



Józef Piłsudski with his staff, spring 1920

## Poland marks centennial of world-changing battle

BY ROBERT STRYBEL

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the historic Battle of Warsaw, believed to have saved Europe from a bloody communist takeover. It was also been called the Miracle of the Vistula since Poland came very close to defeat,



Polish troops in Kiev, 1920

Poland's Chief of State Józef Piłsudski had hoped to create a federation of Poland, the Baltic States and Ukraine, approximating the sprawling pre-partition Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. To prevent a possible repeat of the 18th-century partitions, he felt Poland needed an ethnic buffer separating it from aggressive, land-hungry Russia.

Piłsudski led a military expedition to Kijów (now Ukrainian Kyiv) to help safeguard the newly created independent Ukrainian republic. Unfortunately, the combined forces under his command and those of Ukrainian leader Symon Petlura could not withstand a massive Soviet counteroffensive. During the summer of 1920, Soviet forces managed to penetrate deep into Polish territory as far west as the city of Toruń.

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## Polishing the Polish image

ROBERT STRYBEL

A Polish TV interviewer recently asked history majors on an American university campus about the Warsaw Uprising. Most drew a blank stare, several said they had heard the expression but that was about all. A few confused the 1944 upsurge with the much smaller Warsaw Ghetto Uprising a year earlier and said things like: "Wasn't that when the Jews rebelled against the Nazis and liberated the concentration camps?"

And it's not just the clueless millennials. To this day, there are many educated upper-middle-aged and elderly Americans who do not know that Copernicus, Chopin, Joseph Conrad and Madam Curie had anything to do with Poland. The 60 Million Conference, subtitled Global Polonia Summit, was an attempt to do something about it.

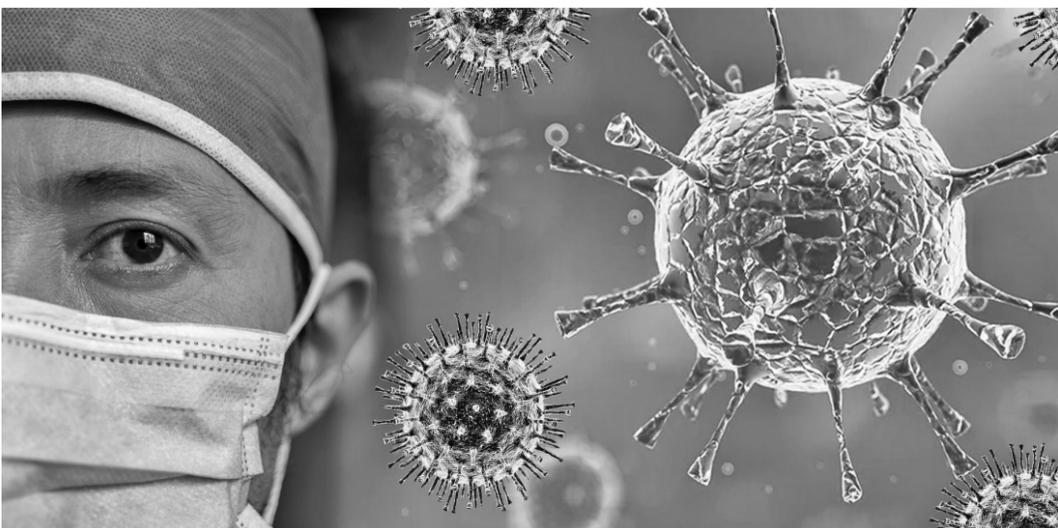
Following two editions of the conference held earlier this year in Miami Beach and Buffalo, the Poland-side edition took place in August at an exhibition hall near the southeastern city of Rzeszów. It was attended by Polish representatives as well as successful business people, scholars, politicians and media personalities of Polish extraction from different countries. The panel discussions included how to convey a positive image of Poland, Polish heritage and Polishness to the outside world.

Polish Senator Andrzej Stanisławek said efforts to promote Poland abroad should reflect its long fight for sovereignty and its centuries-long history of tolerance and Christian identity. According to Investment and Development Minister Jerzy Kwieciński, Poland's image abroad "translates into real money and the value of the Polish brand."

The well-known Polish-American TV journalist Rita Cosby (originally Kossobudzki) believes Poland needs stronger lobbying efforts to get its message across to international audiences. Another PolAm, Anna Maria Anders, daughter of Polish World War II commander General Władysław Anders, urged moves to ensure positive Polish lobbying around the world. She now serves as the Polish government's official in charge of international dialogue.

How do other Polish Americans feel about this? "We need to promote knowledge of the role Poles played in WWII, the fact that more Poles than any other nation are honored by Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Institute for saving Jews," said Christina ("Krysia") Gutt, a lifelong Polonian activist originally from Brooklyn, now residing in Rochester. "Also that Poles cracked Nazi Germany's super-secret Enigma code and played a key role in the Battle of Britain."

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## Poland gradually eases pandemic lockdown

BY ROBERT STRYBEL

Poland, which ranks among the countries that have managed to best cope with the deadly Coronavirus pandemic, has begun to gradually lift the lockdown. At the start of June, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki announced that soccer fans

would be allowed to fill up to 25 percent of a stadium's capacity during matches from June 19th.

Announcing the fourth stage of the lockdown's "defrosting," Morawiecki said Poles would no longer have to wear face-masks outdoors, though these would still have to

be worn in closed spaces such as public transport, shops, cinemas, and churches, Restaurants, cafés and sports facilities as well as hair and beauty salons had already resumed operations in the latter half of May, but equipment had to be disinfected after each customer.

Other countries are now also loosening their lockdown restrictions, but some of them have been through a much more menacing ordeal. That is especially true of those nations that were slow to implement preventive precautions. Since countries differ in size, an objective measure of how well or poorly a given nation has coped is the number of Coronavirus-related deaths per million population.

The front-runner around the turn of June was relatively small Belgium (population 11 million) which had recorded 835 deaths per million. Following behind were: the United Kingdom (600), Spain (580) and Italy (587), the traditionally permissive Swedes adopted a light-touch approach to the pandemic and were critical of countries like Poland enforcing strict lockdown measures. But that approach backfired, and Sweden landed in fifth place with 448 deaths per million. even ahead of the US (330).

Poland (population 38 million) was among the first to close its borders to foreigners and implement lockdown procedures across the board. Al-

though Poles are said to be born individualists, they were largely cooperative, and the anti-lockdown protests observed elsewhere were few and far between. As a result, Poland recorded a mere 40 Covid-19 deaths per million population.

Unlike much wealthier countries which were late getting their act together, in Poland every infected person was treated. In many other countries, including Sweden, elderly Covid-19 sufferers were refused treatment since there weren't enough ventilators to go around. As Poland eases its lockdown, 84% of its hospital beds are reserved for Covid-19 patients and 94% of available ventilators are ready and waiting.

Compared to many other countries Poland has handled the pandemic fairly well, but on June 8th, a record high number of 599 new cases were reported in a single day. That prompted Health Minister Łukasz Szumowski to warn that the crisis is far from over and would not end any time soon. A number of coal mines hard hit by the pandemic have been temporarily shut down.

## POLISH NEWSBYTES

COMPILED BY ROBERT STRYBEL

### US TROOPS FROM GERMANY REBASING TO POLAND

President Donald Trump has ordered the Pentagon to transfer thousands of American troops from Germany by September, some of which would be rebased to Poland. The move reflects growing tensions between Washington and Berlin mainly over military spending. The transfer would reduce current US troop strength of 34,500 in Germany by 9,500. "The 9,500 troops would be sent to Poland, some to other allied countries, while others would return home," a senior US administration official said. Last September, former US Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell threatened such a move if Berlin did not increase its defense spending. Poland is among a handful of NATO countries that earmark the required 2% of GDP for defense, while Germany falls short of that mark. Trump's announcement was welcomed by the Polish government but must have set off alarm bells at the Kremlin.

### POLAND TO GET €8 BILLION FROM EU RECOVERY FUND

Poland was initially to receive €2 billion (\$2.2 bn) from the European Union. But after

the European Commission, the EU's executive unit, upped its community's recovery package to €40 billion (\$44.8 bn), Poland's share grew to quadruple that amount. Poland is now in line for up to €8 billion (\$8.8 bn) under the EU's Just Transition Fund, more than any other community nation. Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki welcomed the announcement and called the European Union's recovery plan "good news and a starting point for further negotiations."

### POLAND'S LOT AIRLINES MUST BE SAVED AT ALL COSTS

Poland's conservative government is determined to save the country's national carrier PLL LOT at all costs. "If need be, we are prepared to subsidize LOT with outside funds," State Assets Minister Jacek Sasin said recently. "The main thing is for Polish airlines to continue transporting passengers and not disappear from Poland's skies." Over two months of pandemic lockdown, LOT suffered huge losses, but domestic flights to major Polish cities have now resumed and international service will soon follow. Unlike the previous liberal administration, which had discussed selling LOT to Turkish Airlines or Lufthansa, after coming to

power in 2015 the Law and Justice government set about upgrading the national airline. LOT acquired a fleet of cutting-edge Boeing 787 Dreamliners and last year served 10 million passengers for the first time.

### CARDINAL WYSZYŃSKI'S BEATIFICATION POSTPONED

A solemn Beatification Mass for the late Polish Primate Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński had been scheduled to take place in Warsaw's Piłsudski Square on June 7th but was canceled for fear that a large congregation might pose a public-health hazard. A new date has not been set, but the event is expected to take place once the Covid-19 pandemic subsides. A deeply religious patriot known for his ascetic personal habits, Wyszyński led the Polish Church from 1948 until his death in 1981, shepherding it through the darkest days of Stalinist rule. During that period he witnessed the regime's open persecution of the Church and survived a brutal character-assassination campaign and three years of communist imprisonment. Beatification is the penultimate stage leading to Catholic sainthood (canonization).

### EVERY POLISH KID TO GET \$125 VACATION ALLOWANCE

President Andrzej Duda has announced a 500-złoty (\$125) vacation allowance for every Polish child this sum-

mer. "The money can be used for family vacations, travel, summer camps or other such expenses," Duda explained during a campaign stop in the SE industrial city of Stalowa Wola. "It will also be a shot in the arm for our tourist industry which has been hard hit by the Coronavirus pandemic." The vacation allowance is an extension of his Family 500+ child-benefit program, under which every Polish child and teenager gets a 500-złoty endowment every month until age 18. As a result, in recent years many Polish kids have gone on family vacations and seen Poland's mountains or seaside for the first time ever. The vacation allowance appears to be a convincing vote-getting tactic on Duda's part during a presidential election year.

### POZNAŃ FIRST TO HONOR FLOYD AND APOLOGIZE FOR POLICE BRUTALITY

Poznań was the first Polish city to join a protest against police brutality that led to the death of 46-year-old Afro-American ex-convict George Floyd in Minneapolis. Several hundred mostly young, left-leaning Poles silently marched through the city past the US Consulate. Some carried placards that read: "Black Lives Matter." Other marchers lay down on the ground to protest and apologize for the killing. "Why should we Poles apologize for something we did not do?" many onlookers wondered. After trying to pass a counterfeit \$20 bill,

Floyd was detained and pinned to the ground by a policeman who knelt on his neck cutting off his oxygen supply. The incident unleashed a major wave of protests and rioting across the US as well as copy-cat demonstrations worldwide.

### AMERICA'S FIRST COUPLE VISIT POLISH PONTIFF'S SHRINE

US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania recently paid a delayed visit to the John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC. There they laid a wreath at the Polish Pontiff's monument and viewed the saint's relics. The Covid.18 pandemic caused the postponement of the visit, during which Trump had hoped to sign an executive order "to advance international religious freedom." He plans to sign it shortly. A shrine spokesman commented that "St John Paul II was a tireless advocate of religious liberty throughout his pontificate." But the visit came after nights of rioting in the nation's capital and was criticized as "reprehensible by Washington Archbishop Wilton Gregory, a bitter foe of the president."

## Polishing the Polish image

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"Things will not get better until Poland decisively and unambiguously stands up against all the falsehoods against Poland that emanate from Jewish cir-

cles in the West," said Chicago's Jan Peczkis, high school teacher, college lecturer, and prolific book-reviewer. "We also need to enlighten people that Poland – for all its valiant efforts – was

sold down the river by Churchill and Roosevelt because they wanted to appease Stalin."

Thomas Napierkowski, an English literature professor from Colorado Springs, points out that serious Catholics in the US are becoming more aware of Poland because of John Paul II, Sister Faustina (Divine Mercy), Maximilian Kolbe, etc. Almost all serious scholarship dealing with St. John Paul the Great helps." As an example of good pro-Polish PR Napierkowski recalled a video clip shown on American TV last Christmas. "It featured a Cath-

olic priest, a Jewish rabbi, a Muslim cleric, and a Lutheran minister, all Polish, sharing holiday greetings and thanking the people of the US for their help during the Solidarity period," he said.

These are all great ideas, and those expressing them are concerned, dedicated, thinking people. Polonia was never short of ideas, lofty slogans and noble causes, but all too often what was missing was the answer to the key question: Who is going to bankroll such a campaign? What do you think?

Robert Strybel

## Thank You New members, RENEWING MEMBERS, and Donors!

The Polish Heritage Society of Northeastern Wisconsin wishes to offer our gratitude to **Ms. Pamela Mannigel of Pulaski** for her kind donation in memory of **Bernie (Bernard) Olejniczak**, a supporter and once active member who passed away in late June. The Polish Heritage Society of Northeastern Wisconsin is pleased to welcome new member the **Henry Tachick Family** of Pound. Congratulations and witamy!

Members renewing include **Elterine Jankowski-Biggers** of Milwaukee, **Marvin Gorski** of Neenah, **Marilyn Muench** of Manitowoc, **the Tad & Karolina Filon Family** of Green Bay, **the Maynard & Jeanette Charniak Family** of Pulaski, **Dorothy Vanden Heuvel** of Seymour, **Dave Wentland** of De Pere, **Frank Czarnecki** of Green Bay, **Michael Van Ess** of Sturgeon Bay, **the Adam & Eugenia Muller Family** of Wisconsin Dells as a gift of Susan Zwicker, **Paul Drzewiecki** of New London, and **Marie Revolinski** of Madison. It is wonderful to see that the organization continues to gain and maintain. Dobrze mieć Was z nami!

Thank you to new members, renewing members, and donors. Thank you all for your support and interest in our Polish heritage. If you have any membership status or financial inquiries, please feel free to contact me. Also, your board officers' contact information is listed in this newspaper and on the phsofnew.org website.

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## THE PATH HOME (4)

## Częstochowa

HELEN A. SCIESZKA, PH.D.

It was an incredibly beautiful day as we left the hilly, mountainous region of southern Poland heading north to the pilgrimage city of Czestochowa. Soon we were on a roadway similar to some of America's smaller freeways and the hills slowly began to disappear. But, here and there were pockets of trees and a number of cars parked alongside. I was to learn that the people were not having a picnic as I thought, but rather were engaging in one of the favorite pastimes in Poland – gathering mushrooms! That immediately brought back memories of my own father taking us as children to cemeteries and woods to do the same thing; teaching us which ones were safe to eat. Which sadly, I have now forgotten.

After the open countryside it seemed like we were suddenly in the city of Czestochowa. More cars, buildings and people. Really a lovely city with a population



John Paul II Monument

of a little over 222,000 and beautiful European style architecture. Its name means Czestoch's place which is a personal name from medieval times.

After a short drive down city streets, there we were at the foot of the hill on which sits the monastery of Jasna Góra (whose name means "Bright Hill" or "Luminous Mount" in English.), and in which resides the precious icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

We were able to park in the drive of the convent of the Little Sisters of Jesus which sits at the bottom of the hill as the good sisters are friends of my host and his family.

After a wonderful visit that included refreshments and a visit to their little gift shop where they sell pottery items that they make, we walked through their beautiful garden and up the hill to the monastery and the shrine. The church steeple reached to the sky as a beacon calling us.

The entire grounds are surrounded by a stone wall like a fortress, built in the beginning of the 17th century. It turned out to be one of the areas where the Polish people were able to resist the invasion by Sweden in 1655.

Częstochowa itself was almost completely destroyed, but the monastery not only survived but also prospered. The holy icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa is credited with the saving of the monastery and eventually the Poles were able to overcome Sweden. Because of this shortly after on April 1, 1656 the King of Poland at the time, Jan Kazimierz, consecrated the country to Mary, the Mother of God and declared her not only as patron but also Queen of Poland.

But, I am getting a bit ahead of myself.

I was glad for the walk through the parking lot as it gave me some time to prepare and to reflect on where I was. Friends



Jasna Góra Monastery

had journeyed here before me and now I was experiencing what they had.

I had seen copies of this particular image of Our Lady before including a small shrine to her that my grandmother had in her home. It was beautiful! And now, I was about to see the real thing.

My mind was filled with thoughts of my grandparents, wondering if they had ever been to this shrine before they left Poland for America. If not, then I was here in their name.

After walking through the St. John Paul II gate, I felt as if I had stepped back in time and entered an entirely different world. It is like another town within the walls with its mixture of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque style buildings.

There is also a walkway surrounding everything that rises above the monastery so that one can view the park that is on three of its sides and the large square on the fourth as well as the buildings within. The views are wonderful. And along the walk are the Stations of the Cross as well as an enormous statue of St. John Paul II.

The church itself is known as the Basilica of the Holy Cross and the Nativity of the Virgin. And as we were actually there on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross it was even more special.

And of course, more people. But, it didn't matter.

While my friend waited in line to get into the church I went into one of the museums. Just so much

that had been built by St. Joseph.

But, whether or not all of the legends are true, I was about to see this ancient painting for myself.

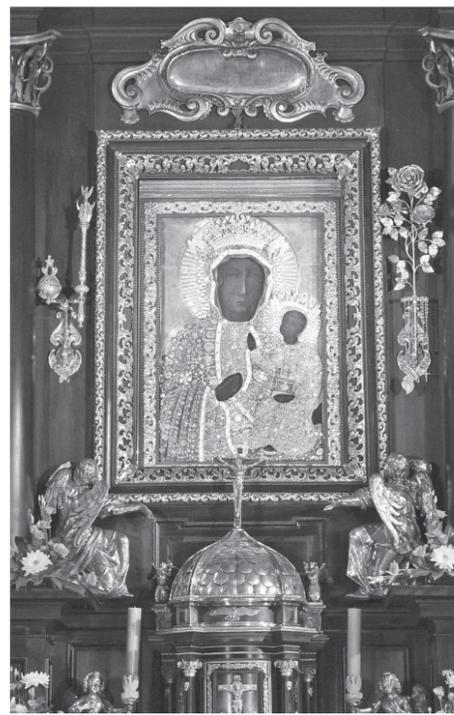
Eventually, we made our way closer to the small Gothic style Chapel of the Holy Virgin Mary where the icon is displayed. The little chapel was filled as there was a Mass being celebrated at the time. And I could see that the line was moving down the outskirts of the chapel, around the back of the altar and then up the other side and that EVERYONE was navigating this on their knees! Such devotion was very, very special to behold.

Then, suddenly, there was THE painting. Our Lady of Czestochowa – placed above the altar. I was NOT prepared as photos, reproductions, etc. do NOT do it justice. It is nothing short of MAGNIFICENT!

And it moved me in a way that I was not expecting...once again...no words. I was mesmerized by it. And am not even sure how I was able to take a photo of it or even to offer some short prayers. I know that I wanted to just stay there gazing upon the image...forever.

Sadly, the line moved forward and I along with it. I may not have been able to stay with Our Lady...but, I know that instead, she came with me.

Helen A. Scieszka, Ph.D. is a former ad executive, psychologist, college professor, Catholic church pastoral associate, Diocesan marriage & family life director; published author. Please visit her website drhelenscieszka.com to keep up with news on talks, book sale/signings and new releases!



Black Madonna of Czestochowa

wonderful history, artwork, religious symbolism and architecture everywhere.

Before long, we were inside the church itself. Even though it was incredibly full with people, there was still a quiet reverence and the line kept moving steadily. And yet I had trouble trying to take in all of the incredible beauty that surrounded me. It was like "surround sound" but for the eyes! In addition to the art and architecture many of the walls were filled with rosaries and other holy items that people had left as requests and prayers of thanksgiving as many miracles and healings have occurred there through Our Lady's intercession.

As we made our way through the church I thought of everything I had read about this holy icon... Our Lady of Czestochowa or the Black Madonna as it is sometimes called. The image is of Mary, the Mother of God, holding the Infant Jesus. Legend says that it was painted by St. Luke from a piece of a tabletop

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## THE POLISH CHEF

### Fruity Polish summer

#### STRAWBERRIES & SOUR CREAM (TRUSKAWKI ZE ŚMIETANĄ):

Wash and drain 1 qt ripe strawberries. Slice thin into large bowl and sprinkle with several t or T granulated or confectioner's sugar (or to taste). Toss gently and let stand at room temp but not in direct sunlight 2 hrs or more. Fill fruit bowls and top each portion with a dollop of sour cream. Or top American style with whipped cream.

#### HOME-MADE STRAWBERRY SODA (DOMOWA ORANŻADA TRUSKAWKOWA):

If using very ripe strawberries in the previous recipe, a good deal of syrup will form. You can drain it off and mix it with cold club soda for a refreshing soft drink that is tastier and healthier than artificially flavored store-bought soda.

#### SUPER-EASY STRAWBERRY TORTE (NAJŁATWIEJSZY TORCIK TRUSKAWKOWY):

Even young children can prepare this dessert and have the satisfaction of saying, "I made it myself!" Prepare fruits as in "strawberries & sour cream" recipe (above). Optional: drain off syrup for use in home-made soda or as ice-cream topping. Spoon strawberries over plain store-bought sponge-cake and top with aerosol-type whipped cream. Optional: Decorate top with a few whole strawberries.

#### PEARS IN CHOCOLATE (GRUSZKI W CZEKOLADZIE):

Here is another super-easy dessert. On a dessert plate swirl a T chocolate sundae topping or other chocolate sauce of choice. On it, place a well-drained canned pear half, cored-side-down. Pour a t chocolate sauce over it and top with a dollop of real whipped cream. Decorate cream topping with a whole, fresh berry (raspberry, strawberry, blackberry). Chocolate topping may be enriched with rum or cognac (1 T per ½ to 1 c sauce).

#### PLUM-FILLED POTATO DUMPLINGS (KNEDLE ZE ŚLIWKAMI):

Set a large pot of lightly salted water on to boil. Peel and cook about 1.6 lbs potatoes in separate pot of salted boiling water until tender, drain well, mash and set aside to cool. While they cook, wash and drain just over 1 lb ripe Italian plums (wegierki). Make an incision in each and slip out and discard pit. Combine cooled, mashed potatoes with 1 c flour, 2 T potato flour (or cornstarch), 1 egg and 1/2 t salt and work into a uniform dough. Roll between palms into strands about 1-3/4" thick and cut into 3/4" slices. By hand, pat each piece into a patty, place a plum filled with sugar on it, bring dough up to top, pinch together and roll snowball-fashion into round dumplings. Cook in boiling salted water and, when they float up, reduce heat slightly and cook

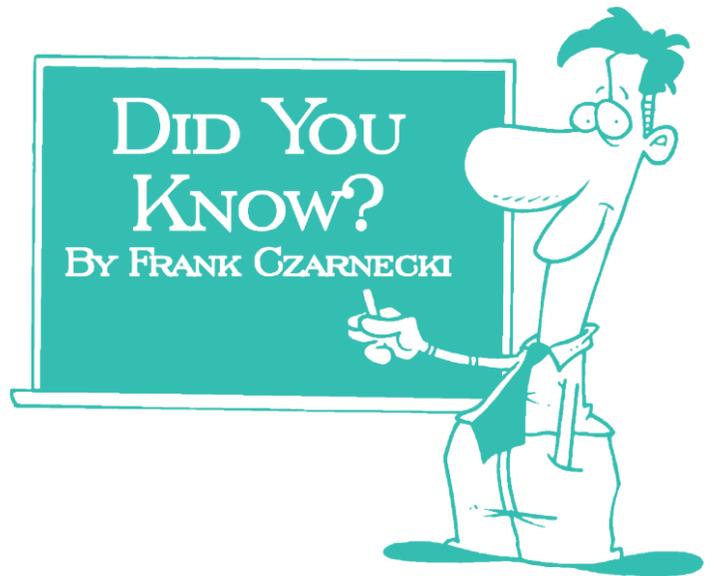
another 5 min. Remove with slotted spoon. Sprinkle with sugar and top with sour cream. Or dot with butter and sprinkle with sugar.

#### POLISH PLUM CAKE (PLACEK ZE ŚLIWKAMI):

Beat 1/2 c soft butter and 1 c sugar until smooth (about 2 min). Continue beating, adding 2 eggs 1 at a time. Mix 2 c flour with 2 t baking powder and 1/4 t salt and sift into bowl. Gradually stir in the butter-sugar-egg mixture, 1/2 t vanilla extract and 3/4 c milk, beating the whole time until smooth. Transfer dough to greased square or rectangular baking pan. Top dough with ripe Italian plum halves (wegierki) cut-side-up and sprinkle with a pinch or 2 cinnamon (optional). Dot with about 2 T cold butter and bake in preheated 350° oven about 40-45 min, or until inserted wooden pick comes out clean.

#### SPICED PICKLED PLUMS (ŚLIWKI W OCCIE):

Wash well and drain 2-1/4 lbs firm Italian plums. With pin or sharp wooden pick puncture each plum in several places. Place plums in 1-pt or 1/2-pt jars. Prepare marinade by combining in pot 1-1/4 c distilled or cider vinegar, 1-1/2 c water, 1 to 1-1/2 c sugar, 10 cloves, 6 peppercorns, 4 grains allspice, a small piece of cinnamon bark and 1 bay leaf. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer covered 10 min. When slightly cooled, pour strained marinade over plums in jars to cover. Seal lids and let stand until cooled to room temp. Tighten lids if necessary, then rinse and wipe jars to remove any marinade. Store in fridge. An excellent relish with ham, roasts and other cold meats.



(Continuing the story of Witold Pilecki who volunteered to go to Auschwitz so he could tell the world what was happening there.)

Starting in October, 1940, the camp underground worked to smuggle messages to the resistance outside. A few prisoners were able to secure their release if their families paid a big enough bribe. One of those released prisoners memorized the report to be shared with the outside world. The report was eventually smuggled across Europe to the highest levels in London. The first message was blunt – BOMB AUSCHWITZ! Even if it meant killing everyone inside, it would be merciful. Conditions were horrifying and the Nazis had to be stopped.

The British considered his request, but ultimately decided against it. The U.S. had not yet entered the war and the RAF was down to fewer than 200 planes all of which lacked radar. The distance was close to the range limit of the planes' fuel capacity.

Over the next two years, Pilecki continued to send messages to London through escapees and notes to Polish farmers neighboring the camp. Each message was more dire. The Nazis were conducting disgust-

ing medical experiments on patients in the camp hospital. The Nazis killed thousands of Russian POWs in a mass execution. The Nazis were testing a way to gas prisoners en masse. Huge trainloads of Jews were being gassed and cremated. Hundreds of men, women, and children were being murdered.

Witold Pilecki kept asking: couldn't the Allies at least bomb the train lines leading to the gas chambers? Or create a distraction so the prisoners could try to rise up and escape? Later, when the U.S. joined the war, bringing a far superior air force, the decision not to bomb the camp remained in place without considering that both the necessity and their capabilities had changed.

Not bombing Auschwitz is one of history's great might-have-beens.

Late in 1943, Pilecki and two friends pulled off an incredible escape through the camp bakery. He sneaked into Warsaw and joined the Resistance. When the Soviets (Russians) took over Poland in 1945, Pilecki was captured and executed. His last words are reported to have been, "I've been trying to live my life so that in the hour of my death I would feel joy rather than fear."

(from a *Washington Post* report)

## Poland marks centennial of world-changing battle

continued from p. 1

Although on the verge of total defeat, Poland ultimately managed to pull together, muster its forces, and repel the invading Bolshevik hordes. Volunteers eagerly dug trenches around Warsaw. Boys of 13 and 14 tried to enlist and fashionable ladies donated their gold wedding bands and other jewelry towards the war effort.

Polish cryptographers had broken Russia's secret military code and could intercept messages to and from Bolshevik commanders. Piłsudski's brilliant tactical maneu-

ver took the Soviets by surprise and sealed their ultimate defeat. The 1921 Peace of Riga resolved the conflict and created a border that would last until World War II.

Britain's ambassador to Germany, Edgar Vincent d'Abernon, called the conflict the "18th most decisive battle in world history." Germany was then seething with revolutionary ferment and the Red Army would have been welcomed by German workers as liberators from capitalist oppression. Had Poland been defeated, Lenin may well have

realized his dream of spreading communism across Europe all the way to the Atlantic.

Since 1998, a re-enactment of the Battle of Radzymin is held annually on August 15th. That town, some 15 miles northeast of Warsaw, was where the 1920 roll-back of the Soviet invaders began. This centennial year it would have been more spectacular than ever, and many other anniversary events had been planned. Meanwhile, the pandemic intervened.

Robert Strybel

Giving your kids and grandkids a gift of...

### Personal Polish heritage!

Your family name is a unique possession that originated for a reason. It can indicate who your distant ancestor's father was from, what he did for a living or what he was like.

A custom-researched surname analysis will tell your kids and grandkids the meaning of their Polish last name, how it originated, how many people share it, where they are from and whether a noble coat of arms accompanies it.

If interested, kindly airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding \$15 for each additional surname you wish to have researched) to Polonia's long-standing Warsaw correspondent and name researcher:

ROBERT STRYBEL

UL. KANIOWSKA 24 • 01-529 WARSAW, POLAND

You will also be able to check your family records in Poland, track down ancestral homesteads and graves or possibly even turn up long-lost relatives thanks to a helpful genealogical contact sheet included with each order. To receive the results via email or for more information please contact: [strybel@interia.pl](mailto:strybel@interia.pl)

The Prawdzic coat of arms was shared by the szlachta (gentry) lines of over 500 variously surnamed Polish families including: Baranowski, Ząb, Dąbski Sowiński, Bielski, Lang, Cybulski, Szuba, Trębski Rudzki, Dobrowolski and Gołębiowski.



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