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## **Przemówienie Józefa Piłsudskiego do oddziałów Związków i Drużyn Strzeleckich - Tekst angielski**

Józef Piłsudski's speech<sup>1</sup> given to the detachments of the Riflemen's Association and Rifle Squads merged into the First Cadre Company on 3 August 1914 in Oleandry<sup>2</sup> in Cracow. From now on there shall be no Associations or Squads<sup>3</sup>. All of you gathered here are Polish soldiers<sup>4</sup>. I invalidate all badges of these special groups. Your only emblem from now on shall be the white eagle. Until you receive your new badges, however, I order you to exchange your old ones among yourselves as a symbol of full concord and brotherhood, which should prevail among Polish soldiers. Let members of Riflemen's Association pin onto their caps the badges<sup>5</sup> worn by Rifle Squads members. Let the latter give their eagles to the former. You might go to battlefields in the near future, where, I hope, even the slightest differences between you shall vanish.

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Soldiers!... You have this great honor of being the first to enter the Kingdom and cross the border of the Russian partition as the avantgarde column of the Polish Army marching to fight for our homeland's independence. All of you are equal towards the sacrifice you shall make. All of you are soldiers. I do not give ranks. I only order the more experienced ones to serve as commanders. You shall attain your ranks in battle. Any of you can become an officer. And any officer can be demoted to a private, which I hope will not happen... I look at you as the cadres from which the future Polish Army shall sprout, and I greet you as the First Cadre Company.

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<sup>1</sup> Józef Piłsudski gave that speech late in the afternoon on 3 August 1914. Its text was reconstructed the next year for Waław Sieroszewski's book entitled Józef Piłsudski (Piotrków, 1915).

<sup>2</sup> Oleandry — Cracow outdoor theater built in 1912 for an exhibition of architecture and interior design in garden setting. The surrounding area had the same name. In August 1914 there was an assembly center there to which came members of Polish paramilitary organizations.

<sup>3</sup> The Rifleman and the Riflemen's Association were connected with the pro-independence socialist movement, while the Polish Rifle Squads had ties with the opposition, that is, the national camp.

<sup>4</sup> When Piłsudski said those words there was no Polish Army yet.

<sup>5</sup> Members of the Riflemen's Association wore caps with the Polish eagle against a crescent-shaped shield, while members of the Polish Rifle Squads wore an oval steel emblem with an imprinted eagle and the name of their organization.