



In February 2017 Narodowy Bank Polski is launching an exceptional series of silver collector coins "The Enduring Soldiers Accursed by the Communists". We wish to commemorate the soldiers who died fighting in the post-war Polish pro-independence, anti-Soviet and anti-communist underground.

Despite the end of World War II, approximately 200,000 soldiers continued to fight for a free Poland, of which 20,000 were killed in battle. Thousands more ended up in the brutal torture chambers of the prisons of the UB (Poland's Department of Security) and the NKVD (the Soviet secret service agency). The series will commemorate soldiers who opposed the Soviet terror with courage, valour and sacrifice. We have selected the most significant and dramatic biographies, which have become symbols of patriotism. However, Narodowy Bank Polski wants this series to commemorate the whole of the post-war anti-communist underground.

I believe that the issue of the collector coins in the series "The Enduring Soldiers Accursed by the Communists" will be one of the measures that will restore this part of Polish history to the popular consciousness. May these coins become an expression of respect and appreciation for the fighters for an independent Republic of Poland in the difficult post-war era, which was a period of dramatic trials and tribulations for those who could not accept the so-called Yalta order – trials, from which they emerged victorious, because in accordance with the inscription placed on the coins of the series, "they acted as they should".

prof. Adam Glapiński President Narodowy Bank Polski

The Enduring Soldiers Accursed by the Communists

The name "Enduring Soldiers" or "Cursed Soldiers" is used to refer to the post-war Polish independence and anti-Communist underground movement. Even though World War II had formally ended, as many as 200,000 soldiers of the Second Polish Republic continued to fight for a free Poland. The struggle against the Soviets and their Polish collaborators went on for the next 10 years, i.e. until the mid-1950s. Between 1945-1947 the guerrillas were often the sole masters of the territory. Their principal goal was to defend Poles against Soviet terror – plundering, rape and murder.

The soldiers belonged to various formations of the armed underground movement – Freedom and Independence (Zrzeszenie "Wolność i Niezawisłość"), National Armed Forces (Narodowe Siły Zbrojne), National Military Union (Narodowe Zjednoczenie Wojskowe), Underground Polish Army (Konspiracyjne Wojsko Polskie), Resistance Movement of the Home Army (Ruch Oporu Armii Krajowej), the 5th and 6th Vilnius Brigade of the Home Army, Józef Kuraś "Błyskawica" Group and many others, including youth organizations.

The majority of these had already begun their struggle for Poland during the defensive war against the Germans and Soviets in September 1939. Some joined the underground army in the successive years of the occupation. They all swore an oath of allegiance to the Republic of Poland, and steadfast defended the values of "God, Honour and Fatherland" until the end. Among them were nationalists, Christian democrats and peasant activists, as well as supporters of Piłsudski and socialists – the entire spectrum of pre-war Poland, excluding, of course, communists, who already had a hostile attitude to the Polish state during the Second Polish Republic.

As the war was drawing to an end and the scales tipped in favour of the Allies, it became clear (especially after the fall of the Warsaw Uprising) that the Soviet Red Army had no intention of liberating Poland and that its secret service agency, the NKVD, had other aims than assisting the Home Army in combating the Germans. Thus, despite the capitulation of Nazi Germany in May 1945, the fight for Poland's freedom and independence continued, also in the eastern territories of the pre-war Poland incorporated into the Soviet Union.

They had to fight in an extremely difficult and as it turned out hopeless situation – with the Soviet empire pacifying Poland on the one hand, and the West, which had betrayed the country, leaving it at the mercy of Stalin, on the other hand. The hopes for World War III -a conflict between the West and the East-were also soon dispelled. Communist activity (widespread terror, rigging the "3 x Yes" referendum of June 1946 and the parliamentary elections of January 1947) left no doubts as to the real intentions of the new authorities imposed on Poland. Moreover, amnesties declared by the Communists for armed Polish soldiers were a trap. Coming out of hiding meant death or at best – imprisonment and repression. However, soldiers remained faithful to the Republic of Poland to the end – either by remaining at their posts in the underground or maintaining their dignity during investigations. "The value of a struggle," according to Prof. Henryk Elzenberg, "is not in the chances for the success of the cause for which it was taken up, but in the greatness of the cause."

The balance of this uneven fight was tragic – over 20,000 Enduring Soldiers died in battle. Tens of thousands more ended up in torture cells of the NKVD or Poland's Department of Security (Urząd Bezpieczeństwa) or Military Information and in labour camps, and many were deported to the Soviet Union. Those who did not surrender to the Soviet invaders – commanders and soldiers, priests, political activists, as well as scouts and school students – faced repression, long-term imprisonment and very often death. As with the Polish officers executed in Katyń, not only did Poland lose soldiers, but for the second time also its elites and high command. In civilian life, the Enduring Soldiers were clerks, engineers, lawyers, artists...

More and more often historians tend to refer to the struggle of the Enduring Soldiers as the last Polish uprising – the anti-Soviet uprising. Its idea, character and territorial range closely resembles the January Uprising of 1863. Not only did the Soviets and their Polish collaborators murder them, but they also tried to kill any memory of them. In the end the Communists' diabolical plan to wipe out every trace of them, to efface them from history and to accurse them did not succeed. Today the Enduring Soldiers are gradually regaining their place in the consciousness of Poles.

Tadeusz Płużański

On 27 February 2017, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a silver coin inaugurating the series "The Enduring Soldiers Accursed by the Communists" with a face value of 10 zł.

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

The reverse features the images of the Enduring Soldiers, a white-and-red flag with the symbol of Fighting Poland and the inscription "They acted as they should".





Face value: PLN 10 Metal: Ag 925/1000

Finish: proof; pad printing Diameter: 32.00 mm

Weight: 14.14 g Edge: plain

Mintage: up to 17,000 pcs

Designer: Dobrochna Surajewska

Issuer: NBP

The coins, commissioned by NBP, were minted by

Mennica Polska S.A.

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



WITOLD

Witold Pilecki

13 May 1901

Ołoniec PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 25 May 1948 in Warsaw DATE OF DEATH

cavalry captain of the Polish Army, posthumously awarded the Order of the White Eagle, promoted to the rank of colonel





Feliks Selmanowicz

6 June 1904

Vilnius

executed on 28 August 1946 in Gdańsk DATE OF DEATH

second lieutenant of the Polish Home Army, posthumously promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel





Henryk Glapiński

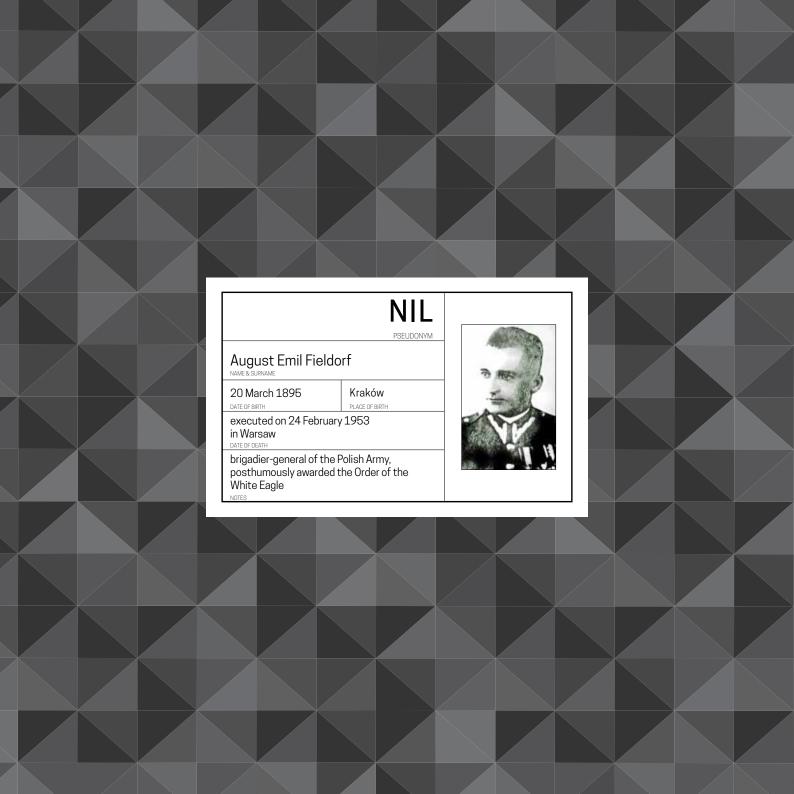
28 December 1915

Częstochowa PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 19 February 1947 in Łódź DATE OF DEATH

captain of the Polish Army







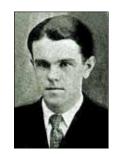
Hieronim Dekutowski

24 September 1918

Dzików PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 7 March 1949 in Warsaw

major of the Polish Home Army, posthumously promoted to the rank of colonel





Zdzisław Broński

24 December 1912

Radzic Stary PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 21 May 1949 in Dąbrówka DATE OF DEATH

captain of the Polish Army posthumously awarded the Order of Polonia Restituta





Stanisław Kasznica

25 July 1908

Lvov PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 12 May 1948 in Warsaw

second lieutenant of the Polish Army, lieutenant-colonel and the last chief commander of the National Armed Forces (NSZ)





PSEUDONYM

Łukasz Ciepliński

26 November 1913

Kwilcz PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 1 March 1951 in Warsaw

lieutenant-colonel of the Polish Army, posthumously awarded the Order of the White Eagle, promoted to the rank of colonel





Kazimierz Kamieński

8 January 1919

Markowo-Wólka PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 11 October 1953 in Białystok DATE OF DEATH

captain of the Polish Army, posthumously awarded the Order of Polonia Restituta





Mieczysław Dziemieszkiewicz

25 January 1925

Zagroby PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 13/14 April 1951 in Szyszki DATE OF DEATH

senior sergeant of the National Armed Forces (NSZ), posthumously awarded the Order of Polonia Restituta



WARSZYC

Stanisław Sojczyński NAME & SURNAME

30 March 1910

Rzejowice PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 19 February 1947 in Łódź DATE OF DEATH

captain of the Polish Army, posthumously promoted to the rank of brigadier-general







Józef Kuraś

23 October 1915

Waksmund PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 22 February 1947 in Nowy Targ

lieutenant of the Polish Peasants' Battalions



ŁUPASZKA

Zygmunt Szendzielarz

12 March 1910

Stryj PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 8 February 1951 in Warsaw

cavalry major of the Polish Home Army, posthumously awarded the Order of Polonia Restituta, promoted to the rank of colonel





Władysław Łukasiuk

16 February 1906

Tokary PLACE OF BIRTH

killed on 27 June 1949 in the village of Czaje-Wólka DATE OF DEATH

captain of the Polish Army, posthumously awarded the Order of Polonia Restituta





Henryk Flame

15 January 1918
DATE OF BIRTH

Frysztat PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 1 December 1947 in Zabrzeg

captain of the National Armed Forces





Anatol Radziwonik

20 February 1916

Brańsk PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 12 May 1949
near the village of Raczkowszczyzna
DATE OF DEATH

second lieutenant of the Polish Home Army





Józef Franczak NAME & SURNAME

17 March 1918

Kozice Górne

executed on 21 October 1963 in Majdan Kozic Górnych

sergeant of the Polish Army, posthumously awarded the Order of Polonia Restituta





Marian Bernaciak

6 March 1917

Zalesie, n. Ryki PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 24 June 1946 in the village of Piotrówek

second lieutenant of the Polish Army, major of the Freedom and Independence (WiN)







Kazimierz Dyksiński

14 December 1921

Zimolza PLACE OF BIRTH

killed on 10 June 1954 in Będzyn DATE OF DEATH

soldier of Polish anticommunist military resistance organization (ROAK) and of the National Armed Forces (NSZ)



