
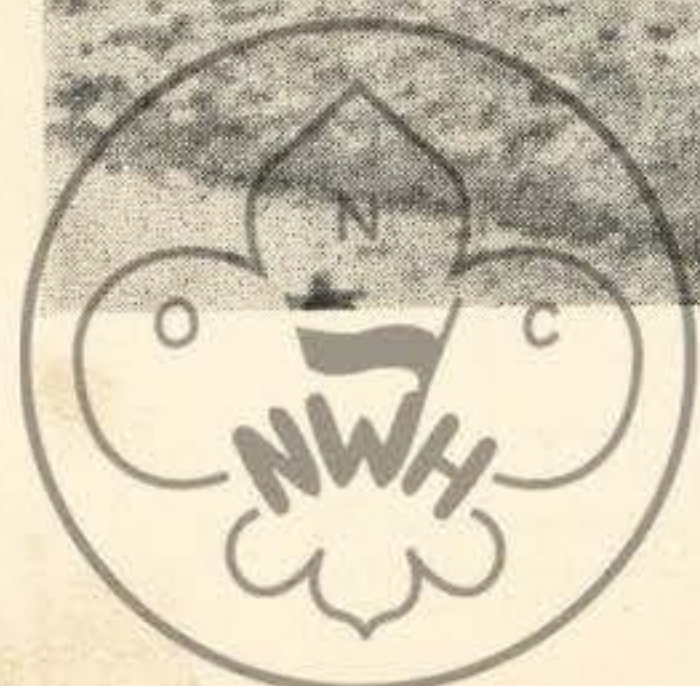


Zawsady  *Be prepared*

OCTOBER

THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH
BOY SCOUTS AND GIRL GUIDES,
45 Belgrave Square, London, S.W. 1

1944



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WARSAW

ROLL OF HONOUR.

It is reported from the Homeland that thirty-two Scouts were shot at the beginning of July in Nowy Sacz. The execution was preceded by mass arrests of young people in Nowy Sacz, in the search of Scouts. The Scout Movement is forbidden by the Germans, and those who belong to it are under the threat of severe penalty, the penalty of death included.



The Despatch from Warsaw reports:

"In the night of 16th-17th August, 1944 in an assault from Stare Miastro, (the Old City) to liberate the Jewish Ghetto, the Deputy Chief Scout of Poland "Peter" was killed in action. The day before, Peter was awarded the Virtuti Militari, the highest Polish military award.

Besides the Deputy Chief Scout of Poland, unknown Guides and Scouts have lost their lives in the battle to liberate Warsaw, and for the freedom and integrity of Poland.



We have learned with deep regret that the following Scouters and Rovers of the 1st Armoured Polish Division, who recently left British soil, lost their lives in the fight of liberation in France, Belgium, and Holland:

Wladyslaw JEWLOW	Karol JANOTA
Jan KIRSCHKE	Konrad RACZYNSKI
Leonard KOZIKOWSKI	Witold GWIDON
Waclaw MORAWSKI	Franciszek KACZYNSKI
Jerzy MOZDZEN	Waclaw CHROSCICKI
Jerzy TOPER	Jaroslaw DEJNAROWICZ
Ryszard MALINOWSKI	Jan AMBIK
Józef RUDNIK	Mieczyslaw SADLOWSKI
Edward JAROSZEWICZ	



On the battlefields of CASSINO, PIEDIMONTE, ANCONA, PESARO, the following Scouters and Rovers of the Polish Army Corps fighting with the British 8th Army, gave their lives.

Rajmund KLUCZYNSKI	Feliks HAPANOWICZ
Fryderyk MANDERA	Tadeusz JURCZYK
Edmund WILKOSZ	Henryk LASECKI
Jan MIERZEJEWSKI	Jan METROPOLIT
Jan SIEMEK	Zdzislaw SIKORA
Antoni DOBROWOLSKI	Jan UMIASTOWSKI
Tadeusz GASINSKI	Leopold ZOLNIERCZYK

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REPORT.



... Every day of our life is heavy with tasks which have to be fitted in before the curfew hour, and we are getting more and more shorthanded. If we add, that caution and mistrust are indispensable in our work, and that we feel all along as a tracked animal—many things will become clearer.

Primary Schools are considerably reduced in number, so are the school-hours, often to one hour a day. The subjects that have been cut down are: History, Geography, Physical Training. There is a lack of text books and school equipment. Schools as a rule, are overcrowded and not heated in winter. In the country it became a regular practice to break the classes in this season of the year, as well as during agricultural works in the fields. Two, or three months is the duration of the school year. The depressing conditions at home complete the picture.

The educational problem, under the circumstances is most difficult. To teach by every possible means is the burning problem.

Secondary Schools have been substituted by Vocational Schools. A number of continuation courses and classes in operation are of no real use. Young people who are anxious to learn attend two schools—the Vocational School in the morning, a matter of formality, and the secret secondary classes in the afternoon.

At what price this scanty amount of learning is purchased, will be realized by those, who have themselves gone through it day after day. With tram cars being filled to the full, you travel, more often than not, strap hanging, carrying forbidden text books and exercises in your pocket. Sometimes you travel in vain—"The place has been visited," the teacher held up . . . by the "blockade" (which means the district has been raided) and a man-hunt has been in operation.

Despite all this, young people, boys and girls, are learning, the teachers are doing their best to keep up the level; often the pupils have to break classes, sometimes for a period as long as 3 or 4 weeks—"Holidays on official duties". This means they have been taking part in the Underground action.

A long time after they come back and have resumed their work at school, their minds are still haunted by what they have witnessed: blazing houses, the rumble of explosions, and their pals moaning in pain.

The education under such circumstances as these, puts a heavy demand on one's nervous system, on one's reserve energy. There are people for whom it is too much. As no one can check up on them, they simply pretend to learn, without doing any real learning.

Training at factories or workshops is compulsory during the school period. And from the age of 16,—an Arbeits Karte is issued, which does not make the learning any easier. Besides, many children have to do additional work to earn their own, or their families "Living".

In the country, self-tuition is making good progress. Continuation classes in History, Literature, Geography—for groups of younger people; and professional classes, Preliminary philosophy, History, Psychology, Sociology for the elder ones are formed.

Despite the danger and the obstacles, debating clubs have been created, with lectures and conferences. The risk of life does not frighten off the young people as they do not think it an "unnecessary sacrifice".

There are a number of underground papers published exclusively for youth.

Share taken by young men and women in the armed underground action—is one more aspect of life. The adventure, the risk, the heroic achievements, attract the young in the same way as the sense of duty.

The wavering, the undecided are often pushed on by life itself towards the "LAS" forest, which means joining up with the forces of the Polish Underground Army.

Sometimes the "Las" is the only issue, the only escape.

Lists of our losses strike with figures 21, 20 . . . 17, 16, 15, these figures mean the age of casualties.

Those who are left behind must live, must do their normal work, and must replace the missing ones.

Would it not be short-sighted to assert that such life forms the character, instructs and only adds new strength for the future.

We wonder with anxiety in our heart, what affliction they will bring with them when they enter this new life they are longing for now?

If they persist, it is at the expense of their physical reserve force. Yet they have been cut from nature by various restrictions, their natural need for exercise has been checked. What is more, they are undernourished, and have been for the last five years.

And what of those who have passed through camps, and those who have come back disabled from labour camps in Germany. And those who are the prey of the rapidly spreading T.B.

What about children being encouraged to use liquors by the far-seeing enemy. As prizes at school, they are given bottles of alcohol.

Heavy losses have been recorded in the domain of children's morals.

One should remember that our youngsters live under a constant pressure of enemy propaganda. To make their living, and often to support their families, they have to earn money. The only kind of work which will ensure some money to them, is the one that is against the existing law. It would be sheer impossibility to live under the occupation without recurring to illegal gains.

Naturally enough, this is a peril dangerous to the moral of coming generations. Fortunately there are very remarkable groups of young people in the country and in the towns who are trying to prevent the evil. The standard of the secret youth organisations is very high.

The Youth, whose nerves and physical strength are already nearly exhausted live in a continual tension of mind and under obligations difficult to bear; to cope with this or that, to get in time, not to fail. All this has been carried on without respite, without possible escape from danger for years. And with news coming in, as the disappearance of a relative, friend or companion.

There is one thing more—the nightmarish vision of inquiry at the inquest. The attempt to keep silent when questioned, which to many is worse than death.

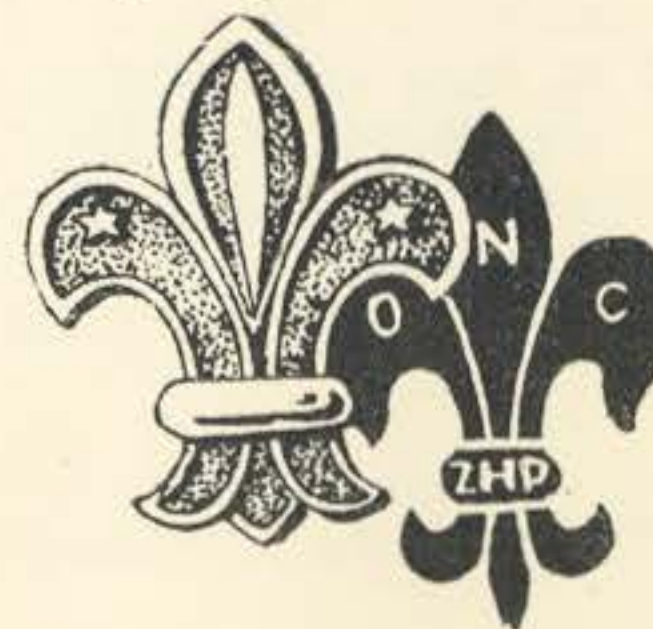
Young people between 16-17 are faced with such problems as life and death, revenge and punishment, deceit and heroic struggle. Their life is too full, responsibility for themselves and others makes them prematurely old.

As regards our children many of them suffer from scrofula and general debility. From the outset of their existence they have learned more about life than it is necessary at their age. Living in the atmosphere of perpetual fear and want, they feel handicapped.

Strive for the childhood of the child, for the youth of the young, wherever it is possible, these are our tasks.

Poland of to-morrow, Poland of a living Freedom, the ideal reality of the day to come, is as real to us as a new day.

The youth at home are approaching this day through hard work, through rapturous heroism.



YOUR FRIENDS ARE IN NEED . . .

You already know a great deal about the Scouts and Guides in Poland—of their activities before the war and of the work they have done during the time Poland has been occupied by the Germans.

We now hear that those of our boys and girls who are still alive and are in the part of Poland now occupied by the Russians, are very tired and worn out, and they need immediate help. This means that *your* friends are in need, and many are looking for help from British Scouts and Guides about whom they have heard so much.

Do you think you might be one of those friends, who are ready to help Polish boys and girls?

If so, shall we consider together how to start and become enrolled in a Rescue Party to help our brothers and sisters in Poland?

- (1) Discuss the matter with your mutual friends and form a team, which you can call a Rescue Party.
- (2) Find out what you can send to Poland—money, food parcels, clothing, books, vitamins, Scout and Guide uniforms, etc.
- (3) Send an application to the British Red Cross, Foreign Relations Dept., St. James's Palace, London, S.W.1., for arrangements to be made to send your parcels to the part of Poland which is now occupied by the Russians.
- (4) Choose a town in Poland to whose Boys and Girls you would like to send your help. The address would be: Local Association of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides in Wilno, (Lwow, Bialystock, Lublin, Nowogrodek, Sanok, Brzesc, Grodno, Stanislawow, Przemysl, Jaroslaw, Sandomierz, Sambor, Kolomyja, Lomza, Luck, Krosno or any other place) and of course Warsaw.
- (5) In case you would like to have more information on the subject, please write to The Commissioner for Relief for Polish Scouts and Guides, 17, Chantrey House, Eccleston Street, London, S.W.1.

Remember that Polish Scouts and Guides are in very great need, so please try to do all you can to help them quickly.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

NEW ZEALAND OFFERS HOSPITALITY.

New Zealand has kindly offered hospitality to some of the Polish children evacuated from Russia by way of Iran. About 7,000 people, the majority of whom are children, are to be placed in a settlement in the district of Pahiatua, Wellington on North Island.

Among these children are many Scouts and Guides, who are now formed into Guide Companies and Scout troops and are continuing Scouting and Guiding which they started during their sojourn in Iran.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the POLISH SCOUTS AND GUIDES RECONSTRUCTION FUND.

All Polish Scouts and Guides are most grateful to the Cubs of Sheffield for the generous sum of £60, collected by them in half-pennies and pennies for the Polish Reconstruction Fund. The Polish Chief Commissioner visited Sheffield to thank them for this magnificent gift, and to express the deep appreciation of the Polish Scouts and Guides, who recognise this spontaneous gesture as evidence of the true feeling of Brotherhood felt by the Cubs of Sheffield.

The Nottingham Girl Guides Association, Ranger Branch sent £1 5s. od. for the travelling expenses of a Polish Ranger to the Nottingham Ranger Conference.

FROM THE EDITOR.

This number is dedicated to our sisters and brothers in Poland. We want to pay a great tribute to them for the heroic sacrifices they have made during the five years of war and particularly during the Battle of Warsaw. To-day, Poland is passing through far darker days than she ever knew in 1939, or during her history. We, Polish Guides and Scouts value the friendship shewn to us during these most critical times. The attitude of the British people and particularly British Guides and Scouts, is manifested in the help given to us, which is the best proof of the bond which has been forged during the war, and which, I hope will prevail long after these difficult times.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Imperial Headquarters of both Guides and Scouts, particularly the International Commissioners, and the Editors of "The Guide," "The Guider," and "The Scout," "The Scouter," for their continued support during the past years. Their work has portrayed the fundamental truth of the brotherhood of Scouting; it will resound throughout the world, helping and blessing all and will find its way into the hearts of the Poles who remember with deep appreciation the friendship of our two nations.

As we belong to the same family, we have not only a splendid relationship between us, but feel also the duty of giving a helping hand to those who are more unfortunate than ourselves, and especially to those who pass through troubled times.

In the News from Poland this month we see that Scouting in Poland fears the mortal danger of being ruthlessly exterminated and brought to a tragic end. They need our help and help must come this time.

