

BULLETIN of the

POLONUS **PHILATELIC SOCIETY**



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POLPEX '97 SOUVENIRS



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INCLUDE POSTAGE

482-1

THE 1996 POSTAGE STAMPS ISSUE PLAN

No	SUBJECT	Number of stamps	No	SUBJECT	Number of stamps
1	„I love you”	1 stamp	11	„XXVI Summer Olympic Games ATLANTA '96 (Centennial of modern Olympic Games)”	4 stamps
2	„75th anniversary of Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński's birth”	1 stamp	12	„Celebration of 200 th anniversary” of Dąbrowski's Mazurka (Polish hymn)	1 stamp
3	„Architectonic styles”	4 stamps	13	„ Marian Sanctuaries ”	1 stamp
4	„Four centuries of the Warsaw's metropolitan status”	1 stamp	14	„The Polish Kings and Princes – painting by Jan Matejko”	4 stamps
5	„Polish seagoing yachts”	4 stamps	15	„Polish jazz musicians – Zbigniew Seifert”	1 stamp
6	„Europe – famous woman”	2 stamps	16	„Polish Mountains – Tatry”	6 stamps
7	„75th anniversary of Silesian Rising”	1 stamp	17	„The world day of the Post (75 years of the Museum of the Post and Telecommunication in Wrocław)”	1 stamp 1 block
8	„Jan Brzechwa for the children – 50 years of UNICEF”	6 stamps	18	„Christmas”	2 stamps
9	„Stanisław Noakowski's paintings”	4 stamps	19	„Protected animals – aurochs”	4 stamps
10	„World-wide Philatelic Exhibition OLYMPHILEX '96”	1 stamp	20	Circulating issue (zodiac marks)	12 stamps

POLISH FIELDPOST IN OPERATION "DUNAJ" CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968

By KRZYSZTOF LACHOWICZ

From a translation by MICHAEL CHANT

In 1993, the five Warsaw Pact States (namely USSR, Poland, East Germany, Hungary and Bulgaria) intervened militarily in Czechoslovakia in the operation code-named "Dunaj" (Danube). The operation was prepared and executed mainly by the units of the Red Army and involved (in round figures) 575,000 soldiers, 6,500 tanks, 1000 planes and much other military equipment. At the time it was the largest military operation seen in Europe since the Second World War.

Polish forces committed to the territory of Czechoslovakia comprised 22,780 soldiers, 550 tanks, 440 transporters, 450 cannon and 38 planes and helicopters. 3,300 soldiers with appropriate equipment were kept in reserve on Polish Territory. The Polish army units carried out the tasks allotted to them in a manner consistent with the particular political circumstances but without violence. In fact not a single soldier in the Polish or Czechoslovak forces lost his life in the military actions of operation "Dunaj".

For the purpose of "Dunaj", a Second Army of the Polish Army was formed consisting of the following tactical formations: 10th and 11th Tank Divisions, 4th Mechanized Division, 6th Air Descent Division and certain other units: 27th Tank Regiment from the 5th Tank Division, the 1st Tank Regiment from the 16th Tank Division, the 7th Radiotechnical Division, the 10th Communications Regiment, the 47th, 49th and 56th Helicopter Regiments, the 1st Independent Storm Battalion, and 11th and 17th Squadrons of the Liaison Airforce.

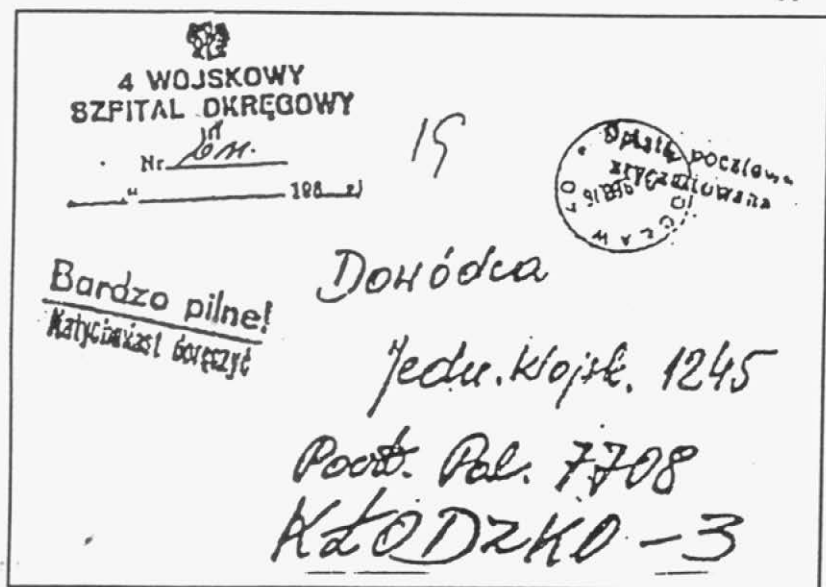
The operation lasted from August 21 to November 12, 1968. In the Second Army's areas of responsibility, garrison headquarters were established in, for example, Chrudim, Havlickuv Brod, Hradec Kralove, Jaromer, Jicin, Kutna Hora, Mlada Boleslav, Pardubice, Sumperk, Trutnov, Usti n. Orle.

In order to provide a postal service to the soldiers of the Polish Second Army a special, temporary, combined postal system was organized which united elements of the civil and military posts, but in practice was also characterized by numerous improvisations. That arose because of the lack of appropriate regulations governing the military post in both Poland and Czechoslovakia as well as the short period during which the Polish forces participated in the operation. A Field Base Post Office was set up for the purpose at the headquarters of the Polish Second Army at Hradec Kralove and Field Post Stations operated in the "zones of responsibility" of particular divisions serving military units and garrison commands. Field Post Numbers (Base and Station) and military units were therefore used in the addresses of postal items during "Dunaj". Four figure numbers denoting military units in the address were linked with a letter from A to Z which denoted the sub-unit, headquarters group, company, position, etc. Nevertheless, Kłodzko 3 Post Office was chosen as the civilian address of all the units of the Second Polish Army from Kłodzko 3 Post Office by its

or sometimes (for example inadvertently) by the post office in Kłodzko (see the illustration on page 483-4). From the items analyzed it was determined that the Field Post Base of the Second Army was allotted the number 7708, while one of the Field Post Stations serving units of the Eleventh Tank Division bore the number 7705. The functioning of a mixed system for the sending of correspondence during Operation "Dunaj" is attested also by the fact that items posted in Poland to troops in units of the Second Army were not exempt from postage. Official correspondence from the Second Army to civilian and military addressees in Poland were likewise posted and delivered as though in domestic conditions, with a "Postage Paid" stamp (see the illustration on p. 483-4.) The various impressions from these stamps are identical with the examples often used within Poland.

In the initial phase Polish postage stamps which they had brought with them were sometimes affixed to their correspondence by soldiers of the Second Army. An example is a picture postcard of Hradec Králové with details of the soldier's private address, which was transmitted by the Field Post through Kłodzko 1 Post Office on Aug. 28, 1968. Throughout the whole period of Operation "Dunaj" postcards and ordinary letters posted by soldiers of the Second Polish Army to addressees in Poland were exempted from postage. This is most often attested by impressions from "Wojskowe bezpłatne" (Military postfree) handstamps, mostly applied together with the Field Post 7708 stamp.

The temporary character of the operational system of the postal service of the Second Polish Army is directly shown by deficiencies in the provision of typical field post supplies. In spite of considerable efforts, enquiries and interviews with participants in these events, I have so far been unable to find documentary evidence of the use of appro-



appropriate Field Post datestamps, or of handstamps from Field Post Stations or even of military post printed cards and envelopes. Analysis of the documentation in the form of items transmitted through the post at that time indicates only the use of the "Poczta Polowa 7708" handstamps. These existed in two forms as evidenced by the alignment of the two rows of symbols. The variety of "Wojskowe bezpłatne" stamps used rather points to the conclusion that these were applied at the level of military units (Field Post Stations) before correspondence was forwarded to Field Post Bases.

The Polish Post Office also accepted "Wojsko bezpłatne" handstamps either in isolation or with a "Do pakietów" (for packets) stamps from a military unit, which also validated a handwritten inscription giving exemption from postage. The "Do pakietów" stamps of individual units were harmonized both as to lettering and size (29-30 mm.) with those used within Poland before and after Operation "Dunaj". On the basis of the items analyzed it can be deducted that the "Do pakietów" stamps of military units were used in place of Field Post Station stamps and, if they too were unavailable, the "Poczta Polowa 7708" stamp.

All the rubber stamps which appeared in connection with the transmission of correspondence during Operation "Dunaj" were struck in violet lithographic ink in accordance with general regulations and the date stamps were struck in black ink.

Finally, official cachets with emblems of military units were not used on correspondence from the Second Polish Army. An example of such a cachet with emblem from the Fourth Military District Hospital in Wrocław is shown on the previous page.

Reprinted from DYLIŻANS, published by the Society for Polish Philately in Great Britain.

MILWAUKEE STAMP FAIR

From Milwaukee, Wisconsin we have news that the Polish American Stamp Club, the Italian American Stamp Club, and the North Shore Philatelic Society will hold the TRI-PEX STAMP FAIR, '97, its annual bourse at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435 South 92nd Street on Saturday and Sunday, June 21-22. The hours are: Saturday 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday 10 am to 4 pm. Free admission and parking. Twenty-five dealers from throughout the Midwest will attend the bourse.

The Polish American Stamp Club is a local association of fifty stamp collectors and was established in 1976. It meets on the second Sunday of the month at 7:00pm at the First United Methodist Church Community Center, 1574 South 76th Street in Milwaukee.

Many of the Milwaukee group are POLONUS members. We urge those in the Chicagoland area to support their undertaking.



**69th Apostolic Journey of Pope John Paul II
to Central and South America
Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador
and Venezuela (2nd trip to each country)
February 5-11th, 1996**



The Holy Father arrived at the La Aurora International Airport in Guatemala City, on Monday, February 5, 1996, to begin his Pastoral Visit to Guatemala. On his arrival the Holy Father was met by the President of Guatemala, Alvaro Arzu Irigoyen and authorities of Church and State.

On Tuesday, February 6, 1996, the Holy Father celebrated Mass at the Shrine of the Holy Christ in the Basilica of the Black Christ in Esquipulas. In the afternoon the Holy Father returned to Guatemala City where he preached a homily at a Liturgy of the Word in Campo Marte Park.

On Wednesday, February 7, 1996, the Holy Father left Guatemala City for Nicaragua. After the welcome by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and State and Church representatives, the Holy Father celebrated Mass in Malecon Park on the Shores of Lake Managua.

In the afternoon the Holy Father visited the Immaculate Conception Cathedral and the Blood of Christ Chapel in Managua.

After the departure ceremonies at the airport, the Holy Father returned to Guatemala City.

On Thursday, February 8, 1996, the Holy Father arrived at Ilo-Ilo International Airport in San Salvador, capital of El Salvador. President Armando Calderon welcomed the Holy Father on his arrival. The Holy Father celebrated Mass for justice and peace at the 21st Century Esplanade. In the afternoon the Holy Father visited the Holy Saviour of the World Cathedral. After the departure ceremonies at the airport, the Holy Father returned to Guatemala City.

On Friday morning, February 9, 1996, the Holy Father arrived at Simon Bolivar International Airport in Maiquetia, Venezuela, where he was greeted by President Rafael Caldera. Later the Holy Father stopped at the Reten de Catia prison, where he addressed the inmates.

On Saturday, February 10, 1996, the Holy Father flew from Caracas to Guanare, where he was taken by helicopter to the Shrine of Our Lady of Coromoto. The Holy Father celebrated Mass and preached on the esplanade in front of the Shrine. After his return to Caracas, the Holy Father met with representatives of the country's social, cultural, political and economic life at Teresa Carreno Theater.

On Sunday, February 11, 1996, the Holy Father celebrated Mass at La Carlota Airport in Caracas. In the afternoon the Holy Father met with young people. After departure ceremonies at the airport, the Holy Father left for Rome.

VATICAN:

Vatican City - February 5—12, 1995

Commemorative travel postmark in Latin:
IO. PAULUS II - GUATIMAL. - NICARAG. -
SALVADOR - VENETIOLAM - INVISIT -
POSTE - VATICANE - 5-12 FEB. 1996 -
Pope John Paul II with crozier.



GUATEMALA:

First Day of Issue: 1996

Set of five stamps commemorating the second visit of Pope John Paul II to Guatemala — February 5-7, 1996. The stamps feature various photographs of the Holy Father. All stamps except the Q 0.10, reproduce also another photograph as part of the blue background. The photographs can be difficult to see as they blend in with the blue background. Each stamp also includes a papal quote and the logo of the 1996 visit to Guatemala with the Pope's coat of arms.

Stamp Q 0.10 - Pope John Paul II in greeting gesture. In the background a dove - symbol of peace. Quote: "That all the people join hands for peace."

Stamp Q 1.00 - Pope John Paul II holding and kissing a baby. In the background, Pope John Paul II with a boy during his visit to Mexico in 1979. Quote: "Let the children come unto me."

Stamp Q 1.75 - Pope John Paul II in mitre and with crozier. In the background, a large crucifix. Quote: "The house of the Lord is my house."

Stamp Q 1.90 - Pope John Paul II. In the background, the Holy Father during his visits to Central America in 1983. Quote: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."



Stamp Q 2.90 - Pope John Paul II in a blessing gesture. In the background, Indian people of Central America. Quote: "Remember that all men are our brothers."



NICARAGUA:

First Day of Issue: February 7, 1996

One stamp commemorating the second visit of Pope John Paul II to Nicaragua.

Stamp 5 cor. - Pope John Paul II in a greeting gesture. In the background a facade of a new church.



NICARAGUA:

Commemorative postmark used on February 7, 1996
II VISITA PASTORAL DE S.S. JUAN PABLO II
ANICARAGUA - CORREOS - DE NICARAGUA -
7 DE FEBRERO - DE 1996.



EL SALVADOR:

First Day of Issue: February 6, 1996

Set of two stamps commemorating the second visit of Pope John Paul II to El Salvador.
Stamps issued in sheets of 20 stamps.

On the right side border there is an imprint:
SEGUNDA VISITA DE SU SANTIDAD JUAN PABLO II.

Stamp 1.50 col. - Pope John Paul II in mitre and with crozier.

Stamp 5.40 col. - Pope John Paul II and a portion of the Metropolitan Cathedral in San Salvador.



EL SALVADOR:

February 6, 1996

Commemorative First Day of Issue postmark.
II VISITA DE SU SANTIDAD JUAN PABLO II - 8 DE FEBRERO - DIA DE CIRCULACION - 6 FEB 96 -

No city indicated - assumed it was San Salvador.
Cross on dome of the Metropolitan Cathedral in San Salvador.



VENEZUELA:

First Day of Issue: January 26, 1996.

Set of 10 stamps issued in small sheetlets, commemorating the second visit of Pope John Paul II to Venezuela. On the border of each stamp there are quotations from the Holy Father homilies, encyclicals and pastoral letters. The theme of the stamps is: John Paul II in solidarity with all people. Each stamp shows a different statue of the Virgin Mary.

Stamp Bs. 25 - John Paul II with children. Statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception.

Stamp Bs. 25 - John Paul II with young people. Statue of Our Lady of Peace.

Stamp Bs. 40 - John Paul II with a family. Statue of Our Lady of Divine Worship

Stamp Bs. 40 - John Paul II with an old man. Statue of Our Lady of the Snows.

Stamp Bs. 50 - John Paul II with poor people. Statue of Our Lady of Carmen.

Stamp Bs. 50 - John Paul II with a sick person. Statue of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Stamp Bs. 60 - John Paul II with a convict. Statue of Our Lady of Consolation.

Stamp Bs. 60 - John Paul II with worker. Statue of Our Lady of Chiquinquirá.

Stamp Bs. 100 - John Paul II professionals. Statue of Our Lady of the Valley.

Stamp Bs. 100 - John Paul II with priests and religious. Statue of Our Lady of Loneliness.

First Day of Issue:

January 26, 1996

Souvenir sheet commemorating the second visit of Pope John Paul II to Venezuela and dedication of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Coromato in Guanare.

Souvenir sheet - Bs. 200 stamp part of s/s Pope John Paul II with crozier. Statue of Our Lady of Coromato and the modern shrine of reinforced concrete dedicated to Virgin Mother of Coromoto.

(TO BE CONTINUED)



MY FAVORITE: AN AIRGRAPH LETTER

A SOLDIER'S HAPPY STORY

By WALENTY PONIECKI

In the spring of 1942, many soldiers found their way to the newly formed Polish Army in Russia. Among them was this young soldier just released from prison in Siberia. In the Uzbekian villages where the divisions were forming, he met his young love, who like him, had been forced to leave her homeland because of the fortunes of war.

As in the soldiers' song "Serce w plecaku" — he kept the memory of her love locked in his heart and marched onward. He marched thru



Airgraph showing a scene of Monte Cassino, sent from a Polish soldier in Italy to his sweetheart in Lebanon. The message reads:

"Z okazji zbliżających się świąt Bożego Narodzenia przesyłam matce i Tobie moja Stenlu Najserdeczniejsze Życzenia — aby Bóg i Królowa Korony Polskiej pozwoliła Wam w przyszłym roku szczęśliwie wrócić do Ojczyzny."

Translation: "On the occasion of the coming holidays of Christmas, to you Stephanie and Mother I wish that God and the Blessed Virgin, Queen of Poland grant you a safe return to Poland."

the deserts and mountains of Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Libya and Egypt. And despite the numerous difficulties and deprivations, his mind was always on the burden in his heart.

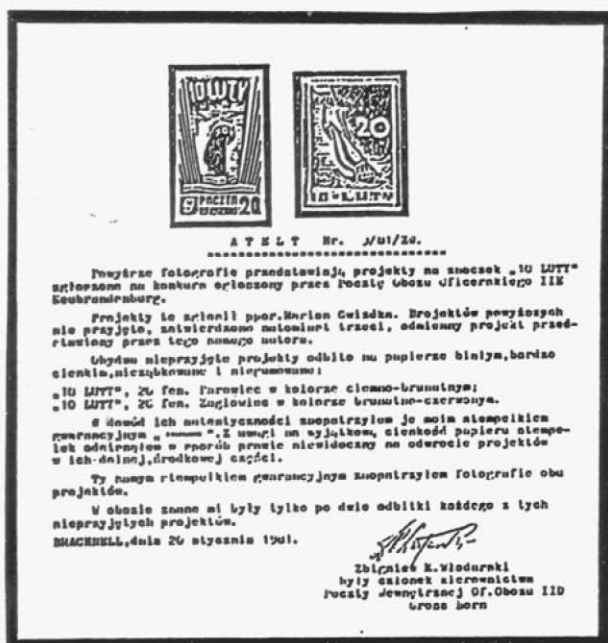
He and the soldiers of the Second Corps were on the battlefield of Monte Cassino in 1944. He fought bravely knowing that he had to do it for two hearts. After the conquest of Monte Cassino by the 2nd Corps, the young soldier wrote a letter to his sweetheart wishing her a safe return to their homeland. Judging that this victory would mean freedom for their country, he believed that they would be reunited once again. He was not disappointed for they did meet again, though not in free Poland, but on the British Isles where their dreams were fulfilled.

The illustrated original letter from Monte Cassino as well as other photographs were viewed at the POLPEX 1969 Exhibition.

RARE ESSAYS OF STAMPS FROM THE P.O.W. CAMP IN NEUBRANDENBURG

By STANLEY KRONENBERG

On February 9, 1944 the internal post office in the Polish officers' P.O.W. camp II E in Neubrandenburg issued a postage stamp which commemorates the anniversary of the gaining of the access to the Baltic Sea by Poland on February 10, 1920. Of three submitted designs the one that shows a warship was chosen for the issued stamp. Imprints were made of the remaining two designs. The best approach to describe these essays is to quote the translation of the attest issued for them by Z. Włodarski:



The Attest for the two essays by Włodarski.

"Attest No. 3/81/ZW"

The photographs on page 483-12 represent essays of the stamp "10 February" submitted for competition announced by the postal service of the P.O.W. officers' camp II E in Neubrandenburg.

These essays were submitted by second lieutenant Marian Gwizdka. These designs were not accepted. Accepted was a third, different design by the same artist.

Both unaccepted designs were imprinted on a white, very thin paper, imperforate and ungummed:

"10 February", 20 fen., oceanliner, in dark brown color.

"10 February", 20 fen., sailboat, in red brown color.

To certify their authenticity I imprinted my guarantee mark "Z. Włodarski". Considering the exceptional thinness of the paper, I imprinted the mark in an almost invisible manner on the reverse of these essays in the center of their bottoms.

With the same guarantee mark I stamped the photographs of both essays. In the camp I was aware of the existence of only two impressions of each of these not accepted designs.

Zbigniew M. Włodarski

Former member of the directorate of the
Internal Post in the Camp II D, Gross Born."

Bracknell, 20 January, 1981.

The issued stamp, imprinted in black
on a thick, dark blue paper.
1099 stamps were issued.



The two essays of the "10 LUTY" stamp



In 1944, the camp II E was merged with the camp II D, Gross-Born and the internal post office of the camp II E became absorbed in the camp II D post office on June 22, 1944. After World War II, one set of two of these essays was in the Włodarski collection in England. I do not know the whereabouts of the second set; it apparently became lost during the evacuation of the camp II D toward the end of World War II.



Photo taken at Opening Ceremony at POLPEX 1964 on the 25th Anniversary of Polonus held at the Andrew House on Division Street in Chicago. Ribbon being cut by Hon. Judge Lester Jankowski, 1964 President; (next to the right) Stefan Kochanski, Polpex Chairman; and Roman H. Strzelecki present day Polonus President. Jankowski, Kochanski and many others on photo have passed on since then.

SIR CASIMIR GZOWSKI

One of Canada's great citizens of the 19th century was a Pole who adopted Canada for his home and did more for that country than many of its native born. A brilliant engineer and a military man with flair, he was also co-founder of such diverse institutions as the Jockey Club at Wycliffe College. A pioneer of many interests, he enriched our land and left a lasting mark on its history.

The son of a Polish nobleman, Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski was educated at Krzemieniec Lyceum, a famous school in Poland, at which he received military and engineering training. As a young man, he participated in the unsuccessful uprising of 1830-1831

against Russia, fled Poland and went to the U.S. Here he studied law was admitted to the bar and practiced as a barrister in Pennsylvania for a few years. In 1841, intrigued by Canada's opportunities, he came to Toronto.



THE ENGINEER

In Canada, Gzowski chose a civil engineering career and, being a man of great ability and charm, rose in time to the top of his profession. As a Superintendent with the Public Works Dept. of Upper Canada, he built bridges, harbors, roads, and worked on improvement of waterways and canals. One project included the responsibility for surfacing the Yonge Street highway from Toronto to Lake Simcoe. Later he built the Canadian portion of the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railway and, in partnership with Alexander Galt, Hon.L.H. Holton and Sir David MacPherson, constructed the Grand Trunk Line from Toronto to Sarnia. He and MacPherson also constructed the railroad from Port Huron to Detroit and London to St. Mary's and built the Fort Erie International Bridge in 1873.

THE FOUNDER

In 1887, Gzowski, together with several other leading engineers, formed the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, known today as The Engineering Institute of Canada. He was president of the Society from 1889 to 1891. The gold "Gzowski Medal" has since been awarded annually to members of the profession for outstanding written engineering contributions.

Sensitive to the beauty of the Niagara region, and anxious to preserve it, Gzowski co-founded the Niagara Parks Commission and became its first chairman. He also founded the Ontario Jockey Club and was its first president. He was co-founder of the Toronto Club and the Toronto Stock Exchange, financial adviser to the University of Toronto, a member of its Senate and co-founder of Wycliffe College.

THE SOLDIER AND SERVANT OF THE CROWN

Keenly concerned over the defense of Canada, especially at the time of the Fenian raids, Gzowski fought for the strengthening of the Canadian militia and served in it as Lt.-Colonel and Colonel. He was appointed Aide-de-Camp to Queen Victoria in 1879. Two years later, he was made Visitor to the Royal Military College. Co-founder of the Dominion Rifle Association, he held its presidency for 16 years and was instrumental in sending, and partly financing, the first Canadian team to compete at the Empire shooting contests in Wimbledon, England. A "Gzowski Trophy" is to this day awarded annually to the best infantry regiment in the militia and, another, to the best militia unit of the Royal Canadian Engineers.

Knighthood and the Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George were bestowed on Casimir Gzowski by Queen Victoria on July 2nd, 1890. The honor was in recognition of Gzowski's service to his adopted country in the educational, military and engineering fields. At the turn of 1896, Sir Casimir served as Administrator of the Province of Ontario in the interim period between the death of one Lieutenant-Governor and the appointment of another.

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