

The Polish Review

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G N I E Z N O

IN THE first capital of the Polish State, at Gniezno, the Cathedral has bronze doors, famous the world over as priceless relics of the Middle Ages.

They were built in 1127 and represent the life of St. Wojciech (St. Adalbert). The Saint was killed by Prussian pagans in 999 and to recover his body the King of Poland, Boleslas the Valiant, paid its weight in gold.

Gniezno, the very cradle of the Polish nation, is now claimed by the Nazis as having always been German! "The bigger the lie . . ." as Hitler said!



Bronze Doors of Gniezno Cathedral

POLAND SPEAKS . . .

Amongst patriotic literature secretly produced and circulated in Poland today, is a calendar which contains exhortations in verse and prose addressed to 'the Polish Army fighting on the inner front,' this 'army' being the millions of men, women, and children in Poland who are resisting the invader, even if only passively, and are working for the resurrection of Polish independence. The calendar contains quotations for every month of the year. Literature of this kind is produced by secret organizations in circumstances of extreme danger. It usually appears in the smallest possible format so that it can be concealed more easily. Here is a translation of the calendar and two pages in the original size.

POLISH CALENDAR

January

You have a right to faith and hope that this year will bring freedom. Learn, however, to be free in bondage. To be a Pole means freedom. To be a traitor, a renegade or a coward is worse than Prussian slavery.

February

Carnival, Shrovetide. Remember, however, the graves of soldiers and martyrs who fell as heroes for Poland. Remember hungry and ragged Polish children.

March

Let the east winds of March direct your eyes to the East. From thence, Polish Armies may come to deliver you from bondage.

April

Have you already sown your fields? When you think of your own wealth, think also of what you owe Poland — not remnants, not shreds, not alms, but everything you have: your wealth, your children and your blood.

May

On the day of national holiday remember that a New Poland is coming. Are you ready to welcome the New Poland? Or clad in the rags of ancient faction do you still think of your own interests, your own profits?

June

In the days when Poland was free and independent, you were inclined to blame your Government if the sun burned too fiercely or the rain fell too fast. If the rule of the invader has not taught you to long for your own Government — you have suffered too little yet.

July

Remember that it is not only for yourself that you reap. If you had a good harvest, if you are proud of your crop — be careful to hide it for your brothers. Know that it may mean the drying of someone else's tears, may even bring a smile to the eyes of the broken in heart.

August

If the enemy still comes prying for your crops, hide deep your store and guard it carefully. Should a Pole ask you for a morsel of bread, bring out of the larder everything you possess, and know that by feeding the hungry you do not diminish but on the contrary increase your wealth.

September

On September 1st, 1939, the Germans like a gang of thieves invaded your country. Remember this date till the end of your life.

October

As seed sown by you must wait for the spring to grow — so the deeds you have done to Poland must wait for their ingathering.

November

Winter is drawing near. Prepare the Polish catechism for the long winter evenings for yourself and your family. Teach the children enthusiasm for strife. Tell them that to live for Poland and to die for her is the greatest honor and glory.

December

In a few days the year will be over. If you have understood that the New Poland does not mean a government of factions, of tyranny, but of justice and sacrifice, clasp your hands and thank God. Ask Him also that He allow you in the coming year to take active part in the work for the might of Poland.

L I S T O P A D			G R U D Z I E N		
16 N	EDMUNDA	16 W	Ezechiassa		
17 P	Grzegorz	17 S	Leazze		
18 W	Odon	18 C	Oz. N. M.P.		
19 S	Eliabety	19 P	Namorjuzze		
20 C	Feliks	20 S	Jozef		
21 P	Oz. N. M.P.	21 N	4 ADWENT.		
22 S	Cecyli	22 P	Zozna		
23 N	KLEMENSA	23 W	Wiktorii		
24 P	Jana od K.	24 S	WIGILIA S. N.		
25 W	Katarzyny	25 C	BOZE NARODZ.		
26 S	Kacprada	26 P	SZCZEPANA M.		
27 C	Waleriana	27 S	Jana Ap.		
28 P	Zdzislawy	28 N	MLODZIANK		
29 S	Selwina	29 P	Tomazsa		
30 N	1. ADWENT.	30 W	Egwazjasa		
		31 S	Sylwestra		

zapału do walki. Mów im, że dla Polski żyć i dla Polski zginąć to honor największy i sława.

sprawiedliwości i poświęcenia — ręce złożą dziękuj Bogu. Proś Go także, aby ci w roku następnym zezwolił do pracy nad poległą Najświętszej carynie przygotować

ECONOMIC PROSPECTS OF POLAND

SPEAKING in the London Chamber of Commerce on the Economic Future of Poland, Mr. Henry Strassburger, Polish Minister of Finance, pointed out that tremendous economic tasks await Poland after the war. Many of these concern the immediate post-war period.

The chief aim of Polish economic policy after the war will be the elimination of unemployment, not only sporadic but as a permanent feature of the national economy! To do away with this scourge, Poland must find employment for five million people who normally have inadequate productive employment in agriculture or no employment at all. Employment must also be found for a steady annual increase in population amounting to some 400,000. Poland has a large population, not enough land, and a shortage of equipment and workshops. Added to this must be the lack of local capital for investment in transport and other facilities for a commodity circulation.

This, of course, involves a rise in the standard of living of the country's inhabitants generally. The future economic development of Poland must be achieved primarily with the Polish nation's own resources, but like other devastated and impoverished lands, Poland will need the cooperation and support of all states and international factors seeking to build a new and better world, based on security and freedom and well-being.

Poland rejects all economic isolationism, within any frontiers whatsoever, whether her own, those of a Federation or even of Europe. Poland wants a Central-European Confederation, but she also wants to play a most intensive part in the world's economy. Above all, Poland is determined not to be merely an economic complement to Germany, whose aim is and always has been to turn neighboring States into a granary for herself, a market for her own industrial output and a breeding ground for slave labor.

Even before the war, Poland's economic policy aimed at complete emancipation from the excessive preponderance of her economic exchanges with Germany and at developing economic relations with other European states, in particular Great Britain and Scandinavian countries. Routes running from the Baltic into the Atlantic, the Kiel Canal, the Belt Sound, that Suez Canal of the Baltic Sea — must not be allowed to remain under the exclusive control of Germany. The Baltic is no more a German lake than the Mediterranean is an Italian lake.

In order to strengthen her economy, Poland must aim at raising her agricultural production, at developing her industry, and at increasing her commodity

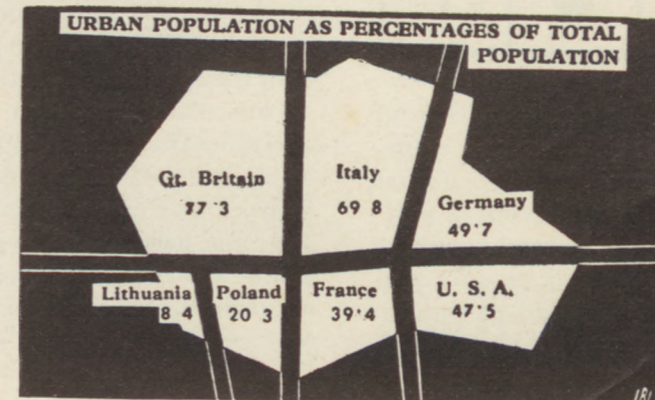
exchanges with foreign countries. Poland must develop her agriculture to provide employment for the largest number of people, without involving excessive capital investment. Poland must raise the value of her agricultural production.

In Poland, crops predominated over livestock. In 1927-1928, crops were 57.4%, livestock only 42.6% of Poland's total agricultural output, whereas in Germany the reverse was true: crops 33.8%; livestock, 66.2%. So the increase of livestock and the development of agricultural processing industries are our most important tasks.

Polish agriculture was developing in this direction, even before the war. Particularly favorable conditions exist for the development of pig-raising, for the dairy industry, poultry, eggs, etc. Forestry also has been and will remain an important source of Polish wealth, although, during the two and a half years of German occupation, a six years' growth of Polish timber has been cut.

However, not even the most intensive development of agriculture will give employment to Poland's surplus population. Poland's density of population is that of an industrial country, and greater than the average of all Europe, greater even than in France.

Before the war two-thirds of the people lived by agriculture alone, and only some 20% were in industry. This makes it necessary to industrialize Poland. The principal development will be in the direction of processing our agricultural products, our timber and livestock produce, and our mineral products.



OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION IN POLAND

AGRICULTURE		19,346,900	60.60%
MINING AND INDUSTRY		6,177,900	19.36%
COMMERCE AND INSURANCE		1,943,200	6.09%
COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT		1,153,100	3.61%
PUBLIC SERVICES		594,900	1.89%
OTHER		2,699,800	8.45%

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ECONOMIC PROSPECTS OF POLAND

(Continued from page 3)

	PRODUCTION PER INHABITANTS IN LB			
	POLAND	GERMANY	FRANCE	U. S. A.
WHEAT	141.09	138.89	352.74	288.80
RYE	418.87	231.48	37.48	11.02
POTATOES	2,535.29	1,457.24	771.61	154.32

Polish exports will, generally speaking, depend primarily on the working up of more simple industrial articles and on the processing of agricultural and dairy products. Poland should occupy a position somewhere between the agricultural countries whose chief exports are agricultural produce and raw materials, and the highly industrialized nations. If Poland develops her industry in this direction, goes in for public works on a more extensive scale, especially land and water communications, and undertakes extensive reconstruction of destroyed cities and villages, there will be employment for a large part of her surplus population.

Simultaneously Poland should become an excellent market for industrial output especially machinery and production equipment, and also for constructive investment to raise the general economic level of the country. In particular, there will be need for a resolute electrification of the entire country.

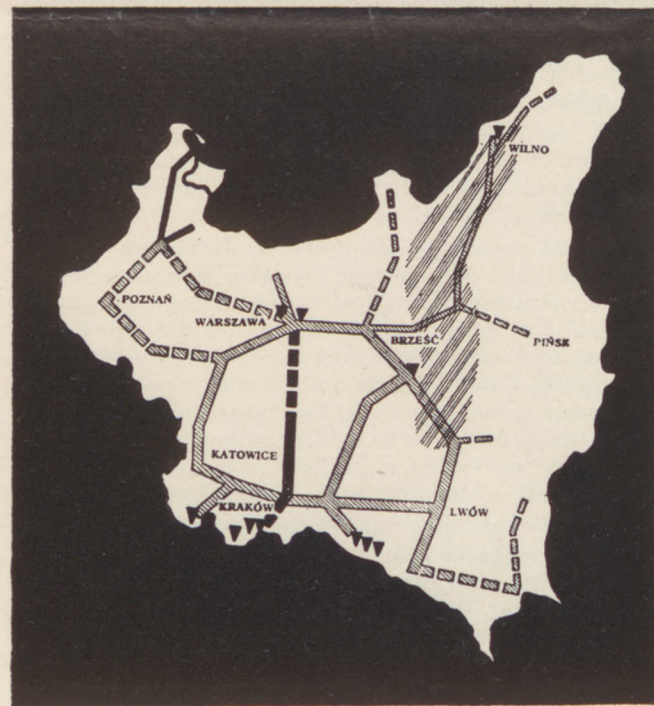
Together with communications, electrification of the country ought to be the most important factor of economic development, and not merely the result of that development. So during the first six years, after hostilities are ended, the electrification of Poland should be proceeded with to provide an average of 350 KW per capita. This would mean a threefold increase of the supply in 1939, when production averaged 113 kilowatts per capita. We shall need installations aggregating a total output of four million kilowatts, whereas before the war it was less than two million. The cost of the necessary installations would be some fifty million pounds.

As regards industrial installations Poland will have to purchase modern equipment and machinery required in agricultural processing and manufacture. This will include mechanical equipment for granaries, elevators, seed cleaning plants, distilling plants, hop and tobacco drying, equipment for oil mills, re-

frigerators, mechanical equipment for dairies and much else.

Then Poland will need an enormous quantity of railroad equipment and other means of communication. Before the war Poland's rolling stock amounted to 5000 locomotives, thirty thousand passenger cars and 152,000 good trucks. All this has been taken by the Germans and will be almost worthless after the war, when Poland's essential needs will be some 50% higher. Then Poland's mechanized road transport of all kinds has been completely destroyed or carried off. There will be an immediate and particularly urgent demand for motor trucks and lorries of all kinds, for the distribution of food and raw materials, after the cessation of hostilities.

Particularly important also will be the shipping question. There exists in this respect a plan to pool all available Allied tonnage for the task of bringing supplies to Europe. Poland will also have to consider the partial mechanization of her agriculture. Before the war, horses were mainly used for Polish agriculture, but war has greatly depleted their numbers. So for the post-war period, Poland will need at least ten thousand tractors.



ELECTRIFICATION PLANNED FOR POLAND

The dark lines show high tension wires existing. The shaded lines, high tension wires under construction. The broken shaded lines the wires ready to be strung and the diagonal lines those that were planned. The small inverted pyramids show the locations of the hydro-electric plants.

"Those only who are ready to die, will survive!" Speech by H. E. Jan Ciechanowski, Polish Ambassador

FREEDOM HOUSE is more than a symbol of our fight for freedom. Today, and until victory crowns our effort to destroy the foul outbreak of insane totalitarian lust for the enslavement of the world, this House will remain the palace of the highest royalty of all: "Freedom-in-Exile".

It is just and appropriate that Freedom House should stand on American soil, initiated by Americans; that its activities for the restoration of human liberty and decent life should be in the worthy hands of those who like yourself, Mr. Chairman, and your closest collaborators on the Governing Board, have so well earned the title of standard bearers of Freedom and Democracy.

As Ambassador of Poland in the United States, I thank you most sincerely for organizing this "Polish Week" in Freedom House. No place could better give the American public an opportunity of getting acquainted with the active part the Polish Nation has taken in this world conflict from its very inception, and is taking today. I regard it as specially appropriate that the Third of May, Poland's Constitution Day, was selected for the opening of Polish Week.

It is a fitting tribute to the Polish Constitution! At the time of its promulgation, one hundred and fifty-one years ago, it was one of the first documents of its kind, in which the conscious trend of a liberal and freedom-loving nation towards democratic ideals found such clear expression. Ever since its acclamation by the Polish Constituent Assembly on the 3rd of May, 1791, it has remained the treasured charter of the Polish people, their inspiration in all subsequent fights for freedom. It was in defense of the principles of that Constitution that Kosciuszko, already a veteran of the American War for Independence, led the Polish insurgents when in 1793 and 1794 he came to fight for Poland's freedom!

That Polish Constitution inspired Poland's battle cry — "For Your Freedom and For Ours." It is a matter of pride to all Poles that Freedom House has engraved that sacred motto on its walls, and adopted it for its own. That Constitution, introduced in Poland so shortly after the birth of the American Constitution; the fight of Kosciuszko and Pulaski for American and Polish independence; the generous admission to the United States of Polish immigrants, who now constitute so numerous a group of devoted and loyal American citizens; the decisive fight of the United States to save Democracy in the first world war; the statesmanlike initiative of President Woodrow Wilson, who declared the restoration of Poland's independence to be one of the essential conditions of peace, — those are the indestructible links of American-Polish friendship. Those ties are forged in a steel of which there is an unlimited supply in America and in Poland. That steel is the fighting spirit for human freedom.

Nowhere is this better realized, more fully emphasized and more effectively interpreted than here, in Freedom House.

As a Pole, I express my admiration for the work of Freedom House.

The cause we are fighting for is the greatest of all causes. On its victory depends the survival of human ideals. The United Nations are engaged in a death struggle for the triumph of the highest principles of mankind. They realize its overwhelming importance.

We shall win, because we are ready to sacrifice our lives for that Cause. And, in the words of a great thinker and philosopher, the late Mr. Justice Brandeis, — "Those only who are ready to die, will survive."

(This speech was delivered at Freedom House at the opening of the Polish Week.)

THE NATION'S OATH

By MARIA KONOPNICKA

THIS song was written, set to music, and sung all over Poland, at the time when the German Government was attempting to expropriate by law the Polish inhabitants of Poznan (in 1904). It is sung now wherever a Pole is found.

*Our native tongue, our native land,
Shall we renounce them? Never!
Poles, in one band we'll fall or stand,
Old Lekh's true lineage ever;
Must we be Germans? Rather die; —
So help us God on high!*

*We to our heart's last drop will fight;
Our spirit yields to no man;
With magic might 'twill thwart and smite
The invading Teuton foeman;
Him on each threshold we defy; —
So help us God on high!*

*Us with their name they shall not brand,
Nor to their nature breed us;
In arms we stand, a countless band;
One soul in all shall lead us,
Till they awake who sleeping lie.*
So help us God on high!*

* Allusion to a legend current amongst the people, which says that the ancient heroes of Poland are asleep enchanted in some unknown grotto in the Carpathian Mountains. When the hour of Polish independence strikes, a horn of gold is to sound, and the blast shall awake them. Wyspianski, in his strange poetic play "THE WEDDING" has made use of this legend.

FINE PRINTING IN POLAND

FINE PRINTING in Poland began with the earliest books that came from the presses of Cracow in the first quarter of the XVIth Century and continued through the ages till, at the end of the XIXth Century, it was given fresh impetus by a galaxy of young Polish printers and illustrators, under the leadership of Stanislaw Wyspianski.

The use of the woodcut as a means of illustration predominates in Polish books. Initial letters cut in wood with wondrous skill, adorn the "Missale Cracoviensis", one of the first and most famous books printed in Central Europe. Even before this, two young Poles, Stanislas and Ladislas, had introduced the art of printing into Seville, where also woodcut initials of similar excellence were used.

Woodcuts remained popular in Poland long after more modern methods of illustration had been adopted in other countries. Indeed they were used in most of the best Polish books, right up to the German aggression which for the time being has put a stop to all printing in Poland.

After the restoration of Poland in 1918 and the change that this great event brought about in the artistic and literary production of the country, new needs, new tendencies, new styles began to appear. The principal effort of Polish printers was directed to form and composition, to typographical disposition and construction of the page, to the purely graphic values of the type faces and, of course, to illustration. The work of the artist and of the printer became inseparable. Thus typographical technique and the economic interests of the publishing trade combined to make the application of art to industry, especially important in connection with fine printing.

So fine printing became one of the subjects taught in all Fine Art Schools, and much research and discovery was devoted to its improvement. In particular, fine printing was taught at the School of Art in Warsaw, and in technical schools throughout the country. Prof. Bonaventura Lenart, Tadeusz Gronowski and Prof. W. Jastrzebowski were pioneers who introduced many original reforms and ideas concerning the design and casting of type faces and typographical disposition.

A luxury publication, "L'Art Graphique Polonais," was founded and the Society of Bibliophiles organized Congresses at Cracow, Warsaw, Lwow and

Poznan, which led to great progress in the art of printing.

Perhaps the most noticeable feature of fine printing in Poland is that the quality and originality of type and make-up have to some extent modified the part played by illustration.

Illustration ceased to be merely an aesthetic adjunct and became part of the printed work, to the same extent as typography. Indeed fine printing in Poland attained to the eminence of Italian typography of the XVIth Century . . . and the printed pages came to possess what might almost be called an architectural value.

Three types of books stand out as worthy of special praise. First, books of exclusively typographical character where the artistic effect is due solely to the type chosen and its disposition. The type here and there is ornamented by initials and sometimes titles in colors. Among the best of these books were those printed specially for the Society of Bibliophiles.

Then came books reproducing archaic styles that retained the flavor of a long dead past, but lacked any very great originality. Here of course ornate Gothic initials and woodcuts played the same part as in early printing. Finally there were books like the monograph devoted to the work of Wyspianski. There the wealth of illustration, reproducing the artist's creations, over-shadowed the typography which was treated as an indispensable complement of the illustrations.

Somewhat different are the books illustrated by Wacław Borowski among them "Anelli." Here the full page black and white illustrations give a decorative value and a rhythm corresponding

to the typographical aspects of the printed page. And this brings us back to the subject of woodcuts, the vogue of which is so characteristic of Polish fine printing in modern times.

Woodcuts were popular in Poland, because wood carving was an ancient Polish peasant art and woodcuts are admirably suited to the reproduction of popular art, of old engravings, of little chapels of carved wood, the relics of primitive ornamentations. What they lacked in technique was made up for by an extraordinary wealth of imagination.

The foremost representative of this tendency is Władysław Skoczylas. Here the vigor and archaic

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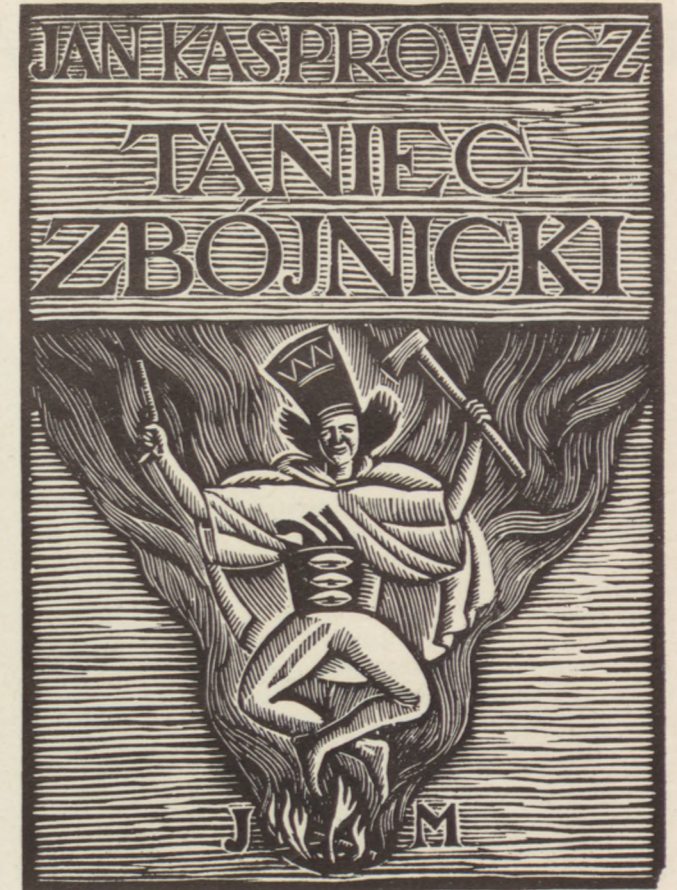
E. BARTLOMIEJCZYK "ASHES" By S. Zeromski



W. BOROWSKI "ANHELLI" By J. Slowacki



J. WÓWRO "BALLAD OF A PEASANT CARVER OF HOLY IMAGES" By E. Zegadłowicz



W. SKOCZYLAS "TANIEC ZBOJNICKI" By Jan Kasprzewicz



E. BARTLOMIEJCZYK "OLD COUPLE" By J. I. Kraszewski

POLISH WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CORPS

SIMULTANEOUSLY with the creation of the Polish Armies in Russia, a Polish Women's Auxiliary Corps was formed. The Corps consists of some 3,000 women soldiers, uniformed in most cases exactly like the men in British battle dress. They drive lorries, cook and perform all auxiliary services. They have the same soldierly discipline and the same fighting spirit as the men.

Here is an excerpt from a letter written by a member of the Polish Women's Auxiliary Corps describing the initial stage in the formation of the fighting force that has already sent 60,000 men to Persia and a strong detachment to Palestine.

"We enter a little city of tents. Signposts with arrows mark the streets. Before the tents are neat little winter gardens, where the flowers are designs in little stones and the emblems are marvelously sculptured in ice. I pull back a tent flap . . . Along the white wall single beds of mounds of packed earth strewn with dry coarse grass and weeds, at the heads folded blankets and haversacks.

"In the center of the tent—the pride of the occupants — a clay stove of their own make. At one side a table with some papers . . . Before these smiling men I must not betray my fear that the thin white walls will not keep out the cold or the hard beds provide no rest. But they sense it and say, 'Fine, fine for us.'

"And a young lieutenant in a beautiful uniform and an old cavalry sergeant in a jacket losing its cotton wadding and a corporal in woman's shoes beam upon me



POLISH AMAZONS



INSPECTION BY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

... On the way back I see groups at drill. The same men that I saw in the trains and at stations, men in rags and without shoes. Only their eyes have changed. No longer are they sorrowful, hungry, hopeless. They are bright with eagerness. 'Uniforms and boots are on the way,' explains my guide. 'Soon rifles and tanks and aircraft will follow. Then we shall see!'

THE SOUL OF A WOMAN By J. I. KRASZEWSKI

*The Great Soul of a Woman met my view;
On Heaven's floor it trod
And showed in semblance like a drop of dew
Before the eyes of God.*

*I saw the Souls of Kings and lords august
Through Heaven they took their flight,
But they seemed smaller than a little dust
Before God's Sovereign sight.*

*Only one Soul endured! A woman's spirit
That wore a wreath of suffering on its brow
Surpassing sage and poet far in merit —
Yea! Glorious as the Angels, I do vow!*



A SINGING QUINTET

MY MOTHER WAS POLISH

By ÈVE CURIE

"O MY country, O my native land, thou art like health; he alone who has lost thee can prize thy worth!" So run the opening lines of the great poem which Adam Mickiewicz wrote more than a hundred years ago, about my mother's native country.

Like all Poles of her time, my mother's youth was dominated by a special code of honor. It made a virtue of rebellion, cowardice of submission.

Marya Sklodowska, the schoolgirl who was to become Marie Curie, was a patriot when she was seven years old. She could whisk a Polish textbook out of sight the moment a Russian inspector appeared at the door of the classroom. Honest and upright as she was, she learned to lie to the oppressor.

At the age of fifteen she once sat up the whole night, consoling a friend. The friend's brother was a political prisoner. He was hanged at dawn.

Later she attended the secret lectures of the "Flying University," an elusive Polish institution which was always on the wing and constantly dodging the police. Risking banishment to Siberia she went through the countryside, taught Polish to the peasant children, lent her passport to friends hunted by the political police.

Marya Sklodowska did all this quietly, discreetly. No one would have dreamed that this gracious blonde girl was a romantic conspirator. A sweet young girl — and a Pole to the last drop of her stubborn blood. Her German teacher once said of her: "Talking to la Sklodowska is like shooting peas at a stone wall."

My mother belonged to the "Positivists," a group of patriots who sought to undermine oppression by peaceful means. She was determined that her country, this Poland whose name appeared on no map, should amaze the world by the genius of its sons and daughters. She dreamed of a great national culture for all classes.

Poland has never lacked the devotion of her daughters. Astonishing figures whirl across the fierce and battle-racked pages of her

history. Sophie Chrzanowska fighting back Mongol hordes from her castle of Trembowla. Emilie Plater, captain of the revolution of 1831. And the mysterious Zawiszanka who fought in Pilsudski's "Women's Brigade" and who is today the Marshal's widow.

But my mother sensed that it was not her destiny to fight in the front lines against tyranny. When she became Marie Sklodowska-Curie, the foremost woman scientist of her age, twice winner of the Nobel Prize, she dealt oppression her shrewdest blow.

The Russian government understood. In 1913, famous and laden with honors, Madame Curie went to Warsaw; her compatriots welcomed her enthusiastically, royally. But the Czar's officials ignored her presence.

After her marriage to Pierre Curie she made it a point to be a loyal citizen of her adopted country. She raised her two daughters as Frenchwomen. She never spoke of the home of her youth, never mentioned her bitterness over its long servitude. Yet Poland filled our home, pervasive as a secret perfume.

Polish governesses taught us the difficult language. Cousins and aunts arrived from Warsaw with chocolates from Wedel's, the famous confectioners, with little wood-carvings made by Carpathian mountaineers, with peasant costumes from Cracow, gay with multi-colored ribbons. And we returned these visits. Every two years or so the Nord-Express carried Madame Curie back to the city of her birth, which in her letters as a child she called "my adorable little Warsaw."

Were my mother alive today, she would remember that before 1919 the conquerors of Poland had, for a hundred and twenty years, used every ruthless means in their power to crush the nation — and that they had failed.

And she would remind us of the magnificent motto which was always emblazoned on the banner of Polish patriots, a motto that spoke not only to the Poles defending their homeland but to the enemy and to the world's oppressed:

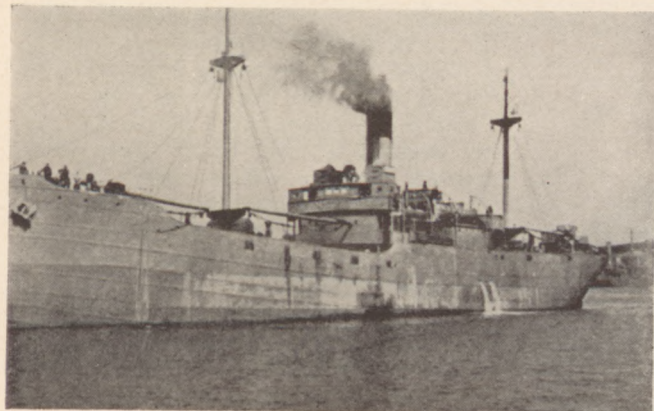
"For Our Liberty —and For Yours!"



STATUE OF M. SKLODOWSKA-CURIE, WARSAW
by Ludwika Kraskowska-Nitschowa

SIX SHIPS FOR FREEDOM

BY ANNA MACLAREN



POLISH MERCHANT VESSEL "KROMAN" SAFE IN BRITISH PORT

ALMOST the entire Polish Merchant Marine in the Baltic escaped shortly after Germany's attack on Poland. Wherever and whenever ships were needed in the days of the fall of France, in the terrible hours of Dunkirk, during the tragedies of Greece and Crete, and during the campaign in Norway, the Polish Merchant Marine and Navy were there.

In July 1940 when, according to Germany's orders, France refused to allow any foreign vessels to leave her ports, there were anchored within the fortified harbor of Dakar, amongst ships flying the flags of many nations, six Polish merchantmen.

The port bristled with defenses. Across the outer harbor, from end to end stretched steel anti-torpedo nets. Outside these lay the minefields. At three points there were heavy shore-batteries. Only one small avenue of entrance and exit remained, close to the mainland at one extremity of the nets — a narrow passage half a mile wide and one mile long, used only by native craft owing to the shallowness of the water.

Not only did French police boats patrol the port night and day and powerful searchlights sweep the darkness, mercilessly picking out one after another the anchored vessels. The Vichy authorities, wishing to make certain doubly sure, had removed the most vital parts of their machinery from the engines of the Polish ships and confiscated their navigation charts and maps.

Promptly each morning at ten o'clock the port authorities sent a motor-boat to the Polish vessels to take ashore those of her captains who wished to go. They assembled at the house of the Polish Consul; and there they planned their escape. Meantime their engineers were busy improvising the necessary substitutes for those parts of the ship's engines that had been removed.

On the morning of July 5th, the Polish Consul told the assembled Captains that he had received messages that same day from the British Admiralty.

These were orders that all Allied ships must leave French ports, with or without the permission of the French authorities.

At once the Polish Captains abandoned their original plan for all six Polish ships to leave the port simultaneously. Instead it was agreed that those ships whose engines had been put into working order should up-anchor and set out to sea that night.

The night of July 5th-6th was moonless. In this friendly black-out two of the Polish vessels wearing the Polish Merchant Marine Standard made their way out into the Atlantic, and before dawn were set on their course for Freetown.

Crossing the outer harbor, the Polish Captains steered towards the narrow exit close to the coast on which was situated the small native village of M'bau. They judged, that although undoubtedly very shallow, the channel was probably deep enough for their ships, which without cargo drew approximately fourteen feet.

First the "Rozewia" stole past her pinioned sister ships. An hour or two later — repairs to her engines were still uncompleted — the "Stalowa Wola" made ready to head for freedom. The night was as black as the inside of a bag.

Suddenly the Captain of the Polish vessel heard a French Patrol launch chugging towards them. He gave a swift order to stop the winch which was raising their anchor. The well-oiled anchor chains ceased to move upwards.

They were not challenged. The launch continued unsuspectingly on its way.

After a fifteen-minute wait the winch was restarted, and at half an hour after midnight the anchor was weighed. Five minutes later the engines of the "Stalowa Wola" were turning. Very slowly she slid forward. Every minute the Captain expected the searchlights of the shore batteries to weave their trellis work of light across the harbor. He made for the narrow channel near M'bau keeping as close to the coast as he dared, murmuring a prayer that he would be able to avoid colliding with one or other of the fifty or so vessels that were anchored in the outer harbor.

The sole means of judging whereabouts was a light showing on the "Arguille" — a ship which had been seized by the French only the day before. The men on the bridge of the fugitive knew that there was a French guard aboard her. Seeming hardly to move at all, the merchant ship passed silently by her, so close they could clearly hear the voices of some of the French sailors aboard her.

It took the "Stalowa Wola" one hour to cover the two miles that separated her from the narrow exit for which she was headed.

For over two hours the "Stalowa Wola" crept yard by yard down the mile-long channel.

(Continued on opposite page)

"FULL SPEED AHEAD!"

Hardly had the order been given, when the beams of the shore searchlights swung rhythmically across the port, catching the dark tips of the forest on the mainland. Somehow, the long fingers of the searchlights feeling through the night just missed them.

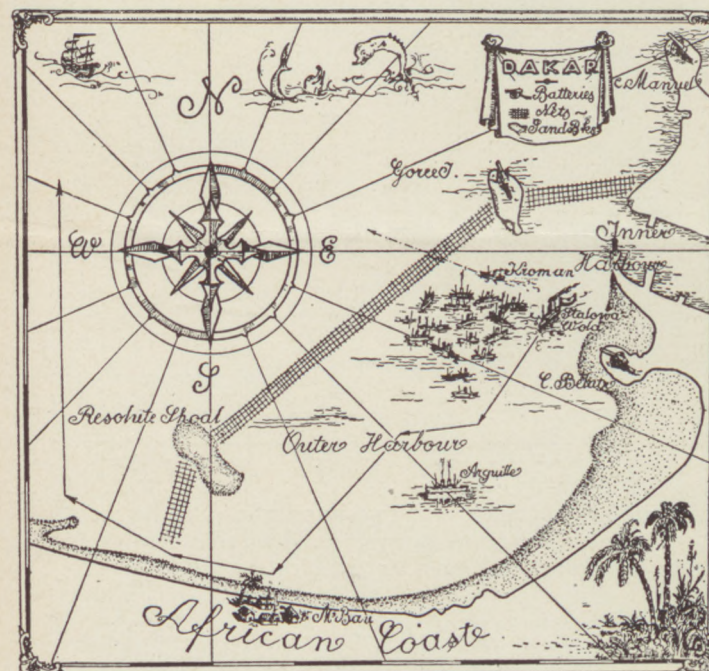
Course was set for the open Atlantic.

A third Polish vessel was to follow the "Stalowa Wola" and the "Rozewia" a few days later.

On July 12th Admiral Sir Dudley Pound wrote to the Polish Admiralty:

"... these two ships, in defiance of orders from the French authorities, broke out of the inner harbor at Dakar on the 5th-6th and 8th-9th respectively. The latter was fired on at long range by the shore batteries, but searchlights failed to locate the former, who escaped between the nets and the mainland.

"I should like, if I may, to express my appreciation of their courage."



THE HARBOR AT DAKAR AND ROUTES TAKEN BY THE ESCAPING POLISH MERCHANT VESSELS

By July 26th there was only one Polish ship — the "Kroman" — left in Dakar harbor.

On July 26th, in a conversation with the French Admiral, Captain Dybek of the "Kroman" was informed that his ship was to be seized.

Captain Dybek's position was desperate. German troop-carrying planes had already begun to arrive. Necessity and desperation, however, are admirable parents.

The next day, casually during a chat with one of the harbor authorities, Captain Dybek mentioned that he thought it would be wiser to remove the guard from his ship, as there was a strong "com-

munist" mood among his crew. He could not hold himself responsible for the effect on the Frenchmen aboard her. That same afternoon the guard was taken off.

The more recently removed parts of the "Kroman's" engines were also returned to enable her to once more make her way to the outer harbor. There, the Polish Captain was ordered to anchor close to some vessels in a position from which it would have been extremely difficult to extricate himself. Despite this order, he took up a position more favorable to an attempt to escape, "failing" as he described it in his report, to take up the position allotted him.

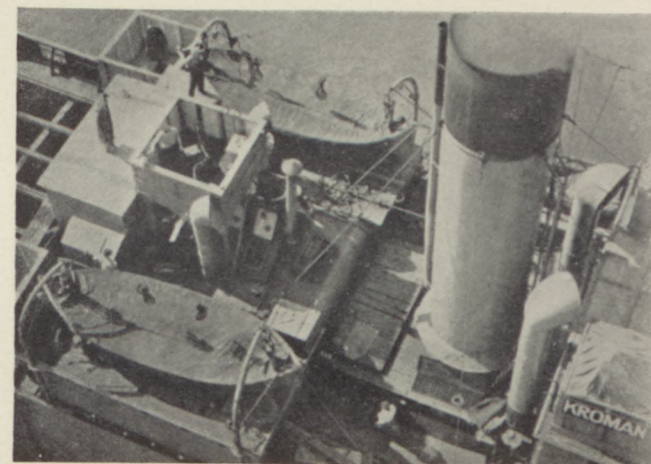
At six o'clock that evening the French demanded the return of the machine parts. The boarding party, on the Captain's refusal to hand these pieces over, drew their revolvers. After a heated discussion it was agreed that the replaced mechanism should be taken out again next morning.

It was now impossible for the "Kroman" to pass through the channel by M'bau through which her sister ships had escaped, owing to the greatly increased precautions taken by the French authorities. Searchlights played across the port incessantly, motor-boats and launches passed and repassed. The shore batteries and other defenses had been doubled and even trebled.

Unless they could pass over the by now formidable torpedo net and minefield barricades . . .

On July 31st the First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. A. V. Alexander, wrote to General Sikorski, Commander-in-Chief of the Polish forces, informing him of the arrival of the "Kroman" at Freetown after breaking out of Dakar on July 27th.

(Please turn to page 12)



THE "KROMAN" REFITTING AND REFUELLING AT A BRITISH PORT

S I X S H I P S F O R F R E E D O M

(Continued from
page 11)

"... the main stop-valve of the engines had been removed by the French authorities, but a temporary arrangement was fitted by the ship's engineers. Ballast was pumped out to enable the ship to escape over the outer net defense, and in spite of having no charts the Captain succeeded in taking his ship safely to Freetown.

"The Commander-in-Chief has congratulated Capt. Dybek on his resolute action, and the Admiralty wish to add their congratulations on a very fine achievement.

"This makes the sixth Polish ship to break out of French



REPAIRS AT SEA

West African ports and the British Navy is full of admiration for the fine spirit displayed by the Polish captains and crews in their determination not to allow their ships to fall into enemy hands."

Six more aids to the winning of the Battle of the Atlantic; six more cards to play in the Allies' hands; six more stout Polish ships that will continue proudly to carry the standard of the Polish Merchant Marine and to play their part on the high seas in the Greatest War of Deliverance of all time.

F I N E P R I N T I N G I N P O L A N D

(Continued from page 7)

simplicity of the artist's inspiration is clearly shown by the striking illustrations so closely allied to the type and initials used by the printer.

As pointed out above, the use of woodcuts for illustration goes back to the people, is a part of the people. The peasant Jedrzej Wowro, sprang into fame because of his crude spontaneous woodcuts, so obviously of Byzantine ancestry and so refreshing in their earthy quality. Christ carrying the Cross conveys all the devotion of the simple peasant's heart, and the Virgin Mary, enthralled within a wreath of foliage has all that feeling for pattern and design which has come from the heart of the primitives. His "*Ballad of a Peasant Carver of Holy Images*" is illustrated with eight remarkable woodcuts and was published in a limited edition of only 145 copies, sought after by book collectors the world over.

But Polish illustrations in color stand apart, whether in popular works or in magnificent publications devoted to Polish old customs and Polish peasant costumes. This is due to the original and

vigorous talent of a Polish woman, who, like Szyk, is in the very front rank of great modern illustrators. Madame Zofia Stryjenska's inspiration is purely national and closely allied with popular art. She gave to fine printing in Poland a whole series of illustrations fresh, fanciful and unsurpassed for their beauty and vigor of design. The principal works illustrated by her are: "*Story of an Old Woman Who Bested the Devil*", "*Christmas Carols*", Krasicki's "*Monachomachia*", Sieroszewski's "*Nursery Rhymes*", Illakowiczowna's "*Polish Dancers*", a series of "*Old Customs*" and "*Slavonic Magic*."

Two valuable editions that do great credit to Polish printing are Zeromski's "*Ashes*" and Reymont's "*Peasants*". The color illustrations of Borucinski were not numerous in the "*Ashes*", but the drawings of Bartlomiejczyk gave the book the necessary cohesion. In the "*Peasants*" the impressionism of the water colors of Apolonjusz Kedzierski was compensated by the sobriety of the graphic ornamentations of Zygmunt Kaminski.