

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets every 4th Friday at the Polish Youth Association Building,
(Dom Harcerski) 6434 West Belmont Avenue, Chicago, IL

ISSUE NO. 474

Price: \$2.00

NOV.-DEC., 1995

IT'S POLPEX TIME!

The first stamp show of the 1996 season in the Chicagoland area will be POLPEX 96 on March 22-23-24, 1996 at the House of the White Eagle, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, Illinois. The bourse tables are already sold out as last year's show was most successful. We attribute the success to the mailing and distribution of the five thousand flyers to philatelists in the area. This year's 5,000 flyers were mailed to an updated list of philatelists.



MARCH 22-24, 1996

As our theme this year we chose the XXVI Olympics. Thanks to artist Leon Kawecki, the shown cancellation will appear on the souvenir covers. As with all previous Polpex shows there will be souvenir sheets and a program catalog. A listing of the exhibits will appear in the catalog along with an excellent article by Fabian Bura of Poland on Olympic stamp issues. Included also will be a list of Polpex Patrons, and ads.

A U.S. postal station will operate on the premises using our special Polpex cancellation and selling the latest stamp issues.

This year's Polpex will be held in the Victoria Room of the House of the White Eagle. The room is larger and has better lighting. A big plus for our Polpex site is the spacious and free parking, and the restaurant in the building with an excellent menu.

Polonus was always known for its specialized collectors. Nowhere else in the U.S. can you see such an impressive exhibition of Polish philately — 52 large size frames. It happens only on one weekend of the year — and this year that's Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 1996.

Polish Armed Forces In Canada During World War II

By JAN DANIELSKI, Ph.D. and PIOTR MADEJ, B.B.M., C.G.A.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

An attempt at forming a Polish Army in Canada is one of the lesser known episodes of World War II. It was precipitated by many factors of which the main ones may be summarized as follows:

1. As a result of co-ordinated attacks by the Wehrmacht on September 1, 1939 and the Red Army on September 17, Poland was occupied by German and Soviet forces;
2. The responsibility for rebuilding the armed forces on foreign soil was undertaken by the Polish government-in-exile in France, and after its collapse in June, 1940, in Great Britain;
3. There was a great need for manpower for the army, but very few resources available. The Polish authorities counted on Americans of Polish descent, who during WWI strengthened the ranks of General Haller's army in France with about 22,500 volunteers; and
4. Since the United States proclaimed their neutrality at the beginning of the war, and no recruitment activities could be tolerated on American soil, Canada, just like twenty years before, became the logical choice.

The first step was initiated as early as September 18, 1939, by the Polish Consul General in Ottawa, who, through a formal note directed to the Department of External Affairs, proposed a recruitment scheme for Polish nationals and those of Polish extraction. This was intended as part of the rebuilding process of the Polish army in France, since the collapse of Poland was anticipated shortly due to a surprise Soviet attack on the rear of the Polish army fighting against the Germans.

The first response from the Canadians was not at all positive. Although the Department of External Affairs did not object to the recruitment, it restricted it to the territory of Canada and to the Polish nationals who were not British subjects. The ban on recruitment of Polish nationals in the United States dealt a serious blow to Polish intentions. Not only Canadian attitudes but also the defeat of France in June, 1940 further delayed this undertaking.

The fall of France and the loss of the just-rebuilt Polish units rushed the next diplomatic steps. In July, 1940, a Polish military mission headed by Colonel F. A. Rola-Arciszewski, arrived in Canada to negotiate technical problems of recruitment and training. By the beginning of 1941 significant progress had been made. After long discussions, the Canadian government released a memorandum setting out the conditions of recruitment on its territory. The most important of them were as follows:

- no Canadian or British subject may be recruited without individual permission from the Canadian authorities;
- the Canadian government will not bear any costs related to army pay, transport, meals and accommodation of the volunteers;

- the Canadian government will not be held responsible for medical and hospital costs as well as pensions and similar outlays;
- Polish representatives may not recruit those working in the basic industries in Canada;
- volunteers will be properly informed of the conditions of their recruitment in Canada; and
- Polish military personnel will be governed by Polish military law and will be judged in Polish military courts. However, if Canadian law is violated, then the Canadian courts take over.

The main problem for both sides was financial in nature. From the beginning, the Canadian government required a deposit to finance the recruitment scheme. Polish suggestions for a loan to finance this undertaking were not accepted. Therefore, the Polish government had to pledge \$2,000,000 in gold and \$400,000 in cash with the Bank of Canada as a guaranty of covering the costs of recruitment and training. The agreement was finalized at the beginning of April of 1941 during Gen. W. Sikorski's (Prime Minister and C. in C. of the Polish army) visit to Canada.

Local authorities were much more supportive to the Polish undertaking. In Windsor, Ontario, which had been chosen as a recruiting center for the Polish units in Canada, the city authorities transferred two buildings, namely the Old East Windsor City Hall and the residence known as the Henckel House, to the Poles on a rent-free basis. Those premises had to be altered and renovated at Polish government's cost.

Windsor had been chosen for its convenient location close to the main centers of Polish-American communities of Detroit, Milwaukee and Chicago. Since there was not enough room for all projected personnel and recruiters in Windsor, the Polish military mission rented the North American Furniture Factory building in Owen Sound, Ontario. Thus, finally, the headquarters and the recruiting center were located in Windsor and the training center and camp were set up in Owen Sound.

Although originally the Canadian government agreed to recruit no more than 7,000 volunteers, the Poles planned on about 70,000 armoured corps personnel to be organized by 1942. However, during the entire period of operation only 1,250 volunteers had been recruited, of which 903, after military training, were sent to the Polish units in Great Britain and the Middle East.

There were two main reasons why these plans failed. In June, 1941, Germany attacked the Soviet Union which became a member of the anti-Axis coalition. The agreements between the Soviet Union and the Polish government-in-exile were signed, which provided for the formation of the Polish army in Russia. Through these agreements, an additional 50,000 soldiers were to be released and sent to Great Britain. We have to remember that during its aggression against Poland in 1939, the Soviets captured about 250,000 well-trained Polish servicemen and during the two years of occupation of Eastern Poland, they deported about 1,200,000 Poles to Siberia. The second reason for the failure of the scheme was the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The United States joined the anti-Axis coalition and subsequently the main source of Polish volunteers dried up. On May 20, 1942, Commander-in-Chief of the

Polish Army, Gen. W. Sikorski, issued an order which suspended recruitment of volunteers with American citizenship and released all those already inducted, from service in the Polish army.

When, by the end of 1941, it was noticed that the recruiting quotas could not be met, the organizational structure of the Polish units in Canada was scaled down. The headquarters in Windsor was closed down in the middle of 1942, and the C-in-C. Polish Army in Canada, Maj. Gen. B. Duch was transferred to Scotland. All the duties and functions of the former H.Q. were taken over by the Polish Military Mission, and after its liquidation in May, 1943, by the Polish Air Force Mission in Canada. The Air Force Mission continued recruitment and training but only for the Polish air force in Great Britain (as part of the Commonwealth Training Plan).

In May of 1942, a decision was made to close the military camp and training center in Owen Sound. The existing armored forces training school for non-commissioned personnel was transferred to St. Andrews, Scotland, and the remaining personnel was relocated to Windsor on September 5, 1942. Eventually, they also left Canada for Great Britain. The decision to close the Windsor recruiting station was made on March 6, 1943, and its final liquidation took place on May 20, 1944.

During its short existence, the Poles built up an extensive administrative and organizational structure to fulfill their far-reaching goals. Some major parts of that structure are summarized below:

H.Q. Polish Armed Forces in Canada — existed between July, 1941 and May, 1942; located in the Henckel House, George St. and Riverside Dr. in Windsor; Commander-in-Chief: Maj. Gen. B. Duch; Chief of Staff: Lt. Col. Z. Wzacny.

"Fighting Poland" Newspaper — from July 17, 1941 to April, 1942; first located at H.Q. then at 849 Kildare Rd., Windsor; highest circulation attained: 20,000 copies.

Polish Military Mission in Canada — in existence from July, 1940 to May 20, 1943; located in the Henckel House; the heads of the mission were the following officers: Col. F. Rola-Arciszewski, Lt. Col. J. Ilinski, Navy Capt. W. Zajackowski and Air Force Col. S. Szuk.

Polish Recruiting Station, Windsor — existed officially from May 3, 1941 to March 6, 1943, with first volunteers signed up on March 23, 1941 and final liquidation on May 20, 1944; located: Barracks #1 in the East Windsor City Hall, Druillard and Riverside Dr.; Barracks #2 in the Burroughs Building.

Polish Military Camp and Training Center, Owen Sound — opened on August 6, 1941 and closed in May, 1942, with final liquidation on September 5, 1942; was located on the premises of the North American Furniture Company.

For official and administrative purposes of the above branches, special rubber stamps were used: To date, the following were recorded:

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 474-9)

POSTAL HISTORY OF KRAKÓW 1846-1918

NEWLY CREATED POST OFFICES IN KRAKOW 1882-19'8

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE)

The post office Kraków 5 was not an area post office. Its first chief was the postmistress Józefa Grabowska. In 1905, the post office in Rakowice was closed. During its activity of almost ten years it probably used the postmark which was thoroughly discussed above.

KRAKOW 6 (KAZIMIERZ)

The town Kazimierz was founded by King Casimir the Great in 1335. During the numerous centuries of its existence, it developed as a strong commercial and economically important suburb of Kraków. The first post in Kazimierz was started by Austria already in the 18th century and after its disestablishment, there was no postal service in that town for more than a century.

In 1902, decisions and administrative approaches were made to establish in the city part of Kazimierz, a post office. It was first opened at the Augustiańska Street and was later moved to Boże Ciało Street. It received the serial number 6, because it was the sixth post office in Kraków. The first chief of this non-areal post office Kraków 6 was the postmaster first class Alojzy Dołęga-Witkowski, who remained in this position from 1903 to 1907. In 1907, its chief became the postmaster Zygmunt Małecki. During its service the post office Kraków 6 was in Kazimierz used the following postal markings known so far:

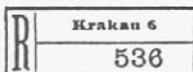
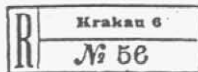
DOUBLE RING POSTMARKS



The hour of mailing is indicated with a Roman numeral.

Date postmarks of this type had following identifiers: a, b, c, d, f, g.

REGISTRATION LABELS



Label with "No." removed; The number is on the right side.

KRAKOW 5 (KLEPARZ)

Kleparz differs from other settlements near Kraków by having been a separate autonomous town. Casimir the Great gave Kleparz town rights in 1366. This town was an important commercial intermediary between Kraków and nearby villages, which delivered their produce. The intermingling of the two towns in the 19th century led to the incorporation of Kleparz to Kraków as the fifth part of the city.

The post office Kraków 5 in Rakowice was closed in 1905 and in its stead, the post office Kraków 5 on the Kleparz Market place was

opened. Thus this post office was located in the very center of Kleparz. The number 5 was the same as the number of the part of town. The post office Kraków 5 in Kleparz was a non-areal office and its first postmaster was Marian Orzelski (in 1913 he was promoted to senior postmaster). From its start the post office Kraków 5 in Kleparz used the following postal markings known so far:



This type date postmarks have the identifiers: a, b, c, d, e.



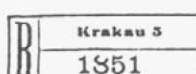
REGISTERED LABELS:



Exists perforated and imperforate.



Label with removed "No." The number is on the right.



KRAKOW 3 (BRACKA STREET)

The opening of a post office in the very center of town and in close proximity of the main marketplace was desirable because in that part of town the economic and cultural life were concentrated and also because numerous offices and banks had their seats there. Following these considerations, it was decided to open a post office at Bracka Street which ran from City Hall to the Main Marketplace.

This post office, which received the number 3 was opened in 1909 (the exact date is not known). Here the reason should be given for the decision to assign the number 3 to this post office which until that time was assigned to the post office at Bernardyński square.

The assignment of the number 7 to the post office in Stradom corresponded as was already mentioned with 7 being the number of that part of the city and besides, it did not complicate the numbering of post offices, because at that time six post offices were functioning in Kraków and the number 7 was available.

The first chief of the post office Kraków 3, was the senior administrator Henry Munnich. Several employees were transferred from the post office at 1 Bernardyński square in Stradom to the newly opened post office.

In 1916, the post office Kraków 3 was temporarily closed and it did not resume its activities until the end of the war.

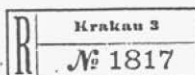
Discussing the paraphernalia used by the post office Kraków 3 at Bracka Street one must stress that it took them over from the post office Kraków 3 in Stradom and used some of its date post marks almost until the end of its existence. In addition, it also used newer type postmarks which were assigned to it later on. Reproductions shown below represent all postmarks known so far used by the post office Kraków 3 at Bracka Street.



This type date stamps had the identifiers: 2a, 2b.



This type date stamps had the identifiers: 2b, 4b.



Company postmark used for official mail.

POST OFFICES IN PLACES ANNEXED TO KRAKOW IN 1910

The post offices in this chapter are represented in the sequence of the time of their creation and not according to their assigned numbers.

ZWIERZYNIEC – KRAKOW 10

On the lands of the village of Zwierzyniec centuries ago, at the time when the royal court resided in Kraków, the royal game preserve for hunting was located there and this resulted in the name of the later settlement.

Through Zwierzyniec, during the Middle Ages, led an important tract to the Czech Prague and during the times of the Free City of Kraków also the tract to the Prussian mail. The fact that in 1890, a messenger/wagon service was started, testifies how "very far" these two places were located from each other. Only in 1910, Zwierzyniec and the neighboring villages were incorporated into Kraków.

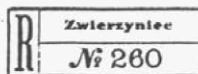
The post office in Zwierzyniec opened on January 12, 1885. It was a non-areal post office. Its first chief became the postmistress Anna Swolkien. From 1890 to 1918 the chiefs were in sequence: Anna Bogdany (1890-1893), Kotylda Woroniecka (1893-1898), Bazyli Jaworski (1898-1900), Henryk Krzanowski (1900-1903), Seweryn Fuchs (1903-1908), and Wolf Zehler (1908).

In 1895 the activities of this office were extended to include telegraph service and from that time on it was a post and telegraph office.

After Zwierzyniec was incorporated into Kraków, its post office received the serial number 10 and its official name since that time was: Post and Telegraph office, Kraków 10. During its existence the post office in Zwierzyniec used the following postal paraphernalia known:

This type date postmarks had the identifiers: a, b, c.

REGISTRATION LABELS

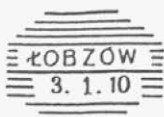


ŁOBZOW – KRAKOW 9

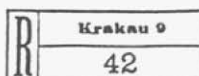
Łobzów used to be a small settlement where in remote centuries small crafts and grain mills developed. The king would come to his palace in Łobzów from "far away" Kraków to experience "the quiet of a village."

The first and very small connections of Łobzów with the post started already during the second half of the 19th century by a mail box having been installed in the military academy in Łobzów. The development of Łobzów required a closer and more effective connection with Kraków, thus on August 19, 1890, a post office was opened there and next year, in 1891, a messenger/wagon mail post connected Kraków with Łobzów. The first chief of the non-areal post office in Łobzów was the postmaster Ludwik Woźniakowski, who remained in this position until 1900. The next chief was the postmaster Józef Zalewski, and since 1916 this post office was led by the manager Solomon Gelles.

In 1895 the activities were extended to include telegraph service and the post office became a post and telegraph office. With the incorporation of Łobzów into Kraków on April 1, 1910, the post office received according to the numbering system of 1911-1912, the serial number 9 and from that time on, its official name became: Post and Telegraph Office, Kraków 9. During its functioning, the post office in Łobzów-Kraków 9 used the following postal markings:



REGISTRATION LABELS



Postmarks of this type had identifiers: a and b.

DEBNIKI — KRAKOW 11

Opposite the Wawel Hill, across the Wisła River was the royal village Dębniki. Its name is first mentioned in 1373. During the 18th and 19th centuries, Dębniki was a fishermen settlement; it also had numerous mortar and brick factories. The steady increase in the population of Dębniki as well as urbanization and economic development required the assurance that the population had effective communication at its disposal which could best be satisfied by mail.

The post office in Dębniki was opened on October 1, 1890. It was a non-areal post office whose first chief became the postmistress Eleonora Petryk. The addition of a telegraph service in 1900 changed this post office into a Post and Telegraph Post Office. In 1909, Maria Gold replaced E. Petryk, who was replaced by Gustaw Schimshajmer in 1914. In 1910, the village Dębniki was incorporated within the borders of Kraków and the post office in Dębniki received the serial number 11, and the official name: Kraków 11.

The reproductions below show postmarks known so far used in the post office Dębniki, Kraków 11:



Date postmarks of this type had the identifiers: a and b.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

DOWODZTWO ODDZIAŁÓW W. P. w KANADZIE
H.Q. POLISH ARMED FORCES IN CANADA

DOWODZTWO ODDZIAŁÓW W.P. w KANADZIE
REFERAT OSWIATY
H.Q. POLISH ARMED FORCES IN CANADA
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Dowództwo Oddziałów W.P. w Kanadzie
 Redakcja "Odsiecz" Polska Walcząca
 w Ameryce"

H. Q. Polish Armed Forces In Canada
 "Fighting Poland" - "POLMILITPRESS"

POLSKA MISJA WOJSKOWA w KANADZIE
POLISH MILITARY MISSION IN CANADA

POLISH ARMED UNITS IN CANADA
RECRUITING STATION, WINDSOR

OSRODEK REKRUTACYJNY W. P. w WINDSOR
ONTARIO.
POLISH RECRUITING CENTRE



DOWODZTWO OBOZU im. TADEUSZA KOŚCIUSZKI
POLISH MILITARY CAMP

size	known uses	remarks
65x10 mm	on official documents only	administrative headstamp
71x19 mm	as above	as above
83x28 mm	on picture postcard sent to England	as above
57x10 mm	on official documents only	as above
59x8 mm	as above	as above
62x17 mm	-on official documents, -on ID's for recruiters, -on leave passes	as above
ø 37 mm	-on official documents, -on ID's for volunteers, -as a seal on reverse of envelopes	official coat of arms seal
70 x 10 mm	on envelopes only	administrative headstamp

LISTING OF POLISH FORCES HEAD STAMPS AND SEALS



POLISH MILITARY CAMP

BATALION SZKOLNY W OWEN SOUND-ONTARIO.
POLISH TRAINING BATTALION

ø 37 mm		official coat of arms seal
59 x 4 mm	on envelopes only	headstamp
64 x 10 mm	as above	administrative headstamp

LISTING OF RETURN ADDRESS MARKINGS

P.O. BOX 363
WINDSOR, ONT.
CANADA
L.dz. _____

P.O. BOX 363
WINDSOR, ONTARIO

L. dz. _____

4037 Riverside Drive
P. O. Box 363

P. O. BOX 363
WINDSOR, ONT.

size	known uses	remarks
60 x 50 mm	envelopes only	"L.dz."- an abbreviation for "liczba dziennika" which means registration (filing) number for out-going and incoming mail.
38 x 15 mm	as above	as above
41 x 8 mm	as above	shows the H.Q. address
39 x 7.5 mm	as above	

INFORMATIONAL / INSTRUCTIONAL MARKINGS

Dowództwo Obozu im. Tadeusza Kościuszki		
Wpłynęło		Przydział
Dnia	L. dz.	

PRINTED MATTER

73 x 27 mm	on incoming mail only	translation of the text: "Command of the T.Kościuszko Military Camp/ Received - Distributed/ Date - Registration Number"
45 x 4 mm	on envelopes only	

ADDRESSING THE MARKING OF POLISH FORCES CORRESPONDENCE

During their stay in Canada, the Polish forces neither established their own field post system nor utilized the Canadian one; they made use of the regular Canadian postal system. Unlike the Norwegians, at Little Norway, Ontario, the Poles did not have their own field post office in Canada and hence did not utilize any special postmarks. There were no special postal privileges granted and all correspondence, whether official or private, was subject to regular postal rates.

The Poles rented two post office boxes, P.O. Box 363 in Windsor and P.O. Box 106 in Owen Sound, and these were the only return addresses that the authors have seen on available correspondence. Special hand stamps with these post office box numbers were applied on official correspondence. On private correspondence, the return address was either typed or handwritten. The reason for this practice could have been to maintain wartime secrecy.

To date the authors have recorded five different post office box hand stamps, all with the Windsor address. The existence of the Owen Sound post office box is known from return addresses written or typed on two different covers. Both appeared to be of private origin. It is the authors' belief, however, that a special hand stamp(s) bearing the Owen Sound P.O. Box number must have also been in use, but so far has not been seen.

Post office box hand stamps were probably applied only on official correspondence. Their registration number (in Polish "liczba dziennika," abbreviated "L. dz.") for outgoing mail was added by hand or typed in. Very rarely, administrative/official hand stamps or seals are seen. These usually appear in the space reserved for return address, or at the top of the back flap of the envelope. The coat-of-arms seals were struck on the back across the sealed part of the envelope. It is not known whether these hand stamps and seals were sanctioned for use on correspondence since their primary purpose was to certify validity and/or attest the origin of official documents. It is entirely possible that covers bearing them are philatelic in nature.

The "printed matter" stamps were probably used on mail handled in both Windsor and Owen Sound, although so far only the one used in Windsor has been recorded. Also, receiving and distribution stamps must have been used in both locations although to date only the Owen Sound one has been recorded.

It appears that private correspondence from either the staff or the recruits themselves does not bear any special markings. Both full names and initials were used, although full names were generally avoided, probably where the sender had family in Poland on whom reprisals could be made by the Germans. In that case initials were used followed by the rank in Polish, P.O. Box number, arm of service, city & province. Figures 9 and 10 show both of these methods of addressing private correspondence. The word "mat" appearing in the address on Figure 9, is the Polish equivalent of an English naval non-commissioned officer's ranking.

In summary, the above article attempts to present a part of Cana-

dian postal history not yet fully explored. It should be of interest to Canadians, because it happened on Canadian soil with full permission of Canadian authorities. As well, it is of interest to those collecting Polish military postal marking for obvious reasons. The authors attempted to present all types of markings that were used on correspondence and documents. No doubt there are others, or other methods of addressing such correspondence. Thus, as a parting note the authors will be grateful for any additional information, as well as good photocopies of material related to the above. If anyone is in possession of such, please inform the authors at 25 Stockbridge Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M8Z 4M6 (P. S. Madej). All related costs will be reimbursed.

Finally, the authors wish to express their appreciation to Mr. J. Niebrzydowski of New Britain, Conn., Mr. T. Gobby of Chicago, IL and Mr. E. R. Toop of Ottawa, Ont. for providing most of the illustrative material in this article.

(To be continued)

NEW MEMBERS

- #1473 Krzysztof Ceremuga
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Mount Ica, QRLD 4825
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#1474 Victor Wisniewski
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Prince Frederick, MD 20678

POLPEX 96

March 22-23-24
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30 Dealers
From Eight States & Canada

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Annual Dues which include a subscription to the Bulletin are \$16.00 (U.S. currency only) and should be sent to Polonus Treasurer, Stefan Czarniecki, P.O. Box 458, Berwyn, IL 60402. Membership Dues are payable by December 31st, for the next calendar year. New members will receive all the 'Bulletins' for the year in which they join. Changes of address, problems with receiving the Bulletin, should be addressed to: Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 458, Berwyn, IL 60402. General matters pertaining to the Society, contribution of articles for the Bulletin, complaints or other matters should be directed to the President.