

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
REPUBLIC OF POLAND

POLISH ARMY

tradition – strength – pride



August 15, 1920

**Polish Armed Forces Day
on the anniversary
of the Polish victory
over the Bolsheviks**



On August 15, 1920, Polish soldiers halted the offensive of the Red Army on the line of the Vistula River. August 15 is also the day when Poland solemnly celebrates a very important holiday, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The victory of the Polish army, which reversed what had seemed an already sealed fate of the nations of our part of the continent, was thus given the historical name of “the Miracle on the Vistula.” In 1923, the Minister of Military Affairs, Stanisław Szeptycki, made August 15 Polish Soldier’s Day. In 1992, the holiday was restored and has since been celebrated as Armed Forces Day.

1920

VICTORIA

Marshal Józef Piłsudski to the soldiers, Warsaw, August 27, 1920

Soldiers!

With your valor, blood and toil you have saved the independence and existence of your state, you have saved the honor of your nation and you have saved your families and possessions at a moment when despair prevailed both at home and abroad. With the burning flame of heroic zeal, with the lightning bolt of action, you have etched a fiery: “Poland is not yet lost!” on its flag. Your deed will be immortalized in the history of Poland and of Europe, and your Homeland will remain grateful to you for many generations to come. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude and persevere to the end!

PHOTO JAKUB SZYMCIUK



MARIUSZ BŁASZCZAK
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
POLISH MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE ARE OUR HIGHEST VALUES

Dear Readers,

The Polish victory over Soviet Russia on August 15, 1920, gave European countries 20 years of peace. It was the Poles who stopped the flame which, according to Bolshevik plans, was to spread throughout Europe and the world. Poland was among the few states that truly recognized the danger. We proved how well we can fight when we fight for everything we have. Although it happened only two years after Poland had regained its independence, we showed that in time of real danger we become a unity. The whole nation stood by its Army. It was the bravery of the soldiers and the effort of the nation that brought us victory.

We paid for it dearly. We remember with gratitude the engagement of states which supported our struggle. However, in the critical moments of the war, when the Polish soldier carried the entire burden of the fight, we felt the sore lack of common European solidarity that would once and for all stop the march of Bolshevism. The expansion of the communist doctrine filled some of the most tragic and dramatic chapters of European history.

Today, we substantially develop our defense capabilities. In this way, we responsibly react to the war that is ongoing behind our eastern border. Our objective is the safety of Polish people in safe Europe. We are determined to make sure the Polish Armed Forces of 300,000 are perfectly trained and equipped with state-of-the-art armament. I assure you that the decision to join the ranks of the Polish army, apart from honorable service, worth the highest social respect, offers to the Polish citizens attractive opportunities for professional growth.

We are effective and valued allies, but our thoughts and actions are primarily focused on Poland. Its security and independence are our highest values. It is this care that should bring us all together and unite us. Just like our Homeland binds and unifies us. The pages of our history have for ages been filled with armed action and the stories of all Polish families.

August 15 is the Soldier's Day in Poland. This is the day when the army and the Polish community praise the glory of the Polish arms, the personification of which is a soldier. The anniversary of the memorable routing of the Bolshevik onslaught near Warsaw is the reason to celebrate the memory of soldiers killed in all battles fought throughout centuries against the enemy for the entity and independence of Poland.

*From the order of the
minister of military affairs
Stanisław Szeptycki
on establishing the
Soldier's Day,
August 4, 1923.*

Honor and Glory to the Heroes!



Polish victories for the freedom of Europe

1410

BATTLE OF GRUNWALD

Joined forces of the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, supported by Russian and Tartar auxiliaries, broke the 500-year German Drang nach Osten, i.e. Drive to the East, which was personified by the possessive State of the Teutonic Order in Prussia.



1514

BATTLE OF ORSHA

The political union between Poland and Lithuania, concluded at the end of the 14th century, not only saved the Lithuanian state from being destroyed by the Teutonic Order and Moscovia, but also enabled the Lithuanians to keep their great territorial gains in Ruthenia. Lithuania had its competitors also willing to rule over all Ruthenian duchies, and they were the Russian tsars. The battle at the Dnieper, fought between the Polish-Lithuanian and Moscovian forces, stopped the Russian expansion to the West for 250 years.



1683

BATTLE OF VIENNA

The Turkish Ottoman Empire remained until the 18th century the menacing enemy of Christian Europe. North Africa with the Mediterranean Sea basin, the Crimea with the Black Sea, Southern Ruthenia and the Balkans with Hungary, together formed one large starting point for further expansion. Only the help of the Polish King Jan III Sobieski saved the besieged Habsburg Vienna from falling by stopping the march of the Turkish forces into the West. The King's forces also recruited from Ruthenia and Ukraine.



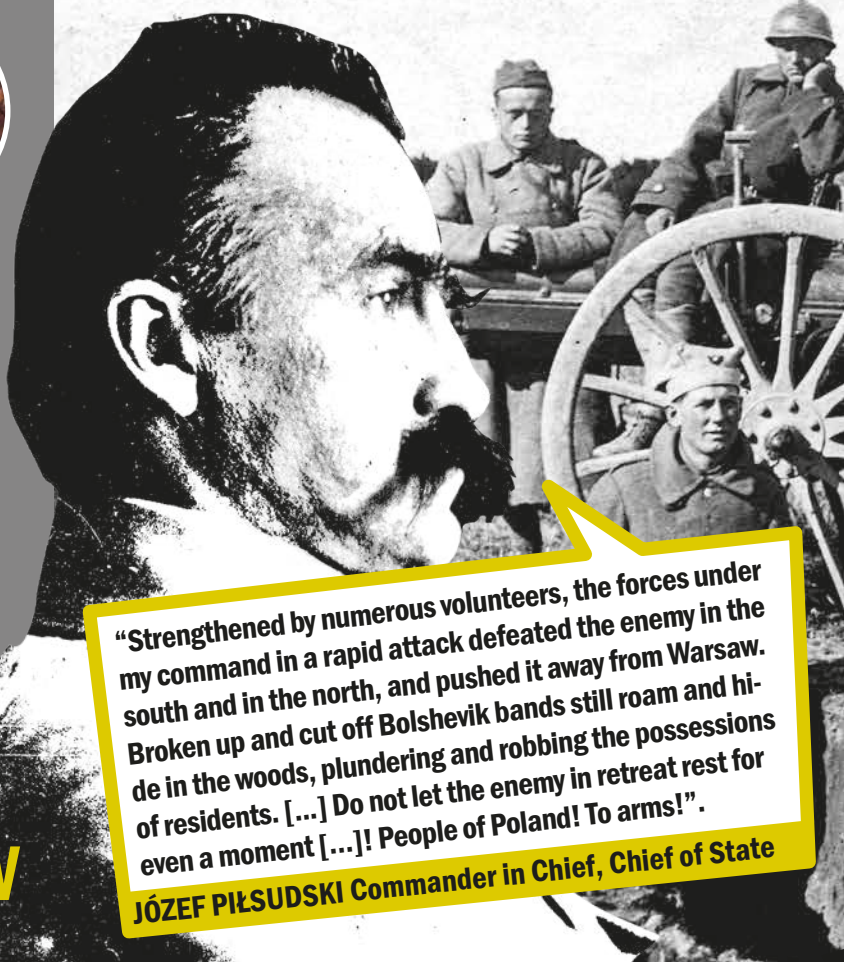
1920 BATTLE OF WARSAW



THEY WANTED THEY WERE

"The 18th breakthrough battle in the history of the world," "Miracle on the Vistula," – such were the descriptions of the Polish Army's victory over the Red Army in August 1920. They were not at all exaggerated: the Bolsheviks were almost certain that the Polish Army had already been defeated, and they only needed to perform that one last deadly strike to open their way into Western Europe...

The 1920 Battle of Warsaw was conducted according to the operational plan developed by General Tadeusz Rozwadowski on the basis of the general concept by Józef Piłsudski. Its main idea was to dismember the Bolshevik army and fight a concentrated battle at the forefield of Warsaw. The operation was divided into three separate, though coordinated, phases: initial defense on the line of the Wieprz, Wkra and Narew rivers, a decisive offensive from the Wieprz, pushing out the Red Army far behind the Narew, as well as pursuit and breaking of Tukhachevsky's army.



"Strengthened by numerous volunteers, the forces under my command in a rapid attack defeated the enemy in the south and in the north, and pushed it away from Warsaw. Broken up and cut off Bolshevik bands still roam and hide in the woods, plundering and robbing the possessions of residents. [...] Do not let the enemy in retreat rest for even a moment [...]! People of Poland! To arms!"

JÓZEF PIŁSUDSKI Commander in Chief, Chief of State

TO CONQUER EUROPE, HALTED BY THE POLES

5



Meanwhile, the Bolsheviks were pushing their way into Warsaw. Three armies were assigned to attack the city: 3rd, 15th and 16th, while the 4th Army with the corps of Gaya Gai (Hayk Bzhishkian) was heading towards Włocławek and Toruń with the intent to cross the Vistula River in the Kuyavia region, return to the south and surround the city from the west. The Battle of Warsaw started on August 13 with the fight for the capital city's forefield, i.e. for Radzymin, which over a dozen times had been passed hence and forth. At the same time, on August 15, fierce fights were still ongoing near Radzymin, Ossowo, Zielonka and other suburban places in the Warsaw area. Polish soldiers kept their positions and pushed the enemy back. The breakthrough in the defensive fights was on August 16, when the maneuver group commanded by Piłsudski broke the Bolshevik defense in the region of Kock and Cyców, and then hit the rear of the forces attacking Warsaw. The Soviets were ultimately defeated near Osowiec, Białystok and Kolno.

On August 18, after the fights near Stanisławów, Łosice and Sławatycze, the Polish forces were positioned on the line of Wyszaków – Stanisławów – Drohiczyn – Siemiatycze – Janów Podlaski – Kodeń. At the same time, the 5th Army of General Sikorski tied down the overwhelming enemy forces charging from the east,

and in a courageous attack seized Pułtusk and Serock. The following day, Polish troops, by the order of Piłsudski, shifted to pursuit, attempting to prevent Tukhachevsky's army from retreating their main forces located north of Warsaw. On August 21, a decisive phase of the Polish pursuit started: the 1st Infantry Division of the 3rd Army forced the Narew River near Rybaki, cutting off the retreat of the remaining forces of the Soviet 16th Army in the direction towards Białystok, while the 15th Infantry Division of the 4th Army, after seizing Wysokie Mazowieckie, prevented the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from the 15th Army in the region of Ostrołęka. Similarly, the 5th Army of General Sikorski shifted towards Mława. Meanwhile, the Soviet 4th Army, unaware of the defeat near Warsaw and thus following the original plan of the Soviet command, was attacking Włocławek, which ultimately made its retreat impossible. In that situation, the only way out for its soldiers was to cross the border of Eastern Prussia, where they got interned. On August 25, Polish troops reached the Prussian border – it was the last accord of the battle which prevented the flame of the Bolshevik revolution from extending farther to the West, and which helped Poland save its young independence.

Piotr Korczyński



"It isn't a question of Russia at all. I spit on Russia. This is merely one phase through which we must pass on the way to a world revolution."

VLADIMIR LENIN founder of Soviet Russia

"The Polish war was the most important turning point not only in the politics of Soviet Russia but also in world politics. [...] Everything there, in Europe, was ripe for the taking. But Piłsudski and his Poles inflicted a gigantic, unheard-of defeat on the cause of world revolution."

JOSEPH STALIN Political Commissar, later the leader of the Soviet Union

"There is no fortress the Bolsheviks cannot storm."

MATHEMATICIANS VS THE REDS



Lt Jan Kowalewski was an officer who did not fire a single shot in the Battle of Warsaw. However, he obtained invaluable information that was used to defeat the enemy. In the end, it was mathematicians who defeated the Bolsheviks. Kowalewski and his team deciphered about 500 messages a month.

Lt Jan Kowalewski was a Polish intelligence officer. He was a talented mathematician, an amateur cryptologist, he was the creator of the Radio Intelligence Department (RID) of the Polish General Staff. The RID monitored enemy communications. Kowalewski organized his team in a highly unusual way – he managed to persuade Poland's most talented mathematicians to work for the army.

Kowalewski's team managed to break Bolshevik codes within a few months from the start of the Polish-Bolshevik war. Throughout the conflict, the RID intercepted and deciphered several thousand Bolshevik messages. During the period of the most intense fighting, Kowalewski and his team collected and deciphered nearly 500 messages a month. The team only needed a few hours to decipher one message. Until the very end of the war, the Bolsheviks were unaware their communications were monitored and they never changed the way they encoded the orders.

MC

DID YOU KNOW...?

The Polish General Staff's Cipher Bureau, co-founded by Kowalewski, continued its work after WWI. Its greatest achievement was breaking the Enigma code before WWII even broke out. In 1939, Polish cryptologists created a working replica of the Enigma and handed it over to the Allies together with their findings. This effort was critical in the Allies' ability to break German codes, intercept and decipher their communications. That is how Polish mathematicians contributed to yet another victory, this time over Adolf Hitler's Third Reich in WWII.



19

BLOOD AND CROSS

In August 1920, the red Soviet wave was rapidly approaching Warsaw. The Polish General Staff, initially taken by surprise, were nevertheless getting ready to strike back. A three day long service was organized in all churches in Warsaw.

Father Ignacy Skorupka was responsible for giving pastoral support to teenagers and students, masses of whom now volunteered to join the army. The young priest willingly followed them to the front as a military chaplain. The presence of the well-known priest gave everyone comfort.

The Bolsheviks were attacking along the entire front line. Heavy gunfire pinned the fighting Poles to the ground. Defense was collapsing and everything seemed to be lost. Right then, the commander and the priest exchanged glances, made the sign of the cross and leaped to their feet to encourage the soldiers. "Forward boys! For Poland! In the name of God! Take heart!" The priest thrust his arm in the air, high above his head. Tightly locked in his fist was a crucifix.

A massive Polish line formation suddenly rose from the ground and rushed forward with a battle cry. They were



welcomed by the fury of the Bolsheviks, stunned with the size of the counterattack. Charging Polish troops seemed to be unstoppable. They managed to turn the tide of the battle. Decimated Bolsheviks were forced to withdraw. In their chaotic flight, they went straight into the bayonets of units coming to relieve the troops fighting in Warsaw. At one point, Father Skorupka stopped to kneel beside a dying soldier. At that moment a bullet caught him in the temple, killing him instantly.

The funeral of Father Skorupka became a great patriotic manifestation. His bravery was appreciated throughout the country. He was posthumously decorated with the War Order of Virtuti Militari.

AP

*Ms. Ignacy Skorupka
2 Warszawy*

HE DID NOT WANT OTHERS TO RISK THEIR LIVES FOR HIM

"Leave no man behind" – this is a rule known by every soldier. However, the last moments of Capt Filip Śmiłowski's life show that a good leader will choose to die rather than put his soldiers in danger.

It was April 4, 1920, the time of fierce Polish-Bolshevik fights. Polish soldiers, hidden in trenches, tried to organize defense, but the enemy significantly outnumbered them. Capt Filip Śmiłowski commanded the 10th company of the 15th Infantry Regiment. There was a serious risk the entire troop would be wiped out in the shelling. Therefore, Capt Śmiłowski ordered his men to withdraw.

Right then, an enemy artillery shell exploded near Capt Śmiłowski and knocked him to the ground. Stunned Śmiłowski was not able to

stand up, both his legs were severely wounded. Two of his men, without any regard to the heavy fire, returned to the trench to recover him. The shooting was so fierce that one of the soldiers was instantly killed and the other seriously wounded. Capt Śmiłowski knew more of them would come to his rescue. He did not want to put their lives at risk. For him, as an officer of the Polish Armed Forces, surrender was not an option. He ordered his troops to continue the retreat and he reached for his gun. He left on his own terms.

RS



UHLAN

LANCES TAKE ON THE COSSACKS



It was sunset on August 31, 1920, when in the purple light, Polish cavalrymen suddenly saw that the woods around the village of Komarów came alive. “The woods are coming!” – **Capt Kornel Krzczunowicz** shouted to his Uhlans. It was the famous Semyon Budyonny’s 1st Cavalry Army that caught up with the Polish cavalry regiments.

Crue! and seasoned Cossacks charged against the Polish Uhlans. The disproportion of forces between the Poles and Cossacks was already frightening: twenty Bolshevik regiments against six exhausted and bleeding Polish ones. The Poles, however, did not stop to think about their chances for a second.

The 9th Ulan Regiment took on the first attack and was literally swallowed by the galloping swarms of Cossacks. This, however, let Capt Krzczunowicz form his 8th Regiment in a line of squadron columns and move in a trot towards the enemy. Cossack horses were tired after a one and a half mile gallop and the horsemen did not expect to see a new compact formation in front of them, so they slowed down and started closing ranks. That one short moment was enough for Capt Krzczunowicz – 50 yards from the Bolshevik front he shouted to his men: “Spread, gallop, charge, charge – huray!”

With a battle cry, Uhlans of the 8th Regiment attacked the enemy together with the dispersed squadrons of the 9th Regiment and technical squadrons of the

1st Ulan Regiment located nearby as cover for artillery. The Uhlans fought fiercely, taking revenge for all the earlier defeats and the atrocities Budyonny’s grunts had done to the civilian population. The Cossack onslaught broke as quickly as it began its charge. Darkness covered the battlefield of what had been the greatest cavalry battle of the Polish-Bolshevik War.

The charge of Capt Krzczunowicz inspired the whole 1st Cavalry Division to a victorious fight with Budyonny’s three divisions. Years later, Capt Krzczunowicz recalled: “The decisive moment comes. Everybody joins the charging 8th Ulan Regiment, everybody is producing their sabers and pistols. [...] With a slap of my saber I make my stallion go faster, the whole regiment is fiercely charging and in the blink of an eye reaches the enemy. So strong was the charge that the enemy could not withstand it and their troops started retreating along the whole frontline. It was a great spectacle I will never forget.”

PK

2nd Grochów Ulan Regiment
on its combat trail. AAN



SHE DEFENDED TO THE END

DID YOU KNOW...?

One of the oldest war orders in the world is the Polish War Order of **Virtuti Militari**. It was first instituted in June 1792 by King Stanisław August Poniatowski. The first Bachelor of the Virtuti Militari War Order was Prince Józef Poniatowski, who was decorated after the victorious Battle of Zieleńce in the Russo-Polish War in defense of the May 3 Constitution, which was enacted as the second in the world after the US Constitution. So far, the Virtuti Militari Order has been awarded to about 26,000 people.



Teresa Grodzińska

did not hesitate even for a moment. She wanted to fight for her country as well as she possibly could. She volunteered to attend a course for nurses, completed it in July 1920, and was sent to the front to a field hospital.



A few weeks later, near Hrubieszów, the infantry regiment to which her hospital was attached was withdrawing due to heavy Bolshevik fire. The field hospital was to be evacuated at the very end. The young nurse stayed with the wounded to the last possible moment. As she withdrew, she assisted many of the patients over the already burning bridge. Despite heavy fire coming from both sides of the river, she crossed the bridge several times to take the most severely wounded to safety.

Her regiment kept withdrawing under Bolshevik attacks. However, on September 1, 1920, they were surrounded by the infamous Semyon Budyonny's 1st Cavalry Army. Polish troops did not manage to break through the Cossack line. Teresa was taken prisoner, together with the entire field hospital of wounded troops, and locked in a stable.

The night after the battle, a group of Cossacks tried to get into the makeshift prison. Their intentions towards the young Polish nurse were obvious. Teresa decided to fight. She grabbed an axe lying nearby, and for several hours bravely resisted the ferocious Cossacks' attacks. She died with a weapon in her hand.

The brave nurse who defended her dignity to her death was posthumously awarded the War Order of Virtuti Militari and the Cross of Valor.

MC



DID YOU KNOW...?

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is located between Plac Piłsudskiego and Ogród Saski, and it is a monument honoring unknown soldiers killed during wars. The monument is guarded at all times by the honor guards, and during national holiday celebrations it is where military commemorations are held.





TRUE TO TRADITION, WE



**PVT OSKAR
BARCZYK,**
6th Logistic
Battalion,
6th Airborne
Brigade

“ My love for the military uniform was planted in me by my great-grandfather Feliks Barczyk, who fought for Poland during World War II, and who was a prisoner of the Auschwitz concentration camp. His dream was for his son, and his grandsons, to serve in the Polish Armed Forces. I fulfilled my great-grandfather's dream two and a half years ago, but unfortunately he didn't live to witness it. I became a soldier of the 6th Airborne Brigade, and I proudly wear my uniform with the white-and-red flag on my arm, and a claret beret of a paratrooper. However, my service at the unit is more than a patriotic obligation. Here, I am given the opportunity to develop and gain new skills – recently, for example, I have completed a training for a drone operator.



**PVT KINGA
WIDZIŃSKA**
Representative
Honor Guard Regi-
ment of the Polish
Armed Forces

“ I am a graduate of a military class at Zbigniew Herbert High School No. 14 in Lublin. After finishing my education, I completed the then functioning preparatory military service, and for over a year now I have served as a professional soldier in the Representative Honor Guard Regiment of the Polish Armed Forces. I am proud to serve in the flagship unit of the Polish army. Although moving out of my house at such a young age was not easy for me, being here at the unit feels almost as good as home. When I still lived in Lublin, I would often talk to my parents – also soldiers, about the army, just like any other family talks about any other job. Now, I have these conversations with my fellow soldiers, which makes me feel that I'm in the right place. I definitely get a lot of satisfaction from what I do.



**PVT 1ST CLASS
PAULINA
MAKULEC-
WALEŃDA**
6th Mazowiecka
Territorial Defense
Brigade

“ I have been in service for over three years, and although at times it has been tough to reconcile my professional life with military service, I don't regret a single day in a uniform. I joined the TDF for purely patriotic reasons. I wanted to work for the good of my Homeland, and help the local community. In my TDF service, I can shape patriotic and civic attitudes of young people, meet insurgents and combatants. All of this motivates me to work and develop. I'm happy that TDF opened the door to women, and offered us an opportunity to prove that there is no such thing as a “weaker sex.” Women participate in the same trainings and courses as men, lift the same weights, cover the same running distances and fight with the same weapons.

DID YOU KNOW...?

In order to serve in a GROM combat team, one must complete a multi-phase selection process, during which not only the candidate's physical fitness, but also mental predispositions are tested. Some of the special forces' operators claim that their interview with a psychologist was tougher than a several-day training in the mountains...





SERVE WITH PASSION



**2NDLT
KRZYSZTOF
WÓJCIK**
Training Center for
Territorial Defense
Forces in Toruń

“ Before I joined the army a year ago, I had pursued my passion for the uniform as a commander of a rifle unit. In the meantime, I was developing my skills: I took part in a pilot student program at an NCO school, I enlisted with the National Reserve Forces, I participated in military trainings, and gained new qualifications during my SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape) or CLS (Combat Lifesaver) courses. To those in doubt, I recommend joining some pro-defense organization. This may be a good way to see whether or not a uniformed service is right for you. In my opinion, the army today is a very good alternative, it offers a chance for personal growth, and provides professional and financial stability. Obviously, military service requires devotion and making sacrifices. For that reason, in order to be a good soldier, you must like the army and you cannot become a soldier merely for the benefits.



**CPL MARTYNA
GRZEGORSKA**
37th Air Defense
Missile Squadron

“ I completed my Academic Legion (Legia Akademicka) training four years ago. I consider it a perfect first step towards service in the army, as one does not have to resign from higher education. After I completed my master's degree, I started to look for a job in the military. I think that anyone can develop in the army as long as they want. I like new challenges, so I took the opportunity and went to the USA for a Patriot training on repairing equipment. Today, I think that joining the professional army was the best decision in my life.



**CAPT BARTOSZ
BARTOSEWIC**
lecturer at the
Military University
of Technology (WAT)

“ Studying at the Military University of Technology (Wojskowa Akademia Techniczna, WAT) enabled me to combine my passion for the military uniform with my academic career. Today I am an officer, an academic in a uniform, I teach and I conduct my research projects in the WAT Institute of Optoelectronics. In order to serve in the army, it is necessary to understand its specificity, hierarchy; one must have a lot of humility and self-discipline. Determination can also be useful, and, if one studies at WAT, a flair for technical subjects. I think that anyone who is interested in advanced military technology, and is predisposed to studying science and technology, will consider WAT as a good starting point in their military career.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Until recently, the F-16 pilots had to do a part of their air force training in the United States. Now, it is no longer necessary.

The M-346 Bielik training has successfully completed the certification process, which confirmed that it is equivalent to the one conducted by the US Air Force.



THERE IS ONLY ONE HOMELAND

It was the passion for the history of the Polish Armed Forces that determined my life choices. During my doctoral studies, I completed a reserve officer course and a series of military trainings. **After the last training, at the 8th Anti-aircraft Regiment in Koszalin, I decided to become a professional soldier.** The conflict in Ukraine only confirmed my conviction that it was the right choice.



LT PIOTR
PODHORODECKI,
8TH ANTI-AIR-
CRAFT
REGIMENT
IN KOSZALIN

My love for the uniform was sparked in me with the stories told by my grandfather, Jerzy Brykajto, who was a Home Army soldier during WWII. After he died, I did my military service. I decided to find out more about Gen Kazimierz Sosnkowski, who was my grandfather's commander. My passion led me to my wife, Anna, who is also a military historian. The history of Poland cannot be separated from the uniform, and the achievements of outstanding officers of the past remain a constant inspiration. In my thesis, I wrote about Gen Sosnkowski and his time at the Ministry of Military Affairs between the years 1919–1921. During that period, he was responsible for mobilization, organization and training of a million-strong army, which on August 15, 1920 turned the Red Army back from the gates of Warsaw. He was the man behind recruiting over 100,000 volunteers and significantly increasing the amount of armament in the Polish army shortly before the Battle of Warsaw. Gen Sosnkowski left unique and exceptionally valuable ideological guidelines, which still remain valid. He warned against Russia and excessive belief in allies, who all have their own interests. He wrote that there is only one Homeland. The same for everyone. His texts never grow old and never sound outdated. They can be reread and reinterpreted at any moment in time, gaining an entirely new meaning.

At the 8th Anti-aircraft Regiment, I have been appointed by my commander to work in the human resources department, and the success of Gen Sosnkowski's organizational work in 1920 inspires my actions and my attitude towards service in the Polish Armed Forces. Currently, I combine my military service with finishing my doctoral thesis on this very distinguished figure. Our Homeland needs a modern, strong army, rooted in our past and great Polish traditions.

Piotr Podhorodecki

DID YOU KNOW...?

The "God, Honor, Fatherland" motto, seen on the standards of the Polish Army, was introduced by the order of **General Kazimierz Sosnkowski** of October 15, 1943. **At the time, the Poles, deprived by the occupant of their own state, were fighting in the name of not only their own, but the entire world's freedom.**





Zostań Żołnierzem

Dobrowolna zasadnicza służba wojskowa

4560zł od pierwszego dnia służby

DID YOU KNOW...?

The new **"Become a Soldier"** campaign offers new opportunities to those who want to combine their professional growth with service in the Polish Armed Forces. Information about voluntary military service is provided at military recruitment centers, via call centers (daily, from 8:00 a.m. to 10 p.m., **phone number: 800 180 110**), or at the PAF recruitment website: zostanzolnierzem.pl

VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE FOR INDEPENDENT POLAND

Advanced equipment and a professional army of 300,000 – this is the plan implemented by the Polish Ministry of National Defense.

Voluntary military service is the new kind of service introduced with the Homeland Defense Act. For volunteers, it is the first step in the process of becoming professional soldiers. In order to join the service, a person must be an adult, have no criminal record, be a Polish citizen, and have adequate mental and physical condition for military service. Those who are interested may apply at a local recruitment center. Information about voluntary military service is provided at military recruitment centers, via call centers (daily, from 8:00 a.m. to 10 p.m., phone number: 800 180 110), or at the PAF recruitment website: zostanzolnierzem.pl

Everyone in voluntary military service receives a monthly salary of 4,560 zlotys (gross amount). For

the time of service, the volunteer is provided with a uniform, food, equipment and insurance. What's crucial, during his service time a volunteer does not have to be garrisoned, and can reside outside the unit.

Completing voluntary military service gives priority during recruitment for professional service, but also when applying for a job in public administration (considering professional qualifications of a candidate and job requirements). The service time in the voluntary military service counts into the time of military service or time of employment. Voluntary military service can be terminated at any time.

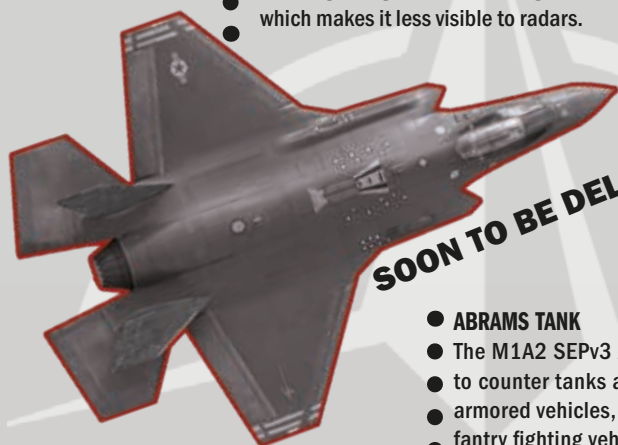
EFFECTIVENESS AND S

We are building the strength of the Polish Armed Forces with state-of-the-art aircraft, tanks, artillery, drones. It is an investment in a peaceful and safe future. The security of Poland is priceless!

Mariusz Błaszczak, Deputy Prime Minister, Polish Minister of National Defense

● F-35A MULTIROLE AIRCRAFT

- The F-35A multirole aircraft is a fifth-generation fighter designed to perform aerial combat against enemy aircraft, and collect reconnaissance data for, i.a., anti-aircraft or artillery detachments. The F-35A Lightning II was built using stealth technology, which makes it less visible to radars.



SOON TO BE DELIVERED

DID YOU KNOW...?

Polish F-16 pilots regularly participate in the Baltic Air Policing missions. For several months, they are stationed in the air base in Lithuania, where they are on a 24/7 combat duty. If there are any attempts of violating the airspace over the Baltic states, the pilots have only a dozen or so minutes to start their fighters, take off and chase the intruder away. Such duty is also conducted on a daily basis in Poland.

● ABRAMS TANK

- The M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams is designed to counter tanks and various types of armored vehicles, including enemy infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs). It is the latest version of Abrams, which can be equipped with a kit that improves its fighting ability in urban environments, as well as the Trophy HV active protection system.

SOON TO BE DELIVERED



● KORMORAN 2-CLASS MINEHUNTER

- Kormoran 2-class Minehunters are designed to search for, identify and counter sea mines, identify and conduct reconnaissance of waterways, guide other vessels across mine hazard waters, place mines and remotely control self-propelled anti-mine platforms. The deck provides space for sapper divers. The vessel already in service is ORP Kormoran, which will be joined later this year by ORP Albatros and ORP Mewa.



STRENGTH NATO

SOON TO BE DELIVERED



BAYRAKTAR AERIAL VEHICLE

- The Bayraktar TB2 is a MALE class tactical unmanned aerial vehicle, capable of performing observation, reconnaissance and combat missions. This medium-altitude long-endurance aerial vehicle is armed with MAM guided gliding missiles. Their MAM-L version is capable of reaching a target located up to 8 km away (14 km with Inertial Navigation System).



PIORUN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM

The Piorun man-portable air defense system is the latest Polish VSHORAD system, created as a result of modernizing the GROM set. Compared to its predecessor, Piorun has an increased range and improved effectiveness of hitting small targets, such as drones.



PGZ Product



GROT ASSAULT RIFLE

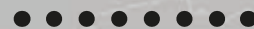
The 5.56-mm Grot modular firearm system is the first since WWII automatic carbine fully designed and produced in Poland. MSBS Grot C16 FB is a stock model version. The weapon has an accessory rail for mounting additional equipment (such as sights) and a side-folding telescopic stock with regulated length. It is possible to mount a 40-mm under-barrel grenade launcher on the rifle.



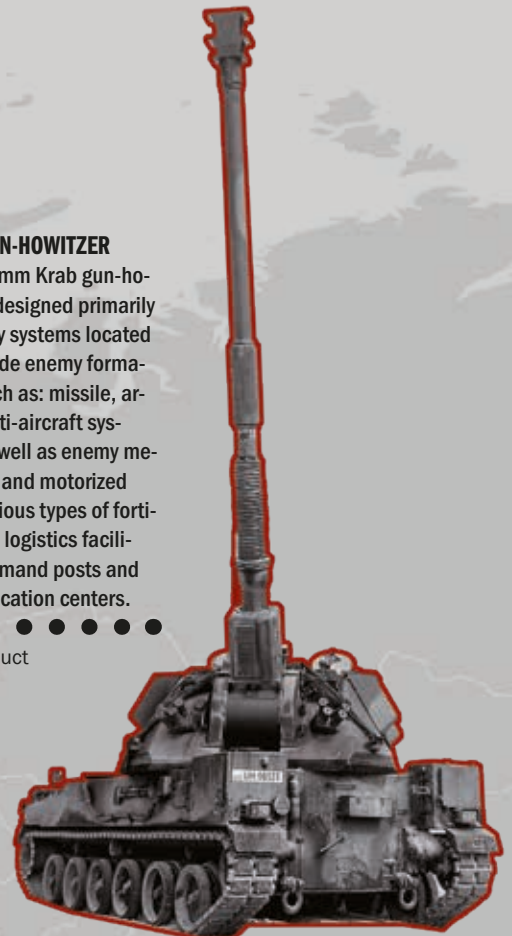
PGZ Product

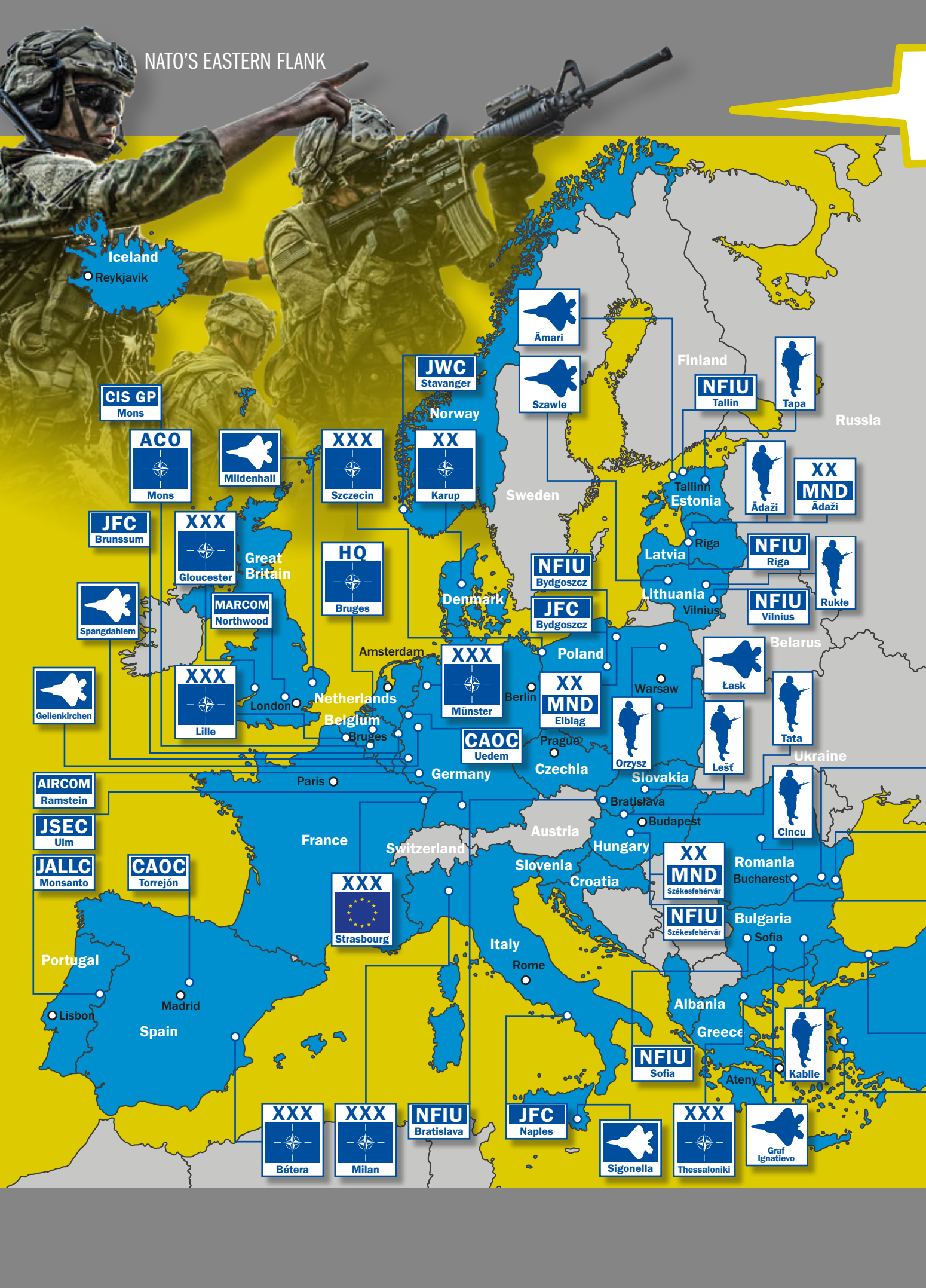
KRAB GUN-HOWITZER

The 155-mm Krab gun-howitzer is designed primarily to destroy systems located deep inside enemy formations, such as: missile, artillery, anti-aircraft systems, as well as enemy mechanized and motorized units, various types of fortifications, logistics facilities, command posts and communication centers.



PGZ Product



[illegible]

DID YOU KNOW...?

On March 12, 1999, Poland, along with Hungary and Czechia, became a member state of NATO, the North-Atlantic Alliance, an international organization of political and military nature, formed on the basis of the North-Atlantic Treaty concluded in 1949 in Washington between 12 states (at present, the Alliance has 30 members). The clause on collective defense, included in Article 5 of the Treaty, plays a crucial role in the functioning of NATO.

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THE NATO COMMAND STRUCTURE AND ALLIED FORCES DEPLOYED ON THE EASTERN FLANK



NATO Headquarters



Allied Command Operations



Allied Joint Force Command



Joint Support and Enabling Command



Allied Air Command



Allied Maritime Command



Allied Land Command



Combined Air Operations Centre



NATO Corps



Eurocorps



Multinational Division



NATO Force Integration Unit



Communications and Information Services Group



Joint Warfare Center



Joint Force Training Center



Joint Analysis and Lessons Learned Center



NATO Battlegroup



Air Base with Allied Aircraft



Air Base Supporting Operations on the Eastern Flank



SHUTTERSTOCK, GRAF. MD/DZIAŁ GRAFICZNY, TW

DEVELOPMENT OF NATO BATTLEGROUPS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2022 (SOURCE: NATO)

Country	Lead Nation	Participants	Number of soldiers in January 2022	Number of soldiers in June 2022
Bulgaria	Italy*	Albania, Bulgaria, USA	-	968
Estonia	Great Britain	Denmark, France, Iceland	1,146	1,430
Lithuania	Germany	Belgia, Czechia, France*, Netherlands, Iceland, Luxembourg, Norway	1,103	1,632
Latvia	Canada	Albania, Montenegro, Czechia, Spain, Iceland, North Macedonia, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Italy	1,650	1,887
Poland	USA	Croatia, Romania, Great Britain	1,058	1,033
Romania	France	Belgium, Netherlands*, Poland, USA	-	1,148
Slovakia	Czechia	Netherlands, Germany, Slovenia, Poland*, USA*	-	643
Hungary		Montenegro*, Croatia, Turkey*, USA, Hungary, Italy*	-	900
Total			4,957	9,641

*Countries which declared participation