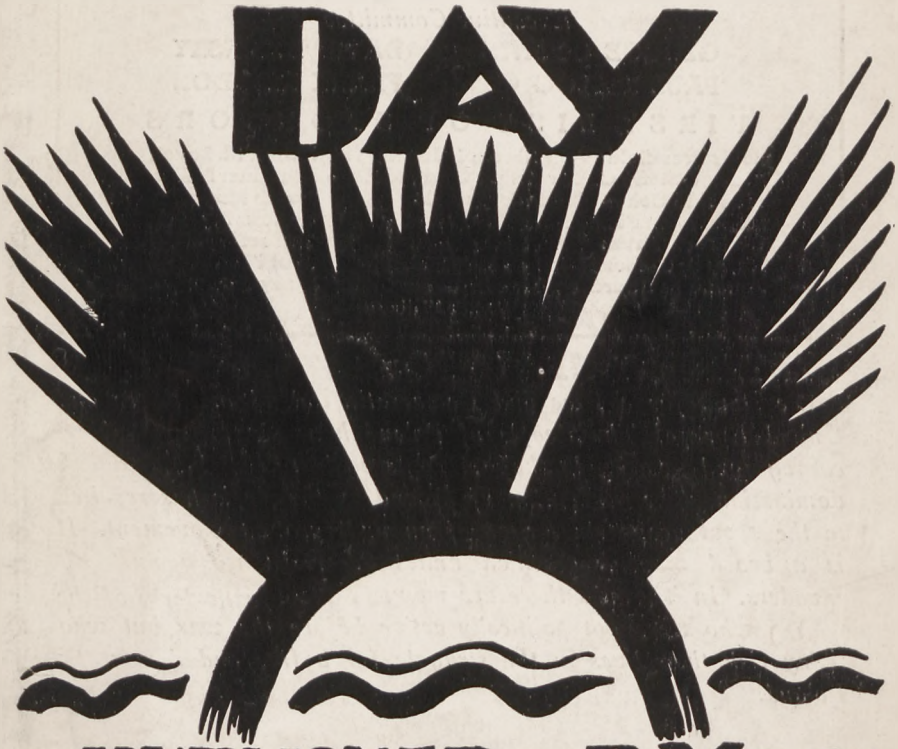
THE POLISH WORKER'S DAY



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AMERICAN FRIENDS OF
POLISH DEMOCRACY

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF POLISH DEMOCRACY

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSES.

We stand for a Free and Democratic Poland in a Free and United Europe. The People of Poland have shown magnificent courage and tenacity in their struggle against Nazi invasion and domination. The occupation of Poland by the Nazis has resulted in the spontaneous emergence of an underground movement. It is a broad movement which unites the resistance against the invaders. In its ranks there are many people (particularly of the youth) who were not politically active before the war but who today risk their lives in the struggle for a free and democratic Poland.

THE POLISH WORKER'S DAY

A WORKING DAY IN THE LIFE OF A POLISH WORKER IN OCCUPIED WARSAW

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Let no one thing that the underground movement in the oppressed countries of Europe is only the vain cry of impotent suffering. It is something vastly more significant. It is a force, a swelling force, that in spite of their spies and their firing squads is giving the tyrants serious concern. It mocks their ambitions, their grandiose dreams, their boasts of the "new order in Europe." The fierce resentment of the peoples can not be mastered by brutality. It can end only with the downfall of their conquerors. As they grow weaker, spent and exhausted in the most devastating of wars, it grows stronger. Now underground, it will one day emerge with volcanic force. The day of liberation is coming.

In this vast movement the Poles are playing a heroic part. No people has endured more terrible sufferings, no people has shown a more magnificent spirit. The story of Jan is one out of a great multitude of like stories. What makes it peculiarly revealing is that it deals with the common everyday life of the oppressed, seething and surging until it bursts into timely action. The spirit of Jan seethes and surges all over Europe, awaiting the appointed hour. Already it delays and thwarts the machine of conquest. Some day ere long, it will join in the smashing of the machine.

ROBERT M. McIVER

Although only briefly told on these pages, they are so full of tragedies and sufferings resulting from inhuman treatment from the Nazi fiendish barbarians that it causes the reader to stop and reflect at the end of each paragraph.

This picture of our Polish brother Jan symbolizes the spirit and determination of gallant and courageous humans "over there" with whom the cause of Liberty ties us American workers.

As a servant of the toilers of this democracy, I salute my fellow-workers across the Atlantic and join millions over here in pledging our all in this world-wide crusade against the terrible menace which is threatening civilization itself.

Carry on, fellowmen; each time you call, your voices seem to be nearer and more clear to us who are ready to march side by side with you in this final battle for freedom.

LEO KRZYCKI.

TO THE READER:

What you will read in these pages is no figment of the imagination.

The material was obtained by searching through decrees and announcements issued by the Nazis in Poland, from newspapers, both legal and illegal, and from documents and papers smuggled out of Poland by the workers' "underground" movement. Part of the story has been told by persons who have escaped from Poland.

Out of this material we have pieced together a working-day, a day of living, toiling and struggling on the part of Jan Kowalski, (the Polish equivalent of John Smith), a worker in Warsaw. Jan is a native of Warsaw, capital of Poland, where in the hub of Nazi-occupied territory, the life of the worker stands out in greater relief than anywhere else in Poland.

A DAY IN GERMAN-OCCUPIED WARSAW

It is time to get up for work. In the bedroom-living room-kitchen—call it what you will, for it has to do service for all—the cold is intense. During the siege of Warsaw all the panes were blown out of the windows. The gaps have been partially boarded up, but this provides little protection from the cold outside. The draught finds its way through the many cracks and crevices, damp seeps through the walls and moisture drips from the ceiling.

There is no hope of getting the room warm. True, Jan has his fuel coupons, but they are mere useless paper since there has never been but one distribution of coal. Almost all Polish coal has either been sent to Germany or issued to Germans in Poland for their dwellings and offices. **There is not a scrap of fuel for the Poles.**

Jan troubles little on his own account, but it is a terrible ordeal for his wife and children, who have to go barefooted and ill-clad in the bitter cold. The Germans have laid their thieving hands on all stocks of leather, some of which have been issued to German residents. There is no rubber for soles and heels and **the Poles are driven to wearing wooden clogs as a protection against frost and snow.**

As for clothing, all that was any good had to be bartered long ago for flour and potatoes.

Germans started their work by executing thousands of Polish workers.

A POLISH AND A JEWISH GHETTO

Jan would have liked to move from this room to a warmer and more healthful one, somewhere near his work. But the Germans have taken over control of all dwellings and strict regulations are enforced relating to Poles and Jews. German sanction is required to rent even a single room and Poles are forbidden, on pain of ejection, to give accommodation, even for one night, to a Jew. ,

Before the war Jan lived in another part of Warsaw, only a few minutes by street car from his work. Soon after the beginning of the occupation, he returned one day from work to find a police notice ordering him to quit within twenty four hours. Bad as that was, he had reflected at the time that he was more fortunate than the poor wretches in Poznan, Pomorze and Silesia, who were given only thirty minutes in which to pack one bag and get out, leaving behind the house key and all their belongings for the benefit of German settlers brought from the Baltic and other states.

The Germans had decided to convert all that part of Warsaw into a ghetto for the Jews. Half a million Jews were driven into the district, which was then surrounded by a high wall so that the Jews could not get out nor the Gentiles get in.

Jan remembers the widespread anger amongst the workers over this incident. At one of the secret printing-houses, a proclamation was drawn up denouncing the barbarian Nazis and confirming the solidarity of the Polish and Jewish workers. The leaflets were strewn about or stuck up on walls in thousands. Not content with circulating leaflets, at night, under the very noses of the German police some members of the revolutionary workers' movement tore down a part of the ghetto wall. When the police arrived in the morning, they

. . . the Germans had decided to convert all that part of Warsaw into a ghetto for the Jews.

DO LUDU PRACUJACEGO WARSZAWY

Do nieskończonego łańcucha zbrodni i okrucieństw, dokonywanych w naszym kraju, hitlerowski najeźdźca dodał dowe ogniwo: żywe ciało stolicy Polski pocięto hańbiącymi murami. Jednym zarządzeniem wyrwano narzędzia pracy z rąk tysięcy ludzi i zniszczono podstawy ich bytu! Czterysta tysięcy mężczyzn, kobiet, starców i dzieci należącej do niewolników ostatniej kategorii zamknięto na terenie nazwanym dzielnicą żydowską, skazano na wygłodzenie, zdano na łaskę i niełaskę zbirów z S.S. Tak mosowego bestialstwa nie zna historia.

Ale nie prawdą jest jakoby zarządzenie o utworzeniu ghetta godziło tylko w Żydów. Tysiące zniszczonych polskich warsztatów rzemieślniczych, bezrobocie licznych rzesz robotników, urzędników, dozorców i pracownic domowych — oto jak na polskim terenie wygląda plon nakazów Liestow i Fischerów.

Nie boimy się o los polskiej i żydowskiej burżuazji. Pieniądze torują jej drogę, a tysiące małych i dużych, mniej i bardziej śmierdzących interesów wiąże polską i żydowską burżuazję z okupantem i z ucisku jego straszliwego tworzy dla niej lukę, w której można „spokojnie żyć". Ta warstwa nie czeka zresztą żadna przyszłość, tak samo jak nie czeka dobra przyszłość ludzi, którzy umieją żyć na kolanach.

Ciężar każdej wojny i każdej niewoli spada zawsze na barki ludu pracującego bez względu na to do jakiego narodu on należy.

Ileż podłego cynizmu jest w tym, że rękami wygnanych z pracy robotników polskich i żydowskich wzniesiono mury, które mają ich dzielić tak, jakby inny czekał ich los po tej i po tamtej stronie, jakby inne były ich pragnienia, dążenia i cele. To nieprawda! Prześladowania hitlerowskie spadają zarówno na jednych jak i na drugich: masowe obławy na ulicach i po domach dostarczają niewolników — polskich na pracę do Niemiec, do upiornego Mauthausen i krwawego Oświęcimia, a żydowskich do obozów pracy i męki nad Wisłą i w Lubelszczyźnie. Po obu stronach murów masy pracujące żyją w prymitywnych tragicznych warunkach.

Zbrodniczy, podły i podstępny okupant widzi, że represje nie osiągną pogardy, która go otacza, stara się więc nienawiść, którą czuje wokół, odwrócić od siebie. „To nie Hitler winien męce ludu polskiego — to winni Żydzi". I oto szaleje propaganda niemiecka aby za przesłu zamykanym za murami ghetta skierować całkowicie nienawiści ujarzmionego ludu polskiego.

Ruchy reakcyjne i agentury hitlerowskie już przed wojną szykowały jej grunt w naszym kraju, wynajdując w momentach najpowszedniejszego lub zagrożenia Polski wrogów jej wszędzie, byleby nie pod znakiem swastyki. Ale lud polski, który walczą z faszyzmem i hitleryzmem prowadził prąd tym dniami, kiedy na polach bitew i w obronach osiedli dowodził swej dojrzałości i oliczności — dzisiejszą swoją postawą wykazuje również, że dobrze zrozumiał istotę i drogi zwycięskiego [illegible]ryzmu. Lud polski rozumie też sens tej gry i z pogardą odrzuca proponowane mu przez hitleryzm stanowisko lepszego, niezamkniętego jeszcze w ghetcie, niewolnika.

Bo niema lepszych i gorszych stopni w gmachu niewoli niema gorszych i lepszych kategorii niewolników pod batem brutalnego najeźdźcy! Są tylko walczący i ci, co się uginą.

I dziś kiedy Hitler, mimo wzrost ruchliwości dyplomatycznej, mimo narastającej faszystowskiej rodziny „osi" i mimo pomocy Stalina — nie może zebrać owoców swych zwycięstw militarnych — opór jaśniejący przepaszy, nakazy i zakazy zaborcy ma olbrzymie znaczenie. A opór ten, choć nie zdołał zapobiec utworzeniu ghetta, wzmaga się z dniem każdym. Mały pracujące polskie przerzucane dziś brutalnymi zenkasami z miejsca na miejsce, masy pracujące żydowskie zamykane dziś za murami ghetta, masy zakuwane z dnia na dzień silniej w kajdany niewoli, widzą wyraźnie przed sobą wielką, krwią oczyszczającą drogę walki o Niepodległą Polskę Ludową — o Polskę, która zrealizuje marzenie ideały Wolności, Sprawiedliwości Społecznej i Równouprawnienia wszystkich narodów jej ziemie zamieszkujących.

Zwycięstwa w tej walce nie przyniesie zbawcze przybycie takiej czy innej armii na nasze ziemie, ale dodają go pakty i umowy - silne rewolucyjny ruch mas ludowych Polski, zbratanych z innymi ludami Europy, walczącymi dziś z faszyzmem i wszelkimi przejawami tyranii i totalizmu na wszystkich wojennych podzamnych i frontach.

Zrozumiemie tej drogi przez ka głęboko w świadomość chłopów, robotników i inteligencji pracującej. Rozumieją ją masy pracujące po obu stronach murów. Bo czyż mur wybudowany z rozkazu zaborcy potrafi zniszczyć wspólnotę ideałów i myśli, czyż może zniweczyć wieloletni trud wspólnej walki robotników polskich i żydowskich, walki jaką przez tyle lat prowadzili oni z polską i żydowską burżuazją, z wyzyskiem, faszyzmem i oszukańczymi przegrodami rasowymi. Nie! Póki w murach pracujących polskich i żydowskich żyje pragnienie wolności, póty mur ten jest tylko sztuczną przegrodą, która razem z faszyzmem w pył upadnie, jako jeden z przejawów dziś zwycięskiego jutro pokonanego barbarzyństwa. Nie poto jednak, aby na gruzach tych murów znów polscy i żydowscy kapitaliści zawarli pakt we jemnej pomocy i zakuli wyzyskiwaną się z niewoli hitlerowskiej lud pracujący polski w jarzmo ucisku i wyzysku.

Na miejsce tych murów, na gruzach hitlerowskiego domu niewoli, na gruzach domów zwalonych w czasie hohlerowskiej obrony stolicy - stoną mury domów robotniczych, zaklanych domów Wolnej Warszawy.

Wizja tej nowej stolicy, wizja Niepodległej Polski ludu pracującego, Polski Sorjalistycznej, która obuli i zniweczy wszelką niewolę i zamieni nasz kraj w wielką Ojczyznę Wolności - pozwoli nam przetrwać najcięższe okrazy i nie osłabiać ani na chwilę w walce!

Walka ta przyniesie zwycięstwo!

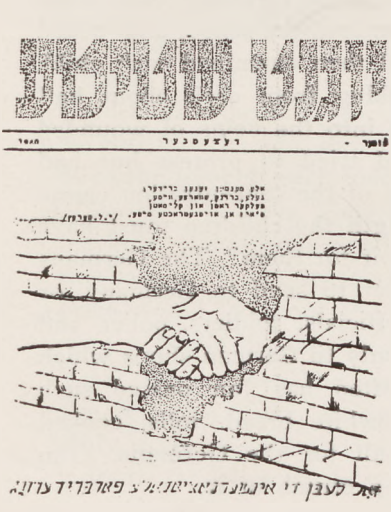
Pieśń tej walki zra dobrze i rewolucyjna robotnicza Wola! pamiętny, skrwawiony w 1904 roku czerwony Plac Grzybowski — dziś zamknięty za murami ghetta!

Niech żyje Wolność!

Niech żyje Wolna Warszawa — stolica Polski Ludu Pracującego!

Niech żyje Niepodległa Polska Sorjalistyczna!

Warszawa, w listopadzie 1940 r.



↑

...Polish proclamation was drawn up denouncing the barbarian Nazis and confirming the solidarity of the Polish and Jewish workers.

...and Jews answered by publishing above leaflet.

←

found, floating proudly over the ruins of the wall, the red and white flag of Poland.

As Jan walks along, he thinks what a difference there is between the dwellings of Poles and Jews and the bright and comfortable houses in another part of Warsaw, occupied by Germans and their families. This part of Warsaw includes parks, river embankments, administrative buildings, theatres and other places of amusement. No Pole can obtain permission to go and live in this part of the capital.

A HUNGRY FAMILY

The worst time for the worker is the morning. Jan finds it impossible to keep his eyes from the drawn face of his wife and the blue cheeks of the children. His wife gets more low spirited every day. Yesterday she stood all morning in a line, only to return empty-handed from the shops. The children, lacking good food, seem day by day to be wasting away. Often a bad fright will hasten the process.

Thus, yesterday, two of the children returned from school, weeping and terrified. Between sobs they related how, after the second period, **German police entered the school and locked all the doors. German doctors had then examined each child, choosing the most robust and taking from each about half a glassful of blood for transfusion into the veins of wounded German soldiers.** The teacher had tried to protest but had been quickly silenced by the threat of the concentration camp.

If they are to regain their strength the children must have more food. But how is Jan to get it for them? The Germans have taken most of the food, either to send to Germany, or for the consumption of German officials, soldiers, police and civilians. **The best food is issued only to German shops which are barred to the Poles.** How often has Jan passed such shops, their windows laden with white bread, rolls, cooked meats, preserves and fruits—but all for the Germans, even the Polish children may not have a crumb of it.

EVERYTHING FOR THE GERMANS

There is a wide difference between the rations of food allowed to victors and vanquished:—

Rationing Table

The Germans are allowed much more food than the Poles. The following figures will show the difference in their weekly rations:

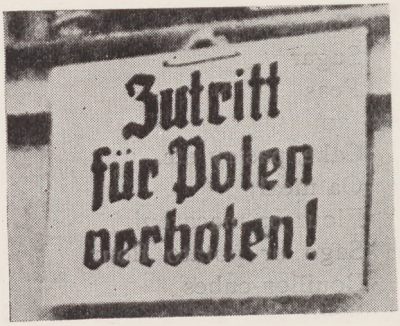
	Poles	Germans
Fats	2 ozs.	9 ozs.
Meat	8 ozs.	1 lb.
Cheese	none	3 ozs.
Sugar	8 ozs.	2 lbs.
Peas	none	4 ozs.
Jam	none	6 ozs.
Cake, pastry etc.	2 ozs.	4 ozs.
Oatmeal	none	2 ozs.
Flour or macaroni	4 ozs.	4 ozs.
Sago or potato flour	none	2 ozs.
Bouillon-cubes	none	5 pieces
Eggs	1	3

German children are entitled to supplementary rations of child-nourishment foods, and so were Polish children until, several months ago, an order of the German authorities cancelled the issue of such foods to Polish children.

People who have some money are able to buy on the black markets. Jan simply can't afford it. One pound of sugar on the ration card costs about 10c. On the black market the price would be about $6.00. Similarly for bread and potatoes, even a bottle of vinegar costs $2.00.

At times, when the pangs of hunger refuse to be dulled, Jan will go to an eating house and, for once, eat his fill. Only a cheap eating house, however, as the better class restaurants and hotels are exclusively for the Germans.

. . . only for German children



. . . for Poles forbidden.

CHILDREN SUFFER MOST

The youngest child has been born since the war began. In peace time the Health Insurance Society would have provided proper treatment for Jan's wife, both before and after the confinement. There would have been a period of convalescence in a well-equipped home. Under the Germans there is no such treatment and the child is thin and sickly.

A doctor friend who has examined it several times only shakes his head. The child needs better food, more fresh air, ought to go to the country. Jan laughs bitterly at this. Before the war he could not only afford good food, but could manage to send his children to holiday camps supported

by the workers' clubs. Now, all these clubs have been closed. **Even recreation grounds are forbidden to Polish children. Notice-boards bear the words "Only for German children."** Swimming-pools, sports-grounds and play-grounds, all are reserved for Germans.

Even if he had the money, Jan could not send his children to the country. The people there have insufficient food for themselves. Then, **all Poles have to get a special permit to** travel. They must produce evidence of necessity and humiliate themselves before the Germans, often only to be insulted and refused. Better drop the idea, the less one has to do with the German authorities the better. **For the Jews it is even worse. They may not use the railways or steamers at all.**

The two oldest children attend the elementary school, but derive little benefit from it under the Nazi system. In the part of Poland incorporated into the Reich the Germans have closed all Polish educational establishments. The Poles now

Polish children are forced to work.

have to send their children to German schools, paying high fees only to have them educated on Nazi principles. Better to let the children run wild than to have them grow up Germans.

So Jan sends his children to the German controlled school but **they are taught secretly, in private houses, Polish language, history and geography.** The Germans vigorously persecute those responsible for these private classes and quite a few teachers have been deported to Germany. But the fight for the soul of the Polish children still goes on.

NO EDUCATION FOR THE POLES

The oldest boy is Jan's most difficult problem. He is capable, studious and intelligent. He had always hoped to be a doctor. He was always regular in attendance and punctual and was highly commended by his teachers. In two years he would have finished high school and might have gotten a scholarship to a medical school. But all his hard work has been in vain. The Germans regard the Poles as a slave-race, whose only mission in life is to supply muscle and brawn. An elementary school and a short term at a low grade technical school is enough for the Polish children. **The Germans, therefore, closed all secondary schools, universities, technical colleges and theological schools. The Warsaw University is occupied by the Gestapo and buildings of other educational institutions by the S.S. and German police.**

And so all the boy's efforts and all the sacrifices Jan has made to help him on have been wasted. He now loafs around, workless and in ever lower spirit and his mother is mad with anxiety lest one day he should be kidnapped in the street by the German "press-gangs" and sent off to Germany for forced labor.

Jan walks on. It is time he were at work. He no longer goes by street car, although the alternative is a walk of some three miles. Anyway, that is better than witnessing some of the things which happen in the street cars. **There are separate compartments for Poles and Germans.** Often, when the cars are crowded, Germans squeeze into the Polish compartment and even the women have to give up their seats to them. How many times has Jan seen women and even children thrown out of the trolleys by German soldiers?

RICKSHAWS

Before the war it was a pleasure to walk along the streets of Warsaw. They were always filled with a gay and lively throng. Now the streets lead through a barren, desolate waste of demolished houses. The debris has been cleared away, but at every step ruined walls stretch upward in mute appeal to the skies. There are no streams of cars on the road, only an occasional car filled with German officers, or sometimes a horse-drawn cab, a vehicle which before the war had almost disappeared. **But mostly one sees only rickshaws. These are drawn by Polish students and it is almost their only means of livelihood. They have attached trailers to their bicycles and go out plying for hire. Taxis are no longer to be seen.**

Jan misses the old familiar din of the streets, the music and singing of street musicians. When the Germans came, these musicians, instead of singing popular songs as before, wandered from street to street and courtyard to courtyard, playing and singing only Polish national and revolutionary songs. In the end the Germans, noticing the enthusiasm evoked, forbade it altogether.

Some of the streets have been entirely destroyed and new roads cut through. Jan can't bear to look at the street names. The old Polish plates have been removed and German names

given to all the streets. The must beautiful square in Warsaw is now called "Adolf Hitler Square."

Jan goes into a store, not very hopefully, for cigarettes. The storekeepers are a prominent Warsaw specialist and a well-known poet. The latter, with his author friends, abandoned their writing as they could not bring themselves to submit their works to the German censor. Both doctor and poet prefer to sell matches, cotton, anything they can get hold of.

There are no cigarettes, as Jan had expected. As he goes along someone offers him a newspaper, the *Warsaw Journal*. Jan brushes it aside and spits. **Although it is in Polish, he knows this paper is published by the Germans. He can't read German lies and anti-Polish rubbish.** He will wait until night when he can read an authentic Polish paper.

A ROUND-UP

Suddenly, instinctively, on an impulse born of much experience, Jan dives into a narrow alley, springs through the first doorway, races up the stairs and crouches in a dark corner. Outside, police whistles can be heard, accompanied by foul German expletives and shrieks of women. A round-up.

Jan knows that all the male captives over the age of twelve will be loaded into cattle-trucks and sent to Germany to work. A worse fate awaits the young women.

A few days ago Jan had received a letter from his sister in another town. She wrote how, together with some five hundred other girls, she had been called to the labor office. They had been forced to strip naked, and were examined by doctors. After being ill for three days, she had received a card to prepare to go with a train-load of other girls to Germany.

When, laden with disease, these girls return from the German soldiers' camps, they are ruthlessly shot by German machine guns.

* * *

Jan waits for what seems an age. Then all is quiet and he emerges from his hiding place. With quickened step he hurries on to the factory, he is afraid he will be late.

AN UNDERGROUND PAPER

At the factory, he goes into his shop and puts on his overalls. In his hip pocket something rustles. He smiles to himself. They have done it again. For the moment he feels quite happy. His comrades, actively engaged in spreading secret communications, have already got a new leaflet through to him. He will read it to-night. And he must not forget, before leaving the workshop, to leave in his drawer his contribution to the publishing fund. This money will be secretly collected by some unknown person and handed to an equally unknown treasurer.

The money is urgently needed. The Germans have requisitioned all stocks of paper. They have even stripped the stationers' shops of nearly all their books and sent them to the paper mills for repulping. That is where the Germans get the paper for their noisome publications. So the "underground" workers have to send a long way for their supplies. The cost runs into large sums. Then the presses must be moved from place to place constantly.

Recently the Germans discovered one such place in Warsaw. When they knocked and received no reply, they threw in hand-grenades and machine gunned the house. Two comrades were killed and a woman was wounded and died later. But there was a fight and the Germans didn't have it all their own way.

GWARDIA

NR. 10

„Jest rzeczą wstr
tym terenie osiedlenc

MANIFEST
DO LUDÓW ŚWIATA

WRN 1 — 14 czerwca 1941 r.

ROK II

TOTALNE ZWYCIĘSTWO.

faszyzm wyrósł na gruncie użyźnionym przez gnijący kapitalizm. Kla
chwyciły się faszyzmu jako środka przykrego i krępującego
wolnej konkurencji, ale jedynie skutecznego prze
wojem demokracji socjalizmowi. Karyka
przy tym za wygodny straszak i
Ale faszyzm nie niosł
kizmu. Jego re
em by

Po przeczytaniu oddaj towarzyszowi. Strzeż przed oczyma

WOLNOŚĆ

Nr. 7

Dnia 1 kwietnia 1941 roku

Rok

KRAJ I RZĄD

Nikt w Polsce nie kwestion
kraju zagranicą. Wówcza
rego by nie den
na obo

konieczności istnienia reprezenti

LIS
WESOŁE PISMO

WOJSKO i NIEPODLEGŁOŚĆ
№ 4 LISTOPAD 1940 ROKU № 4
11 LISTOPADA 1918 R.

WALKA I WOLNOŚĆ

PRZEGLĄD

GWARDIA

WOJSKO i NIEPODLEGŁOŚĆ
№ 5 GRUDZIEŃ 1940 ROKU № 5
WINSTON CHURCHILL WŚRÓD POLSKICH ŻOŁNIERZY

PLACÓWKA
ORGAN WSI POLSKIEJ

ZIEMIA MÓWI
PISMO WIEJSKIE
ORGAN KONFEDERACJI NARODU

TRYBUNA LUDÓW

WALCZYMY O PRAWDĘ I POLSKĘ
TYGODNIK Kraków, 14 września 1940 r.
WIELKI NARÓD

PO PRZECZYTANIU ODDAJ DRUGIEMU
GŁOS POLSKI

ORLĘTA
Pismo dla młodzieży

DROGA WOLNOŚCI
PAŹDZIERNIK 1940 R.

BIULETYN INFORMACYJNY
20 SIERPNIA TYGODNIK

PRZEGLĄD

GŁOS POLSKI
NR. 23 — 24 10 LISTOPADA 1940 R. NR. 23 — 24
„SAMOOKRĄŻANIE"

O FORMĘ I TREŚĆ PRZYSZŁEJ POLSKI

POBUDKA

WALKA TRWA

WIADOMOŚCI POLSKIE
Nr. 36 1.1.1941

POLSKA WALCZY
DWUTYGODNIK

POLSKA ŻYJE!

Głos Warsza

Underground papers

But no one begrudges his share of the cost and the "underground" activities are growing day by day. Roundups, concentration camps, even executions provide no deterrent.

Jan gets on with his work but soon begins to feel tired. His limbs ache and feel like lead. Insufficient food, and work greatly speeded up by the Germans are too much for him. In order to get the maximum output to fill the gaps made by the R.A.F. in the west, the Germans have abolished the 8-hour day and the workers must do at least 10 hours. All holidays have been curtailed and the granting of them is left to the discretion of the employer.

STARVATION WAGES

Nor are the workers paid for the extra hours. Wages have generally been maintained at pre-war levels although the cost of living has gone up by about 500 per cent. For the same job the German workers in Poland get not less than twice the pay of the Poles, plus a special living allowance which in itself amounts to as much as the total wage of a Pole.

There was a factory owner recently who declared himself ready to raise the wages of his Polish workers. When the Germans heard of it they immediately threatened to close his factory and put him in prison. The Germans have issued a decree **forbidding, on pain of imprisonment, any increase of the wages or improvement in the working conditions of the Poles.** Nothing is allowed for overtime and any worker who asks for an increase may be fined or imprisoned. **The worker has no protection, his trade unions have gone, the leaders have been killed or imprisoned and all the funds appropriated.** Strikes are out of the question. Machine guns are the Germans' reply to any such action.

GO SLOW WORK

Jan and his comrades have to be very careful in their work. There is a German decree which provides heavy penalties, not only for bad workmanship but also for "failure on the part of the worker to show goodwill." All day and every day Jan and his pals court this risk. It is not their intention to deliver good workmanship. They make as fine a show of work as they can. But all the time they are wasting precious minutes, adjusting machine parts which need no adjustment, overscrupulously examining materials, repeating, as though unconsciously, the same operation, dropping their tools and retrieving them only very slowly and generally delaying the work as effectively, yet as unostentatiously as they can. Thus the German effort at intensification fails. **The workers have become very skilful in this form of sabotage and even the German supervisors can find no tangible proof of it.**

From time to time the Germans become so infuriated that they choose at random a number of workers and send them to concentration camps. Sometimes they even execute them. But no such action has the slightest effect. Every worker does his bit and does it with thoroughness and gusto.

Not the least active in sabotage are a number of workers who have been brought to Warsaw from Gdynia. These highly experienced dock workers, can do only unskilled work here for a miserably low wage. Ill as they can afford it, the other workers have assisted the families of these men with small contributions to save them from semi-starvation.

CONSTANT FEAR

The working day is over and Jan is on his way home. The curfew hour is drawing near and the streets will soon be quite empty. Even munition workers, waiters, doctors, nurses, those

who have German permits to be out after this time, prefer to get indoors. Many times it happened that some worker, diving his hand into his pocket for his permit, has been shot by the Germans who thought he was reaching for a gun. Often people have been hit by stray bullets fired by the Germans who seem to be in constant dread even of their own shadows.

Jan walks as fast as he can Fear for his family spurs him on. To-day, as every day, he is haunted by the fear that he will be met by one of his neighbors bearing dreadful tidings—the children have been carried off—his wife has been arrested or deported. In the few moments before he reaches home Jan dies a thousand deaths. He breaks into a run and arrives at the door sweating and exhausted. Is everyone here? Are they all right?

And so day after day, there is the constant waiting for sudden catastrophe.

Jan recalls the happy days before the war. Tired but cheerful after the day's work, there was always a glass of beer, a bit of gossip, perhaps a lively debate with his pals in the tavern. Jan had a fair amount of leisure and he and his wife liked the movies. They never go now. All educational and instructional films have been banned and the films which are shown either caricature the Polish army and authorities or glorify the "heroic" deeds of Hitler's hordes.

VODKA INSTEAD OF CHOPIN

No self respecting Pole will go to the theatre or a concert. All serious plays, all Polish national and classical music, the immortal works of Chopin and Paderewski have been banned. The Germans suggested the playing of jazz and the presentation of reviews of a particularly low class. Not content with starving the body of the Pole, the Germans aim also at destroying the national soul and demoralizing the Polish race. In country districts many saloons have been opened and

vodka is on sale at absurdly low prices. This is to encourage drinking, whilst in Warsaw the Germans opened a gambling-den, a place never seen in pre-war Poland, in order to get money and encourage vice.

Jan and his wife were fond of reading. There were excellent lending facilities at the local library. The Germans, after closing all the libraries, reopened them later with a new catalogue from which all books on Polish political, economic and national history had been removed. More than 1,500 authors had been eliminated including Joseph Conrad, also all books in English, even dictionaries, except American editions. No book was included which had in its title the words "Poland" or "Polish." Parliamentary debates, speeches by prominent leaders such as the Socialist Daszynski, even studies of the constitution of Poland had been excluded. All poetry, novels and plays with a national flavor shared the same fate. It is even recounted how the Germans excluded a book entitled "Pests and their Destruction" because they thought it referred to themselves, whereas it was a book on gardening.

The ban on books has ruined most of the Polish publishing firms. Those still carrying on can barely make ends meet since no book or periodical, or musical work can appear without permission which is almost unobtainable. The Germans have ordered every bookshop to display in its window a copy of a book "Die Polen vor Berlin" (Poles at the Gates of Berlin), a satire intended to taunt and mock the Polish people. The banned books can only be circulated in secret. They pass from hand to hand amongst friends and are read if anything, much more eagerly than before.

LISTENING ON LONDON

After supper there is a discreet knock at the door. The neighbors come in bringing books. They talk and read and their worries are momentarily lifted from their shoulders, their eyes take on a new light, shoulders lose their stoop, fists clench with heightened resolution. To night there is a leaflet to be read. It is a **Manifesto which is going out to the world, telling it Poland will continue the fight until victory is won.**

The hour of broadcasts from London draws near. Jan's wife goes to the door and listens. They have to be careful. Only recently, the Germans caught the occupants of a nearby house listening to London and sentenced them to twelve years imprisonment. Jan gets out the receiving set and tunes in. He adjusts the earphones and listens. "Hush, the English News— Last night the R.A.F. bombed Hamburg, Cologne and Berlin. In this attack Polish pilots took part. All our planes returned safely to their bases."

Later, fortified and cheered, the party breaks up with a fraternal handshake. As they separate they repeat the old war-cry —

FREEDOM, EQUALITY, INDEPENDENCE.

So Jan and his family retire. Jan stirs uneasily in his sleep. To-morrow the anxiety will begin anew, there will be again his sleep. To-morrow the anxiety will begin anew, there will the dread of the catastrophe which lurks just around the corner, ready to pounce.

But though many may perish in the struggle for freedom, many will also survive, and terrible will be the retribution which will one day overtake those fiends out of hell, whose only joy is the misery and wretchedness of others.

PROGRAM OF THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF POLISH DEMOCRACY

The American Friends of Polish Democracy seek to unite all who are really concerned about the Polish people whose fate is so closely connected with that of world democracy. Its purpose is to aid the struggle for the creation of a free and democratic Europe. A free and democratic Europe is impossible without a free and democratic Poland—that is one of the most important lessons of the European history.

The American Friends of Polish Democracy intend to develop their work in the following directions:

1. By conducting meetings, dinners, lectures, forums, by radio broadcasting, publications and collaboration with the press, especially with the Polish democratic press in this country.
2. By aiding the democratic elements among the Polish Americans in this country.
3. By assisting in securing speakers on Polish and European problems for organizations which request them.
4. By assisting, in every legitimate way, political exiles from Poland, particularly in this country.
5. By aiding the democratic underground movement in Poland.
6. By forming state and local committees of American Friends of Polish Democracy to work along the above lines.

We appeal to all who cherish Democracy to enable us to carry out our program. Donations which will—directly or indirectly—help the Polish Underground struggle against the Nazi barbarians are a sound investment for the future. Please help us by sending your donation and contribution to the American Friends of Polish Democracy, 55 West 42 Street, New York, N. Y.