



1944 Warsaw Uprising

Photography's author is Wiesław Chrzanowski „Wiesław”. Photography is from the collection of the Warsaw Uprising Museum

On August 1st 1944, humanity will remember one of the most heroic acts of bravery that ever took place in the fight for freedom from oppression by the purest evil the world has ever known.

We remember that exactly 74 years ago the Warsaw Uprising took place, the second uprising against the German Nazi occupation to take place in the Polish capital city, after the Ghetto Uprising of April 1943.

After five years of this brutal occupation of Poland, on August 1st, 1944, the **Polish Home Army**, made up of 50,000 **men, women and children**, commanded by General Tadeusz Bór-Komorowski, organized a fight to eject this evil regime from the capital.

From the 1939 invasion of Poland on, the German Nazis murdered **6 million of Poland's citizens- 3 million Polish Jews and 3 million ethnic Poles**. Poland saw the largest percentage loss of its pre-war population at the hand of the Nazi war machine

of all the nations on the embattled European continent.

In just one case of mass murder by the German Nazis, for one week beginning August 5th, 1944, **sixty thousand Polish lives** were extinguished in the Warsaw district of Wola. Those executed in the Wola Massacre included women and children in addition to the Polish partisan fighters. This was **one of the largest and cruelest mass executions** that took place during the Second World War with the aim to crush the Polish insurrectionists' will to resist and put the uprising to an end.

However, it took another two months of steady fighting by the Germans to regain control of the city. Within three days of the start of the uprising, the **Polish underground army valiantly** gained control of most of Warsaw. The Nazis were forced to send in reinforcements which pushed the Poles into a defensive position. The occupying **Germans mercilessly murdered civilians and POWs** and bombarded Polish positions with air and artillery attacks for the following **63 days**. This remarkable battle was the largest of any uprisings against the Germans in occupied Europe during World War II.

During the Warsaw Uprising, the Soviet Army was positioned east of central Warsaw across the Vistula River and remained idle. **The Soviet government refused to allow the western Allies** to use Soviet air bases to airlift supplies to the beleaguered Poles effectively aiding the German Nazis in their assault against the Polish patriots fighting for their lives and their country. Russians only crossed the river and entered Warsaw three months after the uprising was squelched. With limited Allied



Photography's author is Eugeniusz Lokajski „Brok”. Photography is from the collection of the Warsaw Uprising Museum

support the Home Army in Warsaw fragmented into disconnected units and was forced to surrender when its supplies gave out on October 2nd, 1944. Gen. Bór-Komorowski and his forces were taken prisoner and the German Nazi occupiers systematically began deportations of the remainder of the city's population. **Tens of thousands of Polish fighters and innocent Polish non-combatants were sent to the infamous Nazi concentration camps such as Auschwitz and Mauthausen.**

In the following weeks, the Nazi machine systematically destroyed **95 percent of the city of Warsaw**, blowing up and burning building after building, block by block, street by street, until the city was all but leveled.

We must never forget the courage and the sacrifice made in the face of this tragedy by the **Polish freedom fighters in the Warsaw Uprising.**

We must never forget!
Nigdy nie wolno nam zapomnieć!



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Photography's author is Stefan Rassalski „Ster”. Photography is from the collection of the Warsaw Uprising Museum

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