

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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Co-Editors
J. J. Domar
Bert Powell

J. J. Domar
Chmn. Publications Comm.
3715 Clinton Ave.
Berwyn, Ill.

Associate Editors
Victor Bukinik
M. E. Steczynski

Dr. S. M. Mioduszewski, Chairman Membership Committee
1176 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago 22, Ill.

The Polish Army in France

by John Jaworski

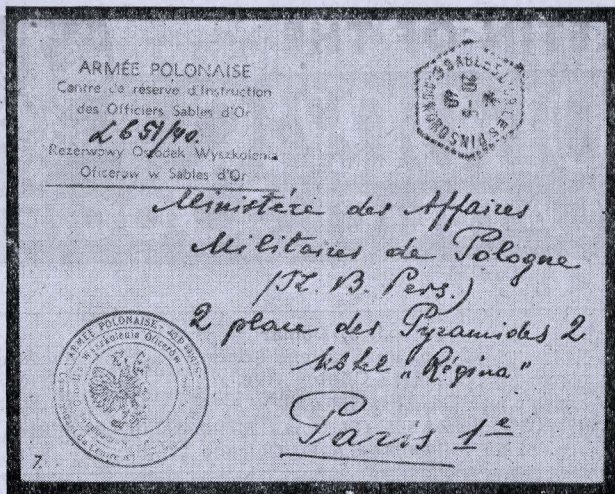


Souvenir Sheet issued by members of the First Grenadier Division of the Polish Army as they left to defend France in May, 1940. The cancellations are with regimental handstamp.

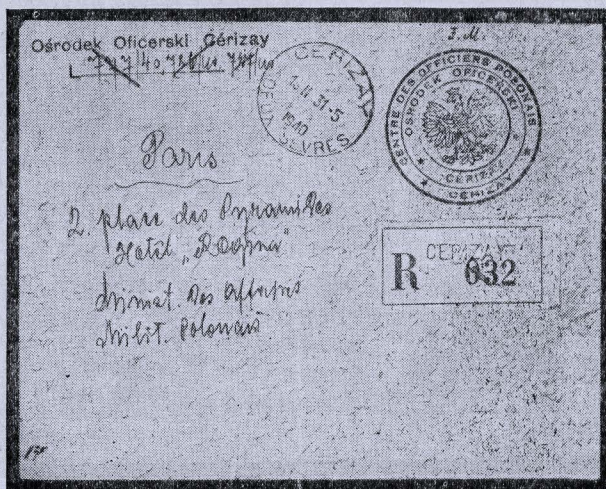
After all of Poland had been overrun by the Nazis and the Russians in September, 1939, remnants of the Polish Army fled to Roumania, Lithuania, Sweden, Switzerland, and other countries. In the course of a few weeks or months these Poles were again ready to take up arms against the aggressors, and poured into France from all directions, because it was here (at Angers) that the provisional govern-

ment of Poland was set up, and it was here that a Polish army was forming.

These Polish soldiers and refugees reported at the various border offices and military centers which were set up throughout France, and from them were again assigned to other camps for their special training or specific duties. The various units were located at: 1, Savoie; 2, Bollene; 3, Marseilles;



Fieldpost cover from Reserve Center of the Officers Training School in Sables D'Ore, showing cancellations of Polish military and French local authorities.



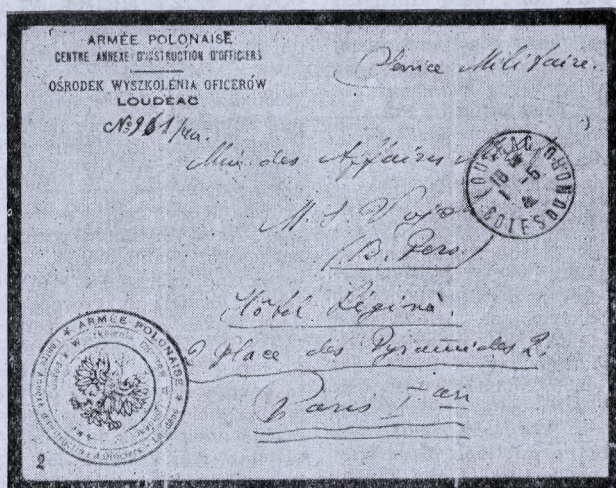
Registered military cover with the handstamps of the Polish Officers Center, and of the French postoffice at Cerizay.

4, Saint; 5, Niort; 6, Parthenay; 7, Fontenay Le Comte; 8, Cerizay; 9, Luçon; 10, La Roche Suryon; 11, Les Sables D'Olonne; 12, Angers; 13, Sables D'Ore; 14, Chateaubriant; 15, Saint Nazaire; 16, Comborg; 17, Loudéac; 18, Versailles; 19, Paris; 20, Bressuire; 21, Camp De Carpiagne; 22, Volandre; 23, Camp De Coetquidan; 24, Airvault; 25, Pairs R. P.

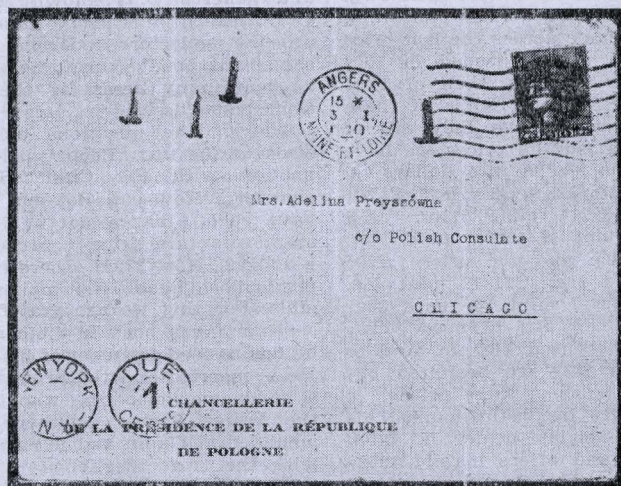
There was considerable activity at

the above centers up to the time when the Germans pushed into France, when the Polish Army was forced to fall back into England, Scotland, and North Africa.

A philatelic record of the entire organization, as to time and place, is preserved on military covers which are stampless if used within official military circles. These covers have the regular printed card (return address)



Polish army cover from the Officers Training Center at Loudeac, featuring military and civil handstamps.



Letter from the Office of the President of Poland when the seat of the Provisional Government was in Angers, France.

in the upper left-hand corner, with the free mail franking privilege written in the upper right-hand corner. The handstamp of the military office includes the Polish eagle surrounded by three concentric circles, which provide an inner field for the Polish wording and an outer field for the French wording of the camp and town. In addition to the military handstamp, the usual dated French handstamp is also used. Three typical such covers are shown here.

The souvenir sheet is merely a memento of those hectic days when the world seemed to be coming to an end, and a Polish unit was setting out to stem the tide.

The fifth illustration is a letter from the executive office at Angers, with a regular French stamp to prepay the postage. It supplements those French stamps perforated WP (Wojsko Polskie) which were used by the Polish Ministry of Military Affairs during its stay in Paris, from May 3 to June 19,

1940. The bulk of these initialed stamps were used for correspondence, the remainder, and the perforating machine, were destroyed during the evacuation.

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SEEN AND HEARD

by Victor Bukinik

In our article in the April issue of the "BULLETIN" we expressed our opinion that the retail price of \$14.00 for the 'Na Skarb' set, B15-25 was too high. Yesterday we were present at an auction when two of these sets sold at \$16.75 each. Some Port Gdansk issues at the same sale brought full catalogue prices. We were also present at one of the auctions dispersing some of the properties of the famed Col. Green. A lot of Polish blocks, mostly prior to 1924 cataloging \$78, was sold for \$52. Apparently Polish stamps will continue to hold their own.

We were doing some housecleaning recently and came across the last price list of Polish stamps issued in 1939 by the dealer Poppers, then of Przemyśl. We are quoting some of these prices, since we believe they are of interest. In giving the prices we have transposed the Zlotys into dollars at the rate of 5 to \$1. Scott's #30, \$1.30; #39, \$1.50; #214 mint \$1.40; used \$1.50; #266 mint 26 cents; used 16c; #278, mint 40c and 25c used; #305 mint 36c used 20c; C11-12 mint 35c, used 20c; #306-7 mint 35c used 30c; B11-14 used 90c; B15-25 used \$2.20; 1K11A mint 80c used 44c etc. And to think that in 1939 we hesitated before we paid some of these prices!

Another price list is at hand. This one from a Belgian dealer is dated October 1944 and offers mainly 1942-44 issues of the then German Occupied Europe. We notice that there are at least seven Polish issues, at least one of which is offered below face value. We have already seen some of this stuff in New York. The set to honor Copernicus bears a German inscription advising the incredulous that Copernicus is a German astronomer.

Undoubtedly a great number of collectors will collect the issues of occupied Poland and the stamps will be in considerable demand. We suggest that due caution be exercised in judging the price since the supply will be ample and the prices will probably gradually go down.

"DOC" KOZY NIGHT AT POLONUS

June 8th in Honor of

DR. L. P. KOZAKIEWICZ

During the past 6 years a number of our Polonus members have contributed greatly, each in their own way, to whatever success we as a Society have achieved.

"Doc Kozy" had his own particular way. As a Physician with a large and successful practice and in addition he owns and operates a 960 acre summer resort located at Powers Lake, Wisc. This leaves him with very little time to do any of the executive work of the Society. "Kozy" however does manage to be present at most of the meetings of the Society and it is here that much of his good work is done. As the unofficial Ambassador of Good Will, "Kozy" in his quiet way always has seen to it that our visitors have a good time, and there are a great many who can attest to that. His kindness and generosity is known the length and breadth of Chicago-land. Many are the collectors too who have received his good counsel, help, and yes a great many items for their collections from "Doc."

One of the questions asked most often at the last "Beeba" held in connection with the Chipex-S. P. A. show is, "How can Polonus afford to have such a large party?" Well the answer is this, it is because of men like "Doc. Kozy" and others in the Society whose generosity makes it possible. For this we are grateful.

"Kozy" was born in Chicago, where he has resided for most of his 55 years. He is married and the proud father of 4 handsome boys. One who is now in the Armed Forces, another who was wounded at Guam and is now at home with the two other boys.

"Doc" has collected stamps for 27 years, getting his start during World War I. Serving with American Forces overseas, he was selected as a member of the American Peace Commission as a territorial supervisor in the Districts of Danzig and Warsaw. This brought him in contact with many of the Postmasters and Collectors and soon his interest in stamps became a hobby.

His collection of Poland #1's is considered one of the finest. His Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, France, Russia, Danzig, Austria, Germany, etc., are superb. He collects all of the Slavic countries and every one of them are

dotted with unusual items. To describe his holdings would take too much time and space, suffice it to say, he has got "em".

In addition to being a member of Polonus, "Kozy" is also a member of the Chicago Philatelic Society, The American Philatelic Society and the Society of Philatelic Americans.

It is because of the above facts and because of his endless good qualities that the Officers and members wish to pay tribute to "Kozy" by holding the meeting of June 8th in his honor. Members living within transportation distance are urged to be present. Bring a visitor.

NEW ISSUES

LUBLIN PROVISIONALS — The Soviet hammer-and-sickle device, enclosed in a five-pointed star, has been overprinted by the provisional Polish government at Lublin on a set of five charity stamps issued a while back by the German general government of Poland, reports the London Weekly, **Stamp Collecting**. "Rząd Tymczasowy" (provisional government) appears beneath the star and the entire overprint is black.

The new values are 5, 10, 25, 30 and 35gr. The star overprint covers the engraved features of five famous Poles: Hans Durer (1479-1538), painter; Veitstoss, 16th century architect; Hans C. Schugl (1752-1813), landscape gardener; Joseph Elsner (1769-1854), Chopin's accompanist; Nicholas Copernicus (1473-1543), the astronomer.

Weekly Philatelic Gossip. 5-12-45

We have been shown by Mr. John Jaworski, a new issue supposedly issued by the New Warsaw Government.

It is entirely printed in red, that is a White Polish Eagle on a red shield, with the words "POCZTA POLSKA" across the bottom and the denomination of 25 Gr. is placed in the upper right and left hand corners. The size is 27 X 37 mm. and it is perf. size 12.

Whether this is a part of a set or a single issue is not known. The word "KROSNO" has been applied by a rubber stamp and is apparently used for the cancellation, no other dates are shown, nor is there any other mark which could be used for a cancellation mark.

We agree that this could be a local. Have any of our members any additional information on this stamp?

The Polish Government Information

Center in New York, have informed us that they have issued another Poster Stamp similar to the "Remember Warsaw" stamp. The design on the new stamp shows the map of Poland and the Curzon Line and the heading reads "JUSTICE for POLAND."

RECENT POLE HISTORY DEPICTED IN STAMPS

Collection of Frank Bobowski On Display at Chicopee Library

Chicopee, April 16—Landmarks in the recent history of Poland as a nation are commemorated in a collection of Polish stamps, which were placed on display at the Chicopee library today. The collection, the property of Frank Bobowski, local businessman, will be exhibited until May 1.

Beginning with the regular stamp of Poland before the war, the exhibition includes stamps issued by the Polish government in exile in London, Polish stamps surcharged in black by Germany and the stamps issued under the German occupation.

A stamp cover bearing the legend "friendship through the years," identifies Polish stamps issued by the United States as one of the united nations. This is one of several special covers distributed by the Polonus Philatelic society.

Other covers provided by the society commemorate various other incidents in the life of the Polish nation. They include stamps issued on the occasion of the scheduled balloon race from Lwow to Brussels. The race was to have been held in September, 1939, the historic month of the German invasion.

Another cover celebrates the first steamship voyage of Marshal Pilsudski and a second, the victory of the Polish forces at Monte Casino. The most recent item in the collection is a stamp issue of the London government dedicated to the Warsaw uprising last year. This is a three-zloty stamp, one-third to go to the administration, and the remaining two-thirds for relief for the war victims of Warsaw.

The Springfield Republican, April 16th, 1945.

Buy War Bonds & Stamps
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A PLEA

Editing and publishing a philatelic magazine is not an easy job at any time, and during war time, the job becomes more difficult. We want to keep up the good work that has been done before, but we need some help occasionally and we have no one to call upon except.....YOU!

How can you help? In many ways! If you can write a story about some phase of Polish philately and send it to us, you would be helping a lot. If you are in possession of some unknown facts about Polish stamps or those stamps which usually interest the Polish collector, we and our readers would like to know about them. You would be rendering a real service to the Polish philatelic record if you would make such facts known. Should you decide that you may desire help in the formulation of your article, please let us know and the help will be cheerfully furnished. Possibly, you may have access to cuts of philatelic significance....we should be grateful for them, for as sure as you are born, someday they may be just the right type to tie in with a certain story or article. Cuts are very expensive and our budget does not provide for too many of them. Yet, a cut adds considerable interest to any article or story so again you would be helping the society if you could obtain them for us.

Send us news about other members or yourself....that is the only way in which we can learn of it....the other fellow is just as interested in what you are doing as you are concerning him. In the past it has been suggested that we print more news about our members. We will gladly do so, if we know of such news. However, we cannot print it if we do not have it....so please help the good work along by telling us of your activities. Remember, we are as near to you as your mail box!

If you collect stamps which show artist's errors you'll want a copy of the adhesive Poland issued in 1938 which shows George Washington holding a U. S. flag. According to Trapp's Postal Oddities, appearing in the magazine of the National Federation of Postal Clerks, the flag he is holding has 48 stars and in Washington's time "Old Glory" had but 13 stars.

Western Stamp Collector, 5-2-45

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS

#245. S/Sgt. C. R. Patterson, 998 Ponce de Leon Ave., N. E. Atlanta, Ga. (Gen. Pol. Modern Europe & Latin America)

#246. Basil Semiginowski, 1923 N. Richmond St., Chicago, Ill. (E. P. P. & U. S.)

#247. John J. Sroka, 1174 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago 22, Ill. (U. S.)

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Postmaster General Frank C. Walker, has announced that effective February 16th, limited mail service has been resumed between the United States and parts of Poland.

Mail will not be accepted for localities in the Polish province of Pomorze and Katowice, parts of which are still held by the enemy.

Service will be limited to letters not exceeding one ounce and nonillustrated postcards. The Post office Department has been informed that mail for certain areas in Poland may be delayed because of military operations.

The postage rates are five cents for letters and three cents for post cards for these areas. Airmail, registration, special delivery, money orders and parcel post services are not now available.

Weekly Philatelic Gossip 3-10-45.

THIS 'n THAT

We have been informed that member Clem Pulaski has almost completed a complete tabulation of all Polish Postal Stationery which is to be featured in an early edition of Harry Lindquist's Specialist. Pre-release information indicates that the article will be liberally illustrated thereby making it a practical handbook on these interesting items. Clem's contribution has added another important milestone to Polonuses' progress. It is our suggestion that anyone desiring a copy should place their order now.

CONGRATULATIONS CLEM.

* * *

The December 1944 issue of the Medical and Dental Bulletin official organ of the Polish Medical and Dental Association carries a very fine article on U. S. Christmas Seals by our genial prexy Dr. (Duke) Uznanski. "Doc." has a beautiful collection of these items and is considered quite an authority on the subject.

FROM POLE TO POLE

By Stephen G. Rich

March 26, 1945

Thanks to Mr. Walter Sauer, I have word of a very interesting current war cover: one from the Polish troops in the British 8th Army in Italy. You may recall that there are Polish regiments attached to that army, as well as South Africans, Australians, etc.

This cover, franked with a British 10d stamp, far air mail rate, has a single circle 30 mm. postmark, reading "Poczta Polska 25 IX 44 132. No. 132 is apparently the army post office number. It has a purple single circle handstamp reading "Cenzurawano 12", clearly the censor's mark, and also a small oval with 537 in it, also in purple. In a square handstamp is the air-mail marking, in English, French and Polish. It came to the U. S.

Mr. Sauer identifies this as from Italy on the basis of what the chap who got it from him had learned from the recipient. Now will anyone come along and tell us we are all wet and it came from England? If you have some evidence to that effect, please write in with that evidence

April 30, 1945

Mr. Walter Sauer's cover from a Polish soldier, which he identified as being from the Polish troops in Italy, as mentioned in this column March 26, produced several interesting further letters. Mr. Anthony Bader, of Illinois sends me a list of seven such covers, franked with British or American stamps, and argues forcibly from their markings that Mr. Sauer's cover, like his seven, comes from the "Central Mediterranean Forces." Mr. E. Kowalski, of Long Island, submits four such covers, including British adhesives, American air mail adhesives, and American air mail envelopes as franking.

Apparently there is some question in the minds of these two gentlemen whether the Polish forces are actually "in the British 8th Army" in Italy. I can't state positively whether the Polish forces whence these letters came are actually "in the British 8th Army." However, my understanding is that the "British 8th Army" in the "Central Mediterranean Forces" actually includes all forces save those of the United States: that Polish and other regi-

ments or divisions are portions of that army.

The covers reported by Mr. Bader, like Mr. Sauer's bear postmarks reading "Poczta Polska" and number. Those shown by Mr. Kowalski bear postmark reading "Poczta Polowa" and number. The postmark is a double circle in these cases. The censor mark is a large single circle with "Cenzurawano" and "Examined by Censor" as well as number; the oval with number is also present. Two of the covers also bear a rectangle with "Lotnicza, By Air Mail, Par Avion" in three lines.

Thank you for showing me this material, gentlemen.

From Chamber's Weekly of the above dates.

POLONUS NIGHT AT C. P. S.

June 7th has been set aside by the Chicago Philatelic Society as the annual open house night dedicated to members of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

A very very fine program has been prepared. Short talks by Lester Janowski, Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz, Myron Steczynski and Dr. M. E. Uznanski on various phases of Polish philately. A surprise too is in store for those who attend.

Are ya' comin'?

The date, JUNE 7th, Hotel La Salle, Chicago.

FROM OUR BOYS

April 8th, 1945

"Thanks a lot for your letter and the October "BULLETIN." I have picked up a lot of Philippine material which will be good for trading. Ann had some of it at one of the meetings. Have written to Doc Galaskiewicz and have received a letter from him that took seven months to catch up with me. I heard that "POLPEX" was a big success. Well, Polonus is on the ball as the Navy says.

Chester Mikucki, EM. 2/C
(Congratulations on your promotion Ches.)

April 15th, 1945

"You will probably be surprised to hear from me after such a long interval. The last time I wrote I was in Kentucky (I wish I was still there) I have received the Polonus "BULLETIN." We are billeted in what was a

beautiful German City, waiting to be assigned to a fighting outfit. It looks like the main show will be over before we get there, personally I'm ready to go home now to my family.

I have found a few stamps in the rubble we've passed thru. I wish that I could pick up a couple bushels. I am enclosing a few. Best wishes.

Pvt. Joe Bieniecki, Germany.

Ed. note: It seems Joe, the supermen didn't want to play when you got there. Did they?

April 19th, 1945

"Rec'd your 'V' mail sometime ago. I repeat I don't want the money I sent, nor the money order returned but I want it applied against my past three years dues. The "BULLETIN" is worth the contribution. The present price of \$2.50 for the "Warsaw" stamp is highway robbery and if Polonus had the money it could have gotten the stamps at cost.

Do you thing it fair of us members in the Service to quit paying the small yearly dues now and after this war is over we reap the benefits after all of the member at home worked so hard. Before I start rattling again, I'll say so long and best regards.

Tad Stasik (Mariannas)

Ed. note: Thanks for your snapshot, maybe some of the others will mail theirs. To answer your question. Yes, we think it's fair. If it weren't for guys like you, maybe there wouldn't be a POLONUS?

April 24th, 1945

"Received a postcard from C. Mikucki. My sincere thanks for giving him my address. It looks as though at least two members of Polonus participated in the Invasion of the Philippines. Enjoyed tremendously the March issue of the "BULLETIN."

Cpl. C. D. Kozuchowski, Philippines
Ed. note: We think Tad. Piorkowski was also present.

* * *

From time to time we do receive a note or a letter from you members in the service. This is the only way that we know that our "BULLETIN" is getting thru to you, so please continue to drop us a line and let us know that you all are "OK".

It has been a long time since we have heard from the following: Lt. Burghardt, "Augie" Cihanowicz, Stan. Falcon, Elmer Kenez, Capt. Lewandowski, Walter Lewinski, Lt. Joe

Lupa, Stanley Madro, 2nd Lt. Julia Pach, Ed. Stepnowsik, Bill Wojcik, Chuck Wrobel, Ed LeVanda and Norbert Zielinski. How are "ya" doin'?

THIS 'n THAT

Our congratulations to the Chicago Women's Stamp Club upon their 15th Birthday which was celebrated at their May 11th meeting at the Morrison Hotel in Chicago.

* * *

The beautiful colored Postal card included with the "BULLETIN" last month was the gift of member, L. A. Kupferwasser. Our thanks to him for his kindness and I am sure we express the feelings of all of the members.

* * *

At the recent Austin Philatelic Clubs stamp exhibition which we believe was one of their finest, Polonus member, Ben Reeves was given a 2nd place ribbon for his display of French Postal history 1849-1871.

We visited also the annual "Airpex" exhibition of the Jack Knight Air Mail Society. This exhibition too continues to be better each succeeding year.

At this show, members Ben Reeves was given a second award. Member Chester Langner received a second and also a third award.

Congratulations to you both.

* * *

The Chicago Philatelic Society will present it's 59th Anniversary Stamp show during the early part of November, Anthony C. Russo, President has announced.

The exact date is not yet known. Competition will be "open." An innovation for C. P. S. this year will be the club competition, in which clubs in the Chicago area will compete against each other.

* * *

Has anyone an "IKAROS" for sale?

* * *

Did you notice the list of Polish books or books on Poland sent with your March Bulletin. What did you think of it? The Editors believe that many of these books will throw light on the "story behind the stamp" which will enable you to glean facts for the write-up on the pages of your Polish stamp collection. Just a little extra service which we thought that you might like. And..if you do, would you mind dropping us a card and tell us what you thought of the idea? Thanx.