Institute of National Remembrance

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The Origins of the Katyn Massacre

1. THE ORIGINS OF THE KATYN MASSACRE

In September 1939, the Third Reich and the Soviet Union invaded Poland following the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact they concluded on 23 August 1939 and amended on 28 September 1939, 51.6% of the territories of the 2nd Polish Republic came under Stalin's control, and their population, especially Poles, fell victim to Soviet repressions. Polish intellectual elites - career soldiers and army reserve officers who played prominent roles in the society before WWII - were sent to camps and prisons. They were joined by teachers, doctors, engineers, lawyers, scientists, landowners, clergy of various denominations, and civil servants.

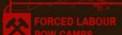
THE FOURTH PARTITION OF POLAND

BY THE SOVIETS

Some 250,000 Polish officers and soldiers became Soviet prisoners-of-war. of rank and file servicemen were soon released. The POWs D detention facilities were detained in the in the cities of the eastern 2nd Polish Republic.



Between the autumn of 1939 and the spring of 1940, the NKVD set up several detention camps and prisons in the cities of the eastern part of the 2nd Polish Republic. In all, they POWs, including officers, policemen, members of political parties and resistance organizations, land- and factory owners, civil servants and refugees. of them were identified by Lavrentiy Beria as Poles



Ca. 25,000 privates and NCOs were put to work in inhuman conditions in the camps in Rovne and Lvov districts, and the mines of the Ukrainian Soviet Republic...

There were about 10 of them, located mainly in the European part of the USSR; from them, the POWs were transferred to 3 special camps...

SPECIAL

In late 1939 - early 1940, the camps held about 15,000 Polish officers and intelligentsia. They were tricked into believing they would soon be evacuated to Germany or a neutral country.

1. KOZELSK POWs*

2,900 lieutenants and 2nd lieutenants

700 captains and cavalry captains

500 officer cadets

258 majors

79 lieutenant colonels

24 colonels

4 generals

1 rear admiral

as for March 1940

2,450 lieutenants and 2nd lieutenants 1.000 captains and cavalry captains

POWs*

230 majors

127 lieutenant colonels

2 STAROBELSK

55 colonels

9 generals

3. OSTASHKOV POWs*

4,924 rank and file policemen

775 police NCOs

240 police and military police officers

198 Prison Guard officers

72 NCOs and privates of the Polish Army and Border Protection Corps

48 officers

9 intelligence service officers

INSTYTUT PAMIECI NARODOWEJ





OPRACOWANE I GRAFIKA: ŁUKASZ WRONA, MAREK PIWOŃSKI, PAWEŁ KUROWSKI KOORDYNATOR: MICHAŁ MASICWSKI KONSULTACJE: DR MONIKA KOMANIECKA-ŁYP, DARUSZ GORAJCZYK

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