

THE POLISH REVIEW

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Passing belts of ack-ack shells up to the gun emplacement on board the Polish destroyer, *Krakoviak*.



ADDRESS BY JAN CIECHANOWSKI, POLISH AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, AT THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW YORK, ON OCTOBER 5, 1944

Five years and one month have elapsed since Germany plunged the world into this total world war by wantonly attacking Poland on September 1, 1939. Since that day Poland, the first country to oppose armed resistance to Hitler's imperialist hordes, has never ceased to fight and actively to resist.

She has done so inside Poland through her powerful underground organization which the Germans have never been able to destroy or to disrupt, and outside Poland on all the European battlefronts on land, in the air and on the seven seas, by the armed forces organized by the Polish Government which have ceaselessly done their duty alongside of Poland's Allies.

The Polish Underground Forces were never merely a group of patriots organized for the purpose of sabotage and fight. Actually, the Polish State, with all its ramifications, went underground and continued from there to lead the nation and to function under incredibly difficult conditions of oppression, of relentless terrorism and refined German cruelty. Our Underground Authorities reorganized and developed a well trained regular army formed in small groups, capable of uniting into whole divisions at the signal for partial or general uprising.

The Polish Underground State organized its underground administration over the entire territory of Poland. It set up a National Tribunal and a body of political leadership consisting of representatives of the four main political parties. It established a system of underground education which enabled Poland throughout these five years, when Nazi barbarism had closed down all our centers of learning and prohibited education, to carry on high school and university education, turning out scores of professional men and women, of scientists, lawyers, doctors and nurses, thus saving at least part of a generation for Polish culture and civilization.

Past historical experience had shown that it had been a mistake at times when the Polish State was forced to go underground, for the Government to remain in Poland. Its disclosure and capture by the enemy would cause the interruption of continuity and legality. That is why in this war it was decided by the Nation that the President of the Polish Republic and the constitutional and legal Government of Poland should remain outside of Poland, on Allied territory, in comparative safety to enable it to carry on its duties, to represent Poland abroad and closely to collaborate with Poland's Allies in the United Nations Camp. This allowed Poland to organize considerable forces abroad which have been fighting shoulder to shoulder with the forces of Poland's British Ally against the common enemy on land, on sea and in the air.

The Polish Government in London has managed to maintain the closest contact with the Polish Nation throughout these years even at times when it appeared impossible for persons and messages to go in and out of Poland through the steel wall of Nazi vigilance.

It is generally conceded by unbiased observers that Poland has a unique record in this war. Our Nation in Poland has never once faltered, has produced no Quislings and no collaboration with the enemy. After the defeat they had suffered from overwhelming enemy forces in Poland in September, 1939, our soldiers have never ceased to fight. Throughout these years the Nation has been fully united for the one purpose—our fight for freedom regardless of the cost. That cost is stupendous. No nation of those submitted to invasion in Europe has suffered to the extent that Poland has suffered. No country has been more devastated, ruined, plundered, pillaged and sacked. In no country have the Germans resorted to such terrorism, barbarism, cruelty and scientific methods of extermination, of physical and moral oppression—as in Poland. And yet, the spirit of the Polish people has remained indomitable and united in its mortal struggle, conscious of the aims for which we are fighting, of the high principles in the name of which the peace and freedom-loving peoples of the world have been forced to wage this total and unprecedentedly ruthless war.

There is no stain on Poland's war record.

I have mentioned the Underground Army in Poland. This Army, trained in small units, has come into the open, a component unit of our national Armed Forces recognized as such by our Allies. The Polish Home Army came into the open and attacked the Germans as soon as its active participation against the common enemy could effectively aid the advancing Soviet forces.

In view of conflicting and somewhat confused news relating to the origin and progress of the battle started by the Polish Underground Home Army against the German forces in Warsaw on August 1st, I wish to clarify the following points:

The Battle of Warsaw, which lasted for 63 days, and was terminated only because the heroic Warsaw Garrison of the Home Army was insufficiently armed and unaided, and finally had to give up the fight being deprived of water, light, munitions and supplies, was not an isolated action, but a part of military operations which the Polish Home Army has been carrying on in Poland. According to a general order given by the Polish Government in London to the Polish Home Forces in October, 1943, confirmed in greater detail in February, 1944, the Home Forces undertook a series of operations in collaboration with the Soviet armies as these moved westwards. To speed up the Soviet offensive and to harass the German forces were

the main aims of the Polish Home Army, striving to bring closer the day of liberation of Poland. In Volhynia (Kowel and Luck regions), in Lwow, in Wilno and in the Nowogrodek areas, in Lukow, in the entire Lublin region and near the Estuary of the River San, units of the Polish Home Army fought valiantly, effectively supporting the Soviet offensive.

According to the general orders previously mentioned, the Commander of the Home Forces, General Bor, gave the order for a general uprising in view of the fact that the Germans had started to destroy the most important military and industrial objectives in Warsaw. Furthermore, already on August 1st, the Soviet forces had advanced to the outskirts of Warsaw.

The Warsaw rising started on August 1st. The chief aim of the detachments of the Polish Home Army consisted in preventing the destruction of objectives of strategic value in the Polish Capital, and especially of the four great Warsaw bridges over the Vistula, the railway stations and the public utilities, such as the water works, the power and gas stations and telephone exchange. Another aim was to impede the German retreat by blocking the main thoroughfares from the bridges westward and constituting the sole escape routes for the Germans.

Despite the fact that the Germans retaliated by attacking the Polish Home Army in force, using tanks, airplanes and artillery, and that these Polish Forces were insufficiently armed and equipped and lacked anti-aircraft and anti-tank guns, the Polish Home Army was able to continue its desperate fight for sixty-three days.

This new Battle of Warsaw was extremely bloody and the fighting was furious. The Polish National Armed Forces, composed of regulars and officers trained for nearly five years in the Polish Underground in the hardest school of conspiracy and exposed to constant German terrorism, had the fighting spirit and will to achieve its aims.

The Polish people are grateful to their American, British and South African Allies for the aid in arms and munitions which was sent to Warsaw under the most difficult technical conditions to help the Polish Home Army do its duty as a fighting nation and a loyal Ally. This most welcome, but, for technical reasons inadequate help, could have been greatly increased if aerial bases held by the Soviet forces in the vicinity of embattled Warsaw had earlier been made available for this purpose.

You have doubtless read of the barbarous retaliation which the harassed Germans have applied to the defenceless civilian population of those parts of Warsaw which they still held. Over 150,000 people—men, women and children, had been driven without any supplies to the small town of Pruszkow, ten miles west of Warsaw, where in the most terrible conditions they are being actually starved, tortured and exterminated by the Nazi fiends who appear to have gone even more insane as the hour of retribution for their wanton acts of barbarism and cruelty perpetrated in Poland is fast approaching. The Polish people appeal to public opinion the world over to declare the most severe retaliation for that latest atrocity, surpassing all others hitherto committed by the German fiends.

The exposures of the extent of the crimes of German fanaticism disclosed after the Germans had been thrown out of the localities in Poland where they had installed some of their murder camps, clearly shows that grim reality is more terrible than even the wildest imagination could have conceived.

When this Germanic total war is over it will be realized that it was no mere conflict between fighting armies, between rival camps of nations, or even irreconcilable ideologies. It will be realized that, in the XXth century of our Christian civilization, lack of unity, lack of sound statesmanship and futile efforts to stem the tide of revived prehistoric barbarism by a weak policy of misguided and puny appeasement were greatly responsible for giving Germany the chance to start this war.

To create a system of peace on a world scale—for only such a peace organization can endure—bold statesmanship and human understanding will have to be strained to their utmost creative limits. The United Nations Concept, that great idea initiated by the President of the United States, must survive and operate on the basis of the human principles for which all the nations of our Camp have declared that they are fighting.

War can only be won by use of power, but no lasting peace can be built on power alone. The principles of justice, fairness and equal rights of all peoples must constitute the foundations of peace, for only such a peace can justify the use of power to enforce it.

We have fought a ruthless war to defend the rights of individual and national freedom. Real peace, based on mutual confidence, which is the indispensable foundation of unity necessary to security, will depend on restoring to a normal existence a world in which all human beings feel safe in the enjoyment of equal rights and equal opportunities.

In the course of this war the most noble constructive ideas for achieving this aim have issued from this great American Democracy.

The world instinctively turns to this stronghold of democratic principles and hunders for American leadership in the establishment of a world peace.

"... The capital has fallen, but the fight continues. Warsaw—in spite of death and ruins—is victorious. Five years of struggle against the Germans and the work of building up the Underground Government have not ended with the fall of the capital. The Polish Underground State still exists. Its network organization still exists, its institutions exist and contact with us exists. The only difference is that the functions have now been taken over by others."

—Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, Prime Minister of Poland, addressing the Polish National Council in London.

THEIR CRIMES SHALL NOT GO UNPUNISHED

by M. MICHALOWSKA

LATEST reports from Poland reveal that the Germans are attempting to obliterate all traces of their crimes by the simple expedient of wiping out the main concentration-camps complete with all installations, as well as murdering all surviving inmates. This will not however help those responsible to escape justice, as detailed information of all such activities has been accumulated in the appropriate offices in London for the last five years. Here is a brief general account of the German system of concentration camps for Poles.

There are over 150 camps, which are divided into different types. The first consists of the ordinary concentration camps, of which 17 are in the Reich and over 40 in Poland. Of these the most notorious are the camps of Oswiecim and Majdanek. Another group is that of transit-camps, in which prisoners are divided up. They usually remain several months in these camps, where the treatment is as brutal as in the permanent camps. There are about 30 such camps in Poland.

Special camps for Jews also exist to the number of a dozen or more, situated mainly in eastern and central Poland. Among them are the camps at Belzec, Tremblinka and Trawniki. These are the "death camps" where Jews have been slaughtered in thousands in gas and steam chambers. Women too have their special camps, such as Ravensbrueck and Birkenau. In addition, there are camps for priests, camps for "racial improvement," "educational camps," for boys and girls, and "germanization camps" for Polish children. Over 150 are known to exist, but this list is certainly not complete.

Many details of the life of prisoners in such camps have already been published during the last four years to a world that still is only half able to believe them. Only recently British journalists wrote horrified reports after a visit to the great concentration camp of Majdanek. Perhaps however, less has been written of the equal horrors of another type of camp, those specially for women. We therefore give some extracts from first-hand reports made by ex-prisoners sent from Poland only a few months ago. They relate to the camp at Birkenau, only a mile or so from the great, infamous camp at Oswiecim:

The women's camp covers a large stretch of ground, with 30 brick and wooden barracks. Built on unhealthy, marshy ground, it is surrounded by barbed wire with a strong electric current, with guard-buildings along it, manned by guards with rifles and tommy-guns. Similar buildings cover the ground beyond the camp for several kilometres. Of the living-barracks one is a penal barrack, No. 25, while in No. 12 conditions are better than in the others. In the ordinary blocks live between 800 and 1,000 women, or more. These barracks are long wooden buildings divided by large triple berths on which 5-8 women sleep.



A daily scene in German concentration camps.

"For bedding there are straw mattresses and two blankets for every three women... In the grounds of Birkenau are 6 crematoria that are always active. Smoke belches from them by day and fire by night... In the entire camp there is not one blade of green grass, there are no trees, shrubs or even the humblest plant. Nothing will ever grow on the clay earth, trampled down by thousands of feet... On it breed only fleas and rats..."

Another report reads: "... the present serial number of women prisoners is around 80,000. Of this number about 65,000 women of various nationalities have died during the last two years, between 15,000 and 16,000 of them were Polish. There are about 5,500 Polish women at present in the camp. The women's ages range from 10 to 70, and their "Transgressions" vary equally. Side by side with serious political offenders, and women-soldiers taken arms in hand, are girls who refused to sell beloved pets to German women, and a twelve-year old girl who unwittingly crossed the boundary of the General Government while driving her father's geese home... In the winter the women are decimated by typhus, in the summer by malaria. Throughout the year the appalling hygienic conditions, hunger and the ruthless camp life take a heavy toll... The work goes on winter and summer, in rain, snow, heat and frost. Only thick fogs afford a brief respite, as the Germans fear attempts to escape. There is no day off on Sundays. Work lasts for 12 hours, and the women work in the fields or on road-making, sometimes up to their knees in water, in the winter when the rivers are dammed. They wear the same insufficient clothes as in their barracks, and are insufficiently fed."

The Battle of Warsaw as Seen by German Correspondents

GERMAN war correspondents, many of them veterans of every European battle front, who were in Warsaw during the 63-day fight of the Polish Home Army with the Wehrmacht, report that they have never in this entire war seen such utter destruction, such a "hell on earth," or at the same time such valiant, unconquerable warriors as those of the Home Army who refused to surrender so long as they still had a bullet for their guns or a scrap of dry bread. These reports which were reprinted in Swedish newspapers were recently translated into English.

One of these enemy correspondents wrote that "As we drove toward the city, Warsaw could be seen from afar rising on the flat central plain of Poland. To the north of the city are forests, and to the east the river. It is by no means terrain suitable for an underground uprising, but Warsaw is Warsaw. Warsaw is Polish. Despite all the difficulties, all the obstacles, whoever could slipped into the capital from all parts of the country, reacting almost instinctively to the rumors that a great uprising was planned."

According to these German writers, street traffic in Warsaw was unusually heavy on August 1st. At noon a large number of casual bicyclists sped into the city. They later proved to be reinforcements sent by the Polish Home Army from other parts of Poland. Civilians too were moving into Warsaw during the last days of July. Some had been ordered to do so, others came of their own accord to render whatever service they could to the Home Army. Naturally the Germans observed these activities, but were at a loss to explain them until it was too late to prevent the battle.

About 5 o'clock on the afternoon of August 1st, the battle began in the down town district. At first the Germans thought that it was merely another localized street fight. Then when German police cars driving through the city were fired on by Polish snipers and all their passengers were killed, the Huns realized that they had something more than just a street raid on their hands.

The Home Army immediately barricaded all main streets leading out of Warsaw. Within the capital, the Poles, capitalizing on their surprise attack, took all lesser German police posts within the first few hours of fighting. Heavy German military lorries were stopped by Polish soldiers dressed in captured SS and Gestapo uniforms. Many supply trucks, and armored cars were captured in this way.

The German agency, *Deutsche Nachrichten Büro*, describes Warsaw as an unparalleled hell on earth. Although many units of the Polish Home Army were isolated and surrounded by German pincer columns, they still fought on, and when they ran out of ammunition, escaped through the labyrinth of underground tunnels to take up the fight in another part of the city. Pitched battles between these Home Army soldiers and numerically superior German forces went on for more than two months in the ruins of Warsaw. "The Ger-



Associated Press Radiophoto
Polish truce delegation crosses a battered Warsaw square. German picture radioed from Stockholm.

mans must contend with a silent death that waits for them at every window, in every attic, on every roof and in every

The Fate of Warsaw

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL TADEUSZ BOK-KOMOROW-SKI and what remained of his Home Army surrendered to the Germans on October 4 and 5. They were given the status of prisoners-of-war and are to be treated according to article 81 of the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929. These same rights are to be granted all civilians, irrespective of sex, who took part in the Battle of Warsaw. The Polish Home Army surrendered at 8 o'clock p. m. on October 2nd, after a gallant, lonely 63-day fight against the German oppressors of Poland.

The last message sent by the Home Council of Ministers in Warsaw to Prime Minister Stanislaw Mikolajczyk on October 3, 1944 reports the surrender:

"We had to give up fighting at 8 p. m. on October 2nd, having exhausted all means of fighting and in view of the lack of food, water, arms and ammunition, as well as because of the tremendous technical and numerical superiority of the enemy.

"The fate of the exhausted civilian population is the most tragic of all. The Germans are demanding categorically that they leave the city. Call the attention of the whole world to this. Let the International Red Cross immediately look after the Pruszkow Internment Camp and hospitals, because so far civilians interned there receive help thanks only to the sacrifices made by the local population. We are trying to alleviate, at least partially, the tragedy of the people of Warsaw. Please watch over the fate of those deported for labor and concentration camps."

A later message revealed still more tragic details about the fate of Warsaw's remaining civilian population:

"All Polish civilians in Warsaw have been ordered by the Germans to leave the city immediately. The more than 240,000 Warsaw civilians herded into the Pruszkow concentration camp during the Battle of Warsaw have been reported shipped to unknown destinations for unknown purposes."

cellar where Polish snipers prove their skill as marksmen. Often they use the most modern rifles equipped with telescopic sights. Fully equipped German soldiers for instance had to attack the Warsaw Stock Exchange four times in great force before they were able to drive out the Polish soldiers defending it."

A *Transocean News Agency* correspondent also reports that German authorities in Warsaw suspected something big was in the wind, but were unable to discover the exact date of the uprising. They were equally powerless to find the secret stores of arms and ammunition prepared for the day, nor the factories for home-made hand grenades that they knew existed. By August 3rd, most of the small isolated German detachments had been forced to capitulate. Only the Bruhl Palace and the main Telegraph Office held out in German hands.

"Warsaw is shrouded in clouds of dense black smoke that can be seen hanging on the horizon from a distance of many miles," writes another German newspaperman. "German planes can be seen heading toward those clouds to bomb Polish positions in the city. The sound of artillery duels echoes outside the city as one draws nearer."



German armored car with wireless equipment photographed during the battle of Warsaw. German official picture released through neutral sources.



Associated Press Radiophoto
Polish patriots marching into a German internment camp after capitulation. German picture radioed from Stockholm.

"We entered the city from Praga, an industrial suburb. Burned out houses, deserted dead-looking factories, and smoking ruins greeted us at every step. Slowly we crossed the Vistula. Everything that we had seen from afar an hour ago was about us and over us in all its tragic reality. Streets were empty. Electric wires, telephone cables and poles lay on the sidewalks. We had to go on foot, for our car could not get through the supply-covered streets. Shells whistled over our heads. We dashed for a doorway, but too late. We had been seen by a Polish machine-gun unit that turned its full fury upon us.

"After a while we were able to leave. The hall and staircase were full of a heavy bitter tasting smoke that rolled down from the top story. The roof was already on fire. Shielding our faces with handkerchiefs, we prepared to make a dash for it. Two of our party went out into the smoke-filled street to reconnoiter. We could only hear their footsteps, but could not see them for the street was as murky as if there had been a fog. Meanwhile we passed out our arms and ammunition stores. Then the two re-

(Please turn to page 14)

POLISH REFUGEES IN MEXICO*

by ERIC P. KELLY

CLOSE to the geographical center of the Republic of Mexico, at a point about 300 miles northwest of Mexico City, there is being worked out an experiment in refugee work and rehabilitation which may be a very valuable contribution to United Nations efforts in postwar world reconstruction. Some 1,500 Poles, mostly women and children, of whom about 300 are orphans, are housed in the buildings of an old hacienda which was turned over to the Government some years ago, following a revolution. These Poles are in Mexico for the duration, after which they may return home or, according to a new ruling, remain and become permanent residents. To reach Mexico they have traveled thousands of miles by land and water, through Siberia, Iraq, Iran, India and the Pacific.

Despite the great discouragements of the task, the work at the Polish Colony in Mexico—*Colonia Santa Rosa*—has proved to me that the most fundamental properties of human beings are solid and unchangeable. In other words, when those who throw themselves into the work of rehabilitation in Europe meet their difficult problems, they will find in the people certain faiths, certain strengths of character, ambitions, desire for learning and, above all, a desire to work.

When the Mexican Government set aside a number of haciendas for refugees, it picked the most available places for a temporary habitation. Some of these haciendas were practically ruins, many without water or lights, all of them inhabited by Mexican families, but quite capable of being turned into refugee camps. A commission from four governments selected the hacienda at Santa Rosa as the best for the first group; and it became my duty, with that of the Polish officials, to put this into the very best condition in a very limited time. We actually went beyond the first specifications of the commission in the matter of providing as many smaller dwelling units as possible, so that the refugees might get the benefit of family groupings, a most important factor. And while we went as far as possible in this direction, there was not time for full completion of family dwellings; but as time went on and the Polish Government took full charge, there was opportunity for extension.

FAITH, WORK, PRIDE

Perhaps the Polish group was something of an ideal group. Certainly none of the troubles that we heard of from other camps cropped out here. The people were largely from agricultural areas, with, however, enough tradesmen in the group to take over the everyday work of the colony—in itself a small town. They were also solidly Catholic, with the exception of thirty or forty Jewish people who formed a group of their own. Santa Rosa possessed a beautiful chapel, fortunately, and the pastor of the flock, Father Jagielnicki, who had a keen sense of organization, quickly made this chapel the center of the colony. Later, two priests came from the United States to grapple not only with spiritual problems but also with matters of schooling, health and the like. The National Catholic Welfare Conference set up a recreation center on the first floor of an old building which had once been a mill. As in all war-emergency work, it did the things nearest at hand—furnishing materials for trade or handicraft work, setting up the women with sewing-machines and the like. The Polish War Council, which has been supporting much of the work at Santa Rosa, sent a delegate,



Recreation hall in Polish colony at Santa Rosa, Mexico.

Mrs. J. B. Mix, to provide an American Christmas for the children.

There was no problem about the Faith of these people. That, together with their pride, was all that many of Poland had left from the war. And as in the dark days of Poland from 1793 to 1918, the Church has been the great rallying center, the spiritual fortification which ran its bulwarks out into most of their activities. At every halt in their long pilgrimage the first activity, even before eating, was the erection of an altar. Father Jagielnicki had managed through all vicissitudes to preserve the altar cloths and vessels and the image of the Madonna of Chenstochowa, beloved by all Poles. From the church the organization spread through various societies and groups, boy and girl scouts and educational classes. One of the most vivid pictures in my mind of the arrival of the refugees in Mexico was the youthful priest on his knees, opening his suit-case and displaying the sacred treasures to the Monsignor from the Cathedral in León.

PROBLEMS OF FEAR AND CROWDING

Homes are gone, family life broken, education and progress at a standstill, ambitions suspended, health impaired. And then, worst of all, the mental effect of war. How much of this one is to find after the war, it is not possible to say. But it exists. It could not but exist. And when one thinks of the sufferings of this group one wonders what one's self would be under similar circumstances. The bombings, the destruction of homes, the impact of artillery and firing, must have been terrific. Then the frenzied state of mind in the fleeing population—to see, for instance, one's relatives drop by the way and know that they will never be seen again. The starvation, ill health and lack of proper food and clothing do not seem to have had such effects as these other causes. But worst of all was the daily terror in which some of them lived. To fear police surveillance, to expect questioning by the Gestapo or other police officers daily, to expect nothing—blood-letting, flogging, death—for a period of more than five years, has had an effect on certain minds that perhaps only the wisest of physicians can cure.

One has the feeling that in certain ways this will be one

of the most important problems in the rehabilitation of Europe. The children, fortunately, show the effect of this "fear shock" least; or if they had it, they seem to outgrow it more quickly than adults. Mothers with children are also less affected, possibly because their minds were not on themselves. Yet I have seen a mass hysteria sweep a whole group of hundreds of people in Santa Rosa—stemming back to some weakness in nerve coordination perhaps, yet a weakness that I have never known in my years of residence in Poland. The children have a motto: *Nie placz* (don't cry); and they repeat it often. One thinks of them as not suffering, as one watches them at play; yet sometimes at night in a visit to their dormitory, one finds a pillow wet with tears.

There are several pronounced cases of mental upset in Santa Rosa, and if the proportion is the same in the populations of Europe, the prospect is most alarming. Under good feeding and care evidences of illness will disappear; treatment of ailing teeth and eyes will remove the trouble; but the effects of war shock are a more serious thing. The worst of it all is that one does not know where to expect it or when. A person perfectly normal for twenty-nine days of the month will do something abnormal on the thirtieth. Finding occupations for victims of war shock does help; so does a sympathetic listening to troubles; perhaps each outpoured heart helps a little in the long battle that will restore normality.

Another thing that will help, as we have learned from experience, is "a room of one's own." To give each refugee a room of his own is of course impossible for any country, let alone Mexico. Yet groups of men and women do get on each other's nerves terribly. For the children it is not so serious, apparently; but for the older folk who have been through so many nerve strains, a little solitude is almost necessary. When a guard-house was built on the grounds, there were many applications from men for the liberty of sleeping in the small cells when the cells were not occupied—desire for a "room of one's own." Sharp words between people in the groups is sometimes followed by blows; but invariably after



These Polish children have been nursed back to health in the Polish Colony at Santa Rosa, Mexico.

the storm there is a powerful emotional reconciliation that comes with second thought and realization. Tents are practically an impossibility in Mexico, both lack of material and a severe rainy season entering into the picture. But some refugees started a "make your own home" movement and, materials being supplied, have been making additional quarters for other people.

Although Mexico is hospitable and the Poles are left entirely on their own, with religious and political liberty, the refugee camp is at best a makeshift, a temporary stay until the people can be removed to their own homes in Poland, or rather to the homes which they will build. For the children—the orphans, and there must be thousands elsewhere, in Africa, India and perhaps Siberia—there will be much to organize, to arrange, to provide. Yet these children are Poland's greatest asset and, if one may judge from the quality of the children now in Mexico, Poland is very, very fortunate in having them against whatever future may come.



Polish Girl Scouts. Santa Rosa Colony, Mexico.

Eric P. Kelly is an American writer and educator who has long been interested in Poland. In 1925 he interrupted his professional activity in Dartmouth's English Department to go to Poland as a scholar of the Kosciuszko Foundation. During a year of study and lecturing at the University of Krakow, Kelly grew to love Poland and her people. He gave concrete expression to his affection by writing a number of books on Polish themes. "The Trumpeter of Krakow," a tale of 15th century Krakow, won him the John Newberry medal in 1928 "for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children." His story about Copernicus, "From Star to Star," has just been published.

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WARSAW BRIDGES THAT NO LONGER EXIST

by WALTER C. BOW



Approach to the Joseph Poniatowski Bridge, Warsaw.

TODAY Warsaw is a city without bridges. Its five bridges spanning the Vistula had escaped serious damage during the siege of September, 1939, only to be destroyed in the course of the heroic 63-day rising that began on August 1, 1944. These structures, representing three-quarters of a century of building activity, have now joined the Polish capital's other by-gone bridges.

The history of Warsaw's bridges is a fascinating one. It is a record of man's struggle with the forces of nature—a struggle in which sometimes man and sometimes nature has emerged the victor.

In the early centuries of Warsaw's existence the Vistula could be crossed only by means of ferries, row-boats or by fording. The picturesque names of some of the old 14th and 15th century landings have been retained to this day. Thus, the *Solec* area suggests the salt wharf, *Rybitwy* is reminiscent of fishermen, *Brodno* must have been a convenient fording point, while *Kamion* with its dry rocky shore presented a definite advantage over the surrounding swampy land as a point of embarkation.

Ferries, built of

boards joined together with iron hooks, were hauled across the river with ropes. These raft-like barges were so constructed that they could transport loaded horse-drawn carts, whereas other vessels could carry only passengers or goods. When the river was ice-bound, people simply walked across.

As Warsaw grew in importance, it became evident that this means of transportation was inadequate. With the increase in transit activity, more and more travelers cross the Vistula at Warsaw. Ferrying rights were privately owned and

a fee was charged for each crossing. To facilitate the supply of large quantities of goods from the right bank of the river to Warsaw proper, and to make easier the capital's communication with the eastern parts of the Republic, it was imperative that a bridge be built. So, in 1568 King Zygmunt August purchased the rights to the Vistula passage from the Jezowski family and ordered work to be begun on Warsaw's first bridge, on the site of the water passage linking Warsaw with the suburb of Praga.

Erazm of Zakroczym was entrusted with its construction. He built it in wood, reinforced with iron, and secured it with fifteen abutments. Zygmunt August died in 1572 and the bridge was completed under Queen Anna Jagiellonka in 1573. Henceforth merchants paid tolls only on bridge transportation and could ferry their goods across the river free of charge. To protect the new bridge from any fires that might break out in the nearby suburbs, a Gunpowder Tower was put up in 1582 at its entrance, at the foot of what has since been called Bridge Street (*Mostowa*). The Tower was still standing before the tragic uprising of August, 1944, and a



Contemporary engraving showing Warsaw's first bridge built in 1573 by King Zygmunt August.

brass tablet immured at the time of its erection, was preserved in the National Museum in Warsaw.

The bridge, first of its kind in Poland, impressive in construction and size, evoked the admiration and respect of contemporary Poles. Here is how Jan Kochanowski, greatest Polish poet of the Renaissance, expressed the enthusiasm of his generation:

"Implacable Vistula! In vain thy horns dost show,
In vain dost rape the mainland,
stop traffic's mighty flow.

To curb thy wicked habits King August found a ruse,
No longer wilt be able thy powers to abuse.
For without oars and ferries, with a dry foot instead,
O'er thy unmastered body all can now safely tread."

But men and women could not safely tread o'er the Vistula's unmastered body more than thirty years. In 1603 flood wrecked the bridge. Only the Tower remained to mark the spot where it had stood.

Other bridges took its place, but they too enjoyed a brief life. These were the bridges built by King Zygmunt III in the early 17th century, two bridges erected in 1656 (one by Sapieha at the Solec landing connecting Solec with Saska Kepa on the right bank, the other built by King Jan Kazimierz in the New City at the foot of Decline or *Spadek* Street), and two temporary bridges constructed in 1707. The floating bridge erected by Adam Poninski in 1775 was somewhat more fortunate, while the fixed bridge built by French sappers in 1808 to help Napoleon's army cross the Vistula, to facilitate transit of military sup-



Gate tower, Joseph Poniatowski Bridge, Warsaw.

plies and to aid in the fortification of Praga, stood only a few months before it was torn down by ice. For many years thereafter Warsaw was restricted to its two floating bridges, one at the foot of Decline Street and the other at the foot of Bednarska Street. These had to be taken in when the river became icebound and could not be used until after the spring thaws.

However, the commercial and industrial development of Warsaw, plus the growth of communication facilities, especially the railroad, created a pressing need for fixed flood-resisting bridges.

As a preliminary step in the building of the first iron construction bridge, the Panzer Viaduct was built by Feliks Panzer in 1844-1846 to make an easy approach to the projected bridge possible. The Viaduct extended from Krakowskie Przedmiescie near



Jan Kazimierz Bridge built at Warsaw in 1656. Engraving by F. B. Werner.



Floating bridge built at Warsaw by Adam Poninski in 1775. Water color by Vogel.

WARSAW BRIDGES THAT NO LONGER EXIST

(Continued from page 9)

the Royal Castle down to the Vistula. Thirteen years later Stanislaw Kierbedz began work on the iron bridge that was to bear his name. In 1864 Warsaw finally had its first modern bridge. The Kierbedz Bridge was originally intended for railroad and vehicular traffic. A change in plans caused it to be used only for vehicles and pedestrians.

To accommodate railroad traffic a special double-decker bridge was put up at the northern end of the city in 1873-1875. In 1905-1908 a second railroad bridge was built alongside the first one. But it soon became evident that these bridges were woefully inadequate to meet the demands of busy Warsaw's heavy rail traffic. When the main Warsaw Station was converted into a through station after 1921, a tunnel was constructed under the center of the city and a new railroad bridge was built over the Vistula. From now on, the northern railroad bridges were used for suburban lines and the new bridge at Solec carried the through trains.

It must be borne in mind that in the 19th century and up to the outbreak of World War I, Warsaw was under Russian domination. To prevent the possibility of another Warsaw uprising, the Russian government built a citadel to the north of the city. Bounded by the Vistula on the east, the capital could expand only south and west. The western area was largely industrial, so the southern direction was the most appropriate for growth. Neither the Kierbedz Bridge, which was too busy, nor the railroad bridges which were too far north, could serve the southern part of Warsaw. A new bridge was needed to link Warsaw with the southern section of its important suburb of Praga, boasting two railroad stations.

Hence, Warsaw's most beautiful bridge, the Joseph Poniatowski Bridge, came into being. It took ten years to construct, from 1904 to 1914. The site selected for it was the extension of Aleja Jerozolimska, at that time a sparsely populated district. With a true sense of progressive city planning, it was intended to take care of the future needs of southern Warsaw and undeveloped Saska Kepa on the other side. This bridge was opened to the public on January 6, 1914. Although it was built by Poles, the Russian authori-



Joseph Poniatowski Bridge, Warsaw.

ties called it the Czar Nicholas II Bridge. The people of Warsaw preferred to call it the Third Bridge.

Unfortunately the Third Bridge did not serve the city long. The Great War, which broke out only a few months after its completion, dealt it a mortal blow. In 1915 the retreating Russian army blew up four of its arches and damaged all other bridges in greater or lesser degree. German occupational authorities, prompted by considerations of strategy, rebuilt it and the railroad bridge by 1917. However, the reconstruction was temporary, adapted to the military requirements of the German army, which as it moved east, wished to have an additional crossing over the Vistula behind the front. The luckless Third Bridge was destroyed by fire on August 14, 1917, a few months after its reconstruction. Subsequent military events made the bridge less important to the Germans. They attempted to prevail upon the city authorities to rebuild it with city funds. The Poles refused to obey the Germans.

When Poland regained her independence, Warsaw took up the task of immediate rehabilitation of this bridge, that was now to be called the Prince Joseph Poniatowski Bridge, in honor of the Polish 18th century patriot, who gave his life for his country. Early in 1919, the gifted engineer, Bronislaw Plebinski, was commissioned to prepare a plan for the bridge's reconstruction.

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Warsaw's first and second railroad bridges.

CULTURAL LIFE OF JEWS IN WILNO

by ALEKSANDER HAFITKA



General view of Wilno.

THE UNIVERSAL JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA, published in New York in 1943 contains an article on the Polish city of Wilno and its Jewish inhabitants. "The population of Wilno has been overwhelmingly Polish for centuries," says the "Encyclopedia." "In 1942 60% were Poles, 30% Jews, 2½% Lithuanians, and the remainder various Russian groups . . ." Reprinted below are the passages describing the cultural and social life of Jews in Wilno before German brutality destroyed what had been built up through centuries of effort.

WILNO was known among Jews throughout the world as the "Jerusalem of Lithuania," being considered the main seat of Jewish culture in Europe. Many famous rabbis and Jewish scholars lived there. The golden age of Jewish theological literature and culture culminated in the years 1620 to 1648. There were in Wilno in this short period of time more than forty famous rabbis, authors of theological works. But all these scholars were eclipsed by the fame of Elijah Wilno (often known as the Wilno Gaon; 1720-1797), who became the pride of all pious Jews throughout the world. Abraham Danzig, popular Jewish law code author (b. 1748); d. Wilno, 1820), who wrote *Hayye Adam* and *Hochmath Adam*, served as rabbi in Wilno for many years. Other famous 18th century Wilno scholars were Judah Halevi Horovitz, author of *Ammude Beth Yehudah*, and Phjncas Elijah Horovitz, author of *Sefer Haberith*.

In the first half of the 19th century Wilno became the cen-

ter of the Jewish enlightenment movement (Haskalah) in Eastern Europe. There were many famous writers and historians who, either born in Wilno or living there for a large part of their lives, exerted a tremendous influence on Jewish youth.

Among these were Mordecai Aaron Guenzburg (1795-1846), who lived in Wilno for about the last twenty-five years of his life; Samuel Joseph Fuenn (1818-1890); and Kalman Schulman (1819-1899), who lived in Wilno from 1849 on; such poets as Judah Loeb Gordon (1830-1892); Eliakum Zunsler (1845-1913); and Solomon Mandelkern (1846-1902); the novelists Eisik Meier Dick (1807-1893); Michel Gordon (1823-1890); the Hebrew poet and grammarian Abraham Dob Hacoeh Lebensohn (b. Wilno, 1794; d. Wilno, 1878); his son, Micah Joseph Lebensohn (1828-1852); Moses Leib Lilienblum (1843-1910); and Reuben Asher Braudes (1851-1902), editor of *Haboker Or*. One of the best educated Polish writers and critics of literature, Julian Klaczko (1828-1906), wrote many poems in Hebrew in his native city, Wilno, before his conversion to Christianity at the age of thirty-three. Zevi Hirsch Katzenellenbogen was a noted Maskil and Hebrew author. Abraham Isaac Landau, noted Maskil, wrote the *Sefer Hakundes*.

In 1847 a seminary for rabbis was opened there; in 1871 it was transformed into a Jewish teachers' seminary. Wilno was the seat of well-known Hebrew and Yiddish publishing and printing houses. The first printing house there was

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POLISH COMMANDOS

by S.



Polish soldier in Italy.

WE had been ready for action since the previous evening. Stuffing our blankets into the cabin that had become a hastily improvised field kitchen and supply depot, was but a matter of minutes. Then we were all set.

Zero hour approached. More and more frequently shells from Polish artillery far behind us shrieked over our heads. Their deadly whistle seemed to say that the ceremonies were over; that the real business of battle was about to begin.

Polish heavy artillery

thundered away incessantly in a barrage that was to pave the way for an infantry assault on German lines. The cannon shots echoed and re-echoed through the ravines and gorges. Commands had to be shouted over the noise of the guns.

One after another, Polish platoons moved to the front to take up attack positions. Tanks had already gone on ahead. The fire of their guns mingled with the deep bass rumble of mortars and the clatter of machine guns. The sound of motors, however, was loudest of all. The constant fire of machine guns mowed down entire fields of tall corn stalks and peppered the walls of the infrequent, isolated peasant huts.

We went down into one of the ravines, stopped by the road and prepared to ford as rapidly as possible the little river that confronted us. To the left were the ruins of a modern concrete bridge dynamited by the retreating Germans. Some farmhouses to the right provided good shelter for our mortars. More corn fields were on the other side of the river. Cables lying along the grass indicated that our artillery observers were already up ahead.

"This way," shouted a sniper, indicating the route that we must take, and the narrow ford where we could cross the river most easily.

The same thought ran through everyone's head—had the Germans ended their barrage or were they merely waiting for us to draw nearer. A tommy gun detachment was sent out to secure our right flank against any possible surprise attack.

We came up to "Old Sarge" in command of a group. Short, rapid commands rang out. We passed the edge of a small meadow, almost hidden by the corn. In the middle of it was a patch of poor grass and some scattered rows of young trees. Some feet away stood a "Sherman" tank. We saw that it was immobilized, but its machine guns were still in fine working condition. Up ahead clouds of dust and sharp detonations marked the "front line." German artillery opened a barrage in the face of the advancing Poles. Exploding shells fell all about us—sometimes nearer—sometimes at a little distance. Some of the German rear guard was as much endangered by those guns as were the Poles.

We were protected by the Sherman's fire. Its turret swiveled first to the left, then to the right, laying down a circle of fire. German batteries raked the outskirts of Casa Nuova, a small village some of whose houses were already in ruins. Polish pincer squadrons turned their guns on it. Our ma-



This wayside shrine in the Italian *campagna* reminds a Polish soldier of home.

chine-guns were ordered to clean out advanced German positions and then to go after enemy infantry.

We got into that action. Engaging German infantry, our job was to keep them from using their anti-tank defenses. We could easily handle individual fox holes, even those dug deep into the ground and screened by the tall corn, but if we had happened to stumble into the range of a "Spandau" we would have been virtually committing suicide. Each one of us knew this, and remembered it instinctively even in the heat of battle when there was no time to think of anything else. In a second we were across the narrow belt of meadowland.

Machine gun fire was followed by a short silence. To the left of us was a sort of earthen moat that ran for a score or so of feet along the field. Behind it we saw the well known steel helmets of the enemy.

"Hände hoch!" "Hands up!" yelled our lieutenant to the Germans.

Again there was a break in the barrage. Our left flank halted. Then tommy gun fire riddled that moat. Four pairs of hands were raised high above it—then four heads appeared over it. One enemy stared at us in bewilderment. They all appeared dullwitted, dazed. They gazed at us as if expecting the worst—just what their propaganda minister had told them. We could read the intense torture of those few suspenseful moments in their faces. How lucky we were to be

STRIKE AT CASA NUOVA

JERZYCZ

Poles and free men!

Our first prisoner was a man of about 30. He smiled sadly when he realized that he was safe. He felt sure of himself again—the old arrogance returned. There was just one more German—the rest were men from the occupied countries pressed into Nazi service. They remained silent, dejected, submitting passively to being searched.

We moved on. A few shots rang out, breaking the silence. Like one man we dropped flat in our tracks, hugging the friendly protecting ground. There was an exchange of fire. Then—

"Hände hoch!" our lieutenant commanded a second time.

He kept his finger on the trigger just in case. Clouds of earth raised by heavy artillery shells still rained against our very feet. However, enemy fire was gradually dying down. A group of tommy gunners kept the German battery inactive and hiding in its fox holes.

"Let 'em have it with hand grenades," ordered our officer.

We didn't even have time to take shelter. A second of silence. Then a hollow explosion, a smothered cry that grew fainter and died down entirely. They had decided to surrender. There were five of them. In the narrow but deep

crevice only a bloody headless corpse remained.

We didn't spend much time on him. We were in a hurry for we had to take our ultimate objective in a matter of minutes. The day before we had had only 40 minutes in which to complete our assignment. Now it was already 9 o'clock. We had been in action for more than an hour.

The lieutenant ordered us to advance in the same formation.

"Keep in constant touch with headquarters," he reminded us.

Enemy fire forced a temporary halt. Spandaus and Schmessers chattered away simultaneously from several directions, but so far we had not had a single casualty.

"Attack the battery on the left."

Corporal W. lifted his tommy gun. A couple of rounds and then—Spandaus from all directions caught us in their cross-fire. We were trapped. Blinded by the speed with which we had advanced unopposed, we had not noticed hidden nests of fanatical Germans ready to fight to the very death. The situation was most grave. Caught in an open field, we made a perfect target for them.

"Give 'em all you've got," the lieutenant ordered our tommy gunners. "The rest of you retreat to the woods."

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Polish signal corps men putting up telephone wires in Italy.



These Germans were captured by Polish soldiers at Ancona.

THE BATTLE OF WARSAW AS SEEN BY GERMAN CORRESPONDENTS

(Continued from page 5)

turned to direct us to a courtyard that led out into another street. German tanks drove up as we came out into it.

"The tanks attacked the Polish Home Army unit hidden somewhere along the first street, but were driven back by the Poles' homemade but most effective hand grenades. Women and children were in the thick of it acting as ammunition suppliers and giving wounded Polish soldiers first aid treatment.

"Suddenly everything shook as if from a thunderclap. German planes were approaching from the vicinity of the old Citadel to bomb Polish positions. German guns and mortars joined the attack. Two men with red and white arm bands ran out of the surrounded building and down the smoke-filled street. They were couriers running to report the action to headquarters. Then the street was quiet as a tomb. Nothing stirred in it. There were no more shots from the surrounded building. Blank, charred windows stared desolately out of the ruined house. Bedding, furniture and clothes were scattered about at random. But the Poles had disappeared. They had escaped capture by retreating along one of their many underground tunnels when their ammuni-

tion ran out. These were the fanatical fighters that we had to contend with for 63 long days."

One report published in Berlin on the last phase of the Warsaw struggle says that after the decision to capitulate, survivors of the First Polish Regiment marched in order, four abreast from the ruins. There were 375 officers and 1,250 non-commissioned officers and men, as well as 221 women who had served as Red Cross nurses and liaison messengers.

The description adds that they marched firmly and proudly in close formation. 'But every face'—the report went on—'betrayed terrible disappointment.' The entire Officers' Corps with their generals—the three regiments altogether—were obliged to leave their completely ruined and burned out capital.

This message shows the whole meaning of the changed German attitude, which is an attempt to prove that the Germans would be better friends of Poland, in the long run, than Poland's allies. Berlin reports say that 11,000 Poles altogether capitulated in Warsaw, including six generals, 942 other officers and many girl students. These German reports add that there were 280,000 civilians in Warsaw at the time of the capitulation.

WARSAW BRIDGES THAT NO LONGER EXIST

(Continued from page 10)

Actual work on the Poniatowski Bridge was begun in the spring of 1921. The project was a joint city and state enterprise, each sharing one-half of the expense. A special committee of ten was named to supervise the reconstruction. Sitting on the committee were the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and two Councilmen representing the City, a prominent engineer representing the public, two engineers from the Ministry of Public Works, one from the Supreme Chamber of State Control, one from the Treasury Department, and the architectural engineer Plebinski in charge of construction.

It was no easy matter to do the needed repair work. It had to be done in five building seasons with time off during the winter months. Before construction could be begun, all temporary features and damaged parts had to be removed, sagging arches dynamited, and the river bed cleared of deeply embedded debris. New pillars were driven into the

bottom after the water was pumped out from the surrounding area. It was several years before the finishing touches—sidewalks, balustrades, sculptures, parapets, lampposts and rails could be installed. The Joseph Poniatowski Bridge was opened to pedestrian and vehicular traffic in 1925, while it was still only partially completed. A year later both sides were ready for traffic.

The bridges of Warsaw that served as a favorite promenade spot for the capital's inhabitants, were the scene of bitter fighting during the campaign of 1939 and the recent uprising. As if eager to vent their fury even on inanimate objects that played a part in the heroic defense of Warsaw, the Germans have completely wrecked all five of the city's bridges. The memory of these stone and iron structures, however, will live on. Liberated Poland will erect new, modern bridges over the Vistula and the galaxy of her destroyed bridges will be there to inspire her to even greater constructive activity.

POLISH COMMANDOS STRIKE AT CASA NUOVA

(Continued from page 13)

The man besides me got ready to jump, but a Spandau fired and—

"Wounded, bring the first aid," I cried as he fell at my feet. A moment of ominous silence. Someone raced across the field with first aid. Someone else yelled and then was silent. Shells fell all around us, thick as hail. More shells whistled overhead. Our machine guns barked back in reply.

It was impossible to think coherently anymore. Our reactions had all become instinctive.

The wounded man got first aid but was left until stretcher bearers could reach him as soon as enemy fire slackened a bit. He was hit in the arm.

"Konrad has been killed," someone called back. The wounded man was moving, returning to consciousness. The barrage continued. Our guns pounded back at the enemy. The noise became unbearable.

We advanced under the rain of enemy shells that dug furrows in the earth at our very feet.

"Sergeant G. take command," called the lieutenant as he fell, mortally wounded. I tried to drag another man into a nearby ditch. He was heavy and his cartridge belt had stuck against something.

CULTURAL LIFE OF JEWS IN WILNO

(Continued from page 11)

established in 1799 by Leib and Gershon Luria under a license issued in the name of a Catholic priest, Joseph Mirski. Soon afterward a new printing house was created by the Faynes, father and son. The most famous printing house for Jewish books was founded by the Romm family in Grodno, whence they moved to Wilno in 1835 and printed famous editions of the Mishnah, Talmud and Midrash and of many other books for use in centers of Jewish culture throughout the world. Borys Kletzkin (b. 1875; d. Wilno, 1937) was founder and owner of the famous publishing house Wilner Farlag B. A. Kletzkin. The creation at Wilno in 1928 of the Yiddish Scientific Institute (after the Nazi German invasion of Russia in 1941 its headquarters were transferred to New York City), and the library, founded earlier by Mathias Straschun (1794-1872) and containing scores of thousands of volumes, were symbolic of the significance of Wilno as a center of Jewish culture.

It is noteworthy that some of the numerous Yiddish writers born in Wilno became famous in the United States. Hirsch Gerschuni (1844-1897) was co-founder of the first Yiddish daily, *Die Post*, at New York City in 1870. Abraham Cahane (b. Podbrzeze, near Wilno, 1860) was still (1943) editor of the Yiddish daily *Forward*, in New York City. Louis Miller was editor of *Die Wahrheit*, which merged with the *Tag* in 1917. Peter (Peretz) Wiernik (b. Wilno, 1865; d. Brooklyn, N. Y., 1936) was editor of the *Jewish Morning Journal*. Furthermore musicians who became outstanding in New York came from Wilno, such as Leopold Godowski (b. 1870), who lived in New York from 1912 on, and Arno Nadel (b. 1878), who became famous in Berlin. "The greatest sculptor of Russia," Mark Antokolski (1842-1902), famous throughout the world, was born in Wilno, as was the renowned sculptor Leopold Bernstein-Zinayev (b. 1868). Outstanding among contemporary writers who were active in Wilno were: A. J. Goldschmid; Chaim Grade (b. Wilno, 1910), gifted Yiddish poet and short story writer; Abraham Veiter (1878-1919); Leib Jaffe, Russian and Hebrew poet, who in 1943 was director of the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem; S. Niger; Zalman Reizen; Abraham Reizen. S. An-ski (Solomon Rappaport), who presented his *Dybbuk* first through the Wilno Truppe in 1919, lived in Wilno for a long time.

Famous scholars and scientists of Wilno were: Daniel Chwolson (b. Wilno, 1819; d. 1911), who, becoming converted to Christianity for the sake of his academic career, was in 1855 appointed professor of oriental languages at the University of St. Petersburg; Isaac Benjakob (1801-1863), well-known Hebrew bibliographer, and his son Jacob Benjakob, author and reviser, respectively, of the great *Otzar Hasefarim* (*Thesaurus librorum hebraeorum impressorum quam manuscriptorum*) published at Wilno in 1880, which contains upward of 20,000 titles of books in Hebrew; Vladimir Jochelson (1856-1937), noted ethnographer. Zelig Kalmanovich, Yiddish philologist and historian, was editor-in-chief of the *Yivo-Bleter* and one of the directors of the Yiddish Scientific Institute in Wilno up to the Nazi invasion of Wilno in June, 1941. Max Weinreich was a zealous organizer of the Yiddish Scientific Institute and the author of many philological works on the Yiddish language, as well as a critic of Yiddish literature; in 1943, he was manager of the Yiddish Scientific Institute in New York. Weinreich's father-in-law, Zemach Szabad, was a noted physician in Wilno, and a senator under the Polish republic. He was an eminent hygienist, and wrote many books on the subject of the welfare of the Jews in Poland, especially Wilno. Jacob Wigodski, president of the Jewish community of Wilno, and a member of the Polish Sejm, and political leader of the Jews of Wilno, wrote several volumes on the history of the Jews of Eastern Poland and of Wilno. Pinhas Kon, noted Jewish historian, was a

member of the department of history of the Yiddish Scientific Institute.

Wilno was the great center of the social life of the Jews. The Jewish population of Wilno was conscious of the value of organized society, and from the earlier days of some free atmosphere after the first revolution of 1905, and even before that, they organized the social life of the community in every field of activity. Wilno was the place of origin of the Jewish Socialist Movement in Europe, the first circles of Socialist propaganda and the nucleus of the unions of professional workers were formed in Wilno. The most influential political party of the Jewish workers in Russia and Poland was founded at Wilno in 1897; known as the Yiddisher Arbeiter Bund in Russland, Lite un Poilen, it held its first conference there in that same year. During the first Russian revolution in 1905 there grew up new Socialist parties based on the idea of Zionism, such as the Socialist Zionists, the Poale Zion, and the Socialist Sejmists (S.S.). Each party issued its own political periodical.

The middle class also organized its own parties, and there were Zionist groups of every kind, beginning with the Chovevei Zion (Lovers of Zion), founded in Wilno in 1884 (in 1889 the third all-Russian Chovevei Zion conference was held in Wilno), to the Revisionist Zionist party. There was also a large Yiddishist Party known under the name of Democrats (Folkists).

Wilno was especially known as the center of Yiddish culture. The Jews there had a central school committee, founded in 1919, which had eight public schools, two kindergartens, two evening schools, two Gymnasias, and one teachers' seminary. In the schools conducted by this committee there were over 3,200 children. In 1921 the Zionist Organization founded the Tarbut Hebrew school organization, with Dr. Jacob Regensburg at its head. The Tarbut had thirty-five public schools, four Gymnasias, three kindergartens, several evening schools, and several libraries. More than 1,100 children were taught in these schools. There were also many Talmud Torahs for Orthodox Jewish children. In addition, the Orthodox had a large building built in 1884.

In February, 1919, as the result of the endeavors of S. An-ski, the Yiddishist movement founded in Wilno the Jewish Historical and Ethnographical Association, with Dr. Abraham Wirszubski as president and Chaim Lunski as secretary. This association possessed a museum, a library, and an archive. Famous was the library of Mathias Straschun, founded in 1885, with a total of over 20,000 volumes. In 1922 a society for the arts was founded.

The council of the Jewish community of Wilno was composed of eighty councillors, and was presided over by an executive board in which the most outstanding role was played by Jacob Wigodski, Rabbi Isaac Rubinstein, Jacob Szeskin, Gershon Gerszuni, Eliezer Kruk, B. Epstein, and F. Antowil. Of these eighty councillors, twenty-four were Zionists, twenty-four members of the Bund (Socialists), nine Orthodox, seven artisans, five Folkists, three Poale Zionists, three Socialist Vereinigte, two Shomre Shabbath, two Zeire Yisrael, and one a member of the merchants' organization. The Jewish community in Wilno was pointed out as an example of the realization of national cultural Jewish autonomy as a national minority in a state which included many national minorities.

As evidence of the role which the Jews played in the city of Wilno, it may be stated that in 1924 they had fifteen representatives in the city council, including Zemach Szabad, Eliezer Kruk, Saul Trocki, Eliah Rudnicki, and L. Spiro. . . . In the Polish Sejm and Senate the following Jews of Wilno served as deputies: Jacob Wigodski, Isaac Rubinstein, and Michael Stuczynski. In the last Senate before the outbreak of the second World War, Isaac Rubinstein was elected senator.

Polish Minister of Home Affairs Wladyslaw Banaczyk Appeals for Aid for Warsaw's Population

"At the moment when I am speaking the Germans are bringing the evacuation of Warsaw to an end. Homeless, without clothes, wounded and exhausted, Polish civilians were chased out of the ruins of Warsaw.

"Old men, women and children, martyrs, shadows and skeletons are marching away. The temporary victors are herding them to the concentration camp near Pruszkow.

"The only hope of survival is help from the outside. For this help I now appeal to the world. I think that nobody has earned this help more than they have.

"If this help is not given, hundreds of thousands will perish. Proof of this burning necessity is given by the fact that during the last days of fighting in Warsaw, when every gun and every cartridge, every drop of water and every bit of bread were priceless—Warsaw appealed first and foremost for help for the expelled civilian population outside her ruins.

"I repeat the appeal of my country. They need it badly and believe in its coming. For they believe that the sacrifice of Warsaw, made by all its inhabitants, was not in vain.

"I appeal to the world for this action. I appeal in the name of liberty, in the name of Warsaw, which sacrificed everything for the ideals to which she swears allegiance."

—London, October 12, 1944.