

BULLETIN

OF THE POLISH VOLUNTARY ARMY

The unanimous effort of the Polish Army and nation repulsed the bolshevik hords far off the walls of Warsaw. The red army is saving herself beaten and demoralised towards the East, pursued by the Polish Army, who found strength and enthusiasm and will not to finish her work till the moment a just and honourable peace guarantees to Poland Freedom and Independence.

The Polish nation showed once more her patriotism, her spirit of sacrifice and her will to live in freedom, according to her own political, social and moral ideal.

Poland's effort furnished the most glorious denial to all those, who despaired about her victory or who hoped for her break down. The moment shall come, when a true history of the war will show the true causes of polish failures that proceded the bolshevik invasion and our definite victory.

But even now amidst a bloody war it is necessary to proclaim that in the moment of the greatest national danger one single nation, one single state helped menaced Poland by her prestige, by her genius, by her brotherly aid. That was France, the country of Justice, Honour and Freedom.

Poland will never forget it!

Decree of the Council of Defence of the State of July 19, 1920

concerning the recruitment of foreign citizens to the V. A.

Art. 1. Citizens of foreign countries can present themselves and enlist in the V. A.

Art. 2. Rules, concerning the recruitment in the V. A. of July, 4 1920 (Monitor of Poland Nr. 148) apply integrally to the above mentioned.

Art. 3. A foreign citizen does not acquire rights of a polish citizen solely by his very fact of serving in the V. A.

Chief of the Polish state and President of the Council of Defence of the State

J. Piłsudski.

Prime Minister

W. Grabski.



The Blocade of Gdańsk.

The question of Gdańsk (Danzig), that is that of the establishment of reciprocal relations between this Free Town and the Polish Republic has a first class importance for the political and economical equilibre of the European East.

At the present hour it is united most strongly with the question of military defence of the Polish State. The port of Gdańsk is the only well arranged sea-port by way of which Poland can get materials coming by sea from the Allied countries — mostly from France.

The 104 th article of the Treaty of Versailles gives „to Poland without any restriction a free usage and service of water-routes, docks, basins, piers and other works on the territory of the Free Town, necessary for the import and export of Poland and asks categorically: „to take care no discrimination should be made in the Free Town of Danzig, to the disadvantage of Poles and other persons of Polish origin or language“. The situation is absolutely contrary to the above-mentioned prescriptions.

Sir Reginald Tower, High Commissioner of the Free Town in the name of the League of nations holds in his hands the whole power in G. a year already. Poland accepted his arrival with the greatest joy. Everybody was sure a strict application of the 104 article will be guaranteed totally.

Further, the close union of German nationalists and communists, ripening a long time already, succeeded in organising the most-strict blocade of the port of Gdańsk in what concerns all military transports, destined for Poland. Drunk with the temporal success of the bolshevik invasion, glad to contribute to the annihilation of free Poland, the German workers of Gdańsk with the help of the nationalistic bourgeoisie and the local authorities (the famous Einwohnerwehr and Sicherheitswehr) refuse to disembark ships bringing volunteers

and munition for Poland, organise troubles with Poles living in Gdańsk, insult polish military persons, attack trains and render impossible the work of polish workers or soldiers instead of Germans.

And all this happens under the eyes of the High Commissioner of the League of Nations, whose single order would be sufficient to reestablish order and the application of the 104th article of the Treaty of Versailles. It was till now impossible to obtain from Sir R. Tower an autorisation to permit to enter and to disembark ships that came lately from France.

The blocade is complete and the defence of Poland against the invator is consequently in difficult circumstances.

It is not astonishing the whole Polish nation is profoundly moved. On sunday 22, August there were held in Warsaw great public meetings. The actual situation in Gdańsk was discussed. We give some passages of a resolution voted by a workers meeting: „We solemnly protest against the unheard violation of the rights of the Polish nation and state to the free usage of the port of Gdańsk, guaranteed to us by the 104th article of the treaty of Versailles. We express our indignation, that the representant of the League of Nations in Gdańsk, who is invested with largest power, does not put down the violence and abuses that Poland and her citizens in Gdańsk are subject to. Even the polish military uniform is insulted. We ask most strong measures on the part of the Polish Government in order to put an end to the actual situation. The polish working class considers as a provocation all pretentions and aimings of the Free Town of Gdańsk, tending to violate the Treaty of Versailles and particularly to realise an alliance between the nationalistic and antipolish organisations of Gdańsk and those of the German Empire with the bolshevik authorities and armies. We ask at the same time a strict application of the rights accorded to Poland taking into account that the legitimate

rights guaranteed by the treaties of the Town of Gdańsk and of its inhabitants should be totally satisfied.

It appears the scandalous situation in Gdańsk has drawn the attention of the Allies, and Sir Reginald Tower, and the local authorities of Gdańsk will be obliged to change their attitude.

Organisation of Defence.

The national Council of defence of the State was constituted on the 1 of July. It is composed of representatives of the Government, of political parties of the Diet, of delegates of the Headquarters of the Army. Marshal Piłsudski, Chief of the State is acting as President. In regard to the political and military situation the diet has transferred its powers to the Council of defence.

On July, 3 the Council published a manifesto: „To the Citizens of the Republic“ calling all able bodied men to colours as volunteers.

On July, 5 the actual Minister of war, General Sosnkowski, published rules of recruitment in the „Monitor Polski“, official journal of the State. General Joseph Haller, late Commander of the „Iron Brigade of the Carpathians“ and creator and chief of the Polish army in France was named on the 9 of July Chief Inspector of the Polish Volunteer Army. A manifesto of General Haller calling Poles to arms appeared on the same day.

The great movement of mobilisation begins on this day in the whole country.

Members of the Diet, state and local officials, students of Universities, boys of the two upper classes of secondary schools, professors of universities, workmen, peasants, engineers, medical men, decided to militarise their members and to put them to the disposition of the military authorities; f. i.: Society of Medi-

cal men, Society of Literary men, Commercial Society, Teachers' Society, Engineers' Society etc.

General Haller's manifesto was warmly received in Posnania and in the late Prussian provinces. A congress of all Polish social organisations assembled on July, 10 in Poznan was attended by fifteen hundred members. It was decided to issue an appeal to the whole country in order to form immediately a western reserve army by way of compulsory conscription so that it could enter into fire in case of necessity.

The Polish Government decided to reinforce the regular army also by conscription. The following years were called to colours: 1902—1900, 1895, 1889 — 1884 and especially on the eastern bank of the Vistula: 1894 — 90.

In this way is being formed the national defence of Poland.

General Picture of the Organisation of the Voluntary Army.

The Polish Voluntary Army is not an independent unit of the whole of the regular army: her different services take in, group and instruct all those who are not subject to the obligatory service; the units when formed and instructed are incorporated into the regular army.

There are many voluntary regiments, but their ensemble exists exclusively in the moral sense of the word—united by the origin of their formation; otherwise they enter into the older cadres of the regular army.

Consequently the cadres of the Voluntary Army coincide with those of the regular army. Almost all services of the V.A. correspondent to different services of the Regular Army. General Haller is Inspector General

of the V. A. and the Headquarters of the Inspectorate are a temporary formation as the V. A. herself.

Some units of the V. A. are sent to the front the moment their instruction is finished, others belonging to the territorial Army remain in reserve.

In the ancient Kingdom of Poland all voluntary units are sent the quickest possible to the front, those of Posen and Galicia constitute the national defence. Naturally the Highest Commando can modify the destination of the Voluntary units according to the exigencies of the military situation.

The bulk of the V. A. is formed on one side by students of Universities and school-boys able to carry arms, on the other side by workers. All other classes of society are represented in the V. A., mostly those of the free professions, but their number is not so high as that of the first-mentioned.

The majority of peasants belongs from old to the regular army, the young peasants and the elderly men joined colours only lately as harvest did not permit them.

The Ministry of War gives mostly equipment and munitions to the Voluntary Army; the Inspectorate General contributes largely disposing of numerous funds owing to the benevolent help of all classes of society.

Apart of the Inspectorate General of the Voluntary Army there are local Inspectorates wherever there are Army Commandoes. They inspect voluntary formations, take care of the equipment, organise their military instruction in order the volunteers could be sent to the front the quickest possible.

General Haller has formed a civil Committee of National Defence in order to strengthen the aid of the civil population. Its headquarters are in Warsaw and it has branches all over the country.

The Headquarters of the Inspectorate General are the centre of the organisation. They take care of the formation of units, of their different moral and material wants.

Thousands of papers, books, pamphlets etc., specially edited by the 2 Bureau of the Inspectorate General are sent to the Army. Conferences, courses, performances are organised everywhere. The most famous authors and the greatest artists put themselves to the disposal of the Voluntary Army.

This is the general picture of the organisation of the Polish Voluntary Army. The communiqués of our General Staff and our victorious advance prove the results.

The II^d Bureau of the Inspectorate General of the Polish Voluntary Army.

The II-d Bureau of the Inspectorate General of the Voluntary Army is organising the propaganda at the service of the Voluntary Army. It strives to render popular the ideas which have called to life the Voluntary Army, to encourage all valid men to join colours, and, at last, to baffle the enemy's designs to spread discord and anarchy in the Polish ranks. That propaganda is done by means of the press, the theatre, the cinema, concerts and special shows, illustrated bills as well as by means of public meetings, conferences, and other forms of oral propaganda.

The press section is directed by the best known Polish authors and journalists, and has a great number of correspondents on the front; it informs and sends information to almost all papers in the country; it maintains direct relations with the official Polish Telegraphic Agency; it publishes special editions (papers and pamphlets)

for soldiers and the public at large; it informs the foreign countries by the present „Bulletin“ which is published both in french and in english.

We give here some numbers to illustrate the activity of the II-d Bureau: 206.016 copies of papers, 32.157 pamphlets, 312.346 proclamations and 82.153 bills were issued. Thus the total number of publications amounts to 632.672.

The oral propaganda employs a great number of public speakers, about 100 public meetings have been organised; more than 120.000 persons attended them. Special instructory courses for public speakers have been organised in Warsaw as well as in the country.

The artistic and theatrical section organises theatrical and cinema performances, concerts etc. both in garisons and on the front.

Here we have a summary sketch of works of the II-d Bureau.

The Value of the Voluntary Army.

The combative value of the new recruits in the V. A. was doubted. Now, those doubts are dismissed in the best way for the Volunteers. They acted as true soldiers on all battlefields, bringing a great help to those who fought previously by their enthusiasm and by their bravery. Here we give the opinions of chiefs of the Polish Army.

General Sosnkowski, Minister of War, said in an interview (*Gazeta Poranna* of August, 24):

„Simple justice obliges me to say, the Volunteers have rendered us the greatest services. We reinforced with them our regular units, their influence was a most precious one, as they entered into war full of enthusiasm and with fresh forces. Their moral value and their idealism con-

tributed very much to reinforce the army in the lines“.

General Haller, commander of the north-eastern front, said what follows:

„We have often first-rate officers amongst those who joined the V. A. The best proof of their bravery is that there are many of them among those killed and wounded. They expose themselves to all dangers to give a good example to the young soldiers.

The volunteer fights very well notwithstanding he is often so young, if he has as his chiefs brave officers.

During the defence of Warsaw in the last battles the volunteers distinguished themselves hundred times by their courage and by their contempt of death—mostly in the battle of Ciechanów and Ossów. It was even proposed to erect a monument to volunteers fallen at Ossów“.

Father Starkiewicz, member of the Diet, a chaplain to the V. A. says:

„The volunteers do not only fight well but die admirably. I had moments of a most profound and long remembered emotion as a confessor of volunteers; tears come to my eyes when I think those specially are destined to death. Their last will is often the best proof of the ardour of their emotions, of the wealth and of the nobility of their souls. They die truly as heroes do. Poland can be proud of her sons“.

A great number of quotations of orders of the day prove also that the Volunteers are fighting courageously. The voluntary battallion of the 236th inf. reg., in the battle of Radzymin, the 205th and the 201th reg. in the battles of Ciechanów and Mława distinguished themselves specially. In the battle of Nasielsk a detachment of Volunteers repulsed victoriously a charge of red cavalry, five times stronger than the forces of the volunteers. Analogous cases happened in Putusk and Przasnysz.

The value of the artillery of the Voluntary Army is astonishing, as

a great number of educated men joined this service.

Hopes that accompanied the formation of the Voluntary Army were not shaken.

A heroic death.

On August the 16-th 1920 A. D., when the bolshevik armies were surrounding the town of Warsaw in a circle that was becoming more and more narrow, a battalion of volunteers of the 236-th infantry regiment received order to occupy a certain defensive position by Ossow in the sector of Radzymin. — It happened that, in spite of all supposition, the strongest attack of the enemy was directed against this very position.—Under a hurricane fire of the bolshevik artillery, simultaneously attacked by the red infantry, ten times stronger than the Polish battalion, the latter wavered, lost countenance and began to retreat before the enemy. The situation became most critical. Breaking the front upon that point would have opened to the bolsheviks a free passage towards the suburbs of Warsaw and brought the fall of the capital. Father Ignatius Skorupka, chaplain to the 236-th infantry regiment understood that danger on the spot and resolved to act.

In the moment when the volunteers, most of them very young, for the battalion was chiefly composed of school-boys, gave way before the bolshevik attacks, Father Skorupka, wearing his surplice and stole, a cross in his left hand, and a revolver in his right, led it to a counter — attack. An instant afterwards, a bolshevik ball shot him dead. But the volunteers, following the heroic example of their chaplain, wavered no more and captured after a severe fight the enemys trenches.

Warsaw was saved.

Most splendid glory is become to day the lot of the battalion and espe-

cially of those who have redeemed victory with their lives. The commander of the battalion, Lieutenant Matarewicz was of that number. But a real aureole will eternally surround the heroic chaplain, Father Ignatius Skorupka, whose memory is already honoured by whole Poland.

The bolshevist-Prussian „Entente Cordiale“.

The days when the fate of Poland was decided on the battle-field under the walls of Warsaw, were amply sufficient to prove once more the close collaboration of Germany and the bolsheviks. They proved old Germany of Frederic II and Bismarck, Germany considering international treaties as scraps of paper, exists always and cannot abandon her dreams of domination.

But let us look at facts:

Many „pickelhaubes“ were seen in the ranks of invaders, approaching the walls of Warsaw.

The bolshevist General Staff uses maps and plans of the German General Staff.

The advance of bolshevist forces in Poland was accompanied by a concentration of German troops on the polish frontier.

German public opinion is full of joy. As well the bolshevist „Freiheit“ as the reactionary „Kreuzzeitung“ consider: „the moment has come“. In Berlin there is only talk of crushing Poland and a revision of the Treaty of Versailles.

Ludendorff writes to Hindenburg: „a union of the russian bolsheviks with german spartacists is necessary in order to overthrow the Treaty of Versailles“.

A radiotelegram from Moscow announces to the world a coming economic union between the Soviets and Germany.

Trotsky proclaims the necessity of this union in the official paper of the communistic party „Pravda“ in Petrograd, and Tchitcherin when wiring to Berlin to assure himself about german „neutrality“ does not omit to add the Soviets have for Germany only amical feelings.

Lomonosoff and Kopp, minister of state and ambassador of Soviets respect. are in Berlin and continue to discuss „economical“ questions.

Wolff Agency announces officially on the 15th of this month the taking of Warsaw by bolshevists, and on the same day armed gangs in Higher Silesia and the „Sicherheitswehr“ at the order of the General Staff in Breslau begin to fight against the polish population and the French occupation troops.

The commander of the XII russian division renders officially in Działdowo (Soldau) the town to Germany, represented by the mayor Stochel and proclaims publicly the treaty of Versailles null and nonexistent.

The german population receives russian invaders as saviours in towns, lately rendered to Poland. Bolshevist regiments enter into those towns decorated with german flags bands ahead.

Chiefs of the red armies assured their soldiers about the victory „that is certain, because the Germans march with us“. All prisoners taken by us are of the same opinion on this point.

Lastly, Trotsky himself came to Proskien on the 16th of this month to discuss economic questions... with prussian officers of the General Staff.

This list could be prolonged to infinity. The story of Gdańsk (Danzig) is its crowning point.

After our victory, german papers changed their ton. This proves strength is the sole argument that counts in german eyes.

And this should be enough for Europe to furnish to us means of making valid this precious argument.

Notes and documents

The bolshevist invasion into Poland is accompanied by robbery, pillage and atrocities. Volumes could be filled up with those details. Documents, coming from countries liberated from the bolshevist armies are absolutely concordant on that point. We give here some information absolutely verified, coming from different places in the country in order to furnish details to western opinion so liable to believe falsehoods sent by bolshevist propaganda about their so-called free and humanitarian „regime“.

KALUSZYN. All members of the Municipal Committee of Help: the mayor Lubowidzki, councillors Budkowski and Sieradzkiński, Father Rymarkiewicz and merchants Feigenbaum and Czernicki were arrested, beaten and sent to Siedlce.

WOŁOCZYŃCE (gov. of Łomża). Farmers were pillaged totally. Two of them who opposed to this robbery were shot down on the spot. All the girls in the village were shut up and violated in a barn; a mother of one of them Kozik wanted to defend her daughter, she was shot immediately. The vicar, the teacher and some farmers have been arrested and were sent to Grodno. Everybody saves himself to neighbouring woods.

MYSZYŃCIEC. 20 peasants, a woman amongst them, were shot, the whole village was burned under the pretext that two bolshevist officials have been killed.

BIAŁYSTOK. All shops were sequestered and „administered“ by bolshevist commissaires. A pound of bread sold in secret costs 100 Marks. The Extraordinary Commission (Tchrezvytchaika) ordered to be shot during the first two days of her activity 16 persons. Town councillors Siemaszko and Gliński were amongst them.

EASTERN GALICIA. In all localities on the banks of the Zbrucz the bolshevists ordered immediately conscription of all men from 18—50. They are enrolled in the red army or into auxiliary services.

MIŃSK. A great number of villages in the vicinity of Mińsk was burned by the bolshevists as a punishment for not having delivered to the reds their cereals. A pound of black bread costs in Mińsk 200 Marks, a pound of meat about 500. All products are sold in secret.

CIECHANÓW. The bolshevists arrested a great number of young women and girls and deliver them to red soldiers. It is stated the majority of the bolshevists is attained by venereal maladies. The desolation of the inhabitants is not to be described.

MIŃSK MAZOWIECKI. The Tchresvy-tchaika began her work the next day after the reds' entry. A young jew of 18 acted as president. 25 persons were arrested and sent away from the town; amongst others: mayor Krajewski, commander of Municipal Guard Sikorski, Glinkiewicz, Kozłowski and others.

PODKAMIEŃ (near Brody). The bolshevists pillaged the convent. The capes in the church were torn and red soldiers arranged caps out of them.

Gov. of PŁOCK. Zabin was completely pillaged. The proprietor, Mr. Klein was killed. His wife had arms cut off as she was not able to take off her rings very quickly in order to give them to the bolshevists. Mr. Strzebowski, the owner of Konarzewo was killed. Mr. Chrzanowski from Karczówek, who was able to run away, states his woman-servant and the wife of the gardener have been violated in the most outrageous manner.

A soldier of the 106th inf. reg. named Wróbel was able to run away from the bolshevists. He says he and 15 of his comrades have been surrounded in a forest by bolshevists, made prisoners, beaten with the sabres, and robbed completely. By chance he was able to hide himself. When returning he found the bodies of his comrades cut into pieces in a sea of blood.

WŁOCŁAWEK. Beginning on the 16th of August the bolshevists began to bombard the town. Guns were directed against the cathedral and the bishops palace. The palace was burned including the furniture, the archives, and a precious library. The lyceum in the neighbourhood could not be saved; it was burned also. The cathedral is broken by gun-fire, her ancient windows, the most beautiful and the oldest in Poland are lost.

All those monuments had a great architectural value, whose artistic and historical losses cannot be appreciated. The library and the archives contained things not to be ever replaced.

Documents we publish here do not leave doubtful the true aim of the march of red armies in Poland. At the moment when Krassin was writing to Lloyd George that the Soviets do not think about mixing themselves to interior affairs of Poland,

and they have no intention to impose by force on Poland a sovietist regime—the red armies wherever they entered abolished „the government of bourgeois and land-owners“ and proclaimed by the „Provisional Revolutionary Committees“ that peace is possible only between Russian and Polish Soviets. With this aim the government of Moscow formed after the entry of the red armies to the Polish territory a „Polish Provisional Revolutionary Committee“, whose members belong from old to the Russian Communist Party, have no influence whatever in Poland, and are considered by the whole nation as traitors and renegates.

A PROCLAMATION.

A Provisional Revolutionary Committee is formed upon the territory freed from the yoke of capitalism. It is composed of comrades: Julius Marchlewski, Felix Dzierżyński, Felix Kon, Edward Próchnik and Julius Unszlicht. The Provisional Committee assumes supreme authority in the country. Its object is to create a basis for the future communist government of the Polish Socialist Soviet Republic, and to govern till the establishment of permanent Soviets of workmen and peasants. The Provisional Committee:

- a) destitutes the actual government — a government of the nobility and the bourgeoisie.
- b) re-establishes or establishes factory committees in towns and rural committees in the country.
- c) establishes local revolutionary committees.
- d) proclaims the expropriation in favour of the people of all the factories, manufactories, estates and forests, and confers the administration thereof to the workers' municipal and rural committees.
- e) guarantees the integrity of the lands of the peasants.
- f) constitutes a committee of public security, an economic committee, and a committee of food supplies.
- g) guarantees an absolute security to all those citizens who loyally execute the orders and precepts of revolutionary authorities.

The Provisional Revolutionary Committee in Poland.

Siedlce, August the 13-th 1920.

**Extraits from the manifesto to the
polish working people of towns
and villages.**

Comrades! Workers! Peasants!

In the moment when the russian working people have overthrown the bloody government of the Tsar, and the german workers have risen against prussian despotism, the capitalist governments of France and England triumphed and became rulers of the world. It was necessary for them, in order to strengthen their empire, to drown the russian revolution in blood, to strangle the workers' state where the capitalists, the land-owners, the priests and officials are no more exercising any power.

It is why the victorious capitalist states have consented to the creation of a Polish State, under the condition that free Poland should become the gendarme of Europe — an enormous military camp, wherefrom one could send soldiers, sons of workers and peasants to slaughter russian workers and peasants who have risen against capitalism reigning over the world.

Pilsudski with his followers undertook that sad task. They have soiled the name of Poland by making war against the workers and acting in common with the white counter-revolutionary generals of the Tsar.

A Congress of delegates of the working people of the towns and villages will proclaim a Polish Socialist Soviet Republic, when the actual bloody government will be overthrown in whole Poland.

A lasting peace can be concluded only between Socialist Russia and the Polish Socialist Soviet Republic. The Provisional Revolutionary Committee calls you to this work. The red army, animated by the spirit of fraternity, will help you in this task. The capitalist states will not dare to attack Soviet Poland, for english, french and german workers will not permit it.

Thus the maxim: „proletarians of all the countries unite“ becomes a fact.

This manifesto, as all the others issued by the red army in Poland, is signed:

The Polish Provisional Revolutionary Committee: *Julius Marchlewski*, President
Felix Dzierżyński
Felix Kon
Edward Próchnik
Joseph Unszticht, members.

**Proletarians of all countries
unite!**

ORDER

of the Revolutionary Committee of the town and district of Mińsk-Mazowiecki.

We learn that some inhabitants of the town are spreading false tidings in order to excite disorders amongst the population and the troops. The Revolutionary Committee announces that men suspected of spreading false tidings and informations concerning the situation on the front will be immediately arrested and given up to the care of the Revolutionary Tribunal as spies and partisans of the bourgeoisie. The chief of the militia and his agents receive the strictest order to survey all those who try to spread false tidings, to arrest them on the spot and to deliver them to the Revolutionary Committee.

The Revolutionary Committee.

R. S. F. R. S. *)

Commander of the XVI Army
the ... August 1920 **)
Nr. ...

*To the President of the Town
of Warsaw.*

The armies are on the lines, ready to attack Warsaw. I propose to You to surrender the town without fighting in order to avoid an useless profusion of blood.

Your refusal will oblige us to take the town by attack with all consequences. The responsibility will fall on you.

I wait for your reply 12 hours.

Commander of the XVI Army
(—) *Sologub.*

Member of the Revolutionary Committee
(—) *Piatakoff.*

Chief of the General Staff
(—) *Batorsky.*

*) The cryptogram signifies: Republic Socialistic, Federative, Russian of Soviets. (Red).

**) The date is omitted and for a good reason (Red.).

