



Rozkaz gen. Leopolda Okulickiego, dowódcy Armii Krajowej o rozwiązaniu AK - Tekst angielski

SOLDIERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR POLAND¹! The swiftly approaching Soviet offensive² might quickly lead to the Red Army's capture of the entire Polish territory. This is not, however, a victory of the just cause which we have been fighting for since 1939. For in fact, despite the pretense of freedom, this situation means exchanging one occupation for another, under cover of the Lublin Provisional Government³, which is a listless tool in Russian hands. Soldiers! Since 1 September 1939 the Polish Nation has been fighting fiercely and with devotion for the only Cause worth living and dying for: for its freedom and the freedom of man in our independent State. The expresser and representative of the Nation and this ideal is the only legal Polish government⁴ in London, which has fought nonstop and shall continue to fight for our legitimate rights. The Poland made according to the Russian formula is not the one we have been fighting for against the Germans for over five years now and for which Poles have not only shed their blood, but also endured great agony and the destruction of their Country. Though we do not wish to fight against the Soviets we shall never consent to a life other than in a truly sovereign, independent Poland, justly governed by its citizens.

This Soviet victory does not end the war. Not even for a moment can we lose faith that this war can end in a victory of the only just Cause, a triumph of good over evil and freedom over slavery.

¹ Armed Forces for Poland (Siły Zbrojne w Kraju) — official name of the underground Home Army, officially commanded by the Commander of the Armed Forces for Poland. At that time the Polish government in exile had command also over the regular military detachments fighting alongside the Allies on the WWII front lines.

² At the turn of the summer and autumn of 1944 the German-Soviet front line reached the Vistula, including the right bank of the river in Warsaw. In that way approx. 70 percent of the pre-war territory of the Second Republic of Poland fell into the Soviets' hands. On 12 January 1945 the Red Army launched an offensive aimed at Berlin. Within its framework it conducted the Vistula-Oder Offensive, which resulted in a swift takeover of many Polish towns, which had been under the German occupation. Within several days the Red Army captured, for instance, Kielce, Częstochowa, Radom, left-bank Warsaw, and Cracow.

³ On 21 July 1944, with help from Polish communists, the Soviets established the Polish Committee of National Liberation (Polski Komitet Wyzwolenia Narodowego, PKWN). With the end of the year it was transformed into the Provisional Government, known as the Lublin Government as it was seated in Lublin. That step was illegal as the Republic of Poland had its own legal government operating in agreement with the Constitution. Seated in exile, it was recognized by most members of the anti-Nazi coalition.

⁴ The Polish government in exile was formed as early as in September 1939. Initially seated in Paris, it moved to Angers and then, following the Fall of France in 1940, to London.



Soldiers of the Home Army! I give you my final order. Work and act in the spirit of reinstatement of Poland's full independence and protection of the life of the Polish population. Try to serve as guards of our Nation and executioners of Polish independence. In this activity each of you must be their own commander. Convinced that you shall carry out this order and that you shall remain forever faithful to Poland only, and also to facilitate your future work, I hereby release you from the oath and dissolve the AK ranks on behalf of the President of the Republic of Poland¹. On behalf of our service I thank you for your devoted work so far. I firmly believe that our Sacred Cause shall prove victorious and that we shall meet in a truly free and democratic Poland. Long live Free, Independent, and Happy Poland. Commander of the Armed Forces for Poland /-/ Niedźwiadek² Brigadier General Place of stay³, 19 January 1945

Translated © by Jerzy Giebułtowski

¹ Same as the Polish government, the Polish President (at that time Władysław Raczkiewicz) resided in London.

² Leopold Okulicki 'Niedźwiadek' (1898–1946) — officer of the Polish Army. During World War I served in the Polish Legions. In 1939 participated in the defense of Warsaw. After the capture of Warsaw did not let the Germans take him captive. Began his underground activity in the Union of Armed Combat (Związek Walki Zbrojnej, ZWZ). Appointed the ZWZ commander in the Soviet-occupied territory. In January 1941 arrested by the Soviets. Released in 1941, he joined the Polish Army which was being formed in the USSR. In May 1941 deployed on a parachute to occupied Poland to command armed resistance. After the fall of the Warsaw Uprising appointed the AK Commander-in-Chief. Arrested on 27 March 1945 by the Soviet NKVD. Sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in a show trial in Moscow. Murdered in a Soviet prison.

³ After the fall of the Warsaw Uprising AK Commander-in-Chief General Tadeusz Komorowski 'Bór' was taken captive by the Germans. He was succeeded by General Leopold Okulicki. Further operation proved impossible though — the Germans decided to completely destroy the city and deport its population. Consequently, Okulicki recreated the underground High Command of the AK in Częstochowa (and partly also in Cracow and Piotrków Trybunalski).