

Pięćdziesiątą Rocznica Zgonu
Pierwszego Marszałka Polski
Józefa Piłsudskiego

Wystawa

poświęcona Marszałkowi Piłsudskiemu
w oszklonym pokoju na parterze
Domu S.P.K., Koto Nr. 20

Uroczyste otwarcie wystawy:~
Niedziela, 12 maja, godz. 1500.

Wystawa będzie otwarta w niedzielę,
dnia 12 maja w godzinach 1500 ~ 1900
oraz w czwartek dnia 16 maja w godzi-
nach 1800 ~ 2200.

Osobom, które zechciały Taskawie wy-
pożyczyć osobiste pamiątki jako ekspozy-
naty na wystawę, serdecznie dziękujemy,

Komitet



1867

1935

Uroczysta Akademia

pod przewodnictwem
Kongresu Polonii Kanadyjskiej
Okręg Toronto

Niedziela, dnia 12 maja 1985r., godz. 1530,
Dom S.P.K., 206 Beverley Str., Toronto, Ontario.

Program

- 1.~ 'My Pierwsza Brygada' - chór męski św. Cecylii - 'Echo' — dyr. T. Miasik
- 2.~ Referat:~ 'Marszałek Piłsudski' - inż. J. Stubicki.
- 3.~ Orędzie Prezydenta J. Mościckiego - kpl. mar. mgr. W. Poray-Wojciechowski.
- 4.~ Etiuda Rewolucyjna, op. 10 Nr. 12, F. Chopin - fortepian Monika Kasprzak.
- 5.~ 'Piłsudski', wiersz Jana Lechonia - deklamacja Zuzanna Senderacka.
- 6.~ Piosenki Legionowe - chór męski św. Cecylii - 'Echo' — dyr. T. Miasik.
- 7.~ 'Duch', wiersz Kazimierza Wierzyńskiego - deklamacja Z. Pluta.
- 8.~ Polonez, op. 40 Nr. 1, F. Chopin - fortepian Renata Kasprzak.
- 9.~ Piosenki Legionowe - chór męski św. Cecylii - 'Echo' — dyr. T. Miasik.
- 10.~ Hymn Narodowy.

słowo wiążące - inż. R. Zakrzewski
przezrocza - inż. L. Rudnicki

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~ for Freedom ~

The Polish Armed Forces in Second World War

presented by
the Central Committee of Polish Veterans
under the patronage of
Canadian Polish Congress
~ Toronto District ~

Sunday, 9th June 1985 ~



Programme contents in English

**Polish Army, Navy & Air Force in War
at home & abroad**

NATIONAL ANTHEM - O Canada

An Old Polish Hymn - BOGURODZICA

Slide presentation with narration -

Polish Eagle

Map of Poland in 1939

Pilsudski

Moscicki - President of Poland

Warsaw

Cracow

Lwow

Vilnus

Poznan

Gdynia

Westerplatte

Wheat Fields

Mountains - Tatry and other

Choir softly sings - "Our Beautiful Poland," a popular soldiers' song

Poem - "Attention! Attention!

Warsaw on guard."

PART I - 1939

Forty years ago, at a secret meeting in August, Hitler pronounced Poland's Death Sentence:

"To destroy Poland is the major goal. I will give out propaganda justifying the outbreak of war, regardless whether it is credible or not. No one will question the victor, if he speaks the truth..."

On September 1st, Germany attacked with all its military might along the entire length of the Western Polish border.

POEM - WESTERPLATTE written by Marek Koerner

36 Polish cities were heavily bombarded; Warsaw suffered the most, citizens of Warsaw gathered courage and strength from the words of president, Stefan Starzynski, as they bravely attempted to defend their beloved city.

Sixteen days later, Soviet troops invaded Poland from the East, breaking a non-aggression pact signed earlier with Poland. By the end of the third week, the Polish Army was defeated and the September Battle, except for a few pockets of resistance, ended with the fall of Warsaw. According to a secret agreement between Molotov and von Ribentropp, Poland was divided between Germany and the Soviet Union.

POEM - About the September Battle of 1939

CHOIR

The end of the September Battle marked the beginning of a systematic destruction of the population in the Western part of Poland, the area occupied by the Germans. In Eastern Poland, a programme of deportations was undertaken by Soviet Russia. More than a million Poles, mainly from the middle and upper classes - lawyers, teachers, priests, civil servants, officers of the regular and reserve armies - found themselves in Soviet labour camps and prisons.

At this time, there began a secret exodus of men who were capable of carrying arms, whose ultimate objective was to join a new Polish army-in-exile, in France.

PART II - 1940: France, Norway

The Polish government-in-exile, with General Sikorski as Premier, made its headquarters in Paris, where the Polish army began re-organizing only weeks after the collapse of September, 1939. The army was composed of a Grenadiers' Division, an Infantry Division, an Armoured Brigade and an

Independent Brigade of Rifles. The first three formations were sent to the front in May, 1940.

In June, the Independent Brigade of Polish Highland Rifles, part of a French Expeditionary Force to Norway, fought on the Ankenes Peninsula, near Narvik. The Polish Navy was already engaged in the battle for Narvik, and after a heavy sea-land-air fight, Narvik was recaptured and the Germans were driven back to the Swedish border. The Polish forces were praised and commended for their brave participation. The Battle for Narvik marked the beginning of the Polish soldiers' march towards victory.

CHOIR

PART III - Polish Air Force

In September, 1939, the Polish Air Force, in defence of their country outnumbered ten to one against the vastly superior forces of Hitler's Luftwaffe. The uneven struggle, without any active support from Poland's Allies, lasted only 3 weeks. At the outbreak of the war, the Polish Air Force had been 15,500 men strong, of the total operational strength, which included escort, reconnaissance and training squadrons, only 400 aircraft were fit to take part in active battle. In spite of the numerical advantage and technical superiority of the Luftwaffe, the Polish Air Force fought a well-organized battle and showed great effectiveness in action all of which resulted in heavy losses for the enemy.

CHOIR - song in honour of the fighter pilots.

After September, 1939, the Polish Air Force reconstituted itself in France. Then, after the collapse of France in June, 1940, the Polish Air Force found itself in Great Britain, where in early October, 1940, it went into action in the critical "Battle of Britain." The Polish contribution was far from symbolic if one appreciates the fact that every eighth fighter pilot in it, and at times, every fifth one was a Pole. After the Battle of Britain, Polish bombers entered the war and for the next 5 years battered Germany from British airfields.

POEM - for the 303 Division

PART IV - Polish Navy

Despite the "annihilation of Poland proclamation," the free territory of the Polish nation continued to exist on the decks of Polish ships.

Our warships, proudly flying the red and white colours, were based in Great Britain. In September, 1939, the Royal Navy acquired, as its first fighting allies, three Polish destroyers, which, in accordance with earlier plans of the Polish Admiralty, sailed for British ports just before Hitler's invasion of Poland. Our naval forces fought bravely throughout the 5 years. Many fine sailors lost their lives at sea and on land.

The submarine "ORZEL" was the first to detect the German invasion of Norway and managed to sink a transport ship carrying German troops. The destroyer ORP "PIORUN" was the first to engage the BISMARCK in the last throes of that fatal chase.

POEM - in honour of the Navy.

Ships of the Polish Navy, based in England, took part in most of the important naval engagements in the war, namely - at Narvik in Norway, at Dunkirk, Calais, Malta; in North Africa; in the attack on the Italian port of Navarino and in constant convoy work on the Atlantic and subarctic routes to the Soviet Union. The Navy escorted the 2nd Polish Corps to Italy and assisted in the invasion of Europe - in Normandy, as well as in Southern France.

The Polish destroyer "SIASK" established brotherhood-at-arms with Canadians in the tragic raid on Dieppe. During the raid, it shot down 4 enemy aircraft, and after the raid it brought back to England a good part of the famous Toronto fighting unit, the Royal Regiment of Canada.

In the Normandy landings, a Polish cruiser and 2 destroyers were actively engaged in the operation and successfully co-operated in a mixed team effort with the Canadian ships HMCS HAIDA and HURON.

In a speech made in 1944, the First Lord of the British Admiralty, A.V. Alexander, stated that just about every time there was a gathering of naval ships, the Polish colours were usually represented.

The Polish Merchant Marine deserves credit as well as honour and respect for its brave participation in various naval operations on the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, from Narvik to Madagascar.

PART V - Carpathian Brigade

Quite early in the war, a brigade of Infantry - the Carpathian Brigade - was organized in Syria from volunteers who had escaped from Poland after September, 1939. This Brigade, under the command of General Kopanski, was transferred to North Africa where in September, 1941, it took part in the defence of Tobruk, for 100 days.

CHOIR - The Story of the Carpathian Brigade

From North Africa, the Brigade was moved to Italy where it became the core of the Carpathian Division in General Anders' 2nd Polish Corps.

INTERMISSION

PART VI - 2nd Polish Corps

In June, 1941, Hitler attacked the Soviet Union. On July 30, 1941 the Polish government-in-exile in London, signed an agreement with the Soviets that allowed General Anders, a prisoner of war in Soviet hands, to form an Army composed of Poles released from numerous labour camps and prisons. This Army gave protection and defence to the thousands of Poles that had been deported to the Soviet Union, especially the orphans. General Anders decided to evacuate the newly formed army, together with a large number of civilian deportees, to the Near East - to Iran and from there, via Iraq, to Syria and Palestine. There, the formal establishment of the 2nd Polish Corps was completed.

In the fall of 1943, the Corps was transferred to Italy where it went into action as a component of the 8th British Army. It was the 2nd Polish Corps which mounted the 4th Allied attack on the monastery of Monte Cassino, which it finally took after 7 days of heavy fighting. After Monte Cassino, the Corps participated in operations along the Adriatic coast and distinguished itself in the battles of Ancona and Bologna.

Thousands of Polish soldiers were laid to rest in cemeteries at Monte Cassino, Loretto and Bologna. They are a reminder that without a free and independent Poland, there will not be peace and freedom in the whole world.

3 POEMS

CHOIR - Red Poppies in the Fields of Monte Cassino

PART VII - Polish Armies in the East (under Soviet command)

Following the evacuation of General Anders' troops and civilians to Iran, the Soviet regime undertook the formation of a new Polish army in the Soviet Union. Composed of the remainder of Poles deported in 1939, and including, also, Poles who had lived in Russia before the revolution of 1917. This new Army, largely staffed by Soviet officers, fought under the communist flag, finally concluding its operations in Berlin. After the war, it became the core of the new army of Communist Poland under the direction and control of the Soviet Union.

PART VIII-The Independent Parachutists' Brigade

The 1st Independent Parachutists Brigade was organized mainly due to the efforts of General Stanislaw Sosabowski. On the 23rd of September, 1941, General Sikorski officially proclaimed the formation of the Brigade. In June, 1944, the Brigade received its flag which had been blessed in November, 1942, in the Kanoniczek Church in Warsaw, a gift of the women of Warsaw. In September, 1944, the Brigade, as part of the First British Airborne Division, participated in the largest air offensive in the Arnhem-Driel area of Holland. The British lost about 8,000 soldiers, whereas the Poles lost only 80 parachutists, thanks to the courage and experience of General Sosabowski. The Brigade returned to Britain where,

in 1945, it constitutes of the British Army of the Rhine.

CHOIR - Parachutists' March

PART IX - Home Army

Despite heavy losses suffered in September, 1939, the Polish nation did not leave the battlefield. Formed from the many units of armed resistance which sprung up as soon as the country fell victim to German and Soviet aggression, the Home Army carried on an active sabotage campaign against Germany throughout the war. In the wake of German reprisals, lived in constant terror and suffered unspeakable martyrdom.

CHOIR - "Soldiers of the Home Army, take up arms and fight."

The Home Army was reorganized several times; its primary goals were sabotage and diversion. Secret operators were trained in Britain and parachuted into Poland. The first volunteers were, of course, young people: Scouts, Girl Guides and students.

On June 30th, 1943 the Gestapo arrested General Stefan Rowecki, chief of the Home Army. The command was then taken over by General Tadeusz Bor-Komorowski.

When Soviet forces pursued the Germans back across Polish territory, there was no lack of Home Army units to clear the way for them. On June 10, 1944, the Home Army liberated Vilnius from the Germans. In return, the Soviets deceitfully eliminated the Polish partisans. And there were more such events...

CHOIR - 2 songs

On the 1st of August, 1944, General Bor issued an emotional command for the Home Army to launch a full scale attack against the oppressor - the Germans.

On September 1st, 1944 Warsaw exploded. The Home Army launched an attack that lasted 63 days. The Uprising was finally suppressed by the

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Germans, virtually in full view of the Soviet Army which throughout the battle, stood inactive on the other side of the Vistula River which separates the main city of Warsaw from its eastern suburbs. Polish troops in the Soviet army attempted to help the dying city, but were pulled back. Their divisional commander was relieved of his command.

In a mad feat of revenge, the Germans emptied the city of all the remaining population and methodically destroyed Warsaw, dynamiting block by block, and burning the city to the ground; they were 85 per cent successful.

POEMS - 2 recitations about the Home Army

PART X - First Polish Armoured Division

In 1939, General Stanislaw Maczek, commander of the 10th Motorized Cavalry Brigade, fought bravely against the onslaught of the invading Germans. Then, on the orders of the Chief Commander, Maczek and the Brigade made their way to Hungary. Several months later, the Armoured Brigade fought in France. After the fall of France in 1940, the Brigade made its way to Scotland, where in, 1942 it was reorganized into the 1st Polish Armoured Division.

In June 1944, General Maczek issued an order to the soldiers of the First Polish Armoured Division:

"... We are proud, for during 5 years of war we have not been broken. On the contrary, with determination and hard work, we formed the Armoured Division - the first in the history of our army. Today, this Division stands on the battlefield against those who announced to the world that we have ceased to exist. Fight as only a Polish soldier is known to fight - determined, like a knight. Let the Germans pay with their own blood for the privilege of fighting us.

And remember one thing: our soldier fights for the freedom of many nations, but he dies only for Poland"

Commander of the 1st Polish Armoured Division,

/-/ General Maczek

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CHOIR - song about the Division

Fighting under the command of the 1st Canadian Army of General H.D.C. Crerar, and forming a component part of the II Canadian Corps of General Guy S. Simonds, the Division distinguished itself at the closing of the "Falaise Gap" in Normandy. It continued fighting through Northern France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, where it finally ended its role in the war by taking the German port of Wilhelmshaven. The Division inflicted heavy casualties on the Germans but itself paid a heavier price for doing so - it left behind 13 cemeteries.

POEM - Dedication to the Division

PART XI - Women in the Polish Armed Forces

Since 1939 Polish women served in the Armed forces. Their service was well known and respected. By the end of the war 15,000 women were serving in the Home Army in Poland and 1,700 in the Polish Forces in the west.

CONCLUSION

There is no corner in this universe where a Polish soldier has not stood or shed a drop of blood for his Mother Country. General Maczek said: "Our soldier fights for the freedom of many nations, but dies only for Poland". However, when the last echoes of battle had faded, the Polish soldier stood before closed doors, an obstacle to his return to Poland brought about by the Potsdam and Yalta conferences. He laid down his arms, took off his uniform and set off on an emigrant trail to a new land, a new country, where many experienced the freedom and independence denied their Mother Country. Today, across oceans and faraway lands, the Polish soldier still calls out for justice, freedom and independence for Poland - his Mother Country.

POEM

Polish National Anthem - "Poland Has Not Disappeared Yet"

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WITH COOPERATION OF THE POLISH VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS.

'.....and remember: — Polish soldier fights for
freedom of many nations, but dies only for Poland

gen. S. Maczek