aesthetics to his fellow prisoners in a German prisoners' camp? And he, the pacifist, came there as a reserve officer. I heard about him during the siege of Warsaw. Towards the end of the defense, my friend and aesthetic did not want to leave his anti-aircraft gun on the Mokotowski field. And receiving the news of the capitulation, he tried to commit suicide. This was his "Warsaw make-believe".

Not all the defenders of Warsaw were aesthetes like my friend. The majority of them did not know even what was inside the buildings and museums, they did not want to turn over to the Germans. The sandmen from Powiśle, the workers from Wola and Ochota, the cab-drivers in their funny cloaks of sham royal coachmen, the paper-vendors and street-car conductors, the street-sweepers of those dirty streets, they were not aesthetes, but they perished in just those streets, trying to defend them and bearing at last witness to the Warsaw "make-believe". The inhabitants of the very ugliest houses, the starved and treated with contempt Jews, shut up since three years behind the walls of the Warsaw ghetto, which brings shame not upon their memory but upon the German people, have also passed the examination in the Warsaw "make-believe". In this examination they answered the Germans with the fire from machine-guns, smuggled into the ghetto. That examination lasted from April 18 till the end of May, 1943, thus longer than has resisted Germany the whole powerful French republic with all her arms, 40,000 Warsaw Jews resisted for six weeks the tanks, cannons and planes. Until all perished under the ruins of the bombed houses, or were burnt alive.

Thus has been born on the pavement of the ugliest streets of the world a new beauty from the Warsaw "make-believe". This was his Warsaw "make-believe", a new Thermopylian legend.

Rev. Józef L. Zawistowski
Senior of Pol. Nat. Cath. Church
1011 Lakeview Avenue
Schenectady, N. Y.

K. Cieszko
130 West 30th Street
New York City

W. W. Kosicki
Engineer
140 West Atwater Street
Detroit 26, Mich.

IRENA PIOTROWSKA

Heroic Warsaw in Painting



"Warsaw on April 8, 1861" — by Robert Fleury

During the 17th and 18th centuries when Warsaw was the proud capital of an independent Republic, and even before that time, many talented artists depicted the city's architectural beauty and the life of its busy streets. Engraved views of Warsaw dating from the 16th and the following two centuries formed an important section of all Polish print collections. In painting, the numerous views of Warsaw, enlivened with genre scenes, created by Bernardo Belotto, called Canaletto (1720-1780), nephew and pupil of the famous Venetian artist Antonio Canale, hold a special place of distinction. Of the Polish painters at least Zygmunt Vogel (1764-1826), strongly influenced by Canaletto, ought to be mentioned. In their creative activity both these artists were encouraged by the last king of Poland, Stanislaus Augustus, a great protector of the arts, for whom they worked. Thus the elegant atmosphere of court life permeates their views of Warsaw.

The tragedy of the partitions of Poland toward the end of the 18th century introduced a new note into Polish painting, also affecting the way of portraying the country's capital. The very days of the national movement in Warsaw in 1794, which was inspired by the shoemaker Kiliński and temporarily delivered the city from the Russian occupation, a new

branch of painting was born, that showing Warsaw's heroism and indomitable spirit.

It was the world-famous painter Alexander Orłowski (1777-1832) who recorded the memorable scenes which he saw in the streets of Warsaw, in splendid ink drawings, as, for instance, in his *Fighting in the Krakowskie Przedmieście* on April 17, 1794. His *Assault on Praga* in 1794 depicts the siege of Warsaw which occurred a few months after the rising and which ended with the massacre of 25,000 inhabitants of Praga, the capital's large suburb — the same which distinguished itself through its heroic defense during the siege of Warsaw of September 1939. When 25 years of age, Orłowski left Poland in search for bread and settled in Petrograd where he soon gained fame as a painter of horses and caricaturist. While most of his later works are scattered throughout the world — many of them to be found in American art collections — his earlier finest creations remained in Poland. Those devoted to the heroism of Warsaw belonged to the most treasured.

When in November of 1830 another insurrection broke out in Warsaw, again it found adequate recorders in a number of outstanding Polish artists. Of these Marcin Zaleski (1796-1877), renowned for his numerous architectural views of Warsaw conceived in the style of Canaletto

and Zygmunt Vogel, but much more faithful in detail, represented a number of scenes of the November Uprising. While in his oil paintings these scenes are subordinated to architecture, those by Jan Feliks Piwarski (1791-1839), a leading Warsaw genre painter of the first half of the 19th century, underline the figures themselves, which the artist endowed with vivid expression. His paintings became popularized by Adolf Fryderyk Dietrich (1817-1860), a Polish engraver, who executed after them six highly accomplished aquatints and included them in his series of copper plates which he dedicated to the November Uprising.

After thirty years of the most horrible oppression, Warsaw again took up arms. This new uprising, which openly broke out in January of 1863, was prelude by a number of popular patriotic manifestations organized in Warsaw already in 1861, which produced bloody repressions on the part of the Russians. The French painter Robert Fleury represented one of these manifestations in his deeply moving painting *Warsaw on April 8, 1861* (property of the Polish National Museum at Rapperswil, Switzerland). Of the two paintings showing the *Funeral of the Five Patriots Killed by the Russians, on March 2, 1861*, both owned by the National Museum in Cracow, one was executed by Alexander Lesser (1814-1884), the other painters were representatives of that group of Polish artists who toward the middle of the 19th century devoted their talents to depict the past and present of Poland's history and adhered to the current academic style. Their efforts to produce works exact in historical detail and correct in drawing paved the way for the full bloom of Poland's historical painting which had such an important bearing on Polish national and cultural life during the latter part of the last century.

Here belongs the creative activity of the short-lived Artur Grottger (1837-1867) whose name will forever be linked with that of the January Insurrection and the tragic events in heroic Warsaw during the two years that preceded the rising. While the chief value of the two paintings by Lesser and Pillati consists in their documentary character, the two series of drawings dedicated by Grottger "To the memory of the compatriots killed and wounded in the streets of Warsaw and to the everlasting infamy of their murders — February 27 to April 8, 1861" play such an important part in the Polish nation's art and culture not because of their historical exactitude, but because of their deep emotional content. As one of the artist's biographers put it, "While there is no history of Poland in them, there is the history of all Polish families, of all hearts, caught in their most painful moments."

In 1861 the 24-year-old artist was completing his studies at the Vienna Academy, suffering from tuberculosis and poverty. Not being permitted to return to his country and help actively in the preparations for the coming rising against the oppressor, he expressed his feelings by artistic means. His seven drawings which form the portfolio entitled *Warsaw* and reflect the national sufferings in 1861, reached Poland before the end of that year and by means of reproductions were soon spread throughout the country. Such pictures as *The First Victim*, *The Closing of the Churches*, *The Widow*, astonished the entire nation by the accuracy of the artist's vision, sincerity of expression, and depth of feeling. In 1902 Grottger executed his second series of drawings dedicated to Warsaw, known as *Warsaw II*. This portfolio never reached Poland as it was immediately acquired by an art lover of London and was subsequently donated to the Victoria and Albert Museum. This second edition of *Warsaw*, although created only a few months after the completion of the first, shows the great artistic advancement of the young artist. The new compositions display a greater simplicity of outline and a monumental character, unknown before. The portfolios *Polonia*, *Lithuania*, *War*, which the artist composed successively, until premature death overcame him, each are a further step toward perfection. If the tragic political situation of Poland would not have absorbed all the attention and efforts of the Polish public spirited people, perhaps the pro-

gress of the disease which finally robbed Poland of one of her most promising artists when he was still in his youth, would have been stopped in time.

A style of painting, differing from that of Grottger and that of Lesser and Pillati is displayed in drawings created by Juliusz Kossak (1824-1899), painter of spirited battle scenes, who, like Orłowski was a keen observer of life, delighting in rendering the swift movements of men and horses. From 1862 to 1868 Juliusz Kossak was art editor of the Warsaw "Illustrated Weekly," *Tygodnik Ilustrowany*, and many of his illustrations executed for this magazine represent scenes that he witnessed in the streets of Warsaw. A few original drawings for these illustrations have been preserved until the recent invasion of Poland.

Juliusz Kossak inspired many Polish painters of younger generations who specialized in battle and genre scenes. Subjects taken out of the life of heroic Warsaw of the past recur again and again. Here, for instance, belong the oil paintings: *Assault of the Cossacks in the Krakowskie Przedmieście, 1794* and the *Kiliński at the Head of the Warsaw Insurgents, 1794*, by Wojciech Kossak (1856-1942), son of Juliusz; and *Execution of a Polish Patriot in the Warsaw Citadel* (owned by the Polish Museum in Rapperswil) by Antoni Piotrowski (b. 1853); and the November 29, 1830 (owned by the National Museum in Warsaw), by Eugeniusz Geppert, one of the younger artists active in liberated Poland.

Scenes from the Polish insurrection of 1905 were artistically recorded by A. Kamiński. His drawings have as background the alleys of the Old City of Warsaw.

It is this Old City, with its quaint, centuries old houses topped by picturesque roofs, that became the favorite motif of numerous artists of the re-established Polish Republic. Like artists of the old Republic from before the partitions, they delighted in depicting the beauty of Warsaw architecture and the everyday life of the nation's capital. But contrary to Canaletto and Vogel, they were not interested in the fashionable sections of the city, but concentrated on the old, for many years unappreciated streets and buildings. Of the many outstanding works of art representing old Warsaw, those by Leon Wyczółkowski (1852-1937), Władysław Skoczylas (1883-1934) and Tadeusz Skoczylas Junior (b. 1895) are the most accomplished from the artistic point of view.

Yet scenes of heroic Warsaw were not entirely rejected, as the afore-mentioned oil paintings by Polish artists specializing in battle scenes gave evidence. Among the engravings created in liberated Poland which have the heroism of Warsaw as their subject-matter, two distinguished themselves from all the others through their symbolic meaning and especially high artistic value. Thus Skoczylas has among his oeuvre a copper engraving entitled *Warsaw 1920*, which shows the Mermaid of Warsaw's coat of arms taking active part in the defense of the capital against the attacking Bolsheviks. A shield and a sword in her hands, she holds fast to the walls of her beloved city with her claws, which resemble those of an ancient griffin. A few years later, in a most masterful wood engraving called *Warning* and created by Stefan Mrozowski, the heroic Mermaid of Warsaw appeared again rising from the Vistula waters and holding a large saber, she utters a shrill cry of warning to all those who would dare again to attack the city. She is shown against the setting of the Old City, the silhouette of which is seen in the dimness of the night. There King Sigismund II, who has been standing on his high column for three centuries, awakened by the cry of the Mermaid, has raised his sword high above his head.

The allegorical painting *Warsaw, September 1939* by Henryk Gotlib, who is now in Great Britain, the ink drawings *At the Warsaw Front, September 1939* and *On the Barricades, September 1939* by Zdzisław Ruszkowski, and the numerous expressive illustrations by Zdzisław Czermański, which bring before our eyes both the unspeakable suffering and the undaunted spirit of the capital of Poland, under German occupation, as well as the paintings, drawings and sketches by the many very young but promising artists now with the Polish Armed Forces, have added a new page, the most tragic one, to the history of heroic Warsaw in painting.

MANFRED KRIDL

THE WARSAW SCHOOL STRIKE

It would be hard for an American or Western European to understand the educational situation in Poland at any time under the Czarist regime. The period between 1863 and 1905 was an especially difficult one. At that time all the public schools and the University in Warsaw were Russian and all schools, even those under private control, were denied the privilege of carrying on their classes in Polish. The native tongue was permitted in both types of school, but only as one of the subjects, taught as though it were a foreign language. An official textbook in Polish literature was constructed as a sort of anthology of Polish writers in which the biographies and other notes were written in Russian and only the text itself was in Polish. The great romantic poets, the glory of Polish poetry, had to be entirely excluded because of their patriotic tendencies. Therefore, Polish literature in this text was confined to the works of ancient writers — the least attractive to young people — and did not go much beyond the XVIIIth century. Moreover, in public secondary schools ("gymnasiums") the Polish classes were treated by the school authorities as a "quantité négligeable," the teachers in Polish were selected from the most "loyal" and commonplace people, who could not awake in their pupils any interest in the subject. It is no wonder then that even Polish students despised the Polish classes as "national boredom" and paid no attention to them. At the same time Russian language and literature were treated with the greatest care and frequently taught by prominent teachers whose task was to imbue the pupils with adoration for Russian culture — a clever way of sugar-coating the pill of Russification.

The suffering of the Polish children in these schools was intense. The teachers were not educators and friends but foes and spies, at the best cold or stupid bureaucrats; their main task was to terrorize the children, to keep them in permanent fear of bad grades, to torture them with the right Russian accents and to guard them against speaking Polish. Yes, Polish children were not permitted to speak Polish among themselves during their stay in the schools. Big inscriptions placed on the walls of the corridors and classrooms, "The speaking of Polish is forbidden," reminded the students of this shameful rule; severe punishments, including expulsion from the school, were applied for neglecting it.

The situation in the private schools at that time was a little easier. The program of teaching was, of course, the same as that in the public schools, but it was possible to use more proficient and modern methods in dealing with it. Principals and teachers were mostly Poles or more liberal Russians; Polish language and literature was taught in a more normal way, and taught, at least partly, in Polish, although it was strictly forbidden. The general atmosphere here was different. Since the representative of the educational authority, the "inspector," terror of teachers and students alike, appeared in the private schools for inspection only a few times a year, the rest of the time could be devoted to more or less normal work, of course with all possible precautions, which brought the teachers and students together in a sort of silent conspiracy against their equally hated Russian superiors. But, expensive, therefore not accessible for the lower classes; moreover, they were not very numerous; and, finally, they were deprived of all the rights granted to graduates of the public schools. They could not, therefore play an important part in the education of the Polish youth.

This situation had changed by 1905. The revolutionary movement which broke out in both Russia and Poland and was led by the Socialist parties created a prosperous atmosphere for stating requirements for reforms in various fields of social and cultural life. At that time Warsaw became the scene of a unique movement unknown in other countries namely a strike among the school children. It was prepared by clandestine student organizations and carried out with a rare solidarity and unanimity. The slogan was: Polish schools for

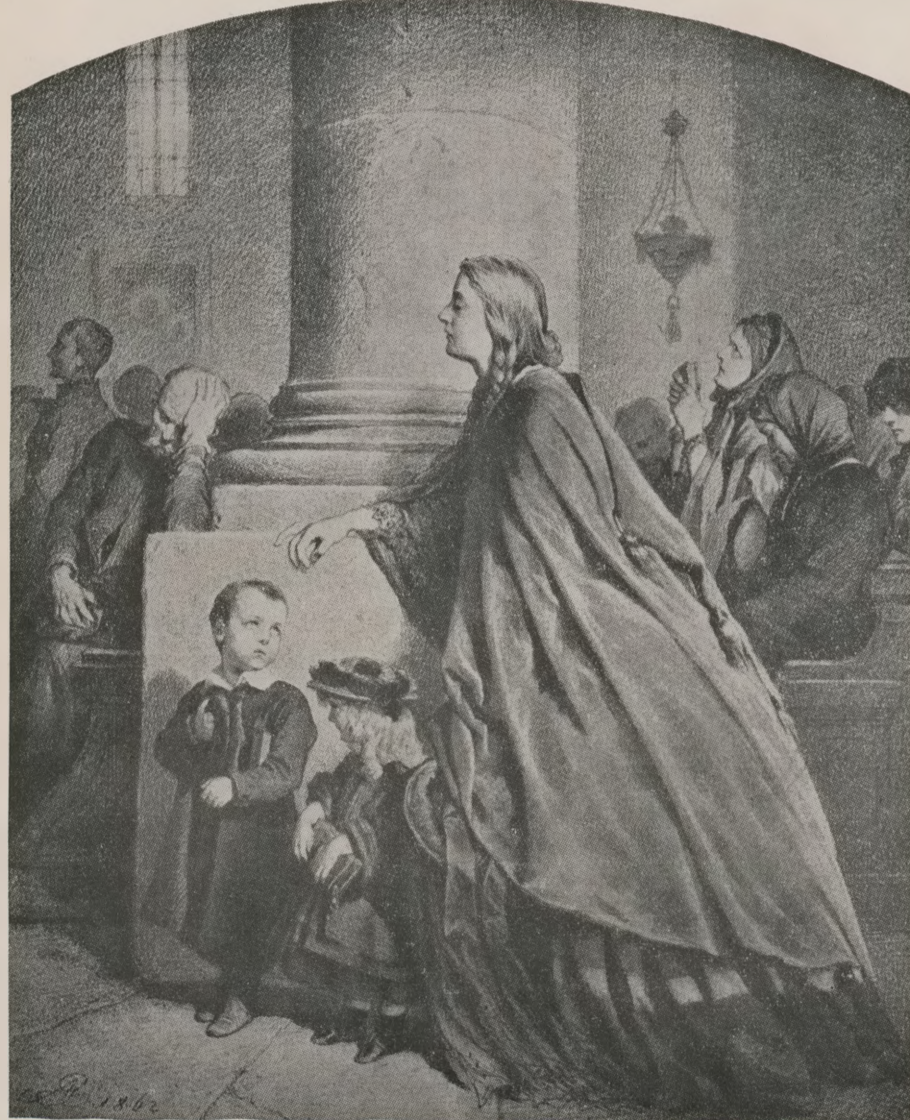
Polish youth! Down with Russification! An overwhelming majority of Polish students left the schools and the University frequently against the will of their frightened parents, tutors, and the moderate political groups which adhered to a "legal" policy and condemned strikes of any kind. There were many dramatic conflicts inside Polish families when children were compelled to oppose the will of their parents and to give them lessons in active patriotism. The Russian authorities were confused and did not know what to do with a school strike. In "normal" times they would have been rather satisfied with such a state of affairs because insubordination would have given them a good pretext for closing all the schools and expelling the "strikers." But at that time the Russian government was by no means so aggressive. The revolution caused distress and fear, a general excitement reigned throughout the country. It was, therefore, advisable not to add new troubles to the old ones. Finally the Ministry of Education made a compromise: the public (governmental) schools were to remain Russian but the private ones were allowed to use Polish as the classroom language.

Warsaw had begun the strike which spread all over the country afterwards, and Warsaw now gave a sample of amazing energy and organizational talent in setting up new Polish schools. The old private schools adapted themselves quickly to the changed situation but the creation of new ones caused many difficulties. There was a shortage of adaptable buildings, as well as of principals and teachers, and of Polish textbooks. The only solution was, then, to replace systematic organization with improvisation, a slow evolution with a kind of "revolution." And it was achieved with an incomparable enthusiasm and vitality. Big private apartments were reconstructed to form classrooms and corridors, old office buildings were hired to be adapted to school requirements, and even old, abandoned factories were used for the same purpose. Teachers were chosen from among the unemployed or not fully employed intelligentsia. So engineers had to teach mathematics, physics, and chemistry; lawyers and law-students, history and social science; writers, literature. Another way of obtaining teachers was by applying to the Austrian part of Poland where Polish Universities and Polish schools have been in existence for many years. Many graduates of these Universities then came to Warsaw to work together with their "improvised" colleagues. The same was done with Polish textbooks of which there was an abundance in the former "Galicia."

One can easily see that the organization of these schools was not ideal, especially in the beginning. But I can assure you from my own experience that they were as good as the Polish schools under the Austrian regime and, in some respects much better. Good will, optimism, and enthusiasm can create a better teacher sometimes than a long vocational training, especially if the latter is strangled by red tape. This was just the case in Austria. A cold bureaucratic atmosphere was characteristic of many of the Polish schools there, although — or perhaps because — they had a long tradition back of them. Here in Warsaw, and generally in Russian Poland everything was new, interesting, and exciting for both teachers and pupils; the lack of an unyielding tradition enabled the teachers to make experiments, to try to improve the methods (to some extent, of course, because the eyes of the Russian inspectors kept on them still), and to write new textbooks. But above all the atmosphere of these schools, the relation between pupils and teachers, and among fellow teachers, and the attitude of both towards teaching and studying were entirely different, characterized by mutual trust, kindness, and sympathy, by a consciousness of the importance of the work to be done and defended. To have Polish schools to be able to teach and to study in Polish was felt by all to be such a great chance that all other problems like order, discipline, grades, examinations etc. which take so much time and energy in "normal" schools were here, solved in a much smoother way, losing even the character of important "problems."

Nevertheless it was not a complete idyl, and could not be one within the frame of the Russian system. Every appearance of a Russian inspector threw a gloomy shadow over the school life and activity. It is true that among these inspectors there were cultivated and respectable men but the majority consisted of bureaucrats or spies. Since giving and taking bribes was a semi-official custom throughout the Russian Empire, it was possible in this way to obtain many favors from them. Every school budget had a sum set aside for this purpose. But even professional bribe-takers could not act openly against tendencies existing in higher offices. And these tendencies were distinctly hostile. With the passing of time, and the abating of the revolutionary storm, the Russian government began to regret all the little reforms that had been granted. Changes and persecutions followed. First they came to the conviction that general history and geography must be taught in Russian and by Russians. The execution of this decree made a break in the Polish character of the schools and introduced to them more Russian teachers. The surveillance of the schools became stronger, the visits of the inspectors more frequent and their behavior more hostile. Hundreds of little "chicanes" were carried on, often making the life of principals and teachers unbearable. A system of collective responsibility of all schools was introduced forcing all schools to close for days and even weeks merely because some one of them was in trouble. Normal work was thus disorganized and the schools were threatened every day and every hour by the Damoclean sword of permanent closure.

In spite of all this the spirit of the Polish private schools did not falter. They fought for their existence by all accessible means and preserved it until that time, when, in 1918, after the restoration of Poland, they became the corner-stone of the organization of public governmental schools in this part of Poland.



"Warsaw" by Artur Grottger

VICTORY IS GUARANTEED BY THE WAR INDUSTRIES IN THE U. S. A.

On our economic front, in our factories, shipyards and work-shops we have won a great victory.

From day to day the war production grows in the U. S. A., grows the power of the Allied Armed Forces.

Americans of Polish descent have proved that they are worthy sons of their second homeland, America.

On the front-lines, in their work-shops Americans of Polish descent are guided only by one thought, they want to speed up the victory of America and the liberation of Poland.

Let us enlarge the output of our work. No waste of precious time! Let us devote all our efforts to America and Poland!

L. W. S.
NEW YORK CITY

THE NEW ORDER IN WARSAW



Potocki Palace



*Świętokrzyska Street
(once there were houses)*



Grzybowska Street



Part of Marshall J. Piłsudski Square



Treasury



Świętokrzyska Street



Stock Exchange



A house in the center of the city



Yard of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare



Basar on Nowy Świat



Ordynacka Street



Nowy Świat



Kościuszko Boulevard



Ministry of the Interior



An Official Building



Iron Gate Square (Lubomirski Palace)



An Apartment House



Corner of the Pieracki Street



Małachowski Square (Palace of Fine Arts with the Monument of a Dying Soldier) Sculptor: E. Wittig



TRIBUTE TO HEROIC WARSAW

Homage Paid By American Cities To Poland's Capitol

STATEMENTS AND DECLARATIONS

It was on the 1st September, 1939, the Germans crossed the Polish border — not at one point, but over every highway and country road, a mass attack on a country with which it had no quarrel, on a country which established its independence and demonstrated to the world that it was worthy of the liberty for which they waited centuries, a country that was prosperous, peaceful and happy.

The Nazis made this mass attack upon Poland because they wanted to impress their own people of their might — that strange belief that attacking smaller countries outnumbered in troops and cannons and planes, that the slaughtering of innocent, non-combatant women and children, demonstrated courage — But that is the history of the Nazis: bold, cruel, powerful against the weak and inoffensive; cringing, retreating, defeated when faced with equal strength.

But there was something in Poland that the Nazis wanted. First, Poland's strategic position in preparing for its later attack against its then friend Russia, and to loot the fields and rob the people of its food, to capture the industries and enslave its labor. So ruthlessly and cruelly the Nazis marched on, taking all that was good, destroying what they could not take. Yes, marching on to Warsaw in overwhelming strength and there the tanks met an unexpected and non-understandable defense, not in tanks, for there were none, not in artillery, for it had already been destroyed in its brief attempt to stop the hordes of brutes — but the defense of the unarmed people of the City of Warsaw led and inspired by its brave Mayor Stefan Starzynski. The Nazis were not satisfied with the taking of Warsaw. They had first sought to intimidate its people by constant air attacks until little remained of what was once a beautiful and proud city. This was followed by artillery which bombarded the city day after day, and night after night. And even then the Nazis had to fight every inch on every street before they finally captured and held the City of Warsaw.

The defense of Warsaw is one of the great epics of this dark period of our civilization. Even after its capture, for months and months it was necessary for the Nazis to keep a large army, for the people refused to be suppressed and resisted the oppressors. Words cannot describe the courage and determination of the people of Poland. Words can be of little comfort now for the people of Poland are deserving of something more than just admiration or moral support. It is good that we can provide something more than that — the absolute and definite assurance that their country will be liberated, the solemn promise that the war will not be over until Poland is free again, until the invaders — the oppressors — every single Nazi will have been driven out of Poland except those who will be held to rebuild with their own dirty hands part of what they destroyed. A free and independent Poland will be re-established — no, not re-established, for it was never destroyed — the Polish people refused to be conquered although their country had been occupied.

There is so much to be done. We must first give full and complete support to the armies that are now fighting the Nazis: more work here at home; more production of tanks and guns and planes and ammunition; more production of food and ships to get that food to the people as soon as the military situation will permit; no time to be lost in reviewing the terrible hours of the past but quick and energetic action to restore and rebuild.

Yes, the people of America say in their assurance to the people of Poland "We are coming — coming first with our armies and then with our co-operation. We will first dry the tears of the Mermaid. We will help to rebuild. A new Poland will arise. A new Warsaw will again flourish. The people of Poland will again be happy — the Mermaid will smile again."

FIORIELLO H. LA GUARDIA
Mayor of New York, N. Y.

The people of Chicago are proud of the opportunity on this, the fourth anniversary of the fall of Warsaw, to salute the courageous men and women of Poland, who, despite the forced surrender of their country to Nazi domination, have continued unceasingly their fight for the one thing that gives life meaning — liberty!

The date of September 2, 1939, is destined to live forever in the memory of this and future generations throughout the world. That day which saw the capitulation of Warsaw, Poland, to the ruthless Nazi invaders will live as the mark of a tragic event that was to embroil the whole world in the most bloody war in history. It will be remembered as the shock that finally awakened the democratic peoples of the world to the necessity of rescuing themselves and their

homelands from the threat of barbarism and slavery which was already taking a stranglehold on Europe. It will live, too, as a tribute to the heroic defenders of Warsaw, who saw their homes blasted to heaps of ruin before they would lay down their arms.

That tragedy of September 2, 1939, was felt more sharply by the people of Chicago probably than by those of any other city in the world, outside of Poland, for Chicago numbers among its people more men and women of Polish origin than any other city except Warsaw. Chicago is honored to claim these men and women of Polish origin, many of whom are among our most distinguished leaders.

Yes, Chicago was outraged at the destruction of Warsaw. But mixed with the surge of anger at this appalling brutality, there was also a feeling of fierce pride at the evidence of courage and the unconquerable spirit with which the defenders of Warsaw fought and died. Warsaw surrendered, yes; but not before its heroes found their ammunition gone, their water supply cut off by Nazi bombs, their power stations wrecked, and they themselves half starved for lack of food. And it was not only the soldiers in uniform who were fighting in defense of their homeland; but every last man, woman and child carried on the struggle, even after all hope had gone, refusing to surrender until every means of defense had been exhausted.

When Warsaw fell, the shock of its surrender was felt by every American. However, during the four years that have passed since then, there never has been any question that this loss, this humiliation at the hands of the Nazi terrorists, would be avenged. Despite the wholesale slaughter that followed, the torture, the slavery to which hundreds of thousands of Poles were subjected by the barbarous Nazis, not once has the spirit of Poland faltered, at no time has there been the slightest thought of anything but a continuation of the struggle to regain their liberty and the independence of their country.

Today it is possible to state with positive confidence that a new day lies ahead for Poland. Warsaw's defenders did not die in vain. The sacrifices, the unspeakable hardships and misery borne by her inhabitants, the martyrdom of her great Mayor Stefan Starzynski, were not suffered in vain. Those acts of heroism and sacrifice have inspired the United Nations and their peoples in our common war for the survival of humanity. Poland will rise again — a stronger, finer, independent Poland. There will be a new Warsaw which will live forever as a monument to the bravery and indomitable spirit of free mankind. And the whole world will rejoice on that day of liberation for Poland which will come with our day of ultimate victory.

EDWARD J. KELLY
Mayor of Chicago, Illinois

It is now four years since the Polish people defied the might of the Axis powers and for a brief period with astounding courage carried on a hopeless fight against an enemy of greater numbers of military men and of superior mechanized equipment. The intrepidity of the Polish people to dare the might of the Germans on September 1, 1939, was the needed spark to precipitate the French and the English into a position of battle which was constantly being delayed while the Axis powers were making gains all over the world.

The Polish Nation was defeated, their lands devastated and their people massacred. When the story of the war is told, there probably will not be a single one of the subjugated nations that suffered greater agony and sacrifices and losses than the Polish people. Although they were subjugated as early as October, 1939, the Polish people are still carrying on a program of sabotage and guerrilla warfare against the Axis hordes. It is this dauntless spirit that will again bring to life a Polish Nation — politically, socially, religiously and economically free — a Polish Nation occupying her just position among the free people of the world.

FRANK J. LAUSCHE
Mayor of Cleveland, Ohio

As Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh, and the Federal Coordinator of Civilian Defense for the great industrial counties of Western Pennsylvania, I extend sincerest greetings to the enslaved and oppressed People of Warsaw and the great Nation of Poland.

Be assured, that we, the Citizens of

Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, are unalterably committed to the proposition that both the historic City of Warsaw and the historic Nation of Poland shall rise again and resume their rightful place in the community of Free Nations of the World!

CORNELIUS D. SCULLY
Mayor of Pittsburgh, Pa.

The American people have a deep admiration for acts of courage and heroism of individuals as well as of nations.

Four years ago Poland was the first to feel the full force of Nazi cruelty and hatred. Without a moment of hesitation the Poles accepted the fight for freedom against all odds and their beloved Warsaw was the first European capital to decide to die, rather than surrender.

The Nazis have conquered Poland but in spite of 8,000,000 Polish casualties — the spirit of her people remained free.

German firing squads are madly shooting thousands of Poles, endeavoring to kill their hope and faith, but by doing so they admit their failure and confess their fears, for the resistance of the Polish Nation increases daily.

By paying tribute to heroic Poland we weryly express our feelings, but let us make the ruins of Warsaw and millions of Polish graves an inspiration to deeds. Let us prove to the World that we Americans are truly freedom loving people and that we can make sacrifices whenever the need arises. Our sentiments must take a realistic form. We must back up our boys fighting on the battlefronts by giving up what we don't absolutely need at home.

Poland had done well as a vanguard of freedom and civilization; we as Americans must do as well by crushing the enemy of mankind.

I hereby proclaim the week of September 20 to 27, 1943, a POLISH WEEK in tribute to the valiant stand of the defenders of Warsaw.

EDWARD E. JEFFRIES
Mayor of Detroit

Since Warsaw, the capital city of Poland, was the first great city in this war to suffer total bombardment and destruction by the Nazi armies, and since under the leadership of their heroic Mayor, Stefan Starzynski, the people of Warsaw against overwhelming odds resisted our common enemy until their city was a defenseless mass of flames and rubble, and since the people of Warsaw have continued their stubborn resistance by every means at their disposal to the present day, I, James R. Law, Mayor of Madison, Wisconsin, proclaim this fourth anniversary of the siege of Warsaw as a period in which Madison, the capital city of the State of Wisconsin, pays honor to the heroic capital of Poland, pledges its fraternal sympathy, and prays that a speedy end of the war may allow it to bring all succor it can to the heroic people of Warsaw.

JAMES R. LAW
Mayor of Madison, Wisc.

For your publication to commemorate the Fourth Anniversary of the heroic defense of Warsaw, I send this expression, in behalf of our fellow-citizens of San Francisco, as their Mayor.

The gallant Polish people, in their historic stand for the homeland, in 1939, won the whole-souled admiration of the civilized world. This first and most frightful blow in the present conflict has become a symbol of supreme sacrifice in the cause of Freedom.

We fervently join the prayer of Polish people, everywhere, that the great Country which first offered resistance to the Nazi onslaught may soon resume her status among the free nations of the world.

May she, by God's grace, enjoy a long uninterrupted period of peace and progress, along the path she has followed so brilliantly, during her past centuries of glorious achievement.

ANGELO ROSSI
Mayor of St. Francisco, Cal.

It would be possible for any one familiar with the courage of the Polish people to write a long account of their deeds of valor both before and since that date. Let me just say at this time the Polish people all over the world have the admiration and sympathy of all free-do loving men and women. We are all looking toward the day when Poland will again take its place among the great democracies of the world.

ERASTUS CORNING
Mayor of Albany, N. Y.

Newspaper accounts of the destruction of Warsaw leave nothing to the imagination to realize its extent and the incalculable misery and suffering which has been inflicted upon a city of over a million and a quarter souls. I can well appreciate the tremendous task confronting the many agencies which will seek to restore to Warsaw a semblance of its former splendor as well as to house the people rendered homeless. It is my conviction that from the ashes of Warsaw there will rise a city, greater and stronger because of its trials and suffering. The spirit of the people of Poland is indestructible though its buildings and monuments may be razed to the ground.

FRANK HAGUE
Mayor of Jersey City, N. J.

The National spirit of the Poles has, for over a century and a half, been the admiration of all free people. Their struggles and sacrifices, to one unacquainted with the character of the Poles and the history of Poland, seemed a hopeless and a useless sacrifice but the struggle for liberty went on until on a glorious day, shortly after the close of World War I, the White Eagle of Poland was thrown to the breeze and floated over a free Poland; the long struggle for freedom was over and Poland again took its proudful place among the Nations of the earth.

America watched with keen interest and with sympathy the organization and reconstruction of the new government.

We felt that we were close to Poland; we of America had not forgotten Pulaski and Kosciuszko who belonged jointly to America and Poland.

Our association since the birth of this Republic had been intimate, throughout America was felt a kinship with the people of the New Republic.

Our hands were stretched across the sea in welcome to the liberty loving people of Poland; our hearts beat in unison in the love of truth, liberty and the rights of man.

The wrongs of over a century had been righted, the future was brilliant with hope and we believe that a brave, long suffering people had at last been rewarded for all their agony and struggles.

This was not to be. It was with a feeling of horror, of sorrow and indignation that the American people heard of the shameful invasion of Poland; the crime that has had its repercussions throughout the civilized world.

The crime against Poland aroused all free people to a sense of a terrible danger and we began to arm for the conflict we knew was inevitable.

The conflict has gone on for four bloody years, the dark clouds of war are beginning to lift and we hope and pray that victory will soon be ours.

May that epic in man's struggle for liberty, the heroic defense of Warsaw, be ever remembered when men feel in defense of freedom.

GEORGE A. QUIGLEY
Mayor of New Britain, Conn.

The destruction of the Polish City of Warsaw in the early period of the present World War, before our nation was attacked and entered the conflict, was one of the greatest acts of Vandalism in history. Even the Vandals themselves, whence the name has sprung, showed more compassion for the City of Rome when they captured it ages ago. The bombardment and destruction of Warsaw, the center of Polish culture and national life, with its myriads of innocent citizens — including the heroic Mayor who died at his post — sacrificed to the pitiless God of War controlled by Nazi masters, is an international offense which merits condemnation and retribution.

Warsaw, with its tradition, its learning, its contribution to the arts and science, its part in European civilization, should not be lost to the world.

To build up that City, therefore, after the war and repeople it with Polish patriots is a worthy aspiration. As Mayor of Baltimore, I express the hope that within the fabric of the coming peace treaty, provision may be made for the upbuilding and restoration of Warsaw.

THEODORE R. McKELDIN
Mayor of Baltimore, Md.

I desire to add to the many other expressions of admiration for the people of Poland, a statement on behalf of the people of Kansas City.

The great courage of the Polish people

shown by their long resistance to the ruthless invader occupying their country has won the respect of all Americans. We all join in the hope that these barbarians may soon be driven from the soil of Poland and that the Polish nation will again be free.

JOHN B. GAGE
Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri

"RE-BUILD WARSAW — THE CITY HITLER DESTROYED"

It is quite appropriate that observance be given, and tribute paid, the defenders of Warsaw on the occasion of the Fourth Anniversary of the Siege of that citadel of freedom and democracy.

Here for the first time was resistance offered to Hitler's Nazi Hordes. Here for the first time free people refused to compromise the fundamental principles of justice and liberty.

Here was an epic seldom equalled in the annals of warfare, when Polish citizens fought courageously side by side with a valiant and brave Polish army in the defense of their city.

The magnitude of the courage of the Polish people in resisting the Nazi war machine is emphasized — tremendously when compared to the quick time in which the Nazis made their succeeding conquests.

With the destruction of Warsaw, there was destroyed a seat of culture, and a center of democracy. The least we as Americans can do is that when victory has crowned the efforts of the peoples of the United Nations, and once again the sunshine of peace and freedom is the heritage of all mankind, that we lend our best efforts to the purpose of rebuilding that great city.

M. PAVEY
Mayor of So. Bend, Ind.

Whereas, the American people have a fervent respect and admiration for the people of Poland for their heroic defense of their homeland when attacked on September 1, 1939, and

Whereas, throughout the past four years the valiant Polish people have continued to offer both passive and active resistance to the invaders who occupy their country, and

Whereas, our people earnestly hope that the forces of oppression will soon be driven from the soil of Poland and that the Polish nation will live again in a world of peace and democratic freedom,

Now, therefore, as Mayor of Lockport I do hereby proclaim and set aside the period from September 1 to September 4 as a Week of Tribute to Poland, and I urge that during that period citizens of Lockport join with churches and patriotic organizations in honoring the dauntless spirit and courage of the Polish people.

Witness my hand and the seal of the City of Lockport, New York, this 1st day of September 1943.

EDWARD H. GAILOR
Mayor of Lockport, N. Y.

The City of Akron and all its people hail the noble and ancient city of Warsaw in her desolation.

We, all of us, look confidently for an early restoration and rebuilding of the great capital City of the Polish Nation.

We are gratefully aware of the contributions of this City and this nation to the progress, culture and advancement of mankind. As Americans, we cherish the memory of those devotees of liberty — Kosciuszko, Pulaski, Paderewski, and the legion of their countrymen who have contributed to our own greatness.

The ruthless destruction of majestic and historic Warsaw will make the historians of the future blush that such a perpetration could be effected, even in this most sanguinary of wars.

The truth of the old maxim that "he who only rules by terror shall reap disaster" will find proof in the municipal resurrection of this world-renowned metropolis.

Warsaw, we predict, will rise Phoenix-like from her ashes and again assume her rightful place among the great capitals of the World.

As Mayor of Akron, I am honored to salute the sure recapture of civic freedom to commemorate the heroic valor and sacrifice of the martyr Mayor Stefan Starzynski, and to say that we and all the world shall rejoice in the surety of restored glory for immortal Warsaw.

GEORGE J. HARTER
Mayor of Akron, Ohio

September 1, 1939 to September 27, 1939 were eventful days not only in the modern history of Poland, but of the

entire world. A courageous people, the Poles defended their sacred rights of freedom and sovereignty and collapsed only in the face of overwhelming numbers of an enemy mechanically and diabolically prepared for the onslaught.

The citizens of Warsaw fought relentlessly under the leadership of Mayor Stefan Starzynski and finally succumbed among the ruins of this ancient and beautiful capital of Poland, the cultural and educational center of Europe for many centuries.

Yes, rebuild Warsaw! Rebuild Warsaw and the country for which it stands, to a greater grandeur and glory commensurate with high hopes and ideals of a great nation, whose history is so replete with oppression and yet whose determined will to exist among the free nations of the world has never been paralleled.

Poland and Warsaw are the embodiment of true freedom and democracy, and we in the United States join with other free peoples in the world in prayer for a speedy determination of this war and the rebirth and rebuilding of the country which bore our Revolutionary heroes, Kosciuszko and Pulaski and the millions of Americans of Polish extraction. Rebuild Warsaw!

JAMES T. KIRK
Mayor of Elisabeth, N. J.

It is a distinct pleasure to offer the greetings of Cincinnati to the Polish people, both those who have become American citizens and those who live in Poland. The brave defiance and cruel destruction and persecution of Warsaw thrills us with pride for the heroism of Poland, and with horror for the acts of its enemies.

The world owes much to Poland. Pulaski was one of the great heroes of our war to establish the American republic, and Sobieski saved Europe for Christianity.

We know that the Polish people will arise from their present tragedy into a greater and finer nation which will continue to make the fine Polish contribution to the progress and happiness of humanity.

JAMES GARFIELD STEWART
Mayor of Cincinnati, Ohio

Poland's entire history deserves a full tribute of devotion, respect and sympathy. Her present position and misfortunes are the price that a true Democratic nation must sometimes pay lest free governments perish from this earth.

But we in Salem, Massachusetts pay a special tribute of thanks for all that Poland's sons and daughters have done for the civic and community life of Salem. May we never lose them nor forget their glorious record in our City, State and Nation.

Dated at Salem, Massachusetts, this 19 day of September, 1943.

EDWARD A. COFFEY
Mayor of Salem, Mass.

The heroic and courageous battle waged against the overwhelming hordes of Nazis by Polish soldiers and civilians of Warsaw under the valiant leadership of Mayor Stefan Starzynski can never be forgotten.

The brave men and women of Warsaw who gave up their lives have not died in vain. Warsaw will be rebuilt and our motto should now be "We must live for Poland."

We who live in America are fortunate, indeed. We carry on under the most favorable conditions with nothing approaching the deplorable situation in Poland to worry us.

Let us hope that future events will so shape themselves that we can soon bring freedom to our Polish people and with it a firmly established rule which can guarantee a greater measure of happiness and security in the years to come.

ZYGMUNT S. LEYMEL
Mayor of Fresno, California

I, as Mayor of the City of East St. Louis, Illinois, do most heartily sympathize with the Polish people who made a great sacrifice in defense of the City of Warsaw.

Warsaw — a city defended by men, women and children, gave to the world an inspiration and a never to be forgotten, true and unbelieved picture of how free, peace loving people will fight when attacked without warning by a cruel, unrelenting, merciless foe. America will never forget Her undaunting courage. Her utter disregard for death for the preservation of freedom, liberty, honor and peace which are so much a tradition with the American people. Warsaw must be rebuilt as an inspiration and memorial to her unbreaking courage and unswerving loyalty to the principles of peace, life, liberty and freedom.

Therefore, it gives me great pleasure as Mayor of the City of East St. Louis, Illinois, to highly recommend to every American Citizen, the book entitled: "Rebuild Warsaw — The City Hitler Destroyed".

JOHN T. CONNORS
Mayor of East St. Louis, Ill.

As the war in the European Theater at the present time seems to have taken a completely victorious turn for the Allies, it is most heartening and a real privilege for us to extend greetings and words of encouragement to the courageous people of Poland who have suffered untold hardships and in many cases even death in order that democracy might survive the cruel and unrelenting scourge of totalitarian nations. The example of these brave people will be an inspiration to the democracies who are fighting a life and death battle in order that the principles and ideals of self-government may be preserved for future generations.

It is with great joy and expectation that we anticipate the future rebuilding of the towns of Poland, particularly the presently demolished city of Warsaw which lies battle scarred and pillaged as the result of the onslaught of the German people.

WILSON W. WYATT
Mayor of Louisville, Ky.

Warsaw, the city of culture, the home of brave men and women, statesmen and heroic patriots should be rebuilt. It will be rebuilt, for the people of the Polish Nation since September 1, 1939, have suffered atrocities without a parallel in history. The brave and gallant mayor of Warsaw, Honorable Stefan Starzyński, dies a heroes death when he and his constituents refused to surrender to Hitler. People as brave, courageous and honorable as the Poles — a race which fortunately for mankind cannot be deterred in their glorious fight to restore all the landmarks of the Polish nation.

Events known and heroic acts not yet recorded since the beautiful city, Warsaw, was reduced to rubble September 27, 1939, have aroused the admiration sympathy, and support of good people all over the globe, who cherish freedom and democratic institutions.

The Poles, like John Paul Jones, our illustrious naval hero, who when asked to surrender have said and will continue to proclaim no matter how bitter the circumstances, "We have just Begun To Fight". With such a slogan, backed by an indomitable race like yours who do not know such words as appeasement and surrender, Warsaw will be rebuilt and fully restored to its former grandeur; and when we have won a triumphant peace and Warsaw flourishes again, I desire very much to visit this great citadel of culture, music, noble ideals and the birth place of valiant heroes.

In Birmingham are American citizens who came from Poland and many descendants of the Polish race. I am proud to claim these good people as intimate friends. They, together with all our citizens, send you cordial greetings, and it is my ardent wish that the special edition of the Polish Magazine will accomplish every purpose desired by its originators.

W. COOPER GREEN
President of the Birmingham City Commission

Amongst the emphatically recorded facts of history is the fact that the forces of iniquity and barbarism have always sought to destroy the forces which have held aloft the torch of Liberty and have taught the highest types of culture; in short to destroy human civilization.

To those of us who were thrilled by the story of Thaddeus of Warsaw, enthused by the Battle Hymn of Poland, —with its stirring reference to Sobieski, Kościuszko and other Polish heroes, — the destruction of Warsaw is the destruction of one of Freedom's most sacred shrines. That shrine must be rebuilt; otherwise it will continue to be a testimonial to the power and permanence of barbarism; yes, barbarism of the most hideous and hellish type.

Therefore, we must march onward to the rebuilding of Warsaw; to the resurrection of her culture; to making her a future momento of her present martyrdom, her past glory and a future filled with greater glory and the hope of Eternal Peace.

JAMES FALLON
Mayor of Pittsfield, Mass.

On the fourth anniversary of the invasion of Poland by the Nazi hordes, it is well to pause and pay tribute to the gallant and heroic people of Poland.

The world well remembers the courageous defense of Warsaw and the destruction which followed when the Hitler armies finally got there. The Mayor of Warsaw, Stefan Starzyński, is one of the heroic figures of this world conflict. I am satisfied that the civilized world will see to it that Warsaw is rebuilt after this war, and that Poland will again find its proper place among the free and liberty loving people of the world.

SAMUEL B. DICKER
Mayor of Rochester, N. Y.

The resolute and unwavering stand of the Mayor of Warsaw and the resistance of the people of Poland to an oppressor who attacked them without declaration of war have earned the praise of liberty loving peoples for their courage, their fortitude and their every effort to block the pathway of those who sought to destroy.

Throughout the world homage is paid to the fidelity of Warsaw's Mayor in the hour of trial. Despite the cruel steps taken in an attempt to subdue the Polish people, despite total persecution, the people of Poland have remained steadfast, earning the grateful plaudits of a world which admires the true courage so well exemplified in the difficult days and years following the unjustified attack.

Mayor Stefan Starzyński was a true exponent of the Polish attitude. His rejection of the demand to surrender, his death as a hero and the object lesson which he gave to the world will remain long in the minds and hearts of those who admire valor and patriotism.

DENNIS P. O'CONNOR
Mayor of Hartford, Conn.

The City of Amsterdam, New York, nestled in the Valley of the beautiful Mohawk River, has a population of 36,000, of these about a third are Poles. Amsterdam has two of the largest rug and carpet factories in the world, the Bigelow-Sanford Co., Inc. and the Mohawk Carpet Mills, Inc., both of which have now converted their plants to manufacture of war materials. Amsterdam also has broom factories, knit goods factories, button shops, oil mills, machine shops and so on. A great many of Amsterdam's men and women are now working at the American Locomotive Works and the General Electric Plant Electric Plant at Schenectady, New York. Amsterdam had a Polish Mayor, Honorable John Klobukowski.

Poland the Martyr of Nations is again enslaved. But not for long. She shall rise again. Her oppressors fall! The beasts that have stormed her beautiful cities, destroyed her precious art, enslaved her people, defiled her womanhood, mercilessly and most brutally killed her men, women and children, and are carrying out a program of extermination, will be brought to a terrible justice. The crimes of the savage leaders of Germany perpetrated upon the peaceful peoples of Poland and other peaceful loving peoples of Europe, cry to the High Heavens for vengeance. They will all be avenged.

The savage, unjustified and murderous attack on Poland by the brutal anti-Christ of Germany, in September, 1939, was the initial step of a complex-stricken German race, led by an insane dictator in a plan to conquer the World. Terrorism was one of the enemies-weapons: persecution, murder, plunder, wanton destruction, deprivation of liberty and reduction to lowest kind of slavery, rape, assault and starvation are but a few of its other cruel weapons. But all of these and other hardships have not broken the spirit of the people of Poland. They continue to fight their enemy and will eventually drive him from their sacred land.

As Mayor of the City of Amsterdam I want to pay tribute to Mayor Stefan Starzyński, Mayor of the City of War-

Each September the First for decades to come, will remind the World of the courage of the Citizens of Warsaw who so loved liberty that they first found the will to defy death and destruction of the ruthless German blitzkrieg. Today, after four years, the proud city is not humbled, only ruined, and her brave citizens not beaten, only oppressed; but the day of Nemesis is near and surely the victorious Allies will hasten the work of Reconstruction. From the ashes and rubble and sweat and blood a new Warsaw will be rebuilt and will stand the more magnificently as the capital of a reborn Poland.

CHARLES ROZMAREK
President
Polish National Alliance

I saw Warsaw in all its glory as the capital of Poland at the time of her newly won freedom — a city of beauty, elegance and energy — a city of stately and quaint buildings, of meandering little streets and broad, tree-lined thoroughfares, of old-town quarters and modern apartments, of imposing palaces, of magnificent parks, and gay, laughing people. Warsaw was truly the capital of Poland, its heart and soul.

When the dastardly invader attacked Poland on the first of September 1939, it was Warsaw, the capital and heart of Poland, that became immediately the center of defense of the whole nation, the bastion of the most inspiring and heroic resistance. The people of Warsaw, rich and poor, rushed to the defense of this city, which symbolized to the world the whole of Poland.

TRIBUTE TO HEROIC WARSAW

PART II.

saw on the fourth sad anniversary of the fall of that great Polish city. Warsaw fell September 27th, 1939 but not by way of surrender. It was courageously defended to the bitter end. Mayor Starzyński remained at his post, broadcasting encouragement to his people and defying Hitler's demand to surrender. The courage displayed by His Honor Mayor Starzyński is typical of the courage of all Poles. There are no Quislings in Poland. That courage will restore Poland to the Poles, and may God speed the day.

The enemy even now shows signs of deterioration. That cancer of Nazism is vanishing rapidly. Add to that the magnificent job all of the soldiers, sailors, marines, flyers, merchantmen and workers on the home front in our factories, are doing and the job of destroying the enemy draws nearer. And now that we are virtually assured of victory, let us all increase our efforts to make that victory a quick one. "Let's back the attack". Let's not slip back. Our men and women in the armed forces are doing as much. Let us honor Mayor Stefan Starzyński by sticking to our respective jobs as he did when Warsaw was stormed.

JOHN KLOBUKOWSKI
Acting Mayor of Amsterdam

The undersigned, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Adams, State of Massachusetts are advised that a movement is growing through your organization for the purpose of appealing to the citizens of the United States and the world for assistance in the rebuilding of Warsaw at the close of the present conflagration. The undersigned, the Board of Selectmen consider it a high honor and privilege to give its endorsement on behalf of the inhabitants of Adams to this movement. We would like to call your special attention to the fact that our relatively small community of thirteen thousand people has some five thousand Polish citizens, and they look with great pride and satisfaction to the over seven or eight hundred of its sons of Polish extraction serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. They are the living proof that a democracy, such as Poland created at the outbreak of the present conflict is to be given high consideration in the conscience of mankind. It is not only because of those men and also women who are giving their services to the cause of freedom but the many thousands of those who inhabited every corner of our own United States and who have contributed much to the American way of living. They feel keenly for their forebears and brothers and sisters who are enslaved in what was once a democracy.

When the time comes for more concrete action we will fortify your movement with our best efforts, we trust and hope that mankind and especially civilized mankind will reinforce that movement. We know that such a worthy cause cannot fail to attract the honor and the conscience of our mankind.

They battled for many weeks against terrific odds, without sufficient arms and food, and they gave up only when no means of resistance were available. Their fight was symbolic not only of the City of Warsaw, but of the whole Polish nation.

The spirit of patriotism and sacrifice shown by the defenders of Warsaw, with its heroic mayor, Stefan Starzyński, is the spirit of the Polish people, and this spirit will win over all obstacles, over all the persecutions and terror of the enemies of Poland. Poland will rise again!

I salute the City of Warsaw, the symbol of imperishable, free and great Poland!

F. X. ŚWIETLIK
President
Polish American Council of the U. S. A.

The heroic stand taken by Polish men, women and children in defense of Warsaw four years ago will forever stand as a brilliantly shining star in the glorious history of Poland and no less in the history of the world as one of the most important events of this war.

DR. T. A. STARZYŃSKI
National President
Polish Falcons of America

Throughout the entire history of Poland, the Polish Woman has woven with a golden thread of her boundless patriotism the most glorious pattern. Her self-sacrificing sacrifice, munificence, endurance, as well as, her valor radiates from every page. Down through the ge-

We, the undersigned, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Adams, subscribe our names hereto on behalf of our citizens.

ARTHUR W. KING
JOHN S. WILK
THOMAS F. RUSSELL
Board of Selectmen
of Adams, Mass.

I as Mayor of the City of Holyoke, can readily understand what must have been the trials of Mayor Stefan Starzyński of Warsaw on that fateful September 27, 1939, when the city of which he was Mayor, was invaded by Hitler, fully knowing the might of Hitler's Army and being in no position, because of lack of armament to ably resist the advances of the German Army, still stuck to the few guns that he had and said — "We shall probably all be killed, but surrender, NEVER".

We all know what happened to Warsaw, but we know equally as well what will happen to the despoilers of Warsaw.

Today, we see other cities that boasted no enemy would ever put foot on their soil and other cities that boasted they would never be bombed, but we know what has happened today.

I think the truth of the old saying, — "The mills of God grind slowly but they grind exceedingly fine" will be brought home to Hitler and his hordes, that they shall be paid in turn, one-hundredfold for the lives they have taken and the ruins they have caused.

We look forward to the day and it is not too far distant, when Warsaw and all Poland will again be freed from the hands of a despoiler and rise to even greater heights.

My prayer and the prayer of all the free people and people that want to be free, join me that this will be soon.

HENRY J. TOEFFERT
Mayor of Holyoke, Mass.

When I first reached Warsaw in February 1919, shortly after the four years of World War I, my memories of the city were: long bread lines, smokeless chimneys of industrial plants, an embryo government struggling to bring order into the newly created State. I learned then a new lesson, that the will of man to conquer difficulties — if allowed to function — can soon revive dead industries, create employment, turn bread lines into lines of depositors in savings banks, and create the foundation for strong government.

During my seventeen years in Warsaw, I witnessed an increase in population of the city of several hundreds of thousands of people, the erection of tens of thousands of modern homes and new buildings, even the rising in the heart of the city of a 17-story skyscraper which was then Europe's tallest building.

However, my leaning was more toward the older picturesque part of the city known as Stare Miasto. Here I made my home in a two hundred year old house which had been restored by its

architect-owner in what was the finest in Polish art, taste, and tradition. These surroundings and the warm Polish friends I made among them have left memories of great value.

The Polish people can smile and keep their heads high under the greatest adversity. A nation of this character will always rise again.

MAURICE PATE

KUPUJCIE ZNACZKI

BONDY WOJENNE

UNION PARTS MFG. CO., INC.

IGNACY, PAWEŁ i MIECZYSLAW NURKIEWICZ, Właściciele

175 Ashland Place Brooklyn, N. Y.
Tel. TR 5-9811

forefront, and she will remain there until that glorious moment when ultimate victory is achieved — which God grant, is not too far distant.

And in this hour of trial — next to the valiant Women of Warsaw, to the Women of all Poland, to that unfortunate refugee, whom the rages of war have thrown all over the globe, and who in the face of this tragedy did not give in, but continues to be the Mother, Protector and Teacher not only of her own, but of the countless thousands of motherless children — stands the Polish Woman of America, reaching with her helping hand to the most distant corners of the universe. We, the Polish Women of America, pattern ourselves on our heroic Sisters of old Poland and also place deeds above words.

On this tragic anniversary of the defense of Warsaw we salute the valiant Polish Woman and the entire Polish nation, and send them words of encouragement to continue the fight as they are not fighting alone any more, and the victorious end is near. I am confident that I bespeak for all the Polish Women in America when I say to the Heroic Polish Woman — that we are ready and waiting to render **WHEREVER, WHENEVER AND WHATEVER** aid is necessary, for no sacrifice on our part is too great when the liberty of Poland is at stake.

In God we trust that next September will bring us a liberated Warsaw and Poland Free and Independent!

HONORATA B. WOŁOWSKA

DR. T. A. STARZYŃSKI

President of

POLISH FALCONS OF AMERICA

97-99 SOUTH 18th STREET

PITTSBURGH, PA.

FIVE DAY WONDER COURSE

Od poniedziałku do piątku — po dwie godziny dziennie. — Rano, popołudniu lub wieczorem. — Nauka pielęgnowania twarzy i ciała. — Jak się należy czesać. — Jak się ubierać, by wyglądać skromnie i elegancko.

Telefonujcie lub piszcie:

HELENA RUBINSTEIN

715 — 5th AVENUE
New York City
Tel. Eldorado 5-2100

Wysilek wszystkich lojalnych Amerykanów, niezależnie od ich pochodzenia, skierowany jest ku zyszczeniu zwycięstwa Ameryki.

Tylko wspólnymi siłami przywrócić będzie trwały pokój na świecie.

W walce o lepsze jutro Stanów Zjednoczonych i Polski walczą Amerykanie polskiego pochodzenia.

Niesiemy im pomoc na froncie domowym — w naszych fabrykach i w naszym codziennym życiu.

ROBACZYŃSKI MACH. CORP. OF AMERICA

326 TEN EYCK STREET
Brooklyn, N. Y.

THE POLISH BOOK IMPORTING CO., INC.

38 UNION SQUARE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

has a great choice of **SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY POLISH BOOKS**

as well as **ENGLISH BOOKS ABOUT POLAND**
CATALOGUES UPON REQUEST

MARIA KUNCZEWICZOWA

Modjeska in Warsaw

"Warsaw in spring is beautiful. Streets, public squares and parks swarm with people; young men with bright faces, latest fashions, and that nonchalance which can be seen only in large cities; beautiful women trotting on their small, perfectly shod feet and shading their eyes with parasols often used as shields against the bold gazes of men; sweet faced and white haired matrons escorting their daughters; children; men and women of all standing; rich and poor; and among them, here and there, the brilliant uniforms of Russian gendarmes. But on a glorious spring afternoon who cares if even a million official eyes are watching around? Gay and light-hearted are the Warsawians; at least they appear so in public. The great storm which only six years before had shaken the whole nation down to its very foundations had apparently left no traces on its vitality. "Life" seems to be written on every face, to vibrate in every countenance; the whole city is sparkling with it, and there is such a tremendous current of sympathy in the air, that strangers meet with a smile, ready to call each other friend. To be in a crowd is usually a rather unpleasant experience, but is a real pleasure to move among the spirited throngs of that "oppressed" people!"

Thus describes Helena Modrzejewska in her memoirs Warsaw, six years after the bloody insurrection, in the year 1869 or 70. Helena Modrzejewska, one of the most fascinating actresses, who ever have revealed the secrets of fate and heart to the people. Modrzejewska, a child of Cracow, was through her husband rather connected with Posen. In Warsaw, however, she has experienced her first ecstasy of fame and has found admirers, true unto death. In Warsaw, too, she has discovered the refined cruelty of life. She learned—in the light of reality — of the Shakespearian antimonies of life.

For the capital of what country was that Warsaw, where in spring life seemed to be inscribed with a smile on the face of every passer-by?

A capital of a country divided for nearly one hundred years among the three neighbor states. The capital of a nation which was constantly shaken by rebellions against death.

The governor of the tsar, whose representatives in the Warsaw crowd were the gendarmes in their brilliant uniforms, did everything possible in evil human pride to kill the joy of life in Poland. The pride of the city, the university, the center of the independent thought, was made an outpost of Russian official propaganda. Polish professors and students had to go into foreign countries to preserve the freedom of scientific research. What a day at school looked like at that time for a child in Warsaw becomes evident from the memoirs of Maria Skłodowska-Curie. It was in the seventies, too, when the little Mary Skłodowska listened to a lecture about the past of her country, scared to death, when the bell announcing the visit of school inspector rang. With trembling hands she, hiding her Polish books under the desk, used to grasp her needle-work and soon she could be heard reciting under the stern eye of the unfriendly official at first the Lord's Prayer in Russian and then all the titles and high ranks of the "by God's grace then reigning Tsar of All-Russia".

And while the lilacs blossomed in the parks of Warsaw, her best citizens withered away in prisons, swang on gallows, bled and froze to death in Siberia. "Gay and light-hearted are the Warsawians; at least they appear so in public". Yes, in public. Since even in the circles of the adherents of Comte and Spencer, opponents of romantic politics, adherents of compromises with the annexer, unrest and despair prevailed. Nothing to say about the conflicts among the leftist elements. These centers received a special impulse from the fact of the French-Prussian War, and also from Garibaldi's action. Just then Jaroslaw Dąbrowski was the leader of the Commune of Paris. Soon he was to die on its barricades. Mierosławski was trying to connect the Polish underground movement with the cause of liberation of the Italian people.

Behind the facade of the glorious spring many things took place of which philosophers do not dream. The sky above that carefree Warsaw seemed as if to quiver in the high tension before the storm.

From her earliest times of stage work Modrzejewska felt that the secret of art was to be found outside of the theater. While studying the part of Juliet, she used to walk in the evenings in the garden and to recite her part so that her voice should not disturb the rustling of the leaves and the singing of the birds, and yet be heard by man.

She was always like a most sensitive string, infinitely sensible to the atmosphere. She played not only for her public but at the same time as it were for the whole world, which was so unfeeling, so indifferent to the very being of the soul.

She owed a great enrichment of the knowledge of man, and thereby of the gamut of her art, to Warsaw. At her house met various artists, eccentrics and worldly conventionalists. Each one of them offered to the friends beside his private history a different aspect of Polish craze.

Thus the painter Chelmonski, whose canvases wandered later to the Stewart Gallery in New York, used to enter the room playing a shalm. The lackey announced him, the conversation ceased and he wrapped in his felt-cloak, played on the threshold, as if he wanted to remind the intellectual towns-people that the Polish tune still lived, that it lived on and on, out there in the fields and in the woods.

There was Stanislas Witkiewicz. He, then a mere child, had accompanied his father to Siberia after the insurrection of 1863. Later, an orphan since his fourteenth year of life, he earned the living for his mother and himself. It would seem that from such hard beginnings would develop a man of iron. But instead he grew to be an aesthetic, the creator of a new decorative art, a Polish Ruskin.

Helena Modrzejewska sat to the painter Adam Chmielowski. But before he made himself known as a painter, he lost one leg

in the insurrection. In his paintings he showed a delicate feeling of color. But as soon as his talent shone, he voluntarily left the splendor of the world to join the shadows of misery, where it was at its deepest. He took the Franciscan habit, became brother Albert, a friend of beggars and prostitutes, the incurable, the criminals and habituals, of all those, who were cast out into the world.

And there was Henry Sienkiewicz, the later author of "Quo Vadis" and the trilogy of Polish knighthood. Elegant and silent he listened to the charming and extravagant conversation, to the jokes in Modrzejewska's drawing-room. His was already the vision of early Christianity in England and of the figure of Zagłoba, the Slav Falstaff.

They played and sang in this home, where nothing human and beautiful remained unheralded. The aged Odyniec, a friend of Mickiewicz, the king of Polish poetry, continued to weave the romantic saga interspersed with reminiscences of Paris and Weimar. They played, remembered and sang to forget the presence, to deafen their hearts. So that the divine stigma should not be wiped out from the Polish countenances.

And to whom should the ingenious actress have turned for that symposium of the quick and the dead, to whom but to Shakespeare could she turn in that spring in Warsaw?

And so the encounters with the theater management began. At first because of "Hamlet". Modrzejewska demanded this tragedy for the repertory. In Warsaw of 1870 "to be or not to be" was not a rhetoric question. The censor refused. The murdering of the king was according to him a threat against the safety of the tsar. And no sooner did the difficulties cease than when the countess Muchanoff, wife of the official president of the Warsaw theatres association, warranted that the regime in "Hamlet" was a strictly family affair.

In her role of Ophelia, created in Warsaw, Modrzejewska was later to move the spectators of both hemispheres. Moniuszko composed a music to the delicious songs. That came easy to him for he was the author of an opera based on the love frenzy of a poor mountaineer girl deserted by the young master. Poland is the country of herbs and non-fulfillment. Polish melodies resound well in words of rosemary, violet and rue, — particularly if sung by one who is to die young. Helena Modjeska, as she was called abroad, had not abandoned the Moniuszko melodies till the end of her stage career. She sang them adapted to the English text when she appeared with Edwin Booth in the United States. But also the Polish language offered no resistance to the magic of the English poet. Modjeska played once in New York Ophelia's pre-mortal scene in Polish. And her famous colleague, Mac Cullough, wept behind the stage.

Actors often cry out of enthusiasm for beauty. But in no city of the world do spectators die for their love of the theater. Such a thing could only happen in Warsaw.

Hamlet with Modrzejewska and Królikowski was a tremendous success. On the day following the premiere, Modrzejewska passed the Saxon Park. A crowd of young people gathered around her. Students recited the tirades of Hamlet, they hailed her, and some accompanied her to the Theater Place humming Ophelia's lines, reflecting upon the maxims of Horatio.

After "Hamlet" a performance of "Romeo and Juliet" was given. The director wondered why Modrzejewska insisted on a play which was rewritten from an opera. "We have only recently given Gounod's "Romeo and Juliet", and there was a certain success, since the music is fine but I believe that the intrigue is very cheap", he remarked. "But I am speaking of a drama of Shakespeare", cried Modrzejewska. "Of Shakespeare?" The Russian made a grimace. "I have never heard of it. But I am sure it's going to be an imitation of the opera."

The seventies of the nineteenth century were under way. The sentimental, industrial, humanitarian, and civil fin de siècle of Europe was approaching. In the capitals of the West Shakespeare made the actors distinguish themselves, he annoyed or moved the aesthetes, amazed the philosophers, bored the large masses. In Poland Modrzejewska played alternately the Titania and Desdemona, Anna in Richard III, Portia, Juliet and Ophelia before spectators who were numb from horror, then again broke out in tears, merry laughter, or sighs. To the Polish public, and particularly to the Warsawians, Shakespeare's problems and Shakespeare's passions were not a music of the past. There every hour of the day passed in a struggle for endurance. And at every hour of the night ghosts appeared. Here the merciless fate still haunted the lovers, sons took vengeance for their fathers, mothers trembled before the madness of their sons, girls sought death in the rivers, usurpers worse than Macbeth governed the land, and poetry, if it streamed down in the light of the moon, lulled not to sleep but awakened the dead-tired people to life. The same people, who in spring took laughingly walks in their tragical city.

The years passed but the fate of the city did not change. The good countess Muchanoff was no longer able to help, the censor's demands grew stricter and stricter, and also more and more phantastic. Modrzejewska began to ail. In 1876 it was decided that she should go to the U. S. A. for a better and more simple life. She chose for her farewell evening after an eight years' contract in Warsaw the Polish classic comedy "The Bridal Nuptials" by Fredro, the balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet" and the scene where Ophelia loses her reason. "The Warsaw Courier" gave the following account of the evening: "After the performance the public formed a double line extending from the theater gates across the whole Theater Place up to the gates of the park. As soon as the artist appeared in the door she was greeted by shouts of admiration and show-

ered with good wishes. Cries were heard: "Come back to us!", or "Come as soon as you can for the gaze you are leaving, cannot be filled."

And Modrzejewska came back time and again. In spite of the fact that the New World quickly accepted her as one of her own, in spite of the fact that there were



Helena Modrzejewska by an American painter, Frank Fowler (1884)

so many interesting people, so many noble causes, so much cheerfulness. Every few years she used to return. "O Warsaw!"— she wrote in her diary, "my chosen city, the source of inexhaustible bitterness. An old proverb says that we love those best through whom we suffer most. This is the case with Warsaw and me."

In fall 1884 Modrzejewska came for the second time to Poland, and after guest appearances in Cracow, Lwow and Posen she came for a longer stay to Warsaw. And again throngs besieged the ticket offices of the theater, and the Łazienki park strewn splendid October leaves under her feet. Everything seemed unchanged, only Chopin was played differently for at the piano sat an unknown musician, the twenty years old Paderewski with a head of a red-haired angel. Modrzejewska was happy and so was Warsaw, in defiance of the enemies.

Evenings of Shakespearian magic and romantic exaltation followed. The youth on the galleries absorbed like manna sent from heaven, the Polish word, expelled from the schools, despised by the officials, the word which for those few hours at the theater regained its eternal might and its everlasting beauty.

On one evening, about three weeks after her first appearance, when the famous actress was thanking for the tremendous applause of the public, boys in highschool uniforms appeared on the stage presenting her with a bouquet of flowers. Its ribbon bore a Polish inscription: "To Helena Modrzejewska from the youth." The actress pressed the flowers against her heart, the public reacted with a stronger still enthusiasm, and the boys retreated pale and stumbling through a side curtain.

A few days passed. Modrzejewska coming to a rehearsal of a new play and still full of that blissful warmth which filled her, whenever she crossed the streets of Warsaw, heard their colleagues speaking of a funeral. "Whose funeral?" she asked absent-mindedly. "Of the student who had persuaded his fellow students to present you the bouquet", she was told. "He has shot himself. For not only he but all the other boys who contributed to the flowers, have been expelled from school

for an alleged manifestation of patriotism, and they are not allowed to enter any other school."

Thus it was demonstrated how in the epoch of that fin-de-siecle which was so devoted to art and so sweet in the capitals of other states, in Warsaw one paid with death for one's love to the theater if this love was expressed in public in Polish words.

Why let the stricken deer go weep,
The hart ungallen play;
For some must watch, while some
must sleep;
So runs the world away...
All that has happened long ago. Long

POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE

OF BROOKLYN, U. S. A.

155 NOBLE STREET
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

The heroic defense of Warsaw, is a symbol of the courage and will of the people of the Polish Nation. By her bloody sacrifice, Poland has earned the right to freedom and her territory. Being the first nation to fight against a powerful and ruthless enemy, in the cause of freedom and equality, Poland has remained true to her principles and will live to see the day of victory.

We Americans of Polish descent, whose hearts are with those in the land of our Fathers, will defend Poland's right to her land and freedom.

JOHN SMOLENSKI

President

Polish National Alliance
of Brooklyn, U. S. A.

lery is filled as ever. The young souls cannot be kept away from the theater; they have risen from their graves at night, and have come to the show. Then Titania, at the head of all those magic figures, floats down from the moon amidst the charred walls, Puck leaps out from the nettles which have grown over the stage. Juliet awakes, Lady Macbeth washes her hands, Hamlet dies for the thousandth time. From heaven and hell there comes a whispering. The remainder is silence.

PERMIT NO. 360

AMERICAN-POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL INC.

Incorporated April 26, 1940

AMERYKAŃSKO - POLSKA RADA NARODOWA

4055 W. Melrose Street, Chicago, Illinois

100,000 MEMBERS

Organized December 27, 1939

Reorganized April 20, 1940

OUR PLEDGE IS:

The subject for which it is formed is to promote and to counsel the case of good citizenship and protection of ideals of this country, of individuals, organizations, churches and groups of Americans of Polish ancestry;

To oppose and fight all activities subversive to American institutions, which foreign elements seek to establish and promote;

To bring the truth about the Polish Nation and Poland, the rights, ideals and their achievements to all Americans and the world at large;

To combat the falsehood and propaganda, which enemies of freedom and American ideas and the Polish Nation seek to spread in this country;

To assist in every humanitarian way the relief in Poland of the war-stricken people in Poland and dissipated all over the world.

OUR AID GOES TO:

POLISH SOLDIERS IN PRISON CAMPS THROUGH AMERICAN RED CROSS,
POLISH RED CROSS,
THE POLISH HOSPITAL IN EDINBURGH (SCOTLAND)
POLISH YMCA, PAUL SUPER
THE PADEREWSKI FUND, AND OTHERS.

THIS IS IN HOMAGE TO THE POLISH HEART — WARSAW:

In pity for your grief, in admiration for your bravery, in humble acknowledgement of the debt we owe you, and in the hope that the day of victory is not far distant, we offer this tribute to the brave people of Poland and of Warsaw this memento: "A GREAT NATION MAY FALL, ONLY A BASE NATION MAY BE DESTROYED" (St. Staszyc).

Most respectfully yours,

AMERICAN-POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL, INC.

Organizations:
Polish National Alliance, Dist. XIII.
Polish National Catholic Churches of the Western Diocesan Association of Polish Clubs
Polish Alliance of Mutual Aid
Polish Workmen's Aid Fund
Polish Engineer's Association
Polish American Metal Craft's Club
Polish National Union
Polish United Technical Societies
Polish University Extension
Polish Women's League
Plutons of Polish Samaritans
Polish Merchant's Association
Pulaski Legion of America
Polish Theosophical Societies
Polish Army Veteran Ladies Auxiliary
Polish Engineer's Assn. Ladies Auxiliary
Polish Holy Rosary Societies
Polish Brotherhood of Painters
Polish Ladies Garment Union
Polish Builders Association
Polish Tailors Association

Executive Board:
J. K. WIECZOREK, President
V. M. SPUNAR, Secretary
L. KWASNIEWSKI, Fin. Secretary
FR. BARANOWSKI, Treasurer
B. GAJEWSKI, Marshal-at-arms

Vice Presidents:
Mrs. A. DEJEWSKI
J. GORCZYNSKI
T. MAGIERA
Rev. A. MATLA
W. OZIMEK
Mrs. M. PACZOCHA
Mrs. W. PIASECKA
Mrs. M. ROGALA
Rev. W. SLOWAKIEWICZ
Mrs. J. SERWINOWSKA
Mrs. Z. SPUNAR
H. WISNIEWSKI

COMPLIMENTS

P. STASIUK

Aleksander Dubiński

6205 Montrose Avenue
Chicago 34, Ill.