

[Working Draft]

Chronicle - Camp Tadeusz Kosciuszko (1941-1942)

Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada

& Other Related Information

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1. Introduction

“How to tell it all? Referring to what chronicles?

...

Mothers and sisters, tender wives and lovers.

Think of them. They lived and had names.”

- Czeslaw Milosz, “Six Lectures in Verse”¹

Several years ago, a friend asked me what I knew about the “Polish Soldier Tree” located on the Bruce Trail, not far from Owen Sound. I had to admit that I had never heard of it. When I asked around about the tree, I discovered that no one else that I knew who was interested in Polish-Canadian history had heard of it either. Shortly after the original question was posed, I had the opportunity to spend some time in Owen Sound and through this visit I met Paula Niall and Kathleen LaBudie-Szakall who knew a lot about the tree. They also helped me to learn about the Polish Army Training Camp that was located in Owen Sound in 1941 – 1942. They had been keeping the memory of the Polish Army Training Camp alive, even though it had been forgotten by almost everyone.

I also got to see the tree and have since visited it several times. My daughter has even produced a painting featuring the tree, which forms the cover for this book.

Later I was approached by Lisa Marie Murphy-Gemmill who was working on her master’s degree at the University of Western Ontario. Through the Polish Combatant’s Association, Branch 2 in London, Lisa was supported in her research with a Research Travel Fund, which assisted her in travelling to Ottawa, Windsor and Detroit to conduct her research. Lisa wrote a major paper on the camp and on May 18, 2016 was the guest speaker at the Grey County Historical Society Annual Dinner. The title of her presentation was “Poland Has not Yet Perished: The Story of the Polish Soldiers in Owen Sound.” The camp was finally getting a written record. It would not be forgotten.

The fact that I originally knew nothing about the tree or the camp bothered me. I was someone with an interest in history, especially Polish-Canadian history, and yet I had never heard of it. Although some of the good people of Owen Sound and

¹ Czeslaw Milosz, *The Collected Poems* (New York: The Ecco Press, 1988), 482

Windsor knew about them, this was a bit of Canadian history which had largely been forgotten. As is not unusual, history, such as Polish-Canadian history, which exists beyond the mainstream narrative of Canadian history, writ-large, tends to be quickly forgotten.

At some point I discovered that the hand-written camp chronicle, a day to day diary of life at the camp at Owen Sound was on the web site of The Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, located in London, England. It came to me that I could produce an English version of the Chronicle and annotate it and in that way I could preserve and disseminate a bit of the camp history and ensure that some awareness of the camp remained. If nothing else the names of the Polish men who served in Owen Sound would be remembered and honoured and Milosz's admonition that "*They lived and had names*" would be respected.

One word of caution – the Chronicle is in most part hand-written and not always easily decipherable, so although I have made every effort to translate it correctly, some errors in the translation may persist and for that I can only apologize, but the 'gist' of the camp history in the words of those who directly experienced it is clearly preserved here.

2. Background

On September 1, 1939 Germany invaded Poland thus starting World War II. On September 17th, the Soviet Union attacked Poland from the east thus leaving the Polish forces to fight superior forces on two fronts. The final battle of the September Campaign took place on October 5th however, Poland did not surrender. A new Polish government was formed in Paris with General Wladyslaw Sikorski as Premier. The Polish army regrouped and fought in France. In Poland the Home Army and an Underground Poland was established. France fell in June 1940.

The Polish Government-in-Exile, with the President and National Council is re-established in England. Polish armed forces regroup in Great Britain and continue to fight alongside the Allies until the end of the war.

The Sikorski–Mayski Agreement is signed between the Soviet Union and Poland, in London on 30 July 1941. Under this agreement a Polish Army is formed

under General Wladyslaw Anders in Russia. The army escapes from Russia and moves to the Middle East and is reformed as the Polish 2nd Corps. The Polish 2nd Corps fights in Italy alongside the Allies. On April 20, 1945, twelve days before German capitulation, they capture Bologna in conjunction with the American 5th Army.

The 1st Polish Armoured Division, under the command of Major-General Stanislaw Maczek is formed in Great Britain and takes part in the Normandy invasion, landing late in July 1994. This unit is placed under Lieutenant-General H.D.G. Crerar and forms part of the First Canadian Army. In April 1945 the Polish Armoured Division enters Germany and accepts the surrender of German forces in Wilhelmshaven.

As early as September 18, 1939, Jan Pawlica the Consul General of Poland in Ottawa submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a proposal for the recruitment of Polish citizens in Canada and the United States to the Polish Army being reformed in France. Pawlica was followed shortly thereafter by Wiktor Podoski. At the end of March 1940, General Jozef Haller came to Canada to conduct negotiations with the Government of Canada regarding such recruitment. He was welcomed by Prime Minister Mackenzie King. This initial effort came to an end with the fall of France in June 1940.

On January 4, 1941 a high-level meeting between Polish and Canadian officials took place in London. Canada was represented by A.A. Magee and Captain R.S. Malone, while Poland was represented by General B. Regulski, T.J. Brudzinski and Lieut. J.M. Lipski. In February 1941, General Haller came again and visited Polish communities in Canada and the United States and furthered discussions with the Canadian Government. On February 24, 1941 the Canadian and Polish Governments reached an agreement allowing for the recruitment of volunteers for the "Polish Armed Forces.". The conditions were laid out in a memorandum *The Polish Armed Forces in Canada* and were as follows:

1. *Neither Canadian citizens, nor British subjects, may join the Polish Armed Forces in Canada, unless each one of them individually and in advance obtains agreement to this from the Canadian Government.*
2. *Recruitment to the Polish Armed Forces in the United States will take place at full discretion and in agreement with existing laws.*

3. *The Canadian Government assumes no responsibility, financial or of any other kind, for the training, organization and provision of equipment for the enlisted volunteers*
4. *The Canadian Government assumes no responsibility for the pay, allowances, costs of transport, food, and accommodation of the volunteers, nor also for the cost of the return to Canada after the war or in event of the volunteer being discharged from the army.*
5. *The Polish authorities will not admit into the army persons, who work in essential parts of the Canadian economy.*
6. *The Canadian Government does not take any responsibility for the medical treatment and hospital costs of volunteers, for as long as they serve in the Polish Armed Forces, as well as for pension and similar compensation...*
7. *Officers and private soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces will be subject to Polish Military Law and will be tried in Polish courts. For transgressions against the law of Canada, they will be subject to Canadian courts.*
8. *All steps will be taken, so that volunteers will know the conditions, under which they were admitted into the Polish Armed Forces.*
9. *The Ministry of National Defense of Canada will do everything within its possibilities, so that the recruitment and training of the Polish Armed Forces will take place successfully.*

On April 1, 1941, General Wladyslaw Sikorski, Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces and Premier of the Polish Government in London arrived in Halifax in order to finalize the agreement with the Government of Canada. On April 3 he was greeted by Prime Minister Mackenzie King in Ottawa. It was anticipated that 7,000 men would be trained over a three-month period. After the negotiations were concluded General Sikorski spent six weeks visiting Polish communities in Canada and in the United States.

In April, 1941, while still with the Polish Government in France, Zofia Arciszewska learns that she and her husband, as the representative of the Polish Commander-in-Chief, are to go to Canada to begin a recruitment drive for volunteers to join the Polish Army. The ship on which Zofia and Adam sailed from Glasgow to Canada was full of British children sailing to a place of refuge. Andre

Maurois was also on that ship.² They waited in Ottawa for a visa which would allow them to enter the United States and begin their recruitment drive. In the name of neutrality, their request for visas is turned down. Later with the assistance of the Polish Women's Committee of New York Zofia is quickly granted a visa, based on a request that she come and speak in New York. She is able to speak in New York and later in other cities with large Polish communities, about the atrocities committed by the Germans in Warsaw during the September Campaign and she appeals for support for recruiting volunteers for the Polish Army in Canada. Later she makes similar appeals in Ottawa, Montreal and Brantford. In total, Zofia made dozens of appeals for support and volunteers for the Polish Army in Canada across the United States and in Canada.

Financing proved to be the most difficult issue, as Canada refused to provide any financial assistance. The Polish Government was to deposit 2 million dollars in gold and \$400,000 in banknotes in the Bank of Canada as a guarantee covering the costs of recruitment and training.

Polish clubs in Canada also organized fund-raising activities in support of the recruitment centre and the training camp. For example, the Polish National Union, Kingston Branch raised \$324.59 already in 1941. Although this was a substantial amount for a newly formed branch, it would not go far in terms of financial support for the training camp. The Polish National Union was also involved in a "Tag Day" in Toronto on October 31, 1942, which was organized by the Polish-Czechoslovakia Committee which raised \$10,000 for the needs of the Polish Army. These funds were presented to General Wladyslaw Sikorski, Polish Commander-in-Chief during his visit to Canada.

The Polish Military Mission was formally empowered to act on this initiative. A recruitment centre was established in Windsor and it was officially opened on May 3, 1941. Captain Aer, the pseudonym of Captain Dr. Aleksander Rytel, was in charge until the arrival of General Bronislaw Duch. General Duch is later replaced by Group Captain Stefan Szuk.

² Andre Maurois was a noted French author. After the fall of France, he travelled from England to Canada. He wrote of these experiences in his book, *Tragedy in France*. Later in World War II he served in the French army and the Free French Forces.

Because of a lack of space in Windsor, it was decided that a training camp was also required. Consul-General Wiktor Podoski contacted the commandant of the Polish Camp in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1917-1919, Col. A.D. LePan and Major C.R. Young.³ They along with Dr. Aleksander Rytel and Prof. Lucas of the pharmacology department at the University of Toronto were tasked with finding a suitable location for a training camp. They chose Windsor for the recruiting centre. LePan, Young and Lucas selected Owen Sound and the former North American Furniture Company as the site for the training camp. It was intended to house 2,000 officers and men.

Joint "Information-Recruitment Centres were opened in Canada, located in Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Kirkland Lake, Oshawa, St. Catharines and Windsor.

On July 19, 1941, General Bronislaw Duch arrived in Montreal along with 37 officers and 57 soldiers. One of the first things he did was to deliver a letter from General Sikorski, removing Colonel Rola-Arciszewski from his position as head of the Polish Military Mission and thus negating the work of his wife, Zofia. This incident underlines the role of internal politics in the failure to attract significant number of volunteers from across Canada and the States. Rola-Arciszewski belonged to the political faction opposing Sikorski. Following his initial stop in Montreal, General Duch also made whistle-stops in Toronto, Hamilton, Brantford and London and finally he arrived in Windsor.

In March 1942, General Wladyslaw Sikorski decided to close down the Polish Army Mission in Canada. In total 772 men were recruited by the Windsor recruiting station. The equipment obtained from the United States under the Lend-Lease Act was sold to the Norwegian Army. The emphasis was now placed on building a Polish Army in the Soviet Union under the command of General Wladyslaw Anders. General Anders was responsible for creating the famous Polish 2nd Corps which saw action and success in Italy. Some of the men who trained in Owen Sound also went on to serve in the Polish 2nd Corps and some also joined the 1st Polish Armoured Division which was formed in Great Britain.

There are many factors contributing to the less than expected results in recruitment. Some of these factors include:

³ For more specifics on the involvement of Colonel A.D. LePan see Appendix A for some excerpts from his diary.

- The entry of the United States into the war which resulted in most Americans of Polish descent who volunteered deciding to join the American forces. They saw themselves, first as Americans.
- The change of focus to the creation of a Polish Army in the Soviet Union
- The considerable assimilation of Polish Americans into American society. They no longer saw themselves as Poles first and the direct ties with Poland had weakened considerably since the First World War. The people of Polish descent living in America often knew very little about Poland, where their parents were born, who was still in Poland etc.
- The poor treatment and fate of the soldiers of Haller's Army who had volunteered during WWI weighed heavily on the minds of many in the Polish communities in the United States. They received no recognition and no support. The members of Haller's Army felt unwanted.
- Restrictions to recruitment instituted by both the Governments of the United States and Canada.
- There was tension and a lack of trust between Poles who supported Pilsudski and the "Sanacja" Government and those who supported Sikorski and the "Endecja" opposition. Many Poles in the United States supported the "Sanacja" and did not trust Sikorski and his officers such as General Duch. This tension was not always understood by the Polish Government in Exile in London. The people chosen to lead the recruitment efforts in the United States and Canada were not particularly well-chosen. There was no passionate Ignacy Jan Paderewski among them.
- There was tension between the Catholic Church and the Polish recruiting officers. They tried to limit the influence of the church and they often looked down on the Polish communities in America.
- The materialistic tendencies within the Polish communities in America. Very few were in a hurry to volunteer to serve in their army, when living conditions in the United States were just starting to improve.

Father Stanislaw Targosz, camp chaplain, confirms several of these factors in his diary. He goes on to explain, that he came to the camp, seeing himself as a link between Poland and the Polish communities in America. He saw himself as developing this link, or mutual connections, over the long haul, perhaps over the next twenty years. He sadly proclaims that he did find this connection in the camp, either at the higher or lower echelons. The officers could see little value in the Polish communities of America. They tended to ignore the actual call or

commitment felt by their soldiers. These men did not fight just for fun or for adventure or to earn a living, they fought for ideals, for higher values. Father Targosz claims that the officers in charge did not understand this. They did develop a higher spirit in the men. The officers could only see the short term, not the longer term. Maybe that is why after the liquidation of the camp. He was not taken to England with the soldiers but was rather let go as Chaplain.

However, the Camp in Owen Sound was not a total failure. The recruitment process and the existence of the camp itself provided the means to spread information about Poland and its role in the war and to build support for the Polish cause. Although the camp closed, recruitment of Polish volunteers continued until the end of the war. The closing of the camp in Owen Sound meant the end of training for the Polish army and navy. However, training for the Polish Air Force continued in Canada, along with the Polish contribution of 105 personnel to the 45th Canadian Air Transport Squadron. The Air Force Mission under Air Vice Marshall Stefan M. Sznuk continued.

3. Odsiecz – Polska Walczaca w Ameryce / Fighting Poland (Relief Force) – Fighting Poland in America

While the recruiting unit was operating in Windsor and the training camp was operational in Owen Sound, a weekly publication was produced in Windsor. The publication was bilingual. The Editor-in-Chief was Lieut. Wacław Drzewiecki, the assistant editor was Ludwik Rubel and later a Sergeant Major with the Lancers, Ryszard Kiersnowski, a poet and rifleman. Most of the illustrations were done by Marian Walentynowicz, a Sergeant Major, Józef Karpinski and Jan Szwed. The weekly was printed by The Windsor Daily Star. The first issue appeared on July 17, 1941 and the final copy was issued on April 19, 1942. Thirty-three issues were published in total.

4. The Story of the Polish Gold

Before the war, the Government of Poland decided that a significant gold reserve was to be maintained in Poland. The reserve was not to go below 350 million Zlotys. About the middle of August 1939, the Ministry of the Treasury advised the Polish Bank that the majority of the gold reserves should be transferred abroad and to find a way to ship the gold by air to the West (avoiding Germany). It was already too late and these plans were not realized.

The distribution of the gold reserves around the country was also approved by the Government of Poland. As it made no sense to keep all the reserves in the bank in Warsaw, in June 1939 the government set out the following locations to keep the reserves – Brzesc nad Bugiem (an old fortress), Lublin, Siedlce and Zamosc. Secondary locations were identified as Rzeszow and Lwow.

After the outbreak of the war, the army command determined that the Warsaw gold reserves should be transferred to the Fortress in Brzesc and 80 million zlotys were sent there on Sept 4. The gold reserves from Siedlce were also shipped to Brzesc. Ultimately the gold reserves were sent in the direction of the Romanian border. Permission was sought from the Government of Romania to move the gold reserves across Romania so that they could be picked up by French warships on the Mediterranean, as arranged by the French embassy.

On September 13, gold valued at 341.4 million zlotys, under the supervision of Ignacy Matuszewski and the Head Treasurer of the Bank Mr. Orczykowski crossed into Romania. The gold reserves were moved out of Poland so that the Polish authorities would have access to the funds for the purpose of buying military equipment and continuing to fight the Germans. The Bank delegated full authority in London and Paris over the reserves to Mr. Karpinski, head of the overseas branch of the bank.

The gold travelled from Constanta, to Istanbul to Ankara to Beirut. On September 23, 886 crates of gold were loaded on a French cruiser and sailed to Toulon. On October 2, the remainder, 205 crates and 93 bags of gold were loaded on 2 French torpedo boats and sailed to Toulon. In Toulon the French bank put at the disposal of the Polish Bank the vaults required to store the gold. Also, the amount of gold received was verified as totalling that which was shipped.

Four tonnes (not tons) of gold, along with some bank notes were left in the account of the Bank of Poland with the National Bank of Romania in Bucharest. 16.3 million zlotys worth of gold in 51 crates remained with the National bank of Romania.

Following government orders, all other branches of the Bank of Poland were evacuated to the East following the outbreak of the war. All banknotes, deeds, and paper documents of value from the bank in Warsaw were evacuated on September 7th. These also were transported to Romania. The banknotes were estimated as being worth 1.4 million zlotys. All paper values were transferred by ship to Angers, the location of the 1st Government of Poland in exile.

In total 363.4 million zlotyz in gold were transported out of Poland at a weight of 70 tons (tonnes?) which took up 17 square metres, plus other bank

valuables (paper) weighing about 100 tons and taking up about 150 square metres.

It was these gold reserves that were used to finance the camp in Owen Sound.

5. Owen Sound

Everyone seems to be in agreement that Owen Sound was a very good place to locate the Polish Army Training Camp.

Father Stanislaw Targosz, the camp chaplain, writes: "The camp location is beautiful. Owen Sound itself is wonderful, sitting on Lake Huron, on Georgian Bay. Not too many people, sort of like Wadowice or Zywiec. Good people, friendly, well-meaning."

6. Select Biographies

a. General Bronisław Duch

Bronislaw Duch was born on November 15, 1896 in Borszczow, Poland. As a youth he was involved in scouting and in the Falcon (Sokol) movement.

When World War I broke out he joined the Polish Legions and saw action in several major battles. During the civil war, that ensued as part of the Russian Revolution he found himself in Murmansk in charge of the Independent Polish Murmansk Unit which fought with the British against the Red Army. When the British withdrew from Murmansk, he went with them to Great Britain where he remained in command of the Independent Polish Murmansk Unit.

He returned to Poland with his unit in December 1919. He continued his military training and in 1935 he was the commanding officer of the 73rd Infantry Regiment in Katowice and was also a director at the Centre for Infantry Training in Rembertow.

When war broke out in September 1939, he was in command of the 39th Infantry Reserve Division. After the defeat he made his way to France. In September 1940 he took command of the 1st Polish Grenadier Division. When he learned that the French government under General Petain was negotiating a surrender agreement with the Germans, he ordered the break up of the division and ordered the men to make their way to Great Britain in small groups.

In July 1940 he made it to England and in April 1941 the Polish Commander-in-Chief ordered him to go to Canada and organize a recruiting centre for the Polish Army. He returned to Great Britain in April 1942, where he was put in charge of the 1st Rifle Brigade, Polish 1st Corps in Scotland.

In July 1943, he was sent to Palestine, where he took command of the 3rd Carpathian Rifle Division. He was in command of this unit when the famous Battle of Monte Cassino took place and it was members of this division, some of whom trained at Owen Sound, that first entered the Benedictine Monastery. He was in command of this unit until the end of the war on April 21, 1945.

After the war he lived in London, England and remained active in Polish affairs and the Government of Poland in Exile. He died on October 9, 1980 in London. An urn with his ashes is buried at the Polish Military Cemetery at Monte Cassino. Among his many honours, he was awarded the *Virtuti Military* Cross, the Cross of Valour (Krzyz Walecznych) and the Gold Cross of Merit (Krzyz Zaslugi).

b. Major Stefan Majewski

Stefan Majewski was born on December 19, 1898 in Warsaw. He volunteered to serve in the Polish Army on January 20, 1919 and served in a reserve regiment. He was assigned to an NCO School in Warsaw during which he was ordered to join the 23rd Infantry Regiment and took part in the Wilno Offensive. After completing his NCO training, he was assigned to the 11th Infantry Regiment as a 2nd Lieutenant. He was wounded in the Polish-Soviet War of 1920.

In 1932 he was transferred to the 3rd Armoured Regiment where he worked with Vickers Tanks and was involved in training soldiers in armoured units. In 1936 he was promoted to Major.

In September 1939, he was in command of the 11th Armoured Unit as part of the Lublin Army. After the defeat he joined the Polish underground and then made his way through Hungary to France, where he joined the Polish forces.

After the fall of France, he made his way to England and was in charge of the 3rd Tank Cadre and eventually, he reported to General Duch at which time he was sent to Canada to become second-in-command at the training camp in Owen Sound. After the camp was closed, he returned to England and was engaged in training armoured personnel. In 1944 he was promoted to the rank of Lieut.-Colonel with the armoured forces, and even served a short stint with the American forces (Sept-Nov 1944).

After the war, he emigrated to South Africa in January 1948 and lived in Durban. He was awarded the *Virtuti Military Cross*, the Cross of Valour (Krzysz Walecznych) and the Gold Cross of Merit (Krzysz Zaslugi).

c. Lance Corporal Chaim Goldberg

Chaim Goldberg wrote about his military experiences in a book “*I Remember Like Now: The Odyssey of a Polish Jew*.” He was born in Pulaury, Poland in 1920. After the cataclysm of September 1939 Goldberg made his way from Warsaw to Wilno. When the Red Army entered Wilno he managed to get false papers and obtained a counterfeit Japanese visa. He went by train across Siberia to Vladivostok and then near the end of February 1941 he managed to get on a ship sailing for Japan. He arrived in Japan near the end of March and was there about three months. The Polish Government gave him \$50, paid his fare, gave him a Polish passport, gave him a medical check-up and sent him on his way to Vancouver where he landed in June 1941. There were “about 40-50 Jewish boys going to join the Polish Army.” He joined the Polish Army in June 1941. He was trained in Owen Sound and his training included building barracks, beds and kitchens for the camp, dismantling and assembling machine guns, marching and drills. In Owen Sound he wore a Canadian uniform, although there is a photo of him in a Polish Naval uniform. After three months in Owen Sound he sent to England via Halifax. He arrived in England by November and was sent first to Liverpool and then to Scotland. He served with the 9th Polish Infantry Battalion, which was part of General Maczek’s 1st Polish Armoured Division. The Division fought in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Goldberg obtained the rank of Lance Corporal and was decorated with the “Krzysz Walecznych”(Cross of Valour) for bravery when he rescued Morris Lifshitz near Caen during the Battle of the Falaise Gap. His dream was to see the Germans defeated and he did. Following the war, he moved to Windsor, Ontario, married Ruth, whom he met at a Jewish community dance on August 15, 1946. In Windsor, he ran Hy’s Fish Shop. He died on March 1, 2009 in Windsor.

7. The Chronicle

General Comments

The selection of the Town of Owen Sound as the home for the camp was decided by the head of the Polish Army Mission in Canada on March, 19, 1941 on the recommendation of Captain Dr. Aer (pseudonym of Captain Dr. Aleksander Rytel) who found this community after a several month search.

The rental contract for the location of the barracks was signed on April 1, 1941 [on 14th Street]. The contract was signed on behalf of Poland by Colonel Franciszek Arciszewski, while from the Canadian side it was the "Toronto General Trusts Corporation." The Head of Buildings for Army District #2, Lieutenant M.F. Allan, R.C.E., approved the plans for renovations to the buildings. The plans were completed by the end of April. On April 23, 1941 Lance Sergeant Henryk Bonar [architect] was assigned to Owen Sound by the Head of the Mission and was given the task of completing the work required in organizing and preparing the camp, specifically:

1. Cooperating on technical and accounting issues with the team carrying out the renovation at the barracks. The building has been closed for several years and was a furniture factory at the corner of 2nd Ave W. and 14th Street W.
2. Overseeing the renovations to the building designated as Camp Headquarters at the corner of 2nd Ave. W. and 10th St. W.
3. Cooperating with the town administration in renovating the building offered by the town as the camp hospital on 12th Street, right next to the town hospital.
4. Taking over any other locations provided to the camp, either on a permanent basis or for occasional use:
 - a. Military firing range
 - b. Exercise field opposite the barracks
 - c. Sports field located at the exhibition grounds
 - d. 8 garages/sheds at the exhibition grounds
 - e. Covered town arena for 3,000 spectators for occasional use during sporting events
 - f. A room in the Town Hall for occasional use
5. Locating a building for an eventual NCO Training School
6. Accepting and securing materials being delivered to the camp stores
7. Developing contacts with the local community and with local organizations for the purpose of seeking assistance for the Camp in outfitting the hospital and the messes

8. Maintaining contacts with the Polish community in Toronto in seeking assistance in outfitting the soldier's messes and furnishing the Camp Headquarters
9. Completing arrangements for food deliveries once the camp is up and running

The above plan proposed for developing the camp was realized as follows:

1. The cost of renovating the huge factory building – the only building of its size that stood empty in the Province of Ontario – (several floors, 370 ft. long, 60 ft. wide) was over \$35,000. The barracks can hold 1,500 soldiers. The building is outfitted with a modern kitchen and 2 electric freezers, an electric potato peeler, a large soldier's mess hall and canteen, an NCO mess, dining room for enlisted men (enough room for 750 people at one sitting) and NCOs, storage space, 7 offices, infirmary, doctor's office, dental office, 57 showers with cold and hot water, toilets and wash basins etc.

The monthly rental is \$450. The renovations carried out by 60 workers barely took two months. The camp was reported as ready on July 4, 1941 (The camp was already ready to accept 200 people on June 3, 1941).

2. The renovations to the building for the Camp Headquarters (at a cost to the building owners) were completed by May 12, 1941. They were counting on the eventuality that headquarters staff might arrive earlier to take on the preparatory tasks. The building includes a ground floor and two higher levels which include 15 rooms. The monthly rental is \$80.
3. The building offered by the town for a camp hospital (actually an infirmary) was rebuilt and completely renovated at a cost to the town which spent \$1,500 for this purpose. The building is not large but is very well-suited: the floors are lacquered (hardwood), wallpaper in each room, with newly redone, central heating. It includes 10 bathrooms, a doctor's office, general office, kitchen and 7 bedrooms which can accommodate 16-20 beds.
4. Of the remaining facilities offered for the use of the camp mention should be made of the rifle range located about 3 miles from the town which includes targets built into a hillside which provides a natural butt, with

shooting positions of up to 1,000 yards. The rifle range has 6 shooting positions. The targets are set up on a retractable moving target system.

5. For the NCO's training school, we considered a tourist (home) resort with a large dance hall in a scenic area in the forest right on Georgian Bay. If required, this complex of buildings could be rented at any time for \$200 a month.
6. During this preparatory time our storage warehouse received:
 - Training rifles – for 400 soldiers
 - Billeting equipment (beds, mattresses, pillows, blankets) – for 300 soldiers
 - Kitchen equipment – for 600 soldiers
 - Uniforms – for 70-120 men (anticipated as being kept in reserve for repairs. It is expected that the soldiers will arrive in Owen Sound from Windsor in uniform.)
7. The sincere friendly feelings of the local community towards the Polish Army were already seen in the first stages of the development of the Camp. The character of the town outlined below without doubt contributed to this positive response. A number of organizations and groups declared their readiness to work with us. Some of the local organizations, branches of Canadian organizations, turned to their central offices asking them to get in touch with the Polish Army Mission in Ottawa in regards to ongoing co-operation and support through the substantial financial resources of the central offices; this particularly related to a Catholic organization, the "Knights of Columbus" which particularly wanted to get the approval of the military authorities for running recreational, educational and sporting services at the camp. The Canadian Red Cross (their Ontario Head Office) furnished the hospital and infirmary with all the necessary equipment and single bed sheets and even a dental office.

A list of the institutions and individuals who were particularly helpful and positive to the Polish Armed Forces and the camp is provided later.

8. Representatives of the Polish Community in Toronto (the second largest Polish community in Canada numbering around 1,000 people), throughout the whole period of the development of the camp visited Owen Sound and observed the progress made and tried to determine in best way in which

they could help meet the needs of the Camp. In this way the Camp Recreation area was equipped by:

- a) The Parish of St. Stanislaus Kostka in Toronto with Father Stanislaus Puchniak in charge⁴
- b) The readers of the Polish language newspaper "Zwiazkowiec / Alliancer" with editor Dr. Rosinski in charge
- c) The Parish of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Toronto with Father Peter Klita in charge
- d) Several private individuals

Besides the recreation area, the Polish Community in Toronto, through the Polish Canadian Women's Federation, Polish Alliance of Canada bought the furniture for the office of the Camp Commander and 4 other offices.

A Description of the Barracks

"For Polish Freedom", an article which appeared in the "Hartford Courant" on February 15, 1942 gives the following description of the camp:

"On the wall of a large classroom in the Polish Barracks there is a map durably painted on wood, showing how Poland will look after the war, if the Poles know anything about it.

The old furniture factory on Second Avenue has taken a new lease on life since the red and white flag climbed up on its flagstaff and high red letters above the door were painted to proclaim: Oboz T. Kosciuszki, Polish Armed Units"

Under the care of an architect Sergeant Henryk Bonar, 35 labourers spent a month or so tearing away the old interior. Then a large troop of workmen moved in. Now the factory looks very military inside, with immense recreation and dining rooms, many classrooms for every purpose, spacious quarters and messrooms.

As you walk through the doors a Polish eagle, wings spread, greets you. To the left is the office of the officer of the day.

⁴ Fr. Stanley Puchniak OMI was the first Oblate to come to the Archdiocese of Toronto in 1935 at the invitation of Cardinal McGuigan to serve the Polish community. He was the founder of St. Stanislaus-St. Casimir's Polish Parishes Credit Union in Toronto (1945) which is the largest parish based credit union in the world. In 1947, Fr. S. Puchniak became pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Welland. He was instrumental in establishing the first Roman Catholic school in 1953 and the Catholic School board in Welland. He was responsible for building three schools, two in Welland and one in Fenwick.

In the main recreation room there are Canadian, Polish and American flags hung side by side. There is a huge map of France, showing the routes of escape the members of the First Polish Division took. And there are game tables, magazines and writing materials provided by the Knights of Columbus.

Also, on the ground floor are the kitchens, ruled over by a jovial, dark giant whose special pride is a potato peeling machine.

Up narrow circular stairs on the second floor are the quarters of the army. A lean, dark young officer is holding a class, explaining a machine gun.

On the fourth floor the Navy and the Air Force share lecture rooms. There are pictures of ships and boards hung with ropes knotted in nautical ways all over the place.

And right across the road from the barracks, a very small "soda fountain" opened under the Polish name "Ziemianska Cafe". It had a small outdoor patio and was the first sign and of any "Polonization" in Owen Sound. Apparently the Polish soldiers also liked to congregate around the Greek restaurant "Scopis" on 2nd Avenue.

Characteristics of the Town of Owen Sound

Owen Sound sits on Georgian Bay, which in European terms is a huge bay off Lake Huron, and it is located at the base of the picturesque Bruce Peninsula. Just 100 years ago the area of today's town was a silent forest. Specifically, on October 7, 1840 there landed here a newly mandated "land agent," Mr. John Telfer. A village known as Sydenham Village rose up. The village received quite an honour when in 1852 Grey County was established and Sydenham became the county seat. Next through a special act of parliament the village became a town on January 1, 1857 and it was named Owen Sound in memory of an early explorer, Captain W.F. Owen⁵ who first discovered the inlet and the location of today's town, as he travelled around Georgian Bay. Thanks to his glowing reports about the area the government also became interested in this place.

Today Owen Sound is an entirely civilized town. It has a population of around 14,000 inhabitants consisting mainly of people of Scottish and Irish

⁵ Vice Admiral William Fitzwilliam Owen (17 September 1774 – 3 November 1857), was a British naval officer and explorer. He is best known for his exploration of the west and east African coasts, discovery of the Seaflower Channel off the coast of Sumatra and for surveying the Canadian Great Lakes.

descent. A significant number are Catholics. There are no less than 24 churches representing almost all sects. The town has a lively industrial-commercial trade. It has many factories and it is connected with good transportation: a good rail system (both major railway systems, Canadian National and Canadian Pacific have their own stations), and an excellent highway system links the town with all the major centres in the Great Lakes basin. The town already is a renowned tourist and summer holiday centre. Quiet and puritanical it is considered to be home to a prosperous and cultural community. In addition, the town is famous for its patriotism having provided the Canadian Army with a significant number of volunteers in the last war and in this war. The inhabitants are proud of their military traditions; Air Marshall Bishop, V.C. comes from Owen Sound, a very popular air force ace in the previous war, and who is currently in charge of the Commonwealth Air Training program for Canada.⁶ Brigadier T. (Thomas) F. Rutherford, commanding officer of the 1st Armoured Brigade with the 5th Canadian Division, lives here. (The Rutherford Family has a very unique position in town; according to town history, Mr. T. Rutherford was the first citizen of Owen Sound. He arrived here in the fall of 1840 along with the first land agent and worked here at first in a very primitive building).

By a happy coincidence there are ties between Owen Sound and the Polish military formations of the earlier war. Two veterans live here – instructors of the Polish Army that was being formed in America. They are:

Lt.-Col. A.D. Le Pan

Lt.-Col. H.E. Pembroke

Both were officers-instructors of the Polish units in the Polish army training camp in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Today, both are in civilian life – the first works and lives in Toronto, but spends his summers here, the second lives permanently in Owen Sound.

Organizations and Individuals who are particularly well disposed to the Polish Army

A. Representatives of the Town

1. Mayor – Mr. George Marron

⁶ During the Second World War, Bishop was instrumental in setting up and promoting the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

2. Board of Trade – a department of the Town Council competent in all issues relating to the needs of the camp:

Director – R. V. Malloy – Industrial Commissioner. The official town representative on matters dealing with the camp. A quite exceptionally honest person, who did a lot of good work for Poles. [Played a prominent role in the negotiations which preceded the location of the army camp in Owen Sound.]

President: C. Cumming

Executive member: F. Crossley

3. Hospital Board – president Dr. G. Harold Holmes

B. Canadian Red Cross Society

1. Head office in Toronto (for all of Canada) – Mr. Fred W. Routley, M.D. National Commissioner
2. Head office in Toronto (for the Province of Ontario) – Mr. W.S. Caldwell, M.D., Supervisor of Health Services, Toronto
3. Unit in Owen Sound
 - President – J.M. Telford
 - Vice-President – Geo Nesbitt
 - Executive member – F. H. Rabnett
(the person designated as contact with the Camp)

C. Organizations Cooperating with the Army

1. Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire – an organization which donated books in English to the recreation room and which continues to express their readiness for further cooperation
 - President of the 1st Group – Mrs. W.H. Meritt
 - President of the 2nd Group – Miss Ann Baldwin
 - Executive Member – Mrs. Dr. J. P. Middlebro
2. Knights of Columbus, a Catholic Organization (see page 5)
President – Mr. William Hurley

3. Kinsmen Club – an organization which presented the camp with British and Polish flags and which expressed their readiness for further cooperation

President – Mr. Frank Foster

4. Community Y (the local branch of the Y.M.C.A) which presented some games for our recreation room and some writing materials

Director: Mr. George Mosley

D. Paramilitary Organizations

1. Canadian Women Service Force – the unit in Owen Sound expressed their willingness for working further with the Polish Camp. All the members of this organization were at the train station when the first Polish unit arrived here

E. Individuals

1. Chris Georgas – representative of the local Greek community and a director of both film theatres; he offered the soldiers 150 free passes to the movies
 2. James Harrison – owner of the company Messrs. Harrison & Sons – he offered the free use of the drill square located opposite the camp
 3. W. P. Telford, M.P. member of the Dominion parliament
 4. R. Paterson, M.L.A. – member of the provincial parliament
- Both local representatives to parliament have offered their assistance.

During the time we were setting up the camp there were many signs of good will and sympathy towards the Polish Army. One example is:

5. A 5-year old girl, Miss Betty Haswell, 282 13th Street West in Owen Sound, waited for several days on the street for an opportunity to meet the representatives of the Polish Military Mission so as to present a gift of a pair of socks made by her mother for the army.

Representatives of the Polish Community in Toronto actively cooperating in the development of the Camp

1. St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Toronto:

- Pastor Father Puchniak
- Assistant Father Sajewicz
- Father Rabiega

As well as organizations affiliated with the parish (Catholics, Legionnaires, St. Stanislaus School and others)

2. The readers of “Zwiazkowiec”⁷ thanks to the initiative and efforts of the editor, Dr. Wiktor Rusinski⁸

3. Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish

- Pastor Father Klita

The above-mentioned organizations offered to fully furnish the soldier’s recreation area (including a proper library shelving with the newest Polish books).

4. Polish Women’s Circle No. 1, of the Polish Alliance of Canada

- President Mrs. Lucja Wojcik

The Circle offered office furnishings for the Command Headquarters of the Camp.

5. The following individuals offered to help with the decoration of the recreation area walls

- Mr. Leon Maranczak
 - o Offered a series of reproductions (Battle of Grunwald, 3-Maj Constitution, Battle of Racławice, a portrait of the Supreme Commander), and he also worked energetically within the Polish community in Toronto to build interest for the developing Polish Army and the needs of the camp.

- Mr. and Mrs. W.Z. Kalis

Offered a reproduction of the “Miracle on the Vistula” by Jerzy Kossak⁹

⁷ The Polish Alliance Friendly Society in 1933 began to produce its own monthly publication, the Zwiazkowiec (Alliancer). Zwiazkowiec became one of the most popular weekly Polish Canadian newspapers in Canada and in 1938 the Polish Alliance Press was formed to oversee its publication.

⁸ Wiktor Rusinski had a section in the Zwiazkowiec called “Walka o Polske” or the “Battle of Poland”. It included an information section on how to register to join the Polish Army in Canada. Through his column he raised money for furnishing the Canteen in Owen Sound.

Inspection of the Camp and Review of Organizational Work Undertaken before the Arrival of the Camp Command

The Head of the Polish Military Mission in Canada – Colonel Franciszek Arciszewski received daily reports on the status of construction work and on the general progress in development of the camp.

As well, he personally inspected the camp on the following days:

- April 24-26, 1941
- May 15, 1941
- June 15, 1941

On May 15, 1941, an inspection of the camp was carried out by Colonel Leon Mitkiewicz-Żółtek, deputy to the Chief of Staff at the Headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief in England.

While it was being prepared the camp twice played the role of a transitional gathering station for volunteers who came here directly.

- 1) On June 14, 1941 a group of 23 volunteers reported here and who had come from areas of Soviet occupation by way of Japan. In this group there were 8 officers and 15 privates

From this group:

Of those reporting as officers:

Two were accepted to the Polish Army by Gen. Duch (conditionally, pending a final decision from the Supreme Commanders Headquarters.)

They were:

- Captain Emanuel Distler, doctor
- 2nd Lieutenant Edward Cedrowski

Among the privates:

- 13 departed on June 18 to the muster station in Windsor for recruitment purposes
- 1 left the camp voluntarily not wanting to serve in the army
- 1 was admitted in August 1941 after his arrival at Owen Sound by the Camp Commander

⁹ Jerzy Kossak was a Polish realist painter specializing in military scenes; son of painter Wojciech Kossak and grandson of painter Juliusz Kossak — a third-generation artist from a well-known family of painters, writers and poets

- 2) On June 24, 1941 a further group of 26 volunteers reported. They had also come from Soviet occupied areas by way of Japan. In this group one reported as an officer and 25 as privates.

From this number

- a) Officer – 2nd Lieutenant Edward Roch

Was accepted in the Polish Army in August 1941 by Gen. Duch (conditionally, pending a final decision from Supreme Command Headquarters)

- b) From the privates:

- 18 departed on July 18, 1941 for the muster station in Windsor after a medical check-up in Owen Sound
- 6 left the camp on the same day because they were determined to be unfit for military duty following the medical check-up
- 1 was handed over to the Canadian authorities on July 16, 1941 for refusing recruitment and taking the medical check-up

July 27, 1941 [This is the first dated entry in the Camp Chronicle]

Today Lieutenant-Colonel Witold Sujkowski arrived in camp – designated as Camp Commander and of the Training Battalion which is to be formed here. He also arrived with an administrative team prepared to take over the camp and prepare it for the arrival of the army. The team consists of:

Captain Eryk Kreutzinger (int. z.w.s.w), Camp Quartermaster

Lieutenant Henryk Balcerzak, Camp Manager

Lieutenant Dr. Zbigniew Rychlowski, designated as the camp doctor

Warrant Officer Wladyslaw Sroka-Sroczynski, officer in charge of food supplies

Lance Sergeant Albin Socha, NCO sport

Lance Sergeant Augustyn Stercel, cook

Lance Sergeant Edward Szufnara, cook

Lance Sergeant Andrzej Katelbach, quartermaster personnel

Lance Corporal Bronislaw (Boleslaw) Orzechowski, quartermaster personnel

Rifleman Wacław Gumiela, ambulance driver

Rifleman Czesław Bak, driver, passenger cars

This team is to take over the camp from Lieut. Dr. Bonor and from the town administration and is to prepare the camp for the arrival of the army.

August 6, 1941

Today around 23:00 the first transport of enlisted men for the Camp arrived from Windsor.

The make-up of the unit includes:

1. Captain Mieczyslaw Malak
2. Captain Zygmunt Wegorek
3. Captain Doctor Emanuel Distler*
4. Lieutenant Kazimierz Paszkowski
5. Lieutenant Jozef Barczyk
6. Lieutenant Mieczyslaw Dziurzynski
7. 2nd Lieutenant Jan Scazighino
8. 2nd Lieutenant Edward Cedrowski*
9. 2nd Lieutenant Edward Roch*

*Note: These officers were returning to the camp having passed their medical check-ups. They had already been at the camp.

10. Aspirant Rudolf Bartel
11. Staff Sergeant Jozef Kolek
12. Arms Master Bronislaw Lukasiewicz
13. Sergeant Cadet Jan Meysztowicz
14. Sergeant Cadet Robert Ring
15. Sergeant Cadet Michal Wisniewski
16. Lance Sergeant Fryderyk Kachel
17. Lance Sergeant Tadeusz Gorski
18. Lance Sergeant Albin Socha
19. Corporal Tadeusz Dunajski
20. Corporal Aleksander Moscicki
21. Corporal Stanislaw Zalenski
22. Corporal Marian Lange
23. Corporal Edward Utratny
24. Corporal Benjamin Arabczyk
25. Corporal Berek Nutkiewicz

Note: the ranks of this NCO's were later confirmed through an order from Polish Army Command

26. Rifleman Stanislaw Czyzewski
27. Rifleman Marcel Landau
28. Rifleman Maks Rozensztrauch

29. Rifleman Jan Klek
30. Rifleman Wacław Szewczak
31. Rifleman Ignacy Stempień
32. Rifleman Jeremi Czernik
33. Rifleman Zdzisław Musiał
34. Rifleman Jan Bobek
35. Rifleman Franciszek Harasimiuk
36. Rifleman Bronisław Panek
37. Rifleman Paweł Skiba
38. Rifleman Szlama Podchlebny
39. Rifleman Kazimierz Kalinowski
40. Rifleman Kazimierz Strojwas
41. Rifleman Stanisław Wadynski
42. Rifleman Roman Milczarek
43. Rifleman Józef Paszko
44. Rifleman Tadeusz Kut
45. Rifleman Józef Skrabonia
46. Rifleman Henryk Vekomski
47. Rifleman Bronisław Socha
48. Rifleman Wacław Majchrzak
49. Rifleman Jan Kosidowski
50. Rifleman Józef Balajewicz
51. Rifleman Sylwester Brzeski
52. Rifleman Adam Nizioł
53. Rifleman Kazimierz Dziewonski
54. Rifleman Józef Surmacz
55. Rifleman Władysław Sala
56. Rifleman Heszal Krugman

The new arrivals were greeted by the Camp Commander. Also, many of the local civilian population welcomed the soldiers at the station where a large number had gathered. A special attraction was a women's military unit (Canadian Women Service Force) which was waiting at the station.

Next, our unit marched to the nearby barracks, where having had dinner, it went to rest.

Our officers were provided with accommodations in private homes in the town.

August 7, 1941

This day was spent as per the following schedule:

8:00 am - reveille

8:00 - 9:00 getting dressed and other chores

9:00 - 9:30 breakfast

9:30 – 10:15 Preparing for the Doctor's visit

10:30 – Company inspection by the Camp Commander

11:00 – 11:30 NCO meeting in the Canteen

11:30 – Officers meeting

The theme of these meetings had to do with the relationship with the local population and the Camp Commander's instructions to the work companies at the camp

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 14:00 Free Time

14:00 – 17:00 Camp chores

17:00 – 18:00 Dinner

18:00 – 20:30 Free Leave

20:45 Tattoo

21:00 Lights out

Also, working in the HQ, Camp Adjutant Captain Wegorek started to establish a work plan and work requirements.

August 8, 1941

The first actual day of work in the camp. The unit known as 1st Training Company does not yet number as much as a platoon. This company is looked after mainly by one of the younger officers of the company, Lieutenant Kazimierz Paszkowski, while its commanding officer, Captain Mieczyslaw Malak, has overall responsibility for the company, but now works primarily with the Camp Commander in preparing a program for the upcoming training.

The officers, whose standing in the army has not yet been sufficiently determined by the Supreme Commander's HQ dress as civilians while they work:

Captain Distler – in the role of head camp doctor is preparing the infirmary in the barracks and the hospital provided for us by the town.

Lieutenant Dziurzynski – assigned for now to assist Captain Malak with training work

2nd Lieutenant Roch and 2nd Lieutenant Cedrowski have been assigned to assist the Quartermaster

The Camp Command has begun to write the first camp order-of-the day beginning with the appeal by General Duch included in the order from the HQ of the Polish Army in Canada.

August 9, 1941

The army is on exercises. They are installing telephones in the HQ. The Adjutant is working on issuing an order identifying the temporary camp command.

The barracks were visited by Brigadier Rutherford, Commander of the 1st Armoured Brigade of the 5th Canadian Division in Camp Borden.¹⁰ He came for a weekend to Owen Sound and hearing about the Poles he came to see them. While here he issued an invitation to our Camp Commander to visit Camp Borden, which is recognized as one of the largest Canadian camps.



Canadian Brigadier General T. Rutherford stands in front of a M4 Sherman tank

In the evening, the following arrived at our camp from Windsor:

- Father Dean Ludwik Bombas – to say Mass on the following day
 - Lieutenant-Colonel Sapper Turulski – who fulfills the function of supervising construction projects under Polish Army Command.
- The barracks building is still undergoing major and minor renovations (the floors are buckling, the central heating isn't hooked up, room dividers are needed between the rooms, storage space etc)

¹⁰ Brigadier-General Thomas John Rutherford, CBE, E.D. fought at Passchendaele, during WWI and was the only officer in his company not killed or wounded. During WWII with The Grey and Simcoe Foresters. The 1st Battalion was mobilized on 1 June 1940 and arrived at Camp Borden on 28 June, with a strength of 24 officers and 936 other ranks. By 1945, Rutherford was promoted to Brigadier & appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

- Major Doctor Pajak – head of sanitation for HQ. Came to familiarize himself with the camp and to inspect the local sanitation situation.

August 10, 1941

First Sunday. A local parish priest – Rev. Father Sheridan, who is very friendly towards us, has provided us with a Catholic church - St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church for our devotions, which will be led by Father Dean Bombas at 9:30. A lot of local people also took part in the Mass. Father Sheridan endeared himself to all our hearts when at the moment when our chaplain stepped out after Mass – he stepped out in front of the balustrade and said in Polish – “Witam Was Zolnierze” ‘ “Welcome Soldiers.”

Father Bombas and Major Pajak left that evening. However, Captain Ciepielowski stayed for several more hours at the camp. He is the education officer from Windsor who held discussions with our Camp Commander, the Adjutant, and the education officer for our camp - Lance Sergeant Cadet Jan Meysztowicz.

August 11

Monday – The Company begins its first regular training week according to the following schedule:

| Time | 8:00-8:30 | 9:00 11:15 | 9:30 10:30 | | 14:00 14:45 | 15:00 15:45 | 16:00 16:45 |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Mon Aug 11 | Gymnastics or swimming | Drill Lesson 4 | Combat Training Lesson 1 Armoured Lesson 1 | Report, Dinner, Break, | Assigning Arms | Arms Cleaning & Maintenance | Medical Check-up Discussion on hygiene |
| Tues Aug 12 | Gymnastics or swimming | Combat Training Lesson 2 | Drill Lesson 5 | Report, Dinner, Break, | Arms Training Lesson 1 | Internal Service Lesson 2 | Drill Lesson 5 |
| Wed Aug 13 | Gymnastics or swimming | Drill Lesson 6 | Rifle Training Lesson 1 | Report, Dinner, Break, | Grenade Training Lesson 2 & Bayonet Training Lesson 1 | Drill Lesson 7 | Arms Training Lesson 2 |
| Thurs Aug 14 | Gymnastics or swimming | Drill Lesson 7 & 8 | | Report, Dinner, Break, | Internal Service Lesson 3 | Arms Training Lesson 3 | Drill Lesson 9 |
| Fri Aug | Gymnastics or | Drill Lesson 10 | Combat Training Lesson 3 | Report, Dinner, | Grenade Training | Doctor's discussion | Historical Discussion |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 15 | swimming | | Armoured Lesson 3 | Break, | Lesson 3 & Bayonet Training Lesson 2 | on Hygiene | (Soldiers' Day) |
| Sat Aug 16 | Gymnastics or swimming | Supplementing the week's training | | Report, Dinner, Break, | Bathing | Cleaning up & Laundry | |

As the numbers of the lessons indicate, these are the beginnings of a soldier's training. Our training difficulties are great, because we don't have the required equipment. Actually, we still don't have anything. Today the company ceremoniously received their arms, and Captain Malak made an appropriate speech to the company. Unfortunately, these rifles are old junk, with which you can't train, never mind shoot.

The state of our arms is as follows:

- a) On August 6, they delivered from Windsor, 13 Bren light machine guns, 303 calibre, fully outfitted with two stands (bipods). These are modern weapons.
- b) Waiting for us at the camp were:
 - 60 Canadian Ross long rifles [Generally used in WWI]
 - 59 bayonets
 - 59 leather holsters for bayonets
 - 59 leather cleaners for bayonets
 - 60 rifle belts
 - 60 oilers for the rifles
 - 60 gun-bore cleaners
 - 340 Canadian Ross short rifles model 1905
 - 340 bayonets
 - 340 leather holsters for the bayonets
 - 336 leather cleaners

The Long Rifles are still useful for rifleman and bayonet training but not for actual shooting. The Short Rifles of which we have the most are useful neither for combat or for training. Some of them, once we sort through them, may be useful for drill practice and basic arms handling.

August 12, 1941

This morning Lieutenant-Colonel Turulski left, but Captain Marian Lisowski – an information officer from HQ, arrived.

Lance Sergeant Adam Zurowski and his wife are visiting the camp. They came from Great Britain. They left England on the first convoy after ours, but their voyage was considerably longer than ours.

The Camp Command set a schedule:

- Swieto Zolnierza (Soldier's Day) was moved from August 15 to Sunday, August 17
- The town of Owen Sound is preparing an official welcome for the Polish Army. The welcome is to take place on September 1st – Labour Day on this continent. For us it will be the second anniversary of the start of the current war

The local members of the Knights of Columbus have declared their readiness to put up a building for a recreation hall. We accept this declaration with great joy – the matter is to be referred to their central office where it will be discussed in detail.

August 13, 1941

Captain Marian Lisowski departed; Major Tysowski [Head Quartermaster for the Polish Forces in Canada] came to take control of intendent affairs

Representatives of a local organization known as the Daughters of the Empire, visited the Camp Commander to invite our soldiers to a garden party.

Brigadier Rutherford asked our Commanding Officer and our officers to visit Camp Borden tomorrow.

The Camp Commander issued a fundamental Organization Order, which establishes the organization of camp life and the functions of the different cadres.

Camp Organization

Camp Commander: Lieutenant Colonel Sujkowski

A) Camp Command and Training Unit

1) Adjutants

Adjutant: Captain Wegorek

Personnel reporting to the adjutant:

- a) Training officer – 2nd Lieutenant Scazighino
- b) Education officer – Lance Sergeant Meysztowicz

- c) NCO Sport – Lance Sergeant Socha – who also performs the function of treasurer
- d) Adjutant's Office – Staff Sergeant Kolek
Writer – vacant (Rifleman Rozensztrauch will fill the role until it can be filled on a full-time basis.)

2) Quartermasters

Quartermaster: Captain Kreutzinger

Personnel reporting to the Quartermaster:

- a) Business officer – Lieut. Balcerzak
And his personnel:
NCO bookkeeping – Lance Corporal Orzechowski
NCO supplies – Lance Sergeant Zurowski
- b) Food Officer – Warrant Officer Sroka-Sroczynski
And his personnel:
Kitchen head – Corporal Szufnara
Kitchen help – Riflemen Sala and Paszko
- c) Barracks Administrator – Lance Sergeant Dr. Bonar
- d) Arms NCO – Master of Arms Lukasiewicz
- e) Vehicles NCO – Corporal Katelbach
And his personnel:
Rifleman Bak – chauffeur personnel automobiles
Rifleman Gruszecki & Gumiel – chauffeur personnel automobiles
- f) Treasurer – Lance Sergeant Socha, who is also the NCO in charge of camp sports

3) Head Camp Doctor

Captain Dr. Distler

Orderly – Corporal Lange

4) Camp's Officer's Mess

Cook – Lance Sergeant Stercel

Cook's Assistant – Rifleman Nizioł

B. Camp Subunits and Training Unit

1st Training Company (cadre)

Company Commander – Captain Malak

Junior Officer - Lieut. Paszkowski
 Junior Officer - Lieut. Barczyk
 Company Chief – Aspirant Bartel
 NCO Business – Lance Sergeant Kachel
 NCO Arms – Lance Sergeant Gorski
 Team Leader – Lance Sergeant Cadet Ring
 Team Leader – Corporal Dunajski
 Team Leader – Corporal Zalenski
 Team Leader – Corporal Moscicki
 Team Leader – Corporal Utratny

C. Unassigned

- Major Adolf Ferber
- Lieut. Dziurzynski – at the disposition of the 1st Company Commander
- 2nd Lieut. Cedrowski - at the disposition of the 1st Company Commander
- 2nd Lieut. Roch – at the disposition of the Quartermaster
- Captain Distler – Camp Doctor

Status of the Camp on August 13, 1941

| | Officers | NCO | Riflemen |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----|----------|
| Camp Command and Administration | 6 | 9 | 6 |
| 1 st Training Company | 3 | 12 | 28 |
| Unassigned | 3 | | |
| Total | 12 | 21 | 34 |

August 14, 1941

This morning the following left for Camp Borden: The Camp Commander in the company of Captain Malak, Captain Wegorek, Lieut. Barczyk, and the Canadian Captain Smith, who lives in Owen Sound, has his store here and at the same time is responsible for the recruitment centre.

Camp Borden, about 80 miles from Owen Sound in a south-easterly direction is one of the largest Canadian military camps. The 5th Canadian Division is stationed at the camp and it is also a major air force centre. The 5th Division is commanded by Major General E. W. Sansom, D.S.O. [Distinguished Service Order,

1919]¹¹ and the 1st Armoured Brigade is commanded by Brigadier T. F. Rutherford, E. D.



Lieutenant-General E.W. Sansom, General Officer Commanding II Canadian Corps, April 12, 1943

The schedule for the visit went as follows:

Around 11:00 a.m. - arrival at the HQ of Brigadier Rutherford, followed by a conversation till 12:00

12:00 – 13:00 visiting the kitchen and the soldier's mess

13:00 – 14:00 lunch in the brigade officer's mess

14:00 – 15:00 visiting the soldier's quarters and observing the activities of individual units. As well they visited the hall and the equipment for training tank gunners. This last was especially interesting for us and was something new. In the hall on a huge table was a shooting range simulator with moving and non-moving targets. The gunner can sit at the table and feel like he is in a tank and shoots with something like cones. The simulator can be activated so that it begins to shake and lurch so it feels like you are driving the tank on actual terrain.

15:00 – 18:00 a sapper's demonstration which for this day was organized for the officers in HQ. The demonstration featured a platoon joining a brigade's sapper company. The platoon stepped out fully equipped along with their vehicles including 6 motorcycles, 2 armoured cars with radios and 9 heavy trucks for transporting equipment and personnel.

Next this platoon demonstrated certain sapper skills on the training ground using machine-driven saws and drills, jacks for lifting vehicles, and equipment for dealing with explosive materials.

After seeing the demonstrations and having supper in the Brigade Officer's Mess, we returned to Owen Sound.

¹¹ Ernest William Sansom, CB DSO (December 18, 1890 – October 18, 1982) was a Canadian Lieutenant-General who was the 3rd ranking commander of Canadian troops in Europe in 1944 during World War II. He was made a Companion of Order of the Bath in 1945.

After returning to Owen Sound, the Commander along with his officers dropped in on the still-ongoing garden party. The party took place in the home of Mrs. Mitchell, who belongs to high society in town, took it upon herself to introduce us to the local community.

August 15, 1941

The celebrations for Swieto Zolnierza / Soldier's Day were moved to Sunday, August 17th. Today the education officer just gave one of his usual talks.

Captain Malak went to Windsor. The education officer in Windsor, Captain Ciepielowski is organizing half-hour radio programs during which one of the officers gives a short talk. Captain Malak went to participate in such a program.

Our local social relationships are starting to grow. A former officer from our army during WWI, organized by General Haller – Colonel Le Pan, our good friend and protector visited us today and had dinner with our Camp Commander and his officers.

August 17, 1941

Sunday. Mass at 10:30 a.m. Today we are celebrating Soldier's Day. We are having a shared soldier's dinner in the barracks. At dinner we had some civilian guests – Poles from the United States: an older retired gentleman from Cleveland, Mr. Wesolowski, 2 ladies, one of which is with her husband. Both have sons of draft age, young men, but they came without them, as they are reluctant to give them up to the army.

Today in Windsor there were great celebrations. Large numbers came from the Polish communities in the United States to welcome the Polish soldiers who came from beyond the oceans. There are to be crowds of people and the whole celebration is intended to launch the recruitment drive. [The first big recruitment rally took place from August 15-17th and is reputed to have attracted ten thousand Poles from across the United States and Canada.]

After dinner the soldiers had a pleasant trip to the shores of Lake Huron to beautiful Sauble Beach. The trip was made possible thanks to the local Kinsmen Club, whose members drove our soldiers to the beach in their private cars.

August 18, 1941

Monday – this is the second regular week of work for our 1st Training Company. It is very quiet in our camp, since we are still such a small group.

Today we opened an officer's mess on the ground floor in the building housing Command Headquarters. Until now the officers had a temporary table area on the first floor of the barracks where we will now locate a mess for NCOs. The officer's mess had been taken care of by Captain Distler, who voluntarily, and amateurishly took on this job. Now we can choose our own mess management.

August 19, 1941

From early morning a reporter from the "Weekly Star" in Toronto has been kicking around our camp. He wants to write a larger piece for his paper about us and our camp. We are still a place of great interest to the local press, which writes something about us almost daily, as well as the papers from Toronto. There is a local representative of a large, daily paper from Toronto – the Toronto Star, who is engaged in an ongoing struggle with the local press, of course, against a backdrop of professionalism and competition.

An officer's meeting confirmed the bylaws for the officer's club and chose the following:

a) Club Executive:

- Captain Malak – president
- Captain Distler – manager
- Lieut. Barczyk – secretary
- 2nd Lieutenant Scazighino – treasurer

b) Audit Committee

- Lieut. Paszkowski, later changed to Captain Gawdzik
- Lieut. Balcerzak

Captain Malak returned from Windsor and brought 7 riflemen for the 1st Company as well as some more modern arms, namely:

- 60 Lee-Enfield rifles, which rifles are currently in use by the British army, as well as 60 bayonets as well as an appropriate number of cleaning tools. There were no belts with these rifles, but this is still a major improvement since we can use these at the shooting range. Master armourer Lukasiewicz is pleased. He sent 40 useless Ross rifles back to Windsor. The armourer is organizing his own system for controlling the use of arms and other related equipment for training.

August 20, 1941

The Camp Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Sujkowski and Lieut. Barczyk are going to Toronto. Tomorrow, our officers with General Duch in charge will be presented to Prince George, the Duke of Kent. Next Lieutenant-Colonel Sujkowski, along with Barczyk will travel to London to take part in celebrations organized by the local Polish community for Polish Soldier's Day.

August 23, 1941

Two officers and 33 privates came from Windsor. These are a cadre assigned to a new company with riflemen who qualified for the air force. They will go through basic training with us at the camp until the time they will be sent to air training centres in Canada or in Great Britain. As of today, we have formed a new sub-unit at the camp known as the "2nd Air Force Company" from the new arrivals.

The makeup of the company is:

- Flight Lieut. Tadeusz Gawdzik – company commander
- Flying Officer Jan Dempniak – Junior officer
- Aspirant Edward Borowicz – company chief
- Leading Aircraftman Kazimierz Duszynski – NCO management
- Leading Aircraftman Aloizy Skorupski – NCO arms
- Corporal Cadet Jan Korona – instructor
- Leading Aircraftman Janusz Somogyi – instructor
- Leading Aircraftman Kazimierz Kandula - instructor
- Leading Aircraftman Erwin Wojak – instructor
- 24 aircraftmen qualified for the air force

Along with these men two riflemen also came to join the 1st Training Company

Status of the Camp

| | Officers | NCO | Riflemen |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Camp Command and management | 6 | 9 | 7 |
| 1 st Training Company | 3 | 12 | 35 |
| 2 nd Air Force Company | 2 | 7 | 24 |
| Unassigned | 3 | | |
| Total | 14 | 28 | 66 |

Corporal Katelbach left today, transferred to the disposition of Major Tysowski in Ottawa. Lance Sergeant Zurowski will take his place as NCO vehicles,

while the responsibilities for the canteens were assigned to Lance Corporal Orzechowski.

August 24, 1941

Sunday. The camp welcomes a group from the Polish community in Toronto. These are the parishioners from St. Stanislaus Kostka. The group is led by Father Jan Sajewicz¹² and numbers around 140 people. Their visit includes touring the barracks, a dance in the recreation hall and a soldier's supper.

August 25, 1941

The visitors from Toronto are visiting with the Camp Commander: Dr. Rosinski, President Piekarz, President Malacieszak. They are discussing further cooperation between the Polish community and the camp. They are promising material support.

August 26, 1941

From the representative of the Ford factory – Mr. Cummings, we received in the form of an interest-free loan, a 2-ton Ford dump truck. We will use it to train drivers.

August 27, 1941

Representatives of the Knights of Columbus visited our camp. They looked over the barracks and are considering building a common room for the soldiers large enough to accommodate 700 people. Surprisingly, it should take 2 weeks to build from the time a final decision to proceed is made. This decision has to be confirmed by their head office in Ottawa. They will write to them immediately!

2nd Lieutenant Cedrowski is going to Toronto. In Toronto, Major Tysowski is looking into getting "rogatywki" (Polish military caps) and special forage caps. Cedrowski, who as a civilian was an expert in these matters, is going to help with this matter.

The Commander has transferred:

- 2nd Lieutenant Cedrowski - to the 1st Training Company
- 2nd Lieutenant Roch – to the 2nd Air Company

August 28, 1941

¹² For the fascinating story of Father Jan Sajewicz see <http://www.polishwinnipeg.com/przezboje/Ks.J.Sajewicz.htm>

We received an allocation of credits for the month of September. The total for the camp is \$8,094.35.

The specifics are as follows:

| | |
|--|------------|
| 1) Pay for the officers and privates | \$4,663. |
| 2) Pay for civilian personnel | ----- |
| 3) Service Travel | \$100. |
| 4) Food | \$582. |
| 5) Uniforms | \$127. |
| 6) Accommodations & office supplies | \$494. |
| 7) Building maintenance and supplies (including renovations for \$1,000 & cleaning for \$530) | \$1,143.35 |
| 8) Health care | \$215. |
| 9) Training | \$120. |
| 10) Advertising & promotion | \$50. |
| 11) Miscellaneous | ---- |
| 12) Unforeseen expenses | ---- |
| Total: | \$8.094.35 |

The allocation for food amounts to 31 cents per soldier per day

Flight Lieut. Rogalski came from Windsor in order to set up a training program for the company of airmen.

For training purposes, we are starting to organize an engine room in the barracks. Lieut. Barczyk as a tanker is in charge. Many local garages, without any difficulties, are supplying us with all kinds of engine parts.

August 29, 1941

Another team of soldiers arrived from Windsor:

- 2nd Lieut. Air force, engineer Boleslaw Wisnicki who was assigned to the 2nd Air Force company
- 13 riflemen assigned to the 1st Training Company
- 14 aircraftmen assigned to the 2nd Air Force Company
- 2 riflemen assigned to work in the kitchen

Also, from Windsor, came the dog "Hektor" a gift to our army. Hektor was made the responsibility of the 2nd Air Force Company. [Hektor, a greyish-black mutt had been assigned volunteer No. 13. Story goes that

he had special privileges, including not having to explain to the Captain, why he came in late in the evening.]

As of today, a system of officers in charge was set up in the camp. For now, given that we still only have a few officers, the officer in charge will only be in place from reveille till the final tattoo.

At the same time a barracks emergency unit was established consisting of 5 riflemen.

August 30, 1941

Three troop carriers were delivered to the camp from Windsor. They were shipped here by train under the direction and cost of the Ford company which builds these units in Windsor.

Father Bombas also came for tomorrow – Sunday. Our delegation left for Toronto to participate in a celebration organized by Toronto's Polish community. Lieut. Dempniak and three privates will attend.

August 31, 1941

It is pouring today. Our army can't go to church today. Only a small delegation went in our ambulance.

September 1, 1941

The second anniversary of the start of the war. Labour Day in Canada and in the United States. Today marks the official welcoming of the Polish forces by the administration and Town of Owen Sound.

At noon General Duch arrived with his adjutant Lieut. Czajkowski, 2nd Lieut. Glinski – the liaison officer in Ottawa, Major Scott, Canadian liaison officer, Consul-General Podoski¹³ and Consul Brzezinski from Montreal. All of them are in the Officer's Club for lunch and from there they will go to the celebration which will take place in a big hall (rain was expected, but it turned out to be a nice day) in the local arena.

The program for the celebration is as follows:

14:00 The arrival of Gen. Duch at the arena and a review of the assembled units: our 1st Training Company and 2nd Air Force Company, a Canadian army unit, a company of the Canadian Women's Service Force, a scout troupe, and a Canadian Bagpipe Band.

¹³ Before the war, Wiktor Podoski was an advisor to the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Most of the town's people will be in the stands along with quite a few Poles, since a large group, along with a very good dance ensemble, came from Toronto for the celebration.

14:15 – 15:00

Speeches: First the Town's Mayor will speak and will graciously present Gen. Duch with two large keys, one to the gates of the city and the other to the hospital, which the town has made available to our army.

Next Gen. Duch will speak in Polish, and his adjutant will translate his talk into English.

15:00 – 16:00

The artistic program: music, choir and dances by the Polish dance ensemble from Toronto – a part of the program which really appealed to the local folk.

16:00 The General travels to the hospital, where he will formally accept it for the use of the Polish soldiers, from the Town Council.

At this time, the military units leave the arena and are dispersed; our units proceed to the barracks where they will assist with the final parts of the official program

16:30 The Kinsmen Club presents Gen. Duch with a Polish flag which will be raised over the building.

Now all the official guests headed by Gen. Duch will visit the barracks and sign the Camp guest book.

19:00 A huge dinner-banquet presented by the town for Gen. Duch, the Polish officers and for official guests. Several excellent talks took place and for us the best and the warmest was the talk given by Colonel LePan, in which he emphasized the worthiness of the Polish soldiers, and in which he told all the citizens of Owen Sound, that it should be seen as a great honour for them to host the Poles, as well as being an opportunity to learn a great many things from us.

An excellent presentation was made by General McQuaig, representing the Canadian Armed Forces, and Commander of Camp Borden, in which he declared full support for us in any way possible. He was representing the command of the Toronto Military District and the command of the 5th Canadian Division at Camp Borden.

A beautiful greeting was read from our friend Brigadier Rutherford, commander of the 1st Armoured Brigade of the 5th Division.

There was also a letter read from Mr. C. Cummings, President of the Board of Trade, who expressed his regrets at not being able to take part in the celebrations welcoming the Poles to his hometown. In his letter he paid tribute to our deeds in our fight for freedom and justice, saying that the Poles serve as an inspiration to all other armies.

Consul-General Podoski spoke in impeccable English and very much on topic and finally our General spoke recognizing the Polish contribution to the current war and noting our good work.

The ceremony came to an end around 22:00.

During the events in the arena, following the artistic presentations, Gen. Duch, assisted by Captain Rogalski, presented air wings to the men of the Air Force Company. Each item is to be sewn onto the sleeve of their uniforms, just below "Poland". This was a great event for our boys, as they immediately felt they were airmen, just as if they each had been put in a plane.

September 2, 1941

In the office of the camp commander – Mr. Frank Foster, President of the Kinsmen Club presented Gen. Duch with a portrait of King George. This portrait was hung in a place of honour in the camp's Officer's Mess.

On the initiative of Colonel LePan today we have a sherry-party at the home of Mrs. Mitchell in honour of Gen Duch. The cream of town society and our officer's corps took part in this event. After the party there was a dinner in the home of the Colonel LePan.

September 3, 1941

This morning Gen. Duch, Father Bombas and 2nd Lieut. Glinski left the camp for Toronto.

In the evening, the officer corps, are preparing dinner in their mess for Mrs. and Colonel Le Pan. These great friends are departing from Owen Sound where they spent the summer and are returning to their occupations in Toronto. We want to express our thanks to them for their great good will towards us and to be able to host. Local reporters took a lot of photos and the next day in the local newspaper there appeared a very positive article describing the role and the services of Colonel LePan with photographs of the occasion of his being hosted by the Poles.

September 4, 1941

On this day the press secretary of the President of the United States issued the following statement: *“The President announced that he had authorized the transfer of various defence articles to the government of Poland under the Lend-Lease Act and declared that the gallant resistance of the forces of the government of Poland is vital to the defence of the United States. Polish troops are now training in Canada for action overseas. Under the President’s order machine guns, sub-machine guns, rifles, artillery equipment, trucks and other supplies will be sent to those troops in the near future.”*

September 5, 1941

This morning Lieut.-Colonel Sujkowski with officers Lieut. Balcerzak and Lieut. Barczyk travelled to Camp Borden. After the declarations by those in charge of Canadian Armed Forces on September 1st, when they welcomed us to Owen Sound, we are going to try and find out what we can actually expect from them. The result of our visit was that we were warmly welcomed and Gen. McQuaig promised that he would communicate with the specific unit commanders at the camp in order to develop a concrete list of items which they could provide for us. After determining these specifics, they will let us know.

Petty Officer Sikorski came from Windsor, sent here by the head of our Navy Mission. They want to set up preliminary naval training centre with basic military training at our camp, and eventually provide basic training on the water. For this purpose, they are to provide two boats so that we can teach rowing.

A group of 33 riflemen arrived from Windsor.

- To the 1st Training Company – 4 riflemen
- To the 2nd Air Force Company – 29 aircraftmen

We received quite a lot of varied equipment from the States, such as 64 mechanized vehicles, 2,000 rounds of ammunition, blankets etc.

This evening our whole officer’s corps was at the home of Colonel and Mrs. LePan. This is their last night in Owen Sound.

September 6, 1941

Early this morning, a group of our soldiers headed out to Toronto for an annual, national exhibition. This group was led by Captain Gawdzik and Lieut. Dempniak along with nine NCO’s and 28 riflemen. Everyone who wanted to go

went, since it depended on the cost – \$2.50 per person for travel by rented taxis, and everyone had to pay for themselves. They returned late at night, very tired, but very pleased. Besides visiting the interesting exhibition, they were guests of the local Polish community in Toronto, which as always, welcomed them warmly.

September 8, 1941

Lieut. Dziurzynski was transferred to camp command to help with the training unit.

The first desertions from our camp have begun. This phenomenon will not be uncommon in the future, maybe more common than usual, it was known in our army in Poland and it can be understood due to our special conditions here. Namely, these are volunteers who join the army for various reasons, not always for patriotic reasons (Poles) or looking for adventure in our famous army (foreigners). While these “reasons” change with the passing of time, so their decisions to serve in the army change also. The fact that they sign a declaration is not a sufficient check, especially if their morale is not very high.

Other factors also come into play such as:

- The spoiling of young people through the exceptional abundance found in this land. The rigours of army life, even though considerably more comfortable than what we had in Poland, may still be too uncomfortable for them.
- A lack of military-combat traditions on this peaceful continent, so different from the continual bloodshed in Europe. This is also connected with -
- A lack of the moral imperative brought about by the direct threat to your country by an enemy. On this continent in spite of the ongoing rumours and warnings that war could come to America, and considering that contemporary military capabilities make it easy to cross an ocean – they still feel safe here.
- A complete lack of any means of enforcement on our side. We are guests here in this land. We do not have any military police, or any type of military tribunal. Trying to track down deserters with the aid of someone else’s apparatus here in Canada is very difficult and slow, while doing so in the States it is practically impossible. This state of affairs is obviously a result of the spirit of liberal democracy which exists here.

Our first deserters were:

- Rifleman Daniel Karwata from the 2nd Air Force Company; he was granted leave to go home to Chicago and he was to return on the 8th instead of returning, he sent a letter explaining that since he had to look after his wife and child, he had decided that he would not return to the army.
- Rifleman Charles Thompson from the 1st Training Company left on his own without giving a reason. From feedback from his friends we can presume that he left because of pressure from his mother who was very much against him joining the army.

September 9, 1941

A significant shuffle of NCOs – see Order of the Day No. 12 – the camp continues to grow and requires positive changes.

Captain Malak takes on the responsibility for training equipment. Lukasiwicz (our arms master) is assigned to help along with carpenter rifleman Majchrzak. As far as training equipment goes we find ourselves in a very difficult situation – we don't have anything, we have to make the simplest things ourselves. Besides, even the Canadians are not much better off than us in this regard.

The camp commander has set up a weekly training meeting, at which besides training, will provide an opportunity to discuss several day-to-day issues involving life at the camp.

September 10, 1941

Lieut.-Col. Zenon Wzacny¹⁴, Lieut.-Col. Turulski¹⁵, Lieut.-Col. Jakubowski, Major Tysowski and Captain Lankiewicz came to the camp today. They all came because of the "Lend and Lease Bill." We – the Polish army in Canada are to receive a significant amount of equipment from the States through this Bill. General Duch has decided that this equipment should be housed in our camp. This raises the serious question as to where this equipment can be housed. After some discussion it was determined that mechanized vehicles should be kept in the buildings, which the town has lent to us, while the rest of the materials (arms, uniforms, supplies) will be stored in the barracks. There remains an open question as to where to store ammunition which requires special housing. We are considering building a special powder-magazine at the shooting range or housing

¹⁴ Colonel Zenon Wzacny was General Duch's Chief of Staff

¹⁵ https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludwik_Turulski

them at Camp Borden where such facilities must already exist. Of course, this depends on the Canadians agreeing to this.

September 11, 1941

The team with Lieut.-Col. Zenon Wzacny in charge left the camp.

September 12, 1941

The following came to the camp from Windsor:

- Lieut. Kurzeja – permanent assignment – the Commander assigned him to the 2nd Air Force Company
- A navy platoon of 28 men with Chief Petty Officer Sikorski in charge
- Several volunteers to the air force and armoured

September 14, 1941

Sunday. We are hosting a large group from the Polish communities in Toronto, Hamilton and Kitchener.

Fights are starting to break out between our soldiers and the Canadians. Our soldier, however, was accosted, and reacted to insults made against Poles, hit a boy so that he fell and smashed his head against the sidewalk and they took him to the hospital. The civilian passer-byes, who witnessed the altercation, are all on our side.

September 16, 1941

Wing Commander Pilot Zdzislaw Krasnodebski¹⁶ arrived in camp today and was assigned to take charge of air force training.¹⁷

There was another fight between our men and Canadian soldiers. Again our men were accosted. We think that this might be the work of a “fifth column” as there are a lot of Germans in this country. Right in Owen Sound there are over a dozen families. This is clearly a provocation aimed at spoiling the very positive relationships we have developed with the community and the Canadian army. The affair gained even greater notoriety through the sensational reporting by a writer from Toronto who lives in Owen Sound. Without checking her information,

¹⁶ Zdzisław Krasnodębski alias Król (10 July 1904 in Wola Osowińska – 3 July 1980 in Toronto) was a pilot, founder and commander of Squadron 303.

¹⁷ There was at least one other air force training camp in Canada which included Polish airmen. That was in Jarvis, Ontario in October 1943. This was for bombardiers and gunners and included Mieczysław Pruszyński, 2nd Lieutenant Adam Lipiński, 2nd Lieutenant Tomasz Wilczewski, Lieut. Zenon Szwarnowiecki, and Lieut. Bolesław Korna. See Mieczysław Pruszyński, *Migawki Wspomnień* (Warsaw: Rosner & Wspólnicy, 2002), p. 206

she sent a report to the press about a big fight involving dozens of soldiers from each side (in fact, two soldiers were fighting). Of course, all the newspapers reprinted the story. The affair got to Ottawa. The Canadian Government officially questioned Consul-General Podoski about this event and he turned to us for an explanation and that was the end of the story. Nonetheless the press in the United States took advantage of this report with their usual sensationalism. The New York dailies wrote about it on their front pages in huge print. Those who are in the know, believe that this report was no doubt cabled from New York to Berlin to the joy of the Germans. In this way the ill will and stupidity of people can damage our affairs.

In spite of everything, here in Owen Sound, all this ended up positively. There were already good feelings about the chivalrous Poles, and this episode simply proved the point. Everyone knew, that we had been insulted and that we reacted by defending the honour of our soldier – and since we have strong fists, it so happened that our men won the fight. This is not without meaning in a country which loves its sports.

In concluding these events, the Camp Commander issued a special point in his orders (see Order of the Day, No. 16, Point 2) in which he examined these incidents, the actions of the soldiers and he appealed for a proper attitude towards Canadians.

September 19, 1941

Another troop transport of volunteers arrived from Windsor.

Aspirant Stanislaw Malachowski arrived and he will take on the position of technical-motorized officer at the camp.

Commander Tadeusz Mindak¹⁸ arrived today to take on the post of director of naval training. [The training course for seamen in Owen Sound lasted 6 weeks and consisted of drill, rowing, sailing, swimming, knots, rope making, life-saving. The seamen built their own pier in Owen Sound and called it “Gdynia” after a port in Poland. Four transports of seamen left Owen Sound with the first one being the largest.]

September 21, 1941

Sunday. The local priest will say a special Mass for us at 9:30 am.

Our seamen are hosting a group of Polish veterans who came from Windsor.

¹⁸ Tadeusz Mindak was awarded the Virtuti Militari cross

The Consul of the Republic of Poland from Winnipeg, Mr. Juliusz Szygowski is visiting the camp.¹⁹ He is returning from the annual meeting of the central committee of the Polish Alliance of Canada which met in Toronto. While here he wanted to see the Polish army.

September 22, 1941

Petty Officer 1st Class Stanislaw Sikorski is leaving the camp today. He is being transferred to Windsor. Too bad, since he was able to energetically lead the platoon of sailors. He developed in them a spirit of community and collegiality and he was liked and respected by the men.

September 26, 1941

A second cadre came to Owen Sound from Scotland: 11 officers, 38 NCO's and 1 Lance Corporal.

The team consists of:

Officers:

1. Major Majewski, Stefan – team commander
2. Major Kulejowski, Adam Stanislaw
3. Captain Rolewicz, Ludwik
4. Captain Tafelski, Jozef
5. Lieutenant Fijas, Wacław
6. 2nd Lieut. Omilon, Franciszek
7. 2nd Lieut. Nitka, Bronislaw
8. 2nd Lieut. Moczulski, Stanislaw
9. 2nd Lieut. Lewicki, Walerian
10. 2nd Lieut. Giergiel, Alfred
11. Captain Czarkowski-Golejewski, Kajetan²⁰

NCO's

1. Staff Sergeant Bandrowski, Bronislaw
2. Corporal Officer Cadet Niemiec, Kazimierz
3. Corporal Napierala, Stanislaw
4. Lance Sergeant Cadet Mocarski, Kazimierz
5. Corporal Ojrzanowski, Florian
6. Lance Sergeant Umbras, Edward

¹⁹ Juliusz Szygowski was a career Polish diplomat serving in Mexico in 1931, in Berne in 1933, in Chicago (1933-1936), in New York (1936-1937), and as director of the consulate in Winnipeg (1937-1939). He spent most of the war in the United States serving as the Consul General in Chicago (1945).

²⁰ https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kajetan_Czarkowski-Golejewski

7. Lance Sergeant Cadet Strzemecki, Tadeusz
8. Lance Sergeant Boczarski, Wladyslaw
9. Lance Sergeant Walaszewski, Brunon
10. Lance Sergeant Burkiewicz, Edward
11. Lance Sergeant Cadet Buglewski, Marian
12. Lance Sergeant Fruhauf, Franciszek
13. Lance Sergeant Kowalski, Klemens
14. Corporal Nagly, Stefan
15. Corporal Grzenia, Pawel
16. Lance Sergeant Siemienas, Franciszek
17. Lance Sergeant Stecko, Aleksander
18. Lance Sergeant Teperek, Roman
19. Lance Sergeant Cadet Borys, Franciszek
20. Corporal Bulerski, Stefan
21. Lance Sergeant Psykala, Mieczyslaw
22. Lance Sergeant Kizielewicz, Franciszek
23. Lance Sergeant Olszewski, Jan
24. Corporal Cadet Dobrowolski, Janusz
25. Sergeant Budziasz, Aloizy
26. Corporal Pszczola, Tadeusz
27. Corporal Cadet Flek, Stanislaw
28. Lance Sergeant Maly, Wladyslaw
29. Lance Sergeant Mazurkiewicz, Jozef
30. Lance Sergeant Cadet Sroka, Jan
31. Lance Sergeant Cadet Zawadzki, Adam
32. Corporal Zuraw, Adam
33. Corporal Bednarczyk, Wacław
34. Corporal Rybinski, Jan
35. Corporal Stanislawski, Antoni
36. Corporal Trembecki, Marian
37. Corporal Cadet Trybus, Bronislaw
38. Corporal Dziedzioch, Kazimierz

Lance Corporal

1. Szoskies, Lew

The team had some adventures on their way here since when they boarded in a port in Scotland and sailed out onto the sea, their ship broke down and they had to return to Scotland and back to the Polish camps and prepare again for hopefully a more successful trip.

From the officers, the following left immediately for Windsor:

- Major Kulejowski
- Captain Czarkowski
- Captain Rolewicz

We are also expected to send a few NCOs.

Captain Utnik came from Windsor for a joint meeting in which to plan the first draft of air men and seamen for their departure to England.

Under the "Lend and Lease Bill" we received today 1,000 rifles with bayonets. These are Model 1917 Eddystone Rifles (American Enfield) which hold up to 5 cartridges. We also received 12 prismatic binoculars 30 mm with a compass on the case.

For the above-mentioned meeting, 2nd Lieut. Wygard also came – an assistant to the Liaison Officer, Command Office of the Polish Army unit in Ottawa – he led our cadre from the port in Halifax.

A troop transport of 25 volunteers arrived from Windsor.

As of today, the 2nd Air Company changed its name to Air Squadron.

September 27, 1941

Captain Utnik left for Windsor, along with the following, newly arrived from Great Britain, Major Kulejowski, Captain Czarkowski, and Captain Rolewicz.

Our relationships with the Polish communities continue to be very active. A group of 11 of our officers left today for Hamilton, on invitation from the local Poles. As well a group of our soldiers also travelled to Toronto under Lieut. Kurzeja – Father Puchniak organized a major event under the motto – Join the Polish Army. This is not the first one of these types of efforts but the results continue to be negligible.

September 28, 1941

Brigadier Rutherford and his wife came to our Command HQ in order to bid farewell to our Commanding Officer before his departure for Great Britain (The entire 5th Division is leaving Camp Borden and is travelling to Great Britain).

September 29, 1941

Under the Lease & Lend Bill we received military material from the United States:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1) 5-shot model 1917 Eddystone rifles, 300 calibre (7.62 mm) | - 1,000 |
| 2) Bayonets | - 1,000 |
| 3) Oilers for the rifles with pull-through and brush | - 1,000 |
| 4) Prism binoculars with a compass on the case | - 12 |

A group of 8 Seamen came from Windsor.

October 1, 1941

With the arrival of the cadre from Great Britain, several personnel changes took place at the camp (See Order of the Day No. 20) – The major changes are: The camp gains an assistant to the Commanding Officer in the person of Major Majewski; a new quartermaster in Captain Tafelski (Captain Kreutzinger is needed right away in Windsor in order to arrange for local contracts).

Since we have too many NCOs in the camp due to their arrival from Great Britain, the Camp Commander is organizing an advanced course for NCOs, so as to keep them occupied in a useful way (See Order of the Day No. 20, Point 11).

An important event in the life of the camp is the start-up as of today, of a two-month driving course for the entire officer and NCO corps at the camp. This course is thanks to our indefatigable Camp Commander, who in spite of the many difficulties in setting this up (and unfortunately there will be more to come) decided to proceed. (See Order of the Day No. 10 point 12)

Squadron Leader Olszanik arrived at the camp. He has been assigned to command the troop transfer, which will leave the camp on its way to Great Britain.

In the evening in the Officer's Mess we had a big sherry party which we hosted for the local community as a response to the many invitations with which we are inundated. This party was the hit of the season for local party-goers: the whole town has been talking about it for several days and they will continue to speak about it for several more days, since everyone said that it was uncommonly successful.

We received 1000 leather belts for the rifles from "Lend & Lease."

October 2, 1941

As of today, in the camp, we have organized Guard Officer's Duty (until now we have had guard duty only from wake-up call till the final tattoo). Thanks

to the arrival of more officers from Scotland it is now easy to set up this kind of security.

A sign of development at the camp also includes the setting up guard duty (as of September 30) at the barracks, one guard position at the storage magazines and one at the entrance to the barracks.

A group of 16 privates arrived from Windsor.

A positive sign at the camp is the setting up of a camp choir. The Order of the Day (Order of the Day, No. 12, Pt. 10) outlines its objectives: promoting Polish music and songs, as well as taking part in church services, and in artistic events at the camp. (It is necessary to explain the matter of our church services – our services take place in the local Catholic church at a special time (9:30). Since it is a Polish tradition to sing during Mass, we seemed to have attracted through our singing the entire local Catholic population, and some non-Catholics as well. Local people have stopped attending their services and are now attending ours. We appear to be wonderful singers – even through song we have taken the town.)

And one more step forward in the life of the camp was the setting up of a “NCO’s Camp Hearth,” headed up by the oldest NCO at the camp, Warrant Officer Sroka-Sroczynski. This moment was very important, since the NCO Corps, brought to our camp from many different units in Scotland, carries within itself, (as do all our soldiers – as immigrants) a pent-up nervousness, a high degree of individualism and squeamishness which requires more coming together, creating a common bond and developing their own identity. For this purpose, their Hearth can do a lot of good.

October 3, 1941

Tomorrow is the departure date for the first troop transport of our volunteers for Great Britain.

The current status of the camp is:

| | Officers | NCOs | Riflemen |
|----------------------------------|----------|------|----------|
| Camp Command | | | |
| and Quartermaster | 11 | 16 | 6 |
| 1 st Training Company | 4 | 12 | 73 |
| Air Squadron | 2 | 13 | 118 |
| Naval Platoon | - | 1 | 38 |
| NCO Course | 4 | 33 | 1 |
| Unassigned | 5 | | |

| | | | |
|-------|----|----|------|
| Total | 26 | 75 | 236* |
|-------|----|----|------|

(Total includes 5 deserters)

October 4, 1941

There is much celebration due to the coming departure to England from our camp. This morning a Mass was celebrated by Father Bombas who came especially from Windsor for the occasion. Next at noon there was a common dinner including talks by the Camp Commander and several riflemen (Poles: Americans). Everyone is overwhelmed and moved by this occasion. Because of the departure, 15 volunteers from the squadron were nominated by Gen. Duch for the rank of Aircraftman Class 1 (for the complete list see Order of the Day, No. 22, pt. 3).

Those departing include:

- 1 Officer, Major Olszanik, in command of the transport
- 107 air force volunteers
- 37 naval volunteers
- 6 armoured volunteers
- (For the full list see Secret Order No. 3, Command Polish Army)

This event didn't pass without an unpleasant incident. Two Corporals: Benjamin Arabczyk and Berek Nutkiewicz, assigned to the troop transport, deserted at the last minute. Until now, there had been no desertions among the NCOs. The sense of fear must have been overwhelming among these "knights" in order to overcome their sense of shame for them to take this step. So that shadow of shame didn't descend on the entire NCO corps, it is important to add that these two "volunteers" to the Polish Army were people who up till now had no contact with the army nor with the war. They showed up in Canada having travelled through Russia, Japan and the Pacific and although many capable soldiers followed this same route, this group included two types. It is probably better that they ran away now, rather than had they done it at some other place in the future.

The Polish community continues to be very generous. On this occasion, they reached into their pockets and each soldier received a package with everything they needed (or not needed) for the road. At the last minute four Polish ladies from Chicago came with gifts (at least a 600- mile drive). They drove by car and the poor girls ended up in a ditch and were a bit banged up, but they rented another car and made it on time.

October 8, 1941

Our Quartermaster up till now, Captain Eryk Kreutzinger²¹ is leaving the camp. The Camp Commander recognized his contribution to the camp in a special Order of the Day (No. 25). His friends are saying goodbye to him over a glass of wine and with a special decree written in old Polish.

October 10, 1941

Sporting competitions will take place in Windsor with the participation of Stanisława Walasiewicz. We sent a few competitors from our camp with Sports Officer 2nd Lieut. Walerian Lewicki in charge.



[Stanisława Walasiewicz, also known as Stefania Walasiewicz, and Stella Walsh, was a Polish track and field athlete, who became a women's Olympic champion in the 100 metres. She became an American citizen in 1947.]

23 Riflemen arrived from Windsor.

October 11, 1941

Our delegation under Lieut. Tadeusz Fijas left for a visit to the Polish community in Brantford.

²¹ Eryk Kreutzinger was an officer in an armoured unit. In 1939 he made it to France in 1940 and later served in Canada. After the war he settled in South America.

October 12, 1941

Sunday. Mass was celebrated by Father Sajewicz, the parish priest at St. Stanislaw Kostka in Toronto. A young, sympathetic priest, who would really like to join the Polish forces as a chaplain. It seems however, that Father Bombas has another candidate in mind, who was trained in England and certified by Bishop Gawlina. He is apparently a young priest and he is now somewhere in the States.



**Father Jan
Sajewicz, OMI
(1910 – 1994)²²**

Born on 14 April

1910 in Wojnówka, Polesie, and died on 30 August 1994 in Edmonton, Alberta. He completed a one-year novitiate (1931-1932) in Markowice, Pomerania, and received training in the Seminary in Krobia and Odra (voivodeship/province Poznan). Fr. Sajewicz was ordained on 27 June 1937 and, a year later, immigrated to Canada. During the years 1943 – 1948, Fr. Sajewicz was working as a chaplain for the Polish Air Forces in Kenya. He served the pastoral ministry in camps for the Polish refugees who fled Russia. Fr. Sajewicz returned to Canada in 1948. He served the pastoral ministry for the following parishes: St. Stanislaus Kostka in Toronto, Ontario; Holy Ghost Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba; St. Hyacinth Church in Ottawa (ON); St. Stanislaus Kostka 's and St. Casimir's parishes in Toronto; other parishes in Edmonton (AB); Saskatoon (SK); East Selkirk (MB), and at the St. Benedictine's Monastery in Middlechurch, (MB).

October 14, 1941

²² <http://halecki.org/en/prominent-poles-in-canada/father-jan-sajewicz-omi/>

Captain Jerzy Marian Ciepielowski and a group of film-makers arrived and are taking pictures of camp life.

October 16, 1941

As of today, the soldier's mess and the buffet in the NCO's hearth was leased to Mr. Malaciszak. We had long deliberations on the best way to run this business, but in the end, based on a request from Windsor it was leased to this Pole from Toronto. He moved here with his wife and daughter and together they will run the business. The business should be quite successful and it is unlikely they will lose on it.

October 17, 1941

A large group of volunteers, 35 men, arrived today from Windsor, ready to take on all the types of arms that we have here.

October 18, 1941

Our relationships to the Polish communities continue to be very active. Every weekend, we send a delegation to a Polish community, most often to Toronto. Today, ladies from the Red Cross in Toronto are organizing a party (the profits from these events normally go in part to our army, or to other good causes such as, packages for prisoners, or aid for Poles in Russia). 2nd Lieutenant Moczulski is going with an appropriate team.

October 19, 1941

Sunday. The Mass is being celebrated by Father Puchniak from St. Stanislaw Kostka parish. He is one of our most active supporters, who drove up specially from Toronto to see us in our home.

October 20, 1941

Finally, we have our first rifle practice at the camp. We would have started this some time ago, the shooting range is quite good and from the beginning it was made available to us, but when a few weeks ago, we told Captain Smith that we wanted to start shooting, all of a sudden, several problems popped up. It turned out that the target pulls were not well anchored and required major work. Then the road to the shooting range was closed and more time went by. But, now we are shooting. The riflemen and officers of the 1st Company and the whole

officer's cadre are shooting; shooting at 100 yards to build consistency. The results are quite good.

In the afternoon, the local Rotary Club will host our officers in their facilities. There were several officers present with Major Majewski in charge. Lieutenant Barczyk presented a long talk in English about Poland, its role in history and our contribution to the current war. We present this kind of educational talk at every occasion. It is surprising (at least it was) how little these people know about us, Why, even in Scotland and England, the issue of Poland was something completely new to them, a totally unknown topic. It was only our actual presence that brought to their attention, the existence of our country and nation, and its difficult situation, and that is a subject worthy of interest. So, what is important, is that they are sincerely interested, and once they know us, they become our special friends.

October 21, 1941

The Commanding Officer of Training Command No. 1 in Toronto came to visit our air force centre.

He joined us for lunch and then he toured the barracks so that he could see the activities of our airman and then he left.

We have been in touch with this command for quite a while and it is high time that we got some training assistance from them. We would like to get some old air force equipment, some assistance etc. It goes slowly, they want to be paid for absolutely everything, and besides, they don't have much either.

We started English language classes for our NCO's, two groups: advanced and beginners (there are still some in our cadre who know almost no English). The classes will be led by local teachers, twice a week.

The local community is organized a big party, mainly for our officers. All our officers have been invited to several local homes where they will play bridge or have conversations, and later everyone will gather at City Hall for general dancing. A great evening.

October 22, 1941

We learned that our unit sent overseas landed in Great Britain. Just now pictures and reports of the ceremonies at the departure of the convoy appeared in the local press.

From "Lend & Lease" we received four 60 mm mortars, fully equipped, and 4000 woolen blankets packed in 200 bales.

October 24, 1941

As of today, we have reorganized our car pool and it has been moved from the barracks to the main building at the local fair grounds. This is a large building which will accommodate not only our current vehicles, but also those which we are to receive from "Lend & Lease." The office of the Officer in charge of the car pool (Aspirant Malachowski), the workshop, gas pump, and a guard house will be located in the garage, and as guard duty starts immediately, "Guard Duty No. 2" will be place to ensure the security of the car pool (See Order of the Day No. 31).

Today we broadcast our first Polish program on the local radio station. Every Friday at 20:30 we will present this half-hour broadcast. Today's program will consist of a conversation between officer cadet Meysztowicz and Mrs. Malay on the battles of the Polish army and his impressions on the stay in Owen Sound. Next our choir will sing some Polish songs. This broadcast was received very warmly by the local community.

A group of 24 privates arrived from Windsor.

October 25, 1941

This morning the whole group of NCOs, involved in the improvement course, along with the Camp Commander and several officers, left the camp. The purpose of the trip is to assist with the opening ceremonies of the largest "Dom Polski / Polish Home" in Canada located in Hamilton and organized by the Polish Alliance of Canada. As well, this group will visit Niagara Falls.

October 27, 1941

As of today, an independent management subunit – a management platoon, has been established. The needs of our developing camp, require the bringing together of all related camp functions, under one properly commanded and organized subunit. (See Order of the Day No. 32)

Our group, mentioned earlier, that took part in the official opening of the "Dom Polski" has returned. Apparently, the event went very well.

October 28, 1941

An important moment in the life of the camp was the initiation, as of today, of a 4-month course in auto mechanics at the Owen Sound Collegiate. This course which will provide us with trained mechanics, so important for today's modern army, came about thanks to the untiring efforts of our camp commander and the

goodwill of the director of the school. Members of the Canadian army are also trained as mechanics at this school. Course organization – see Orders of the Day, No. 31, pt. 8.

October 30, 1941

More photojournalists have arrived from Detroit to take pictures of the life and training of our army.

Doctor of psychology Radwan Praglowski [Casimir Stephen de Radwan Praglowski]²³ came to the camp with a training presentation entitled “Increasing Mental Performance.” He demonstrated this to our officers.

A group of 19 privates came from Windsor.

October 31, 1941

Today, Camp Chaplain, Father Stanislaw Targosz²⁴ arrived at the camp. He is a young priest (30 years old) who came to America just before the war in Poland. He couldn't return, so he remained in the service of the Polish Bishop of Detroit, Father Stephen [Stanislaus] Woznicki. Appointed as a chaplain to the Polish Army, he was assigned to our camp.

Under the “Lend and Lease Bill” we received four 81 mm, mortars.

On our regular radio program, we presented “A Trip to Poland.” Interest among the people of Owen Sound is very high, they like our singing.

Father Major Stanislaw Targosz (1911-1944)²⁵

Stanislaw was born on April 13, 1911 in Krzęcin, Poland, Shortly after his birth his family moved to Krakow and that is where he went to school and where he lived through the First World War. In high school he took on a great interest in the theatre and was a member of the school drama club and when he performed, he was described a born actor. He was also interested in writing and photography. In 1931, at the age of 20, he decided to become a priest and entered a seminary in Krakow and he celebrated his first Mass in April 1936 and his first parish assignment was with St. Michael

²³ Famous Polish dowsers in the first half of our century included Dr. Radwan Praglowski,

²⁴ There is a doctoral study on Father Stanislaw Targosz, by one Father Andrzej Targosz, submitted to Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan in 2010.

²⁵ Because there is a doctoral study on Father Stanislaw Targosz, by one Father Andrzej Targosz, submitted to Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan in 2010, we can provide an unusual amount of detail about one of the soldiers who served in Owen Sound.

the Archangel's Parish in Zebrzedowice, and a few years later he was at St. Joseph's Church in Krakow.

In August 1939, just as Polish forces began to mobilize for war, Father Targosz while on holiday, left for Washington in the United States to attend a Catholic youth congress entitled "Pax Romana". Because the war had broken out in Poland the Polish priests attending this congress were not able to return to Poland and had to apply for refugee status in the United States. Because Father Targosz had some ongoing correspondence with relatives in Detroit, this process was relatively easy for him. However, adapting to life in a Polish community in the United States and the process of learning English was not easy.

In December 1939, he was assigned to the Polish Seminary of St. Cyril and Methodius in Orchard Lake where he was taught how to adjust to parish work in the United States. In May 1940, he was assigned as Parish Priest to the Polish parish of St. Francis of Assisi in Detroit and later to St. Hyacinth's Parish (Sw. Jacka) also in Detroit.

On October 15, 1942, General Wladyslaw Sikorski, Commander-in-Chief gave Father Targosz the task of providing spiritual support to the Polish Armed Forces with the rank of Captain and was assigned to the Independent Carpathian Rifle Brigade, which at that time was stationed in the Middle East. His first actual military assignment was to join the Polish Army Training Camp in Owen Sound where he served from November 1941 to May 1942. He approached this position with great enthusiasm, dropping his Roman collar in favour of a tie, so that he would look just like one of the regular soldiers. As soon as he arrived at the camp, he set up a chapel, with an alter featuring a large picture of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Father Targosz was also involved in the cultural-educational training program. He often gave evening talks and led discussions in the huge soldier's mess. He prepared his sermons with great care saying "I didn't want to take their money for nothing, and waste their time talking about nothing. I knew that they had specific spiritual needs."

On May 15, 1942 he left the camp and travelled with the men as far as Toronto. He felt very lonely and alone as the train with the soldiers left Toronto leaving him on the platform. He got on the train heading for Windsor. At the Polish Camp in Windsor he obtained a visa and returned to his parish in Detroit. At home he felt he wanted to send a Christmas package with presents for the people of Owen Sound.

He left Detroit For New York hoping to find a way to join the Polish forces in the Middle East. Boarding a ship at the naval base in Norfolk arriving in the Middle East in October 1943. En route, he stopped in Kolhapur, near Goa, in India, where he visited a Polish settlement. Finally, he was able to join the 3rd Carpathian Rifle Division, 1st Brigade, as Chaplain in Palestine. The commander of the 3rd Carpathian Rifle Division was none other than General Bronislaw Duch. Father Targosz travelled with this unit to Italy and served in the Sangro River campaign.

In May 1944, Father Targosz served in the front lines during the Battle of Monte Cassino and joined his unit in the steep assault up the mountain towards the monastery. He helps with the wounded and later in his diary speaks of immense amount of blood he encounters as he helps deliver the wounded off the mountain. He claims that he cannot write in his diary about these events without breaking into tears. After the battle he is involved in finding and identifying corpses and carrying them off the battlefield.

In June 1944 the Polish 2nd Corps mounted a ferocious attack on German positions on the River Chienti, just south of Ancona in Italy. Following this engagement Father Targosz was involved with removing the bodies of dead Polish soldiers. While driving some of these bodies away from the battlefield their vehicle ran over a mine and Father Targosz was killed.

For his outstanding bravery on the battlefield, Father Major Targosz was awarded the Virtuti Militari Cross. He was buried in the Polish military cemetery in Loreto, Italy and is the only chaplain midst the 1,088 soldiers that are buried there.

November 1, 1941

All Saints Day, a day free from all activities and the first mass with our new chaplain.

In the former Polish camp in Niagara-on-the-Lake, dating back to the First World War, every year for “zaduszki” (All Souls Day), members of the local Polish communities from Toronto, Hamilton and other places gather to light candles at the graves of the dead Polish soldiers. This year the ceremony will be even grander – we are sending an honour guard representing armoured, air and navy.

The honour guard under the command of 2nd Lieutenant Walerian Lewicki is leaving today.

We started the mechanics course for officers and NCOs. 30 soldiers will take the course.

November 3, 1941

Today we are observing All Souls Day in the barracks. The day is dedicated to remembering all our departed soldiers. (The observance was moved to today because according to our Chaplain such a commemoration could not take place on Sunday. The Camp Commander issued a special Order of the Day No. 36, which was read on the parade grounds to all the soldiers assembled there in both Polish and English. The choir sang specially-chosen songs. A serious atmosphere, clearly expressed on everyone's face.

November 4, 1941

Two senior Yugoslavian officers are visiting our camp. Like us they would like to form their army units on this terrain. Consideration is being given to them organizing their camp here with us. They came to visit our camp, in order to discuss this issue.

6 riflemen came from Windsor.

November 7, 1941

Our radio program – a continuation of “A Trip to Poland” with several songs.

19 privates came from Windsor.

November 8, 1941

Today, a special recruiting unit of the Canadian Army, which is touring Ontario, is coming to Owen Sound and will stay in our barracks. The Canadian authorities asked if they could stay in our barracks. Our camp commander went well beyond that. Not only will the entire unit be housed in our barracks, but they will be welcomed as guests and be fed during their entire stay in Owen Sound. The officers from this unit have been invited to our officer's mess. All the soldiers are very grateful for our hospitality. In their entire 5-week tour this is the first time they met with such a warm welcome.

We received confirmation of their ranks and the authorization to admit them to the Polish Army:

- Captain Dr. Distler
- Lieutenant Dziurzynski
- 2nd Lieutenant Roch
- 2nd Lieutenant Cedrowski

November 11, 1941

Our celebration of the anniversary of the regaining of Polish independence coincides with the anniversary of the end of WWI for the British. In Owen Sound, we have a joint Polish-Canadian commemoration of these anniversaries – see Orders of the Day, No. 42.

The Commander of the Polish Army in Canada promoted 15 riflemen from the 1st Armoured Company to the rank of Lance Corporal (See Order of the Day, No. 49, pt. 21)

November 13, 1941

We received some good items under the Lend & Lease Bill:

- 1 tool kit for disassembling and cleaning Colt pistols
- 50 leather holsters for Colt pistols

November 14, 1941

Today, Lieut.-Colonel Wrasny, came from Windsor to deal the issue of having sent several riflemen of Jewish origin to Great Britain with the first draft. These people and their co-religionists from America were not very enthusiastic about this. They would have preferred to remain here. But this is the army and there was no choice – those that were cowards deserted while others were in tears but went with the draft (Order 4.8)

A group of 20 seamen arrived from Windsor.

Our next radio program: soldier songs

November 15, 1941

Lieut.-Colonel Wrasny departed.

From this perspective, the 2nd draft for travel across the sea is being organized. The British authorities concerned with the reliability of those arriving on their Island have established a more scrupulous selection process for people that we want to send to our ranks. This level of due diligence is by no means unnecessary. Up until now, every person who offered his readiness to serve in our army and met the requirements (being physically fit) was accepted. He could have

personal identity papers or not. Verifying what each one of them stood for was practically speaking impossible. There is always the possibility for hostile activity! Now, each one of our volunteers, in order to go to Great Britain, has to receive a so-called "Interim Card" from the British authorities. For this purpose, we have to prepare finger-print cards (for all five fingers) and obtain very specific information relating to each one such as: nationality, citizenship, parent's names and occupations, places of residence for the past 5 years, and places of employment for the past 5 years. And after this information once examined by American police becomes the basis for granting permission, or not, to travel to Great Britain.

The problems with completing these formalities is unprecedented, taking fingerprints requires a unique skill, and many people cannot remember all the information required on these forms.

11 specially selected riflemen were sent to Windsor, and once they are trained, they are to be sent to the United States for recruitment-publicity purposes.

November 16, 1941

We had the first theatrical presentation in our camp. The Polish Theatre "Hamilton" lead by an actor from the National Theatre in Warsaw, Mr. Krzemieniecki, presenting the play "Kamraty". The play was written and directed by the actual director of the theatre and is of a propaganda-recruitment nature. The play was well received. The premise of the play involves convincing a Polish theatre-goer of the necessity of joining the Polish army. It is written in the language of people for whom it is intended, it is psychologically, perfectly developed, it abounds with moments so moving that it draws in the audience. The author goes straight to the point. It does not create fictions, but deals with life and people as they really are. It shows their neighborhoods and work, their interests and their way of thinking, their weaknesses and their strengths. This is the environment in which the actors actually live, who are ordinary people in all our Polish communities right across Canada and the States.

In such a neighborhood, the author presents the whole process of the growing awareness of the absolute need to serve Poland in the Polish army. This process consists of nothing artificial. The author clearly presents, the pro's and the con's which every American Pole must weigh. And that is why in all these neighborhoods in which these people live a patriotic call to arms sounds natural – this is an important quality and value of the play. The process of growing

awareness feels real and therefore when at the last moment, the decision is to join the Polish army it seems natural and authentic.

In summary - this play in every way is of value to our cause.

In the margin, we have to add that the artistic value of the play stands at a very high level. This is not an amateur production, but a very good theatrical, which should appeal to people who know the theatre arts. It is not surprising that Krzemieniecki and his wife both act in the play, and both are known, talented artists. But we also have to praise the other members of their troop who are working people, factory workers (and besides Mrs. Krzemieniecki also works in a factory and gets up at 6 in the morning). These are not the best conditions for creating art. One of the actors, an older fellow, works hard all day long, gets up at 4 in the morning in order to learn his part: "it is hard for a tired brain to learn such things after working all days" he said.

That is why Mr. Krzemieniecki's success is even more amazing.

November 18, 1941

More problems with our dactyloscope [fingerprinting].

Telegram from Windsor. They are taking 2nd Lieut. Giergiel away from us, a major blow for our choir, of which he was a pillar.

November 20, 1941

With the participation of Windsor, we are preparing a great military concert in Toronto on the anniversary of the November Uprising on the 29th. To prepare for this occasion, our Camp Commander and several officers travelled to Toronto.

November 21, 1941

Colonel Janusz Ilinski²⁶ phoned from Ottawa to tell us that the visit to the camp of the Minister of Work and Public Welfare, Jan Stanczyk²⁷, which had been planned for several days, will take place tomorrow.

Today we broadcast our radio program focusing on our navy.

We received through Lend & Lease ten, 1 ½ ton Chevrolet trucks. Wonderful trucks, the latest in new technology.

November 22, 1941

²⁶ https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janusz_Ilinski

²⁷ https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jan_Stanczyk

In the afternoon, Minister Stanczyk and his secretary will arrive from Toronto. They are being escorted by our Camp Commander Lieut.-Col. Sujkowski. He is also bringing Consul-General Podoski and Lieut.-Col. Wcasny. The Minister will be welcomed in the Officer's mess by the entire officer's corps and town officials. Later he will meet with reporters. Next, they will all go to the barracks. There the entire army will gather, report, followed by a common supper with formal speakers. The Minister appeared to be pleased with the atmosphere at the camp, especially after the presentation of Lance Sergeant Bonar which he made on behalf of all the Polish soldiers. The Minister was in a hurry and was returning to Toronto right away. We had just enough time to fill him on life in our camp.

November 24, 1941

The concerns about the dactyloscope [fingerprinting] and preparing the 2nd troop transport are our top priorities. A secondary concern is the issue of storage for a large amount of equipment (especially arms) which is to arrive soon from the States under the Lend & Lease Bill. We don't really have space to house it, especially when it comes to ammunition, which can't be stored just anywhere.

We learned that we might be visited by General Sikorski, the Supreme Commander, who is now travelling the globe – he was in the Middle East, now he is in Russia.

November 27, 1941

The navy platoon left today for Hamilton for a day-long naval exercise.

November 28, 1941

We received 6 Ford cars from Lend & Lease, ¼ ton (Light reconnaissance units, passenger autos). Really small units but very strong and maneuverable.

Today our radio program for the local broadcast focused on the November Uprising.

November 29, 1941

Today we present our big concert in Toronto on the anniversary of the November Uprising. The concert will take place in the most impressive hall. All the most important people have been invited. The concert is a new sensation for the local Polish community. Everything indicates that this will be a successful event.

From Lend & Lease we received 10 sets of replacement parts for the 300 calibre Eddystone rifles.

Our auto-mechanics course which has been limping along for a month (see October 28) is being re-organized and will start up again on Dec 2 as a 3-month course – See Order of the Day No. 55, pt.8. In this way we will train double the number of soldiers (officers, NCOs and riflemen) in this essential skill required for today's army.

November 30, 1941

2nd Lieutenant Engineer Boleslaw Wisnicki is leaving the camp. He was conditionally admitted to the Polish Army a few months ago through Windsor and with us he was an instructor with the air squadron. Today as a specialist he is leaving for the war industries, and will work in Toronto. With sadness we bid farewell to this good officer and a generally liked friend.

[Note: At this point the writer of the Chronicle changes. The handwriting is notably different.]

December 2, 1941

Under the 4th organizational order of November 29th, we are bringing in a new system of organizing the work in Camp Command: the educational program and the W.F. are being merged. The general program was expanded (the most "workable" program). The training program has been activated, for the purpose of preparing instructions and regulations for camp use.

This evening at the NCO's Hearth there was a talk on the "Bravery of the Polish Soldier as seen through German Eyes."

December 3, 1941

Dr. Ludwik Rubel,²⁸ the editor of Odsiecz (Fighting Poland)²⁹, who is with us for military training, presented a talk to the 1st Company on the topic "Free Boys and Free Country." The talk was intended to show the difference between freedom and license.

December 4, 1941

²⁸ Dr. Rubel went on to become the editor of the Polish Army Daily in the West (Dziennik Zolnierza Armii Polskiej na Wschodzie)

²⁹ <https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odsiecz>

Wing Commander Pilot Krasnodebski gave a talk on Squadron 303. This talk affected everyone. It presented the camp with an image of incredible effort: the struggles that a Polish soldier – an airman, put into the fight with a deadly enemy.

December 5, 1941

This evening a group of 15 privates arrived from Windsor. They were assigned as follows:

1st Training Company – 13

Flight Squadron – 2

(See Order of the Day, No. 58 from December 6, 1941)

December 6, 1941

In conjunction with the completion of the Driving Course the dates for examinations as well as the make-up of the examining committee were determined (See Order of the Day No. 57, December 5, 1941).

December 7, 1941

Sunday. Mass in the local church as usual. In the afternoon a kind of strange unease started to come over everyone, especially the American volunteers. American radio stations reported on an unprovoked attack by Japanese naval, air and land forces on American soil.

Opinion among the volunteers – American citizens, is divided. Some voices think they should leave the Polish army and transfer to the Army of the United States. Rifleman Ostrowski is preparing a telegram to send to President Roosevelt, which has been signed by dozens of riflemen. In the telegram they assure President Roosevelt of their loyalty and filial attachment.

December 8, 1941

The Holy Day of Our Lady – the Immaculate Conception. A mass in the barracks. On this occasion the Camp Commander gave a talk aimed at quieting down all the thoughts brought up by recent events. Nonetheless, several volunteers want to go and join the American army. The main instigator is Rifleman Ostrowski (Russian Jew). The radio reported on the response of President Roosevelt to the telegram from the riflemen. The President expressed his thanks and offered the opinion that serving in the Polish Army completely fulfills the duty of an American citizen. Everyone is calming down, and only a few

still wish to leave our ranks. The upcoming departure of our troop transport to England is starting to have a greater impact.

In the evening there was a concert in the mess given by the town orchestra. The concert was very warmly received by all the soldiers. After the concert the director and the orchestra were treated to dinner in the NCO's Hearth.

December 9, 1941

This afternoon General Duch arrived. Gen. Duch, although only with us for a short while, took part in a soldier's lunch, during which he presented a talk aimed mainly at those who are about to leave and to deal with the latest political events.

In his talk, the General expressed his conviction that in spite of the first Japanese successes, the war will end with the ultimate victory of democracy, bringing attention to the fact, that fighting in the ranks of the Polish Army, is to fight against the common enemy of all countries that love freedom.

Having briefly outlined the intentions of the brown [brown shirts], and now the brown and yellow enemy, the General presented the lofty goals for which the allies are fighting. Hitler and his gang already feel the coming end and the terrible punishment which will face Germany for the atrocities they have committed. We will deliver this punishment and we will be equally ruthless as they were.

After the General's talk, which was enthusiastically received by all the soldiers, representatives of all the branches of the forces also spoke: namely, the navy, air force and armoured, who offered assurances that they would diligently and carefully carry out their duties, until the final victory, always remembering that they are wearing the uniform of a Polish soldier.

The talk by the General was preceded by Lieutenant-Colonel Witold Sujkowski, Camp Commander, who in a few words informed the soldiers about President Roosevelt's reply to the telegram from the volunteers with American citizenship. After dinner we sang the national anthems of Britain, the United States and Poland, after which the General left the camp.

December 10, 1941

Today the second troop transport left for Great Britain. In command is Lieutenant Mieczyslaw Dziurzynski, 2nd Lieut. Roch, 3 NCOs, Staff Sergeant Bandrowski, Staff Sergeant Slodyczka, and Corporal Mazurkiewicz.

The volunteers from the respective units are:

| | |
|--------|----|
| Airmen | 41 |
| Seamen | 32 |

Armoured 27
Total: 100

Everything went off without any problems. Literally at the last minute 4 volunteers were added, who returned after deserting: 2 seamen, 2 airmen
The Camp Commander went to Toronto to accompany those leaving us.
From the Lend & Lease Bill we received fifty 45 calibre, Colt pistols.

December 11, 1941

Today, Company 1 changed their place of residence and moved from the ground floor to the 1st floor. As well the entire administrative unit is now housed on the 1st floor.

December 12, 1941

The Camp Commander returned from his service trip.

This evening at the local radio station we broadcast our program covering the actions of the Polish Independent Highland Brigade in the Battle for Narvik.

The whole profit from the concert in Toronto in the amount of \$151.31 was assigned for education purposes.

December 16, 1941

This evening a group consisting of 1 officer and 7 NCOs arrived from Windsor. These are people who after spending almost a year in an internment camp in Spain came to the United States and then to us. They were assigned as follows:

1. Lieutenant Kazimierz Prorok – assigned as chief of the depot for material received through the Lend & Lease Bill.
2. Warrant Officer Jan Kula – Administrative Unit – Camp Treasurer
3. Sergeant Jan Wisniewski – Chief of the Air Squadron
4. Sergeant Feliks Kurpiewski – Kitchen Company
5. Lance Sergeant Cadet Wiktor Wladzinski – Administrative Unit
6. Lance Sergeant Cadet Jowel Filipowski, - Administrative Unit – NCO Depot
7. Leading Aircraftman Bernard Lewandowski – Flight Squadron
8. Leading Aircraftman Michal Jablecki – Flight Squadron

December 17, 1941

Today another group from Windsor arrived numbering 34 riflemen who were assigned as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| 1 st Training Company | 13 |
| Air Squadron | 9 |
| Naval Platoon | 12 |
| Total: | 34 |

December 18, 1941

Our soldiers choir received an invitation from the administration of the local radio station asking them to take part in the annual, traditional, charitable concert organized for Christmas for the poor in the town. Our choir sang three Polish carols as well as “Jeszcze jeden mazur / One more mazurka” following a listener’s request.

In the afternoon a talk was presented entitled “Customs and Rites in Poland.”

December 20, 1941

This is the last Saturday before Christmas. Everywhere one can see efforts being made to prepare our barracks for the holidays.

The 1st Training Companies Mess has been cleverly decorated and put into service. Also, they are finishing decorating the Air Squadron and Naval Mess, which is in the hall, where the sick room was previously located, (transferred for use as an infirmary).

December 22, 1941

A lot of Canadian soldiers have arrived in Owen Sound for the Christmas season. Remembering earlier fights between our soldiers and the Canadian soldiers, the camp commander ordered that a patrol be organized whose assignment is to maintain order in town and to prevent any outbreak of incidents between soldiers.

December 23, 1941

All the messes, the Officer’s Club, and the “Hearth” have been decorated with Christmas trees. This beautiful tradition reminds the soldiers, especially those who come from Poland, of the family home in which year after year the Christmas tree was decorated and special times were spent around it. Today a

group of seventeen volunteers arrived from Windsor. They were assigned as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 st Training Company | 7 |
| Air Squadron | 5 |
| Navy Platoon | 5 |

Under organizational order No. 4, December 23 the materials depot under the "Lend and Lease Bill" was reorganized. Its assignment involves the receipt and storing of materials under the "Lend and Lease Bill". The depot falls under the control of the Quartermaster.

December 24, 1941

Today is Christmas Eve. In the barracks there is a common Christmas Eve supper for all the soldiers in the camp and the few Polish civilians. The celebration began with reading greetings from the Polish President, the Supreme Commander and also from General Duch.

The Camp Commander delivered a short talk, and the many greetings which the camp received were also read. Then we broke and shared "oplatek", a special Christmas wafer, which was the most moving moment, and which made a huge impression on everyone. A telegram was read in which Commanding General of Polish Forces in Canada sent the following nominations:

1. Arms Master Sergeant Bronislaw Lukasiewicz to Staff Sergeant (Arms)
2. Lance Corporal Boleslaw Orzechowski to Corporal
3. Rifleman Mieczyslaw Lampert to Lance Corporal
4. Rifleman Sylwester Brzeski to Lance Corporal

(See Order No. 70)

Christmas Eve ended with a supper served according to our traditions.

At 12 midnight in our barracks we attended a Midnight Mass (pasterka) during which we sang Polish Christmas carols.

December 29, 1941

The Christmas holidays passed quietly without any special events. Everyone experienced some happy moments, and maybe even some sad ones, but in general everything went well and pleasantly.

Our Camp Commander went to Windsor for a conference on the setting up of a school for NCOs.

December 30, 1941

Today we had a talk on “The Year 1941 in light of events and adversities.” The talk was presented to the entire camp and was of understandable interest, since it gave a general overview of all the events which took place in 1941.

December 31, 1941

Today we are ending a period of time consisting of a completed whole. 1941 is ending. A year which presented many events which will have a major effect on shaping the lives of nations and which had a clear impact on us. We all felt them and were anxious about them.

The most important events which took place, and which mattered to us Poles were:

- Organizing a Polish Army in Canada
- The German attack on the Soviet Union and the resultant pact between Poland and Russia, which brought freedom to 1.5 million Poles living in exile in Russia, as well as the formation of Polish Army units in Russia.
- The entry of the United States into the war as a result of the Japanese attack on American territories in the Far East.

May 1942 be the year for us in which we will see the walls of tyranny come crashing down and the rising of a free, stronger than ever before – Poland.

Today, our Camp Commander returned from his service trip and brought back with him 2 officers.

1. Lieutenant Engineer Saper Czeslaw Ozieblowski
2. 2nd Lieut. Paramedic Reserves, Dr. Jozef Klupt

Both of them came from Sweden, where they found themselves after the September campaign. They travelled on a Swedish ship to South America, a 4-week trip, and passed through both German and English border controls. From South American they came to New York – Windsor - Owen Sound. They are now waiting for a decision from London regarding their next assignment and destination.

January 3, 1942

This evening we had a shared supper in the officer's mess including the NCOs and officer cadets. During the dinner, the Camp Commander made a short but cordial presentation, in which he underlined, that the officer cadets who up

till now were guests in the officer's mess, are now members and will be very welcome in the officer's group.

The dinner continued in a very friendly and cordial atmosphere.

Through the "Lend & Lease Bill" we received:

100 automatic, 45 calibre, Thompson pistols and 500 spare ammunition clips and some replacement parts.

January 5, 1942

The following were permanently transferred to Windsor:

1. Lance Sergeant Roman Teperek
2. Lance Sergeant Wladyslaw Maly
3. Lance Corporal Lew Szoskies

January 6, 1942

Holy Day of the Three Kings (Epiphany). The Camp Chaplain said a Mass in our camp. This is a day which the local community does not seem to celebrate, but for us, in keeping with our traditions, it is a holy day.

January 8, 1942

We had a very nice gesture from the town towards our camp. The town invited the whole camp as guests to the City Hall, where there was a common dinner.

All our soldiers, along with our Camp Commander were at the dinner. The Town was represented personally by the Mayor along with the United Church Minister, the Rev. Roberts and Captain Smith representing the Canadian Army.

During the dinner the soldiers sang Christmas carols and some folk songs.

Mr. Roberts raised three toasts; one in honour of the King of England, one for the Republic of Poland and its President, and one for the United States and its President.

The Mayor gave a talk in which he issued a judgement: Poland whose history is full of courageous acts and just like Great Britain loves freedom and will fight arm in arm till a victorious end.

The Camp Commander, in a few words presented in English, thanked the Mayor of the Town and the organizers for such a warm and cordial reception which the town had organized for the Polish soldiers.

After the dinner, there was a dance attended by many ladies from the community. The evening passed happily and left us with wonderful memories.

We received 12 “Indian” motorcycles with sidecars under the “Lend and Lease Bill.”

January 9, 1942

A group of 50 privates arrived having passed through the muster station in Windsor and they were assigned as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| 1 st Training Company | 34 |
| Air Squadron | 13 |
| Naval Platoon | 3 |
| Total | 50 |

An English language course has again been started. After an almost one-month break we are reintroducing this course to help the privates to learn English quickly and accurately. The teachers who are offering the class to the advanced group:

Mr. Elmsley (?) – director of the Owen Sound Collegiate
Mr. Tough – teacher at the Owen Sound Collegiate

January 11, 1942

Today the following visited our camp:

Lieutenant Colonel Ilinski

Major Tyssowski

Squadron Leader Lafargais

After a one day visit they left our camp.

In the afternoon the 1st Training Company listened to a talk entitled “Political Map of the World”

January 14, 1942

All day long a blizzard raged. All of Owen Sound is covered in snow. This blizzard seems to be the final blast of several days of snow.

January 15, 1942

A group of 15 privates came from Windsor and were assigned as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| 1 st Training Company | 11 |
| Air Squadron | 3 |
| Naval Platoon | 1 |
| Total: | 15 |

January 16, 1942

Dr. Ludwik Rubel, the editor of Odsiecz (Fighting Poland) arrived at the camp for the purpose of conducting interviews and taking photographs in conjunction with the organizing of an NCO School for the Motorized Armoured unit.

January 17, 1942

From early morning Dr. Rubel has been conducting interviews with Lieut. Kazimierz Paszkowski, head of the school, the head of the Training Company and with the riflemen who have qualified for the school.

January 18, 1942

In the morning there was a Mass at the local church. After Mass we had a common soldier's lunch in the camp because of the upcoming departure of a new troop transport for Great Britain. During the lunch, Camp Commander Lieutenant Colonel Witold Sujkowski gave a talk in which he declared that he was very pleased with the departing soldiers, since they conscientiously carried out their responsibilities and that they have earned the right to wear the uniform of a Polish soldier. The Colonel said: "You are heading for an important section of the front, where we all want to be. I wish you farewell and express the hope, that you will not betray the confidence that we have in you, and that the units which will receive you, units covered in glory, will be just as pleased with you as we are. Commit yourself to upholding the good name of the Polish soldier. I wish you success."

After the Colonel's talk, representatives of all the branches of the forces, thanked the Camp Commander, the Officers and the instructors for the training and care they received, and that they promised that will not betray the trust placed on them.

The lunch ended with the singing of the British, American and Polish national anthems.

Due to the preparations for the departure of the next troop transport to Great Britain, the current state of the camp is:

| | Officers | | | | | | NCOs | | | | | | Riflemen | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------|------|-------|--------------------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|------|------------|------|----------|-----|-----|
| Branch | Lieut Col. | Major | Capt | Lieut | 2 nd Lieut | Tot | Off. Cad | Asp | St. Serg | Serg | L. Serg | Corp | L C | R | Tot |
| Command | 2 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 17 | | | | | | | | | 17 |
| House Keeping Platoon | | | | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 12 | 8 | 32 | 75 |
| 1 st Training Company | | | | 1 | 3 | 4 | | 1 | | | 10 | 8 | 25 | 94 | 142 |
| Air Squadron | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | | | | 1 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 59 | 77 |
| Naval Platoon | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 36 | 39 |
| Total | 2 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 25 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 29 | 31 | 35 | 221 | 350 |

January 19, 1942

Our camp was visited by Lieutenant-Colonel Jakubowski and Captain Utnik.

January 21, 1942

Three riflemen arrived from Windsor who were assigned to the Motorized Armoured Company.

January 22, 1942

This afternoon Gen. Charles Francis Constantine³⁰, Commander of a Corps of the Canadian Army visited the camp. After touring the barracks and listening to the singing of our soldiers, the Canadian General departed.

At the NCO's Hearth, a general meeting of the members was held for the purpose of electing a new executive for the Hearth.

Late in the evening, a troop transport of 32 privates arrived from Windsor and were assigned as follows:

| | |
|--|----|
| 1 st Motorized Armoured Company | 14 |
| Air Squadron | 9 |
| Navy Platoon | 9 |

³⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Francis_Constantine

Total:

32

January 23, 1942

Today the third troop transport left for Great Britain. The departing soldiers bade farewell to the Camp Commander, the officers, the soldiers as well as a large group of civilians, who somehow learned of the departure.

Officer in charge of the troop transport – Captain Mieczyslaw Malak

Officers – Lieut. Engineer Czeslaw Ozieblowski and 2nd Lieut. Dr. Jozef Klupt

NCO's – Lance Sergeant Cadet Wiktor Wladzinski, Lance Sergeant Jan

Podeszwa and Corporal Michal Jablecki

January 24, 1942

Under Organization Order 4/41 of January 24, 1942 the liquidation of "Educational Report and W.F." The Educational physical education programs stay in place with no change in function and the Physical Education Officer remains in place.

January 25, 1942

In connection with the creation of an NCO School, there was also set up a Motorized Armoured Company, commanded by Lieut. Jan Dempniak.

January 26, 1942

This morning at 8 am, the Lieut.-Col., in command of the camp, opened the Motorized Armoured NCO School. In a few short, soldierly words, he presented the tasks and obligations required of the cadets, after which he unfurled a flag as a symbol of strength and perseverance. In conclusion they all sang the national anthem.

Through the "Lend & Lease Bill" we received 100,000 rounds of ammunition for the 30 calibre rifles.

January 29, 1942

The Lieut.-Col., in command of the camp confirmed and ordered the establishment of a collegial NCO court.

January 31, 1942

The Polish community in Kitchener organized a ball attended by Major Stefan Majewski, Lieut. Kazimierz Prorok, 3 NCOs and 3 riflemen who represented

the Polish Army. The profit from the dance will go to help Polish exiles in Russia.

February 1, 1942

Mass was held in the local church.

February 2, 1942

One NCO and 6 riflemen left the camp to go to Windsor to join the personnel company.

February 4, 1942

Some of the Officers and NCOs left for Toronto to attend a concert featuring Jan Kiepura.

A group of 3 NCOs and 35 privates arrived from Windsor. They were assigned as follows:

| | |
|--|----|
| 1 st Motorized-Armoured Company | 14 |
| Air Squadron | 15 |
| Navy Platoon | 6 |
| Total: | 35 |

February 5, 1942

In the evening Gen. Duch accompanied by Captain Ciepielowski arrived at the camp.

Through the "Lend & Lease Bill" we received 12 Browning Heavy Machine Guns and 5 hangers for fastening mortars to vehicles.

February 6, 1942

The General, accompanied by the Camp Commander, Major Majewski, and Captain Ciepielowski, went to the rifle range, where the training company was shooting at range No. 1

The General was interested in the results of the shooting, which were very good, and he also talked with the riflemen.

In the afternoon, the General visited the mechanics school in the garage of the local collegiate. He attended the English course in the barracks and visited the military hospital.

February 7, 1942

First thing in the morning the General inspected the barracks. At 11 am, at an NCO Meeting, the General discussed the goals and objectives of NCOs in modern warfare and he presented his requirements for instructors.

In the afternoon the General conducted a meeting with the officers.

February 8, 1942

In the morning we attended Mass at which the General was present.

February 9, 1942

In the morning the General left for Windsor. In the afternoon came a train with an exhibit of the latest equipment of the Canadian army. The whole camp visited the display.

Through the "Lend & Lease Bill" we received:

4000 pairs of boots

4000 woolen shirts

6000 ties

6000 handkerchiefs

4000 knives

February 10, 1942

Rumours are circulating among the army and civilians about the closing of the camp in Owen Sound. The General stated in the local press that these rumours are groundless.

In the evening a film was shown in the soldier's mess.

February 11, 1942

In the soldier's mess at 19:30 the local High School Orchestra presented a concert for the soldiers. This well-prepared concert was deservedly well-received.

February 12, 1942

A small soldier's choir performed several army songs at a local school, which the students received with great enthusiasm. Under the "Lend & Lease Bill" we received 24 Dodge vehicles.

Major Tysowski arrived from Windsor informing us of the closure of the camp by mid-March.

February 13, 1942

A troop transport arrived from Windsor with 31 volunteers, who were assigned as follows:

| | |
|--|----|
| 1 st Motorized-Armour Company | 14 |
| Air Squadron | 14 |
| Navy Platoon | 3 |
| Total | 31 |

February 15, 1942

Today, our Colonel Camp Commander went on vacation leave to the United States.

In the afternoon, a Polish Theatre troop came from Hamilton to Owen Sound. Under the direction of Mr. L. Krzemieniecki, it will present a concert for the Polish Army.

The concert organized in the "Savoy" movie house was attended by most of the soldiers as well as by a large group of civilians. The concert, really a performance, was of a very high artistic level: it gave us two hours of entertainment and provided moments of intense feeling especially through the poem "Alarm" by Antoni Slonimski which was recited by an excellent artist, Mrs. Dziewoniska.

February 16, 1942

As of today, Sergeant Cadet Wisniewski and Leading Seaman Michal Mleczko were permanently transferred to Windsor.

February 17, 1942

Persistent rumours, among the soldiers and especially among the civilian population, about the upcoming closure of the camp continue to circulate. In the camp work goes on as normal.

February 20, 1942

Our radio programs were started up again. Today's radio program entitled "The Polish Air Force and their battles in foreign lands" aroused great interest among the local people and according to them it was the best program which they had heard this month.

Under the "Lend and Lease Bill" we received:

5,000 wind breakers
16,000 long pants
27,000 briefs

February 24, 1942

Our small soldier's choir was invited to a Catholic Parish School lead by nuns. The prioress in charge of these nuns is Sister Stanisla, who is of Polish descent, who speaks a little Polish, but not very well.

The celebration to which our choir was invited was dedicated to the Red Cross. We were pleasantly surprised when right at the beginning of the program, the children's choir sang one of its numbers to the melody of "Z dymem pozarow"³¹ / "With the smoke of fires". During the program one of the characters appeared as Poland which had a huge impact, since the girl representing Poland, in a strong and loud voice proclaimed, that she came here to Canada as a guest, not as a martyr, and as someone representing the will to fight, the will to win and as a representative of freedom. When at the end she said that her people had spread out over the whole world, numbering almost 45 million, you could see the surprised looks on all the Canadian faces, since Canadians really know very little about Poland. The program ended with the singing of the Polish and British national anthems.

February 25, 1942

Under the "Lend and Lease Bill" our camp received 50,000 rounds of 45 calibre ammunition.

February 28, 1942

Today, the Camp Commander returned from his leave.

March 1, 1942

The Camp Commander, in the NCO's Hearth, gave a talk to the NCOs on his trip to the United States and his observations gleaned from the trip.

March 2, 1942

Today, Camp Adjutant, Captain Zygmunt Wegorek, returned from his leave. Wing Commander Pilot Zdzislaw Krasnodebski left for Windsor for a holiday.

March 4, 1942

³¹ https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Z_dymem_po%C5%BCar%C3%B3w

The Camp Commander called a general meeting of all officers for 16:30 in the Officer's Mess.

March 5, 1942

Under the "Lend & Lease Bill" we received 4,000 canteens, 4,000 spoons, 4,000 forks and 4,000 blankets.

March 6, 1942

Under the "Lend & Lease Bill" we received 2 ???

March 8, 1942

This evening at 19:00 in the West Side Church there was a prayer service for the Allied Navies. Our Navy Platoon took part in the service.

March 9, 1942

A troop transport came from Windsor numbering 4 airmen and 3 seamen.

March 10, 1942

At 10:30 the Camp Commander inspected those travelling beyond the ocean. At 11:00 we had a shared soldier's meal. During the meal, the Colonel bid farewell to the departing soldiers in a short talk, in which he underlined his satisfaction with their behaviour, their idealism and patriotism. He expressed his hope that in England they would behave in the same way, so that their future commanders would also be pleased with them. They departed at 13:45.

Captain Tadeusz Gawdzik was in command of the troop transport, with 2nd Lieut. Walerian Lewicki as his deputy.

The composition of the departing transport was:

Seamen 20

Airmen 38

Armoured 36

In the evening in the soldier's mess an old film was shown.

March 11, 1942

In the afternoon, the whole camp went to the Savoy theatre to see a film about the Polish Army as well as a film on venereal diseases.

A group of 6 riflemen arrived and they were assigned to the air squadron.

March 12, 1942

From the "Lend & Lease Bill" we received 12 Indian solo-motorcycles.

In the evening, Kazimierz Wierzynski³², one of the best poets of the current generation, came to visit our camp.

March 13, 1942

Today, Kazimierz Wierzynski, engaged in conversations with the participants of the September 1939 Campaign and the French and the Norwegian Campaigns, in order to take notes and to use them in future works. Today, our airmen departed for a training camp near Montreal.

A group of 22 privates arrived and were assigned as follows:

| | |
|--|----|
| 1 st Motorized-Armoured Company | 13 |
| Air Squadron | 7 |
| Navy Platoon | 2 |

March 14, 1942

The Editor of "Odsiecz/Fighting Poland" Ryszard Pobog came to take some photographs and to conduct some interviews with the soldiers. In the afternoon, our camp was visited by Mr. and Mrs. Antoni Alfred Paryski along with Editor Rosinski from Toronto. The Paryski's are the owners of "Ameryka Echo" a newspaper published in the United States. After a short visit during which they toured the barracks, they departed.

March 16, 1942

The mechanics-auto course, which ran for 5 months, has finished. 12 Polish soldiers completed the course.

From "Lend & Lease" we received 4,000 cups and 4,000 mess kits.

March 17, 1942

Today 2nd Lieutenant Scazighino left for Ottawa to take up a communications officer's position with the Polish Army.

March 19, 1942

Wing Commander Zdzisław Krasnodębski left for Windsor, where he will remain with the Military Mission.

³² See Milosz on Wierzynski and Monte Cassino poems p. 11

From the "Lend & Lease Bill" we received 12 Browning Light Machine Guns along with replacement and repair parts.

March 21, 1942

In the afternoon, we held a rehearsal for a program which will be presented during an excursion by the NCO School to the United States. The Camp Commander, the Officer's Corps, the NCOs and the riflemen were all present at the rehearsal.

March 23, 1942

All morning, preparations were made for the departure of the NCO School for Ottawa. The school is going to attend the opening of a display of Polish art. Colonel Sujkowski left for Ottawa where he will represent the General in command of the Polish Forces in Canada. At 14:00 the camp commander received a report from Lieut. Kazimierz Paszkowski, director of the school and at 14:30 a column consisting of 8 heavy vehicles and 2 passenger cars departed.

Around 8 in the evening, the column arrived in Toronto where they spent the night at St. Michael's Club.

March 24, 1942

This morning at 8 am after reporting, the column [of about 100 men] left on the ongoing trip to Ottawa. In the afternoon they arrived at a Canadian town where we they had lunch in the Canadian Army barracks [Lansdowne Park]. After lunch a Canadian orchestra played several marches on the camp square and in response our school sang several army songs. In the evening we arrived in Ottawa, where accommodation was arranged in army barracks.

March 25, 1942

In the morning our group visited the town. It is important to underline that the Canadian Parliament buildings can be counted among the most beautiful buildings in Canada. Wonderful legislative chambers, a beautiful library and a chapel dedicated to the fallen in the last war, deserve special note.

In the afternoon we saw a wonderful film "To be or not to be" based on events, of course war events, in Warsaw after September 1939.³³

³³ **To Be or Not to Be** is a 1942 American comedy directed by Ernst Lubitsch, about a troupe of actors in Nazi-occupied Warsaw who use their abilities at disguise and acting to fool the occupying troops. It was adapted by Lubitsch (uncredited) and Edwin Justus Mayer from the story by Melchior Lengyel. The film stars Carole Lombard, Jack Benny, Robert Stack, Felix Bressart, Lionel Atwill, Stanley Ridges and Sig Ruman.

After the film the officers and NCOs were invited to a small reception by Polish Consul Podoski.³⁴

In the evening our group took part in the opening of the display of Polish art at the Canada Museum. The display was opened by the Governor-General [Earl of Athlone], who attended with his wife [Princess Alice]. This opening ceremony brought together many people from the highest echelons of Canadian society. During the opening our soldiers sang military songs which were very warmly received by the guests. [H.O. McCurry, director of the Gallery, is in charge of arrangements for the exhibition.]

From the "Lend and Lease Bill" we received 16,000 dress shirts, 16,000 gaiters, 16,000 shoe laces, 16,000 breeches.

March 26, 1942

In the morning at 9 am we set out on the return journey. Around 13:00 we came to the place where Major W. P. Szulc met a soldier's death. Szulc was one of the leaders who fought for the freedom of Canada. In this spot there is a memorial plaque at which after a short presentation by Lieut. Paszkowski, we laid a wreath made up of red and white flowers. In the evening we arrived in Toronto where we spent the night.³⁵

March 27, 1942

In the morning we continued our travels to Owen Sound where we arrived around 13:00.

The Ottawa Citizen, March 29, 1942, p. 14

"A picked guard of honor of about 100 men from the Polish non-commissioned officer's school at Owen Sound will be in Ottawa Wednesday to attend the exhibition of Polish art at the National Gallery. The exhibit will be opened by the Governor General and Princess Alice. The Polish troops,

³⁴ Victor Podoski was Polish minister in Ottawa from shortly after the invasion of Poland in 1939. When he was recalled by the Polish government in London in 1944 he was the 'doyen' of foreign diplomats in Ottawa. He spoke half a dozen languages, was a great amateur actor, was very popular and his receptions were eagerly attended.

³⁵ This must refer to the Battle of the Windmill site near Prescott. During a four-day period in November, 1838 British troops and local militia defeated an invasion force of 300 American "Hunters" and Canadian rebels. The Battle of the Windmill victory prevented the invasion force from capturing Fort Wellington, Ontario, and cutting the St. Lawrence communications link, which would have left Upper Canada open to invasion. The Commander of the Invaders was Nils von Schoultz. Von Schoultz, claimed to have Polish connections. He was captured and later executed. At one time there was a plaque at the windmill which identified Schoultz as Polish. This plaque has since been removed.

many of whom have escaped to Canada from the Continent, will be under Lieut. Col. Witold Sujkowski. Brought here by motor transport through the co-operation of the National Defense Department, they will be billeted at Lansdowne Park. It will be the first time that such a large group of these men have visited the Capital. In the guard of honor will be members of the Polish Choir, who will sing during the function. The Government of Poland will be represented by the Honorable Victor Pndoskk (Podoski) Polish minister designate to Canada. H.O. McCurry, director of the Gallery, is in charge of arrangements for the exhibition."

March 30, 1942

Today we began to observe an Easter Retreat for the soldiers. The retreat was led by Father Franciszek Domański (Jesuit) from Chicago. In the afternoon he held confessions.

March 31, 1942

At 7:30 Bishop Joseph Ryan from Hamilton said Mass and gave the soldiers holy communion. After the Mass, the first group from the NCO school left for Windsor for the purpose of obtaining visas from the American Consulate. The group consisted of Lieut. Paszkowski and 18 privates.

April 1, 1942

The second group participating in the trip, consisting of 26 privates, left for the U.S.A. in order to get visas.

April 2, 1942

As of today, Commander Tadeusz Mindak along with 33 airmen and seamen were transferred to Windsor. Under a special order the independent sub-units of airmen and seamen at the camp in Owen Sound were terminated.

April 3, 1942

The 3rd group of participants in the trip to the U.S.A., consisting of 22 privates, left for Windsor.

April 4, 1942

Windsor. The entire NCO school took part in an Easter meal.

The celebration began with the Chaplain of Polish Forces in Canada presenting Easter wishes to the General. The General gave a short talk in which he underlined the importance of the present moment which requires all of us to put every effort into achieving victory. After finishing the meal, the NCO School sang several military songs, which were very pleasing to the numerous gathering from the Polish community, as well as to the General.

April 6, 1942

The holidays passed by very quickly.

In the evening of the 2nd day of the holidays in the Dom Polski (Polish Home) in Windsor there was a reception, during which there were several speeches underlining the heartfelt feelings of the local Polish community towards the Polish Army. The General responded with an expression of deep gratitude for all the heartfelt support from the Polish community.

After the dinner there was a dance.

April 7, 1942

At 8 in the morning, our tour group headed for Detroit. At 8:30, having taken care of all the formalities involved with crossing a border we found ourselves in the United States. Our two-day stay in Detroit convinced us of the immense patriotism and hospitality of Poles. Their obvious cordiality made a great impression on us. Detroit itself is an industrial city in which are found the huge Ford factories and other car manufacturers. Detroit covers a huge area. One of the districts, known as Hamtramck is largely inhabited by Poles.

Through the "Lend and Lease Bill" we received 2,000 defensive grenades.

April 9, 1942

At 8 in the morning we headed for Chicago. At 7 in the evening, from a distance we saw the skyscrapers of Chicago. 20 soldiers remained in East Chicago, while the rest went on to the Veteran's Home. In front of the building stood two huge cannons which made a big impression. After dropping off our things we went to a nearby Y.M.C.A. where each one of us was to able to clean up and straighten up.

At 8 in the evening we had dinner in the Veteran's Home. After dinner we all went to our rooms.

April 10, 1942

At 9 in the morning we mustered in front of the Veteran's Home. We travelled to Humboldt Park where with the participation of representatives of the American Army we laid a wreath at the monument to Tadeusz Kosciuszko.

From there we went to Lincoln Park where we also laid a wreath at the Lincoln monument.

At 11 am our whole group was received by the Mayor of the City of Chicago, Edward J. Kelly. We were also in the office of a county judge, a Pole.

We ate lunch in the hall of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, the oldest Polish organization.

After lunch, we visited the Polish Museum. This beautiful edifice gave us a little bit of Poland. Along with many beautiful things there is a chapel housing soil brought from Poland, from all the most important battlefields. There are Paderewski's memorabilia, dear to every Polish heart. The bed in which he died, his piano, household items etc.

In the evening we had dinner at the Alliance of Polish Musicians and later a ball at the Legion of Young Polish Women³⁶.

April 11, 1942

On Saturday we began by visiting several Polish newspapers: Dziennik Zwiazkowy, Dziennik Chicagowski. We also visited the Press Building, where there was a radio station and where our soldiers choir presented a program broadcast over the whole United States.

Dinner was provided by the Polish Women's Alliance of America.

In the evening the Polish radio stations broadcast two programs presented by us.

April 12, 1942

We attended Mass at St Adalbert's Catholic Church (Kosciol Sw. Wojciecha). In front of the church we were welcomed by Father Canon Kazimierz Gronkowski and by two Polish orchestras, one youth orchestra from the Alliance, and one pure highlander (Goralski).

After mass there was a reception in the parish hall where we were entertained by the highlander orchestra and by highland dancers from the Highlander's Alliance (Zwiazek Podhalan). At 3 pm there was a soldier's program in the auditorium at Holy Trinity Church (Kosciol Sw. Trojcy).

³⁶ <http://www.lypw.org/>

At 8 pm there was a concert put on by the Echo Choir and after the concert there was a dance.

April 13, 1942

On the request from the Polish community, the General agreed to extend our visit in Chicago. In the afternoon we were at the P.Z.P. Centre where each one of us received a Parker fountain pen as a memento.

April 14, 1942³⁷

Many from the Polish community gathered to bid us farewell as we started our return trip to Detroit where we arrived at 7:30 in the evening and where we spent the night.

Today film artist Madeleine Carroll came to the camp.³⁸

April 15, 1942

At 10 am we crossed the U. S. border and went to the Polish barracks. The trip left us with an indelible impression.

April 16, 1942

We spent all day in cars on our way back to Owen Sound, where we arrived around 7 in the evening.

April 17, 1942

In Owen Sound things are changing. The training company and house-keeping platoon are being combined into one marching unit. The Supreme Commander has decided that the camp in Owen Sound is to be closed, hence the changes.

The local people are talking of nothing else.

April 18, 1942

!!! Film artist Madeleine Carroll came to the camp in order to get to know Poles, and to prepare a radio program which is to be broadcast today in Toronto. Her presence has sparked an understandable interest.

³⁷ April 14, 1942 is the date carved into the Polish Soldier Tree near Owen Sound.

³⁸ Edith Madeleine Carroll was an English actress, popular both in Britain and America in the 1930s and 1940s. At the peak of her success she was the highest paid actress in the world, earning a then staggering \$250,000 in 1938. She is also remembered for abandoning her acting career, after the death of her sister Marguerite in the London Blitz, to devote herself to helping wounded servicemen and children displaced and maimed by the war.

April 21, 1942

Today 11 privates left for Windsor. They were transferred to the personnel company in Windsor.

April 23, 1942

Lieut. Paszkowski, commanding officer of the marching company left on vacation leave.

April 24, 1942

This evening in the Officer's Mess we had a farewell reception for town representatives. This reception was very successful.

April 25, 1942

From the "Lend & Lease Bill" we received 5 crates of replacement parts for Chevrolets as well as 22,992 pairs of socks.

April 26, 1942

Chaplain Stanisław Targosz said Mass in the barracks.

April 28, 1942

This evening we had our farewell to Owen Sound radio broadcast. Colonel Sujkowski presented a farewell address, thanking the residents of Owen Sound for their cordiality and hospitality, both on his own behalf and on behalf of all his soldiers. In response the Mayor of the town spoke of his sadness due to our departure and wished us success in returning to a free Poland.

May 2, 1942

General Duch arrived at the camp. We had a program in the barracks commemorating the 3rd of May Constitution.

May 3, 1942

From early morning we prepared to observe the May 3rd Constitution Day. Mass was at 9:30 during which the soldiers sang May songs and the Polish national anthem.

After Mass, the General reviewed a march past of the army.

During a shared soldier's lunch, the General spoke, underlining the significance of the 3rd of May Constitution and its influence on the future development of Polish thought. After lunch the General departed.

May 4, 1942

Today at 16:30 in front of City Hall, Colonel Sujkowski presented a shield with a White Eagle, expressing the hope that this eagle as a symbol for every Pole, would also be a symbol for the town of Owen Sound and an expression of our feelings of gratitude brought forth by this hospitable town. The Mayor accepted the shield with the White Eagle on behalf of the town.

May 5, 1942

Today in St. Mary's School there was a farewell dance organized by the town for the Polish soldiers. Great time. In general, this dance was acknowledged as the best that the town had this past season.

May 6, 1942

In the morning the army shooting range was transformed into a grenade practice area. Every soldier threw a grenade, including the Chaplain.

May 7, 1942

The Colonel Camp Commander left for Toronto accompanied by Captain Zygmunt Węgorek.

May 8, 1942

Changes in the Command are taking place due to the closure of the camp. The first change involved the educational component.

May 9, 1942

Changes to the Command are taking place due to the closure.

May 10, 1942

In the morning, Mass was celebrated by Chaplain Targosz in the barracks.

May 11, 1942

All day was spent liquidating the Camp Command. All the files and letters were packed. The offices are all being cleared out in preparation for our

departure, which is to take place tomorrow. In the afternoon we got news announcing a delay in our departure.

May 12, 1942

Today the Command moved to the barracks. We found space for the office and records in the service officer's room.

May 13, 1942

The Commanding Officer, conducted a briefing with the camp Officers and NCOs, during which the Colonel expressed his sincere thanks for the instructional work and for the promotional work which every Polish soldier fulfilled and continues to fulfill on foreign soil. This briefing made a deep impression on everyone.

May 14, 1942

Feast day of the Ascension of Our Lord. From early morning preparations for our departure continue. We now know that we will depart tomorrow at 13:15. The officer commanding the Marching Company held a briefing at which he reported on the departure for England, as well as assigning responsibilities for work associated with the departure.

May 15, 1942

Reveille at 4:00 am. Until 6:30 equipment relating to our accommodations were returned. At 6:40, the officer in command of the marching company received a report from 2nd Lieut. Franciszek Omilon after which the company headed for the C.P.R. Station.

At 7:30 the Camp Commander received a report from Lieut. Paszkowski, after which he gave a short send-off directed at those who are leaving. All the soldiers who were staying behind as part of the liquidation commission with Captain Jozef Tafelski in charge were on the departure platform.

Representing the town was Mayor Maloy, a great friend of the Poles, as well as the Editor of the local newspaper, The Sun Times, Mr. McTavish.

Due to the early hour there were not many local people present.

At 7:45 we left.

By 12:00 we were in Toronto. We had a break until 16:00 during which time we ate lunch.

The representatives of the Polish community who were at the station, presented us with soap, cigarettes, shaving equipment.

At 16:00 we left.

At 23:15 we were in Montreal where we were joined by 2nd Lieut. Scazighino.

May 16, 1942

Reveille at 6:30 on the train. Breakfast, lunch and dinner on the train. Canadian soldiers are also travelling with us. At 16:20 we were able to get out for a walk taking advantage of train stop.



May 17, 1942

Reveille at 6; breakfast at 7; at 8:35 we arrived in Halifax and after completing the formalities we boarded the ship "Banfora". This is a small ship of 10,000 tons with a speed of 14 knots. We boarded along with about 1,500 Canadian soldiers. At 17:00 we set out

on the so-called "reds"

May 18, 1942

We set sail at 11:10 am. Thick fog surrounds the ship. The ocean is so peaceful that it feels as if we were sailing on a lake.

May 19, 1942

Every morning at 10:00 am there is an inspection on the ship's deck.

May 20, 1942

Our small soldier's choir sang several songs for the Canadian soldiers.

May 27, 1942

After successfully crossing the Atlantic we landed at the port in Glasgow.

General List of Non-Commissioned Officer's Cadre in the Owen Sound Camp

[Ranks are given in British Army equivalents]

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Warrant Officer | Kula, Jan |
| 2. Warrant Officer | Sroka-Sroczyński, Władysław |
| 3. Aspirant | Bartel, Rudolf |
| 4. Aspirant | Borowicz, Edward |
| 5. Aspirant | Malachowski, Stanisław |
| 6. Staff Sergeant | Bandrowski, Bronisław |
| 7. Staff Sergeant | Kolek, Józef |
| 8. Arms Master | Lukasiewicz, Bronisław |
| 9. Staff Sergeant | Ślodyczka, Jan |
| 10. Sergeant | Budziński, Alojzy |
| 11. Sergeant | Kurpiewski, Feliks |
| 12. Sergeant | Wisniewski, Jan |
| 13. Sergeant Cadet | Baworowski, Michał |
| 14. Lance Sergeant Cadet | Borys, Franciszek |
| 15. Lance Sergeant Cadet | Buglewski, Marian |
| 16. Lance Sergeant Cadet | Filipowski, Jówel |
| 17. Lance Sergeant Cadet | Korona, Jan |
| 18. Lance Sergeant Cadet | Meysztowicz, Jan |
| 19. Lance Sergeant Cadet | Mocarski, Kazimierz |
| 20. Lance Sergeant Cadet | Ring, Robert |
| 21. Lance Sergeant Cadet | Sroka, Jan |
| 22. Lance Sergeant Cadet | Strzemecki, Tadeusz |
| 23. Lance Sergeant Cadet | Walaszewski, Brunon |
| 24. Lance Sergeant Cadet | Wisniewski, Michał |
| 25. Lance Sergeant Cadet | Władziński, Wiktor |
| 26. Lance Sergeant Cadet | Zawadzki, Adam |
| 27. Lance Sergeant Cadet | Zurowski, Adam |
| 28. Lance Sergeant | Boczarski, Władysław |
| 29. Lance Sergeant | Bonar, Henryk |
| 30. Lance Sergeant | Burkiewicz, Edward |
| 31. Lance Sergeant | Eminowicz, Stefan (one of the first to volunteer) |
| 32. Lance Sergeant | Fruhauf, Franciszek |
| 33. Lance Sergeant | Głowacki, Leon |

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 34. Lance Sergeant | Gorski, Tadeusz |
| 35. Lance Sergeant | Kachel, Frederyk |
| 36. Lance Sergeant | Kizielewicz, Franciszek |
| 37. Lance Sergeant | Kowalski, Klemens |
| 38. Lance Sergeant | Maly, Wladyslaw |
| 39. Lance Sergeant | Mazurkiewicz, Jozef |
| 40. Lance Sergeant | Olszewski, Jan |
| 41. Lance Sergeant | Podeszwa, Jan |
| 42. Lance Sergeant | Psykala, Mieczyslaw |
| 43. Lance Sergeant | Siemienas, Franciszek |
| 44. Petty Officer 2 nd Class | Sikorski, Stanislaw |
| 45. Lance Sergeant | Socha, Albin |
| 46. Lance Sergeant | Stecko, Aleksander |
| 47. Lance Sergeant | Stercel, Augustyn |
| 48. Lance Sergeant | Teperek, Roman |
| 49. Lance Sergeant | Umbras, Edward |
| 50. Corporal Cadet | Arabczyk, Beniamin [Deserted] |
| 51. Corporal Cadet | Dobrowolski, Janusz |
| 52. Corporal Cadet | Flek, Stanislaw |
| 53. Corporal Cadet | Niemiec, Kazimierz |
| 54. Corporal Cadet | Rosinski, Jan |
| 55. Corporal Cadet | Somogyi, Janusz |
| 56. Corporal Cadet | Trybus, Bronislaw |
| 57. Corporal | Antonowicz, Wladyslaw |
| 58. Corporal | Bednarczyk, Wacław |
| 59. Corporal | Bulerski, Stefan |
| 60. Corporal | Dunajski, Tadeusz |
| 61. Corporal | Duszynski, Kazimierz |
| 62. Corporal | Ginalski, Ignacy |
| 63. Corporal | Grzenia, Pawel |
| 64. Corporal | Jablecki, Michal |
| 65. Corporal | Kandula, Kazimierz |
| 66. Corporal | Karolewicz, Stanislaw |
| 67. Corporal | Katelbach, Andrzej |
| 68. Corporal | Kolecki, Jozef |
| 69. Corporal | Kusiak, Edward |
| 70. Corporal | Lange, Marian |

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 71. Corporal | Lewandowski, Bernard |
| 72. Leading Seaman | Mleczek, Romuald [From Montreal] |
| 73. Corporal | Morrey, Inge |
| 74. Corporal | Moscicki, Aleksander |
| 75. Corporal | Nagly, Stefan |
| 76. Corporal | Napierala, Stanislaw |
| 77. Corporal | Nutkiewicz, Berek [Deserted] |
| 78. Corporal | Ojrzanowski, Flirian |
| 79. Corporal | Orzechowski, Boleslaw |
| 80. Corporal | Pszczola, Tadeusz |
| 81. Corporal | Rybinski, Jan |
| 82. Corporal | Skorupski, Aloizy |
| 83. Leading Seaman | Slopecki, Edward [From Brooklyn, NY] |
| 84. Corporal | Stanislowski, Antoni |
| 85. Corporal | Sternal, Stefan |
| 86. Corporal | Suliga, Jozef |
| 87. Corporal | Szufnara, Edward |
| 88. Corporal | Trembecki, Marian |
| 89. Corporal | Utratny, Edward |
| 90. Corporal | Wojak, Erwin |
| 91. Corporal | Zalenski, Stanislaw |
| 92. Corporal | Zuraw, Adam |

General List of Riflemen at the Camp in Owen Sound

1. Abernethy Samuel
2. Alamek, Michal
3. Adamowski, Jozef
4. Adamski, Kazimierz
5. Alaszynski, August [Seaman, from Toledo, Ohio]
6. Afek, Leon
7. Alboszta, Edward
8. Angott, Robert
9. Antoszczyszyn, Michal
10. Asakevich, Jan [Air Force]

11. Astransky, Jerome
12. Axilrod, Eric
13. Baczor, Michal [Seaman, from Bridgeton, New Jersey]
14. Baggs, Charles
15. Balicki, Juliusz
16. Balukyinas, Raymond
17. Balajewicz, Jozef
18. Baran, Kazimierz
19. Baranowski, Longin
20. Baranowski, William
21. Bartnik, Wit
22. Bauer, Hieronim
23. Bak, Czeslaw
24. Bak, Franciszek
25. Bak, Stanislaw
26. Beck, Lester
27. Bell, Donald
28. Berkowicz, Franciszek
29. Berry, Robert
30. Bezuszek, Jan
31. Bialobrzewski, Marian
32. Bielicki, Stanislaw [Seaman, from New Britain, Conn.]
33. Bienkowski, Stanislaw
34. Bieszcz, Mieczyslaw
35. Bieszczad, Eugeniusz
36. Binkowski, Jan
37. Birnholc, Stanislaw
38. Blaida, Jozef
39. Blassig, Philip
40. Blaszczyński, Edmund
41. Bloniarz, Stanislaw
42. Bobek, Jan
43. Bobinski, Henryk
44. Bochenek, Edward
45. Bognacki, Wacław
46. Bojke, Grzegorz
47. Bolczak, Teofil

48. Booza, Antoni [Air Force]
49. Borkowski, Stanislaw
50. Borkowski, Wladyslaw
51. Bradshaw, William
52. Brown, Vincent
53. Brudnicki, Jozef
54. Brudnicki, William
55. Bryl, Edward
56. Brzeski, Sylwester
57. Brzozowski, Artur
58. Brzozowski, Edward
59. Budnik, Wladyslaw
60. Bukowski, Edward
61. Burawski, Antoni
62. Burblis, Stanislaw
63. Burger, Karol
64. Burnham, James
65. Bus, Jozef
66. Buynowski, Karol
67. Bzdał, Stefan
68. Caforio, Mikolaj
69. Carter, George
70. Ceglarek, Boleslaw
71. Centowski, Jozef
72. Cichowski, Czeslaw
73. Ciecierski, Marceli
74. Cioban, Tadeusz
75. Cipora, Jan
76. Cisek, Andrzej
77. Chalk, Wladyslaw
78. Chelmoniak, Ryszard
79. Chilinski, Edward
80. Chledowski, Edward (the third person to volunteer)
81. Chmielewski, Franciszek
82. Choromanski, Jan
83. Chorzelski, Michal
84. Chrun, Edward

85. Chudy, Stanislaw [The 19th to volunteer; He decided to serve in the air force. After 5-months training in Owen Sound, he was sent to England for further training. Later he was assigned to the 301st Bomber Squadron. On October 8, 1942 over a port in Holland he was shot down. Of a crew of 5 he was the only one to survive. He was taken prisoner by the Germans and was liberated by Gen. Patton's forces in 1945. After the war he returned to Hartford in the United States where he worked for a factory which manufactured air plane parts.
86. Chyc, Edmund [Seaman, from New York, N.Y.]
87. Chyla, Donald
88. Clear, Bernard
89. Coleman, Harold
90. Comer, Gene
91. Cook, Henry
92. Couch, John
93. Coulter, John
94. Cutting, Jerry
95. Czajka, Franciszek
96. Czajkowski, Wacław
97. Czar, Franciszek
98. Czaplinski, Zygmunt
99. Czarnecki, Franciszek
100. Czernik, Jeremi
101. Czerwinski, Franciszek
102. Czyzewski, Stanislaw
103. Daniec, Juliusz [Completed officer's training in Scotland; after the war he settled in New York City and later retired to the Poconos]
104. Danielczyk, Stanislaw
105. Dann, Leland
106. Darmofal, Wincenty
107. Daszewski, Antoni
108. Davis, James
109. Davis, Willard [Air Force]
110. Dawson, Elwin
111. Dabek, Czeslaw
112. Dabkowski, Czeslaw
113. Dabrowski, Jozef

114. Dekiel, Jozef
115. Dembosz, Eugeniusz
116. Doboszynski, Stefan
117. Dobrowolski, Tadeusz
118. Dobrowolski, Walter
119. Dobrzanski, Henryk
120. Domachowski, Eugeniusz
121. Domora, Stanislaw (one of the first two to volunteer; he came from the United States)
122. Domzalski, Wladyslaw
123. Dowler, Lawrence
124. Drewniak, Michal
125. Du Crest, Edward
126. Dudek, Antoni
127. Dudek, Sylwester [Lived in New Jersey after the war.]
128. Dudziuk, Stanislaw
129. Dulemba, Franciszek
130. Dunikowski, Zygmunt
131. Duplaga, Jan
132. Dusza, Stanislaw
133. Duzynski, Kazimierz
134. Duzynski, Stanislaw
135. Dybas, Leonard
136. Dziechciarz, Kazimierz
137. Dziergas, Antoni
138. Dziewonski, Kazimierz
139. Dzik, Edward
140. Dziulikowski, Henryk
141. Fadziejewski, Michal
142. Fafara, Adolf
143. Ferenc, Stanislaw
144. Ferus, Piotr
145. Fetera, Stanislaw
146. Filipkowski, Jan
147. Filipowicz, Aleksander
148. Fincher, Roy
149. Finkielsztajn, Jankiel

150. Flaury, Douglas
151. Folwarczy, Henryk
152. Forney, Lawrence
153. Francuz, Wladyslaw
154. Frank, Paul
155. Furman, Alfred
156. Gabel, Melwin
157. Gafkowski, Czeslaw
158. Galazka, Boleslaw
159. Galazka, Michal [Seaman, from Detroit, Michigan]
160. Gampert, Alton
161. Garnere, Ernest
162. Gawarecki, Stanislaw
163. Gelunas, Jack
164. Getrajdehender, Szymon
165. Glass, Jerzy
166. Glass, Mieczyslaw
167. Glass, Zygmunt
168. Gladkowski, Henryk
169. Glowacki, Edward
170. Glowski, Jerzy
171. Gluchowski, Maciej [Air Force. He flew with the 304th Squadron]
172. Godlewski, Bronislaw [Air Force. He lost both his hands during a flight.]
173. Goldberg, Chaim
174. Goldberg, Nessanel
175. Goldman, Kazimierz
176. Golembiowski, Antoni
177. Gorzen, Jan
178. Gorski, Jan
179. Grabowicz, Edmund
180. Grac, Franciszek
181. Graczyk, Jozef
182. Gramiak, Grzegorz
183. Greszczuk, Tadeusz
184. Groblicki, Tadeusz
185. Gromczyk, Stefan
186. Grucza, Leon

187. Gruszecki, Jan
188. Gruszkowski, Jan
189. Grygientz, Wladyslaw
190. Grzybowski, Boguslaw
191. Grzybowski, Pawel
192. Gubala, Edmund
193. Gubernat, Stanislaw
194. Gumieła, Wacław [He announced the Polish dances at the July 1, 1942 because he was fluent in English. He died in Toronto after the war]
195. Haber, Franciszek
196. Haeberle, Eugeniusz
197. Hamera, Antoni
198. Harasimiuk, Franciszek
199. Hasiak, Stanislaw
200. Hausner, Zygmunt
201. Hawbaker, Lawrence
202. Heery, Raymond
203. Helstowski, Jan
204. Henderson, James
205. Hendrickson, Clifford
206. Holda, Stanisław [Air Force]
207. Hornbeck, Richard
208. Hurlache, Hugh
209. Hyc, Jan
210. Indeck, Jerzy
211. Irla, Andrzej
212. Jablonski, Stanislaw
213. Jablonski, Tadeusz
214. Jacobs, Albert
215. Jakiel, Stanislaw
216. Jankowski, Mieczyslaw
217. Jasionkowski, Edward
218. Jaskonis, Michal
219. Jaskolski, Tadeusz
220. Jaskowski, Marian
221. Jawor, Czeslaw
222. Jaworowski, Alfons

- 223. Jaworski, Jozef [Air Force]
- 224. Jemiolo, Konstanty
- 225. Jez, Adam
- 226. Johns, Earl
- 227. Kaczanowski, Edward
- 228. Kaczmariski, Edward
- 229. Kaczmariski, Jan
- 230. Kaczorowski, Mieczyslaw
- 231. Kalenskas, Jozef
- 232. Kalinowski, Kazimierz
- 233. Kaliszak, Edmund
- 234. Kaluzny, Jan
- 235. Kania, Czeslaw
- 236. Kania, Karol
- 237. Kantor, Albert [Air Force]
- 238. Karpinski, Jozef
- 239. Karwata, Daniel [From Chicago; deserted in September 1941]
- 240. Kaslewich, Barney
- 241. Kasperkowiak, Aloizy
- 242. Kilarecki, Franciszek
- 243. King, Vernon
- 244. Kleiner, Ludwik (in the Chaim Goldberg book)
- 245. Kleinman, Julius
- 246. Klimas, Leopold
- 247. Klofta, Melwin
- 248. Klapkowski, Stanislaw
- 249. Klek, Jan
- 250. Klodnicki, Jozef
- 251. Klusek, Boleslaw
- 252. Kobylak, Franciszek
- 253. Kocoj, Edward
- 254. Kolanda, Edward
- 255. Kolodziej, Jan
- 256. Konopka, Jozef
- 257. Kopaczewski, Wladyslaw
- 258. Kopek, Michal
- 259. Korolchuk, Aleksander

260. Korzun, Walter
261. Kosakowski, Franciszek
262. Kosakowski, Stanislaw
263. Kosidowski, Jan [Completed officer's training in Scotland; assigned to the 1st Polish Armoured Brigade; after the war he returned to Poland]
264. Kosmala, Antoni
265. Kosobudski, Julian
266. Kosbiel, William
267. Kowalczyk, Kazimierz
268. Kowalski, Tadeusz
269. Kozak, Jozef
270. Kozakiewicz, Adam
271. Kozakowski, Walter
272. Koziol, Henryk
273. Kozler, Stanislaw
274. Kozubal, Edmund
275. Kratkiewicz, Artur
276. Kremski, Zygmunt
277. Krok, Wladyslaw
278. Kropp, Robert
279. Krugman, Heszel
280. Kruszewski, Leonard
281. Krystecki, Teodor
282. Krzesimowski, Wacław
283. Krzyzanowski, Jan
284. Kubeczko, Boleslaw
285. Kubis, Bronislaw
286. Kubisz, Boleslaw
287. Kuborek, Jozef
288. Kucal, Feliks
289. Kucharenko, Aleksander
290. Kucharski, Stefan
291. Kuchinski, George
292. Kuczak, Tadeusz
293. Kudzmas, Benedykt
294. Kukis, Boleslaw
295. Kula, Edward

296. Kula, Julian
297. Kulpinski, Tadeusz
298. Kulak, Stanislaw
299. Kuncewicz, Zenon
300. Kunka, Feliks
301. Kunka, Tadeusz
302. Kurek, Jan
303. Kurek, Stanislaw
304. Kurkowski, Jozef
305. Kurlandzki, Samuel
306. Kurowski, Jan
307. Kurowski, Rudolf
308. Kusiak, Maciej
309. Kusznir, Mikolaj
310. Kut, Tadeusz
311. Kuzniar, Tadeusz
312. Kyzenewski, Edmund
313. Kwieczynski, Czeslaw
314. Labotski, Aleksander
315. Lach, Edward
316. Lampert, Mieczyslaw
317. Landau, Marcel [Completed officer's training in Scotland; was assigned to the 1st Polish Armoured Brigade; was wounded during the Normandy Invasion; lived in London, England after the war]
318. Laskowski, Aloizy
319. La Tarte, Mandeville
320. Laueson, John
321. Ledochowski, Roman
322. Leinen, Clarence
323. Leisky, Robert
324. Lenartowicz, Marian
325. Letkiewicz, Alfons
326. Lewis, Jackson
327. Lipoczynski, Stanislaw
328. Lipiec, Feliks
329. Lipinski, Tadeusz
330. Liszewski, Edward

- 331. Lojas, Wladyslaw
- 332. Lukas, Franciszek
- 333. Lukus, Andrzej
- 334. Lwowski, Stefan
- 335. Lukasik, Mieczyslaw
- 336. Lukasik, Stanislaw
- 337. Lukasik, Tadeusz
- 338. Lupinski, Franciszek
- 339. Lupinski, Witold
- 340. Maciejewski, Michal
- 341. Mackiewicz, William
- 342. Majchrzak, Wacław
- 343. Mazds, Feliks
- 344. Malanowski, Jozef
- 345. Malecki, Stanislaw
- 346. Malecki, Teofil
- 347. Malkiewicz, Jozef
- 348. Malachowski, Jozef
- 349. Marcinkowski, Walter
- 350. Mardula, Jozef
- 351. Margulis, Michal
- 352. Markielewicz, Jan
- 353. Markiewicz, Jan
- 354. Marks, Jan
- 355. Marticek, John
- 356. Martin, William
- 357. Matuszewski, Edward
- 358. Matysiak, Stanislaw
- 359. Mazur, Walter
- 360. Mazur, Wlodzimierz
- 361. Mazurek, Bronislaw
- 362. Maznicki, Jerzy
- 363. McKenzie, George
- 364. McPhail, Roderick
- 365. Medlin, Fernie
- 366. Meller, Wladyslaw
- 367. Melton, Wallace

- 368. Menzyk, Jan
- 369. Mercer, Maurice
- 370. Meyers, Thomas
- 371. Michalski, Edward
- 372. Micun, Leonard
- 373. Mierzejewski, Tadeusz
- 374. Mierzwa, Marcin
- 375. Migaszewski, Mikołaj
- 376. Mikonowicz, Antoni
- 377. Miksza, Edward
- 378. Mykula, Edward
- 379. Milczarek, Roman
- 380. Milewski, Jan
- 381. Miller, Harold
- 382. Mirabel, Ryszard
- 383. Misiak, Mieczysław
- 384. Misiak, Stanisław
- 385. Molewicz, Karol
- 386. Moliski, Jan
- 387. Moore, Paul
- 388. Morey, James
- 389. Morgan, Clifford
- 390. Morayda, Michael
- 391. Murphy, Charles
- 392. Musiał, Zdzisław
- 393. Muszkat, Henryk
- 394. Muszynski, Leonard
- 395. Muszynski, Raymond
- 396. Mydło, Walter
- 397. Myszka, Stanisław
- 398. Naglik, Wiktor
- 399. Nicpon, William
- 400. Niklasz, Maksymilian
- 401. Nizioł, Adam
- 402. Nowaczyk, Władysław
- 403. Nowak, Leonard
- 404. Nowak, Stefan

- 405. Nowakowski, Jozef [Seaman, from New York, NY]
- 406. Nowicki, Adam
- 407. Nowosielski, Eugeniusz
- 408. Nykiel, Bronislaw
- 409. Ogrodnik, Tadeusz
- 410. Ogrodowski, Stefan
- 411. Oksztynitys, Antoni
- 412. Olejarczyk, Kazimierz
- 413. Olszewski, Stanislaw
- 414. Olszewski, Stanislaw II
- 415. Olszewski, Wacław
- 416. Olszowy, Boleslaw
- 417. Olsztyn, Edmund
- 418. Olsztyn, Jozef
- 419. Opawsky, Jan
- 420. Orciuch, Franciszek
- 421. Orlowski, Walter
- 422. Ostrowski, Zygmunt (Sent a telegram to President Roosevelt assuring him of the loyalty of the American volunteers following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.)
- 423. Ostrowsky, Bernard
- 424. Osuch, Zdzislaw
- 425. Owoc, Stanislaw
- 426. Pajewski, Jozef
- 427. Paluszek, Jozef
- 428. Parcheta, Jozef
- 429. Pardue, Walter
- 430. Partyka, Jozef
- 431. Parylak, Jozef
- 432. Parys, Henryk
- 433. Pastuszka, Edward
- 434. Paszke, Edward
- 435. Paszko, Jozef
- 436. Patrickka, George
- 437. Pawelek, Edmund
- 438. Pawlowski, Leon
- 439. Panek, Bronislaw

- 440. Pcion, Andrzej
- 441. Peterman, Jozef Roy
- 442. Pedrys, Edward
- 443. Phillips, Rudolf
- 444. Piec, Roch
- 445. Pieczewski, Stanislaw
- 446. Pielech,
- 447. Pietruszka, Aloizy
- 448. Pietryka, Stefan
- 449. Pietrzak, Edward
- 450. Pietrzak, Kazimierz
- 451. Pilch, Jozef
- 452. Pinkowski, LLeonard
- 453. Piotrowicz, Stanislaw
- 454. Pleszewicz, Wladyslaw
- 455. Pluta, Jozef
- 456. Poborka, Antoni
- 457. Podchlebnik, Szlama (Saul Podnik)
Returned to Owen Sound after the war and married Nettie Oretsky of Oretsky
Furs. There is a brass memory plaque Yarhzeit) with his name at the Beth
Ezekiel Synagogue in Owen Sound.
- 458. Podpora, Stanislaw
- 459. Polak, Roman
- 460. Polek, Stanislaw
- 461. Polkowski, Stanislaw
- 462. Pomorski, Jan
- 463. Ponierzielski, Jan
- 464. Porebski, Kazimierz
- 465. Posner, Isser
- 466. Postrozny, Walter
- 467. Potrzebowski, Boleslaw
- 468. Poynter, Robert
- 469. Pozdzioch, Tadeusz
- 470. Preisinger, Raymond
- 471. Preston, William
- 472. Prochaska, Wacław
- 473. Pruszynski, Kazimierz

- 474. Pryjmak, Pawel
- 475. Przekop, Piotr
- 476. Przelomski, Henryk
- 477. Przykuta, Jozef [Seaman, from Center Line, Michigan]
- 478. Puchalski, Zbigniew [Air Force]
- 479. Puszczan, Czeslaw
- 480. Pysz, Wladyslaw
- 481. Pyzynski, Raymond
- 482. Radzikowski, Bronislaw
- 483. Ratajski, Boleslaw
- 484. Rejdak, Jan
- 485. Rembisz, Jan
- 486. Reymos, Phillip
- 487. Rewers, Edmund
- 488. Rhame, Allan
- 489. Roczyn, Franciszek
- 490. Rodowicz, Alfred
- 491. Rogalski, Joachim
- 492. Rogoz, Jozef
- 493. Rogucki, Franciszek
- 494. Rogucki, Teodor
- 495. Rolecki, Jan
- 496. Roman, Stanislaw
- 497. Romanowicz, Walter
- 498. Romanski, Stanislaw
- 499. Romba, Stefan
- 500. Ropejko, Jan
- 501. Rosinski, Jan
- 502. Rozensztrauch, Maks (Goldberg mentions a Max Rosenstahl; I wonder if he is the same person)
- 503. Rucinski, Walter
- 504. Rubewicz, Czeslaw
- 505. Rudzinski, Alfred
- 506. Rudzinski, Wincenty
- 507. Ruszczyk, Lawrence
- 508. Rybaczek, Eugeniusz
- 509. Rybak, Michal

- 510. Ryan, Weldon
- 511. Rye, Charles
- 512. Sala, Jozef
- 513. Sala, Wladyslaw
- 514. Saladiak, Jan
- 515. Sarnecki, Edward
- 516. Saxton, Gaylord
- 516. Sawicki, Jozef
- 517. Scoental, Paul
- 518. Schultz, Raymond
- 519. Sears, Benjamin
- 520. Seipp, Stefan
- 521. Senkowsky, Gerald
- 522. Serafin, Wladyslaw [Air Force. He flew with the 304th Squadron]
- 523. Serwinski, Franciszek
- 524. Sieczkowski, Jozef
- 525. Sieczkowski, Tomasz
- 526. Sikora, Zygmunt
- 527. Sipowicz, Zygmunt
- 528. Sitek, Franciszek
- 529. Sheridan, Scott
- 530. Showalter, Joseph
- 531. Shumbich, Stanislaw
- 532. Skazalski, Mieczyslaw
- 533. Skiba, Jozef
- 534. Skiba, Pawel
- 535. Skoczek, Edward
- 536. Skrabonia, Jozef
- 537. Skrzycki, Jozef
- 538. Skupienski, Edward [Air Force]
- 539. Skurski, Leonard
- 540. Slawinski, Eugeniusz
- 541. Sobieraj, Edward
- 542. Soboll, Czeslaw
- 543. Sobun, Stanislaw
- 544. Socha, Bronislaw [Born in Ware, Massachusetts; after the early death of his mother he was adopted by a family in Poland; in 1938 he returned to the

States and worked for Sprague Electric Company in Adams, Massachusetts; Volunteered and was assigned to the NCO School in Owen Sound; he completed his training in Scotland; concerned that he may lose his American citizenship he joined the American forces; he fought at Cherbourg and later in Austria; returned to his job in Massachusetts after the war, married and raised two sons]

- 545. Sokoloff, Carl
- 546. Solowianiuk, Wladyslaw
- 547. Sommers, Edward
- 548. Sosin, Tadeusz
- 549. Sosnkowski, Jan
- 550. Sowinski, Franciszek
- 551. Sowulewski, Jan
- 552. Smith, Barry
- 553. Spaulding, Elmer
- 554. Spurgiasz, Jan
- 555. Srokosz, Jozef
- 556. Staszewski, Mateusz
- 557. Stawarz, Jan
- 558. Stawarz, Tadeusz
- 559. Stefankiewicz, Kazimierz
- 560. Stempien, Ignacy
- 561. Stewart, Stanislaw
- 562. Stockton, Frank
- 563. Straigis, Stanley
- 564. Stramowski, Alfons
- 565. Stratychuk, Michal
- 566. Strojwas, Kazimierz
- 567. Strucinski, Mieczyslaw
- 568. Strzegowski, Szczepan
- 569. Subinski, Jan
- 570. Suchorowski, Edward
- 571. Sulkowski, Piotr
- 572. Summers, Virgil
- 573. Superson, Mitchell
- 574. Surmacz, Jozef
- 575. Surman, Stefan

- 576. Surowka, Jzef
- 577. Syc, Jan
- 578. Swatowski, Pawel
- 579. Swerchun, Stefan
- 580. Szafraniec, Emil
- 581. Szczurowski, Henryk
- 582. Szczygiel, Stanislaw
- 583. Szewczak, Wacław
- 584. Szoskies, Lew
- 585. Sznol, Judka
- 586. Szumilak, Marian
- 587. Szymanski, Edmund
- 588. Szymanski, Franciszek
- 589. Szymkow, Wladyslaw
- 590. Slusarski, Leonard
- 591. Snietka, Stanislaw
- 592. Snitko, Marian
- 593. Srutwa, Tadeusz
- 594. Swiderski, Wincenty
- 595. Swigonski, Edward
- 596. Szwed, Jan [One of the illustrators with Odsiecz]
- 597. Tabaczynski, Jan
- 598. Tadeusiak, Wiktor
- 599. Tapp, William
- 600. Tarasek, Antoni
- 601. Tataronis, Anthony
- 602. Tataronis, Arthur
- 603. Taylor, Carl
- 604. Tchorzewski, Zygmunt
- 605. Telecz, Jozef
- 606. Tencza, Michal
- 607. Charles Thomson [deserted September 1941]
- 608. Tigner, Juliusz
- 609. Tokarczyk, Wojciech
- 610. Trautmanski, Lyle
- 611. Trawers, Richard
- 612. Tribbets, Czeslaw

613. Trybula, Edward

614. Trzcinski, Jan [Born in New York; when his mother died, his father took him to Poland where he lived in Wilno; Was enrolled in university when the war broke out; he reported to the American Consulate and as an American citizen, was sent back to the US; in Philadelphia he became the editor of a Polish weekly „Patriota”; was one of the first two volunteers in Windsor; joined the air force; after the war he settled in Cheektowaga, NY]

615. Trzcinski, Wladyslaw

616. Trzebiatowski, Jan

617. Turza, Ferdynand

618. Tyburski, Jan

619. Tyliczszak, Piotr [Born in Muszyna, Poland on March 15, 1914. From 1929 to 1933 he was a seaman and served on the sailing ship „Dar Pomorza.” From 1935-1939 he sailed on the M.S. Batory and later on the M.S. Pilsudski, until the ship was sunk by the Germans. He was taken to a hospital in Montreal and once he had recovered he sailed with the Canadian Merchant Marine on a ship named „Capo Noli.” He volunteered for the Polish Navy in Owen Sound and served as an instructor. After the closing of the camp he served on the ORP Krakowiak, Orkan and Dragon. He was on the Dragon when it was sunk by the Germans. In 1945, Tyliczszak was awarded the Cross of Valour (Krzyz Walecznych) and the Maritime Medal (Medal Morski). He married Dorothy Edna Tighe on November 6, 1944. After the war he returned to Owen Sound. He married Harriet Parker of Owen Sound. He died on February 4, 1999.

620. Uchwat, Karol

621. Ulaszewski, Walter

622. Urban, Edward

623. Urban, Feliks

624. Uskowski, Jan

625. Vekomnski, Henryk

626. Yawman, Frank

627. Vogler, Henryk

628. Walejewski, Karol

629. Walker, Eddbert

630. Wansart, Ryszard

631. Wandelowski, Wincenty

632. Waraksa, Zygmunt

633. Warden, Robert

- 634. Warman, Robert
- 635. Warminski, Stanislaw
- 636. Wasilewski, Henryk
- 637. Wasko, Jozef
- 638. Watkins, Wilson
- 639. Wazny, Bronislaw
- 640. Wasik, Michal
- 641. Weisbercer, Richard
- 642. Weldon, George
- 643. Wernik, Marian
- 644. Whitacre, Robert
- 645. Wieczorek, Antoni
- 646. Wiktor, Jan
- 647. Wilk, Jan
- 648. Wilkinson, George
- 649. Wilkinson, Henry
- 650. Williams, Julius
- 651. Williams, William
- 652. Wiltshire, Elmer
- 653. Winkiewicz, Albin
- 654. Winski, Longin
- 655. Wisniewski, Jerzy
- 656. Wisniowski, Zygmunt
- 657. Witkowski, Bernard
- 658. Witkowski, Wladyslaw
- 659. Wnuk, Jan
- 660. Wnuk, Teofil [In 1941 he volunteered in Windsor and chose to enter the Polish Air Force. He left for England in 1942 as an Aircraftman Class 2. In 1943 he was promoted to Pilot Officer, in 1944 to Flying Officer and in 1946 to Flight Lieutenant. He flew with the 304th and 301st squadrons. He flew 50 sorties. In 1945, he volunteered to go to Africa and later to India and Burma. When he was in Poona, India he was recalled by the US Ambassador. He returned to the United States.]
- 661. Wodynski, Stanislaw
- 662. Wojnarowski, Henryk [Died in Philadelphia]
- 663. Wojtan, Jan
- 664. Wojtan, Jozef

- 665. Wojtas, Edwin
- 666. Wolanczyk, Karol
- 667. Wolski, Edward
- 668. Wozniak, Jozef Antoni
- 669. Wozniak, Jozef Marcelli
- 670. Wozniak, Henryk
- 671. Zabijak, Stanislaw
- 672. Zajkowski, Jan
- 673. Zaleski, Czeslaw
- 674. Zator, Tomasz
- 675. Zembek, Wladyslaw
- 676. Zeni, Charles
- 677. Zdon, Raymond
- 678. Zdyb, Josef
- 679. Zielinski, Jozef
- 680. Ziolkowski, Henryk
- 681. Zlotowski, Jozef
- 682. Zysk, Czeslaw
- 683. Zankowski, Artur
- 684. Zukowski, Jan
- 685. Zurcwski, Tadeusz
- 686. Zybinski, Jerzy
- 687. Zylka, Antoni
- 688. Wojekowski, Wiktor
- 689. Wronikowski, Edward
- 690. Wusza, Wladyslaw

General List of the Officers Corps in Owen Sound

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Lieutenant-Colonel | Sujkowski, Witold |
| 2. Group Captain – Pilot | Krasnodeski, Zdzislaw |
| 3. Major | Majewski, Stefan |
| 4. Commander | Mindak, Tadeusz |
| 5. Captain | Distler (Doctor), Emanuel |
| 6. Captain | Gawdzik, Tadeusz |
| 7. Captain | Kreutzinger, Eryk |
| 8. Captain | Malak, Mieczyslaw |

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 9. Captain | Tafelski, Jozef |
| 10. Captain | Targosz (Priest), Stanislaw |
| 11. Captain | Wegorek, Zygmunt |
| 12. Lieutenant | Balcerzak, Henryk |
| 13. Lieutenant | Barczyk, Jozef [He stayed on after most the men left.] |

18. Nitka, Bronislaw Lieutenant
Captain

Served in 1st Polish Armoured Division; Promoted to Captain; awarded Krzyz Walecznych (Cross of Valour)

22. Cedrowski, Edward 2nd Lieutenant
23. Giergiel, Alfred 2nd Lieutenant

Served in 1st Polish Armoured Division; Promoted to Lieutenant; awarded Krzyz Walecznych twice (Cross of Valour)

28. 2nd Lieutenant Roch, Edward
29. 2nd Lieutenant Scazighino, Jan

Jan Scazighino was descended from an Italian family that escaped from Pisa after it was overrun by Florence in 1509. They settled in Vienna. Later the family moved to an estate near Lwow, which was then in Austrian Poland. Jan was born on December 27, 1905 on the estate near Lwow. In the 1930's Jan joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw. In 1937, he married Krystyna Gorski and took up an assignment as Vice-Consul in New York City. Jan Scazighino and his wife were in the US on a diplomatic visa when WWII started. Jan was involved with organizing the Polish pavilion for the 1939 World's Fair which took place in New York City.

After the outbreak of World War II Jan resigned his diplomatic post and joined the Polish Army in Windsor. After being trained at Owen Sound he was sent to Ottawa to join the Polish Embassy and later was sent to Iraq to join the staff of Gen. Wladyslaw Anders as a translator. During the Italian campaign, Jan asked to be assigned to a front-line unit.

On May 12, 1944 he was killed in action while leading his platoon in an assault on the monastery at Monte Cassino. He was hit by a grenade fragment severed a

major artery. He is buried in the Polish War cemetery at Monte Cassino. He left behind his wife Krystyna and his daughter Malgosia who was five at that time.

His grandson, Mark Osborne, lives in Toms River, New Jersey

30. 2nd Lieutenant Wisnicki, Boleslaw

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Appendix A: Excerpts from the Diary of Arthur D'Orr Le Pan [University of Toronto Archives]

Compiled by Stan Skrzyszewski

January 15, 2016

Monday, April 8, 1940

I give luncheon at H.H. today for General Haller. He is accompanied by two aides and the Polish Consul from Montreal. Also present Dr. Cody, Dr. Henderson, Dr. Lucas, Dr. Rytel and the following ex-officers of Niagara-on-the-Lake: Major Young, Lt. Col. Madill, Major Kenrick, Major Kirk, Capt. Lewis, Capt. Hamilton, Capt. Dickie, Capt. Brown.

With Young attend Haller meeting in Massey Hall at night.

Tuesday, April 9, 1940

See Gen. Haller at his request at his suite at the Royal York with Orlowski present. He wants to talk about recruiting Poles on this side of the water. Give him copy of my report of last Polish camp showing numbers enlisted from Canada. Tell him I feel enlistment restricted to Canada hardly worthwhile and scheme hardly feasible till such time as it might include Poles from the States. Suggest that with little influx of Poles in the last twenty years, those available may be more Westernized than last war and not so anxious to go. Suggest also that it maybe for this reason more difficult to get men to enlist for the small pay of last time. Think only way it could be successfully done would be by cooperation of Polish, French and British Govts with Canadian and especially cooperation with the U.S.

June 25, 1940

Dr. Rytell in says he has letter from Podoski stating that Dom. Govt likely to authorize formation of Polish Army and asks Rytell to find out if Young and I would let him propose our names to be in charge. He has no details as to where or whether recruiting would be permitted in the U.S. or not, whether there is any organization to further it or not. Typically Polish. Tell him my own personal and financial problems and say again that if it is simply for Canada I cannot see anything worthwhile judging from our previous experience. Tell him I am anxious

to do what I can but unwilling to disrupt my present job unless I am sure thing worthwhile. Say I think Young thinks the same and will see him.
See Young who agrees with me. We agree we will see Rytell and say we think Podowski should tell us what plans are before we are asked to give any decision.

June 27, 1940

Young, Rytell and I have conference at 12 noon. Rytell says scheme off temporarily. Young and I say if they want us Podowski should ask us giving details.

September 4, 1940

Dr. Rytel in office with Col. F.A. Rola-Arciszewski

October 25, 1940

Lunch H.H. Rytel- Lucas- Henderson-Ferguson- Col. Rola Archiszewski- Lieut. Wygord- LePan. Discussion re establishment of Polish Camp. Canadian Govt has apparently given permission for camp but will not provide money. Poles propose to officer camp with perhaps Can (?) officer. I strongly recommend that they use Canadian (?) – ordnance etc if they can get Can Govt to agree

Thursday, October 31, 1940

At 1pm Dr Lucas drives Col. Arciszewski, Major Young, Dr Rytell and me to Waterloo where we see a factory for Polish Camp – too small. Go onto Elmira where we see three factories not very satisfactory and too small. See Mr Martin and Mr Copeland of Dom. Rubber Co in Kitchener re factory at Port Dalhousie. Home at 10:15 pm

Sunday, November 3, 1940

At 9am Dr Lucas motors Young, Rytell and me to Hamilton where we see old plant of Standard Underground Cable Co [Space for perhaps 1500 men for everything. Rent 3000 per month] Has already been used by troops and looks good to Young and me. Then motor on to Port Dalhousie where we inspect unused plant of Dominion Rubber Co Structure in good shape but no boilers and little heating. Would have to be heavy expenditure for re-glazing, heating, plumbing, wiring etc. Sale price 8000 subject to conditions of lease, taxes 3500, water 300 rental and water rights 1060 per year. Second choice to Hamilton. Perhaps can accommodate 600 men. Dinner at 2pm at Welland House St. Catharines. Then on to Niagara Falls where we look at some old construction bldgs of HEPC. Perhaps

sleep 500 men. No heating, No plumbing, No lighting. Not impressed. Back to Toronto at 7pm

November 10, 1940

With C.R. Young attend Polish meeting in Dule Prw. Church 3 to 5:30 when we both leave. Both speak.

Sunday, November 24, 1940

Leave Toronto at 9 a.m. with Mr. Brillinger, Mr. Hunter of Tor Gen Trust and Major Young and Dr Rytel to inspect North American Furniture factory. Meet Mr Molloy Industrial Commissioner. Lunch at Patterson House. Mr Case President Board of Trade comes in. Lt. Col. McLaughlan goes with us to see bldgs at Victoria Park. Back at 7 pm. See Young report.

Wednesday, November 27, 1940

GED Greene tells re use of factory in O.S. [Owen Sound] by Poles. He is anxious to have it used.

Mr Molloy tells to ask what doing. Tell him situation. He tells me Comley House of 40 rooms owned by City is available.

December 18, 1940

C.R. Young in shows me letter from Podoski re: his becoming Chairman of Friends of Poland. Asks me if I will serve on Executive. I say I will do anything he wants me to.

March 17, 1941

Williams telephoned from O.S. [Owen Sound] says Rykel arranged to meet him there today; critical of everybody and everything – Poles – Molloy etc. Ask him why his anxiety – no very satisfactory answer. Tell him everything going along but that it had better be left to Molloy. He says Molloy unstuck the Col by too many letters. Tell him I don't think so and too many cooks will spoil broth. Poles don't need any special agent in O.S. This was reference to what Col told me that Williams asked for letter making him Polish agent in O.S. Tell him again to lay off and leave it to Molloy.

April 24, 1941

Young calls to say Sikorski coming to Toronto, Monday. Discuss what we are to do. Col. Archiszewski in office. Young comes over.

April 28, 1941

Meet General Sikorski and his staff at Royal York at 12 noon go with him to York Club for luncheon.

Short drive with the general after and leave him at hotel. Pick him up at hotel again at 8:15 p.m. and proceed with him to Mass Meeting, Varsity Arena, which is pretty well filled

See him off from Arena at 11p.m.

Tuesday, June 17, 1941

Luncheon at the Royal York Hotel for M. Stanislas Mikolajczyk (June 18), Vice-President of the Polish National Council (Polish Parliament in exile)

Tuesday, August 5, 1941

Wing Commander Richards, R.C.A.F. tels and comes to office, shows me confidential saying that H.R.H. Kent wants to meet Polish officers and flyers and is to get in touch with Le Pan, Young or Podoski. Give him dope and names of officers and where they are. He is to get in touch with them at Windsor. Proposal I take it is to have them come to Toronto to meet H.R.H.

Friday, November 21, 1941

C.R. Young brings in, in morning, Father Puchniak, Lt. Col. Sujkowski, Capt. Malak, Capt. Gawdzik. At 3 pm take them up to see Pres.

Appendix B: "Alarm" a Poem by Antoni Slonimski

"UWAGA! Uwaga! Przeszedł!
Koma trzy!"
Ktoś biegnie po schodach.
Trzasnęły gdzieś drzwi.
Ze zgiełku i wrzawy

Dźwięk jeden wybucha rośnie,
Kołuje jęklowie,
Głos syren - w oktawy
Opada - i wznosi się jęk:
"Ogłaszam alarm dla miasta Warszawy!"

I cisza
Gdzieś z góry
Brzęczy, brzęczy, szumi i drży.
I pękł
Głucho w głąb
Raz, dwa, trzy,
Seria bomb.

To gdzieś dalej. nie ma obawy.
Pewnie Praga.
A teraz bliżej, jeszcze bliżej.
Tuż, tuż.
Krzyk jak strzep krwawy.
I cisza, cisza, która się wzmacnia.
"Uwaga! Uwaga!
Odwołuję alarm dla miasta Warszawy!"

Nie, tego alarmu nikt już nie odwoła.
ten alarm trwa.
Wyjcie, syreny!
Bijcie, werble, płaczcie, dzwony kościołów!
Niech gra
Orkiestra marsza spod Wagram,
Spod Jany.
Chwyćcie ten jęk, regimenty,
Bataliony - armaty i tanki,
niech buchnie,
Niech trwa
W płomieniu świętym "Marsylianki"!

Kiedy w południe ludzie wychodzą z kościoła
Kiedy po niebie wiatr obłoki gna,
Kiedy na Paryż ciemny spada sen,
Któż mi tak ciągle nasłuchiwać każe?
Któż to mnie budzi i woła?

Słyszę szum nocnych nalotów.
Płyną nad miastem. To nie samoloty.
Płyną zburzone kościoły,
Ogrody zmienione w cmentarze,
Ruiny, gruzy, zwaliska,
Ulice i domy znajome z dzieciennych lat,
Traugutta i Świętokrzyska,
Niecała i Nowy Świat.
I płynie miasto na skrzydłach sławy,
I spada kamieniem na serce. Do dna.
Ogłaszam alarm dla miasta Warszawy.
Niech trwa!