

POLISH UNDERGROUND STATE



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

Exhibition author:

Paweł Murawski

Graphic design:

Linepag Graphic Studio

Paulina Gajda-Deszczka

Editing and Proofreading:

Siła Słowa Olga Hollek

Graphic concept of the series:

Aleksandra Kaiper-Miszułowicz

reviewers: Phd. Filip Musiał,

Magdalena Śląddecka

In the background:

painting of the symbol of Fighting
Poland by a member of the "Wawer"
Minor Sabotage Group.

Photo: The Polish Underground
Movement Study Trust
In London

SEPTEMBER 1939

In September 1939, as a result of the aggression undertaken by the combined forces of German Third Reich and the Soviet Union Army, Poland suffered defeat. On the night of 17 and 18 September, considering the continuity of the state's existence, the Polish Government and supreme command fled to Romania. There, under pressure from the Third Reich and the USSR, they were imprisoned. Under the constitution, a new Polish government-in-exile was formed. Władysław Raczkiewicz became the president, Władysław Sikorski prime minister. The latter also held the Commander-in-Chief position.



German-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact signed on 23 August in Moscow, known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. Attached to it was a secret protocol defining the way the aggressors would divide the spoils of Rzeczpospolita's conquest.

Photo: AIPN



Map of the demarcation line put down in a secret protocol attached to the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, published on 18 September, 1939 in the Soviet newspaper "Izvestia." The final German-Soviet border was established on 28 September in Moscow by the German-Soviet Frontier Treaty. The border was to run along the rivers Pisa, Narew, Bug and San.

Photo: Public domain



A column of Polish prisoners of war marching under the escort of Soviet soldiers, September 1939. A particularly tragic fate befell those officers who were murdered by Soviets in Katyń, Kharkiv and Tver.

Photo: AIPN

In the background: A joint parade of Wehrmacht and Red Army units in Brest-Litovsk.

Photo: AIPN



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

FIRST PARTISAN GROUPS

A crucial phenomenon that occurred under both occupations, even prior to the creation of a uniform underground military organization, was the so-called post-September partisan army. It was formed mainly by soldiers and officers who refused to lay down their guns after their former squads had been torn apart, and decided to carry on fighting against German and Soviet oppressors.



Lt. Col. Jerzy Dąbrowski, pseudonym: "Łupaszka" - he gained partisan combat experience while organizing mobile cavalry units during the Polish-Bolshevik war. Their task was to assail Red Army units. He used these acquired skills in September 1939 by organizing partisan groups during Soviet occupation.

Photo: T. Strzembosz, Saga of Lt. Col. "Łupaszka" Jerzy Dąbrowski 1889-1941, Warsaw 1996

Upon reaching the Świętokrzyskie Mountains, Major Henryk Dobrzański summoned a separate branch of the Polish Army that fought until spring 1940. During this period he adopted the moniker "Hubal."

Photo: AIPN



Soldiers from Polish Army division of Major Dobrzański alias "Hubal" operating under German occupation (stands in the middle with a scarf around his neck), February, 1940.

Photo: AIPN



Map of German and Soviet occupation 1939-1941. On the map are marked areas of operation of the most active partisan units.

Educational portfolio "Polish Underground State in the years 1939-1941," Warsaw, 2003.

In the background: Officers of the Dąbrowski brothers volunteer unit from the Polish-Soviet war. Lieutenant Colonel Dąbrowski is sitting second from the left.

Photo: T. Strzembosz, Saga of Lt. Col. "Łupaszka" Jerzy Dąbrowski, 1889-1941, Warsaw 1996



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

BIULETYN INFORMACYJNY

25 PAŹDZIERNIKA TYGODNIK 1940 R.

FRONT

Różni ludzie — różne reakcja na groźbę otaczającej nas rzeczywistości. Na masowe mordy w Palmirach, na obozy koncentracyjne, na zbrodnie stajniowych wysiedleń i wywłaszczeń, na chwyty z ulic i z domów mężczyzn, na rewizje, ponieważsze godności ludzkiej, na codzienny lęk o najbliższych. Różni — różne znają wysoke ciężenie teroru, pod którym żyje kraj. Jedni — swarli pięści i szczeki, organizują się, gotują — i czekają na hasło. Inni, ze skurczem wylekłego serca, z przerażeniem w wzroku — liczą straty. Jeszcze inni — pragnęliby odsunąć się od każdej akcji, od każdej grupy patriotycznej, aby tylko jakos przetrwać, ocalić siebie i swoich.

Jest takie jedno słowo, jest takie jedno pojęcie — które nosi namy wszystkie w umyśle i duszy. Słowo to dodawać nam będzie się, walczyć drogę w codziennym życiu, uczyni znośnym najcięższe cierpienie i straty.

Front. Przecież wojna polsko-niemiecka trwa. A walcząca dziś armia polska — to my. Front walki biegnie naszymi miasteczkami i wsiemi, przepolawia nasze ulice i domy. Na froncie — muszą być straty. Ale kto padnie — ten pada w walce, ten męką własną dźwiga z niewoli Ojczyznę.

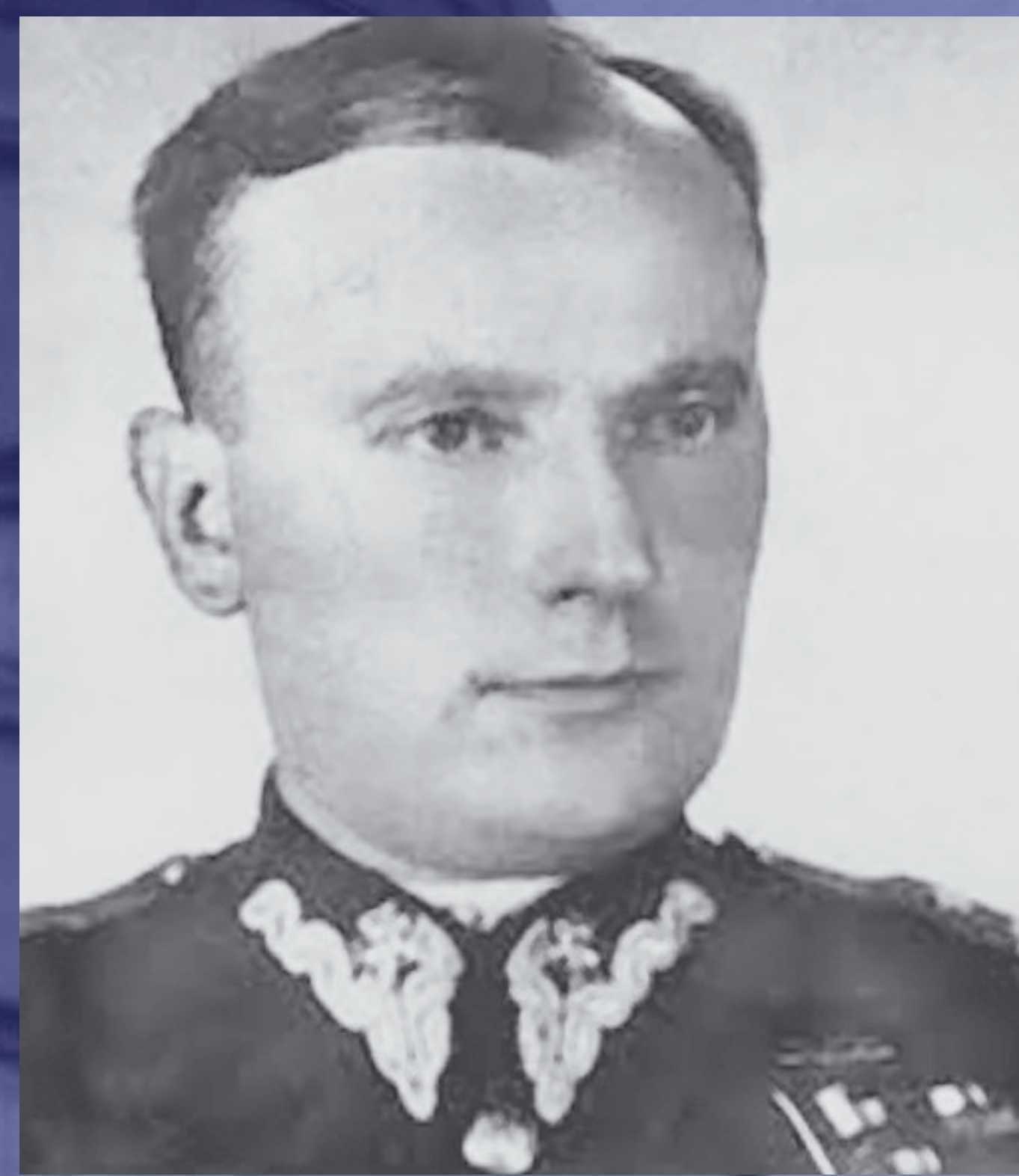
Oto co pisze „Polska Żyje”, w numerze z 10 bm: „W szesnym roku obrony Polski stawali na posterunkach nie dbając o niebezpieczeństwo, więc jakimże prawem roczniki dziś powoływano mają się oszczędzać, chorować, myśleć więcej o bezpieczeństwie osobistym niż o służbie narodowej? Niepodległości nie można odzyskać bez ofiar. Za niepodległość trzeba płacić cenę najwyższą i płacić bez targu. Sikorski ze swoją armią wolności nie odzyska, myślny mu wszyscy pomóż!”

„Bóg nam dał radośniejszą walkę, niż tym, których groby żołnierskie pokryły ziemię Rzplitej. Oni ginęli w poczuciu klęski, nam zaś, ocalałym, w wielki dech bliskiego zwycięstwa. Oni tonęli w gorczy ponizenia, my mamy wszelkie dane by być państwem i wolnością. Mimo to — oni wytrzymali, a myzbyśmy słabli? Oni stawiali i pierzali a myzbyśmy się ukrywali? Człowiek jest istotą śmiertelną — i żyje pała, aby umrzeć. Naród jest nieśmiertelny i przetrzaniem jego trwa.”

„Znow staje się aktualne hasło, rzucane w Warszawie przed stu kilkoma laty przez postów Ziemi Kujawskiej: — Niech giną Polacy, lecz niech żyje Polska!”

Starting with November 1939, a Bulletin was regularly published. It was the main source of information and vessel of propaganda for Poles under occupation.

Photo: National Library



Already during the war, independent, underground organizations started to arise. Their aim was to extend and prolong the fight. In Cracow, members of the pre-war Riflemen's Association formed the White Eagle Organization with colonel Kazimierz Pluta-Czachowski (in the picture) at the helm. The organization was functioning upon its incorporation into ZWZ.

Photo: Public domain



Gen. Michał Tokarzewski-Karaszewicz alias “doctor,” “Torwid” (1893-1964) - organizer of the Service for Poland's Victory. After its incorporation into the ranks of the Union of Armed Struggle (ZWZ), he was commander of units fighting under Soviet occupation. He was arrested in March 1940 by the NKVD, imprisoned in Lubyanka. Released in 1941 under the Sikorski-Majski agreement, he continued fighting in the Anders Army.

Photo: AIPN

BEGINNING OF THE POLISH UNDERGROUND STATE

On the eve of Warsaw's surrender on the 27 September, 1939, began the process of Polish underground army formation. The task was undertaken by Gen. Michał Tokarzewski-Karaszewicz, who received a letter of authority from the Commander-in-Chief and the Polish government, and proceeded to create a secret military organization known as the Service for Poland's Victory. It was the first organization seeking to unify all manner of underground activity, both military and civilian. That's why aside from the General Command responsible for military activity, there was also the Main Political Council, representing such political parties as: PPS-WRN, SL and SN. SZP Structures were organized similarly on a district and even county level.

“I am the head of an organization that brings together all the Poles under German and Soviet yolk who strive to reestablish military personnel and prepare administrative authorities in order to take over the country upon Germany's collapse. An organization similar to Polish Military Organization (POW) under the name “Service For Poland's Victory” (SZP) was created by the order of General Rómmel on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief and the Government which left Poland.”

Gen. Tokarzewski-Karaszewicz to Gen. Sikorski - report on the status of the operation of the Service for Poland's Victory,

[in] Polish Home Army in documents 1939-1945, vol. I, Wrocław, 1990.

In the background: The building of the Postal Savings Bank in Warsaw. It is here that the Service for Poland's Victory was formed by the end of September.

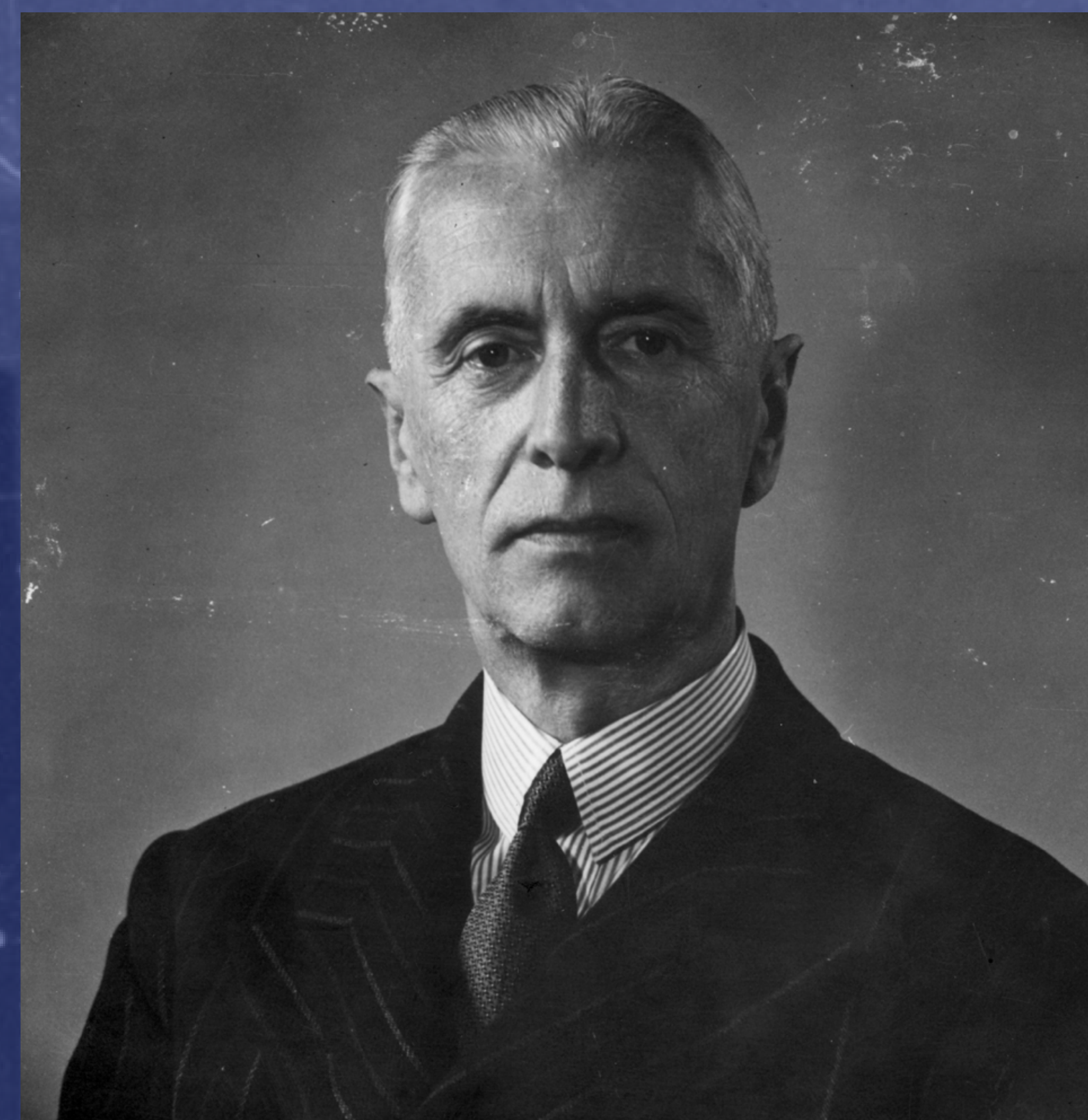
Photo: NAC



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

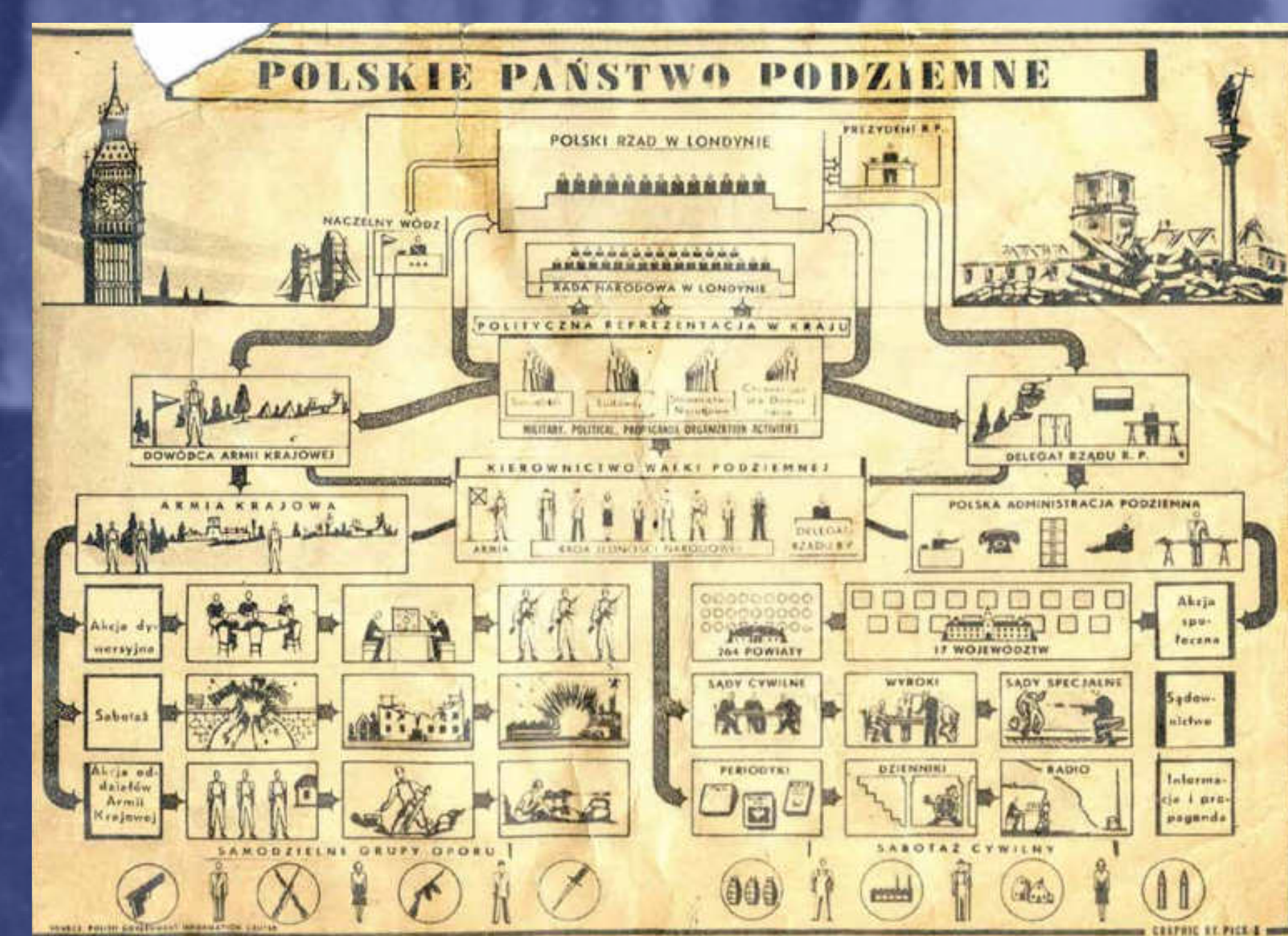
POLISH UNDERGROUND STATE

As the name suggests, it was a Polish state, which, due to occupation and its resultant consequences, could not openly function and hence decided to operate as an underground institution. It had all the features of a sovereign state, however: a legally functioning government in exile that gave it orders, a military force in the form of ZWZ/AK, and an extensive civilian division which supervised the administrative apparatus on a district and county level. Political Consultative Committee - finally formed.



The first president of the Republic of Poland in exile was Władysław Raczkiewicz (in the photo), appointed on 30 September 1939.

Photo: NAC



For propaganda and information purposes, Polish authorities in exile prepared a simplified scheme of the Polish Underground State. It clearly shows that aside from the military division, the Polish Underground had a vast civil division that supervised, among others, social activities and an underground judiciary system.

Photo: Public domain



In the background:
A meeting of the Polish government-in-exile and Council of National Unity organized in a temporary seat of Polish authorities in Angres in France, 1940. At the table, in uniform, prime minister Władysław Sikorski.

Photo: NAC

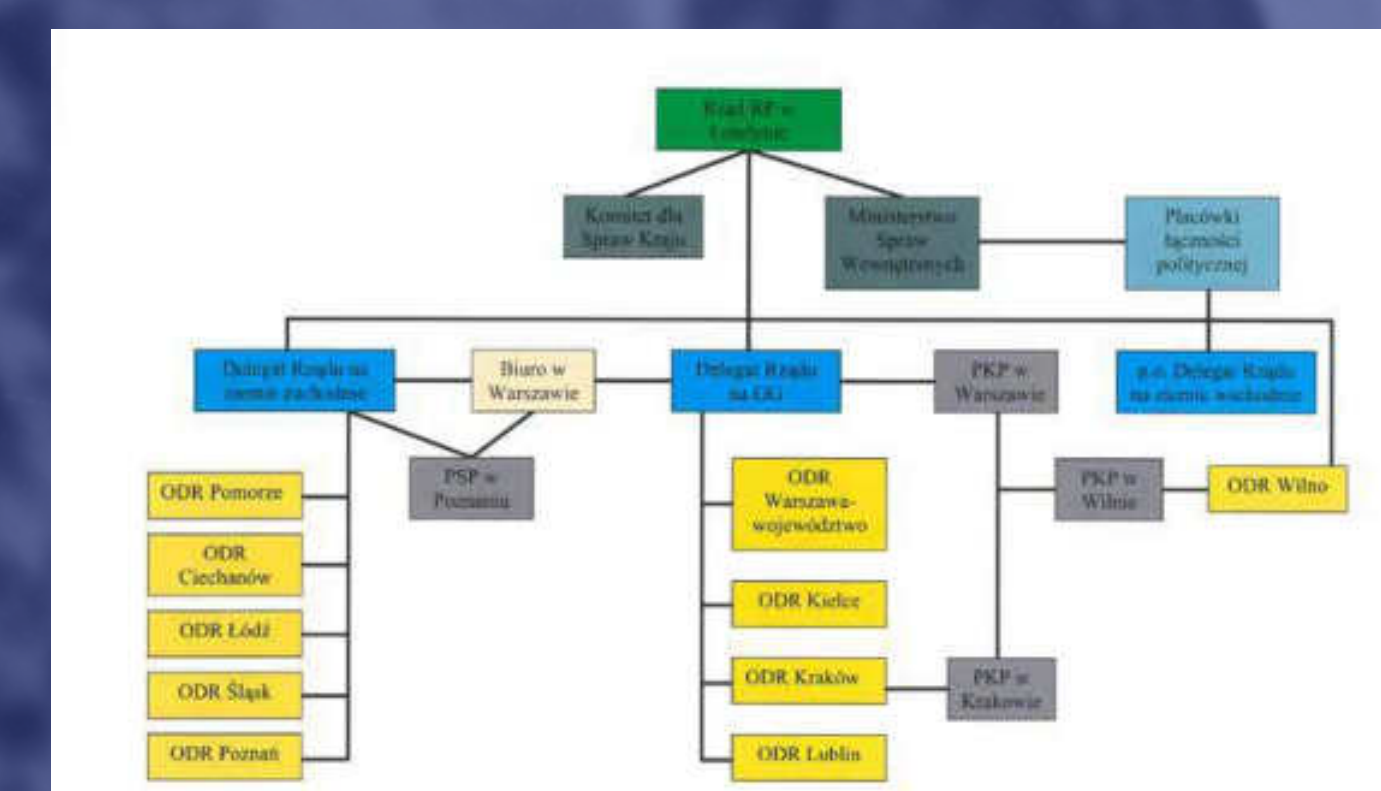
Political Consultative Committee – finally formed in February 1940 as a political center bringing together major political parties operating in the underground, i.e. PPS-WRN, SL, SN and SP. Initially, its role was to serve as conduit between political parties in the country and the Polish government-in-exile. It later acted as an advisory body with the Government Delegation for Poland. In 1943 The Political Consultative Committee (PKP) transformed into the Home Political Representation (KRP), and then into the Council of National Unity (RZN), which was widely recognized as a representation of Underground Poland.



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

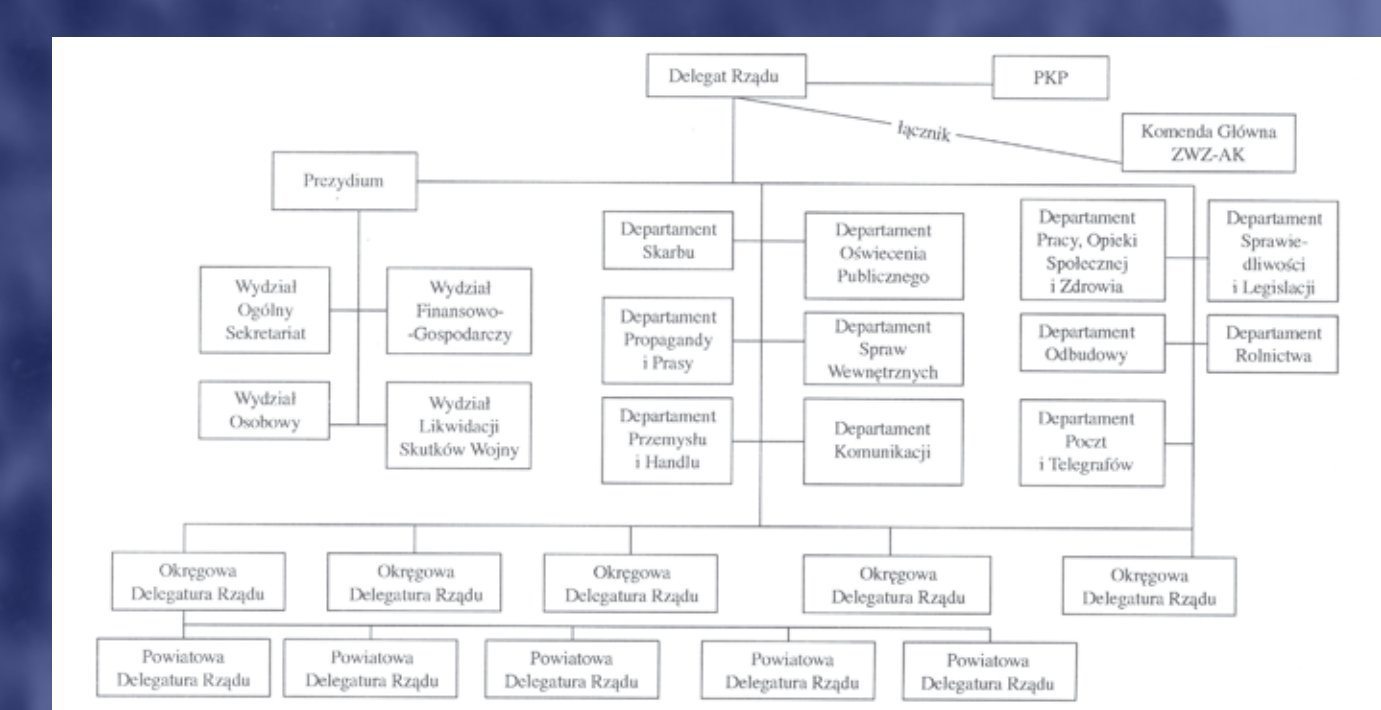
CIVIL DIVISION OF THE POLISH UNDERGROUND STATE

Formation of the civil division of the Polish Underground State began in September, 1939. A breakthrough moment occurred in the 1940s, when the Government Delegation for Poland was established. This institution embarked on creating a web of civil administrative bodies in occupied Poland. Initially, there existed three field delegations, and from autumn, 1941, the Delegation was run by a single government delegate in the rank of deputy prime minister. Importantly, a web of regional (district) and county delegations was subordinated to the delegate.



Organizational chart of the civilian underground. In 1941 Three delegations are visible.

Educational portfolio "Polish Underground State in the years 1939-1941," Warsaw, 2003.



Organizational chart of the Government Delegation for Poland in October 1941 in London.

The delegation and its subordinate departments were responsible for, among others, substitute administration and the organization of the National Security Corps - an underground police force (Department of Internal Affairs) - disseminating underground press (Department of Information and Documentation), and secret education (Department of Education and Culture).

Educational portfolio "Polish Underground State in 1939-1941," Warsaw, 2003.

Polish Government Delegates - The first appointed government delegate was Cyril Ratajski from the Labor Party (Stronnictwo Pracy). His successor was Jan Piekalkiewicz, activist of the People's Party (Stronnictwo Ludowe). He was tortured to death by the Germans in 1943. Jan Stanisław Jankowski became the next delegate, arrested and tried as part of the so-called Trial of the Sixteen (Proces szesnastu), he subsequently died in a Soviet prison. After him, Stefan Korboński was the Delegate of the Polish Government in Poland in April 1945. Jerzy Braun was the last to hold this office. He was member of the Labor Party.

In the background: Field activities are also testament to the phenomenon of the Polish Underground State. They were not limited to fighting the Germans. During the occupation, young Poles could receive education thanks to a secretly functioning system of schools. In the underground, it was possible to get a degree certified on all levels - from elementary education to universities.

Photo: AIPN



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

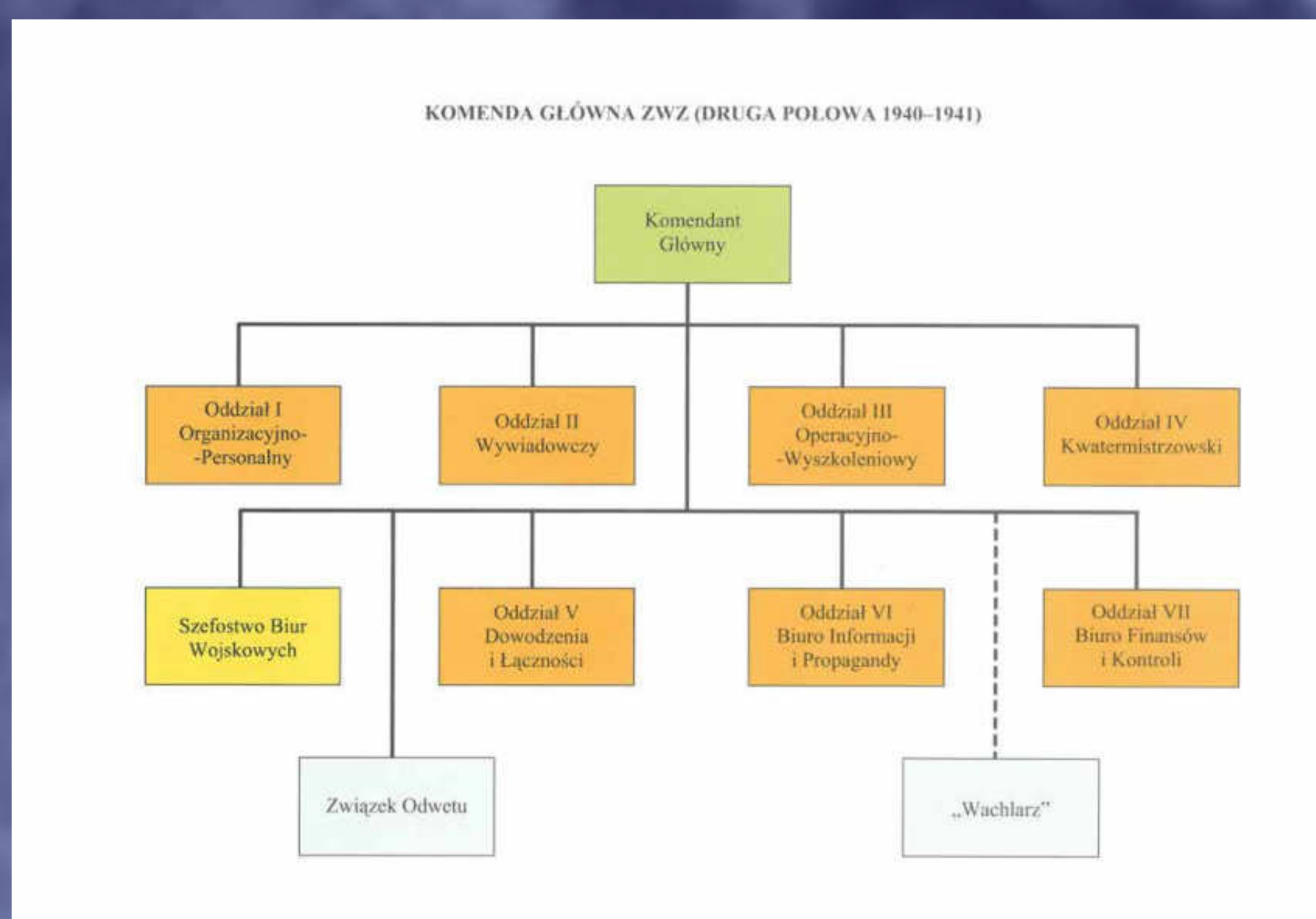
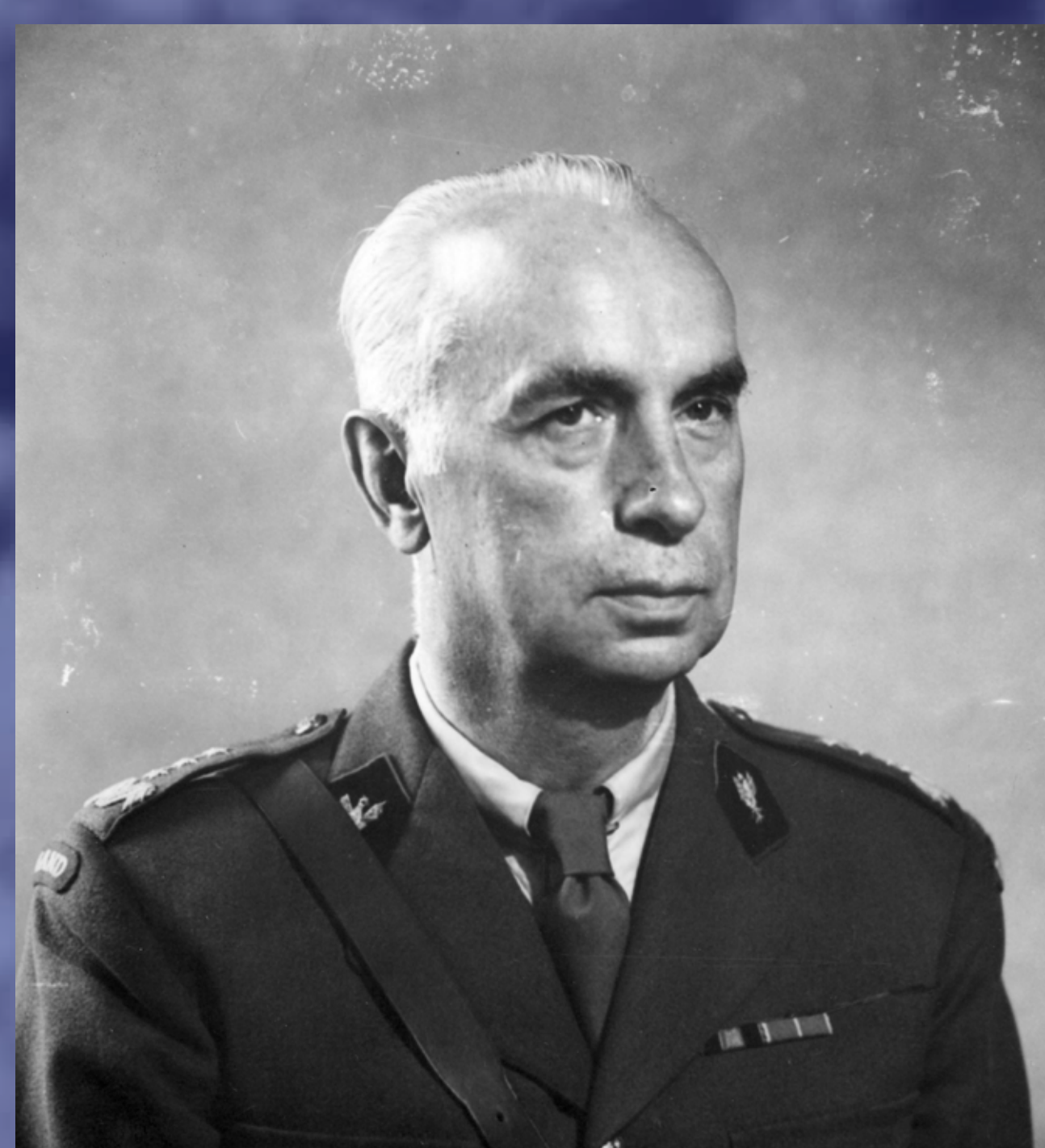


Diagram showing the structure of the ZWZ General Headquarters (June 1940-1941)

Educational portfolio "Polish Underground State in 1939-1941," Warsaw 2003.



Gen. Kazimierz Sosnkowski alias "Józef Godziemba" (1885-1969) - first commander of the Union of Armed Struggle, he took over the Commander-in-Chief after the death of Władysław Sikorski.

Photo: NAC



Gen. Stefan Rowecki alias "Grot," "Rakoń" (1895-1944) - deputy commander the SZP, since June, commander of ZWZ. First commander of the Home Army. Arrested by the Germans in June 1943, murdered at the beginning of August, 1944.

Photo: AIPN

UNION OF ARMED STRUGGLE (ZWZ)

In November, 1939, The Polish government-in-exile founded the Union of Armed Struggle, first commander of which was gen. Kazimierz Sosnkowski. As a result of convergent goals, it was decided between 1939 and 1940 that ZWZ was to take over the structures of SZP. A unified underground organization emerged. In 1940, it comprised about 40,000 sworn soldiers. After the government was evacuated from France to London, gen. Stefan Rowecki became commander of ZWZ.

"In the face of Almighty God - and in the name of Saint Mary, Queen of the Polish Crown, I lay my hands on this holy cross, symbol of torment and salvation. I hereby solemnly swear I will faithfully and adamantly preserve Poland's honor and fight for her liberation from slavery with all my strength, ready and willing to make the highest sacrifice. I will follow all orders of the Union to the letter. I will keep the secret regardless of anything that may befall me."

- Polish Home Army in documents 1939-1945, vol. I, Wrocław 1990, p. 13.

In the background: member of the "Wawer" Minor Sabotage Organization paints a turtle that embodies the "Be patient, Pole" slogan of Civil War

Photo: The Polish Underground Movement Study Trust



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

OTHER UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATIONS

Until the creation of the Home Army, there were multiple conspiratorial groups functioning on Polish territory and often associated with pre-war political parties. The National Party saw the emergence of the National Military Organization (NOW). The camp of Polish socialists, represented by PPS-WRN founded the People's Guard of WRN, while SL (People's Party) started building an organization called Farmer's Guard (Chłopska Straż), later renamed Farmer's Battalions (Bataliony Chłopskie).

In the background: Jan Bytnar alias "Rudy" Scoutmaster of the Gray Ranks - an underground partisan unit of the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association, a member of the Minor Sabotage "Wawer" group, a soldier of the Home Army. Arrested by the Gestapo in March 1943, cruelly beaten and tortured. Sprung out of prison on 26 March 1943, by the Assault Groups of the "Gray Ranks" during Operation Arsenal. He died on 30 March as a result of severe exhaustion.

Photo: AIPN



Kazimierz Pużak alias "Bazyli" (1883-1950) - since autumn, 1939, he was a one of the commanders of the underground Polish Socialist Party - Freedom, Equality, Independence (PPS-WRN).

Photo: Public domain



In Soviet-occupied Stanisławów, a structure called Secret Military Organization was created, based on secret pre-war diversion units and commanded by col. Jan Mazurkiewicz aka "Radosław" (in the photo).



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

HOME ARMY

On 14 February 1942, by order of the Commander-in-Chief, ZWZ was renamed Home Army. Gen. Stefan Rowecki remained Commander and ordered to advance the operation that would lead to consolidate all underground organizations under the banner of AK. This process was partially successful. Not all organizations joined, yet the consolidation process shed light on how deeply Poles were involved in the fight against oppressors.

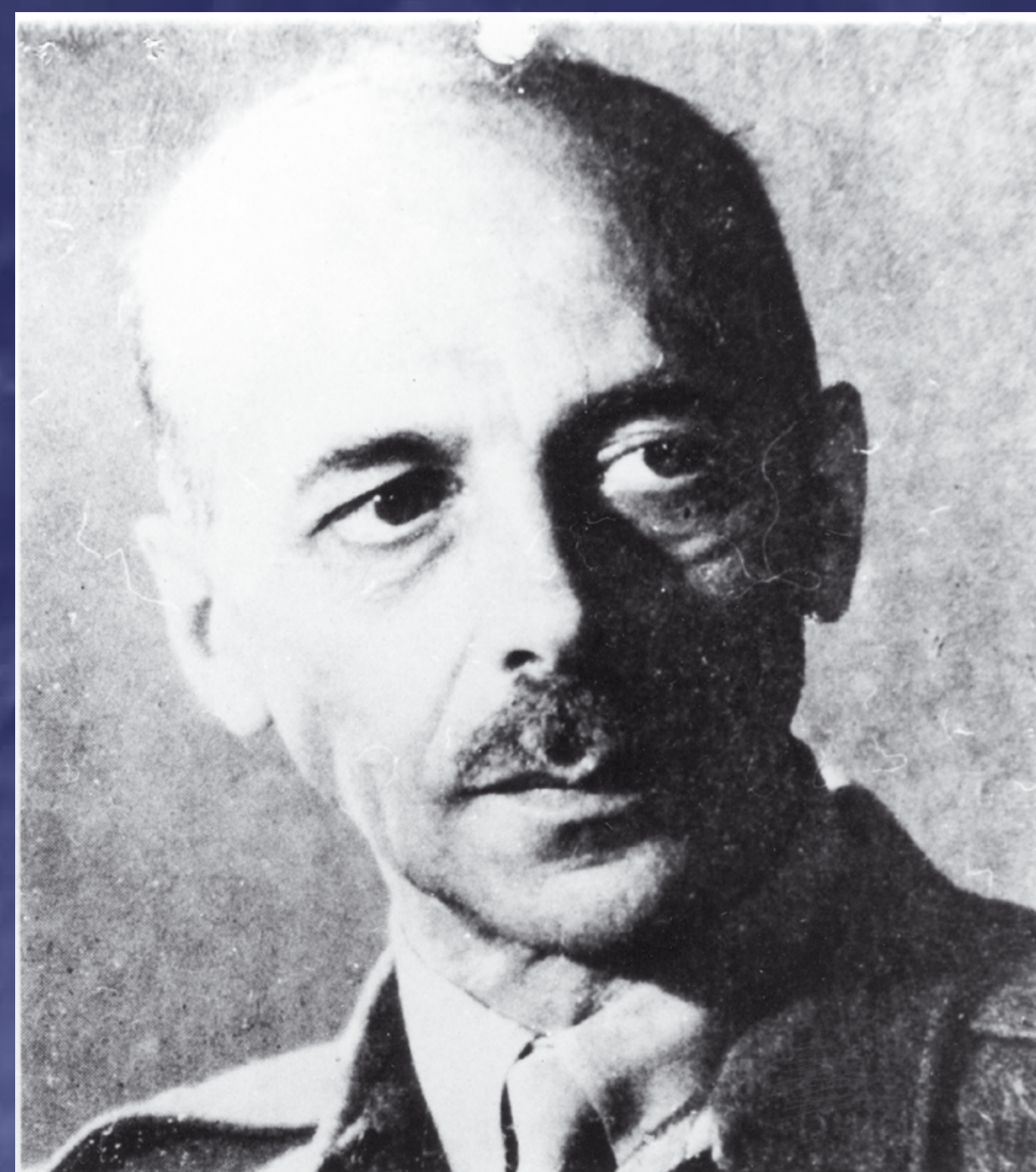
In the background: A group of officers during Polish Army oaths given by soldiers of the 2nd company, 7th battalion, 77 AK Infantry Regiment (Nowogródek District) in one of the villages in the Nowogródek area.

Photo: AIPN



Gen. August Emil Fieldorf aka "Nil" (1895-1953) - Organizer and chief of the "Kedyw" (Director of Diversion) of the Home Army. He gave the order to assassinate SS commander and Police Leader Franz Kutschera in German-occupied Warsaw. The assassination was successful. Since autumn, 1944, "Nil" was the leader of the NIE organization created in 1943. Arrested by communist authorities in 1950, he was subsequently executed on 24 February 1953.

Photo: AIPN



Gen. Tadeusz Komorowski aka "Bór" (1895-1966) - Polish campaign participant, founder of the Cracow Military Organization (OW). Once it became part of the ZWZ, he played the role of Deputy Chief Commander. After the arrest of gen. Rowecki as the commander of the Home Army.

Photo: AIPN

1. „Kwadrat”. Stosunek do PZP w dalszym ciągu wrogi, nieprzejednany. Silniejsza działalność organizacyjno-wojskowa przejawiała się na terenie „Letniska”, „Kretonu”, częściowo „Malin” i „Trzciny”. Działalność ta, mimo pozorów pracy wojskowej, ma wyraźny charakter bojówek partyjnych, np. kierownictwo wojskowe na szczeblach centralnych i okręgowych spoczywa w rękach politycznych. Temu podporządkowane jest dowództwo wojskowe, w skład którego wchodzi oficerowie zawodowi. Dowódcy wojskowi obowiązani są odbyć dwumiesięczny kurs wychowania politycznego.

Koncepcja „Wojskowego Delegata Rządu”, jako czynnika nadzrzednego w stosunku do konspiracyjnych Sił Zbrojnych w Kraju, była motorem do ożywienia działalności organizacji wojskowej „Kwadratu”.

Stwierdzam:
a) Sprawa Departamentu Wojskowego przy Delegacie Rządu i osoba gen. Wr. jako łącznika między Delegatem Rządu a zmną, była wykorzystana przez „Kwadrat” do systematycznego przeciwdziałania akcji zespolenia w Kraju wysiłku zbrojnego. Kilkakrotnie żądanie Głównego Delegata Rządu podporządkowania się „Kwadratu” rozkazowi Naczelnego Wodza, L. 2926 z dnia 3. IX. 41, spełzły na niczym, przeciwnie „Kwadrat” ożywił swoją akcję „wojskową”.

b) W terenie daje się natomiast zauważyć ferment dołów, a szczególnie wśród oficerów i podoficerów zawodowych, którzy żądają od kierownictwa „Kwadratu” podporządkowania oddziałów wojskowych właściwej komendzie konspiracyjnej Sił Zbrojnych w Kraju. Niestety, muszę podkreślić, że „Kwadrat” nie przebiera w argumentach, żożdżąc PZP lub członków, nie wyłączając mojej osoby.

2. „Trójkąt”. — Zarysowujące się w poprzednim okresie pogorszenie lojalnej współpracy, przerodziło się we wręcz nieprzychylny stosunek „Trójkąta” do PZP. Wzmogła się znacznie działalność organizacyjna „Batalionów Chłopskich” przy jednoczesnej nieojojalnej agitacji przeciwko naszym oddziałom, aż do przeciągnięcia naszych ludzi włącznie.

Zgłoszona początkowo przez władze „Trójkąta” chęć współpracy przy organizacji SOP-u, nie była realizowana. Doly zastaniali się brakiem instrukcji swego kierownictwa.

Obecnie, doprowadziłem po wielu trudnościach i przewlekłych rozmowach kierownictwo „Trójkąta” do wyraźnego określenia stosunku do pracy wojskowej w Kraju, kierowanej przez Naczelnego Wodza.

„Trójkąt”, w komunikacie z dnia 20. II. 1942 wyjaśnia:

„Chłostra nie jest przeciwstawieniem się PZP. Ruch od samego

Part of organizational report penned by gen. Rowecki regarding the consolidation mission. Codenames "Square," "Triangle" and "Circle" refer to political groups: SN, SL and PPS-WRN respectively. The Consolidation Mission affected also smaller organizations such as Polish Military Organization "Znak," Kadra Powstańców Niepodległościowych or Polska Ludowa Akcja Niepodległościowa. They eagerly joined the ranks of the Home Army.

Polish Home Army in documents 1939-1945, vol. II, Wrocław 1990, p. 254.



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

HELP FOR THE JEWISH POPULATION

The Polish Underground State did not stand idly while citizens suffered. In November, 1942, a special emissary, Jan Karski, was sent west.

"(...) I provided information about the fate of Jews in Nazi-occupied Poland. I passed on the desperate pleas of Jews, who bid the allied government help those who still can be rescued. I saw the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw. I saw the death camp in Belżec. I was an eyewitness. (...) Reaction to Jewish requests for help was rather cold - it seems allied governments remain passive due to military priorities, intentional ignorance, incredulity and soulless rationalism. The consequence of this attitude was the annihilation of six millions defenceless and abandoned Jews."

Jan Karski's statement from April 1985.

In the background: A group of small Jewish children walking in pairs on one of the streets of Łódź during deportation to the extermination camp in Chelmno in the summer of 1942.

Photo: AIPN

Action was also taken on Polish soil. Since December 1942, the Council to Aid Jews "Żegota" with the Government Delegation for Poland was formed. It sought lodgings for hiding Jews and provided financial support, as well as forged all the necessary documents. These activities were financed by the Polish government-in-exile in London.

Even Poles not directly engaged in underground activity helped Jews, often paying the highest price.



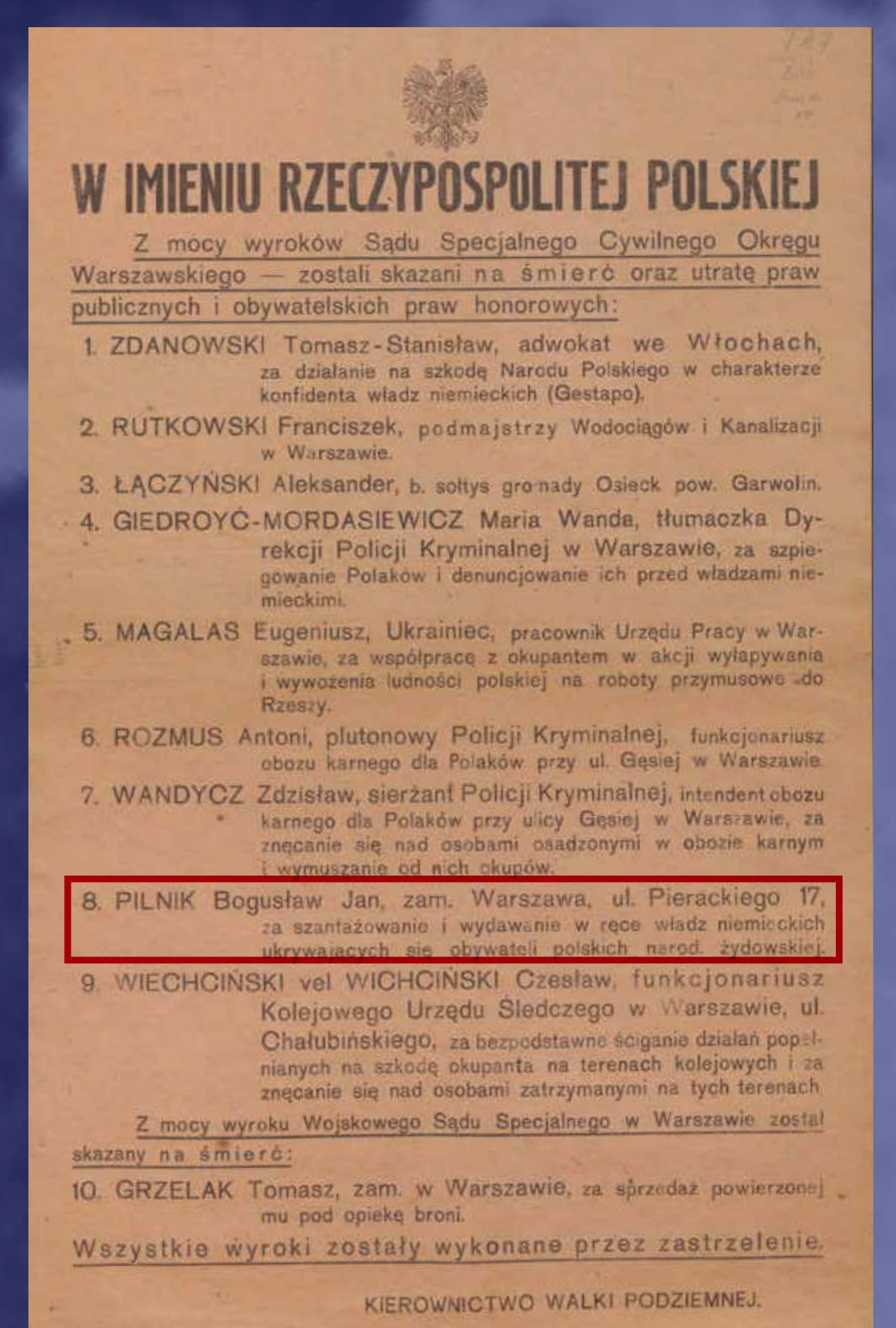
In December, 1939, German occupation authorities ordered all Jews to wear armbands with stencilled Stars of David. The picture shows a Jewish boy selling armbands with the Star of David.

Photo: AIPN



Zofia Kossak-Szczucka was a co-founder of the Provisional Committee to Aid Jews, subsequently transformed into the Council to Aid Jews "Żegota."

Photo: NAC



Another form of protecting the Jewish population was an active fight with blackmailers (so-called szmalcownicy). Special Courts of the Polish Underground State issued death sentences for those who denounced Jews to the Nazis.

Photo: AIPN



**INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ**

OPERATION TEMPEST

The functioning of the Polish Underground State was influenced by the geopolitical situation. After the Third Reich attacked the USSR, and until the defeat of the Germans near Kursk, the AK command was getting ready to ignite a general uprising in Poland. However, as a result of events that happened between 1943-44, these plans changed dramatically. The severance of diplomatic relations with the USSR coupled with a fast march of Red Army forces towards pre-war Polish borders, forced the Polish underground, headed by general Tadeusz Komorowski alias "Bór," to start operation Tempest by the end of 1943.



The main goal of Operation Tempest was to initiate a fight with retreating German forces and appear before invading Soviets in the role of host. A good example of Soviet attitudes towards Polish intentions was operation Ostra Brama that concluded with the capture of Vilnius. No sooner the dust had settled than the Soviets sneakily arrested Home Army members led by Lt. Col. Aleksander Krzyżanowski alias "Wilk."

The photo shows the Kedyw partisan unit of the Home Army District in Vilnius. The soldiers are sleeping. In order to avoid disarmament by the Soviets, they undertook a grueling march deep into the wilderness.

Photo: KARTA



Soldiers of the 27th Volhynian Infantry Division of the Home Army in Szczepieszyn, just prior to being disarmed by the Red Army. The fate of this division is particularly dramatic. Formed in Volhynia as a response to the UPA murders of Polish civilians, since march it fought at the side of Soviet units and participated in heavy battles against Germans, suffering significant losses. Upon breaking away from the German stranglehold, the remains of the division broke through into the Lubelszczyzna district, after which they were disarmed by the Soviets. July 1944.

Photo: AIPN



The Big Three at the Tehran conference, November-December, 1943. During the conference in Tehran, the Big Three initially accepted the proposal of the eastern border of Poland, which was to be based on the so-called Curzon Line. In addition, both Churchill and Roosevelt accepted Stalin's false testimony regarding the Katyń issue. Stalin broke diplomatic relations with Poland and ceased to recognize the government of gen. Sikorski.

Photo: Public domain

In the background: Meeting of guerrilla troops of the 8th Infantry Regiment of the Home Army and the Red Army in the Lublin region, July 1944.

Photo: AIPN



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

POLACY!

Walka zbrojna o wyzwolenie stolicy rozpoczęła
Delegat na Kraj – Wicepremier Rządu Rzeczypospolitej i
Przewodniczący Rady Jedności Narodowej w porozumieniu z
Dowodcą Armii Krajowej zdecydowali wystąpienie zbrojne w
dniu 1.VIII. r. b.

Trzy dni walki z okupantem przyniosły nam wielkie sukcesy
taktyczne i moralne.

Oddziały Armii Krajowej opanowały, łamiąc opór
okupanta, większą część stolicy, wyzwalając jed-
nocześnie w duszach Polaków entuzjazm dla
walki i ufność w jej powodzenie.

Cale społeczeństwo polskie, a przede wszystkim
lud Warszawy, spieszy ofiarne z pomocą wal-
czącym; wszyscy podporządkowali się kierow-
niczemu powstaniu, oddając do jego dyspozycji
swe siły, wykazując dyscyplinę moralną i wysoką
ofiarność w działaniu.

Nie jedną przeszkodę napotkamy jeszcze na
drodce do zupełnego wyzwolenia. Ale zespalone
siły całego Narodu Polskiego, podporządkowane
Rządowi Polskiemu w Londynie, Krajowej Radzie
Ministrów i Dowódcy Armii Krajowej przewyciętą
je tak, jak łamią dziś opór okupanta na ulicach
Warszawy.

Masy ludu pracującego – chłopów, robotników i
inteligencji walczą o POLSKĘ Demokratyczną,
POLSKĘ sprawiedliwą społecznie, POLSKĘ ludzi
pracy!

NIECH ŻYJE POLSKA NIEPODLEGŁA

Delegat na Kraj Wicepremier Rządu Kpt.
Przewodniczący Rady Jedności Narodowej
Dowódca Armii Krajowej

Warszawa, dnia 3 sierpnia 1944 r.

Announcement on the Warsaw Uprising issued
on 3 August 1944.

Photo: NAC

WARSAW UPRISING

Due to the failure of Operation Tempest, authorities of the Polish Underground State decided to make one last attempt at opposing Soviet invasion activities. The plan was to take over Warsaw from the Nazis. The uprising broke out on August 1, 1944. at 17.00, despite great acts of courage and sacrifice of the insurgents, the uprising fell.



Three young partisan fighters manning a PIAT anti-tank firing position in the rubble of the city. Among the most fundamental problems of the uprising were severe shortages of arms. Anti-tank devices were scarce, and there were hardly any anti-aircraft weapons.

Photo: AIPN



Old Town Insurgent emerging from the sewer.

Photo: AIPN

In the background: Buildings damaged during the Warsaw uprising.

Photo: AIPN



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ



Gen. Leopold Okulicki aka "Niedźwiadek" (1898-1946) (standing) - after the capitulation of the uprising, he became the commander of the Home Army. On January 19, 1945, he issued an order dissolving the Home Army. Sentenced in the Trial of the Sixteen to 10 years in prison. Murdered while incarcerated in Moscow.
Photo: NAC

In the background: Communist propaganda poster titled "The giant and the wretched reactionary gnome" by Włodzimierz Zakrzewski.

Photo: Public domain



W imieniu służby dziękuję Wam za dotychczasową ofiarną pracę. Wierzę głęboko, że zwycięży nasza Święta Sprawa, że spotkamy się w prawdziwie wolnej i demokratycznej Polsce.
Niech żyje Wolna, Niepodległa, Szczęśliwa Polska.
Dowódca Sił Zbrojnych w Kraju
(→) Niedźwiadek
Gen. Bryg.
M. p. 19 stycznia 1945.

The order of gen. Okulicki on the dissolution of AK published in the Information Bulletin.

Photo: National Library

POST-YALTA POLAND

Since 1944, the Red Army progressively ceased larger swaths of Polish territory. At that time, Stalin ordered the communists in Moscow to form the Polish Committee of National Liberation. By the end of 1944 it was transformed into the Provisional Government of the Republic of Poland. The legal Polish government-in-exile was helpless in the face of the idleness of allied powers. The act that sealed the faith of Poland and finalized the loss of its independence was the creation of the Provisional Government of National Unity in 1945.



W. Churchill, FD Roosevelt and J. Stalin during the Yalta Conference, February 1945. In Yalta it was officially declared that Poland would lose the Eastern Borderlands (Kresy Wschodnie).

Photo: Public domain

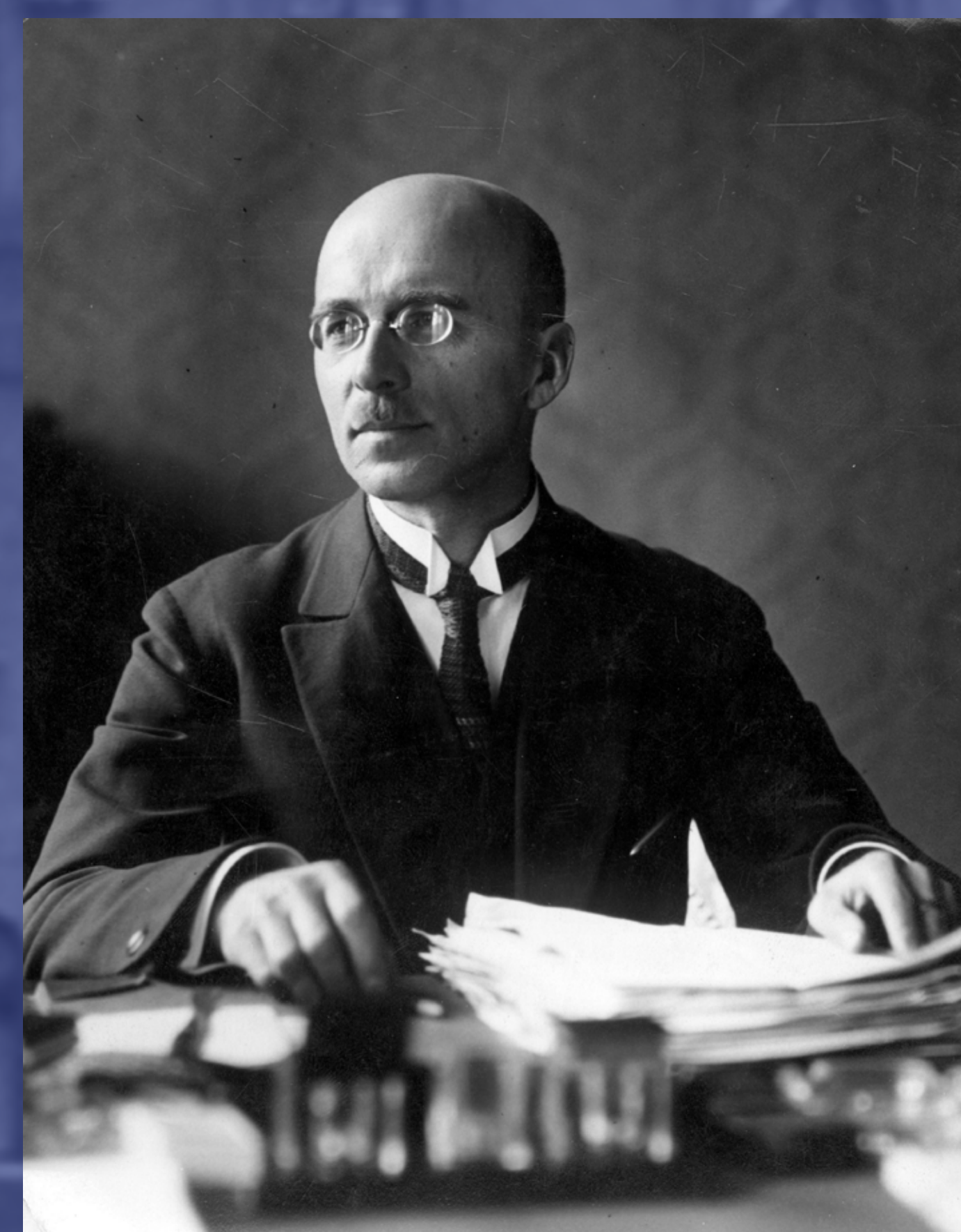
TRAIL OF THE SIXTEEN

Since mid-February 1945, Soviets had tried to lure leaders of the Polish Underground State into talks. When they succeeded, they arrested everyone despite assurances to the contrary. Those who were transported to Moscow were investigated and then in June 1945, in the absence of Western response, tried. They were charged with diversion, espionage and terrorist activities directed at the USSR, as well as cooperation with Nazi Germany. This trail, coupled with the acceptance by the West of the authority of the Provisional Government of National Unity, which in turn meant the withdrawal of support for the government-in-exile, led to the dissolution of the Government Delegation for Poland and Council of National Unity.



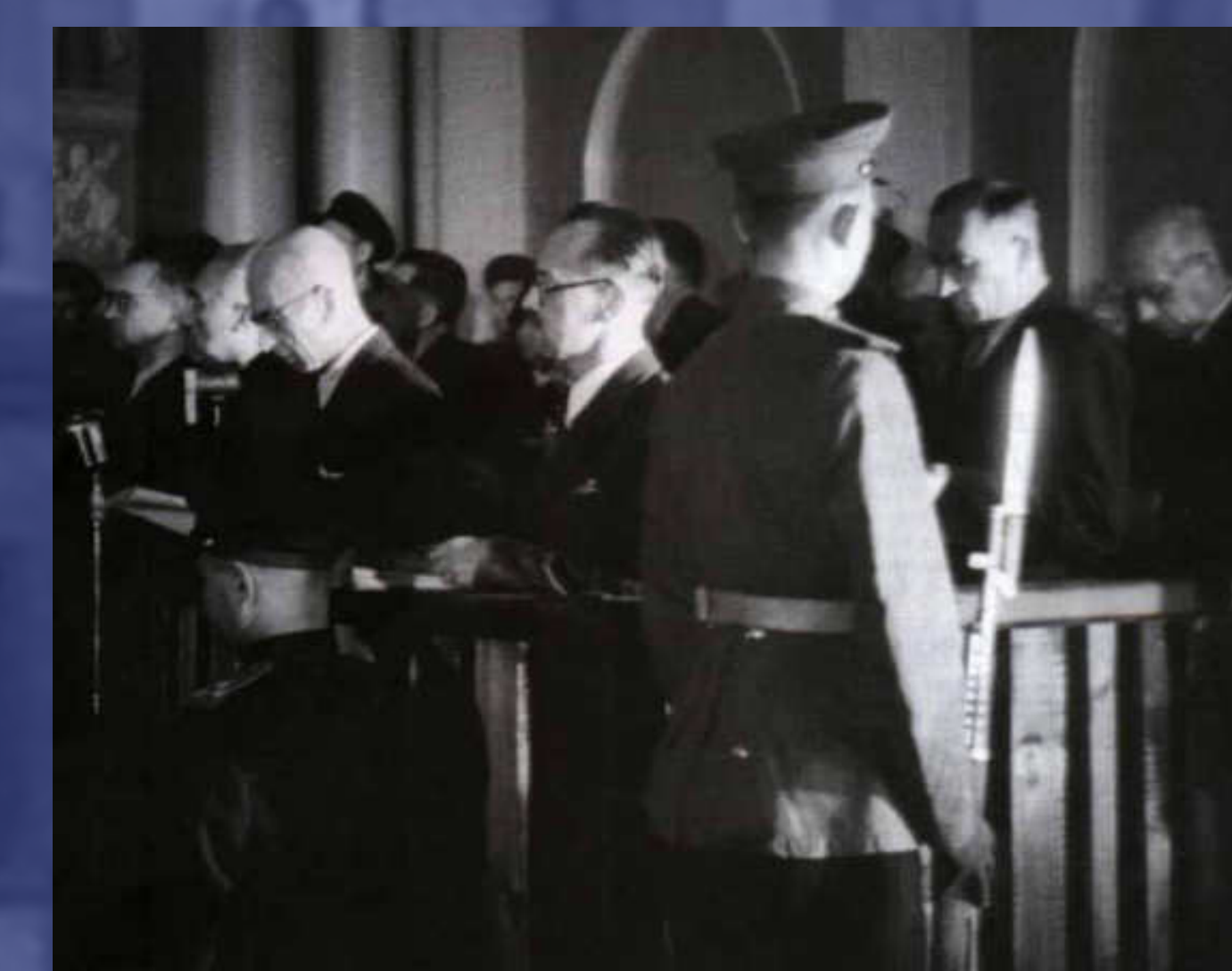
After the dissolution of the Home Army, the fight with occupants was to be carried on by the NIE organization. However, due to the arrest of gen. Fieldorf, this structure was also dissolved while its responsibilities were entrusted to the Armed Forces Delegation for Poland with Jan Rzepecki (pictured) as commander.

Photo: Public domain



Jan Stanisław Jankowski alias "Soból" (1882-1953) - activist of the Labor Party, from 1941, he had directed the Department of Labor and Social Affairs of the Government Delegation for Poland. From April 1943, until his arrest in March 1945 he served as deputy prime minister and government delegate. Sentenced in the Trial of the Sixteen to 8 years in prison. He died in prison.

Photo: NAC



Accused Polish leaders in the courtroom during trial.

Photo: Public domain

In the background: Lubyanka Prison in Moscow. It was here that the leaders of the Polish Underground State were detained.

Photo: Public domain



INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

