

# THE someTIMES

III/2016

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EASTER

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TIME CHANGE

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*INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY*

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FORGOTTEN HEROES

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*Easter, also called Pascha or Resurrection Sunday, is a festival and holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day of his burial after his crucifixion by Romans at Calvary c. 30 A.D. It is the culmination of the Passion of Christ, preceded by Lent (or Great Lent), a forty-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance.*



GET  
READY  
FOR...

CLOCK  
CONFUSION!!!

A cartoon illustration of a man with a large black mustache, glasses, and a black topknot. He has a wide-eyed, confused expression. He is holding a large, stylized question mark in his right hand. To his right, three blue question marks are floating in the air. The background behind him has several short, radiating lines, suggesting a bright idea or intense thought.

**27 mar 2016 - Daylight Saving Time Starts so be careful not to oversleep for Easter breakfast :D**



The **cursed soldiers** (also known as "disavowed soldiers", "accursed soldiers" or "damned soldiers"; Polish: *Żołnierze wyklęci*) is a term applied to a variety of anti-communist Polish resistance movements formed in the later stages of World War II and its aftermath by some members of the Polish Underground State. These clandestine organisations continued their armed struggle against the Stalinist government of Poland well into the 1950s.

The biggest battle in the history of the National Military Union (*Narodowe Zjednoczenie Wojskowe*, NZW) took place on 6-7 May 1945, in the village of Kuryłówka in southeastern Poland. The Battle of Kuryłówka fought against the Soviet *2nd Border Regiment* of the NKVD, ended in a victory for the underground forces commanded by Major Franciszek Przysiężniak ("Marek"). The anti-communist fighters killed up to 70 Soviet agents. The NKVD troops retreated in haste, only to reappear in the village later on and burn it to the ground in retaliation, destroying over 730 buildings.

The NKVD and UB used brute force and deception to eliminate the underground opposition. In the autumn of 1946, a group of 100–200 accursed soldiers of *Narodowe Siły Zbrojne* (National Armed Forces, NSZ) were lured into a trap and massacred. In 1947, Colonel Julia ("Bloody Luna") Brystiger of the Polish Ministry of Public Security

proclaimed at a security briefing that: "[t]he terrorist and political underground" had ceased to be a threatening force for the UB, although the "class enemy" at universities, offices and factories still had to be "found out and neutralised."

The persecution of AK members was only one aspect of the reign of Stalinist terror in postwar Poland. In the period from 1944 to 1956, at least 300,000 Polish civilians were arrested, although some sources claim numbers up to two million. Approximately 6,000 death sentences were issued, and the majority of them were carried out. It is probable that over 20,000 people died in communist prisons including those executed "in the majesty of the law" such as Witold Pilecki, a hero of Auschwitz.

A further six million Polish citizens (i.e., one out of every three adult Poles) were classified as suspected members of a 'reactionary or criminal element' and subjected to investigation by state agencies. During the Polish October of 1956, a political amnesty freed 35,000 former AK soldiers from prisons. Nevertheless, some partisans remained in service, unwilling or simply unable to rejoin the civilian community. The *cursed soldier* Stanisław Marchewka "Ryba" ("The Fish") was killed in 1957, and the last AK partisan, Józef Franczak "Lalek" ("Doll"), was killed in 1963 — almost two decades after the Second World War ended. Four years later, long after the abolition of Stalinist terror, the last member of the elite British-trained Cichociemny ("The Silent and Hidden") intelligence and support group, Adam Boryczka was finally released from prison (1967). Until the end of the People's Republic of Poland, former AK soldiers were under constant investigation by the secret police. It was only in 1989, after the fall of communism, that the convictions of AK soldiers were finally declared invalid and annulled by Polish law.

Now 1 March is an official Cursed Soldiers Day.



HAPPY *Celebrate Women's* DAY