A True Polish Hero
My Friend Zdzisław

By: Stanley L. Karp

Another Polish hero has left this world. Major Zdzislaw Jurkiewicz (ret'd), Commander, American Veterans of the Volunteer Association, San Francisco was accorded a full-honors military service of interment at the National Cemetery of San Pablo (Katedra Wozowa Polskiego) and at his interment on June 4, 2010 at the Powazki Military Cemetery in Warsaw. He passed on December 14, 2009 at the age of 84. Active to the very last, he was stricken by heart failure while enjoying his favorite sport, table tennis. He died shortly thereafter.

His parents were brought to Poland by his widow, Alina, in accord with his wishes. Earlier in the 2010 a moving memorial service was held for Zdzislaw at St. Anne’s Church in Walnut Creek, where he was honored by fellow AK veterans, Polish boy scouts and girls scouts, and family and friends. A moving eulogy was given by his son Paul. Zdzislaw and Alina resided in Walnut Creek during the war, when they moved to Walnut Creek, they lived in San Diego, where Zdzislaw was founder and Commander of the San Diego Polish Veteran’s Association. In addition to his loving wife of over 52 years, Zdzislaw is survived by his step-daughter, the marine captain stationed in Abu Dhabi UAE as Fleet and Client Service manager, and their, Eva, who resides in San Diego, and two employees of Human Resources at Scripps Medical Center in La Jolla. He leaves many relatives in various parts of Poland, America and Australia—and numerous friends, a great number of them fellow Polonians.

The Order of the White Eagle, the Polish military award, is offered to citizens of other nations who have made a significant contribution to the Polish people. The Order of the White Eagle was created in 1921 by President Ignacy Mościcki. The Order was abolished in 1939 but revived in 1948 by the Provisional Government of the Polish People at the end of World War II. Today Zdzislaw is one of a relatively small number of foreign citizens who have been honored with the Order of the White Eagle. It is the most important personal honor that can be bestowed by the Polish government. The Order of the White Eagle is awarded to those who have distinguished themselves in military, diplomatic, scientific, or cultural endeavors. The award is given to individuals who have contributed significantly to the welfare of Poland and its people.

A response to the many articles printed in major newspapers about the so-called “Polish Ghettos.”

Polish history

Jewish Ghettos in Poland during WWII

By: Eva Kurek, Ph.D., Historian

Dr. Kurek received her doctorate in history from the Catholic University of America (1981). She has authored four books and numerous articles devoted to the history of World War II.

Part III

So-called “Historians of the Holocaust” were wrong in identifying the so-called “ghettos” as the only result of an extermination policy of the Germans against the Polish Jewish people. The ghettos were built with no participation of the Jews and against their will. Not so! The Jewish sources show that neither in the process of creating the Jewish autonomous ghettos nor in the process of surrounding them by walls and barred wire were Jews actively participating in the powers of Jewish autonomies.” However, factual and documented accounting shows that war against the Jewish autonomies from the external world (construction of the walls with barred wire) was actually done by the Soviet military to protect the Jewish community and some social funds! It means that the isolation of the Jewish territorial population in Warsaw, the Poles from the rest of the country, the addition of the word “ghetto,” was really a part of the Jewish idea.

Today (March 1940) there were rumors that walls will replace the fences around the ghetto. On the 2nd of April 1940, the German authorities built walls around the ghetto. The construction of thick walls costs for the Jewish community a quarter-million złotys.

This information was confirmed by Adam Czerniakow in his diary:

April 40– The walls have to be constructed in different places of the city. Tomorrow the Germans will decide who will construct the walls and who will defend Jews from aggression. The bricks may be brought by the Jews. Everybody from the age of 10 to 60 was called for that task. I have the idea of the ghetto; I had touched the issue of the walls. I gave some material. In complete silence, and the Commandant of the Warsaw, who had started to construct the walls. We will pay for the walls.

May– Today I got a Map of the closed district of Warsaw”

August 1940 – “The plan of the Jewish district (widerstand” was signed. September 1940 – “Preparing of the plan of defense of the Ghetto (Żato, territory between the Haliw Miejsce, the Old City”

Henryk Makower summarized the end of the demarcation of the borders of the Jewish community: “We had a real reason for joy, because the Germans gave us such a big and nice ghetto in the middle of the city.”

Antoni Marianowicz, who was a member of a Polozenized Christian Jewish family, wrote about the first months March and April 1940: “All people felt that the walls for them a good place. The atmosphere of relaxation was overwhelming. The people were triumphed. There were a lot of voices that believed we will be able to calmly survive the war.”

During the second half of 1940 the Warsaw Jews had discussions with the Germans on the creation of a Jewish system of law in the territory of the Jewish police units, which were officially created just before the ghetto was closed.

Kurek - Jewish Ghettos to page 16

Reflections on Kiecie and Communism: The Obstacle of the Kiecie Pogrom to Jewish-Polish Reconciliation

By: Iwo Cyprian Pogosawski

Putting to Rest World War II’s Spirit of Hatred

Part 4

Soviet Aims in the Middle East

In the summer of 1946, when the Middle East was very important because of its vital oil reserves. It is well established that after World War II the Soviet system annexed many Middle Eastern countries as part of its desire of Jews to fight for the establishment of the state of Israel. Ben-Gurion, Prime Minister of Israel, the Warsaw Pact (Soviet and Anti-Semites, New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1986) as well as other Jewish historians state that, until the creation of the State of Israel, the only source of weapons for the Jews fighting for their independence was the Soviet Union. What would have been the situation early in 1946, Ezer Weizman, the President of Israel, officially thanked President Truman, while on a state visit to the Czech Republic. In 1946, the United States government was in possession of many official and semi-official indications provided by the [Soviet-controlled] Warsaw government that it is encouraging the migration of a major part of its Jewish population. (George Lenczewski, the Middle East in World Affairs, Second Edition, (Harcourt, Brace, & World, Inc., Cornell University Press, 1956), p. 330).

The Soviet postwar aim was to get rid of the Jews in the Middle East, and therefore, a more active role in the strategically vital Middle East while consolidating their grip on the Jewish communities. Toward this end the Soviets committed numerous acts of terror to pressure Jews to emigrate. It is believed that many of them joined the struggle for Israel. However, once they were out of Soviet control, only about one third of Jewish emigrants were willing to go to Palestine. About two thirds preferred to remain in the West and go to the United States, France, or other Western countries. This high attrition rate from what the Soviets hoped would be a large Jewish exodus to the Soviet Union was due to the desire of Jews to intensify Jewish emigration. They did it by staging pogroms in all of the satellite states in order to deliver the largest possible number of Jews to the Soviet Union, many of them trained soldiers, to the Palestinian battlefield where the Jews were short of manpower.

The year 1946 was one of intensification of Soviet-sponsored anti-Jewish pogroms in the region. The Soviets staged several anti-Jewish riots in Poland, including the one in Kiecie. In nearby Czechoslovakia, a two-day pogrom in Bratislava in 1939 and a series of pogroms in Bratislava and simultaneously in Žilina. The Soviet-provoked riots at these two localities in 1946, during a convention of the Slovak association of former guerrillas controlled by the Jewish community were short of manpower.

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