

# The Polish Review

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## OLD WARSAW, THE HEART OF POLAND

**F**EW European capitals possess an old quarter, where the spirit of ancient days is so well preserved, as in Warsaw's Old Town with its fine market square that reminds visitors of the *Grandes Places* in Belgium and of ports of old Amsterdam.

The old market square is surrounded by houses that are and were intended to be magnificent. Fine doorways, carvings, arches, etc., bore witness to its wealth in bygone days. All these houses were painted. At first the colors were probably too brilliant, but now that the weather of many years has toned them down, the effect is very beautiful. The paint shows up good details, carved stone doorways, a lion at one street corner, a Virgin at another, little projecting windows, vaulted entrance ways, massive and battered wrought-iron doors, gates and grilles of good design, heavy locks and handles, old shuttered shops and worn steps. Inside one entrance hangs the old model of a ship. Considerable time is needed to take in all the beauties of the Market Square. In the pre-war days some of the best houses were used as museums, for offices of various societies, or had similar destinations.

Narrow streets and lanes lead to the Market Square; these streets are fascinating to all who love old things. They are narrow and cobbled, passages cross the streets by arches, bases of houses slope outwards, old shops like rabbit-holes are in cellars with massive doors and entrances down steep stairs. There are tiny shuttered shops and barred windows, carved signs above doors, tunnels and courtyards as picturesque as can be. Their houses with numerous, closely set windows remind one of Antwerp. Kanonia and Ryckerska Streets, with their impressive spirit of peace and calm, resemble the quiet closes and nooks of Nürenberg, or the typical narrow streets and alleys



WARSAW OLD MARKET SQUARE — The living relics of Warsaw's glorious history.

of huddled medieval cities, as in the port quarter of Amsterdam. Such specimens of architecture as the arched passages suspended over Dziekanja and Kozia Streets or near the Augustinian Church, the bas-relief ornamentations over the portals of houses, the picturesque flights of stairs with southern light

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H. 10/2019



# POLAND SPEAKS . . .

Address delivered by General Wladyslaw Sikorski, Polish Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief, at the Princeton Club, New York City, on March 30, 1942.



FROM my visit to Washington and from my numerous contacts there, I carry away the firm conviction that the United States, under the leadership of its great President, together with Great Britain, lead the United Nations in their all out struggle

for the lofty ideals of humanity.

The war is now entering its most important phase. The center of gravity of the fighting has been transferred to Russia. She had done all in her power to avoid a conflict with Germany. What is more, Russia did not expect any such conflict. A few hours before the German attack, the Moscow radio ascribed to the British the spreading of rumors of an alleged Soviet-German conflict. At the very same time a freight train carrying oil from the Caucasus to Germany crossed the Polish border. Soviet Russia was treacherously attacked by the Third Reich. Russia is fighting heroically for her own existence. She will continue to fight valiantly, because for Russia it is a question of life and death. She cannot conclude a separate peace with Germany, for that would be equivalent to a partition of Russia and her complete annihilation.

Soviet Russia must be helped honestly and thoroughly, quickly and effectively, and we expect from her the same proofs of reciprocal loyalty and good will. This is especially important at the time when Germany is preparing a new and, she is convinced, a powerful blow against the Caucasus, — having lost the winter campaign 1941-1942 so lightly undertaken by Hitler. Allied aid to Russia is not restricted to war equipment alone, which should be increased, but also consists in land, sea and air warfare, conducted with great determination by Britain for the last two years and a half, in which the United States has now joined. I am proud that among the banners of those Powers, our own also waves. Our participation in the war will be increased considerably in the immediate future.

An Allied offensive on the European continent at the proper time will be indispensable. This offensive must be prepared at once. The United Nations will have to throw into the scales of war their entire moral and material strength and muster their total and unconditional effort.

Let us not delude ourselves. Russia will soon face a difficult task. Success in the winter campaign has not brought with it a decisive victory, although it has caused Germany enormous losses by using up a large part of her reserves which she was massing for for the spring offensive.

It is impossible to foresee the results of the coming struggle. But one is at least entitled to expect a crisis of German vital power which is already serious and growing worse. These German forces will probably be tied up in the East this year. The decisive blow must be struck at the proper moment by the United States and Great Britain from the West.

I shall feel happy, if our Polish units, now stationed in Scotland, can participate most effectively in that action, as well as the Polish Navy, the Polish Air Force and the Polish units fighting or training in the East.

I do not want to minimize the importance of the Far Eastern front, but I consider Germany our enemy number ONE. The other nations of the Axis, including Japan, are only Germany's satellites, their defeat depends upon the defeat of Germany by the Allies.

This is not the time for the settlement of future boundaries. Everything about us is in a flux. This is not the time for the consolidation of the future peaceful and permanent structure of the world. This can only come to pass when the clash of arms subsides after the United Nations' victory.

The strength of those nations, led by the United States and Great Britain, lies in faith and loyalty to the ideals and principles expressed in the Atlantic Charter. They are completed by the declaration signed in Washington on January 1, 1942. We have no right to sacrifice the lofty principles for which we are fighting together in full solidarity.

The Atlantic Charter and the Declaration of the United Nations are acts which must be accepted or rejected in their entirety. Not an element of them may be dropped. No principle of liberty and equality of the nations can become the object of bargaining or diplomatic compromise. In these ideals we are building a new world whose mainstay undoubtedly will be honesty. The honest observance of accepted obligations has always been the tradition of the United States. After my conversations in Washington, I feel convinced that it will continue to be so.

Poland's identical traditions inspire her intrepid and indomitable fight.

Fidelity to that banner will assure the full triumph of freedom and justice.

# POLAND'S AVENGING EAGLES



THIS is the third Spring of achievement for the Polish Air Force in Great Britain. It is just two years since Poland's avenging eagles were able, for the first time, to spread their wings in Britain under the emblem of the White Eagle, and show their worth. When the Luftwaffe swept in its locust hordes over Poland, it destroyed most of the Polish machines before they could even take to the air. The Germans launched 3500 first line planes on Poland in the first twenty-four hours of war.

After the tragedy of the Polish campaign, the Polish Air Force was able to save only a small number of its machines, but most of the Polish Air Force including the pilots was able to escape. During the late Autumn of 1939, Polish pilots began to reach England. It had been arranged with the British and French governments that a Polish fighter force was to be built up in England and a Polish bomber force in France, so that most of the pilots arriving were fighter pilots.

But not only pilots came to England. As early as February 1940, there were something like 2000 Polish airmen in Great Britain, members of the Polish Air Force who had succeeded in escaping from Poland — radio operators, observers, mechanics, and ground personnel. By the middle of March 1940, the first Polish fighter squadron cooperating with the Royal Air Force was formed.

Instantly, from the moment of their first take off,

the Polish pilots proved themselves skilled and capable. Intensive training followed with the Royal Air Force and there was never any question of their splendid qualities as pilots. They were fighting fit, they were trained to the highest pitch, they had their Spitfires and Hurricanes, their squadrons and airfields. They had proved their worth as pilots. They needed only the chance to show their mettle as heroes and fighters.

It came with the Battle of Britain, less than six months after the formation of their first squadron. Poland's fighter pilots in September 1940, grasped their opportunity with both hands. Of the Polish squadrons that stood so magnificently side by side with the Royal Air Force in breaking the assault of the mighty Luftwaffe on Great Britain and on London, one achieved immortal fame — the 303 Kosciuszko Squadron. In that moment of Britain's greatest peril, this body of men who proved to the world forever, the skill and courage of Poland's pilots, destroyed 126 enemy planes as "certains" not counting those damaged or probably destroyed. Their score was, however, sufficient to break all records for any squadron for the number of enemy planes brought down over Great Britain in any one month.

Many other Polish squadrons, both fighter and bomber, have since achieved equal fame. In the first

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# PANGERMANISM IS NO ACCIDENT

By CECIL F. MELVILLE\*



THE "fair play to Germany" school of thought seeks to distinguish between the German people and their present rulers. It argues that the German people as a whole should not be punished for the sins of the Nazi régime. Once granted this premise, the rest is easy: Germany, purged of Hitler and his

fellow Nazis, should be allowed to remain a unitary state, with the economic resources and physical strength commensurate with her position as a Great Power in Europe. From this to acceptance of the *Lebensraum* theory, as applied to Eastern Europe, is but a short step. And from this to the acceptance of the *Herrenvolk* idea is an equally short step. It is anti-Nazi, but it is pan-German. It can but lead to yet another German aggression and a third Punic war.

The protagonists of this idea have various motives, ranging from a sincere but mistaken humanitarianism to pro-Germanism pure and simple. But underlying it all there is a sort of false historical determinism, a belief that Germany must in any case play a dominant role in European affairs and that therefore the only thing to do is to recognize this fact and make it the basis of the Peace settlement.

If these people have their way we shall repeat the mistakes of the peacemakers of 1918. Substitute the word "Hitler" for the word "Kaiser" and there is your analogy. In 1918 the same distinction between the Germans and their rulers was made. The result was that not only was Germany allowed to remain a unitary state, with all the means for recovering her aggressive power, but, more than this, the foundations were laid for that excessive centralism which provided the basis for Hitler's totalitarian Greater Reich. In a word: the Allies themselves made it possible for Germany to become a Greater Prussia. And now we are again being urged to make the same mistake, and therefore to court the same disastrous consequences.

This neo-pangermanism is highly dangerous on three counts: first, because it seeks to undo in the peace all that we are fighting for in the war; secondly, because it tends to discourage the mass of people, who may well ask themselves what is the good of fighting the Germans only to make a peace in their

favor; and thirdly, because it can but damp the ardor of revolt amongst the peoples of the occupied territories.

In a short article like this it is not possible to do more than give one or two representative examples of the kind of pan-German propaganda to which I have referred. Amongst the Britons there may be cited, as typical, Commander King-Hall, who, before the advent of Nazism, was a leading pro-German, and who is therefore perfectly consistent when today he pleads that a distinction should be made between the German government and the German people.

Amongst the German refugees, I would quote, at random, the views recently expressed by Herr Hermann Sinsheimer in the columns of a British intellectual weekly. In the article in question this German writer put forward a number of self-contradictory and misleading ideas, but all tending towards that manufacture of sympathy for Germany at which the Germans are so adept. He blames Prussia for Nazism, although he has to admit that most of the leading Nazis are South Germans. His suggested solution of the post-war German problem, although superficially anti-Prussian, is in fact a plea for leaving Germany in possession of at least some of her ill-gotten gains. He not only has the temerity to suggest the inclusion of Alsace in his new Germany, but he also coolly proposes that after the separation of the Rhineland from Prussia, the latter "would be deprived of its present control over German economic resources and removed from Western European frontiers." After thus throwing a sop to our isolationists he continues: "Prussia's face would be turned to the East. The rest of it, stretching from the Elbe to the Baltic and the Bohemian frontiers would still be a larger geographical area than Prussia is historically and ethnographically justified in claiming, since the greater part of it consists of relatively recent conquests." So that even Prussia, about which Herr Sinsheimer claims to be so worried, and concerning which he has a number of hard sayings, is to be left, according to his ideas, and the ideas of those who think as he does, in possession of "relatively recent conquests" even though she is "neither historically nor ethnologically justified in claiming them."

The truth about Germany in relation to Europe has been admirably put by Professor F. W. Foerster, in his standard book *Europe and the German Question*. Professor Foerster is the one thoroughly honest German critic of Germany and German policy I have yet discovered. But I notice that he is never quoted by the British or German advocates of "Fair Play to Germany." Foerster puts forward two major truths which are fundamental to this controversy. One is that the German people, having allowed themselves to be perverted by false notions of their mission, are as responsible as their rulers for the war. The other is that pending a genuine conversion of the German

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# EDUCATION IN POLAND



PUBLIC education is one of the most vital problems of every civilized nation and there is no need to stress the importance of adequate preparation for life's activities.

Poland, restored in 1918, 150 years after its partition, was confronted with the gigantic task of establishing an educational system upon a sound national as well as pedagogical basis, and unifying the three divergent systems introduced by Prussia, Russia and Austria, in the lands they had vainly tried to depolonize.

Poland was fortunate in that she had a thousand-year-old tradition to guide her in this great undertaking. Her schools in the past had ranked high. The University of Cracow, founded in 1364, had had an uninterrupted existence until the Germans closed it in 1939, and in the Middle Ages was regarded as Poland's outstanding institution of higher learning. It produced great theologians, philosophers and scientists. Copernicus, promulgator of the heliocentric theory, was one of its alumni.

Poland's new system of public education was designed to give effect to the noble ideals of the famous Polish scholar, Stanislas Konarski and of the other men who composed the Commission of National Education in 1773.

The painstaking researches of Konarski merit great admiration and glory. He was the first to emphasize the value of civic training, maintaining that the citizens of a nation are no better than its schools, and that the government is no better than the citizens. And so his *Collegium Nobilium* and other schools modeled after it not only gave improved substantial academic studies, but also stressed the value of service to one's country.

But when the final partition of Poland came in 1795, Prussia, Russia, and Austria at once attacked the Polish schools and introduced their own systems of education. The suppression of national consciousness among school children was zealously and carefully undertaken. Polish schools ceased to exist, although Austria permitted more freedom in the administration of the schools than Prussia or Russia.

When after the last war the world recognized Poland's inalienable right to in-

Germans closed educational institutions in Poland. Since 1939 all schools and universities in Poland with exception of a few primary and trade schools, are closed. Millions of youthful Poles are denied an education.

dependence and admitted her to the political council of World Powers, the Polish people were confronted with the task of unifying the three parts in which the once powerful Republic had been split for 150 years. Poland thus became heir to three different systems of education, each based on a different philosophy and on different political ideals. The difficult work of establishing a new system of education, of creating a new spirit of unanimity, of awakening new national consciousness, was one of Poland's vital problems.

While temporary measures were immediately adopted, it was found that virtually an entirely new plan of public education would have to be introduced, an uniform plan that would embody all that was best in modern pedagogical practice and provide materials and methods of instruction compatible with the psychological and sociological temperament of the people. In particular, in that part of Poland formerly Prussian, the schools had to be Polonized; in that part formerly Russian, new schools had to be introduced; and in that part formerly Austrian, the ravages of war had to be repaired.

The Constitution of the new Republic of Poland provided for a "Ministry of Cults and Public Education." At the head of the whole school system was the Minister of Education, who was a member of the Cabinet, and who exercised authority in the name of the State. For administrative purposes the country was divided into nine school districts comprising one or more of the fifteen provinces. The administration of the schools in each province was entrusted to a Curator, who was appointed by the President and was directly responsible to the Minister of Education. The supervision of smaller dis-

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A TYPICAL MODERN HIGH SCHOOL IN POZNAN

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# OLD WARSAW, THE HEART OF POLAND

the fortified hamlets of Italy. The architecture is less rich and more adapted to the northern climate, but it is equally picturesque and no less original.

Among the most characteristic houses of the Market Square is the Fukier wineshop which began doing business here in 1610 and has remained ever since in the same family.

In the entrance hall there is an old lantern and a ship, the firm's emblem, which has hung there since the beginning; in the rear hall is a picture of the Mother of Christ with a *priedieu* before it — put there when the house was built. The inner court has balconies on three floors.

The rooms on the street floor are covered with prints and engravings of Old Warsaw. In the back room, the chimney piece has the Fukier coat of arms. One of the tiles has a ship with all sails set, and the words, "I am bringing foreign wines for Fukier."

Because of the strict housing laws, the wineshop could not be enlarged when its business increased; but the cellar space was increased by renting from the neighbors. In pre-war days the firm had cellars under three houses, running back to the next street. These cellars have arched ceilings of brick, with great hooks to which prisoners were chained; one room for special wines, called "hetmanskie" — the oldest bottles in stock dating from the 17th century.

On one of the corners of the Square is a house nearly seven hundred years old. It belonged to the princes of Mazovia. In the halls and in two of the upstairs rooms are prints and maps and paintings of Old Warsaw, the collection of the Historical Society. Under the house are dungeons and underground passages that extend for blocks. They go around the market place, as far as the Royal Castle, without coming up to the street. Nearly half of these passages are still there, in some places walled up, in others undermined by recent excavations.

Another interesting house is the home of the Baryczkas, which belonged in pre-war days to the Society for Preserving the Antiquities of Warsaw. The doorway of the house is very fine and bears the Baryczka coat of arms. This typical home of a rich Warsaw merchant was carefully restored in 1910.

Vaulting on the street floor, beamed ceilings, a remarkably fine stairway with carving, a stone doorway. The conference room is vaulted and paneled in wood half way up, with leaded glass windows that have insets in color.

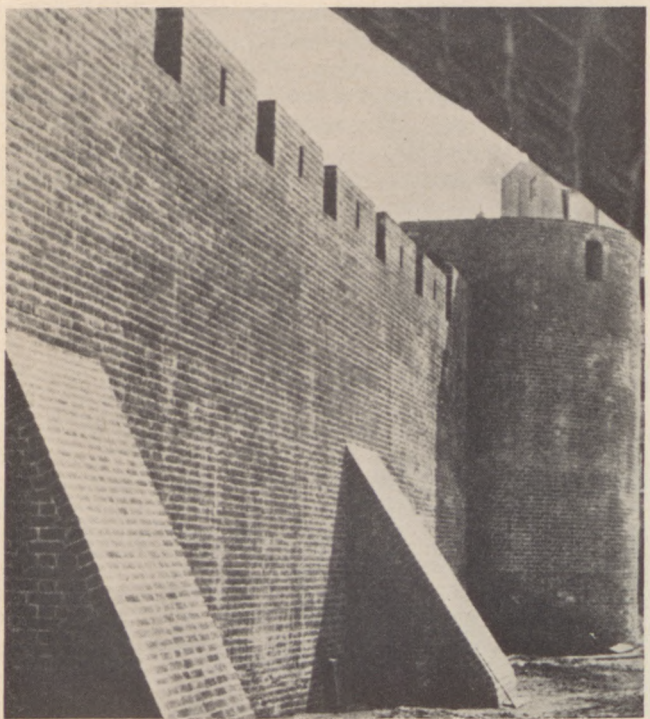
Another house on the Square has a statue of the Virgin in the "attic." Here lived a Scotch Roman Catholic family, who fled to Poland for refuge during the persecutions in the reign of Elizabeth. Many houses have window decorations like the ship and siren, the latter is the emblem of Warsaw. Elaborate tablets were a popular form of house decoration in Warsaw; one tells of a fire, another says the house is "dedicated to the glory of God, to myself for comfort, to my dearest children for shelter and to the city for its better appearance."

Warsaw supplanted Cracow as the capital of Poland in the 16th century but began to play an important part at a rather late date. Subsequently its development was so rapid that it soon became one of the largest cities of Europe. Just as was the case in Paris and many other large cities, the growth of Warsaw along the banks of the river on which it stands, was very swift. Warsaw was founded in the 13th century, in the vicinity of a castle belonging to the Dukes of Masovia, on the left bank of the Vistula. In the 12th century the principal seat of the Dukes was situated a few miles further up the river, in what is now the modern part of the capital. The situation of Warsaw in the centre of Poland, added to its historical and political importance and, as time went on, the city gradually became surrounded by the estates of dignitaries and the richer nobility who chose the country around the King's residence to build their own castles, unencumbered by municipal laws. As a result, they contributed to form a capital city that is quite unique. On the outskirts of the medieval city of Warsaw arose splendid Baroque residences marked by the same grace and spaciousness as country mansions and appointed with the necessary out-buildings. It was on such lines that Warsaw developed up to the end of the 18th century when the estates surrounding the city, with their great mansions, more in the nature of rural domains than urban palaces, were incorporated within the new boundaries of the capital.

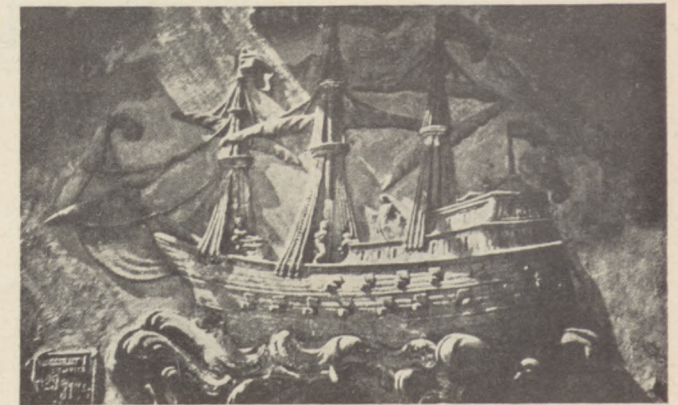


OLD MARKET SQUARE

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effects, the steep lanes leading to the river streets, and the buttresses of Brzozowa Street call to mind

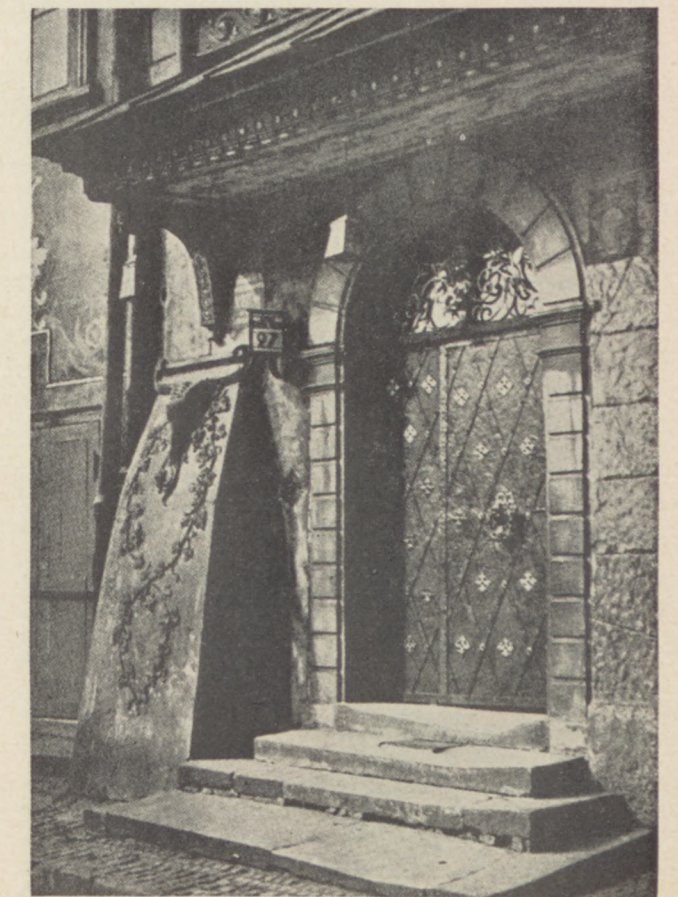


OLD CITY WALLS. The defense walls of Warsaw were built in the 13th century, 26 feet high and 4 feet thick. They were provided with many towers and bastions for guarding the city. The old walls have been uncovered quite recently, as a monument of the history of Warsaw, disengaged from later additions and restored to their original condition.



HOUSE-EMBLEM ABOVE THE DOORWAY

This Old Town of Warsaw is the best proof of Poland's great and old culture, which shone so brilliantly in the 16th and 17th centuries when Poland was one of the biggest powers of Europe. Every stone of this Old Town speaks contrary to German claims that Poland has not her own culture and therefore must be subjugated to the "superior" German race. These old houses of the now martyred Warsaw remember glorious days of the Great Past and they will live to the Great Future when Free Poland will take rightful possession of her capital.



PORTAL OF FUKIER HOUSE



## "VIRTUTI MILITARI" FOR MAC ARTHUR



With the consent of President Roosevelt, General Sikorski, Polish Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief, has conferred upon General Douglas MacArthur, the highest Polish military decoration, the "Virtuti Militari".

V V V

POLAND'S highest military award for valor, the Order of Virtuti Militari dates back to the reign of Poland's last King, Stanislaw August. It was established in 1792, and awarded for the first time to Prince Joseph Poniatowski's victorious soldiers after the battle of Zielence.

Originally the decoration was an oval medal, in gold and silver, with the King's monogram on one side and on the other the words "Virtuti Militari" (For Military Valor). Only twenty gold and forty silver medals were struck and among the recipients of the former were Prince Poniatowski and General Thadeus Kosciusko, the latter having suggested the name of the Order.

Later the Order was divided into five classes. The first three took the form of a Cross with the inscription "Virtuti Militari" on the arms and in the center the White Eagle of Poland appeared in enamel, sur-

rounded by a wreath of laurel. On the reverse the arms bore the initials S.A.R.P. (Stanislaus Augustus Rex Poloniae) and in the center bore the Lithuanian escutcheon with the date of the Order's creation: 1792.

On August 1st, 1919, after Poland's resurrection, the Polish Diet restored the Order of Virtuti Militari. The initials S.A.R.P. on the reverse were discarded and in place of the Lithuanian escutcheon there appeared the words "Honor i Ojczyzna" (Honor and Fatherland).

The Decree of the Head of the Polish State reviving the Chapter of the Order said in part:

"By Resolution of the Polish Diet, dated August 1st, 1919, the military Order of Virtuti Militari has been restored. In the past it decorated the breasts of our most valiant forebears. Every true soldier knows and feels the full meaning and value of this high decoration.

"The first meeting of the Chapter will be held on January 22, 1920. I have specially chosen this day as the anniversary of the 1863 insurrection, because I desire that those who are called upon to reward the heroism of their fellow-countrymen may be animated by the supreme spirit of sacrifice free of all vain glory and worthy of the great national movement."

The First Class of the Order Virtuti Militari was originally conferred upon only six persons, among them Marshal Foch, King Albert of Belgium and King Alexander of Yugoslavia.

The Cross of Virtuti Militari was also awarded to the City of Lwow for its glorious defense in 1918-1920 and to the City of Verdun in France.

## P O L A N D ' S   A V E N G I N G   E A G L E S

(Continued from page 3)

months of their formation, Polish squadrons were commanded by British officers. "To the finest squadron in the whole world," wrote one of these officers, a Wing Commander, in the squadron logbook of the 303 when he left them. Polish squadrons are entirely under Polish command.

Sir Archibald Sinclair, Secretary of State for Air, also paid his tribute to Polish fighter pilots when he sent a wire to Squadron 303, "Many congratulations on magnificent results which you achieved in offensive action against enemy." For these "magnificent results" which Polish fighter pilots have "achieved in offensive action against enemy," many have paid with their lives, but there are many more living who carry on the work of their comrades.

Many of those who have already given their lives for freedom, and also of those who continue to fight, have been honored not only with Poland's highest military award "Virtuti Militari," but also with the Distinguished Flying Cross of the Royal Air Force and many even have bars to their DFC. This same Polish fighter squadron 303 destroyed 46 enemy planes in forty-two days in intensive sweeps over France and bombing raids of factories and other

German military targets in France, when they acted as escorts to the Royal Air Force bombers. They have never "lost" a bomber for which they acted as protective cover in many raids of this kind.

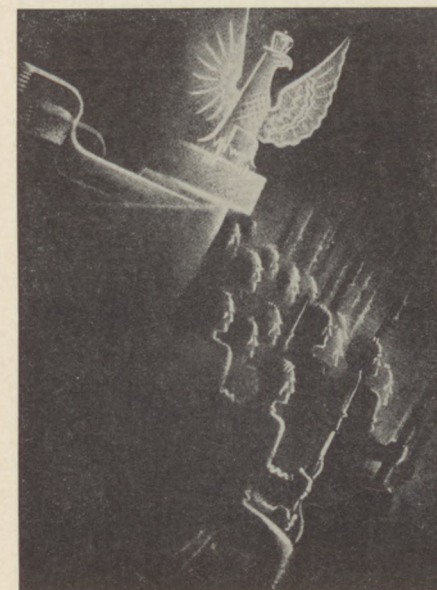
When France collapsed, the Polish bomber pilots came to England and joined their brother Polish fighter pilots. Now they too have their Polish units. Polish crews of the Bomber Command are taking an increasing part in offensive operations over enemy territory, including Kiel and Emden where the Royal Air Force accomplished some of their most successful bombing raids. Nearly 2000 aircraft have been used in Polish bomber squadrons. New units are being formed in America and in Russia, while in North Africa a Polish bomber ferrying service is already in action.

Poland's Air Force is thoroughly Polish from pilots down to mechanics, and from fighter pilots to Polish-manned barrage balloon units.

In the air transport auxiliary Polish pilots are also to be found, amongst them two Polish women pilots. The total number of enemy planes brought down by Polish fighter squadrons over Great Britain in these two vital years filled with achievement on March 15, 1942, numbered more than 450. From day to day these figures are mounting. Polish pilots see to that!

## POLAND'S CONTRIBUTION TO VICTORY

By CAPT. ALAN C. GRAHAM, M.P.



TWO hundred and fifty-nine years ago, in 1683, Christian Europe was on its knees in gratitude to the Polish people and to a Polish King. John Sobieski, the last of the Crusaders and a military genius, had saved Christendom by his complete defeat of the Turkish armies encamped around Vienna. Chivalry and the sense of

unity in Christ caused his people and himself to throw themselves in the path of the invading barbarians. From this day on the Turkish tide steadily ebbed back towards Asia. Poland took the shock and saved Europe.

Such is her history and such, apparently, her destiny. Geography has placed her at the robbers' cross-roads, come they from the North, the East or the West. As two hundred and fifty years ago, so in 1939, a barbarian cloud was about to burst on Europe. Poland knew she must stand up to it and resist for her own sake as well as Europe's, even if she were temporarily submerged. Hence came her acceptance in April, 1939, of Mr. Chamberlain's offer of British guarantee. The Poles were determined for the sake of their nation's life to resist Germany to the end, with or without a British guarantee. They knew that Britain was in no condition then to give them any material aid and that the time for which they could stand up alone against Germany was limited. But so great was their faith even in the ill-armed Britain of those days that they believed that by linking their fate with Britain their ultimate future was assured. Poland, therefore, in the spirit of Arnold von Winkelried gathering for his companions' sake in his own bosom the forest of enemy lances, stood up to the first awful shock of the German onrush, and thus gave more time to Europe to prepare its own resistance.

Throughout the campaign there was example after example of Polish heroism and devotion against overwhelming odds, but numbers and superior equipment defeated, though they could not destroy, the united spirit of complete self-sacrifice throughout the whole Polish nation. The Poles in this campaign succeeded in killing 91,000 and wounding 150,000 German soldiers. They shot down, with their

*"During the last two years the heroic and determined manner in which the Polish people have struggled and sacrificed in the face of tremendous hardships and deprivation has been an inspiration not only to the people of the United States but to liberty-loving people everywhere."*

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, July 5, 1941

own far smaller air force and few A.A. batteries, between 700 and 800 German planes and damaged about the same number in action, while they destroyed or severely damaged about one-third of the whole German force of tanks and armored cars. These German losses in tanks and in the air caused no less than eight months' delay before Hitler could replace his losses and launch an attack in the West, thus affording the Western anti-Axis Powers valuable time, even if we failed to take proper advantage of it.

It certainly was not Poland's fault that her former great ally, France, frittered away the precious time thus gained by Poland's sacrifice. Here, too, was the opportunity for the smaller neutrals to take active measures to save themselves, if only they had not been inhibited by their pathetic belief in salvation through legal neutrality, though how any sane mind could connect respect for international law with Prussia-Germany under Bismarck or Hitler must rouse tears of regret or shrieks of laughter, according to whether the Christian's or the devil's view of humanity is taken. We ourselves were also guilty of presuming that "time" was "on our side" instead of making certain by hastening to "take time by the forelock." But none the less the opportunity was afforded us by Poland's sacrifice and some advantage of it, though far too little, was taken by us. If Poland had surrendered without a fight, Hitler's armies could have been instantly switched to the West and France would probably have been subdued even by the end of October, 1939. But by their manful resistance the Poles gave Britain at least eight months in which to build up her munition factories and to develop her air force and war machine generally.

The Polish losses in this campaign numbered 100,000 soldiers and more than 100,000 civilians killed during military operations, of

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## EDUCATION IN POLAND

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tricts was entrusted to School Inspectors appointed by the Ministry, and subordinate to the Curators. The Minister of Education appointed all Headmasters and teachers of the State primary, secondary, technical and high schools. In the communal and private schools, appointment was by the owners of the school.

School attendance was compulsory for all children from seven to fourteen years of age. Poland's aim was to stamp out illiteracy completely. Her progress in this direction was evidenced by the increased attendance in the elementary schools. During the year 1910-11, in the area under Russian rule, the total school attendance was 370,576, while in 1924, the same area under Polish rule had a school attendance of 1,345,586. Progress becomes even more apparent if one considers the country as a whole.

In the school year 1935-36, 4,684,345 pupils attended primary and 181,138 secondary schools; in 1936-37, 4,743,605 pupils attended primary and 200,391 secondary schools.

The curriculum of the primary school, drafted by the Ministry showed a marked advance over former standards of instruction. It was binding upon the public schools, and upon such private schools as wished to be recognized by the State.

Polish was the official language of the country and as such was taught in all schools. But the non-Polish population — racial minorities — were adequately taken care of. A spirit of tolerance was in evidence, and the State permitted instruction in other languages than Polish. Thus there were schools in certain sections of the country where instruction was conducted in German, Ukrainian, Yiddish, Russian, Czech and Lithuanian.

The national minorities had a number of schools in which instruction was given in their respective languages. During the school-year 1937-38 the Ukrainians had 16 nursery schools, 461 primary schools, 24 secondary schools, 1 teachers' college, and 5 technical schools. There were also 3,064 primary and 2 secondary bilingual schools (Polish and Ukrainian).

Instruction in the White Ruthenian language was given in 1 secondary school. The Germans in Poland had 49 nursery schools, 394 primary schools, 15 secondary schools, and six technical schools. Yiddish was the language of instruction in 40 nursery schools, 226 primary, 12 secondary, 1 teachers' college, and 14 technical schools. Lithuanian was the language of instruction in 23 primary and 1 secondary school, Czech in 18 primary schools, and Russian in 9 primary and secondary schools.

*In the school year of 1936-37 about 5,000,000 pupils received primary and secondary instruction in Poland.*

*In 1931 the number of primary schools in Poland for 100,000 inhabitants was 86.3 as against 62 in 1910.*

*To make up for the paper shortage in Germany, all Polish school books have been taken from the children of occupied Poland and sent to German paper mills to be pulped.*

Polish schools were classified as follows:

1. Nursery Schools. These schools had to provide physical and mental care for children of 3 — 7 years of age.

2. Primary Schools. The legal term of education was seven years, beginning with the year during which the pupil attained his eighth birthday. The schools were divided into seven classes. The educational program provided for three degrees of primary education: (1) the elementary course of general instruction, (2) a development of the first degree, and (3) a social and economic preparation of the pupils.

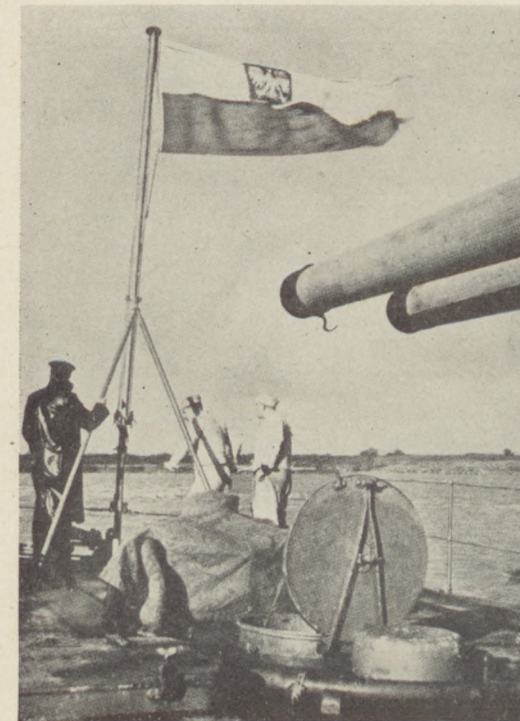
3. Secondary Schools. The period of study in secondary schools was six years. The school for general education was composed of a four-year course in grammar schools and of a two-year course in lyceums. To the grammar schools, pupils over 12 years of age were admitted and to the lyceums, pupils over 16 years of age.

Lyceums (State, municipal and private schools) were divided into: Latin-Greek, mathematic-physics, and science.

4. Technical Schools. The aim of the technical schools was to provide technical education and manual training for the youth of both sexes. The elementary and secondary technical schools in Poland adapted their programs and practical courses, in workshops, studios, laboratories and business offices to the practical requirements of economic life. The technical schools included so many different categories and sections that they virtually covered all branches of industry and of trade, providing trained workers of all degrees. An artisan, a factory workman, a technical foreman, a dressmaker, a milliner, a shop-assistant, a trained-clerk, all these positions were filled by young men and women leaving technical schools and training colleges. The construction and fitting of machinery and motors, railways, motor-cars and aeroplanes, applied chemistry, electrotechnics, wireless, mining and smelting, building trades, gardening, agriculture, cattle raising, manufacture of foodstuffs, women's professions, home and foreign trade, road building, the study of foreign languages, etc. — were on the program of technical schools, where great attention was paid to the intellectual and physical development of the young. It was only after the recovery of her independence that Poland could start the education of adults on a large scale, and then the Government, communal institutions and social organizations all cooperated to this end.

All this elaborate system of education so laboriously built up during the twenty years of peace has been utterly destroyed by the Germans. With the exception of a few trade and primary schools, all schools and institutions of learning have been closed.

## POLAND'S CONTRIBUTION TO VICTORY



(Continued from page 9)

whom 40,000 civilians were killed in Warsaw alone. Polish bravery led three Corps Commanders and five Divisional Commanders to find death on the field of battle, while several cavalry regiments lost every officer on the strength, striving heroically to stem the steely onset of the enemy tanks by a holocaust of horse and man. Even after their military defeat in Poland no thought of surrender ever occurred to the Poles, who knew that they were the first victims resisting in a world-struggle of liberty against tyranny.

The Polish Army was at once reorganized in France under the experienced and masterly leadership of General Sikorski. When Hitler attacked in the West he found once again confronting him no less than 100,000 Poles, just as many as he had killed of their army in Poland and mostly veterans of that campaign who had come via Rumania or other devious routes to the West again to offer their lives on the battlefield for liberty and the common cause. The young Polish Eagle was indeed a stout-hearted buckler for the aged Gallic Cock. The Polish Highland Brigade which had fought most gallantly at Narvik was landed at Brest too late to take part in the campaign in France owing to the collapse of the French Army. The Polish brigade which found itself in Syria fought its way through Vichy opposition and joined the British forces in Palestine, bringing

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*Poland made her sacrifice early. The United States is ready now to make whatever sacrifices may be demanded of her to make conclusively certain that Poland shall not have suffered in vain. Our objectives are the same. The might of all people who love democracy is aligned against the common foe of freedom.*

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S  
Message to Poland

much equipment with it. These men have recently formed part of the glorious Tobruk garrison, and have materially assisted, as was mentioned by the Commander-in-Chief, in the battle of Cyrenaica.

Had it not been for the quick decision of General Sikorski and Mr. Churchill and the ready and ubiquitous aid of the British Navy the Polish troops might well have been completely engulfed in the French disaster. But, once again, the Polish will to live and to go on fighting brought them through, this time to England, not only in big batches where the Royal Navy could pick them up, but in dribbles through Switzerland, Spain and Portugal. Volunteers poured in also from North and South America, and from every remote corner of the globe where Poles had settled, and by every sort of route they came. Thus there has been gathered together in Britain the Polish Corps, a magnificent body of trained fighting men possessed of splendid spirit, training and equipment, and straining at the leash to be allowed to inflict just retribution on the sadistic German violators of their hearths and homes.

This satisfaction has been already partially afforded to the splendid Polish Air Force in Britain, composed of many fighters and bomber squadrons. It played a very prominent role in the Battle of Britain, our air-Trafalgar, destroying no less than 14 per cent. of all the German planes shot down in this battle. This was the more remarkable a feat because the Polish air force engaged in the battle was very much less than 14 per cent. of the British planes engaged, and in such a battle à outrance, where the very last reserve machine capable of taking the air has to be thrown in, it may well be argued that it was just the addition of these few Polish squadrons that finally turned the day and gave Britain and civilization their deliverance.

At sea the young Polish Navy is carrying out its role with heartiness and efficiency and good comradeship with its British allies.

(Please turn to page 12)



# POLAND'S CONTRIBUTION TO VICTORY

(Continued from page 11)

Not only in Britain, however, but also in Russia and the Americas the Polish eagles are still gathering to war. When the Soviet Power invaded Poland to divide it with Hitler, in order, as we now know, to be the better able to fend off his inevitable attack upon Russia herself, many Polish officers and men fell into Russian hands. Since General Sikorski's far-sighted treaty with the Soviet in July, 1941, there has therefore been available this extra reservoir of trained fighting men of the best quality now being formed into a fresh Polish Army of eight divisions, in whose equipment Britain is playing the chief part.

It is, however, especially in martyred Poland itself that heroic self-sacrifice is being exhibited in the resistance which is, wherever possible, still being maintained against the Germans. The value of this to the Allied cause is at once seen when it is realized that the Germans are compelled to keep a minimum of no less than twelve divisions of German troops permanently in Poland to keep down the starved and tortured population.

All through 1940 big guerilla detachments kept up the struggle against the invaders and are still fighting efficiently, though smaller in numbers. No less than 82,000 Polish civilians have been executed by German Courts-Martial, according to the official figures, while tens of thousands have been murdered,

massacred in batches and tortured to death without cause in concentration camps; their number may well exceed 200,000 souls. The German "new order" today is thus seen to be merely Bismarck's avowed policy for the Poles — *ausrotten*, i.e., exterminate. In addition, starvation, typhus and other diseases due to the German occupation, frost and cold, will have added another million to the death-roll for which Germany must one day be made to pay. In addition, 1,200,000 Poles have been dragged from their homes as slaves on forced labor in Germany, where, according to reliable sources, Polish workers are sold as slaves at two dollars each to German farmers in regular slave-markets. The resistance of the Poles has cost them not merely their lives and liberties, but also all the treasures of their national culture, art, churches and monuments, as well as *all* their private property in Western Poland, which was simply confiscated by the Germans. But, beaten, tortured and starving they continue to resist their bestial foes in every way open to them, even publishing over 50 secret newspapers under the noses of their oppressors. These newspapers play a great part in keeping up their morale and their spiritual resistance to the Germans, and, as they often contain humorous cartoons and jokes, in spite of the ghastly Golgotha in which they barely exist, are the most heroic example today of Mr. Churchill's famous motto "grim and gay."

*"In our country the fight of the Polish nation against the enemy is still being carried on. In the face of the greatest terror and persecution resistance does not weaken, but grows in intensity and strength, as the numberless legions of those who love the Motherland join in the struggle. . . ."*

(Extract from one of the secret Polish papers—*Rzeczpospolita Polska*.)

## PANGERMANISM IS NO ACCIDENT

(Continued from page 4)

people, the Allies will have to take the necessary physical action to prevent a recurrence of German aggression.

Hence, when it comes to the peace making, it will be essential that there should be no sentimental distinction between the responsibility of the German government and the responsibility of the German people. We should not submit the Germans, as individuals, to ill-treatment, but we should place the Germans, as a race, in a position in which they will

not again be able to menace the peace. And the first requisite will have to be a reconstruction of Europe in such a way that there will not be a German unitary state, dominated by Prussia, or by any other centralized force, which would dispose of the military or industrial capacity to wage another war against her neighbors, either in Eastern or in Western Europe. Perhaps one day it will be possible to re-admit Germany as an equal with the other nations in the European comity, but that will not be until, as Professor Foerster says, she will have gained regeneration "through service."