

● The National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation coins commemorating the 70th anniversary of creating the Polish underground state:

2 zł – struck in standard finish in Nordic Gold, on 10 December 2009,

10 zł – struck in proof finish in silver on 14 December 2009.

The National Bank of Poland

holds the exclusive right to issue the currency in the Republic of Poland.

In addition to **coins and notes for general circulation**, the NBP issues **collector coins and notes**.

Issuing collector items is an occasion to commemorate important historic figures and anniversaries, as well as to develop the interest of the public in Polish culture, science and tradition.

Since 1996, the NBP has also been issuing **occasional 2 zloty coins**, struck in **Nordic Gold**, for general circulation.

All coins and notes issued by the NBP are legal tender in Poland.

NBP

National Bank of Poland

COINS



COINS ISSUED IN 2009 COINS ISSUED IN 2009



Information on the issue schedule and on how to purchase the coins can be found at the www.nbp.pl website

The coins were struck at the Mint of Poland in Warsaw.

Edited and printed: NBP Printing Office

70th anniversary
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- The Polish Victory Service (in Polish: *Sluzba Zwyciestwu Polski*) was formed in the besieged Warsaw on 27 September 1939. The organization was an embryo of the subsequently developed Polish underground state. As spelled out by its founders, one military and civilian underground organization should channel all the effort of the Polish people in pursuit of independence.
- Brigadier General Michał Karaszewicz-Tokarzewski (pseudonym "Torwid") was appointed its commander-in-chief, with Stefan Starzyński – remembered for his heroic stance as the City Mayor during the siege - acting as his deputy and Civilian Commissioner. Following Starzyński's arrest (on 27 October 1939), this latter post fell to Mieczysław Niedziałkowski – a representative of the Polish Socialist Party (arrested on 22 December 1939).
- Already on 10 October 1939 the Chief Political Council of the Polish Victory Service was established, encompassing the representatives of major political parties operating in conspiracy: the Polish Socialist Party (PPS), the Democratic Party (SD), the Peasants' Party (SL) and the National Party (SN).
- The homeland-originated idea to establish one military-civilian underground organisation failed to be accepted by the Government of the Republic of Poland in exile, formed by General Władysław Sikorski in late September and October 1939 in Paris. On 13 November 1939, Sikorski, the Polish Prime Minister in exile set up a Ministerial Committee for Homeland Affairs and a military organisation - Union of Armed Struggle (in Polish: *Związek Walki Zbrojnej*), with General Kazimierz Sosnkowski as the commander-in-chief. The structure of this organisation was established principally as a result of the restructuring of the Polish Victory Service, with command centres responsible for particular areas and regions of operation.
- Since June 1940, after the capitulation of France, the duties of the commander-in-chief of the Union of Armed Struggle were assumed by General Stefan Grot-Rowecki, formerly the commander of the areas under

German occupation. In 1942 the organisation was renamed into the Home Army (in Polish: *Armia Krajowa*). After Rowecki's arrest on 30 June 1943, General Tadeusz Bór-Komorowski replaced him at his post and took the command. The primary task of the Polish Underground State was to prepare and execute a general uprising which would liberate Poland. Respectively, in parallel with the development of territorial structures, special formations, intended to carry out assigned tasks, were created in the Union of Armed Struggle and later the Home Army. It is worthwhile to mention one of them – the "Folding Fan" (in Polish: *Wachlarz*) set up to shield the planned national insurgence from the east.

- According to the general uprising plan, upon the mobilization and engagement in open combat the Home Army groups were supposed to assume the names of the prewar Polish Army units stationed in the area. At the turn of 1943 and 1944 the plan for a general uprising changed, in view of the anticipated invasion of the territory of the Second Polish Republic by the Red Army (after the suspension of Polish-Soviet diplomatic relations as a result of the discovery of the Katyń massacre). Intensified campaign of sabotage and subversion was conducted under the codename "Tempest" (in Polish: *Burza*). Within the framework of this action Home Army troops initiated open armed struggle against the German units, in order to liberate the main towns of Poland, as was the case in Lviv (in Polish: *Lwów*) and Vilnius (in Polish: *Wilno*) during the operation "The Gate of Dawn" (in Polish: *Ostra Brama*), as well as in Volhynia (in Polish: *Wołyń*), a historic region in western Ukraine.

- The role of intelligence in the Union of Armed Struggle and Home Army operations cannot be underestimated. In one of its most notable achievements, the intelligence services pinpointed the production centre of the German Wunderwaffe V1 and V2 rockets. Another prominent department of the Home Army was the Bureau of Information and Propaganda, which carried

out its mission issuing thousands of copies of underground newspapers and brochures.

- The threat to the existence of an independent Poland, following the establishment of Soviet-sponsored communist Polish Committee of National Liberation, contributed to a dramatic decision taken by the supreme authority of the Polish Underground State to start the uprising in Warsaw on 1 August 1944. Despite the heroic two-month armed resistance, the uprising collapsed. Before surrendering, General Bór-Komorowski appointed General Leopold Okulicki, pseudonym „Bear” (in Polish: *Niedźwiadek*) as his successor. Okulicki was the last commander of the Home Army. Having been arrested in March 1945, he died in December 1946 in the Butirka prison in Moscow.

- The Government Delegation for Poland also operated in the structures of the Polish Underground State. In May 1940 Colonel Jan Skorobohaty-Jakubowski, pseudonym "Vogel", was sent from Paris to Warsaw, as a temporary Government Delegate. On 3 December 1940, General Sikorski, the Prime Minister appointed the two Heads of the Delegation: Adolf Bniński – for territories annexed to the Third Reich - and Cyril Ratajski – for the area known as the General Government. The Delegation developed field structures, covering specific provinces (Regional Government Delegations) and counties (County Government Delegations).

- Following the arrest of Adolf Bniński and resignation of Cyril Ratajski, Professor Jan Piekalkiewicz took over the post of the Government Delegate for Poland. After Piekalkiewicz's arrest (on 19 February 1943) the successor to the post was Jan Stanisław Jankowski - arrested (already as the Deputy Prime Minister of Poland) by the NKVD in March 1945. He died in March 1953 in a Soviet prison in Vladimir on the Klyazma.

Waldemar Grabowski Ph.D
Institute of National Remembrance

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FACE VALUE **10 ZŁ**

metal **Ag 925/1000** ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **32.00 mm**
weight **14.14 g** ■ mintage (volume) **50,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: On the left-hand side at the top, an image of the Eagle established as the emblem of the Republic of Poland. Below the Eagle, an inscription: ZŁ 10 ZŁ. By the Eagle, against the background of a stylised image of an insurgent armband, an image of the Fighting Poland emblem, with the inscriptions: DELEGA-/TURA RZĄDU/NA KRAJ-KWP-/KWC-WACH-/LARZ-AKCJA V1-V2/BURZA/AKCJA OSTRĄ/BRAMA-WALKA/CYWILNA/BIP/ZEGOTA/KEDYW/27 WO-/ŁYŃSKA/DYWIZJA PIECHOTY AK/POWSTANIE WARSZAWSKIE/44SZPZVZAK (Government Delegation for Poland, Polish Victory Service, Directorate of Underground Resistance, Directorate of Civil Resistance, Folding Fan, Operation V1, V2, Operation Tempest, Operation Gate of Dawn, Civil Resistance, Bureau of Information and Propaganda, Polish Council for Aid to Jews (Zegota), Directorate of Sabotage and Diversion KEDYW, 27th Volhynia Infantry Division of the Home Army, Warsaw Uprising, 44 Polish Victory Service, Union of Armed Struggle, Home Army) and on the left arm of the anchor, in inscription: 19/39, on the right arm of the anchor, in inscription: 19/45. At the top, a semicircular inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland) 2009. The mint's mark: M/W, under the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: On the left-hand side a stylised bust of Major General Stefan Rowecki. Against its background, a stylised image of a fragment of the Fighting Poland emblem. Diagonally, a stylised image of an insurgent armband with the inscriptions: SZP ZWZ AK (Polish Victory Service, Union of Armed Struggle, Home Army) and 1939/1945. Below the inscriptions: GEN. DYW. (Major General) MICHAŁ/KARASZEWICZ-TOKARZEWSKI „TORWID"/GEN. DYW. (Major General) TADEUSZ KOMOROWSKI „BÓR"/GEN. BRYG. (Brigadier) LEOPOLD OKULICKI/„NIEDŹWIADEK” In the rim, an inscription, GEN. DYW. (Major General) STEFAN ROWECKI „GROT” POLSKIE PAŃSTWO PODZIEMNE (The Polish Underground State).

Coin designer: **URSZULA WALERZAK**



FACE VALUE **2 ZŁ**

metal **CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy** ■ finish **standard** ■ diameter **27.00 mm**
weight **8.15 g** ■ mintage (volume) **1,000,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: An image of the Eagle established as the state emblem of the Republic of Poland. On the sides of the Eagle, the notation of the year of issue : 20-09. Below the Eagle an inscription: ZŁ 2 ZŁ; in the rim, an inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland), preceded and followed by six pearls. The Mint's mark: M/W, under the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: In the central part, an image of the Fighting Poland emblem. In the background a stylised image of a map with the Republic of Poland as at 1939, with the division into Home Army regions. Above, an inscription: 1939/1945. A semicircular inscription: POLSKIE PAŃSTWO PODZIEMNE (The Polish Underground State).

ON THE EDGE: the inscription: NBP, repeated eight times, every second one inverted by 180 degrees, separated by stars.

Obverse designer: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**
Reverse designer: **URSZULA WALERZAK**