



MUZEUM  
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OSSOLINEUM

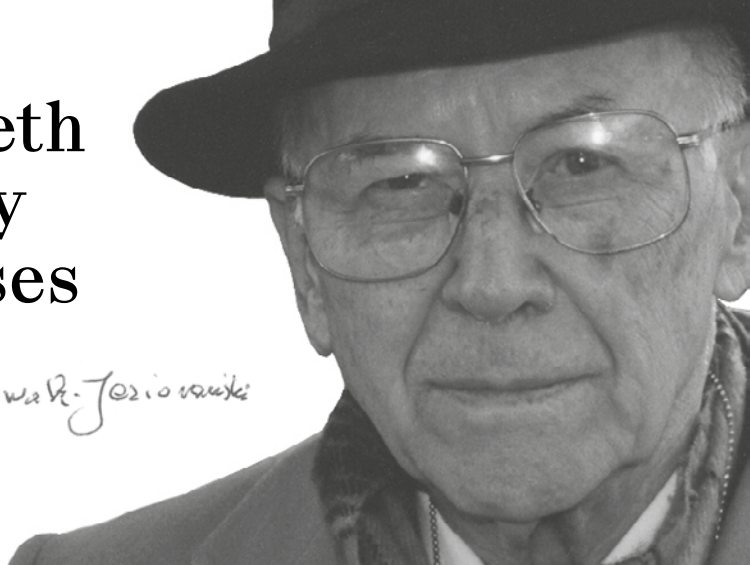
# Mission: Poland

# Mission: Poland

Jan Nowak-Jeziorański  
Władysław Bartoszewski

# Twentieth century witnesses

Jan Z. Nowak-Jeziorański



Jan Nowak-Jeziorański and Władysław Bartoszewski were part of the first generation who, after a 123 year absence of Poland from the map of Europe, were finally able to grow up and live in a free country. Romantics whose great dream of freedom that their 19<sup>th</sup> century ancestors were fighting for came true in the following decade. They were supposed to learn and work for their country, and not, like so many young Poles before them, to fight and die. They were supposed to study in Polish Universities, from Polish books, and build the Polish nation. And when they put on military uniform for compulsory military training, they wore Polish uniforms. That's how it was meant to be ever after.

Exhibition *Mission: Poland* is a tale of people whose way towards freedom preceded in two ways. Those who stayed in Poland payed for their fight with prison sentence, lack of social freedom, and repressions; those who chose emigration had to accept the fact that they may not see their motherland again.

Jan Nowak-Jeziorański (born 1914), after completing a degree in economics at Poznań University, began writing his PhD thesis under the guidance of Professor Edward Taylor. Fascinated by Eugeniusz Kwiatkowski, the builder of Gdynia Port and the Central Industrial Region, he was planning a career in industry.

Władysław Bartoszewski (born 1922) managed to pass his school finishing exam [matura], in 1939 and applied to study at Warsaw



*W Bartoszewski*

University. He wanted to be a journalist, or a historian. After his summer holiday, he was supposed to commence studying. It turned out differently. In September 1939, after Nazi Germany attacked Poland, and then later the Soviet Union, too, they both faced the same choice as those young Poles did in November 1830 and January 1863: to fight, or not? The answer was simple: to fight.

They didn't know then that the fight would last half a century. Poland regained independence only in 1989, but even that didn't mean it was entirely safe. Several more years passed in gaining a place in NATO, more than a dozen in becoming a member of the European Union.

Jan Nowak-Jeziorański will not be able to travel to his homeland for 45 years. For many years he will be regarded as one of the biggest enemies of the Polish People's Republic [PRL]. Władysław Bartoszewski will spend over 6 years in prison, he will be interned and not allowed to work. They will never give up.

In a free Poland, Władysław Bartoszewski will become Foreign Minister and speak in the Bundestag. He will tell the Germans that it is not he who changed, but them. Jan Nowak-Jeziorański, returning after years to Poland, will proudly avow that his generation completed their mission that started in 1939.

**Mission: Poland**



Exhibition *Mission: Poland* opens with Jan Nowak Jeziorański's and Władysław Bartoszewski's utterances summarizing their long battle for regaining Poland's independence.

**Jan Nowak-Jeziorański:**

"God made that today we come back from foreign land to Poland. And that we may, in the presence of President of the Republic of Poland, give our last report: – Poland! Our mission is complete! Now we can go, because you won! Goodbye!"



**Władysław Bartoszewski:**

"Someone should do it, question mark.

Someone should respond, question mark.

Someone should oppose this, question mark.

Someone should protest, question mark.

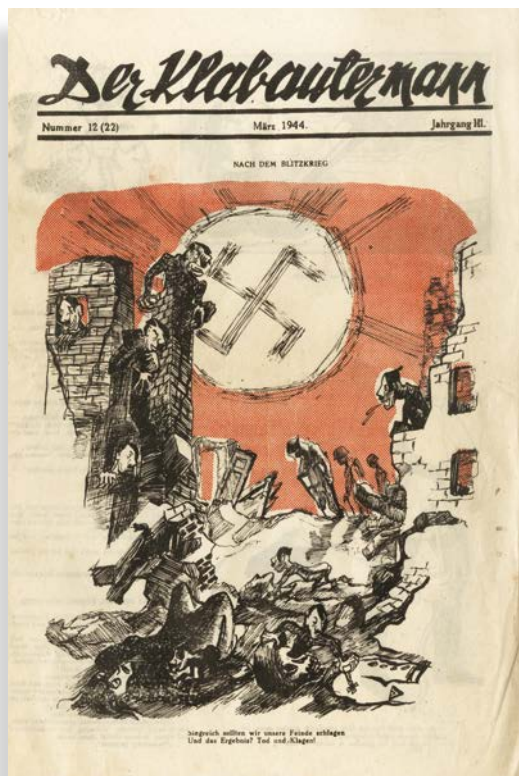
I asked myself these questions, as well, by myself. And I found this answer:  
why should not that someone be me?"



# We shall never be passive again 1939-1945

In September 1939 Zdzisław Antoni Jeziorański fought in Wołyń in the ranks of the 2nd Division Horse Artillery. He was taken prisoner by the Germans, but managed to escape from the vehicle transporting prisoners to the camp. He returned to Warsaw, where for a year he worked as a glazier. In 1941 he took the military oath and joined the Union of Armed Struggle [Związek Walki Zbrojnej] (which

later became the Home Army). He co-organised Operation N, which was conducted in General Government, and within which the Polish underground published and distributed leaflets and newspapers addressed to the Germans, pretending to be the publications of German diversionary group. They undermined German faith in the ultimate victory of the 3rd Reich and decreased the morale of soldiers in the Wehrmacht. In order to conceal his real activities, Jeziorański worked as the manager of tenements occupied by the Germans, and his trips were made under the guise of railway worker Jan Kwiatkowski or Adalbert Kozłowski.



Satirical periodical *Der Klabautermann* issued monthly as part of Operation "N" resembled actual German magazine, but all printed graphics and articles were prepared by Polish underground.



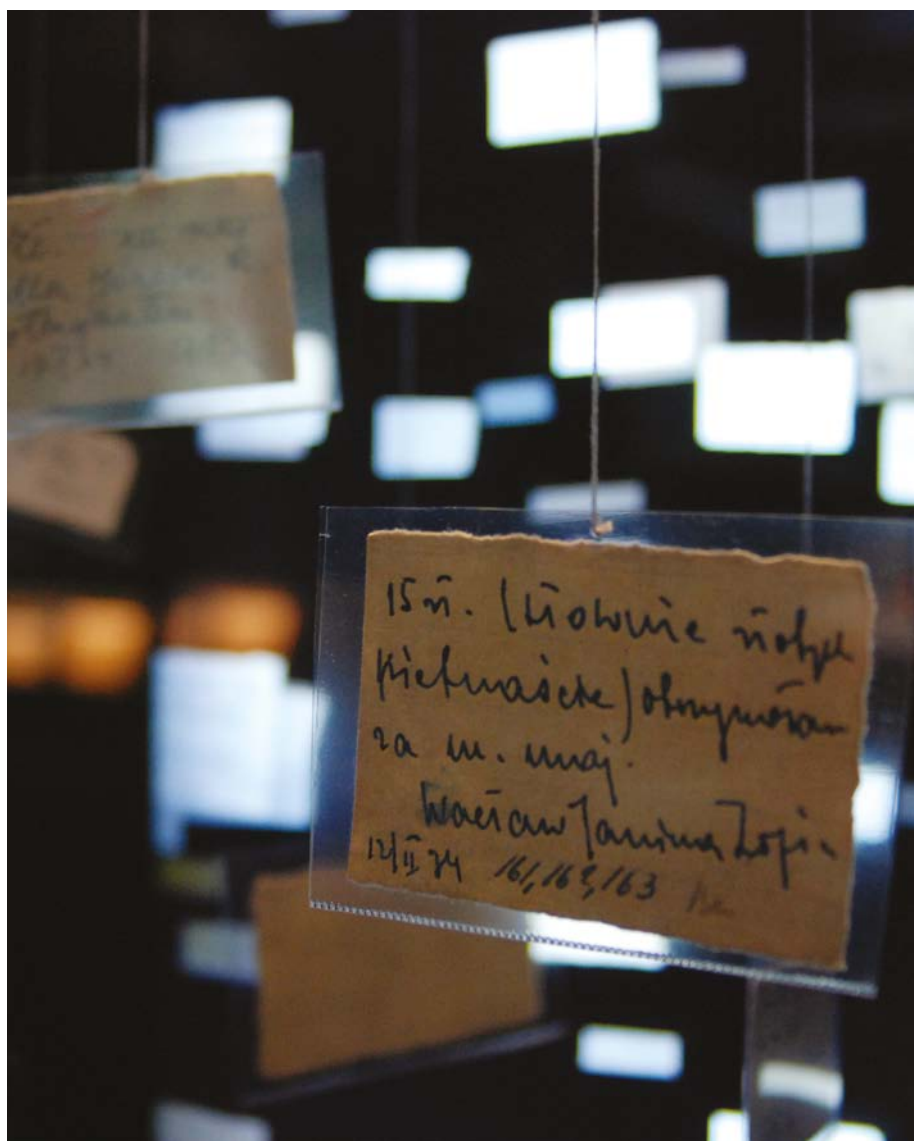
Camp photo of a prisoner (no. 4427) taken in Auschwitz in 1940. Władysław Bartoszewski said after many years: "If sixty years ago, when I was standing hunched at the assembly square in KL Auschwitz, someone told me that I would have German friends, I would say that they lost their mind."

Władysław Bartoszewski was a stretcher bearer in a bombarded Warsaw, he gathered the bodies of the dead and wounded from the streets. After the surrender, he worked for the Polish Red Cross. On the night of the September 21 and 22, 1940 he was arrested and removed by the so-called Warsaw transport to the Nazi concentration camp in Auschwitz. As prisoner number 4427, he spent six months in the camp (KL Auschwitz was transformed into a death camp 1942). Saved from death by the camp doctor, he swore to himself: "I shall never again be passive." He was released from captivity in April, 1941 after the intervention of the Red Cross, who made enquiries about their worker.

Bartoszewski's written account of the camp was published in the underground Hanna Krahelska's booklet *Oświęcim. Pamiętnik więźnia* [Auschwitz. Diary of a prisoner], the first testimony of the truth about Auschwitz. Bartoszewski himself became involved in the activities of the Catholic Front for the Rebirth of Poland, and in 1942 he swore the oath of a soldier in the Home Army and began operating in the Information and Propaganda Bureau of the Home Army's Headquarters.

At the end of 1942 Bartoszewski began working in the Council for Aid to Jews [Rada Pomocy Żydom], codenamed Żegota, through the Representative Powers of the Polish Government in Exile. Żegota's task was to supply food and medicines to the Jews enclosed in the ghettos, as well as to provide financial help to those hiding outside





Each such note was a confirmation of help given by Council for Aid to Jews "Żegota" to Jews hiding from Germans. CAJ documents survived just because Maurycy Herling-Grudziński had not fulfilled the order to destroy them. After Grudziński's death, his wife handed the documents over to Bartoszewski.

them, sorting out false birth certificates and baptismal certificates. One of the most important testaments to the operations of Żegota is the Felicja archive (the name of one of the Żegota cells), a collection of 187 tiny notes which served as receipts of the help given to Jews. After the war, Żegota, like Bartoszewski himself, received the title of Righteous Among the Nations as well as a medal bearing the words taken from the Talmud: "He who saves one life – saves the whole world."

## *He who saves one life – saves the whole world*

Zdzisław Jeziorański, during one of his trips to Gdynia gained information about the possibility of organizing the transport by sea of emissaries and documents to the West. When he reported to his Home Army superiors about this, he was ordered to test the route. In spring 1943, he set off on his first mission as courier for the Commanders-in-Chief of the Home Army. Disguised as a dock worker, he got onboard ship and spent the entire journey hiding in a coal bunker. In special dead drops (including, in a hollowed out figure of St. Anthony, a key and a pencil) he carried documents about the situation in Poland. The mission was a success, although he was interned along the way on the island of Gotland. He passed the documents on to the representative of the Polish government in Stockholm and then returned home by the same route. By some miracle he escaped capture, wanted posters with his face on them were hanging in the railway stations. The success of the mission of the Courier from Warsaw made it possible to follow the course of the dramatic dispatches circulating between Warsaw and London.

He set off on his second mission, this time as Jan Nowak, in autumn 1943. He hid in the coal bunker of a ship cruising to Stockholm and then in a bomb bay of a plane to Great Britain. This time he was to personally hand over a report on the situation in Poland to the President-in-Exile of the Polish Republic Władysław Raczkiewicz, the General Inspector of the Armed Forces Kazimierz Sosnkowski, prime minister Stanisław Mikołajczyk, the British Foreign Minister

Anthony Eden and Prime Minister Winston Churchill. His job was to persuade them that Poland needed military and political support.

He returned to the country at the end of July 1944. Warsaw was preparing for the Uprising, and Nowak-Jeziorański brought very bad information. The Uprising couldn't count on any assistance and was doomed to failure even before it had begun. But the information which he passed on to Tadeusz Bór-Komorowski, Commander-in-Chief of the Home Army was too late to change anything. The orders had been given, the Uprising had to take place.

Władysław Bartoszewski and Jan Nowak-Jeziorański took part in the fighting. Bartoszewski was editor of the news reports published for the inhabitants of central Warsaw, "*Wiadomości z miasta i wiadomości radiowe*" *News from the city and radio news* and was co-author of the radio programs broadcast by the radio-information point "Anna." At the end of the Uprising, he received the Cross of Valour.

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Jeśli Zych nie wyjechał bezwzględnie wstrzymać.  
Wsypa na odcinku Danusi, zagrożenie poważne czekajcie dalszych  
wyjaśnień

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One of the telegrams circulating between Wasaw and London during courier missions of Jan Nowak-Jeziorański, hiding under cryptonym "Zych". This note warned about the danger the courier would be exposed to after coming back to the country.

Nowak-Jeziorański worked in the "Błyskawica" [Lightning] radio station, which broadcast daily bulletins to the insurgents and sent reports to London. A bomb hit the radio building, smashed through the roof and several floors, but didn't explode. "God must be Polish", said Nowak. In September, in a ruined church, he married liaison officer "Greta", Jadwiga Wolska. They managed to get some rings in exchange for a tin of preserved meat, the flowers Nowak gathered from the balcony of a neighboring tenement.

After the failure of the Uprising, Jadwiga and Jan left Warsaw. They set off on a third courier mission to London, in order to give an account of the 63 days of the Uprising. Years later, Nowak said: "Every trip I made, and counting in both directions, there and back, there were five of them in total – was the fruit of the actions, the painstaking efforts and ingenuity of many people who are nowadays forgotten. Several, helping smooth my way, paid for it with their lives, others with imprisonment."

Władysław Bartoszewski found his way to Kraków after the Uprising, but in February 1945 he returned to Warsaw and began serving in the anti-communist organization "Nie" [No] (formed after the dissolution of the Home Army), which was to continue the struggle for Polish independence after the Red Army entered the country.



Wedding rings of the Home Army connector Jadwiga Wolska "Greta" and Jan Nowak-Jeziorański. Their wedding was conducted by a priest between funerals of insurgents on September 7, 1944.



The time of world war II was a time of trial for the generation of Władysław Bartoszewski and Jan Nowak-Jeziorański. They accepted the challenge, as thousands of young Poles did. First room of the exhibition "Mission: Poland" introduces what they had to go through fighting, conspiring, putting their lives on risk. All in belief that when the war ends, Poland will be a sovereign country again. Year 1945 revealed how much let down they became...



Exhibits in the cabinets include papers issued by The Bureau of Information and Propaganda of the Headquarters of the Home Army: pamphlets, brochures and documents. Visitors have the opportunity to face the time by encrypting and sending telegrams which can save the life of the courier heading towards London, and learn about the everyday life in Auschwitz concentration camp and how Polish Underground State operated via multimedia applications.



# We shall tell you the truth 1945-1975

The conference in Yalta, and the end of the war divided Europe, leaving Poland in the sphere of influence of the Soviet Union. The seizing of power by the Communists forced hundreds of thousands of people to make a decision – to remain in a subjugated Poland or to seek the possibilities of exile, to return to the country or remain in emigration. This particularly concerned soldiers of the Home Army, regarded by the Communist authorities as a criminal organization. Bartoszewski and Nowak-Jeziorański faced the same choice. The first decided to stay in the country, the second didn't return from emigration. The first paid for his decision with many years imprisonment, the other became enemy number one of the Communist state.



Władysław Bartoszewski spent six and a half year in a Stalinist prison.

Władysław Bartoszewski, in accordance with the authorities' decision, came out of hiding and began work as a journalist in the opposition Polish People's Party press. He published articles about the activities of the Polish Underground State and the Warsaw Uprising (*Dni Walczącej Stolicy* [*Days of the Fighting Capital*] series), he also collaborated with the Main Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes against the Polish Nation. In 1946 he was arrested on a trumped up charge of espionage. He was remanded in the Ministry for Public Safety on Koszykowa street, and later in Rakowiecka prison for eighteen months.

In April 1948, he was unexpectedly released, but in December 1949 was arrested again. After a two and a half year investigation, he



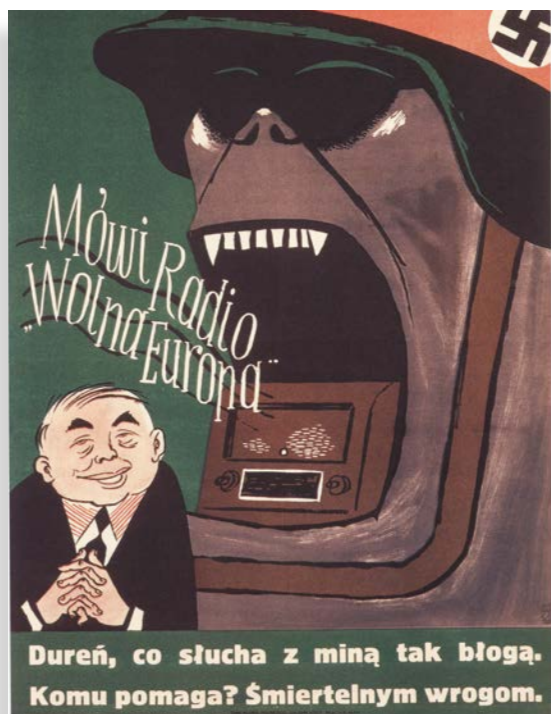
Visitors can watch through the spyholes in Stalinist prison's cell scenes from the film picturing Władysław Bartoszewski's time in Stalinist prison, as well as fragments of his questioning by Secret Political Police officer.

was sentenced to eight years in prison. During the thaw after Stalin's death, in August 1954, he was released on probation for a year. In March 1955, a court found the guilty verdict against Bartoszewski unsafe. He spent a total of six and a half years in prison.

Jan Nowak-Jeziorański worked in the Polish section of the BBC in London; he published a booklet devoted to the Warsaw Uprising and prepared the series of programmes *Świadkowie historii* [*History's witnesses*] about the activities of the Polish Underground State. In 1951, he received a proposal from the Americans to take up the position of director of the Polish Section of Radio Free Europe. The broadcaster became the basic source of independent information for a country, in which the content of newspapers was decided by the omnipresent censor. On May 3, 1952, inaugurating the station's activities, Nowak-Jeziorański told listeners in Poland: "We shall

tell you the truth about events taking place in the world, which the Soviet regime wants to hide from you, to destroy any lingering hope you may have. We shall be conducting over the airwaves a struggle against the Russification and Sovietisation of Polish culture, a struggle against depriving our youths of their national identity. We shall fight the falsification of our history and our traditions."

*We shall say out loud  
what Polish society cannot,  
because it has been gagged*



PRL press wrote about Radio Free Europe: "American secret service, Nazi propaganda specialists, warmongers and fierce vengeance-skeekers – these are those who lay down <<the political line of>> the Munich tube." "Real face" of the station was to be revealed by the street posters and caricatures in press.



Testimonies of Józef Światoła which were balloon sent to Poland informed Poles about facts e.g. the truth about that Bolesław Bierut "introduced NKVD methods in Poland. Hooded murders, blackmail, provocation." Oculus goggles take visitors to the virtual reality where balloons with brochures *The Untold Facts of the Security Force and the Party* flew over Poland.

The PRL authorities tried for decades to block the Radio Free Europe broadcasts. Communist propaganda accused the broadcaster of serving the interests of American imperialists and Nazi criminals. One of the most spectacular operations by the Free Europe Committee and the Polish Section of Radio Free Europe was operation "Spotlight". Hundreds of thousands of copies of booklet *The Untold Facts of the Security Force and the Party* were sent by balloon from Germany and Austria containing the testimony of Józef Światoła, a high-ranking official in the Ministry of Public Security who fled to the West. The testimony revealed the truth about the election fraud, prisoners being tortured in prisons and show trials.

**Mission: Poland**



Security Service agents who followed Władysław Bartoszewski used to write that he "consequently uses every occasion to conduct the anti-communist actions." Operation image pictures the moment of "figurehead" meeting Krzysztof Kozłowski, the editor in chief of *Tygodnik Powszechny*.

After October 1956, Władysław Bartoszewski continued his struggle to keep alive the memory of the Polish Underground State, the Home Army and the Uprising, whose significance was ever more marginalised in PRL-style history. In *Tygodnik Powszechny* [General Weekly] he published an appeal to send him information about the help given by Poles to Jews during the occupation. In 1967, together with Zofia Lewinówna he issued a priceless collection of nearly two hundred stories documenting that help: *Ten jest z Ojczyzny mojej. Polacy z pomocą Żydom 1939–1945* [This is about my fatherland. Poles aiding Jews in Poland 1939–1945]. Then further books appeared, which entered the canon of Polish history writing: *Warszawski pierścień śmierci 1939–1944* [Warsaw Death Ring 1939–1944], *1859 dni Warszawy* [1,859 Days of Warsaw].

*From 1945 to the end of 1989 a total of 418 agents of the UB and SB security services, military prosecutors and judges as well as 56 informers all spied on him*

In 1963, the lives of Jan Nowak-Jeziorański and Władysław Bartoszewski intertwined. During a trip to Israel, Bartoszewski made contact with the deputy director of the Polish Section of Radio Free Europe, Tadeusz Żenczykowski (whom he knew from the Office of Information and Propaganda of the Home Army). He passed on information, via the Western embassies, about the political showtrials in the PRL, the infringing of human rights and the situation in the intelligentsia. In 1965, the Służba Bezpieczeństwa [Security Service] began a secret operation codenamed "Olcha", which was supposed to prove Bartoszewski's collaboration with the "imperialist" broadcaster. Bartoszewski was spied on till the end of the PRL. Subject of operational investigation "Bonza" The materials gathered in the Institute for National Remembrance about the "subject of operational investigation" codenamed "Bonza" runs for a total length of 15 metres. From 1945 to the end of 1989 a total of 418 agents of the UB and SB security services, military prosecutors and judges as well as 56 informers all spied on him.

Radio Free Europe became a station most hated by the PRL authorities and widely listened to by the Poles. It was one of the first sources that informed about the August 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia and about the December 1970 bloody massacre of workers on the Coast. At the same time the station had to defend itself from more and more frequent attacks, source of which were also American politicians perceiving Radio Free Europe as "remnant of the cold war". In 1975, in protest against the diminishing importance of Radio Free Europe, Jan Nowak-Jeziorański resigned as director. Władysław Bartoszewski continued collaborating with the broadcaster.







In the Radio Free Europe studio reconstructed in the museum, visitors can listen to a number of radio broadcasts related to the most important moments in Poland of that time. Leaving the station in 1975, Jan Nowak-Jeziorański said: "From the very beginning, the flywheel of our work, our source of energy and enthusiasm, was the unswerving faith, or even confidence that sooner or later the day when we are no longer needed will come, because Poland will regain its right to the freedom of speech." But that day was still to come.

# The war in Poland continues 1975-1989

In the mid-seventies Poland, after a brief economic boom, based on loans from the West, fell into recession. Price rises caused an outburst of protests in June 1976, in Radom and Ursus. In response to the repression of the strikers, the Komitet Obrony Robotników [Workers Defence Committee] (a year later it was renamed the Komitet Samoobrony Społecznej KOR [Committee for Social Self-Defence]), and then also the Ruch Obrony Praw Człowieka i Obywatela [Movement for Defence of Human and Civic Rights]. Uncensored publications appeared, such as *Puls*, *Zapis* or *Res Publica*. The so-called second wave featured, among others, Nowak-Jeziorański's *Kurier z Warszawy* [Courier of Warsaw], written after leaving Radio Free Europe. Władysław Bartoszewski was one of the founders of the Flying University, later renamed the Towarzystwo Kursów Naukowych (TKN) [Society of Science Courses]. In private homes, lectures on subjects omitted by official learning were given, filling in the so-called blank spots in the latest history of Poland. The inaugural lecture for the TKN by Władysław Bartoszewski, on the Polish Underground State 1939–1945 was among the most popular.

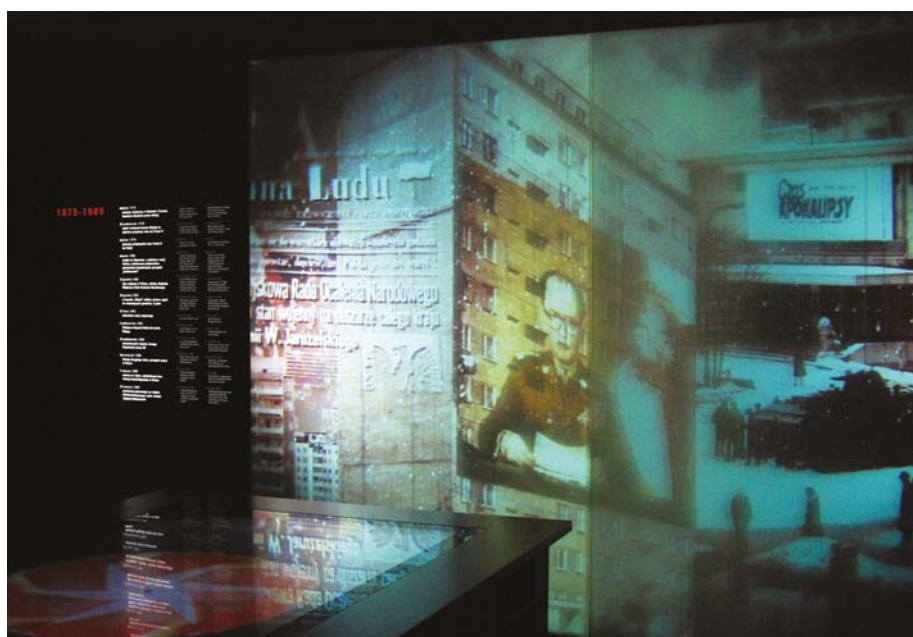
The activities of the TKN aroused the anger of the authorities, the lectures were interrupted by the SB security services, participants were punished for taking part in illegal gatherings, Władysław Bartoszewski was fined for giving a lecture. Jan Nowak-Jeziorański, after a two-year stay in Pass Thurn (Austria), returned to public life. He went to the USA, he became one of the directors of the Polish American Congress [Kongres Polonii Amerykańskiej] and a consultant to the National Security Agency of the USA. He co-operated with successive presidents of the USA: Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush. In memoranda



The main task of Main Office of Control of Press, Publications and Shows, or the PRL censorship, was taking care that media would not show, print or broadcast any informations potentially harmful to the system and authority of the Party. It meant in practice that Poles were deprived of the information about the most important events in the country and abroad. Taking the role of the censor sitting at their desk, visitors can play *Defeat the Censor* game and reclaim the original form to the texts abridged by the control office workers.

sent to American politicians, he argued that for Poland, which was a member of the anti-Nazi coalition, but which despite that, as a result of the decisions taken at Yalta by the superpowers, did not regain its independence, the war was still continuing. It would end only once his homeland regained its independence.

In the summer of 1980, in Poland, strikes broke out. In the Gdańsk shipyard the free trade union Solidarity [NSZZ "Solidarność"] was founded, on August 31 an agreement between the strikers and the government was signed. Bartoszewski signed a letter from intellectuals in support of the workers on the coast, joined Solidarity and co-founded the Committee for the Defence of Prisoners of Conscience [Komitet Obrony Więzionych za Przekonania]. A sixteen month period began, later called the Carnival of Solidarity, which ended with the imposition of martial law during the night of the December 12, 1981. Power in the country was assumed by the Military Council of National Salvation [Wojskowa Rada Ocalenia



Photography taken by Chris Niedenthal, picturing an APC stading in front of "Moskwa" movie theater in Warsaw on December 13, 1981, became a symbol of imposed martial law in Poland. On that day "Moskwa" was to screen Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*.

Narodowego], led by General Wojciech Jaruzelski. That same night divisions of the ZOMO people's militia, arrested thousands of activists, considered "a danger to national security."

Those arrested were placed in internment camps and prisons. Władysław Bartoszewski was sent to a military centre in Jaworze on the Drawskie training grounds. Also detained there, among others, were: Bronisław Komorowski, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Bronisław Geremek, Stefan Niesiołowski, Andrzej Drawicz and many other intellectuals and artists engaged in the activities of Solidarity. Bartoszewski was chosen from among his fellow inmates as their leader, being the most experienced at "doing time". In Jaworze he

*Bartoszewski was chosen from among his fellow inmates as their leader, being the most experienced at "doing time"*



Among the detainees in camp in Jaworz were university and Polish Academy of Science workers, men of letters and journalists. All their correspondence was revised thoroughly, even if the letter included a quote from Lenin.



celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his being a writer. The interns created a *Commemorative Book* in which they wrote wishes, poems and even serious essays devoted to Bartoszewski. After 1989, it turned out that among the authors of the Book were the first non-Communist Prime Minister of Poland, its Minister of Foreign Affairs, senators, as well as a future President of the Republic of Poland.

After being released on April 19, 1982 Władysław Bartoszewski went abroad. He worked as a visiting professor at universities in Munich, Eichstätt and Augsburg, appeared on the airwaves of Radio Free Europe and the Voice of America, wrote articles and books which were published abroad and which also circulated at home, including *Los Żydów Warszawy 1939–1945* [*The Fate of the Jews of Warsaw 1939–1945*]. In 1986, the President of Poland in exile Edward Raczyński awarded him with the Commander's Cross with Star of the Polonia Restituta Order.

Twice, first in 1981, and again in 1982, Raczyński, asked Bartoszewski to become his successor (in accordance with the April Constitution of 1935 operating in exile, he had right to designate such person). Likewise, in 1987, the next president Kazimierz Sabbat wanted Bartoszewski to take office as President of the Republic of Poland. Władysław Bartoszewski refused twice.

Nowak-Jeziorański was heavily involved in Polish affairs in the USA, sought funding and equipment for the Solidarity-led underground. He said that even during meetings with the President of the United States, when asked, "Who stands behind you?" he could proudly reply, "Ten million Americans of Polish descent stand behind me."

*He used to park his golf on the tiny strand next to the White House: "In Washington, it is the most obvious hallway to power."*

The Ambassador of the USA in Poland, Nicholas Rey, recalled that Nowak-Jeziorański was at the time one of the most influential people in Washington. He was allowed to park his Golf in a small alleyway nearby the White House, where at most about twenty vehicles would fit: "In Washington it is the clearest entrance hall to the corridors of power. It's the best evidence of how great Jan's influence was."

In 1989, in Poland there first was an accord between the government and opposition at the Round Table, and in June not quite yet fully free elections in which Solidarity candidates triumphed. After a nearly 45 year absence, on August 29, 1989, Jan Nowak-Jeziorański returned to Poland. Leader of the Citizens' Parliamentary Party [Obywatelski Klub Parlamentarny], Bronisław Geremek stated in the Sejm: "Thanks that he was there, we are now here."



Jan Nowak-Jeziorański during the meeting organized by NSZZ "Solidarność" and the Citizen's Movement for Democratic Action (ROAD). Wrocław, August 27, 1990.





During the 1980s and 1990s in Washington, Jan Nowak-Jeziorański wrote hundreds of letters and memoranda, met a number of influential politicians and Presidents of the United States. "We need to be in-your-face with the Americans, we need to scream, write, talk, and we can not to resign even for one moment," he said. Years later, no one had a shadow of a doubt that Poland's accession to NATO was to his merit, to a great extent. Visitors can learn about the American side of courier from Warsaw using the multimedia table.



## Towards NATO and the European Union 1989-...

But 1989 was not the end of the struggle for freedom. Jan Nowak-Jeziorański considered that a condition of Poland's security was membership in NATO, and that the membership in the European Union was the guarantee of economic development. He divided his time between Poland, where he came more and more often, and Washington, where the moves over Polish membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation were being played.

Jeziorański argued that a free and democratic Poland within NATO was in the United States' interests. When on April 30, 1998 the





1980s and 1990s battle for Poland's freedom was conducted not only in press, television, Parliament, politicians' offices, but also on the walls. Graffiti on two staircase wall stages of the exhibition *Mission: Poland* connote with the battle atmosphere.

*This is the most beautiful day  
of my life*

American Senate voted in favor of the expansion of NATO, he says: "This is the most beautiful day of my life."

In 1994 President Lech Wałęsa awarded Nowak-Jeziorański with the highest and the oldest Polish state distinction, the Order of the White Eagle. In 1995 he became a member of the Curating Council of the National Ossoliński Institute (ZNiO). During the few following years he kept handing his private archives and collections over to

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Ossolineum; in 2000 he became the honorary citizen of Wrocław. In 2002, after his wife's death, he came back to live in Poland. He left the United States farewelled by President George W. Bush.

The second part of the plan still remained to be completed: ensuring Poland's membership of the European Union. He carried the struggle for a free, independent and safe Poland through to the end. He persuaded Poles to vote "yes" in the referendum on Poland's accession to the European Union on June 7–8, 2003. He, himself appeared at the polling centre at 6 a.m., leaving hospital for the day. On May 1, 2004, Poland became a member of the EU.

Jan Nowak-Jeziorański died on the night of the January 20, 2005.

Władysław Bartoszewski returned to Poland in 1989. He became the Polish Ambassador to Austria (1990–1995) and a member of the National Council for Polish-Jewish Relations. He was twice Minister for Foreign Affairs. On April 28, 1995 during a ceremonial



session of both chambers of the German parliament in Bundestag, he gave a speech which was watched by around 20 mln Germans.

As a former prisoner of Auschwitz he told the Germans what others couldn't: "If someone had told me in 1945, when I stood on the parade ground at Auschwitz, that I would have German friends from a democratic country, I would have said they were mad." He got a standing ovation lasting for more than twelve minutes.

In a now free Poland, he was also a senator and chairperson of the International Council of the National Auschwitz Museum. He was made an honorary citizen of Wrocław and received an honorary doctorate from Wrocław University. From 1999 on, he was a member of the Curating Council of the ZNiO. From 2007 on, he was a member of the government of Donald Tusk, and later as secretary of state for dialog with Germany and Israel in the government of Ewa Kopacz. He died on April 24, 2015, working to the last.



# I cannot tear my homeland from my soul

Jan and Jadwiga

Nowak-Jeziorański Cabinet



In successive homes, where Jadwiga and Jan Nowak-Jeziorański lived: in Munich, Pass Thurn and Annandale, they tried to recreate the atmosphere of a lost Poland. "After Yalta, my wife and I imagined we would never see Poland again. So we decided to create at least a remnant of our homeland while abroad. We began to collect Polish items" – explained Jan Nowak-Jeziorański. The works of art he bought, the graphics, coins and historic artefacts created the atmosphere of a Polish country house. The artists whose work he bought were Polish and the subject matter of their works was Poland. Among the most valuable were the paintings: *Utopiona w Bosforze* [Drowned in the Bosphorus] by Jan Matejko, *Wesoły*

*kwaterunek* [Happy lodgings] by Józef Brandt, *Róże* [Roses] by Leon Wyczółkowski, as well as works by Julian Fałat – *Okolice Bystrej* [Near Bystra] and *Upolowany niedźwiedź na saniach* [Bear Hunting by Sleigh]. Apart from these, there were drawings and watercolours by Cyprian Kamil Norwid and Józef Czapski as well as works on the subject of history, including *Fredro pod Smoleńskiem w 1633 roku* [Fredro at Smolensk] by Juliusz Kossak or *Scena z powstania 1863 roku* [A Scene from the 1863 Uprising] by Antoni Piotrowski.

Jan and Jadwiga Nowak-Jeziorański's collection consists of around two hundred paintings, watercolours, drawings, miniatures and 350 pieces of graphic art, over 250 weapons, silver, glass,



"I was devastated to see how Polish collections are getting robbed off by the smugglers who transport everything to the West. And when those pieces were already there, buyers like me were the only hope bringing them back to Poland," recalled Nowak-Jeziorański. He bought a painting by Jan Matejko on one of the auctions.

porcelain and fabric, over 200 medals and decorations as well as numerous other objects. The coin collection contains over 900 Polish coins, 116 foreign coins and 163 foreign and Polish banknotes. The collection includes dozens of old printed materials and books published between the 16th and 19th centuries. Among them are the first Latin editions of the works of Marcin Kromer *De origine et rebus gestis Polonorum libri XXX* (*On the origins and deeds of the Poles in thirty volumes*) from 1555.



In the cabinet: Jan Nowak-Jeziorański's certificate from Berlin and his childhood photographs. He kept using fake date and place of birth: May 13, 1913, Warsaw, for conspiracy reasons.

## Mission: Poland

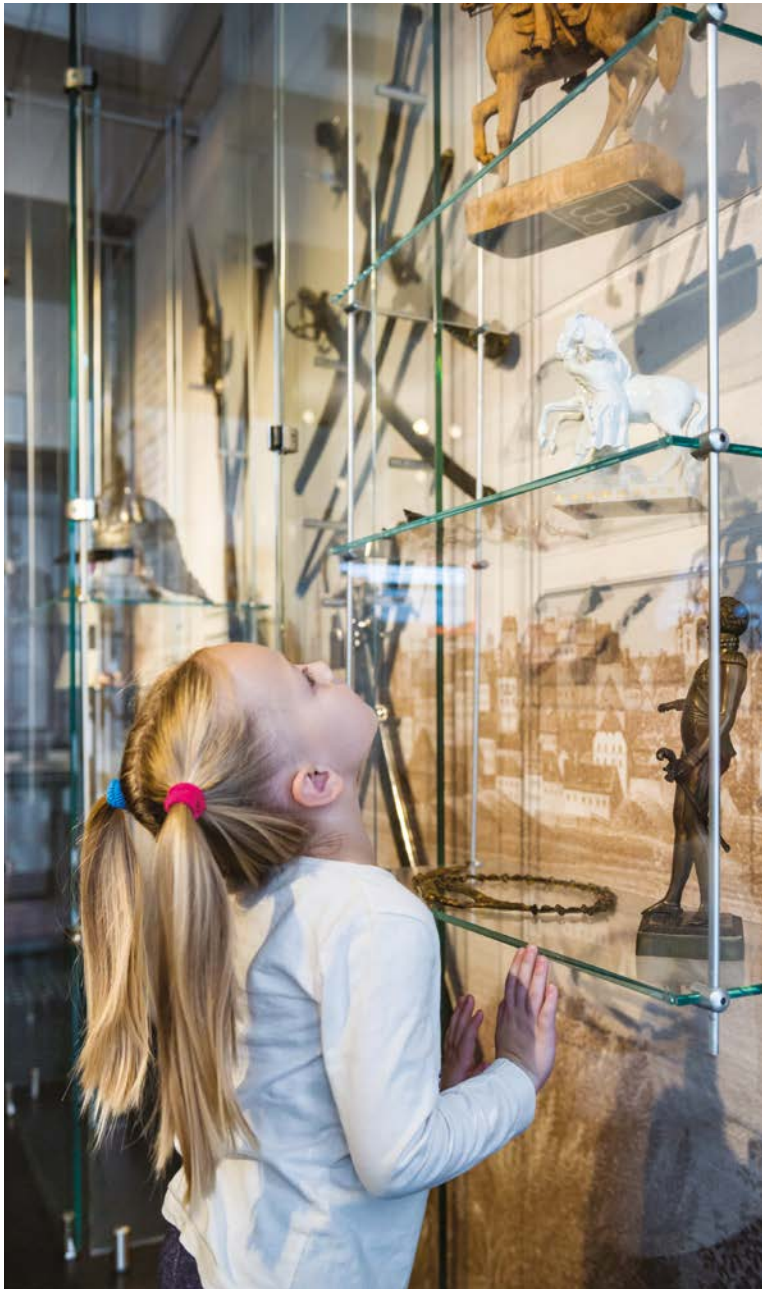
This gift given to the Ossolineum also includes a rich collection of manuscripts and archive materials documenting the wartime activities of its provider: materials on his courier missions and Operation N. The archive additionally contains materials from Nowak-Jeziorański's work in the Polish Section of Radio Free Europe, including large collections of correspondence with the most important figures in the post-war emigration, e.g. with Jerzy Giedroyc, Witold Gombrowicz, Kazimierz Wierzyński or Gustaw Herling-Grudziński. "If he hadn't been born so soon... He would definitely been excellently predisposed to be President of Poland", wrote one of his colleagues at Radio Free Europe.

*If he hadn't been born so soon...  
He would definitely been excellently  
predisposed to be President of Poland*



Winston Churchill on the cover of one of the prints by Operation "N" was supposed to induce fear in Germans. And he did. Documents and archives handed by Jan Nowak-Jeziorański to Ossolineum are available for researchers and all interested in history in ZNiO reading rooms.





"Leaving my archives in Ossolineum connects me with Wrocław even more. It is the most precious thing that I own and that would remain after me," said he.

**Mission: Poland**



# It's worth being decent

## Władysław and Zofia Bartoszewski Cabinet

In 2003, Władysław Bartoszewski began to hand over to the Ossolineum the archive materials he gathered throughout his life on Poland's modern history, including publications from World War II, underground books and periodicals, posters and leaflets. The collection includes, among others, several hundred publications from 1939–1940, in most cases unique examples from the period of the bombardment of Warsaw, decrees of the occupying forces, posters and fliers illustrating cultural life in the General Governorship. The Felicja archive is priceless, which only survived because Maurycy Herling-Grudziński had not fulfilled the order to destroy them, even if, in German hands, the archive created the life threat for those who were helping the Jews.

Władysław Bartoszewski was awarded with numerous awards for his research, publicists and political, and for his... personality. He was also a holder of honorary doctorates and citizenships of towns and cities. He summed it up in a few words: "I was mainly sitting till I was sixty. Then I was rewarded."



*You have to have  
tough skin  
or better get busy  
with growing  
flowers, not with  
the politics*



The gift to the Ossolineum also includes a collection of underground publications and materials from the period of martial law, as well as Władysław Bartoszewski's personal archive. It contains documents related to his academic, publicist and diplomatic work, that is, among others, broad correspondence with important European political figures as well as materials gathered for his books. An exceptional historical source is the collection of stories used in the tome *The One is from my Homeland*.

Władysław Bartoszewski was involved in public life throughout his life. He was awarded with numerous awards for his research, publicists and political, and for his... personality. He was awarded with Dutchess Hedwig of Silesia Award, The Judaica Foundation Medal, Kisiel Prize, "Pro Publico Bono" Award and Polish Radio Program 3 Silver Lips award. His deliverances were always expressive and not once controversial. He used to say: "You have



Typescript of speech from Bundestag on April 28, 1995, with author's hand-written margins, and souvenirs from chancellor Helmut Kohl are a part of one of the multimedia posts in Władysław Bartoszewski's cabinet.

to have tough skin or better get busy with growing flowers, not with the politics."

Measure of his presence in political life were the orders he received, including the most important: Knight of the Order of the White Eagle and Grand Cross with Star of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, Medal of the Righteous Among the Nations, the French Legion of Honour or the papal Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Gregory the Great and many more. He also collected several hundred medals, plaques and reliefs, creating a large collection of Polish medal-making art. They combine to form a story of Polish history, exceptional Poles and memorable events.

Gustaw Herling-Grudziński, dedicating his book to Prof. Bartoszewski, wrote: "To my stubborn candidate for president of Poland, in friendship and devotion."



Bartoszewski used to say: "It is worthy to be fair, but it does not always pay back. Being unfair pays back, but it is not always worth it." The exhibition includes Bartoszewski's Alphabet which comprises a number of such a bon mots.

# Witnesses of History Departments

Witnesses of History Departments is a section of The Pan Tadeusz Museum (MPT); its workers take care of the collections handed over to the Ossoliński National Institute by Jan Nowak-Jeziorański and Władysław Bartoszewski, and also, since 2017, of Tadeusz Rózewicz archives. First two were the base of the exhibition *Mission: Poland* presented in the MPT.

The department organizes meetings and lectures which focus on activity and life of the donors, as well as focused on history of Poland, Wrocław and Lower Silesia. Main characters of such events are witnesses of history, co-workers and friends of Jan Nowak-Jeziorański and Władysław Bartoszewski, historians and writers. Meetings are conducted in two cycles: *Środy nad Książką* [Wednesday over the Book] and *Misja: Polska. Misja: Wrocław* [Mission: Poland. Mission: Wrocław]. The starting point of the first cycle are books

related to the contemporary history: book premieres, widely discussed and controversial. The second cycle includes historians, publicists and members of the events relating the most important events in the history of Wrocław and Lower Silesia after the world war II. At present, both cycles involved, among others, Jacek Taylor, Michał Komar, Marian Turski, Adolf Juzwenko, Stanisław Sławomir Nicieja, Bożena Szaynok, Piotr Gajdziński, Łukasz Kamiński, Urszula Glensk.



Marian Turski, an Auschwitz prisoner, historian, editor-in-chief of *Polityka* and a friend of Władysław Bartoszewski. During the meeting *Bartoszewski was a model image of measure of decency.*

Witnesses of History Departments are also responsible for preparing temporary exhibitions, donor-related publications, as well as for organizing series of theme-concerned guided tours of the exhibition *Mission: Poland*. Each tour focuses on the most interesting exhibits, among others: conspiracy prints issued by the Polish Underground State as part of Operation "N", which were distributed around the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich by Jan Nowak; world-unique Felicja (special cell of The Council to Aid Jews "Żegota") archive, Security Service operational documents from the time of surveillance of Władysław Bartoszewski.

Works on opening another MPT exhibition concerning Tadeusz Różewicz, whose archives, book collection and memorabilia were handed over to Ossolineum by the Municipality of Wrocław, have started in fall 2017 and are in process.



Guided tour of the exposition usually gives an opportunity to gain deeper knowledge of what is being shown on the exposition.



## Map key

-  stairs
-  elevator
-  toilet
-  accessible toilet
-  baby changing table
-  exhibition entry (level 2)
-  tour direction
-  exit (level 1)

## Exhibition rooms

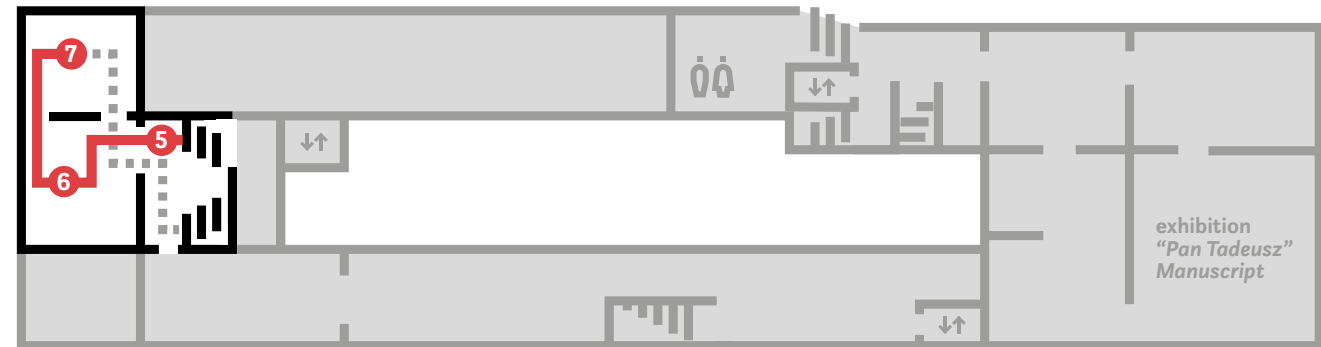
- 1** *Mission: Poland.*  
Jan Nowak-Jeziorański  
Władysław Bartoszewski
- 2** 1939–1945  
We Shall Never Be Passive Again
- 3** 1945–1975  
The War in Poland Continues
- 4** 1975–1989  
We Shall Tell You the Truth
- 5** 1989-...  
Towards NATO and the European Union
- 6** Jan and Jadwiga Nowak-Jeziorański  
Cabinet
- 7** Władysław and Zofia Bartoszewski  
Cabinet

Map

**2**  
level



**1**  
level



**0**  
level



## Mission: Poland

catalogue from permanent exhibition of the Pan Tadeusz Museum  
Ossoliński National Institute

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Photos of the exhibits were taken from the collections of Ossoliński National Institute:  
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