

HISTORY **SUPER** STORY

The armed resistance put up by underground soldiers in 1944-1963 is called the anti-communist uprising



Steadfast soldiers

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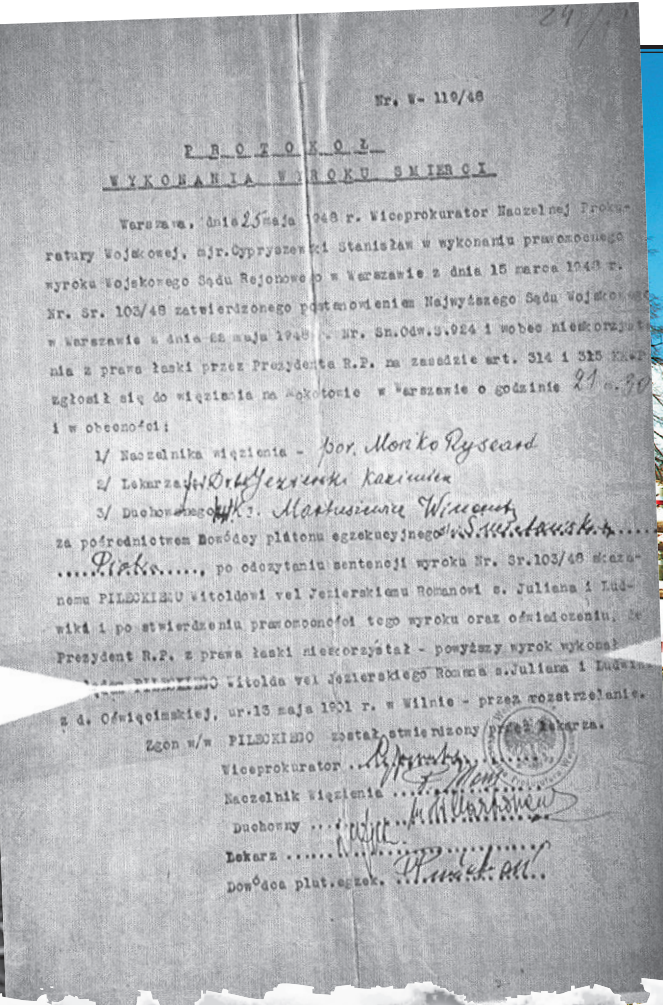
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A group of soldiers from the „Uskok” unit during a concentration in the Kozłowieckie Forests, July, 1944



NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
The festival commemorating the Steadfast was established in 2010 on the initiative of President Lech Kaczyński. Since 2011, the first of March has been celebrated as the National Day of Remembrance of the Cursed Soldiers. This is a particularly symbolic date - on March 1, 1951, in a prison in Warsaw's Mokotów district, the communists murdered the leaders of the 4th Main Board of the WiN Association with a shot in the back of the head.

THEY RESPONDED TO THE REPRESSION WITH DEEDS

It is only worth sacrificing your life for one idea, the idea of freedom! If we fight and suffer sacrifices, it is because we want to live, but live as free people, in a free homeland”, wrote Capt. Zdzisław Bronski „Uskok”, a legend of Lublin partisans.

Even though the war ended, they continued to fight for a free, independent Poland. The Cursed Soldiers, as they were called, resisted the subjugation of their homeland to the USSR and the forced communist authorities with

weapons in their hands. They did not agree to enslavement, they fought to the end, despite the fact that in those days they would die for it, and at best, many years of imprisonment, torture, suffering, and pain. This armed resistance to the Red Plague by underground soldiers in 1944–1963 is called by many historians the anti-communist uprising.

Under the Soviet occupation
After the Red Army entered Poland in 1944 and the fall of the Warsaw Uprising, the situation of the Home Army and underground soldiers was tragic. The ones that had fought together with the Russians against the Germans, were persecuted by the Bolsheviks after the victorious operations had ended. Arrests and deportations to the East happened every day. Everyone who did not agree to the people's government that was installed under the auspices of the Soviets was under the scrutiny of the NKVD, and then the UB. The pursued, repressed, impri-

soned, and murdered did not stop their activities. They responded to the repression with deeds. The following people fought for a free Poland: „Nil”, „Zapora”, „Płow”, „Inka”, „Łupaszka”, or „Lalek”. For them it was the same fight that they started in 1939, only the occupier changed.

The anti-communist underground
In order to deprive the NKVD of any pretext for repression, on 19 January 1945, the commander-in-chief of the Home Army, General Leopold Okulicki „The Bear”, ordered the organization to be dissolved. It formally ceased to exist, but on its basis, other organizations were created that opposed the Soviet aggression. In the years 1944–1956, about 200 thousand people fought for free Poland, people in different formations. The largest organization that stood against the communists was the Freedom and Independence Association (WiN). It assumed, first of all, action through political struggle, but allowed for the possibility of armed self-defense. Strong branches operated in the center: in the Białystok, Lublin, and Warsaw districts. In the years 1945-46, the organiza-



Szczałki ofiar terroru komunistycznego odnaleziono na warszawskiej „Łączce”



tion numbered over 30,000 members. In addition to WiN, there were also: Fire in Podhale, 5th (VI) Home Army Vilnius Brigade, Maj. Zygmunt Szendzielarz „Łupaszka” in the Białystok region, and then in Pomerania and the Polish Underground Army, Maj. Stanisław Sojczyński „Warszyca”, operating mainly in Łódź.

The fight of the Cursed
Poland came under the control of forest divisions. The forests were filled with underground soldiers who did not agree to the imposed

order. Partisan groups carried out military actions against UB functionaries, militia and PPR activists. They destroyed party committees and UB posts. They carried out actions which resulted in the release of at least several hundred prisoners held in communist torture rooms. They attacked convoys and carried out death sentences on the most zealous executioners and secret police officers. They conducted propaganda activities, incl. they published magazines informing the public about what was really going on in the country.

The mass struggle ended in 1947. Small guerrilla groups operated until the beginning of the 1950s. Individuals remained in the underground even until the beginning of the 1960s. Their activity, however, consisted no longer in armed struggle, but in hiding with weapons from the communist authorities.

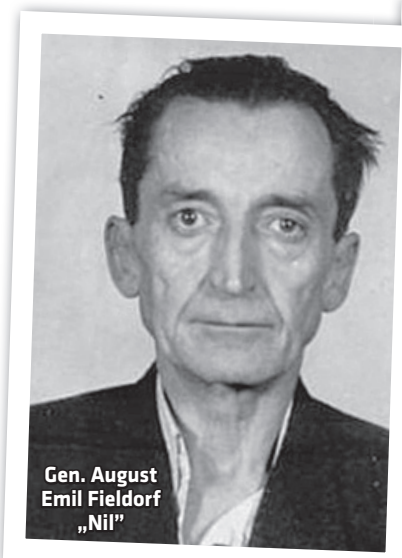
Communist repression
Initially, the Soviet terror apparatus, supported by local allies of the new order, stood up against the forces of the anti-communist under-

ground. Then the UB and the KBW played the first violin. The cursed were arrested, taken to labor camps, and tortured. Those who survived the investigation were tried under the banner of sabotage. Deprived of the possibility of defense, they were sentenced to death or long imprisonment. Direct repressions lasted until 1956.

In the years 1945–1956, during the fights with the communists, almost 9,000 soldiers of the anti-communist underground died. About 20 thousand were tortured in prisons and arrested. Military courts sen-

tenced 5,000 people under the death penalty. Murdered patriots were buried secretly, usually at night, in death pits. In the area of the prison, somewhere in the ditch, by the fence. The symbolic place is the „Łączka” in Warsaw. Only a few managed to survive the Stalinist regime, yet the people's government did not give them peace. As „reactionary bandits” they were constantly under the surveillance of the security forces. Many Cursed soldiers chose to return to civil life under a changed name.

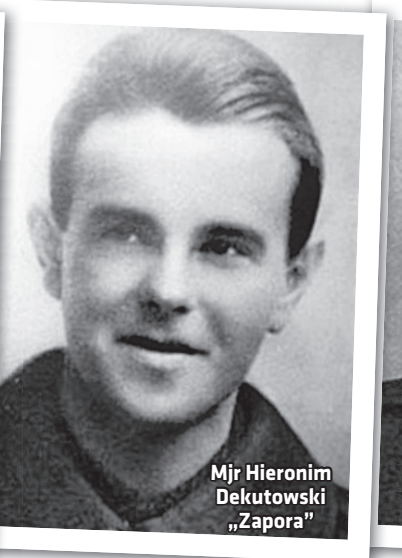
UNDERGROUND HEROES
Among the heroes of the underground army were General August Emil Fieldorf „Nil”, Captain Witold Pilecki „Witold”, Major Hieronim Dekutowski „Zapora”, Łukasz Ciepłński „Plug”, Danuta Steikówna „Inka”, Marian Bernaciak „Orlik” and many others. Their bravery and steadfast demeanor are role models for young people.



Gen. August Emil Fieldorf „Nil”



Rtm. Witold Pilecki



Mjr. Hieronim Dekutowski „Zapora”



Łukasz Ciepłński „Plug”



Marian Bernaciak „Orlik”

THE CURSED GIRLS



„Inka”

18-year-old Danuta was shot

Less than 18-year-old Danuta Sieikówna „Inka”, a nurse and liaison officer of the 5th Vilnius Brigade of the Home Army, was sentenced to death by the Military Court in Gdańsk on August 3, 1946. Her ex officio defender asked President Bierut for a grace, „Inka” she refused to write such a request herself. Bierut did not use the right of grace.

Three weeks later, „Inka” was shot. She did not want to be blindfolded. Before the execution, she managed to shout: „Long live Poland, long live» Łupaszka! «.” Shortly before the

execution of the sentence, she wrote in a secret message: “I am sad that I have to die. Tell my grandma I acted right. Apart from participation in the “Łupaszka” gang, the communists accused them of ordering the shooting of two UB functionaries. This „crime” was not proved even by a court that was subject to security. Together with „Inka”, Lieutenant Feliks Selmanowicz „Zagończyk” was shot. The bodies were thrown into a pit in the cemetery in Gdańsk. Only in January 2015 their remains were identified.



„Lala” (Doll)

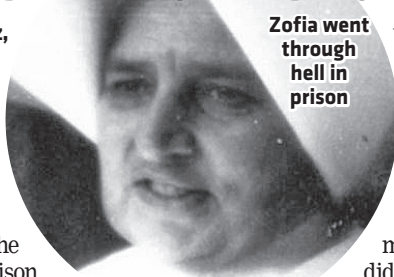
Lidia did not leave Łupaszka after the brigade was disarmed

Lidia Lwow, after her husband Eberle, aka Lala (Doll) was Polish by choice. After the death of his wife, Maj. „Łupaszki” became his partner.

spent eight years together, they hid together. In mid-1948, they were arrested. After the show trial, „Lala” was sentenced to life imprisonment, her lover was given the death penalty. Everyone considered them married, although they never legalized their relationship. Just before the execution of “Łupaszka”, they were allowed to see them for the last time. Her fiancé told her to study and get married. It happened. „Lala” was released from prison under the amnesty in 1956, was admitted to archeology in Warsaw, got married and gave birth to a daughter.

Sister Izabela

Zofia Łuszczkiewicz, a well-educated daughter of a Krakow lawyer, became a sister Izabela after joining the Order of Charity.



Zofia went through hell in prison

During the war, she was a nurse and liaison officer of the Home Army, she helped Jews hiding and la-

ter joined the anti-communist organization Wolność i Niepodległość (Freedom and Independence). While working in a hospital in Rzeszów, she took care of wounded partisans. In 1947, She was arrested by the UB when the tortured former activist of the National Democratic Party, Adam Doboszyński, admitted

that she had helped him. Sister Izabela was sentenced to three death sentences, changed to life imprisonment. She endured terrible tortures in communist prisons. She did not break. She endured 13 months in solitary confinement in a prison with a strict regime in Inowrocław and a brutal security service investigation. In June 1956, a break in serving the sentence was allowed. She was in terrible condition, suffered from tuberculosis in her leg, and after knocking out teeth by the executioners, she had a tumor in the jaw. A year later she died.



Emilia was the head of the foreign communications department

„Marcysia”

Emilia Malessa is a legendary figure of the Home Army, wife of the famous major Jan Piwnik „Ponury”. „Marcysia” commanded the Home Army cell „Zagroda”, whose task was to maintain contact with the government in London. She created a system consisting of about 100 couriers sent to the West.

For her bravery in the Warsaw Uprising, she got Virtuti Militari. After the dissolution of the Home Army, she joined the Freedom and Independence Association. When in October 1945 she was arrested by the Security Service, she provided the communists with information about people, structure, contacts, and premises. She did it with the consent of the superior, Col. Jan Rzepecki and at the instigation of the head of the investigative department of the Ministry of Public Security, Józef Różański, who gave her an „officer’s word of honor” that none of the disclosed persons would be arrested. Of course, that was not the case. „Marcysia” herself was sentenced to two years in prison, but Bierut pardoned her. Unable to come to terms with the fact that the underground soldiers she revealed are in prison, she unsuccessfully undertook various protests. At the same time, the Home Army milieu turned away from her. Feeling guilty, she committed suicide in 1949.

„Jasiek”

Major Antoni Żubryd and his wife Janina fought together against the communists and died together, shot in the back of the head. 25-year-old Janina was eight months pregnant. It is not known where they were buried.



Janka was respected by her colleagues

They were both active in the Home Army. When the Soviet army entered the Rzeszów region, Żubryd started working in the UB in Sanok. There, he helped prisoners. He freed them. He warned the partisans. In 1945, he escaped and became the commander of a battalion of the National Armed Forces. His group was the most active partisan unit in the Bieszczady Mountains. Janka ps. Jasiek enjoyed great respect in the branch. After Żubryd escaped, the communists arrested Janina’s mother and Janusz’s four-year-old son. The boy

was the youngest political prisoner in Poland. After the division was dissolved, on October 24, 1946, the Żubryds came to the village of Malinówka for a farewell meeting. There they were killed by a unit soldier, Jerzy Vaulin, who turned out to be a UB agent, with a shot in the back of the head. After murdering his parents, Janusz was released. He grew up in the family of his mother’s sister.

„Peretka” (Gem)

Stefania Krupa ps. Peretka fought in a branch of the National Military Organization commanded by „Wołyniak”. As a nurse, she participated in the victory of the Battle of Kuryłówka in May 1945.

Now the partisan troops repelled three NKVD attacks, which were one of the greatest partisan battles against the Soviets. „Peretka” (Gem) was injured during the fights and taken away on a wagon. During transport from



Stefania Krupa

the battlefield, she met a wounded soldier, Aleksander Pityński, pseudonym Ball. The couple got married in January 1946.

They both left the underground in 1947 when Stefania was pregnant. After the birth of his son, Alexander decided to reveal himself. Nevertheless, they continued to be persecuted. The couple’s son - Andrzej Pityński - had to go overseas, in the USA he became a famous sculptor. He is the author of the famous Katyn Monument in Jersey City, for which the American Polish community has fought recently.

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