

# BULLETIN

## OF THE POLISH VOLUNTARY ARMY

---

---

### Order of the day of General Haller to French Officers.

#### Commando of the Northern Front.

August, 30, 1920.

My heart yearns to express to allied officers my thankfulness for their effective collaboration in the moment of the departure of french officers of the French Military Mission under the orders of General Spire, till the present time attached to troops of the northern front under my command.

In the heavy fighting when our breasts defended the heart of Poland and the gates to Europe against the attack of barbarian hords, we had continually amongst us, often in first lines — the blue-horizon uniform of our loved ally and our friend, beloved from ever.

It was doubly precious to us to feel so near our heart french officers, when the fate of nations of the civilised world was played out in a few days in the immortal battle of Warsaw.

I feel it a special joy to be able to express my personal gratitude and that of our polish comrades of the battle of Warsaw to General Spire and his officers, heroes of the Marne, who are the object of our affection.

I hope fate will soon give us new occasions to begin to work in common for the defence of a common ideal.

The present order shall be read at the meetings of all units, companies, squadrons, batteries and services in all the divisions of troops placed under my command.

(signed) J. HALLER,

General and Commander of the Northern Front.





(Translated from french).

Warsaw, September, 2-d, 1920.

French Military Mission  
in Poland.

Direction of Infantry and  
Military Instruction.

№ 112/I. G.

*General Spire, Director of Infantry  
and Military Instruction, to General  
Haller in command of the Polish  
Armies of the Northern Front.*

Dear General.

I have the honour to inform you that we have received your order Nr. 7, in which you were pleased to express your satisfaction to those French officers who have taken part under my orders, in the operations upon the Northern front.

Let me express you, in my name as well as in theirs, our gratitude for the proofs of your benevolence.

Everyone of us will hold in his mind the precious remembrance of our collaboration which we were proud to grant to our polish friends in those days of battles crowned by a superb succes. That period will leave us precious precepts, the most striking of which is the influence that a valiant chief can exerce upon his troops. If, as you say, it is mostly by his heart that the polish soldier has gained his

triumph, it is because you, my General, have warmed that heart by your unshaken confidence, and, by your indefatigable energy, made it beat stronger till it heard the tolling knell of victory.

I remain my General, with the greatest respect yours faithfully.

(signed) — *Spire.*

*Extrait of a letter of General Sir  
Percy Radcliffe to General Haller.*

British Legation

Warsaw, Aug. 24, 1920.

My Dear General!

May I take this opportunity, my dear General, of offering to you on behalf of the British Army our very respectful and most sincere congratulation on the brilliant victory won by the gallant Polish troops under your distinguished command during the last week — a victory which it is not too much to say has saved not only Warsaw and Poland itself, but European civilisation as well.

I count it a great privilege to have been permitted to see these thrilling events at close quarters.

Believe me, my dear General, with the greatest respect and regard, yours very sincerely

(signed) *Percy Radcliffe.*

## The Voluntary Army in Eastern Galicia.

The town of Lwów has already a glorious tradition in the history of Poland. Barbarian hords were defeated many a time, throughout centuries by the walls of the town. The Turks, the Tartars, the Cossacks endeavoured more than once to become its masters and to deprive it of its polish character. The patriotism of that town upon the frontier of the state is out of doubt. It is very particular and congenial to its inhabi-

tants — true knights without fear or reproach, fervent lovers of their city and country.

Lwów played the rôle of a polish Piedmont during the austrian domination which tended to the destruction of the polish element in Eastern Galicia. It is the birth — place of the noblest, most accomplished and stalwart men who knew how to defend polish honour in the most difficult moments. Lwów was the first town that has redeemed its return to the reestablished Poland with its own blood. It is the „children of Lwów“, little boys and girls, old



men and women who took arms, and have gained definite victory after three weeks of severe fighting upon the streets of the town. The defence of Lwów in November 1918 is gloriously known to the whole world.

That moral force, that ability of making a common, supreme effort shone in a new and brighter light in the days of the recent invasion which was threatening the integrity of regenerated Poland.

The moment the supreme authority in the country, the Council of the Defence of the State, has proclaimed „Fatherland in danger“ — Lwów was the first to answer that appeal. No wonder, the defence of Lwów in November 1918 has made of the inhabitants of Lwów a camp of valiant sentinels, and General Haller's proclamation has stirred up the living forces of the town.

The answer to the call of the Inspectorate General of the Voluntary Army by the inhabitants of Lwów was the more willing for the reason that the enemy, coming from north-east, was already approaching the far-east stronghold of the Republic. After having taken the fortified place of Równo the enemy was on the former frontier of Eastern Galicia along the river Zbrucz, and in the sector of Brody — at a very short distance from the capital of Galicia.

Lwów was instantly changed into a trenched camp.

Colonel Mączyński, the valiant defender of Lwów in 1918 — 1919 was by General Haller's order appointed Local Inspector of the Voluntary Army in Eastern Galicia.

Having arrived in Lwów on August, 6, Colonel Mączyński immediately gathered around him all the officers he has had at his side during the defence of the town in 1918 — 1919, and began his work with the consent of the local military authorities. A proclamation calling to arms signed by him, was placarded in the streets of the town and volunteers

came in great numbers. Some of them were directly incorporated into regiments of reserve stationary in Lwów, others formed „Voluntary Battalions of Galicia“. Most of the volunteers have enlisted in July and August. The bulk of the „Battalions of Galicia“ is formed of the „children of Lwów“, street and slumboys — in a word — the dregs of the people.

Those battalions were formed in a few days. Not only battalions of infantry. There are also cavalry-squadrons, artillery, machine-guns companies, motor-cars, tanks, engineering troops etc. It is something absolutely amazing to this very moment how one could put such an organisation on a war-footing in such a short space of time.

Budienny's cavalry marched upon Lwów, treading the splendid crops of this year, pillaging, robbing, hawking, stealing, burning, destroying everything on its way, sparing no age, no sex, no nationality, no class.

The regular army busy on the north, the few units remaining in Lwów were far too scarce to resist the redoubtable enemy. They fought for the first time in the end of July by Tarnopol. Animated by a magnificent enthusiasm they have defeated two Soviet brigades, spreading panic and alarm in the enemy's ranks. Afterwards they had to defend a long and dangerous sector on the Bug. Their stubborn resistance caused enormous losses in the enemy's ranks. It is noteworthy that even some deaf-mutes came to Colonel Mączyński's recruiting office and asked by gestures to be enlisted and sent on the front.

The volunteers arrive even yet. The numerous casualties among the first combatants, far from discouraging, have, on the contrary, influenced the irresolute. Lwów is now out of danger. The Voluntary Battalions of Galicia watch in spite of all. They will not lay down arms till the integrity of Poland be absolutely safe.



We hasten to give here the observations on Polish youth, that Professor Henry Grappin has been so kind as to send us:

## The Heroic Youth of Poland.

The whole world must know on a certain day the very extraordinary and very simple story of Charles Sigismund Płoszko, of this hero of sixteen, who fell on the side of the immortal Father Skorupka for the defence of Warsaw and the happiness of Poland.

The name of Płoszko will appear in the gallery of glorious legends where humanity is looking at the image of her most beautiful virtues and wherefrom youth draws enthusiasm for the most noble sacrifices.

I replied always and without hesitation to all those who asked me what stroke me most in Poland: Youth.

The youth of Poland has a certain strength, a vital energy, an instinct of sacrifice, a consecration to the ideal, who are the astonishment of the world. People like in the Occident to be proud about their „modern“ ideas; singularities of thought are liked. People like to be advanced. There is a certain pose of utilitarianism, individualism, and scepticism. Surely those maladies are often superficial, but they exist and they reigned sometimes epidemically till the last war. Nothing, or almost nothing of this kind in Poland. Polish youth is curious of new ideas too. She understands also the aspirations of our epoch and her immense needs of transformation. But she preserved the set of old truths and old virtues, who formed civilisation.

The world produced from 1914 on a formidable harvest of heroism. It seems to me that if a new Plutarch came to look at the earth, he would gather the most beautiful flo-

wers on the tombs of young Poles. He would glorify the epopee of giants of Verdun and the Yser but nothing would appear to him more worthy of Sparta and Rome in the innumerable happenings of the world-war than the youth of Lwów and Warsaw.

In France, in Germany, in England, everywhere, men took arms. In Poland children became soldiers. They left their school-benches in order to go to trenches. They often went to meet their death as they used to play secretly in woods, they told themselves their mother would be sorry, but at the same time proud of them. Some of them were so small, they could fight bravely the whole day, hear the whistling of balls and the noise of guns without fear, but in the evening they were afraid of shadows as in the times when their nurse told them fairy-tales.

The spectacle of those boys and girls of Poland, sometimes smaller than their guns, lost in too large uniforms and bending under the weight of cartridge-boxes, who willingly gave their lives for the defence of their country in danger, is unique in annals of the great war and it moved profoundly all those who saw it. The number of children sixteen years old, fifteen, sometimes fourteen, who gave their blood in the last month near Warsaw, as in November, 1918 before Lwów is very great.

Poland must set down their exact number and inscribe their names in a Golden Book. That of Sigismund Płoszko will shine in the first rank, it must become for posterity, a symbol of polish youth, here and abroad, who did such great things last century and in the course of this war. Polish youth plays an admirable rôle in the actual fight of truth and falsehood, of civilisation and forces of destruction who menace her, by her abnegation, her antic civisme. That is why those two lines



of Mickiewicz come to my mind, when I look at her — the lines who got a prophetic sense by actual events.

The world of spirit will come  
   forth from chaos,  
 Youth shall bring it forth in  
   her bosom.

## The defenders of Lwow.

The detachment of Captain Abraham, formed in November 1918, was one of the first amidst the Polish voluntary formations. During the siege of Lwów the volunteers have stubbornly fought against an enemy, far superior in number, and have played an important part in the defence of the town.

In the days of the great Polish retreat in July 1920 Captain Abraham's voluntary regiment was formed anew.

Two weeks afterwards they were in battle. Its first victory was gained on August, 8 and 9 by Chodacków over the 9th bolshevist brigade, composed of two regiments of riflemen. Two hundred fifty prisoners were made.

The situation was then very dangerous for Lwów. The question was whether our retreating division would arrive the first, or would it be the bolshevist division, in pursuit of our troops, that menaced to cut off their rear on the road Złoczów — Kurovice — Lwów?

That retreat took place in a series of bloody battles; the result thereof could depend on the position of a single detachment, bearing the whole weight of the enemy's attack. The first battalion of the said regiment was deprived of that honour.

After having received on August, 17, the order of taking the hill to the north of the railway Lwów —

Złoczów by the station of Zadworze, the detachment, 500 men in the whole, went into attack and captured the hill, notwithstanding superior forces of the enemy and the artillery fire.

Soon they learned that the station of Zadworze was already occupied by the enemy; thus the battalion was surrounded on all sides. This news doubled their forces and bravery. Repulsing the enemy's attacks one after another, the soldiers were constantly advancing and took at last the station by a furious attack. It seemed for a moment that the enemy would retreat and that the battalion will be able to withdraw, though with heavy losses, but in this they were cruelly deceived.

Great masses of enemy cavalry encircled the detachment, already greatly diminished, and they were so numerous that it seemed impossible to make one's way through their ranks.

„Shoot to the last ball“ ordered the commander.

And the struggle for life and death began again.

They had to attack almost every soldier separately. When there were no more cartridges, they broke their machine — guns not to let them fall in the hands of the enemy and fought on foot.

Captain Boleslas Zajęzkowski, having no more balls, shot himself, not to be taken alive. Captain Christopher Obertynski, Lieutenant John Demeter and sergeant John Filipow followed the example of their commander. About a hundred men, exhausted or wounded were made prisoners; the rest were slaughtered. The bolsheviks were striking with their sabres the bodies of the dead. Thus was cut to pieces the body of Captain Zajęzkowski. The assailants were too savage to understand and honour heroism!



## The University centre of propaganda in Lwów.

A centre of propaganda by means of speeches and conferences held by professors of superior schools and colleges is recently organised in Lwów, just as in the other university towns of Poland. The initiative of the Inspectorate General of the Voluntary Army has very propitious conditions of development here.

The nearness of the enemy, who was menacing the town since the middle of July, stood in the way of all regular organisation: the defence of the nearest environs, preparations for the defence of the town, the possibility of evacuation which more than once seemed imminent, rendered impossible the execution of conferences and other works of that kind.

It is only the first news about the victory by Warsaw and the firm belief that the defensive action on the southern front will soon be changed into a mighty push forward that have permitted to the university circles of Lwów to take up the initiative of the Inspectorate. And, notwithstanding that the danger was not yet over, and that the enemy was attacking the nearest environs of the town and that the cannon's roar could, be distinctly heard, the above mentioned institutions have resolved (on August the 19th) to begin their work.

First sittings were held under the official chairmanship of the Rector of the University of Lwów on August the 21-st and 23-d. It was decided to begin the action of propaganda by a conference of the well-known poet and professor of the University of Lwów John Kasprówicz who began a series of lectures by a conference: „Love of the country“ held on September the 3-d.

Other conferences by eminent personalities of Lwów, Cracow and Warsaw will follow. There exists a project to organise similar centres of propaganda in other important towns of Galicia, namely in Przemyśl, the famous fortress, once austrian, and in Drohobycz, the centre of oil industry.

All this is an indubitable proof that Eastern Galicia is not only an example of patriotism and boundless military sacrifice, but also a centre of anti-bolshevist propaganda and polish intellectual activity.

---

## Notes and documents

### ORDER TO THE TROOPS OF THE WESTERN FRONT.

Mińsk,  
Nr. 1847/20/VIII.2.

#### Soldiers of the Red Army!

The polish white guards have prepared a stroke on the line of the Vistula, feigning falsely to make peace. Detachments of the Red Army, tired by the heroic march from Polock to Warsaw, are retreating under the pressure of prevailing forces of the enemy.

White guards of the whole world triumph owing to our temporary failure! The polish goverment, imploring for peace not so long ago, changed now suddenly its policy! The Polish peace delegation in Mińsk breaks everything in a most mean manner. She is composed exclusively of spies and counterspies. She wants to profit from her situation in order to spy. Heroes of Kieff, Wilno, Mińsk, Brest Litewski and Polock! It appears to us clearly that peace can be made only on the ruins of white Poland. Only by smashing up completely white bandits, we will ensure a life of quiet work. An offensive began so victoriously must be brought victoriously to an



end. Disgrace to those who think about peace before Warsaw! The peoples of Russia, Ukraine and White Russia stand as an immovable wall in defence of their authority. Hundreds of thousands of new warriors fill up the thinning ranks of heroic regiments. Victory — no more for noblemen! The iron fist of the red army will break the head of the white guard! Warriors of the Red Army understand well that the western front is the front of a world's revolution!

We must vanquish on this front! Red guards! Communists! Chiefs! Soviet-commissairs! Soviet Russia asks you to make the greatest effort in order to gain victory! Not a step backwards!

Victory or death!

This order to be sent to political departments of all armies and divisions in the rear, to be printed and placarded in 24 hours.

(signed): Commander-in-chief of the western front *Tolkaczefsky*.

Member of the war-revolutionary Council *Skilga*

Chief of the General Staff  
*Szwarc*

Chief of the operation-department  
*Degtiareff*

Chief of the information-department  
*Tasin*.

The Soviets have issued the following proclamation: „*For the encouragement of red soldiers*”.

„Workers and peasants, we must crush the valets of bankers and stock-brokers! We must slaughter as quick as possible the mercenaries of the Entente! We need peace. But to obtain it, we must extirpate the polish nobility and Wrangel. The polish magnates are intentionally prolonging peace-negotiations in order to draw all the profit they can from their temporary successes and to enforce us brigandly conditions of peace. But workers

and peasants will come to the aid of the reds fighting on the front. The red army must inflict some terrible blows, and dissuade Wrangel from all his senseless purposes. Let him and his scoundrels be put down! Let their skin be stripped!

Khan of Crimea, german baron and russian patriot, Wrangel sold Russia to french imperialists“.

From the leading-article of the „*Krasnaia Gazeta*“ (the „Red Gazette“) of August 24 th:

„One shouldn't exaggerate the polish successes, but one mustn't slight them. The more the reason, for, according to informations coming from Mińsk, Poles no more sue for peace, confident in their victory. We must strain our forces to the uttermost. The red troops have been already very near Warsaw, they must be in Warsaw and they shall be there“.

From a speech by Lenin.

„Freedom is but an invention of the bourgeoisie tending to mask up economical slavery. Once for all, here in Russia, we must do away with the idea that happiness consists in individual freedom. Russia needs a very powerful government, composed of few persons, ready for all eventuality. The slightest discontent or opposition must be treated as reaction and repressed without mercy“.

Suite of „heroic deeds“ of the Red Army.

**BIALYSTOK.** The first list of victims of bolshevik bestiality. The bodies are dreadfully mutilated:

*Father Knobelsdorf*; vicar of Lubczany.  
*Jarostawski*; textile-workman.

*Berent*, lately agent of police, arms and legs cut away.

*Rykunów*.

*Brothers Ostrowski*, Felix and Hieronymus, who came to Bialystok to get news about their third brother, arrested and executed beforehand.

*Karpowicz*, who went to the bolsheviks asking to render him his requisitioned horse.

*Russa*, the hairdresser of the town.  
*Zarzecki* from Suraz.



**NASIELSK.** Killed by bolsheviks:  
*Father Dmowski and Father Szulborski.*

**PŁOCK.** The bolsheviks took away in the region of Plock about 4000 horses, 1000 pieces of cattle, 10000 pigs, 1500 waggons, more than 3 thousands draughts for horses and ten thousands metric centners of corn.

In Plock they entered into one single suburb, inhabited by the poor. All lodgings, even the poorest, are completely pillaged. A sister of the Red Cross was killed with sabres; 16 polish soldiers were dragged out of a hospital, killed, and massacred on the street.

**GARWOLIN.** A list of 150 persons condemned to death was found in the lodgings, occupied by the Tchrezvytchaika. Happily the barbarians were obliged to withdraw before they could execute those victims.

**SZPETAL.** In the estate of Mr. Rutkowski the bolsheviks ruined a splendid

library, tearing up all books and striking with axes the most artistic bindings. The church is completely pillaged.

When visiting places, abandoned by the bolsheviks, the english General Carton de Viart has taken some photos of our soldiers with eyes plucked out, nose and ears cut off, and bodies mutilated.

Photos of the same kind were taken by a french Colonel, Mr. Cambert.

The commander of our central front sends us news, that a radio of the bolshevik general Staff was seized, *ordering all prisoners, that the Red Army cannot take with her when retreating, are to be shot dead.*