

THE ENDURING
SOLDIERS
ACCURSED

BY THE COMMUNISTS



NBP

Narodowy Bank Polski



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”.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Adam Glapiński". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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 steadfastly 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 accuse them did not succeed. Today the Enduring Soldiers are gradually regaining their place in the consciousness of Poles.

Tadeusz Płuzański

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.

INKA

PSEUDONYM

Danuta Siedzikówna

NAME & SURNAME

3 September 1928

DATE OF BIRTH

Guszczewina

PLACE OF BIRTH

**executed on 28 August 1946
in Gdańsk**

DATE OF DEATH

**medical orderly in the 5th Vilnius Brigade of the
Polish Home Army, posthumously appointed
second lieutenant of the Polish Army**

NOTES



WITOLD

PSEUDONYM

Witold Pilecki

NAME & SURNAME

13 May 1901

DATE OF BIRTH

Ołonec

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

NOTES



ZAGOŃCZYK

PSEUDONYM

Feliks Selmanowicz

NAME & SURNAME

6 June 1904

DATE OF BIRTH

Vilnius

PLACE OF BIRTH

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

NOTES



KLINGA

PSEUDONYM

Henryk Glapiński

NAME & SURNAME

28 December 1915

DATE OF BIRTH

Częstochowa

PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 19 February 1947
in Łódź

DATE OF DEATH

captain of the Polish Army

NOTES



NIL

PSEUDONYM

August Emil Fieldorf

NAME & SURNAME

20 March 1895

DATE OF BIRTH

Kraków

PLACE OF BIRTH

**executed on 24 February 1953
in Warsaw**

DATE OF DEATH

**brigadier-general of the Polish Army,
posthumously awarded the Order of the
White Eagle**

NOTES



ZAPORA

PSEUDONYM

Hieronim Dekutowski

NAME & SURNAME

24 September 1918

DATE OF BIRTH

Dzików

PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 7 March 1949
in Warsaw

DATE OF DEATH

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

NOTES



USKOK

PSEUDONYM

Zdzisław Broński

NAME & SURNAME

24 December 1912

DATE OF BIRTH

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

NOTES



WĄSOWSKI

PSEUDONYM

Stanisław Kasznica

NAME & SURNAME

25 July 1908

DATE OF BIRTH

Lvov

PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 12 May 1948
in Warsaw

DATE OF DEATH

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

NOTES



PŁUG

PSEUDONYM

Łukasz Ciepliński

NAME & SURNAME

26 November 1913

DATE OF BIRTH

Kwilcz

PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 1 March 1951
in Warsaw

DATE OF DEATH

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

NOTES



HUZAR

PSEUDONYM

Kazimierz Kamieński

NAME & SURNAME

8 January 1919

DATE OF BIRTH

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

NOTES



RÓJ

PSEUDONYM

Mieczysław Dziemieszkiewicz

NAME & SURNAME

25 January 1925

DATE OF BIRTH

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

NOTES



WARSZYC

PSEUDONYM

Stanisław Sojczyński

NAME & SURNAME

30 March 1910

DATE OF BIRTH

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

NOTES



ZUCH

PSEUDONYM

Antoni Żubryd

NAME & SURNAME

4 September 1918

DATE OF BIRTH

Sanok

PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 24 October 1946
in Malinówka

DATE OF DEATH

captain of the National Armed Forces (NSZ)

NOTES



OGIEŃ

PSEUDONYM

Józef Kuraś

NAME & SURNAME

23 October 1915

DATE OF BIRTH

Waksmund

PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 22 February 1947
in Nowy Targ

DATE OF DEATH

lieutenant of the
Polish Peasants' Battalions

NOTES



ŁUPASZKA

PSEUDONYM

Zygmunt Szendzielarz

NAME & SURNAME

12 March 1910

DATE OF BIRTH

Stryj

PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 8 February 1951
in Warsaw

DATE OF DEATH

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

NOTES



MŁOT

PSEUDONYM

Władysław Łukasiuk

NAME & SURNAME

16 February 1906

DATE OF BIRTH

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**

NOTES



BARTEK

PSEUDONYM

Henryk Flame

NAME & SURNAME

15 January 1918

DATE OF BIRTH

Frysztat

PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 1 December 1947
in Zabrzeg

DATE OF DEATH

captain of the National Armed Forces

NOTES



OLECH

PSEUDONYM

Anatol Radziwonik

NAME & SURNAME

20 February 1916

DATE OF BIRTH

Brańsk

PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 12 May 1949
near the village of Raczkowszczyzna

DATE OF DEATH

second lieutenant of the Polish Home Army

NOTES



LALEK

PSEUDONYM

Józef Franczak

NAME & SURNAME

17 March 1918

DATE OF BIRTH

Kozice Górne

PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 21 October 1963
in Majdan Kozic Górnych

DATE OF DEATH

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

NOTES



ORLIK

PSEUDONYM

Marian Bernaciak

NAME & SURNAME

6 March 1917

DATE OF BIRTH

Zalesie, n. Ryki

PLACE OF BIRTH

executed on 24 June 1946
in the village of Piotrówek

DATE OF DEATH

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

NOTES



SŁONY

PSEUDONYM

Franciszek Majewski

NAME & SURNAME

30 March 1919

DATE OF BIRTH

Bielsko k. Płocka

PLACE OF BIRTH

killed on 26 September 1948
in Węgrzynów

DATE OF DEATH

commander of combat troops 11th
Operational Group of the National Armed
Forces (NSZ)

NOTES



KRUCZEK

PSEUDONYM

Kazimierz Dyksiński

NAME & SURNAME

14 December 1921

DATE OF BIRTH

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)

NOTES



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

All Polish collector coins feature:

- face value
- image of the Eagle established as the state emblem of the Republic of Poland
- inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND)
- year of issue

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.

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

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

Should you have any questions, please contact our consultants at the following phone numbers:

(+48) 22 185 45 96 and (+48) 22 185 13 03