

Issue 5 of 2015 “ARCHE” journal is dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and covers one of its least known aspects: the participation of Polish military groups in the war on different fronts in different armies and in armed underground resistance.

The issue opens with two forewords: by the ambassador of Polish Republic in the Republic of Belarus **Leszek Szerepka** and by a Polish military historian of Belarusian descendency **Jerzy Grzybowski**.

At the beginning of the main part of the issue popular articles of referential nature are published explaining notions which, according to Polish historians are pivotal for Polish memory of this war. The articles were first published in Polish as part of a larger publication *Węzły pamięci Niepodległej Polski*. Kraków—Warszawa, 2014.

The three articles that follow are dedicated to the events of September 1939 which were tragic for Poland and which marked the actual beginning of World War II.

In the article by **Wojciech Materski** „Soviet aggression of September 17th, 1939 within the context of the national security doctrine of interbellum Poland” main views are analyzed which existed in prewar Polish political circles as to how to address the problem of aggressive neighbors to the East, North and West from the Polish borders of the time. The main attention is given to the Eastern factor.

An article by a historian from Warsaw, a colonel of Polish Army **Juliusz Tym** „The military significance of Brest Fortress in the military campaign of 1939” is dedicated to the little-known topic of the defense of the glorious Brest Fortress by Polish Army from Germans almost two years before the world-famous Soviet defense of that same military facility.

An article by a Belarusian historian and expert in local history **Ihar Mielnikau** „On civilization fracture” is dedicated to the participation of Belarusian minority in the Polish army during the defense war of September 1939. According to the author „Belarusians together with Poles were the first in Europe to say „no” to Hitler”.

The largest body of this issue’s texts is dedicated to the activity of Polish military groups on different fronts of World War II after the military defeat of Poland and the occupation of its territory

by Germany and USSR. This body opens with an article by a professor from Gdansk **Jacek Tebinka**. „The policies of the great Western powers in relation to Poland in 1939—1945.” The next two articles are dedicated to the activity of Polish military groups on North European and African theaters of war: An article by a researcher from Wrocław **Paweł Jaworski** „Polish participation in the Norwegian Campaign of 1940” and by a historian from Warsaw **Janusz Zuziak** „A separate brigade of Carpathian riflemen in the defence of Tobruk and in the battle of Gazala.”

A scholar from Olsztyn **Tomasz Gajownik** in his article „A separate company „Commando” and 2nd special motorized battalion in 1942 — 1947”, a historian from Gdansk **Jan Szkudliński** in his work „The battle of Monte-Cassino and the destiny of 2nd Polish corps” and an article by **Jerzy Grzybowski** „The forgotten heroes: Belarusians in 2nd Polish Corps during World War II and their after war destiny” study various aspects of the history of military groups within Polish Military in the West.

In their turn the articles by professor **Albin Głowacki** from Łódź „Saved by the Army. On the formation of Polish armed forces in USSR in 1941 — 1944,” by a scholar from Warsaw **Zbigniew Palski** „On political environment of the formation and activity of Polish Army on the Eastern front (may 1943 — may 1945)” and by a researcher from Warsaw **Czesław Grzelak** „National, educational and military aspects of the activity of Polish army on the Eastern front in 1943—1945” are dedicated to various aspects of the history of Polish military groups constituting Polish armed forces in the East.

The issues closes with four articles dedicated to Polish underground resistance, first of all the activity of Home Army: an article by a historian from Warsaw **Andrzej Chmielarz** „The ally of our allies” the attitude of USSR to Home Army”, and articles by 3 researchers from Hrodna: **Stanislaŭ Siłvanovič** „Polish underground in West Belarus in 1939 — 1941 between Soviet and German intelligence”, by **Vitaľ Barabaš** „Soviet-Polish struggle on Belarusian territory during the Nazi German occupation (1941 — 1944)” and by **Andrzej Poczobut** „A Home Army operation „The Gate of Dawn”: goals, realization, consequences.”