

# O MAUI TE WAKA

## [My Place Of Standing]

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*Hilotele Jzwicki*

RAWATIRI

[36 pages]



NGA HAU E WHA MARAE

O MAUI TE WAKA

[TE WAKA O MAUI]

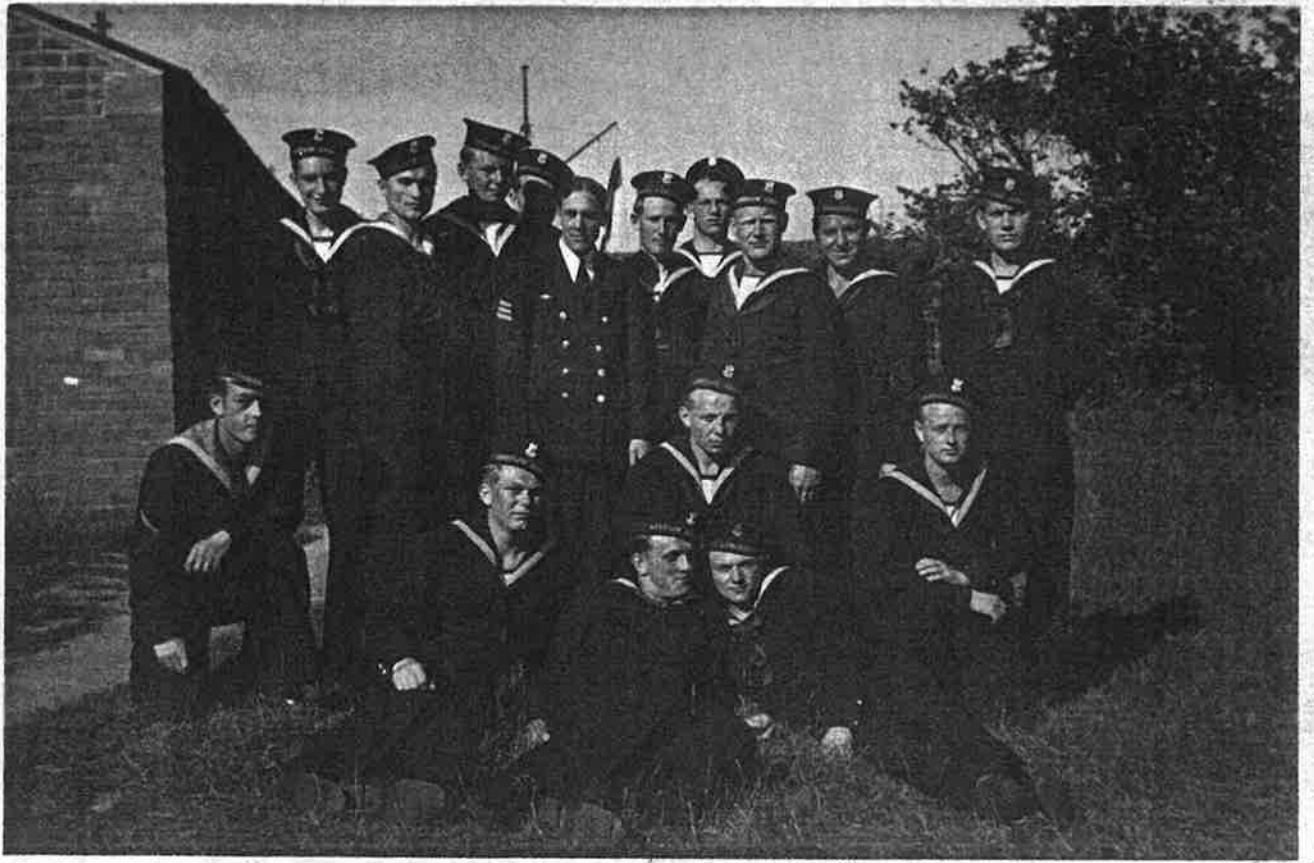


Courtesy Wikipedia.

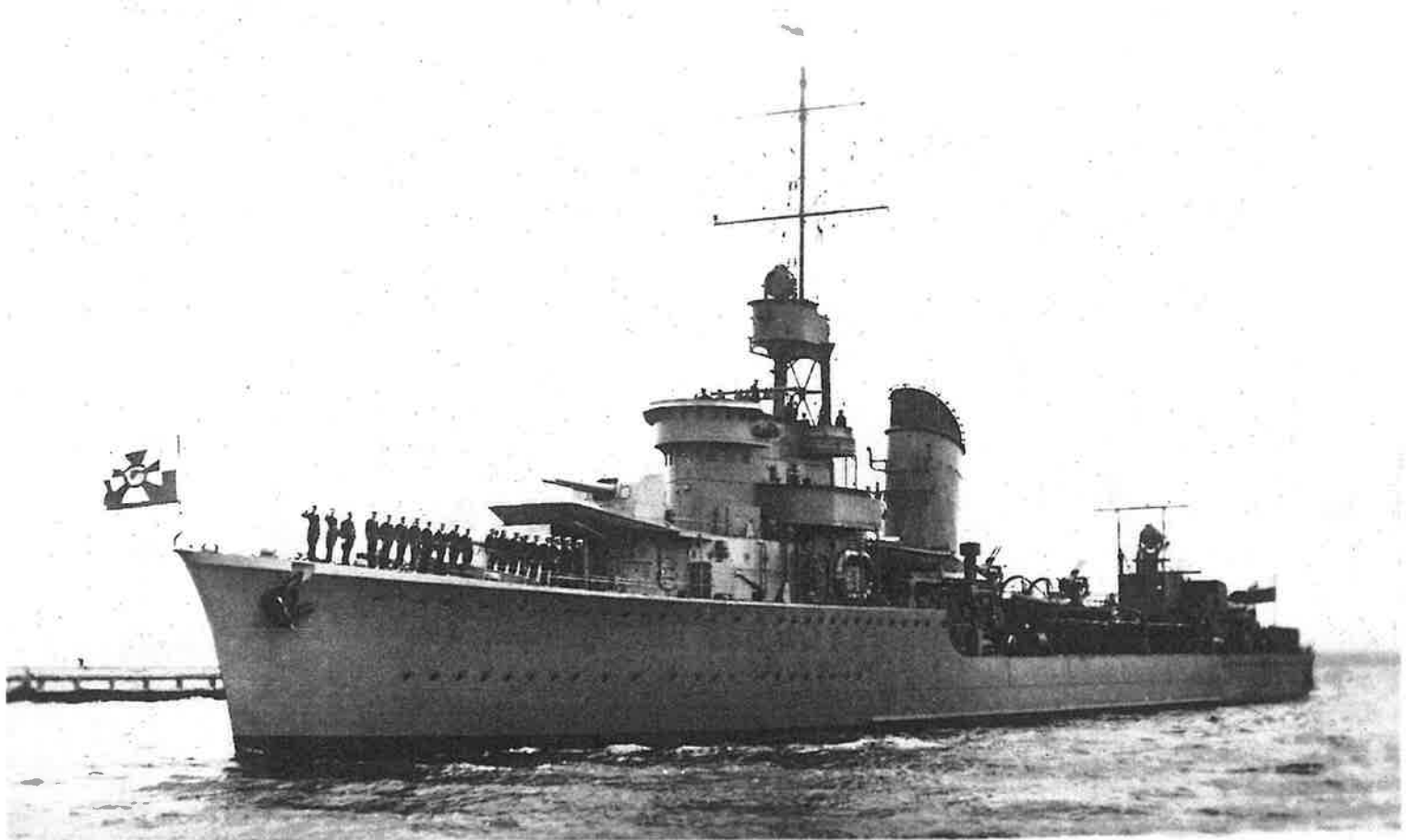
*General Wladyslaw Sikorski*



BOLESŁAW JÓŻWICKI BORN ZA PRUSZKI  
[GONIĄDZ]  
GREAT GRANDMOTHER W RUTKOWSKA BORN WASKI?



GROUP POLISH NAVY UK <sup>^</sup> BOLESŁAW JÓŹWICKI CENTRE BACK.



51.383

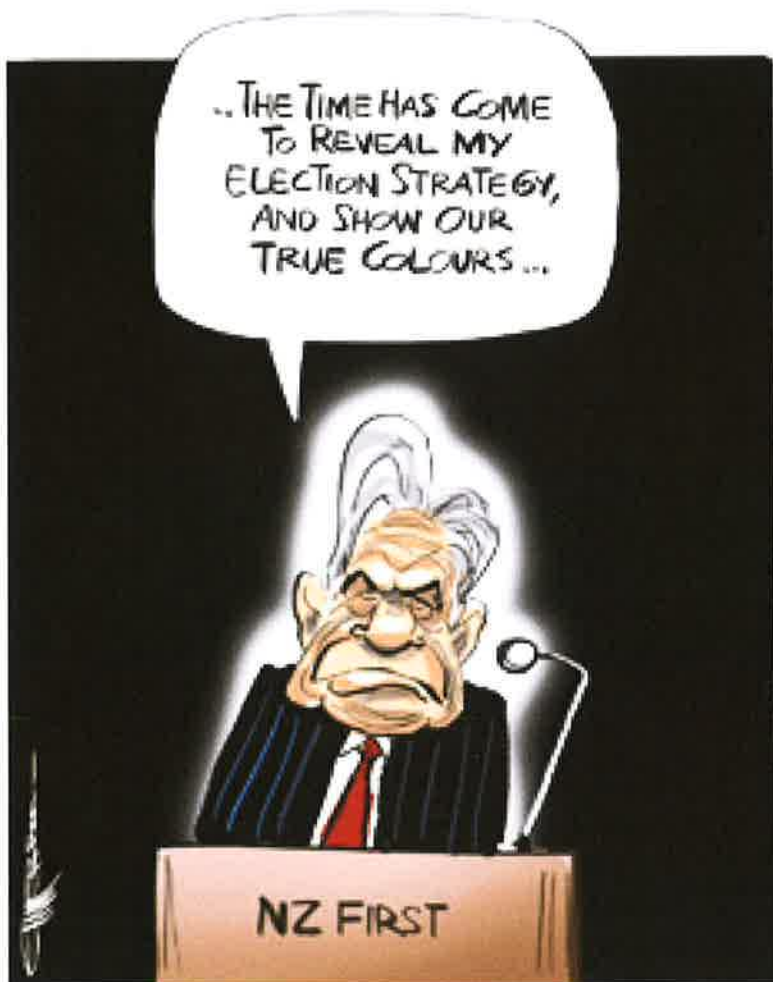
OR POLISH DESTROYER BLYSKAWICA





*The last booby, who knows exactly why you are reading this.*





Courtesy NZ Herald.



Winston Peters reveals NZ First's true colours - Tuesday Sep 06, 2016

# Peters tells Britain to ditch the

## EU

**JO MOIR**

Winston Peters has told the British in a speech at the House of Lords to be "bold and courageous" and ditch the European Union in favour of the Commonwealth.

On June 23, a referendum will decide whether the United Kingdom will exit the European Union and leave behind the 27 other member states.

Peters was invited by the House of Lords to speak on the issue - commonly referred to as "Brexit" - and he took the opportunity to call for Britain to return to the Commonwealth, create a "Commonwealth Free Trade Area" and heal a "rift dating back 43 years".

"Why trade on a continental scale when you could really trade on a global scale?"

"The Commonwealth is now a dynamic powerhouse crossing every time zone and trading session in the world," he said.

The request for Peters to speak at the House of Lords on Thursday (NZT) reflects his international status as a reputable politician.

The NZ First leader, known for his strong views on immigration, raised the issue of British "apprehension and dismay" at the "invasion of EU nationals from countries like Poland and Romania" and England's "seeming inability to do anything about it".

"The UK in the EU is an open door, a wealthy country and a magnet for people from EU countries like Poland and Romania that enjoy open access, work and welfare benefits."

Peters drew on some of the "ridiculous laws" that had come out of the "EU process" and its heavy-handed bureaucracy.

"Laws banning abnormal curvature in cucumbers and bananas, banning children under 8 from blowing up balloons, and making it a crime to eat your own pet horse, but not that of your neighbour, to banning prunes from being advertised as a laxative.

"Anyone who has over-eaten enough prunes knows just how risible and distressing that is.

"In short, ridiculous laws, drafted by high-paid minds, that seem deliberately obtuse," he said.

Peters said any Briton would say the "impact of two million EU workers" in Britain had already had an adverse impact on the nation's economic and social opportunities.

So if Britain was to turn its back on the EU, where would it go?

The Commonwealth, said Peters, was quite different in 2016 to the grouping that Britain "turned its back on in 1973".

"The days of the Commonwealth having nothing but raw commodities are gone.

"Together, we have a population of over 2.3 billion, nearly a third of the world's population. In 2014 the Commonwealth produced GDP of \$10.45 trillion, a massive 17 per cent of gross world product."

"The British people stand on the cusp of an exciting future."

Peters said the world was a far bigger place than the 28 EU member states. "Britain forgot that once, at its present cost. Some of us believe that you won't make that mistake again."



NZ First leader Winston Peters wants Britain to leave the European Union and form a trade bloc with Commonwealth nations.

PHOTO: FAIRFAX NZ

SEE THE MARCH 1968 MARCH IN POLAND

WINSTON, PETERS AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS

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INTERNATIONALLY RENOWN POLITICIAN AND

ORATOR AND CLEARLY THE MOST INTELLIGENT

POLITICIAN IN NEW ZEALAND

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HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RETURN TO HIS

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IN NZ WINSTON IS LEADER OF THE

NZ FIRST PARTY AND WINSTON

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IMMIGRATION TOO! TALLY HO CHAPS!

GOD BLESS QUEEN VICTORIA.

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4	DARA DARI	fear terror sorrow pain cleave split tear Rend
5	BALA BALA-TARA	or young unable to speak young newly risen / of the sun
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			HU	RI	overflow overwhelm.
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# Władysław Sikorski

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Władysław Eugeniusz Sikorski** (Polish pronunciation: [vwaˈdɨswaf ɕiˈkɔɾskʲi]; May 20, 1881 – July 4, 1943) was a Polish military and political leader.

Prior to the First World War, Sikorski established and participated in several underground organizations that promoted the cause of the independence of Poland from the Russian Empire. He fought with distinction in the Polish Legions during the First World War, and later in the newly created Polish Army during the Polish–Soviet War of 1919 to 1921. In that war he played a prominent role in the decisive Battle of Warsaw (1920). In the early years of the Second Polish Republic, Sikorski held government posts, including serving as Prime Minister (1922 to 1923) and as Minister of Military Affairs (1923 to 1924). Following Józef Piłsudski's May Coup of 1926 and the installation of the *Sanacja* government, he fell out of favor with the new régime.

During the Second World War, Sikorski became Prime Minister of the Polish Government in Exile, Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces, and a vigorous advocate of the Polish cause in the diplomatic sphere. He supported the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Poland and the Soviet Union, which had been severed after the Soviet pact with Germany and the 1939 invasion of Poland — however, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin broke off Soviet-Polish diplomatic relations in April 1943 following Sikorski's request that the International Red Cross investigate the Katyń Forest massacre. In July 1943, a plane carrying Sikorski plunged into the sea immediately after takeoff from Gibraltar, killing all on board except the pilot. The exact circumstances of Sikorski's death have been disputed and have given rise to a number of conspiracy theories surrounding the crash and his death. Sikorski had been the most prestigious leader of the Polish exiles, and his death was a severe setback for the Polish cause.

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### General Władysław Sikorski



#### Prime Minister of Poland

1st Prime Minister of the Polish Government in Exile

#### In office

September 30, 1939 – July 4, 1943

**President** Władysław Raczkiewicz

**Preceded by** Felicjan Sławoj Składkowski (in country)

**Succeeded by** Stanisław Mikołajczyk

#### Prime Minister of Poland

9th Prime Minister of the Second Republic of Poland

#### In office

December 16, 1922 – May 26, 1923

**President** Maciej Rataj (interim), Stanisław Wojciechowski

**Preceded by** Julian Nowak

**Succeeded by** Wincenty Witos

#### General Inspector of the Armed Forces

3rd General Inspector of the Armed Forces

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  - 2.2 Polish–Soviet war
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## Early life and First World War

Sikorski was born in Tuszów Narodowy, Galicia, at the time part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.<sup>[1]</sup> He was the third child in his family; his father was Tomasz Sikorski, a school teacher; his mother was Emilia Habrowska.<sup>[1]</sup> His grandfather, Tomasz Kopaszyna Sikorski, had fought and been wounded at the Battle of Olszynka Grochowska in the November Uprising, during which he received the Virtuti Militari medal.<sup>[2]</sup>



Sikorski in his youth

Sikorski attended the gimnazjum in Rzeszów (now Konarski's High School in Rzeszów) from 1893 to 1897, then transferred for a year to a Rzeszów teachers' college.<sup>[1]</sup> In 1899 he attended the Lwów Franciszek Józef Gymnasium, and in 1902 he passed his final high school

exam there.<sup>[1]</sup> Starting that year, young Sikorski studied engineering at the Lwów Polytechnic, specializing in road and bridge construction, and graduated in 1908 with a diploma in hydraulic engineering.<sup>[1]</sup> In 1906 Sikorski

volunteered for a year's service in the Austro-Hungarian army and attended the Austrian Military School, obtaining an officer's diploma and becoming an army reserve second lieutenant (*podporucznik rezerwy*).<sup>[3]</sup>

### In office

7 November 1939 – 4 July 1943

<b>President</b>	Władysław Raczkiewicz
<b>Preceded by</b>	Edward Śmigły-Rydz
<b>Succeeded by</b>	Kazimierz Sosnkowski
<b>Personal details</b>	
<b>Born</b>	Władysław Eugeniusz Sikorski May 20, 1881 Tuszów Narodowy, Austria-Hungary
<b>Died</b>	July 4, 1943 (aged 62) Gibraltar
<b>Political party</b>	None
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	Olga Helena Zubrzewska (1888–1972)
<b>Children</b>	Zofia Leśniowska (1912–1943)
<b>Profession</b>	Soldier, Statesman
<b>Awards</b>	Virtuti Militari
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Military service</b>	
<b>Allegiance</b>	Poland
<b>Service/branch</b>	 Polish Legions  Polish Army
<b>Years of service</b>	1914–1928, 1939–1943
<b>Rank</b>	Lieutenant General
<b>Commands</b>	9th Infantry Division
<b>Battles/wars</b>	Battle of Warsaw, Battle of Lwów, Battle of Niemen

In 1909 he married Helena Zubczewska, whom he met while at the high school in Lwów.<sup>[1][4]</sup> In 1912 they had a daughter, Zofia.<sup>[5]</sup> After graduation he worked for the Galician administration's hydraulic engineering department, working on the regulation of the Vistula river, and later was involved in private enterprises related to construction, real estate and petroleum trade.<sup>[1][3][4]</sup>

During his studies at the Polytechnic, Sikorski became involved in the People's School Association (*Towarzystwo Szkoły Ludowej*), an organization dedicated to spreading literacy among the rural populace.<sup>[1]</sup> Around 1904–1905 he was briefly involved with the *endecja* Association of the Polish Youth "Zet", and then drifted towards paramilitary socialist organizations related to the Polish Socialist Party, which was intent on securing Polish independence.<sup>[3]</sup> He made contact with the socialist movement around 1905–1906 through the *Union for the Resurrection of the Polish Nation* (*Związek Odrodzenia Narodu Polskiego*).<sup>[3]</sup> In 1908, in Lwów, Sikorski—together with Józef Piłsudski, Marian Kukiel, Walery Sławek, Kazimierz Sosnkowski, Witold Jodko-Narkiewicz and Henryk Minkiewicz—organized the secret Union for Active Struggle (*Związek Walki Czynnej*), with the aim of bringing about an uprising against the Russian Empire, one of Poland's three partitioners.<sup>[3][4]</sup> In 1910, likewise in Lwów, Sikorski helped to organize a Riflemen's Association (the *Związek Strzelecki*), became the president of its Lwów chapter, and became responsible for the military arm within the Commission of Confederated Independence Parties (*Komisja Skonfederowanych Stronnictwo Niepodległościowych, KSSN*).<sup>[3][4]</sup> Having a military education, he lectured other activists on military tactics.<sup>[3]</sup>

Upon the outbreak of the First World War in July 1914, Sikorski was mobilized, but through KSSN influence he was allowed to participate in the organizing of the Polish military units, rather than being delegated to other duties by the Austro-Hungarian military command.<sup>[3]</sup> In the first few weeks of the war he became the chief of the Military Department in the Supreme National Committee (*Naczelny Komitet Narodowy, NKN*) and remained in this post until 1916.<sup>[3]</sup> He was a commissioner in charge of the recruitment to the Polish Legions in Kraków, choosing this role over the opportunity to serve in the Legions as a frontline commander.<sup>[3][6]</sup> On 30 September 1914 he was promoted to *podpułkownik* (lieutenant colonel), and soon after that he became the commander of a Legions officer school (*Szkoła Podchorążych*).<sup>[3][4]</sup> The Legions - the army created by Józef Piłsudski to liberate Poland from Russian and, ultimately, Austro-Hungarian and German rule - initially fought in alliance with Austria-Hungary against Russia. From August 1915 there was growing tension between Sikorski, who advocated cooperation with Austria-Hungary, and Piłsudski, who felt that Austria-Hungary and Germany had betrayed the trust of the Polish people.<sup>[3][6]</sup> In 1916 Piłsudski actively campaigned to have the Military Department of NKN disbanded.<sup>[6]</sup> In July that year, Sikorski was promoted to *pułkownik* (colonel).<sup>[4]</sup> Following the Act of 5th November (1916), Sikorski became involved with the Legions' alternatives, the Polish Auxiliary Corps and *Polnische Wehrmacht*.<sup>[6]</sup> In June 1917 Piłsudski refused Austro-Hungarian orders to swear loyalty to the Habsburg Emperor (the "oath crisis") and was interned at the fortress of Magdeburg, while Sikorski abandoned *Polnische Wehrmacht* and returned to the Austro-Hungarian Army.<sup>[6]</sup> In 1918, however, following the February Treaty of Brest-Litovsk and the battle of Rarańcza, Sikorski chose belatedly to side with Piłsudski, announcing solidarity with his actions, protesting against planned separation of Chełm Land

from the planned Polish state, and thus soon joined Piłsudski in internment (he would be held in Dulfalva (Dulovo)).<sup>[4][6]</sup> Nonetheless, this was not enough to smooth the differences between him and Piłsudski, and these two major Polish leaders would drift farther apart in the continuing years.<sup>[4]</sup>

## War with the Bolsheviks

### Polish–Ukrainian war

In 1918 the Russian, Austro-Hungarian and German empires collapsed, and Poland once again became independent, but the borders of the Second Polish Republic were not fully determined and unstable. In the east they would be formed in the escalating conflicts among Polish, Ukrainian, Lithuanian and Soviet forces in what culminated in the Polish–Soviet War (1919–1921).<sup>[7]</sup> Winston Churchill commented: "The war of giants has ended, the wars of the pygmies began."<sup>[8]</sup> Bolshevik leaders saw Poland as a bridge that the communist revolution will have to force to bring communism to the West, and Poland's very existence would soon be at stake.<sup>[4][9]</sup>

### Polish–Soviet war

After his release from internment, from 1 May 1918 Sikorski worked for the Regency Council, organizing the new Polish Army.<sup>[6]</sup> He was soon at the frontlines again, this time in the Polish–Ukrainian War, where troops under his command secured and defended Przemyśl in October–November 1918.<sup>[4][6]</sup>



Sikorski in 1918

Polish independence came in November 1918 with the formation of the Second Republic of Poland. In the course of the Polish–Ukrainian War, and in the opening phase of the Polish–Soviet War, Sikorski, now a high-ranking officer of the Polish Army was involved in further operations in the Galicia region. In January 1919 he commanded troops defending Gródek Jagielloński; in March that year he commanded an infantry division, advancing to Stawczany and Zbrucz.<sup>[6][10]</sup> From 1 August 1918 Sikorski commanded the Polesie Group, and the Polish 9th Infantry Division.<sup>[10]</sup> In order to curtail excesses of the forces under his command, he oversaw trials of 36 officers.<sup>[10]</sup> His forces took Mozyr and Kalenkowicze in March 1920, and he would command the Polesie Group during Poland's Kiev offensive in April 1920, advancing to Dniepr river and Chernobyl region.<sup>[4][10]</sup> On April 1 that year he was promoted to brigade general.<sup>[10]</sup>

As the Polish–Soviet War grew in intensity, in late April 1920 the Red Army of Russia's new Soviet regime pushed back Polish forces and invaded Poland.<sup>[10]</sup> Subsequently Sikorski successfully defended Mozyr and Kalenkowicze until 29 June, but later failed to hold the Brest fortress, although he defended it long enough to allow the Polish forces in the region to retreat in an orderly manner.<sup>[10]</sup> On 6 August he was named the commander of the newly formed Polish 5th Army, which was tasked with holding the front to the north of Modlin, between Narew and Wkra rivers.<sup>[4][10]</sup> He distinguished himself commanding the 5th Army on the Lower Vistula front during the Battle of Warsaw.<sup>[10]</sup> At that time Soviet forces, expecting an easy final victory, were surprised and crippled by the Polish counter-attack. During that battle (sometimes referred to

as "the Miracle at the Vistula") Sikorski stopped the Bolshevik advance north of Warsaw and gave Piłsudski, the Polish commander-in-chief, the time he needed for his counter-offensive; beginning with the 15 August his forces successfully engaged the Soviet 5th and 15th Armies.<sup>[10]</sup> After the Battle of Warsaw, from 30 August, Sikorski commanded the 3rd Army.<sup>[10]</sup> His forces took Pińsk, and fought during the latter stages of the Battle of Lwów and the Battle of Zamość, and then after Battle of Niemen advanced with his forces toward Latvia and deep into Belarus.<sup>[4][10]</sup> The Poles defeated the Soviets, and the Polish–Soviet Treaty of Riga (March 1921) gave Poland substantial areas of Belarus and Ukraine's (Kresy).<sup>[4]</sup> Sikorski's fame was enhanced as he became known to the Polish public as one of the heroes of the Polish–Soviet War. He also kept publishing military science articles during the war itself.<sup>[10]</sup> For his valorous achievements Sikorski was promoted to divisional general on 28 February 1921, and was awarded Poland's highest military decoration, the order of Virtuti Militari, on 15 March that year.<sup>[10]</sup>

## In government and in opposition

Despite their differences, Piłsudski praised Sikorski in his reports, recommending him for Chief of the General Staff and Minister of War positions; only generals Kazimierz Sosnkowski and Edward Rydz-Śmigły received better evaluations from him.<sup>[10]</sup> Sikorski was popular among many soldiers, and in politics, particularly appealing to Polish conservatives and liberals.<sup>[10]</sup> On 1 April 1921 Sikorski replaced general Tadeusz Jordan-Rozwadowski as the chief of the Polish General Staff.<sup>[10]</sup> Between 1922 and 1925 he held a number of high government offices. Based on his analysis, the Polish Council of Ministers adopted new foreign policy that would remain roughly unchanged until the late 1930s (preserving the *status quo* in Europe, and treating Germany and Russia as equal sources of potential threat).<sup>[10]</sup> On 12 December 1922 he issued a general order, stressing the need for the military to stay out of politics.<sup>[10]</sup> After the assassination of President of Poland Gabriel Narutowicz on 16 December 1922, the Marshal of the Sejm (Sejm being the Polish parliament), Maciej Rataj, appointed Sikorski prime minister.<sup>[10]</sup> From December 18, 1922, to May 26, 1923, Sikorski served as Prime Minister and also as Minister of Internal Affairs, and was even considered as possible President.<sup>[10]</sup> During his brief tenure as prime minister, he became popular with the Polish public and carried out essential reforms in addition to guiding the country's foreign policy in a direction that gained the approval and cooperation of the League of Nations and tightened Polish–French cooperation. He obtained recognition of Poland's eastern frontiers from the UK, France and the United States during the Conference of Ambassadors on 15 March



Sikorski in 1923



Sikorski with Marshal of France Ferdinand Foch (1923)

1923<sup>[11]</sup> He aided Treasury Minister Władysław Grabski's reforms aiming at curtailing inflation and reforming the currency, and supported ethnic minorities.<sup>[10]</sup> His government nonetheless lost support in the Sejm and resigned on 26 May 1923.<sup>[11]</sup>

From 30 September 1923 to 1924 he held the post of Chief Inspector of Infantry (*Generalny Inspektor Piechoty*).<sup>[11]</sup> From 17 February 1924 to 1925, under Prime Minister Grabski, he was Minister of Military Affairs and guided the modernization of the Polish military; he also created the Korpus Ochrony Pogranicza.<sup>[11]</sup> He worked actively to promote the cause of the Polish-French military alliance.<sup>[11]</sup> His proposal to increase the powers of the Minister of Military Affairs while reducing those of the Chief Inspector of the Armed Forces met with sharp disapproval from Piłsudski, who at that time was gathering many opponents of the current government.<sup>[4][11]</sup> From 1925 to 1928 Sikorski commanded Military Corps District (*Okręg Korpusu*) VI in Lwów.<sup>[11]</sup>

A democrat and supporter of the Sejm, Sikorski declared his opposition to Józef Piłsudski's May coup d'état in 1926;<sup>[11]</sup> however he remained in Lwów, refused to dispatch his forces, and played no significant role in the short struggle surrounding the coup.<sup>[4][11]</sup> In 1928 he was relieved by Piłsudski of his command, and while he remained on active service, he received no other posting.<sup>[11]</sup> That year also saw the publication of his book on the Polish–Soviet War, *Nad Wisłą i Wkrą. Studium do polsko–radzieckiej wojny 1920 roku* (At the Vistula and the Wkra Rivers: a Contribution to the Study of the Polish–Soviet War of 1920).<sup>[11]</sup> He would spend the following years studying military theory, publishing works on military theory, history and foreign policy.<sup>[11]</sup> His most famous work was his 1934 book *Przyszła wojna – jej możliwości i charakter oraz związane z nimi zagadnienia obrony kraju* (lit. *War in the Future: Its Capacities and Character and Associated Questions of National Defense*, published in English in as *Modern warfare. Its character, its problems* in 1943), in which he predicted the return of the maneuver warfare.<sup>[11][12]</sup> He wrote several other books and many articles, foreseeing, among other things, the rapid militarization of Germany.<sup>[4]</sup>

In due course, soon after he was relieved of his command, and as a semi-dictatorial *Sanacja* regime was established, Sikorski joined the anti-Piłsudski opposition.<sup>[12]</sup> Sikorski largely withdrew from politics, spending much of his time in Paris, France, and working with the French Ecole Supérieure de Guerre (war college). Even after the death of Piłsudski in 1935, he was still marginalized, politically and militarily, by Piłsudski's successors.<sup>[12]</sup> In February next year, together with several prominent Polish politicians (Wincenty Witos, Ignacy Paderewski, and General Józef Haller) he joined the Front Morges, an anti-Sanacja political grouping.<sup>[12]</sup>

## Prime Minister in exile

In the days before Poland was invaded by Germany in September 1939, and during the invasion itself, Sikorski's request for a military command continued to be denied by the Polish Commander in Chief, Marshal Edward Rydz-Śmigły.<sup>[12]</sup> Sikorski escaped through Romania to Paris, where on 28 September he joined Władysław Raczkiwicz and Stanisław Mikołajczyk in a Polish government-in-exile, taking command of the newly formed Polish Armed Forces in France.<sup>[12]</sup> Two days later, on September 30,

president Raczkiewicz called him to serve as the first Polish prime minister in exile.<sup>[12][13]</sup> On 7 November he became Commander in Chief and General Inspector of the Armed Forces (*Naczelny Wódz i Generalny Inspektor Sił Zbrojnych*), following Rydz-Śmigły's resignation.<sup>[12]</sup> Sikorski would also hold the position of the Polish Minister of Military Affairs, thus uniting in his person all control over the Polish military in war time.<sup>[12]</sup>

During his years as prime minister in exile, Sikorski personified the hopes and dreams of millions of Poles, as reflected in the saying, "When the sun is higher, Sikorski is nearer" (Polish: "*Gdy słońce jest wyżej, to Sikorski bliżej*").<sup>[4][12]</sup> At the same time, from early on he had to work to reconcile the pro- and anti-Piłsudski's factions.<sup>[4][12][14]</sup>

His government was recognized by the western Allies. Nonetheless Sikorski's government struggled to get its point of view heard by France and the United Kingdom.<sup>[14]</sup> The western Allies refused to recognize the Soviet Union as an aggressor, despite the Soviet invasion of Poland on 17 September 1939.<sup>[14]</sup> Furthermore, he struggled to secure resources needed to recreate the Polish Army in exile.<sup>[14]</sup>

Poland, even with its territories occupied, still commanded substantial armed forces: the Polish Navy had sailed to Britain,<sup>[15]</sup> and many thousands of Polish troops had escaped via Romania and Hungary or across the Baltic Sea. Those routes would be used until the end of the war by both interned soldiers and volunteers from Poland, who jocularly called themselves "Sikorski's tourists" and embarked on their dangerous journeys, braving death or imprisonment in concentration camps if caught by the Germans or their allies. With the steady flow of recruits, the new Polish Army was soon reassembled in France and in French-mandated Syria.<sup>[16][17]</sup> In addition to that, Poland had a large resistance movement, and Sikorski's policies included founding of the *Związek Walki Zbrojnej* (Union of Armed Struggle), later transformed into *Armia Krajowa* (Home Army), and creation of the Government Delegation for Poland position, to supervise the Polish Underground State in occupied Poland.<sup>[12]</sup>

In 1940 the Polish Highland Brigade took part in the Battle of Narvik (Norway), and two Polish divisions participated in the defense of France, while a Polish motorized brigade and two infantry divisions were in process of forming.<sup>[18]</sup> A Polish Independent Carpathian Brigade was created in French-mandated Syria.<sup>[15]</sup> The Polish Air Force in France had 86 aircraft with one and a half of the squadrons fully operational, and the remaining two and a half in various stages of training.<sup>[15]</sup> Although many Polish personnel had died in the fighting or had been interned in Switzerland following the fall of France, General Sikorski refused French Marshal Philippe Pétain's proposal of a Polish capitulation to Germany.<sup>[4]</sup> On June 19, 1940, Sikorski met with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and promised that Polish forces would fight alongside the British until final victory.<sup>[4]</sup> Sikorski and his government moved to London and were able to evacuate many Polish troops to Britain. After the signing of a Polish-British Military Agreement on August 5, 1940, they proceeded to build up and train the Polish Armed Forces in the West.<sup>[4]</sup> Experienced Polish pilots took part in the Battle of Britain, where the Polish 303 Fighter Squadron achieved the highest number of kills of any Allied squadron.<sup>[19]</sup> Sikorski's Polish forces would form one of the most significant Allied contingents.<sup>[a]</sup>



Sikorski (left) with Polish General Marian Kukiel, Clementine and Winston Churchill, and Polish ambassador Count Edward Raczyński



The Fall of France weakened Sikorski's position, and his proposal to consider building a new Polish army in the Soviet-occupied territories led to much criticism from within the Polish community in exile.<sup>[14]</sup> On 19 July Racziewicz dismissed him from his position as the Prime Minister, replacing him with August Zaleski, however within days pressure from Sikorski's sympathizers, including the British government, made Racziewicz reconsider his decision, and Sikorski was reinstated as the Prime Minister on 25 July.<sup>[14]</sup>

One of Sikorski's political goals was the creation of a Central and Eastern European federation, starting with the Polish-Czechoslovakian confederation.<sup>[20]</sup> He saw such an organization as necessary if smaller states were to stand up to traditional German and Russian imperialism.<sup>[21]</sup> That concept, although ultimately futile, gained some traction around that time, as Sikorski and Edvard Beneš from the Czechoslovak government-in-exile, signed an agreement declaring the intent to pursue closer cooperation on 10 November that year.<sup>[14]</sup> On 24 December 1940 Sikorski was promoted to generał broni.<sup>[14]</sup> In March 1941 he visited the United States; he would visit USA again in March and December 1942.<sup>[5][14]</sup>

Following the German invasion of the Soviet Union ("Operation Barbarossa") in June 1941, Sikorski opened negotiations with the Soviet ambassador to London, Ivan Maisky, to re-establish diplomatic relations between Poland and the Soviet Union, which

had been broken off after the Soviet invasion of Poland in September 1939.<sup>[14]</sup> In December that year, Sikorski went to Moscow with a diplomatic mission.<sup>[4]</sup> The Polish Government reached an agreement with the Soviet Union (the Sikorski-Maisky Pact of 17 August 1941), confirmed by Joseph Stalin in December of that year. Stalin agreed to invalidate the September 1939 Soviet-German partition of Poland, declare the Russo-German Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of August 1939 null and void, and release tens of thousands of Polish prisoners-of-war held in Soviet camps.<sup>[4][14]</sup> Pursuant to an agreement between the Polish government-in-exile and Stalin, the Soviets granted "amnesty" to many Polish citizens, from whom a new army (the Polish II Corps) was formed under General Władysław Anders and later evacuated to the Middle East, where Britain faced a dire shortage of military forces.<sup>[4][14]</sup> The whereabouts of thousands more Polish officers, however, would remain unknown for two more years, and this would weigh heavily on both Polish-Soviet relations and on Sikorski's fate.<sup>[4]</sup>

Initially, Sikorski supported the Polish-Soviet rapprochement, which reignited criticism of his person from some Polish factions.<sup>[4][5]</sup> Nonetheless, Sikorski soon realized that the Soviet Union had plans for Polish territories, which would be unacceptable to Polish public.<sup>[5]</sup> The Soviets began their diplomatic offensive after their first major military victory in the Battle of Moscow, and intensified this policy after the battle of Stalingrad, showing less and less regard for their deals with Poland.<sup>[5][14]</sup> In January 1942 British diplomat Stafford Cripps informed General Sikorski that while Stalin planned to extend Polish borders to the west, by giving Poland Germany's East Prussia, he also wanted to considerably push Poland's eastern frontier



Sikorski (left) with Andrew McNoughton Winston Churchill and Charles de Gaulle



Władysław Anders and Sikorski with Joseph Stalin (1941)

westwards, along the lines of the Versailles concept of the Curzon Line, and acquire Lwów and Wilno, if not both.<sup>[22]</sup> Sikorski's stance on eastern borders was not inflexible; he noted in some documents that some concessions might be acceptable, however, giving up both Lwów and Wilno was not.<sup>[22]</sup>

## Katyn revelation and death

In 1943 the fragile relations between the Soviet Union and the Polish government-in-exile finally reached their breaking point when, on April 13, the Germans announced via the Katyn Commission the discovery of the bodies of 20,000 Polish officers who had been murdered by the Soviets and buried in Katyn Forest, near Smolensk, Russia.<sup>[4]</sup> Stalin claimed that the atrocity had been carried out by the Germans,<sup>[23]</sup> while Nazi propaganda orchestrated by Joseph Goebbels successfully exploited the Katyn massacre to drive a wedge between Poland, the Western Allies and the Soviet Union.<sup>[24]</sup> The Soviet Union, and subsequently Russia, did not acknowledge responsibility for this and similar massacres of Polish officers until the 1990s.<sup>[25]</sup>

When Sikorski refused to accept the Soviet explanation and requested an investigation by the International Red Cross on April 16,<sup>[26]</sup> the Soviets accused the government-in-exile of cooperating with Nazi Germany and broke off diplomatic relations on April 25.<sup>[5][27]</sup>

Beginning in late May 1943, Sikorski began visiting Polish forces stationed in the Middle East.<sup>[5]</sup> In addition to inspecting the forces and raising morale, Sikorski was also occupied with political matters; around that time, a conflict was growing between him and General Władysław Anders, as Sikorski was still open to some normalization of Polish–Soviet relations, to which Anders was vehemently opposed.<sup>[5]</sup> On 4 July 1943, while Sikorski was returning from an inspection of Polish forces deployed in the Middle East, he was killed, together with his daughter, his Chief of Staff, Tadeusz Klimecki, and seven others, when his plane, a Liberator II, serial *AL523*, crashed into the sea 16 seconds after takeoff from Gibraltar Airport at 23:07 hours.<sup>[5][28]</sup> The crash was attributed to cargo on the plane shifting to the back upon takeoff.<sup>[29]</sup> Only the pilot, Eduard Prchal (1911–1984), survived the crash.<sup>[5]</sup> Sikorski was subsequently buried in a brick-lined grave at the Polish War Cemetery in Newark-on-Trent, England on 16 July that year.<sup>[5]</sup> Winston Churchill delivered a eulogy at his funeral.<sup>[30]</sup> On 14 September 1993, his remains were exhumed and transferred via Polish Air Force TU-154M, and escorted by RAF 56 Sqn Tornado F3 jets, to the royal crypts at Wawel Castle in Kraków, Poland.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Aftermath and remembrance

Immediately after the crash, a Polish officer who had witnessed the event from the airstrip began sobbing quietly and repeating: "This is the end of Poland. This is the end of Poland." ("To Polska stracona!")<sup>[4]</sup> General Sikorski's death marked a turning point for Polish influence amongst the Anglo-American allies. No Pole after him would have much sway with the Allied politicians.<sup>[31]</sup> Sikorski had been the most prestigious leader of the Polish exiles and his death was a severe setback for the Polish cause.<sup>[31]</sup> After the Soviets had broken off diplomatic relations with Sikorski's government in April 1943, in May and June Stalin had recalled several Soviet ambassadors for "consultations": Maxim Litvinov from Washington, Fyodor Gusev from Montreal, and Ivan Maisky from London. While Churchill had been publicly supportive of Sikorski's

government, reminding Stalin of his pact with Nazi Germany in 1939 and their joint attack on Poland, in secret consultations with Roosevelt he admitted that some concessions would have to be made by Poland to appease the powerful Soviets. The Polish–Soviet crisis was beginning to threaten cooperation between the western Allies and the Soviet Union at a time when the Poles' importance to the western Allies, essential in the first years of the war, was beginning to fade with the entry into the conflict of the military and industrial giants, the Soviet Union and the United States.<sup>[31]</sup>

The Allies had no intention of allowing Sikorski's successor, Stanisław Mikołajczyk, to threaten the alliance with the Soviets. No representative of the Polish government was invited to the Tehran Conference (28 November – 1 December 1943) or the Yalta Conference (4–11 February 1945), the two crucial events in which the Western Allies and the Soviet Union discussed the shape of the post-war world and decided on the fate of Poland.<sup>[32][33]</sup>

Only four months after Sikorski's death, in November 1943, at Tehran, Churchill and Roosevelt agreed with Stalin that the whole of Poland east of the Curzon Line would be ceded to the Soviets.<sup>[32]</sup> In Teheran, neither Churchill nor Roosevelt objected to Stalin's suggestion that the Polish government in exile in London was not representing Polish interests; as historian Anita Prażmowska noted, "this spelled the end of that government's tenuous influence and raison d'être."<sup>[34]</sup> After the Teheran Conference, Stalin decided to create his own puppet government for Poland, and a Committee of National Liberation (PKWN) was proclaimed in the summer of 1944.<sup>[32]</sup> The Committee was recognized by the Soviet Government as the only legitimate authority in Poland, while Mikołajczyk's Government in London, was termed by the Soviets an "illegal and self-styled authority."<sup>[35]</sup> Mikołajczyk would serve in the Prime Minister's role until 24 November 1944, when, realizing the increasing powerlessness of the government in exile, he resigned and was succeeded by Tomasz Arciszewski, "whose obscurity", in the



words of historian Mieczysław B. Biskupski, "signaled the arrival of the government in exile at total inconsequentiality."<sup>[32][36]</sup> Stalin soon began a campaign for recognition by the Western Allies of a Soviet-backed Polish government led by Wanda Wasilewska, a dedicated communist with a seat in the Supreme Soviet, with General Zygmunt Berling, commander of the 1st Polish Army in Russia, as commander-in-chief of all Polish armed forces.<sup>[37]</sup> By the time of the Potsdam conference in 1945, Poland has been relegated to the Soviet sphere of influence; an abandonment of the Polish government in exile that has led to the rise of the Western betrayal concept.<sup>[38][39]</sup>

A number of poems dedicated to Sikorski have been written by Polish authors during the war.<sup>[5]</sup> In its aftermath, in the People's Republic of Poland, Sikorski's historic role, like that of all the adherents of the London government, would be minimized and distorted by propaganda, and those loyal to the government-in-exile would be liable to imprisonment and even execution. In time, restrictions on discussing Sikorski began to ease; on a centennial anniversary of his birth in 1981, commemorative events were held on the Rzeszów Voivodeship, including an academic conference, and revealing of plaques in Nisko and Leżajsk.<sup>[5]</sup> Ryszard Zieliński published a novel on him, *Wejście w mrok* (1971), and in 1983 a movie, *Katastrofa w*

*Gibraltarze* by Bohdan Poręba, was made.<sup>[5]</sup> The Polish government-in-exile, of which Sikorski was the first Prime Minister, would continue in existence until the end of communist rule in Poland in 1990, when Lech Wałęsa became the first post-communist President of Poland.<sup>[40]</sup> On 17 September 1993 a statue of Sikorski, sculpted by Wiesław Bielak, was revealed in Rzeszów.<sup>[5]</sup> In 1995, Sikorski became the patron of the newly formed Polish 9th Mechanized Brigade.<sup>[41]</sup> In 2003, the Polish parliament (Sejm) declared the year (60th anniversary of Sikorski's death) to be the "Year of General Sikorski".<sup>[4]</sup> A number of streets and schools in Poland bear Sikorski's name.<sup>[5]</sup>

Memory of General Sikorski was also preserved both in Poland and abroad, by organizations like the Sikorski Institute in London.<sup>[5]</sup> In the UK, Sikorski received honoris causa degrees from the University of Liverpool and University of St Andrews.<sup>[5]</sup> In 1981, a commemorative plaque<sup>[5]</sup> was revealed at Hotel Rubens in London,<sup>[5]</sup> where during the war Polish Military Headquarters, including Sikorski's office, were located.<sup>[42]</sup> He is commemorated in London's Portland Place, near the Embassy of Poland, with a larger than life statue, unveiled in 2000.<sup>[43]</sup> A propeller from the plane in which he died is the centrepiece of a new memorial to Sikorski at Europa Point, Gibraltar.<sup>[44]</sup>

## Controversy surrounding his death



The statue of Sikorski on Portland Place, London, erected in 2000

A British Court of Inquiry convened on July 7 that year investigated the crash of Sikorski's Liberator II serial AL 523, but was unable to determine the cause, finding only that it was an accident and "due to jamming of elevator controls", noting that "it has not been possible to determine how the jamming occurred but it has been established that there was no sabotage."<sup>[30]</sup> The Polish government refused to endorse this report, due to the contradiction about the cause not being determined but sabotage being ruled out.<sup>[45]</sup>

The political context of the event, coupled with a variety of curious circumstances, immediately gave rise

to numerous speculation that Sikorski's death had been no accident, and may have been the direct result of a Soviet, British, or even

Polish conspiracy.<sup>[5][31][46][47][48]</sup> Some modern sources still note

that the accident is not fully explained; for example Jerzy Jan Lerski in his *Historical Dictionary of Poland* (1996), entry on the "Gibraltar, Catastrophe of", notes that "there are several theories explaining the event,



Plaque in memory of Sikorski at the Cathedral of St. Mary the Crowned in Gibraltar.

but the mystery was never fully solved."<sup>[36]</sup> However, as Roman Wapiński noted in his biographical entry on Sikorski in the Polish Biographical Dictionary in 1997, no conclusive evidence of any wrongdoing has been found, and Sikorski's official cause of death is listed as an accident.<sup>[5]</sup>

In 2008 Sikorski was exhumed and his remains were examined by Polish scientists, who in 2009 concluded that he died due to injuries consistent with an air crash, and that there was no evidence that Sikorski was murdered, ruling out theories that he was shot or strangled before the incident; however they did not rule out the possibility of sabotage, which is still being investigated by the Polish Institute of National Remembrance.<sup>[49][50][51]</sup> As of 2012, the investigation continues.<sup>[52]</sup>

## Honours and awards

- Order of the White Eagle (posthumously in 1943)<sup>[5]</sup>
- Commander's Cross of the Order of Virtuti Militari (in 1923; previously awarded the Silver Cross in 1921)<sup>[5]</sup>
- Grand Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta (previously awarded the Commander's Cross)<sup>[5]</sup>
- Order of the Cross of Grunwald, I Class - July 2, 1946, posthumously by the State National Council<sup>[53]</sup>
- Cross of Valour - four times<sup>[5]</sup>
- Gold Cross of Merit<sup>[41]</sup>
- Grand Officer of the Order of Leopold (Belgium)
- Grand Cross of the Order of the White Lion (Czechoslovakia)
- Cross of Liberty (Estonia), Classes I and II (Estonia)
- Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour (France)
- War Cross - August 1943, posthumously (Norway)
- Grand Cross of the Order of the Crown of Romania, with spades (Romania)



Seated sculpture of Sikorski as a young officer, Inowrocław, Poland

## Works

General Sikorski was also an active writer on the subjects of military tactics and describing his personal war experiences.<sup>[4]</sup> His works include:

- *Regulamin musztry Związku Strzeleckiego i elementarna taktyka piechoty* (Drill Regulations of the Riflemen's Association and Basic Infantry Tactics), 1911.
- *Nad Wisłą i Wkrą. Studium do polsko–radzieckiej wojny 1920 roku* (At the Vistula and the Wkra Rivers: a Contribution to the Study of the Polish–Soviet War of 1920), 1923; latest edition, Warsaw, 1991.
- *O polską politykę państwową. Umowy i deklaracje z okresu pełnienia urzędu prezesa Rady Ministrów 18 XII 1922–26 V 1923* (Polish National Policies: Agreements and Declarations from My Tenure as Prime Minister, December 18, 1922 to May 26, 1923), 1923.
- *Podstawy organizacji naczelných władz wojskowych w Polsce* (Basic Organization of the Supreme Military Authorities in Poland), 1923.
- *Polesie jako węzeł strategiczny wschodniego frontu* (Polesie as a Strategic Node of the Eastern Front), 1924.
- *La campagne polono-russe de 1920* (French: The Polish-Russian Campaign of 1920), 1928.

# Polish Air Forces in France and Great Britain 7

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Polish Air Forces** (*Polskie Siły Powietrzne*) was the name of the Polish Air Forces formed in France and the United Kingdom during World War II. The core of the Polish air units fighting alongside the Allies were experienced veterans of the 1939 Invasion of Poland. They contributed to the Allied victory in the Battle of Britain and most World War II air operations.

A total of 145 Polish fighter pilots served in the RAF during the Battle of Britain, making up the largest non-British contribution.<sup>[1]</sup> By the end of the war, around 19,400 Poles were serving in the Polish Air Force in Great Britain and in the RAF.<sup>[2]</sup>

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## History

After the joint German-Soviet victory in the Invasion of Poland of 1939, most of the flying personnel and technicians of the Polish Air Force were evacuated to Romania and Hungary, after which thousands found their way to France. There, in accordance with the Franco-Polish Military Alliance of 1921 and the amendments of 1939, Polish Air Force units were to be re-created. However, the French headquarters was hesitant about creating large Polish air units, and instead most Polish pilots were attached to small units, so-called *keys*. Only one large unit was formed, the *Groupe de Chasse polonaise I/145* stationed at Mions airfield. However, it was not until May 18, 1940 that this unit was equipped with planes - and even then these were the completely obsolete Caudron C.714 fighters. After 23 sorties the bad opinion of the plane was

### Polish Air Forces in France and Great Britain



<b>Founded</b>	18 May 1940
<b>Country</b>	United Kingdom, France
<b>Allegiance</b>	Polish government-in-exile
<b>Identification symbol</b>	<p><b>Insignia</b></p>
<b>Fin flash</b>	
<b>Attack</b>	<p><b>Aircraft flown</b></p> Caudron C.714, Hawker Hurricane, Supermarine Spitfire

confirmed by the front-line pilots. It was seriously underpowered and was no match for the enemy fighters of the period. Because of that, on May 25, only a week after the plane was introduced to active service, French minister of war Guy la Chambre ordered all C.710s withdrawn. However, since the French authorities had no other planes to offer, the Polish pilots ignored the order and continued to use the planes. Although the planes were hopelessly outdated compared to the Messerschmitt Bf 109E's they faced, the Polish pilots nevertheless scored 12 confirmed and 3 unconfirmed kills in three battles between June 8 and June 11, losing 9 in the air and 9 more on the ground. Interestingly, among the planes claimed shot down were four Dornier Do 17 bombers, but also three Messerschmitt Bf 109 and five Messerschmitt Bf 110 fighters. The rest of the Polish units were using the slightly more reliable Morane-Saulnier M.S.406 fighter. A small improvised Polish unit at Salon and Clermont-Aulnat (now Clermont-Ferrand Auvergne Airport) operated the equally inadequate Koolhoven F.K.58 from 30 May commanded by Captain Walerian Jasionowski.<sup>[3]</sup>

The Polish Air Force in France had 86 aircraft with one and a half of the squadrons fully operational, and the remaining two and a half in various stages of training.<sup>[4]</sup> Altogether, the Polish pilots flew 714 sorties during the Battle of France. According to Jerzy Cynk, they shot down 51.9 enemy planes (summing fraction kills - 57 kills including 16 shared victories), in addition to 3 unconfirmed kills and 6 3/5 damaged. According to Bartłomiej Belcarz they shot down 53 aircraft, including 19 kills shared with the French. These 53 victories makes 7.93% of 693 allied air victories in the French campaign. At the same time they lost 44 planes (in combat, accidents and on the ground) and lost 8 fighter pilots in combat, 1 missing, and 4 in accidents.<sup>[5]</sup>



Monument to fallen Polish airmen;  
Warsaw, Pole Mokotowskie

## In Britain

After the collapse of France in 1940, a large part of the Polish Air Force contingent was withdrawn to the United Kingdom. However, the RAF Air Staff were not willing to accept the independence and sovereignty of Polish forces.

Air Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding later admitted he had been "a little doubtful" at first about the Polish airmen. The British government informed General Sikorski that at the end of the war, Poland would be charged for all costs involved in maintaining Polish forces in Britain. Initial plans for the airmen greatly disappointed them: they would only be allowed to join the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, wear British uniforms, fly British flags and be required to take two oaths, one to the Polish government and the other to George VI; each officer was required to have a British counterpart, and all Polish pilots were to begin with the rank of "pilot officer", the lowest rank for a commissioned officer in the RAF. Only after posting would anyone be promoted to a higher grade.<sup>[6]</sup> Because of this, the majority of highly experienced Polish pilots had to wait in training centres, learning English Command procedures and language, while the RAF suffered heavy losses due to lack of experienced pilots. On



Polish War Memorial, London

June 11, 1940, a preliminary agreement was signed by the Polish and British governments and soon the British authorities finally allowed for the creation of two bomber squadrons and a training centre as part of the Royal Air Force.

The first squadrons were 300 and 301 bomber squadrons and 302 and 303 fighter squadrons. The fighter squadrons, flying the Hawker Hurricane, first saw action in the third phase of the Battle of Britain in late August 1940, quickly becoming highly effective. Polish flying skills were well-developed from the Invasion of Poland and the pilots were regarded as fearless and sometimes bordering on reckless. Their success rates were very high in comparison to the less-experienced British Commonwealth pilots.<sup>[7]</sup> The 303 squadron became the most efficient RAF fighter unit at that time,<sup>[8]</sup> and RAF commanders protested when government censors refused to allow this fact to appear in the press. By late 1940 the American visitor Ralph Ingersoll reported that the Poles were "the talk of London" because of their victories. Although at first the Poles memorised basic English sentences to identify themselves if shot down over Britain to avoid being mistaken as Germans, the visitor wrote that now "they always have a girl on each arm. They say the girls cannot resist the Poles, nor the Poles the girls".<sup>[9]</sup>

Many Polish pilots flew in other RAF squadrons, usually given nicknames because, as Ingersoll wrote, "the Polish names, of course, are unpronounceable".<sup>[9]</sup> Later, further Polish squadrons were created: 304 (bomber, then Coastal Command), 305 (bomber), 306 (fighter), 307 (night fighter), 308 (fighter), 309 (reconnaissance, then fighter), 315 (fighter), 316 (fighter), 317 (fighter), 318 (fighter-reconnaissance) and 663 (air observation/artillery spotting). The fighter squadrons initially flew Hurricanes, then Supermarine Spitfires, and eventually some were equipped with North American Mustangs. Night fighters used by 307 were the Boulton-Paul Defiant, Bristol Beaufighter and the de Havilland Mosquito. The bomber squadrons were initially equipped with Fairey Battles and Vickers Wellingtons, then Avro Lancasters (300 sqn), Handley Page Halifaxes and Consolidated Liberators (301 sqn) and de Havilland Mosquitos and North American Mitchells (305 sqn). 663 flew Auster AOP Mk Vs.

On April 6, 1944, a further agreement was reached and the Polish Air Forces in Great Britain came under Polish command, without RAF officers. This resulted in the creation of a dedicated Polish Air Force staff college at RAF Weston-super-Mare, which remained open until April 1946.<sup>[10]</sup>

After the war, in a changed political situation, their equipment was returned to the British. Due to the fact that Poland ended the war, under Soviet occupation, only a small proportion of the pilots returned to Poland where they suffered from harassment, while the rest remained exiled from their native country.

A memorial to those Polish pilots killed while on RAF service was erected in 1948 at the south-eastern corner of RAF Northolt aerodrome. On the public highway, it is accessible without entering RAF areas. It is adjacent to the A4180 junction on the A40 Western Avenue; the official name for this junction is "Polish War Memorial". A large memorial to Polish Air Force squadrons in the war is situated on the floor of the north aisle of the reconstructed Wren church, St Clement Danes, London.



Polish Air Force memorial, St Clement Danes, London



The Polish-American fighter ace Francis S. "Gabby" Gabreski flew his first combat missions attached to a Polish RAF squadron.

King George VI, on visiting a Polish squadron, asked a Polish airman what was the toughest thing he had to deal with in the war. The reply was "King's Regulations...."

## Polish Volunteer Air Force Squadrons Coat of Arms

When the Polish RAF squadrons were formed, a series of badges or coats of arms were designed for each of the Polish squadrons or flying units with the exception of 945 & 929 Balloon Squadrons, 1586 Flight and 6(C) OTU.

Some of the squadron badges were based on squadron or escadrille badges of Polish flying units pre-1939 before the Second World War.

Some were long established such as 303's Kościuszko badge and some were designed specially for the large and growing number of flying units being formed in the RAF.

300 Squadron's badge has "CCC" meaning "300" in Roman numerals. It was the first Polish RAF squadron formed. It combines the coats of arms of both Poland and England - it has the Polish White Eagle "Orzeł Biały" (an eagle argent armed, crowned) and it has the English Lion (a lion passant guardant, crowned).

301 Squadron was two separate squadrons with two different roles at different times and each used a different squadron badge. In July 1940, 301 Bomber Squadron was formed. It closed in March 1943 and most of their crews and aircraft were merged with 300 Squadron. Their badges were :

The first 301 Bomber Squadron used an inverted hexagon badge with a white background and a Pomeranian red griffin rampant shield design, very similar to the coat of arms of Pomerania. The identical badge can be seen on photos of PZL.23 Karaś light bombers fighting against German invaders in September 1939;

The new 301 Transport Squadron was formed in November 1944 and operated in North Africa and in Italy for Special Duties flights. It used a circular badge with a Polish Eagle, and below it - a Pomeranian red griffin passant shield - and a Maid of Warsaw "Syrena" shield, with the number "301" below. The use of the griffin refers to the earlier 301 Squadron, but it wrongly shows a griffin passant (walking) instead of the original griffin rampant.

302 Squadron's badge uses an old Polish design previously used for 131 and 132 Escadrilles, the closest is the blue wings version of that badge from 132 Esc. The diamond shape badge includes a red, white and blue background from both the French and UK flags and it has both the French Armée de l'Air "I/145" unit number and "302".

303 Squadron's badge is the same as the older Polish "Kościuszko" unit, used for 111 Escadrille in the Brygada Poscigowa (Pursuit Brigade) tasked with the defence of Warsaw. But, in the RAF badge it has "303" added below.

304 Squadron's badge shows a bomb and a "V" ("Fifth") reference which could be for a Polish unit, or it may refer to the fact that 304 Sqn was the fifth unit both by numerical position (300-304) and it was the fifth Polish squadron formed by date, or it may refer to "V for Victory".

305 Squadron's badge uses a graphic image of a feather, a letter "P" probably for Polska ("Poland") and a spear signifying launched attack and the colour roundel of the RAF and the square roundel of the Polish Air Force. The squadron number "305" is added.

306 Squadron's badge uses an old Polish design previously used for 141 and 142 Escadrilles. The main differences are: 141 & 142 had an inverted hexagon, 306 uses a diamond shape. Also in the 306 badge there is a bear and tree, a symbol for Warwickshire, UK (and Madrid).

307 Squadron's badge uses a crescent moon, an aircraft and an Eagle Owl derived from the heroic exploits of The Lwów Eaglets (Polish: Orłęta Lwowskie) young fighters who died defending the city of Lwow in Galicia, Poland from invading Ukrainian & Russian forces during the Polish-Ukrainian War (1918–1919). The name "Eagle Owls" is also appropriate because 307 Squadron's role was night-fighter defence.

308 Squadron's badge uses an old Polish design previously used for 121 Escadrille. It uses the same emblem but facing the opposite way (right instead of left) and it is now enclosed in a diamond shape.

315 Squadron's badge uses an old Polish design previously used for 112 Escadrille in the Brygada Poscigowa (Pursuit Brigade) tasked with the defence of Warsaw. The only difference is that it was rotated 30 degrees clockwise so the triangle is pointing down instead of left, with the bird more vertical and "315" was added.

316 Squadron's badge uses an old Polish design previously used for 113 Escadrille in the Brygada Poscigowa (Pursuit Brigade) tasked with the defence of Warsaw. The only difference is that it was rotated 30 degrees clockwise so the triangle is pointing down instead of left, with the owl more vertical and "316 SQ" was added.

317 Squadron's badge uses an old Polish design previously used for 151 and 152 Escadrilles in the pre-war Polish "Narew Army Group". The blue version of that badge for 151 Esc. is closest to the 317 Sqn. badge.

318 Squadron's badge uses the coat of arms of the City of Gdansk - a red shield with two white crosses and a golden crown above. The only additions are the golden wings surrounding the shield and the number "318" at the top.

663 Squadron's badge uses the Polish red and white chequered square "roundel" set as a diamond with a Polish eagle flying and carrying an artillery shell. It has the letters "DSA" beside the number "663".

NOTE : In the Polish Air Force, their Air Force unit badges had two versions depending on which side of the aircraft they were painted, so that the emblem was always pointing or facing forwards. So on the port (left) side, the emblem faced left (forward) and on the starboard (right) side, the emblem faced right (forward). For the RAF Polish squadrons, there was only one design with most facing left, but 308, 316 and 663 squadrons' emblems faced right.

## FURTHER CLARIFICATION

No. 138 Squadron including its "Polish C Flight" used the badge of the earlier RAF 138 Squadron which shows a sword cutting the reef-knot in a cord or rope, symbolising their role of liberating occupied territories during World War II.

No. 302 Squadron inherited the traditions of previous Squadrons of the PAF such as III/3 Fighter Squadron, 131st Fighter Escadrille, Polish 132nd Fighter Escadrille and the French Armée de l'Air Groupe de Chasse G.C. I/145.

No.303 Squadron inherited the traditions and badge of previous Kościuszko Squadrons of the PAF such as the early Polish 7th Air Escadrille and 121st Fighter Escadrille and the later Polish 111th Fighter Escadrille.

No. 317 Squadron inherited the traditions and badge of a previous Squadron of the PAF, the 151st Fighter Escadrille and 152nd Fighter Escadrille, part of the Narew (151) and Modlin (152) Independent Operational Groups respectively.

No. 145 Squadron "Polish Fighting Team" uses a sphinx with a wing. It may have derived its badge and traditions via a Polish unit. The PFT squadron's commander Stanislaw Skalski was a senior officer in III-4 Pomorze (Pomerania) Squadron during the 1939 invasion of Poland.



No. 300 Polish Bomber Squadron  
"Land of Masovia"



No. 301 Polish Bomber Squadron  
"Land of Pomerania,  
Defenders of Warsaw"



No. 302 Polish Fighter Squadron  
"City of Poznan"



No. 303 Polish Fighter Squadron  
"Kościuszko"



No. 304 Polish Bomber Squadron  
"Land of Silesia-Ks.  
Józefa Poniatowskiego"



No. 305 Polish Bomber Squadron  
"Land of Greater Poland-Marshal Josef Pilsudski"



No. 306 Polish Fighter Squadron  
"City of Torun"



No. 307 Polish Night Fighter Squadron  
"Lwów Eagle-owls"



No. 308 Polish Fighter Squadron  
"City of Krakow"



No. 309 Polish Fighter-Reconnaissance Squadron  
"Land of Czerwien"



No. 315 Polish Fighter Squadron  
"City of Deblin"



No. 316 Polish Fighter Squadron  
"City of Warsaw"



No. 317 Polish Fighter Squadron  
"City of Wilno"



No. 318 Polish Fighter-Reconnaissance Squadron  
"City of Gdansk"



No. 663 Artillery Observation Squadron  
"We Fly for the Guns"



Polish Fighting Team {attached to No. 145 RAF Squadron}  
"Skalski's Circus"



No. 138 Special Duty Squadron Polish Flight  
"C"



No. 1586 Polish Special Duties Flight

## Polish volunteer wings in Allied Air forces, 1940-45

### France

List of Polish units based on Bartłomiej Belcarz's research and publications.<sup>[5][11]</sup>

- **Armée de l'Air, May 10, 1940** - Zone d'Opérations Aériennes des Alpes
  - *Groupe de Chasse de Varsovie* at Lyon-Bron
  - *Groupe de Chasse GC I/145* at Lyon-Bron and at Dreux
  - *Section no.1 Łaskiewicz GC III/2*
  - *Section no.2 Pentz GC II/6*