

I Polish Corps ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, I Polish Corps

16th Polish Independent Armoured Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 16th Polish Independent Armoured Brigade

3rd Polish Tank Regiment

5th Polish Tank Regiment

14th Polish Lancers Regiment

16th Polish Dragoons Regiment

Corps Troops

The Szwolezerow Regiment

1st Polish Medium Artillery Regiment

I Polish Corps Signals Battalion

309th Army Co-operation Squadron, Polish Air Force

NOTES:

1. With the defeat of the Polish nation in September 1939, about 80,000 men reformed the Polish Army in Exile in France. A Polish Government in Exile was also formed (Poland being the only country captured by the Germans in which a puppet government was never formed). Two infantry divisions were formed, the Polish 1st Grenadiers Division and 2nd Polish Fusiliers Division. In addition, the Independent Polish Highland Brigade served in Norway with the Allies. With the fall of France, many of the Polish soldiers made their way to the United Kingdom. The Polish personnel were concentrated in South West Scotland, and The Polish Army in Scotland was formed in early August 1940. The G.H.Q. Polish Forces and Polish Ministry of National Defence was formed in London, with the Government in Exile. Initially, the Polish Army comprised two Rifle Brigades and some miscellaneous units. The Headquarters I Polish Corps was formed in late 1941 to administer all the Polish units in the United Kingdom. Recruitment Centre No. 1 was established and Polish Military Bureaux opened in Edinburgh, Perth and Dundee. A Polish Military Staff College was opened and training battalions formed. The formations under command at the beginning of 1942 were the 1st Independent Rifle Brigade, 10th Armoured Cavalry Brigade, 16th Tank Brigade, 1st Independent Parachute Brigade and the Training Brigade. The 10th and 16th Brigades became part of the 1st Polish Armoured Division which formed on the 25th February 1942. This formation later served in North West Europe under command of the British 2nd Army. In late 1944, the Corps expanded with the influx of Polish soldiers who had previously served in the German Army. This allowed the formation of an infantry division, which with the 16th Independent Armoured Brigade were the two operational formations in the Corps. The Corps never saw active service during the war, but was deployed to Wilhelmshaven in 1945 to take command of the area, with the 1st Armoured Division and 1st Independent Parachute Brigade under command. The Corps undertook occupation duties until 1947, when the all the Polish formations disbanded. However, many of the personnel were unable to return to their native Poland, now under Soviet occupation, so they settled in exile in the United Kingdom and other countries in the West.
2. The 16th Tank Brigade was originally formed in February 1942 as part of the 1st Polish Armoured Brigade. In May 1942, with the change in establishment of the British armoured divisions, this brigade formed the main formation within the Cadre 2nd Polish Armoured Grenadier Division. In February 1945, this was expanded into the 4th Polish Infantry Division, and the 16th Polish Armoured Brigade became an independent formation, under the command of I Polish Corps.

SOURCES:

1. [ANDERS, Lt. General W., C.B.](#)
An Army in Exile – The Story of the Second Polish Corps
(Nashville, U.S.A., The Battery Press, 2004)
[ISBN 0 89839-043-5]
2. [BAXTER, Ian](#)
Images of War – The Crushing of Poland – Rare Photographs from Wartime Archives
(Barnsley, Pen & Sword Military, 2009)
[ISBN 978-1-84415-846-1]
3. [BOROWIEC, Andrew](#)
Warsaw Boy – A Memoir of a Wartime Childhood
(U.K., Penguin Books, 2014)
[ISBN 978-0-241-96403-3]

4. BROWNING, Christopher R.
Ordinary Men – Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland.
(London, Penguin Books, 2001)
[ISBN 0-141-00042-2]
5. BRUCE, George
The Warsaw Uprising
(London Pan Books Ltd., 1974)
[ISBN 0 330 24906 X]
6. GRUPINSKA, Anka, JAGIELSKI, Jan & SZAPIRO, Pavel
Warsaw Ghetto
(Poland, Parma Press, 2006)
[ISBN 83-85743-95-2]
7. JARZEMBOWSKI, Janusz
Armoured Hussars, Volume 1 – Images of the 1st Polish Armoured Division 1939 – 47
(Solihull, Helion & Company Limited, 2014)
[ISBN 978 1 909384 43 9]
8. JARZEMBOWSKI, Janusz
Armoured Hussars, Volume 2 – Images of the 1st Polish Armoured Division Normandy August 1944
(Solihull, Helion & Company Limited, 2015)
[ISBN 978 1 910777 23 7]
9. MCGILVRAY, Evan
The Black Devil's March – A Doomed Odyssey The 1st Polish Armoured Division 1939 – 45
(Solihull, Helion & Company, 26 Willow Road, n.d.)
[ISBN 1 874622 42 6]
10. SOSABOWSKI, Major General Stanislaw
Freely I Served
(London, William Kimber & Co. Ltd., 1960)
11. RICHIE, Alexandra
Warsaw 1944 – The Fateful Uprising
(London, William COLLINS, 2013)
[ISBN 978-0-00-718041-7]
12. WILLIAMS, Martin
From Warsaw to Rome – General ANDER's Exiled Polish Army in the Second World War
(Barnsley, Pen & Sword Military, 2017)
[ISBN 978 1 47389 488 4]
13. WILLIAMSON, David G.
Poland Betrayed – The Nazi – Soviet Invasions of 1939
(Barnsley, Pen & Sword Military, 2009)
[ISBN 978 1 84415 926 0]
14. ZAWODNY, J. K.
Nothing but Honour – The Story of the Warsaw Uprising
(London, MacMillan, 1978)
[ISBN 0 333 12123 6]

Websites

15. Wikipedia – 1st Polish Armoured Division
Available on-line at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st Armoured Division %28Poland%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Armoured_Division_%28Poland%29)
[Accessed 27 May 2011]
16. Poland in Exile
Available on-line at: www.polandinexile.com
[Accessed 20 February 2014]
17. Polish Carpathian Brigade
Available on-line at: www.homepages.force9.net/rothwell/polish.htm
[Accessed 20 February 2014]

18. Memorial de Coudehard – Montormel
Available on-line at: <http://www.memorial-montormel.org/index.php?id=70>
[Accessed 27 May 2011]
19. Polish Forces in Scotland in the Second World War
Available on-line: <http://www.makers.org.uk/place/PolishInScotland2WW>
[Accessed 27 May 2011]