

On 27 August 2020, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a silver coin of the series "The Enduring Soldiers Accursed by the Communists" – 75th Anniversary of the "Freedom and Independence" Association, with a face value of 10 złoty.

75th Anniversary of the "Freedom and Independence" Association

The reverse of the coin carries the images of the WiN cross and white-and-red flag with the symbol of Fighting Poland, and the inscription: 2 IX 1945.



The "Freedom and Independence" Association (full name: the Resistance Movement without War and Sabotage "Freedom and Independence"), better known for its Polish acronym WiN, was a successor of the Polish Home Army in its ideas and activity. WiN was mostly made up of Home Army soldiers and it also took over its organisational structures. As opposed to the Home Army, it was civilian in principle, yet there were also numerous military units among its ranks, particularly in the Białystok, Lublin and Warsaw districts. Hence WiN was an organisation that was both military and political. That is why the successive four commandants of WiN (who would also identify themselves as "presidents" to emphasise their civilian role) – Col. Jan Rzepecki, Col. Franciszek Niepokólczycki, Lt. Col. Wincenty Kwieciński and Lt. Col. Łukasz Ciepliński – should also be referred to as Home Army commandants.

The biggest underground army in the German-occupied Europe – the Home Army (AK) – was disbanded on 19 January 1945 by General Leopold Okulicki. Nonetheless, as the country was threatened by Soviet oppression, the guiding idea of AK was reborn on 7 May 1945 in the form of the Armed Forces Delegation for Poland, which in turn established the "Freedom and Independence" Association on 2 September 1945.

Initially, WiN's goal was to prevent the electoral victory of communists in Poland by political means, keeping the free world informed of their crimes, lies, frauds and deception; however, the mounting Soviet terror forced the organisation to continue its armed struggle as well. Guerrilla units defended civilians against the occupier, forcibly entered into prisons freeing the prisoners, attacked the headquarters of the Department of Security and the Citizens' Militia, fought with the Internal Security Corps and liquidated the functionaries and agents of the Communist regime.

In 1946, the organisation placed itself under the authority of the Polish government-in-exile and the Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces in the West. WiN did not recognize the Polish borders established in Yalta, it demanded that the Red Army and NKVD leave Poland, and protested against political prosecution and the destruction and pillage of the national property. It looked to the Western states for aid, hoping for the outbreak of World War III in particular. Its social agenda included the socialisation of enterprises, universal education and agricultural reform.

The association was being broken up by Soviet and Communist agencies. Its members either died in combat or were arrested, subjected to brutal investigations and very often murdered under unlawful court sentences.

From spring 1948, the association was under the control of the so-called 5th WiN Headquarters, which proved to be a set-up by the Department of Security, as a consequence of which by December 1952 the organisation had been totally infiltrated and compromised (including the foreign delegacy), deprived of its means of operation and broken up.

On 1 March 1951, at the Communist prison at Rakowiecka Street in Warsaw, seven commanding officers of the last pro-independence 4th Headquarters (Chief Command) of WiN, with Lt. Col. Łukasz Ciepliński at the helm, were murdered with a shot in the back of the head. In 2011, to commemorate the heroic attitude of the pro-independence and anti-communist underground movement, the 1st of March was established as an official national holiday in Poland – the Enduring Soldiers' National Remembrance Day.

Tadeusz Płużański

10 zł



Metal: Ag 925/1000
Finish: proof, pad printing
Diameter: 32.00 mm
Weight: 14.14 g
Edge (side): plain
Mintage: up to 11,000 pcs
Coin designer: Dobrochna Surajewska
Issuer: NBP

The coins, commissioned by NBP, were struck by Mennica Polska S.A.

The obverse of the silver coin features prison bars torn apart.



All Polish coins feature:
face value, image of the Eagle established as the state emblem of the Republic of Poland
inscription: Rzeczpospolita Polska, year of issue.

Narodowy Bank Polski holds the exclusive right to issue the currency of the Republic of Poland, including collector coins and banknotes.

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

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.

On 15 September 2020, Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation a silver coin with a face value of 10 złoty and a silver coin with a face value of 10 złoty (square) of the series “History of Polish Popular Music” – Krzysztof Klenczon.

Information on the issue schedule can be found at the www.nbp.pl/money website.

Collector items issued by NBP are sold at NBP regional branches and in the NBP online shop.

Should you have any questions, please contact our consultants at the following phone numbers:
(+48) 22 185 91 59 and (+48) 22 185 13 03.

NBP

Narodowy Bank Polski

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Independence” Association*



Collector coins