

*Wtedy w zwątpienia strasznej rozterce,
Nim naszą wiarę obudzim znów
Błóżnią Ci usta, choć płacze serce,
Sądź nas po sercu, nie według słów*

*Then in doubt of a terrible distress,
Before our faith refresh again,
Blasphemy say our mouths, if cry the heart
Judge us after the heart, not by the words!*

Chapter 10. Bad luck

Tragedies in Michniów and Ostrowiec - is it possible to bring bad luck, may death follow a person footsteps? - absurd superstition, yes, but depression and breakdown eludes logic - the long way returning to life - a refugee from Warthegau and the case of English airmen, prisoners of war - new colleague and friend - Union of Western Slavs comes into existence.

At the time, when all this took place, Michniów was already rubbed out from the earth. Five days after the unconscious Angus was transported home, and two days after the only in the history of Gloomy squad, solemn appeal, combined with oath of new volunteers, the village struck a penal raid. The German came suddenly and with lightning speed they set in brand the houses and all buildings, as well as killing all people with preference of children, women and the old, all unable to run. But then they burned only the center of village and quickly set off, as after the alarm, Gloomy squad arrived with help from neighboring camp in the forest. Because he could neither prevent this tragedy nor punish the culprits, Gloomy decided retaliate by derailing a train front transport with German soldiers the 15-th July. By pure chance, from explosives and rapid-fire perished alike number of German soldiers, as before the people in Michniów, round 250 people. This action caused only few own losses. But simultaneous, new penal expedition encompassed Michniów and systematically killed the remaining people, who escaped the first time. Now this included also the farm on the outskirts, at which lived Angus (shop in the center of village, they burned at the first time, with all people within). Gloomy again answered, hitting the front transport.

Exactly now the Poles and possibly first Gloomy, found the only effective answer against German terrorist actions, by retaliatory strikes on tender German front transport lines. Before, for example in the mentioned Hubal case, Germans applied burning out villages with killing all people, instead the battling of enemy, who in open war turned out better. Burning of villages horribly weighed over the spirit of squad and command, because they were unable to assure the defense of civilian population. Now, in these lands Michniów was the least, Germany never tried more such methods, never with Gloomy, they backed out from further escalation. Supply transport for the giant Kursk battle was the key, Wehrmacht demanded, the Special Forces should solve the problem, do their duty, or the heads shall roll. No matter why, if any officer is unable to meet his task, send him to the front. East Front was, what the dreaded, if the members of Special Forces got an involuntary transfer to Wehrmacht, he found few sympathy between the plain soldiers or officers. Considering the unfriendly natives, his chances in a hell around would be low.

Instead they started a big hunt on partisans, when the first action failed, second and the next, inserting in this the maximum effort, engaging every accessible means. The hunting term stayed almost without interruption two and half month and engaged a great force, from four to six thousands of soldiers. Then after the lost battle and collapse the center of East front, they had to stop. Every disposable man they desperately needed to restore the Middle Army Group, they took even about half of instructors of Military Training Units, and even so had to disband several Divisions. No a chance, thousands of men at arms may be left for a secondary task. The only results were the great losses of Germans, more as the entire of Gloomy squad (it grow, at maximum to four hundred men). This times created the legend about Gloomy as invincible commander, almost half-man and demigod. They are this news from second hand, Angus never had the luck join the group, so it may be not proper to repeat details.

However, at the time, when Angus still lived in Michniów, awaiting the decision about him, in Ostrowiec come off another tragedy, in action on the factory of candy Amour. Precisely the same, in preparation of which unknowingly took part Angus, accompanying Stach Konar.

How usually in such cases, already after this event people pushed ahead some reproaches and the critique of the manner of acting, according to

the author unjust. Without regard on the most careful preparation, in each armed action occurs an element of risk. Some time happens a success, at another an exceptional fatal run of events.

In this case, preparations were careful, the target well selected and precisely defied, it appeared simple and easy. Also the Kedyw Squad formed well attuned and already experienced commando. He effected already a few alike actions, also more difficult ones, e. g. disarming of a group of German flyers close the barracks of other Germans. The squad commandant had the full trust of his soldiers and without doubt deserved this; such was a coincident opinion after his death. He presented outstanding personal courage, sound reason and cold blood, beside a quick decision. One can tell, ideal officer according to the Polish regulations of infantry. He went always first, conducting his men, as recommended for little groups.

Admittedly the action was planned former on an earlier day, but from inessential causes next shifted on 6-th July. Alas, this time the assigned commander of group was unable to come on time and in the last minute on his place stepped the commander of Kedyw Squad. He did not know personally the plan and grounds, but after all was accompanied by the son of the factory owner, Stach Konar.

Action began according to the plan, but next an unexpected accident occurred. Namely one employee, clearly not bright, did not catch the situation and ran away from group of unknown, armed men on the ground of adjoining estate, where sat two German gendarmes. This had not greater effects, because the mortally terrified gendarmes barricaded in a room and sat there, how mouse's under broom. But this distracted the external watch. Wasalski decided hurry up, they made a good progress, were before the time and still had the situation, if more tense, well in the hand, In one more quarter they could be ready to go.

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Precisely now, after the end of film in a cinema, which was also the property of Stach' mother, returned a group of young German soldiers, on a leave from eastern front. To tell exactly, already after holiday, but they stayed to share experiences with the authors of booklet about coping through the infantry with enemy tanks. This "masterpiece" titled "Der Panzercknacker" (a tank-cracker), edited only in early 1944, recommended to soldiers such actions, as manual attaching of explosive

cargo to the tanks. Especially at the so called neck of tank, between turret and box and next dropping hard by the tank, supposed to screen off the man from explosion. To tell it short, a sure suicide, no sense to take the trouble with falling down. A little above year later, Angus had occasion to see the undamaged corpse of man, who perished beyond protection, when at the second side of this exploded 400g of TNT. Merely the so called yellow soap-piece, in which instead primer one put in the detonator of grenade. "Mund auf, Ohren zu" (open mouth, protect the ears), so "Der Panzerknacker" directed the poor fools, to persuade them to such kamikaze actions. The advised load of explosives was 3 -7 kg, so the lye was a pure villainy. Nevertheless, hundreds of tanks and thousands of men, who judged they may stay alive, perished and some, by a mistake followed not the instructions and survived. Reward for destroying a tank was a two-week leave plus the travel time. Considering the hell beyond imagination around, there were always some, willing to come out, if only temporary at the risk of their lives.

Nevertheless, the handbook contained also some genuine information's, coming from soldiers, who had personal experiences with tanks and precisely in reward received the brief holidays. E. g. it was true, at these times visibility from tank was poor, chiefly if overcoming way obstacles or shooting. The chance of seeing an immovable aim remained minimal, most of victims fell soldiers running before tank, embraced with panic. Next, there developed more efficient hand weapons and experience, the number of destroyed by infantry tanks grew, but the production more, as compensated the loss. More about "Pancerknacker" see in the next chapter.

Werner Handtke, who with six other colleagues returned from cinema, in 1939 expected start the study in the Technical University in Leipzig. After the war erupted he got mobilized; it was not in time to take contribution in Polish campaign, but he took part in already in the French and from this moment he took full trust to "Fuehrer". Before, he was not quite convinced and appointment to army treated without enthusiasm, as unpleasant necessity, despite last three years he belonged to "Hitlerjugend". But France changed all. When early spring 1941 for first time he traveled through Poland, to be exact a country which previously was Polish, he and other soldiers from his company jested itself that Hitler is the best conductor of excursions in Europe. Thanks to him they toured already Paris, now drive to look at Athens, never in life young folk

would have so gorgeous occasions, if did not such extraordinary conductor (quibble, Fuehrer earmarks equally commander or conductor).

The motorized infantry, where he served, drove in open trucks covered with fabrics, twenty soldiers on wooden benches, besides of course two in a cabin, all in all 22. Not too comfortable, but sufficient to young and strong boys. Trucks, besides baggage's they stuffed possibly discretely with seated booty, in all hiding place the multitude of coffee and tea, of French wines and cognacs, cigarettes and silks. They intended to leave the trophy in Germany, where in the war time was a demand for such luxuries. But it was not time, the extended network of motor-ways and good roads caused that through Germany they passed like flash. They stuck only in Poland and precisely Werner for first time stopped two days in Ostrowiec. Further journey, in comparison to the preceding run through wildernesses - and next not much better, through mountains of Slovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria, needing organization, all developed in idiotic constipation. However the weather remained fine, end of March rich and sunny, and the French wines kept warm, a mouthful a time, nobody took a risk to get drunk. Without a chance to toss this home, now they began to sell, and in this place they bought the hoards of eating, such grub they have not from beginning of war, also before. Admittedly, proportion of prices disappointing, either they paid too much or sell too cheap, but on the other hand, what they brought from France, they did not have to pay at all.

They spent the nights then in a grove by the road, lucky the nights not frosty, though still cold. Precisely before evening of second day, they played the couple sets of volleyball with local boys. Strange first game they lost smoothly, the second too, only the next in which Werner already did not enter, because they went to motorcars for aid and they pulled down best players from all battalion, they won after stubborn battle. This game they discussed still long in the evening. They did not expect here such players. To revenge it did not come, of next day they set off taking away the ample hoards of eating on farther road. It was enough still in Greece, where on whole the food was scarce. In Greece, properly only the armored units fought, for them it was an excursion with attractions.

So it happened, that still a time more they traveled through Ostrowiec, in June 1941, but now they took only Greek cigarettes and tortoise's, on which there was not much demand. Spent here one day, and conditions

became less pleasant: Heat, clouds of dust and awful crowd, everywhere bulk of troops and armament and utensils, which no way could contain the roads, even though already extended. Only in some places the columns of crestfallen workers with yellow bands on sleeves, with highest effort finished still the work. The vehicles blocked all breadth of the road, constantly necessary it was to check and to wait for the possibility to move. Despite this, tune was not bad, they were sure this is the least time, to fill in the historical mission. Fuehrer promised to them that now they will take huge, fertile earths and each from them shall clasp in so much of it, how much he manages (a fief, not a full property). Each becomes a "Gutsbesitzer" – (country nobility) and gets Russian bondsmans to work for him, this already depends on his personal resourcefulness, the more the better. Russian campaign began like the others, with lightning speed.

Astounding how much of time the human psyche needs to process the practical proposals of experience into education. For example, Poles, earliest touched the mass murders, still in 1939y. At once after the end of campaign it hit the western districts (the mass terror rubbed up to central Poland later, on beginning of 1940 y).

However only after two years consolidated in consciousness of public opinion, that further war is neither a romantic dream of young people, nor of irresponsible madmans, how some believed - but the only chance to survive. The disciplined die first.

The Jews, in the first time spared by the Germans (this means not exterminated in mass, of course from the beginning persecuted and robbed), did not change their spirit in time. The mass murder began in about two years later – clearly, it was the substance of Nazi ideas – and ended in two years as they began to fight back. This reaction of course had a great moral importance, but it came too late.

The Soviet people at the start of the war easily accepted the slavery, in fact they had every reason to do this, but next, quickest slain, also speedy realized they had no other chance, but fight to the end. In fact, what they experienced was not a mere cruelty. It was a macabre madness, surpassing all, whatever happened on earth, revolting to all.

Also in the consciousness of German soldiers arouse an evolution. First they got pushed in war unwillingly and without conviction. Then conducted from victory to victory, they draw enthusiasm. Now, even

past the first tragic winter on eastern front and the second, with catastrophe by Stalingrad and the fateful end of great African adventure, still they kept credit of deep trust in Hitler. Only the Battle by Kursk had to change this attitude. This battle began precisely preceding day, but now there were no news and through the next day's all of newspapers were full of triumphal announcements about great German victory. Only after weeks, about month after cremation alive the people of Michniów, began to emerge a picture of great defeat.

But then, at the beginning understood this only high military commanders, the German soldiers (the more intelligent) began grasp this only somewhere in autumn. While the young folk which in enemy uniforms went out after the performance from cinema and turned to "Deutsches Heim", located in school building opposite the grammar-school, by the Starachowice road, they went gaily and in good disposition. Satisfied with their life and fate, in a manner full patriotism and national pride, ready to sacrifices and gifts, as before certain of final victory, they never lost trust to their Fuehrer. Young boys, if maybe not the same, very alike to the soldiers, who played the mentioned party of volleyball.

Hitler personally chose the strongest group of Army Red and he decided to end all campaign with a decisive battle precisely there. An idiotic idea, reminding personal initiative "Kaiser's" in France, in the Verdun battle. Queer, considering that Hitler, at first full of worship to "Kaiser", next disappointed and spoke of him with contempt (to be sure, for more reasons). Hitler from beginning wanted a giant victory, battles with splendor of the millions of corpses on both sides, something spectacular, memorable through ages indeed. The gorgeous fate of the coming must become hammered into shape precisely in such manner and of course under his command, this shall constantly fill with writing history, and will not forget next generations. This is why he never satisfied by first successes which came too easily and too cheap. They were good enough only to assure the recognition and the loyalty of field armies, at the beginning.

Soldiers German and all Germans never had the blue videa, that indeed they are the hand of a madman, who for his pleasure plans to take to the death millions. Like before, when victory in battle turns out impossible, he will try, till all perish with him, in one impressive tragedy. Also this battle he prepared long and careful, suspending all other

operations and a couple of times put aside time-table. In such conditions there was not a chance, to hold the planned operation in secret. Not only the attack was never a surprise, but Soviets had so exact information, that it was them who precisely first surprised Germans, their artillery covered with fire the army amassed on station positions. Battle was lost this moment; an outstanding commandant would withdraw the armies on defensive positions. Not because of the loss, the fire was not so efficient. But it became obvious, the Soviet expect just now such an attack. However, Hitler was a born gambler. He could never resist, if the stakes were high.

When the bunch passed near the factory "Amour", one from them, Hans Voegelein, the jester of this company, remembered that once he saw, here comes to work a multitude of girls. Whatever, the sympathy of girls they missed much. "Blitzmaedel" (German women in-service) were scarce, even for officers, female "Volksdeutsch" also few and even the ugly already taken, and Poles avoided them like a pest. Werner tried to persuade, but Hans necessarily wanted to try here and inspired the mates. A few approached to gate, but this turned out closed. They wanted already to leave, but Hans proposed take a look, two buddies raised him and then he glimpsed in the depth a man in civilian dress at arms. With motion he called another, next took a look Werner. On yard stood two trucks and the group of folks loaded them, some from them had weapons. They did not know to explain this, but this all appeared suspicious. After a brief talk, couple of them ran to "Deutsches Heim" for colleagues and long weapons and a few remained in vicinity watching buildings, sure it is a bandit attack. In umpteen minutes later ran up their colleagues with carbines, and they encircled the site. They were experienced front soldiers and understood one another without words, it was enough a few motions.

When commander of the Diversion Squad, Wasowski, heard the call to surrender and saw his group turned up and encompassed, he decided on immediate strike. He supposed the Germans still did not manage to recognize the setting, the more necessary to react now, each second of delay could only worsen the position. Surely in the usual conditions, if he had to fight the German police forces, such reaction would be proper. But here he had to do with experienced front soldiers, who took positions for shooting and waited with aimed carbines. Admittedly Werner delayed about second, when in the running man he saw suddenly the same that he saw driving opposite to the volleyball two

years ago, but one from chums corrected this fault. Other also reacted automatically, in brief wipe perished six soldiers of the Kedyw Squad, and worse, four wounded got prisoners. Only two Germans wounded; this game they won high.

Well, hard luck, but at least one fortunate break, that Gestapo cut the further investigation. Simple cause: the prestige, position and opinion Gestapo in the eyes of superiors may become endangered. How this, a few by chance gathered German soldiers smash and liquidate an armed organization group which from years acts several hundred meters from the site of Gestapo - and what do the Gestapo men? If this affair got noisy, not only Peters, but also the other members of Gestapo management sure could neither expect praise, nor a stroke of head. Better let the matter in peace.

In result, they classified this all as a bandit robbery. This was an offense, which the all-time of occupation the German tolerated, even creating preference and convenient conditions for developing banditos. Only the guerrilla squads and underground authorities coped with robbery, Germans never. Genuine bandits could be sometime useful as collaborators, and if even they happened into concentration camps, they used them as capo (helpers). Such cynical practice formed the pattern of the Nazi.

In this case the four seized wounded, instead tortures and death, expected merely a concentration camp. Almost the same, however it turned out a big difference. One of the prisoners the family bought out of the camp with a huge bribe, a second one survived to the war end. The rest two were less fortunate.

About all this events Angus knew nothing a long time. First, the parents wanted not to tell him bad news. Next they did not know themselves, the name Michniów meant to them nothing, also the news about some shooting they did not associate with Stach Konar, or any other of Angus colleagues. Nevertheless, he know from own experience a part of the story, more of it about two months later, as he began to recover. Finally, to his great surprise, more of it, as mentioned in Chapter 15, this all from firsthand. But there was more of the story, he got knowledge only from second or third hand and some detail may be inaccurate or mixed up, so let's the following be short.

After the death of the first commander, the district command of AK did not assign for the Diversion Squad an outside officer, what may be more adequate, but worse considering the psychology. The nomination of commander received Marcin Godniowski, precisely this depicted early high, muscular, best player of volleyball, with thick and curly storm of hairs on head. This, to whom on sports field all cried "Philip!" A nickname still from school, which, against accepted custom, became also his pseudonym.

The most active, one may tell spirit of the squad (never decreasing the role of the killed in action Wasawski who was more than authority, - father of souls, educator, alpha and omega, all world), Philip, soon overcame the crisis. Alas, his near connections with group engaged in the tragically action were too visible. Soon then he was arrested, a pure routine. His cover never tore, Gestapo did not suspect him of taking part in illegal organization, more so of being the head of one, but he was seen in suspected company and this needed checking. They had nothing concrete and found nothing. Maybe they would resign, or apply a procedure, as usual with hostages. However, his former colleagues and now subordinates did not know this. They also remained unaware of conflict of interest between German police organs and German army, too subtle and too complicated.

It was the same pattern, as described in a most popular at the time book of underground publishing house "Stones for the rampart". The members of the Kedyw Squad hung together, chained with strong loyalty. Not a chance, they may let their commander to his fate. "Philip" was as much valued and popular, as the "Ginger head" in the story. And already before, the squad managed to free one of the arrested and tortured members, the mentioned "Negro".

However, some difference: "Negro" after interrogation they carried right into a hospital, "Philip" never left Gestapo dungeons. These buildings were safeguarded, e. g, by outside bunkers with machine weapons. To go in there, it would be necessary to fight a greater battle. About several hundred m. from there were placed German barracks and "Deutches Heim". Despite many efforts, it proved impossible to communicate with the prisoners, including "Philip". No way to know, that his situation does not demand so a desperate action.

They planned to kidnap the German Commissar of the Town and swap him next for "Philip" and with luck, some more prisoners. A Head of the

German administration would be a valuable ace in this game. At first, the action began with success, but ended with defeat. Again, it was not the German surety force, but the team of German soldiers, possibly the same as before, who voluntarily organized a chase. They freed the German commissar and killed all kidnapers (it was a rumor, the least Pole alive killed himself with a grenade, the older brother of mentioned Julek Żuk, pseudo of "Dragon"). Also a tale, Germans had a top driver, the Poles an inexperienced one; Angus, remembering his own exam in theory, could imagine this. Anyway, with all dead, it was a guess.

But sure, the Germans won high two games, after a two-years break, not because they were any better or the Poles worse. Both parties were committed, brave, zealous and single-hearted. Well, the Germans got more experience, but main, they forgot any implanted stoppage, got familiar with killing, acting automatically, when the Poles still took a sec of delay, maybe pity. About the same pattern, as with Hitler and Beck, for the first killing was a natural, when a person with human, more so, a Christian background deliberated, is this indispensable? They lacked the conditioned reflex for kill, when the young Nazi fanatics accepted in full Hitler norms. Well, this Angus realised only next year, after the guerrilla experience.

Hard to believe, but even then Gestapo silenced the affair, preferring own interest over the "business of the Reich safety". Because the kidnapers did not express any conditions and could not talk, Peters announced that surely they did this for ransom. The case has nothing to do with Marcin Godniowski whom they sent to a concentration camp just in case. Outstanding fit, he survived, managed to run away and fought in guerrilla. More rumors arouse; none of them firsthand.

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When Angus returned to life, still some time more they have to keep severe quarantine. Jaundice is high infectious, even when the dangerous period elapsed, first duty was to keep prudence. In short Angus saw only parents and nobody else and knew only, what he heard from them. At least he insisted to buy newspapers, as much as possible. He wanted not only Polish reptile papers, but also German press, not confining oneself on Krakauer Zeitung, also the central press, mainly Berlin editions. News of war and newses from front he understood already, instead other fragments and comments he read with mother help. In limited score, he learned a little German rudiments.

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Capsule: Stalin trends to breaking off relations with Poland and confrontation, taking as pretext the Katyń homicide. The allies throw the used, now temporary spent ally to the wolves, Sikorski loses the ratio of existence and his life.

News from front were favorable: not only Germany got a beating, but also the Japanese from offensive changed to stubborn defense. The worst news concerned the death of gen. Sikorski. German press announced this subject exceptional extensive, dedicating much more place, than English or American. Except Polish reptile papers, none press on world devoted this event so much space, because German propaganda tried suggest this case as political murder, the example of typical English perfidy, cunning and disgraceful.

In part addressed to Poles, this propaganda did on them none impression. Polish public opinion became so biased that even in such cases, when causally the facts occurred not false, German propaganda missed the impact. Polish people presumed automatic, that all what tell Germans is so false that even does not deserve a critique, only pity. However, not all, not always, and not to the end was a lie. Germans did not avoid truth, if this truth was for them profitable. But the propaganda trumpet lost so much credibility that they lost money free of charge, because each word awoke disbelief. In this manner, among nonsense duplicities, they wasted also information of importance. For example, when still they acted in collaboration and understanding with ZSRR, they praised to the sky their accomplices and published only favorable news. But later, after trickiest assault on former comrades, they described in details horrors of totalitarian Soviet system, truly and competent. They knew the subject well, having experience and expertise; they were professionals, telling about professionals. Despite minor difference of ideology, different theory, the practical machinery of ruling was the same. The evolution of these both regimes took place parallel and had astoundingly many common features. In fact, this was not independent evolution; it progressed with an exchange of genes. Like a copycat murder, only it would be hard to tell, who took what from whom, who was first in the close unity of spirits. Or perhaps, who has the right to be called the original author and who plagiarist?

In fact, much information about the horrors of Soviet rule Germans knew so accurately, because they had excellent specialists for these special

affairs. They did not need to create fantasy, like many writers from other countries, including Europe and USA who often ridiculed absurd conceptions about affairs, they had not blue idea. E.g. when Germany presented the horrors of camps and Soviet prisons, including also the mentioned affair of Katyń, they knew well, how this works, although the details and technical solutions may differ. Also and with air catastrophes of trusted men of merits they had much experience. Still at beginning of 1942 in such a catastrophe perished Fryderyk Todt. This happened fresh after, one can tell, he pulled Wehrmacht by the ears from the deep-frozen cesspond (with shit, not drop, which could made a chance for surviving the frost) where it fell in winter 1941/42. He knew too much, who was the true culprit of neglecting the proper equipment.

Sometimes it is better to be a debtor, than creditor. If one owes too much, he may try to rub out the man, who preserved his hide, but could next cause an embarrassment or loss of the image. Contrary, to a debtor, especially a big one, better support him in own interest. The world is neither a nice, nor a proper place, better be careful, than sorry. A dictator never tolerates anybody, who dared to correct his errors, especially, if they may result with his death. Saving his life is a capital offense and so it was with Hitler and Todt.

The case of Katyń announced German propaganda about middle of 1942. A rare event, the Germans presented genuine facts, but anyway nobody believed them. Only the fact the affair sanctioned Germans was enough to clear Soviets from any suspicion, However, gradually the truth emerged. The homicide crime exceptionally ugly, all the POW officers were slain. Only later it turned out, the also killed were about 90% of common soldiers, although not in Katyń. Even the Germans murdered not so viciously, to be exact, till the attack on Soviets.

At least, The Polish Government on Emigration could not keep silence, because more and more of Polish people behaved irresponsible, in name of the murdered (up to twenty thousands) imperiling the next hundreds of thousands. Sikorski made to Stalin with moderate and prudent appeal of common inquiry or commission of such to people neutral and independent with recognized authority. No doubt, Sikorski wanted keep up appearances, which may temporary delay the problem, ignore now the worst facts. Sikorski tried to act diplomatically, maybe even exaggeratedly, was ready to accept for good coin any explanation of Stalin. But Stalin had not such intention, from the moment, the bad

situation on the front improved, he decided anyway to break off any contacts, made up with Poland under influence of British diplomacy.

Without any merit answer, he mounted the high horse, declaring only such question is offensive. Almost, as if a murderer not content with the felony accused the family of victims for slander and before a corrupt jury, demanded compensation. The opinion of free world accepted this as easily, as the Holocaust and Stalin on the top of this got all, he wanted, the whole Poland.

Of course, if the case of Katyń did not come on light, Stalin would find another pretext. So or so, he decided to tear up the pacts, sweep his hand over Poland, He found a free way, the allies never did anything to prevent this.

This matter should be looked at realistic. This was not, as consider some Poles: That they were used, pushed to war with Germany, as gun flesh, to take some blood out from "Wehrmach", and chiefly to gain on time, differently the attack would fall already in 1939 on France and England. Poland was valuable ally, when she impounded Hitler critical year 1939. Then she counted still as only definite ally in 1940y, when Polish flyers, only about 10% in

relation to British, in the crisis of aerial battle effected up to 20% of the shoot down German aircrafts. Polish army, though small, added, in order to fill holes in the defense of littorals at side also of small British armies. Next however, although through the all-time of the war several hundred

thousands of Poles fought, and did well, everywhere where fought British allies, value and importance of Poles in proportion to engaged forces became still smaller. Poland had little left to offer, she descended to the role of baffling creditor, who filed all what he had in common enterprise, but who could be left without a repay. So after winning of war, better throw Poland to the wolves. However Poles simplify the matter speaking that first they paid with the impossible quantity of men and goods to win the war, and then a second time for peace. This is not all of truth, only a part of it.

In reality, Great Britannia had not enough power, to hold their commitments. One must remember, that in result of severe blunders, passive behavior in the first months of WW II, totalitarian countries, if acting together, won a military over poise over democracies. In the case

of steady cooperation of Germany and ZSRR, not mentioning Japan, all the rest of free world could not overcome such block. After all in year 1940 Government of USA counted serious with the occupation of England and he wanted to invite British fleet, in order to organize the defense of only the American continent.

Great Britannia and USA faced long a crisis. It is known, in 1941 and still in 1942. Stalin was ready to close a peace, accepting the dominance of Germany, if allowed to keep a part of ZSRR under his permanent authority. Ribbentrop was all the time recommend of such peace and after 1942 at all any room; Appraising policy ZSRR as clean (if preferably dirty) utilitarian, he assured just that Stalin will not have absolutely none scruples. Lucky, such idea denied Hitler.

Therefore for Great Britain and USA main aim was, to cut out at least one from these monster forces, which created greatest direct threat. After this they could manage defense against the second. That being so alliance with ZSRR was vital, all other, including Poland, of second-rate importance. Great Britain and USA fought on life-or-death and had a chance only thanks to this coincidence that aggressors beat one another, but even now, possible alteration of alliances could turn out fatal.

Yet Poland, from the start put all his assets in common box. At the price of unimaginable big losses (altogether, in the time of war, including battles and mass murder in the occupation, the kill rate about 20%, without the Soviet victims), bought for allies the whole 1939. After this her contribution remained only several hundred thousands of soldiers, a decreasing fraction in ratio to all engaged forces.

Winston S. Churchill was sure the main architect of victory and a man of great format, in addition, decent, as goes for a politician. If he turned traitor to the Polish ally, acted dishonest, this happened because he had to, in standing of bad need. On the first place he put business of his country and already this is a strong argument. Also we shall never forget, the interest of his country was then coincident with the interest of all humanity. He was full aware of a deep immorality of necessary practical dissolutions, just like with this that on time has not choice. Great Britain had to make up with ZSRR and next appease still more, because the importance of this monster grew constantly. Henceforth, Churchill did not manage to overstrain his tune to the most powerful ally, USA - although at least necessary to admit that he tried.

But Franklin D Roosevelt had at all other ideas of peace and policy. Sure too a great man, on the other hand, if born in another place and circle he would chose another job, he could with a head lead become perfect capo di tutti cappi, an outstanding chief of a powerful gang. This does not refer to a moral level, surely without reproach, but only the mental potential. In this case, Roosevelt he tried close with Stalin an intimacy, putting out Churchill for a gull. Good understanding with the first against the second, this was a play of demonstration. Churchill may be about this biased or knew it but was keeping appearances. Anyway, he had to agree with this, even if feeling bad. Roosevelt realized his plans, patting Stalin on the shoulder and making fun (or straight gull) of Churchill, a prearranged tactic to getting close psychologically. But Stalin got more, as he at the start considered possible. Sure, if he had the time, in the end Roosevelt may manage Stalin, if he lived long enough. But often the long-term, outstanding plans, the genial programs one realizes only in part. So it was here, Stalin bought, but never paid anything.

About Poland, Churchill merely could do nothing more, although he tried to the limit of his force. But even when he appealed to the honor of England, Roosevelt and Stalin in full good terms advised him, not to mix serious arguments with witty matter. Roosevelt negotiated with Stalin copying the methods of the chiefs of gangs, and clearly diminished, even deliberately ridiculed Churchill'. In the affair of Poland, Roosevelt never made any promises, and USA previously had a big credit on plus. Essential part of long-distance plan of Roosevelt was to throw Poland to Stalin. Russia already previously swallowed Poland, but could never digest it, had only troubles. Roosevelt hoped, a little indigestion may be good for Stalin. Busy with this, he will have less time and possibilities for further expansion. Fact it is that after Stalin, a long time, this foresees turned out astoundingly accurate, Polish yeast had a contribution in fermentation and break-up of Soviets empire.

Coming to the death of gen. Sikorski, this affair is not clear up to today. Many serious historians, including German, but not only (without prejudice, the talk concerns not Nazi, but altogether another people and without hesitation on top level) affirms, that this catastrophe organized the Secret British Service. All remember, that same judged De Gaulle who wanted never use English aircraft and to France returned crowded into French fighter, in dark mystery, not forestalling even English anti-aircraft defense or aerial checking service. Taking the risks of

shooting down in an unidentified plane, as the rumor goes, he commented that if his aircraft was identified, risk would grow).

It is difficult to discuss this affair, now as before without any information, but on the other side precisely concealment every detail from routine examination and prohibition of rendering archives creates suspicions. Exactly as in the cause of Katyń, it produces a bad atmosphere and sources distrust. Possibly, the second time, Nazi propaganda, by mistake, may tell the truth. Gen. W. Sikorski was an outstanding antifascist ringleader popular on the entire world, his name known universally. After the surrender of France, he personally closed a deal with Churchill and since both they spoke about friendly relations, though difficult to tell, if and how importance has friendship for politicians.

None other member of Polish Government on Emigration had nearly such authority, a similar impact on public opinion. Besides, only Sikorski could consequently argue the broken understandings. Surely, as long as Sikorski lived, it would be impossible such treason to allied Poland, he could talk and his voice would be heard at, perhaps causing a scandal. Other Polish officials, in majority new or from the so called second garment had never such importance; their voice weighted not that heavy. Removing of Sikorski, so long as Stalin was inaccessible, from point of the British interest became a sad need. Nobody can advance definitive suggestions, but if so precisely happened, this surely Churchill would have to decide personally and without doubt unwillingly and with checks. A public man can not act like an honest John, had to take hard decision, even to deliver man or people he personally values, for well-being of his country first. Author hopes that his doubts may clear once in another manner. But even if nothing happens, it will not change his opinion about Churchill. Like all who lived during WW II, he will admire and value, as before, Churchill even if this had to pick so fatal decision, in his conscience pro publico bono.

* * *

Nobody from Poles imagined then next the events, did feel apprehensions. Admittedly death of Sikorski was painful, but after all it was a war, a standard that people perish. About Katyń, the checked overweight of opinions tell, probably this did both the Germans and Soviets, the "Einsatzgruppen" of SS took over after working with sweat running down their faces Soviets. Manual method (make), because industrial methods by use of cyclone still was experimental. Merely, in

the frames of duties fulfilled on backside of front, they killed the rest of Polish survivors, left over by the running Red Army. Angus father, who had did see the conditions in ZSRR, presumed that surely NKVD began assassinating, and Germans finished at suitable moment.

Stalin reaction appeared inconceivable, but did not induce fear. After all Poland, to tell it straight was a steady member, one of founders of anti-Hitler coalition. She fought as the first with Germany. Nobody expected, after the victory which still seemed nearer by, a tragic doom. Poles became deceived, this all established their position.

Much more Angus, his parents, anybody around, interested the situation in Italy. After the taking over Sicily, the situation there became queer and exciting, something important hung in the air. Mussolini was removed from authority, but also Great Fascist Council which expelled him, she did not hold at authority. This took the king, who dismissed Mussolini and appointed a new government. Unknown was the role of Ciano, first recognizing there is no way to win this war. Already in 1942 he began prudent steps, to lead Italy to surrender, if need to be, take a jump on the victorious side.

Thrown out by father-in-law, who was unable to independent activity (Mussolini in presence of Hitler behaved as hypnotized), Ciano prepared the revolt of fascist hierarchy.

But the authority slipped from the hand of Grandi and passed to Badoglio under the aegis of King, and the Army command received Ambrosio, all the names known from Mussolini times. It would be better if Ciano, even if unofficial, could continue his ideas. Nobody realized, the blow-out of axis was already a fact accomplished and could lead to end of war already in 1943. The Italian army protected the south approaches to Germany and besides, occupied a considerable part of Balkan Peninsula, where Romania and Hungary already earlier contacted Ciano. They wanted to come out of war with Italy, if need to be, change front and begin war against Germany. With decisive help of England and USA it would be possible to roll back quickly the defense on the whole south side of Europe, even with France, where Italian Army also took contribution in occupation. Only Churchill took to the great vision, this is the sense what he spoke about the soft abdomen of Europe, sure not without substance. But again the Americans countered, probably fearing the negative reaction of Stalin. It is a fact, that exactly at the time Soviets, unofficial via Stockholm presented conditions of separate peace

with Germany, which with Hitler opposing, could not be taken serious, but anyway frightened off USA.

That being so, the great hopes never fulfilled, they remained only in the sphere of dreams. Chiefly allies, but also and Italians acted compromising clumsily and shilly-shally, losing priceless time. Instead Germany, chiefly the SS intelligence, but also Wehrmacht, straight jumped over their heads, did the impossible. Huge, probably decisive role played, fake English banknotes, for time first used then on mass scale by the Germans. As everybody knows, ass loaded with gold, conquers easily fortresses which can take none army.

SS already long before began the greatest in history forgery, seeking out therefore the best falsifiers from the millions of prisoners, combing with fine comb both the prisons as the camps of death. Selected specialists received the offer of life and this at fairly easy level, in exchange for their professional services. Besides, SS enabled the best masters' use the newest, unattainable gadgets of technique and science, so the result had to be good. So good, the most competent expert from Swiss and even English banks, granted carefully pushed to them samples for genuine banknotes.

Still no decision fell, where and how to use the forgeries, no rulings. There were some fantasy proposals, e. b. to throw them down from bombers in great quantities on England in aim of cramping and confuse the finance and cause temporary paralysis of economy. But for such task production was still too small.

Now these projects overlapped another task. SS intelligence got almost inexhaustible funds. SS used this without extravagance, preferably prudently, but without limits everywhere where it may buy results. Already before, Germans read Italian secret codes and could see literally all. In crisis (later press accused for the premature information English radio, unjust, because Germany so or so knew all exactly), the small German forces managed astounding easily to disarm Italian Army and take over almost all country. Allies landed only late and took Naples, but acting astoundingly sluggish did not enter even to Rome. Italian Divisions protecting the aerodromes waited in vain on landing allies, lost faith and after minimal resistance were disarmed by the Germans. The most flamboyant action was extracting Mussolini by German parachutists and the commando of SS under Skorzeny, whom Hitler assigned to his

chosen men and model actions. These all become possible, thanks to the lavish payment for information.

In Yugoslavia, where the Italian army became for partisans a great supply base, Germans not only bought back in masses Italian weapons but also the most modern arms from current British deliveries. This arrived now in huge numbers from nearby basis on the heel of Italian boot. In fact, for the fake pounds, German repurchased on the Balkan mountains of weapons, so much that next they equipped with them newly formed divisions. From this source came mainly English weapons, which got German diversion units, moved beyond the frontline when last offensive in Ardennes, at the end of 1944y.

The third important action, lucky not profitable for Germans, was the spy operation, code Cicero, also paid from this source. Next this was described in many published sensation books, however, then of course unknown.

To tell this short in second half of 1943y Germany managed to go out with overhand from dangerous situation, a miracle indeed. War may, should end about a year to one and a half y. earlier.

* * *

Somehow in the third decade of August, on some warm, even hot afternoon, Angus already using own legs, walked through the pastures and then to Wspólna street, all the way to Pieracki Street. This was a great effort and he hardly managed the route. Although the disease retired, remained a serious liver damage, according to medical examination, about 75%. However, he expected further regeneration, keeping strict diet, consisting of the immortal hulled barley, now more acid milk and much Vitamin C, because he still could not eat fruits. But he felt almost normal, only feeble; probably an average cat could throw him to earth.

Only a few days ago he learned about the collective murder in Michniów but lacking the details. Nobody knew about the guerrilla squad, altogether nobody mentioned Gloomy, but no news either about next catastrophe, what could mean only favorable news.

Sometimes he went out already on the bench under window, now for first time left to see and hear something more, to contact the colleagues. He could not take down further suspension in vacancy.

He reached Wspólna Street walked up Pieracki and entered the shop. The colleague's mother stood beyond counter, only a few people in shop. On sight of Angusa dropped a dead silence, a moment he associated this with the shop in Michniów, but there was a difference difference, he felt her unwanted. Sure, this had to be a fantasy of his imagination. Trying to shake this down, he asked, if he found the son. On this all began to look on strange, after a moment he heard that mournful mass for the calm of Stach soul shall take place in six days, in the church on municipal hill.

An impression comparable to a thunderbolt from a clear sky, Angus asked questions or rather bubbled without sense, and all without a word more looked at him, as if they judged him guilty of something. He withdrew quickly, on the way home, people told him later, he talked to himself, shook his head and gesticulated. He remembered nothing like this. His parents knew nothing and could tell him nothing more. (Unexpectedly, Angus met Stach Konar very much alive, already in May 1945, and astonished so, as if seeing a phantom. Stach, taking part in the action, was not shot in the first seconds, next knowing the terrain, managed to hide in the building with one more boy, next day escaped, maybe with some support from some familiar worker. Anyway, Angus never heard his tale, because when they met, they both were on the run, this time from the Communistic Surety, so after a short greeting, they appointed for a talk tomorrow. But they never met again, because the next day Angus already escaped from Ostrowiec, see Chapter XV. Stach this time had less luck, Surety got him and the least what Angus heard a longtime after was, he perished in the Kielce prison.)

Next day, he went further, to Stephan and got a little more news still without details. He visited other colleagues, but even this, who sure had more info, spoke short and without reference. Then he heard that also the brother of Julek Żuk was killed when kidnapping the commissar of town, but Julek wanted not talk about this. It would be easier to pull teeth out from people, than a word of comment.

He several times walked to the forest path down way and then left to the sport yard in the grove below Traugutt Street, but never met there anyone, all the volleyball players vanished. This he could expect, but the

picture was, as if the place was unused a longtime. But in fact, he came here never this year. After the ending of Business School, the next day already began the Michniów enterprise.

Gradually from different information, showed some picture, but still foggy.

Influenced by the events and possibly by the disease Angus collapsed in depression, melancholy, a mad despair. Twice in turn, he went to places which soon after him visited death. He escaped, but wherever he walked, all around perished. He began to fear that it is him, who brings bad luck, pulls down misery and sorrow, he is the Jonas, has bad run. Call it differently, any name, but one it is certain: Calamity comes in his footsteps, who wants to survive, should hold far away from him.

This is a foolish, primitive nonsense, in such superstitions may believe only cretin, on lowermost intellectual level. He tried to explain this to himself, repeatedly, but without success. Well, a major depression eludes logic. Despite all, what spoke common sense, sound reason, there remained apprehension. To weak a word, a paralyzing horror, waking up and felling asleep he saw on his place, a monster scattering pest, carrier of some deadly bacillus. A blessing of God was separation with his dearest love, without doubt, finally and forever. If not this, surely he may pull down disaster on her too. All September, he grieved only of one that he survived, he almost envied the dead.

* * *

Angus did not lie anymore in the backroom of beerhouse, quarantine ended, meaning, if goes about jaundice, because still he approached nobody, wanting not infect him with bad luck. Again they lived in the room of the boarding-school with father, but he remained there after the exit of father, all the way to midday or afternoon. He had not aim whatever to stand up and would be glad not this he do; even did not read books, he did not sleep also, only lay with closed eyes or he looking at the ceiling or window. When at last he rose, he went home, ate his cereals with milk, commonly sour and then went on solitary walk, to forest or on meadows. With time he reached all the way to Romanów resting a few times on the way road, still feeling feeble. He bathed short, preferably did not swim and he returned home before evening. The parents let him in rest seeing that he backs away from a contact, avoiding any company.

News from the papers did not correct the spirit. Italians bungled all and the English and Americans stopped permanently. Instead of the whole Italy, they obtained only a part of the former Kingdom Naples and Both Sicily, they did not take even Rome, although it would suffice to throw down a few commandoes. The Italian Divisions protecting aerodromes around the Eternal Town waited for this, how on salvation. It would be enough a thousands, even a symbolic number of few hundreds parachutists, when no assistance come, even not interest of allies, the Italian troops lay down the arms before Germans. Allies instead acting quickly, after long considerations only in 1944 put down a landing at Anzio, where at first they never met any resistance. Despite this, then they retired and some days did nothing, passively expecting, till at last came the Germans and without any fighting, took positions on the hills around. Then they shot by artillery the little cutting of littoral and adjacent valleys from one end to another, changing the terrain into a mass cemetery of American and English soldiers. In German newspapers in detail depicted their successes, they boasted about them, telling the number of dead Americans about three times greater as Germans and alas, it was accurate. German "Wehrmacht" performed wonders in Italy. Only Anzio it is rumored it cost the allies in all almost hundred thousands of soldiers, more, as the whole Germans Force. Fact it is that Germany acted in Italy with major experience and expertise, the allies' worse of every critique. Great chance of a quick victory was wasted, almost like by Gamelin in 1939. If one fool of a general can with ease cause the death of thousands of his soldiers, the survivors like in ancient Greece, after battle should have the right to express their feeling, including doom of the inadequate commandant.

A paradox, this period of apathy broke at first a quite trivial event. About an hour or two after the exit of father and other tenants of the boarding-house – (in majority they were displaced person who remained in their original covert), started a queer motion. A high, white door of the room, in which lay Angus, adhered to a staircase to basement and on them one could hear tramping of many, light steps, whispers, in an undertone expressed words, quiet urgings. With time the clash of glass, smell of smoked cigarettes; woman's voices, young, probably girlish.

This everyday ritual disturbed and irritated Angus, he threw over in bed, covered ears and head with a pillow. Someday he got up curiosity, rose and pressed a big brass door handle, halving open lightly the door so there appeared a little chink. On staircase ran in and ran out some

shapes and voices commanded to bring still two more glasses, ashtray, matches and so on.

A short explanation. Priest Mlynkowski began meanwhile building of a church on the second side of road, using the accumulated before the war lumber and bricks. The walls rose quickly, more effort demanded the roof cover. As soon as they covered the building, priest in the crude inside began to perform services, simultaneous make-up what he may, from a provisional altar to interim floor, harmoniums replacing organs etc. One of the important points was organizing the chorus. This was a main ambition of priest, admittedly he was musical and had knowledge of singing. He began organize it himself, and when the building of church and organization of new parish did not leave enough time on, he found an organist and manager of chorus. Angus never had ear for music nor concept, if the exaggeratedly taking care, pretentious boy middle-aged and of Napoleon stature, dark-haired man blown thin, patterned muffler, was great singer or artist conductor. Anyway, the group of girl chorus sang much and loud.

In the boardinghouse lived a family with four daughters in a recruiting age called Angels, all they sang and had more akin souls near by, as well as visiting colleagues. When the parents went to work, they gathered all in basement, usually with the manager. Rehearsals did not take place there, no singing, only laughs, at times muffled squeaks and soft conversations and giggles. But to disappoint observer, it did not result to any orgy, nor drunken festive gatherings, merely a little freedom of artists, maybe bohemians. Then they went over, to church. Angus got carried away by imagination, nevertheless, the meddling took away some of the mountain of the heavy depression and apathy.

Instead a genuine sensation happened soon with the unexpected arrival to Ostrowiec one from uncles, whom Angus did not see from summer 1939. This one of several brothers of mother, much younger, was engineer and the manager of alcohol distilleries in Rogalin near Poznan, mentioned before. In the first years of war, as a necessary professional, he remained as before there on post, although degraded. The manager was a German, and he fulfilled only the role of deputy. Anyway so this formally named, because the German knew nothing about work, he took only his pension, and besides he behaved quite decent. In this manner, they survived quietly to 1942.

Late spring of 1942 a few Poles succeeded to contact some English captives, flyers, imprisoned in camp near Poznan.

Among the captives, some wanted to escape. With the help of the Polish employees, temporarily directed to work on some repairs of installation in the camp, four airmen did this, and when all succeeded, they pulled in the time a second such group. Of course, first must be prepared the provisional places of concealment. However, it was not possible in so short time-limit to tie farther contacts, to organize a safe journey route, conductors and hundreds of other details, this all demanded more time. Some time the both groups of freed flyers had to keep in secret. This aim they accomplished in a manner previously used in the Greater Poland for more as hundred years, when this earth was taken into Prussian annexation. Relied namely on the frequent alternating of the place of keeping the people. Every day they moved from place to place, for every twenty-four hours kept in different houses. When nearly all population takes part in solitarily in such action, it is impossible for the best police seek out of runaways and so it happened also this time. This method was many times checked and until now unailing.

To tell it straight, keeping of allied pilots added a snobbish attraction. A flyer is a valuable soldier, this follows in regard on his training and education. Amateurs for acceptance of refugees were never missing, on the contrary, many families competed between themselves about the English, and they invited them again and after some time again. Even when the plan of circulation was already differently laid, invited them on social attractions, chiefly on bridge (an English, as everybody knows, must play bridge. The worst for a hiding refugee is an idle waiting, it becomes necessary to support his spirit.

Many people wanted to boast after the war, that in the time of occupation they played with English flyers the German safety forces searched furiously).

Preparation of a transport route for two groups of runaways, four persons each (such division appeared convenient and kept on constantly), took away a couple of months. Then the airmen were thrown over to GG, where they spent preferably in rural hideouts under the protection of local posts of AK. Lastly they went along the route of Polish couriers, through Slovakia and Hungary. This, the hardest and most dangerous part of doing, succeeded excellent. Normal, a courier or refugee, who reached Budapest, was considered already almost saved,

this time happened exceptional bad luck. In Bulgaria, already close Turkish border, one from the four people groups was caught.

The English POW were not in any worse plight, than before the escape from camp. POW' have a right to try escape, it was distinctly reserved in the Geneva convention and they cannot be because of this punished nor repressed. Admittedly in the last year of war it happened that Germany broke all laws and even executed, but surely nothing such threatened still in 1942, even 1943, and especially towards the English. POW had only to identify, this means to tell the number of prisoners and the camp, from which they ran away, without identification they could be treated as spies. From this moment, threatened them none danger. In this case, captives returned to the camp and survived the war.

However, one from the refugees frightened a little by the Germans, broke down and began to pour all he knew. His confessions became fatal for the people at which runaways found their first covert, not mentioning already about persons, who enabled their escape. Precisely the first acquaintances, treated half social, remembered the Englishman best, able to show the places, in which he lived and people, who he knew and sometimes even took to. In the faraway GG, he was quite lost, largely he have not idea, where they are thrown over, nor how are the names of people who cared for him, and who did the help. Also in farther road through Slovakia and Hungary, he was unable to show any people, but the more he tried to prove his good memory in Poznan and neighborhood. No wonder the arrest rolled in broad circles, and then followed the sentences of death, by a chop with ax ("Landesverrat"), hanging, shooting executions. At last torturing to death in camp, because a part of people not proved guilty, without a jury sentence passed to judgment in camp. Some younger people managed to survive, the older largely not. On the whole in Greater Poland 46 people met with death sentences, in different manners. Poor business, even considering that pilots are particularly valuable in the war, many times more from common soldiers. 46 human lives for the attempt setting free of four which in addition ended without success.

This example allows better understand, what a risk and danger resulted from support to wanted people.

This concerns also the Jews, all on the wanted list. Often after all the years, take word such people, who never lifted a finger and never took any risk, neither knew this times and places if only by second hand or

reading. Nevertheless they dare to criticize Poles because of the imaginary default in helping the assassinated Jews. Sure, it was too less former help beyond doubt, but only the Poles gave this, from all rest of the world nobody ever tried. However they managed to save, according to approximate not too reliable estimations, it is impossible to give an exact number, round 150 thousand of Jews from the starting number above three millions. This is only round 5%, but even so it demanded a huge effort and sacrifices, the cost of may be, estimated, the lives of double quantity, about 300 thousand of Poles. This means a concealment of one man it may be the death of two other, an average value. Sometimes there happened more successful cases, but at times great mishaps and mass tragedies. And suppose nobody speak that in this number, 5% survivors, they were some, who escaped by sheer luck, or they had merely success, or managed to hide away or to escape by own effort only. The extermination pattern was so elaborated that nobody had o chance, absolutely single, without relief from outside. Yes, luck too was necessary, even if having such aid, but by oneself not matter to escape. If someone will tell something other, he is either a liar, or ignoramus.

If Poles did all, what they could, may they save all the remaining 3 million of Jews? Sure not, not for the price of further six millions of deed, not even, if they all perished in the attempt. It seems that they did as much, as they could stand, surely still a little added percent may be possible, yet to my knowledge never and nobody in history used best all possibilities. Anyway I know never an action which in 100% ended lucky. At least they tried according to their possibilities and only them alone, on all world. If this is too little, what one may tell about others? About these, who did nothing and even tried nothing and now take the voice?

Coming back to the starting case, the victims fell not only in Greaterpoland. Refugee showed also the house of certain woman in Łódź, at which they stopped on the first stage of transfer. Of course she also was condemned to death, besides without sentence, on interrogation in Gestapo basements perished still more four if five people. Some, with whom she kept contacts and who knew nothing about the affair, some heroically persistent to deaths, never turning a witnesses (probably as second taking on tortures perished between others a high officer AK, major Pomian, unrecognized by Germans). Also perished at least two persons in Warsaw, some of the conductors and couriers and in Hungary, Slovakia and Yugoslavia Germans destroyed the

Polish transfer bases. Of course this news then unknown, as everyone may expect, detailed data obtained only after the war.

Sure, help to captives, refugees from camps, drew not less risk, than to the Jews. Admittedly POW English and American happened sparse, in sum on Polish lands may circulate at most several hundred thousands but without the Soviet captives. In the terrible marches it from the whole number above 6 million, perished above million, including on Polish earth probably half. There was no chance to help them, trying would equal to suicide in disgusting form and without any use. However, despite terrible conditions, or precisely therefore, the part of captives run away. When they anyway saw before a certain death, and with time searched for this, a risk lost the importance. Of course, best chance had, who decided quick, best nearby the front, anyway before they lost all strength.

Roughly escape may take some 400 thou of Soviet POW. Most of successful escapes, as mentioned, happened on Russian earths, but to perhaps up to 100 thousands captives ran away on Polish earths. These captives were never protected by international law, if caught they faced only death, like everyone, who gave them any help. And after all it is self-evident that without assistances they would have no chance and somehow received the help. However, preferably not any continuous, but some immediate relief happened from sole occasion to another single occasion, like some food left outside houses. Strong men in recruiting age, they had to care for themselves. A continuous protection over the refugees, hunted still more persistent from Jews, would be impossible, it would not be enough all living people. In a big estimation because of help to POW, maybe 100 thousands of Poles lost their lives. Large majority refers to Soviet captives, English and Americans made up preferably rare currants in dough.

This all well know the Poles. Also Angus, saw notices about the death penalty for help given to refugees, he read the sentences of death for such offense. Nothing strange that many people, when meeting such refugee, gave him food and if need be any other, and then tried induce him to a quick departure. Only a human reaction, not all people dream, to become martyrs or heroes. However, let's tell sincerely, the Soviet soldiers, never put reproaches to Poles that precisely on their earths so much of them Germans assassinated. Anyway author never met such absurd reproach.

The truth is, also for them should be done more. These people got less help, than the Jews and in both cases all possibilities were not exhausted. But if on this world are nations, consisting only from altruists and heroes, then why did not disclose at the time, why did not give more than Poles? Six millions slayed, an appalling balance. And with most sparse counting, at least 10% perished carrying assistance to others. For such assistance Germany knew only one punishment, death. Salvage of one life cost dearly, two other lost. A poor business, at all not a business, but the question of conscience and keeping human reactions.

Besides, not only the mentioned 10%, but the 6 million perished because they took the first strike and then revenge of mad dictator, to whom they damaged his genial plan capture of Europe and next, perhaps, of world. They acted naive, telling straight, stupid believed in alliances. However they stood up in first row and they carried results. Negative selection, as first perish the best, less valuable had a better chance; also true, alas. But if the Poles got worse as once, other nations gained a better chance to evolve.

Now coming back to the flyers. The escape took place in June 1941, and arresting them in November this year, at Pirot in Bulgaria. First a show of lawsuit with seven sentences of deaths through ax chop for help to captives (classified as "Landesverrat"), ended in July 1942, and investigation drew long and in still broader circles. Affair became known and all which had any contact, expect only the worse. Although the arrest continued, uncle somehow nobody did rub up and after longer time he began to suppose, SD and Gestapo may miss his solitarily cottage and overlook him.

With late spring 1943, a car with Gestapo came to Rogalin. Uncle said, that his life he owes to the decent behavior of superior, a German, who took his place as the manager of alcohol distilleries. Although he was with him literally a couple seconds ago and precisely went out, this directed Gestapo to the main office of estate telling, which room occupies the suspect. According to own words, uncle stood then in bushes of lilac at open window hearing the conversation. He never stopped in the office or home. Prepared on such eventuality and with premeditated manner of procedure, in a couple of days he passed the border to GG. Alike how once mother of Angusa, he used only a perfect knowledge of German language, making up with insolence.

He went to well placed brother in Warsaw, and considering possibility that Gestapo searching him, may check the family, did not live there and at first took another address, with his help. Next he assumed that most recovering for his health may be, for a while breathe with fresh air on the country. He knew his sister lives in Ostrowiec and from the time in concentration camp and displacement from Poznan, she never had contacts with family or anybody living there. Only Warsaw she visited because also she got help of the same brother, but even this did not know the exact address, several times changed. So he came to Ostrowiec and sought out the family, new address turned out convenient quite in recess and where nobody interested a new member of family. The hostess and neighbors newer formed meddlesome and kept the mouth.

Uncle was big and substantial man, energetic, also speaking loudly, turned on advertence, but not here. Anyway soon he happened a person known and sought for, not by Gestapo, but in the circles of specialists. He tried the local bimer (moonshine vodka, as sold in premises by Angus and spit it. Uncle was a top professional in his specialty and local product, a sound judgment, recognized beyond abomination. Soon he designed a rectifying column delivering bimer, according to own words not exactly the best and next he projected following, still better columns. In the neighborhood quality of bimer rose so, that lastly it surpassed pure vodka, it was not sense to pour bimer in bottles with faked labels and to seal, because nobody wanted any more pure vodka.

In a couple of months it turned out, that in Warsaw nobody search of uncle, Gestapo lost interest in the overdue cause after, alas, big success and turned to new ones, never mind one missing person. Uncle also had already enough of province and returned to Warsaw. But now from an anonymous hiding refugee, he became a rising star which flashed already on province and now sparkled over Warsaw. He set off there to continue career, raise the quality of alcohol products, the greatest branch of illegal industry at occupation. In a fact that in occupancy time Poles turned to drink heavily, also fact that against this the traditional circles of society and underground authorities conducted action, admittedly not too consistent. On the other side, understandable that in such conditions people often reached for a glass, and letting the monopoly of production in the hands of Germans, did raise the income of invader. However it could turn dangerous, give Germans such authority, like the drugs, conditioning the common people. Because of this the local

production of alcohol became tolerated. And if so, better to produce a product less poisonous, nobody condemned this. Anyway after all Angus also earned his living, standing by buffet and pouring alcohol and timely replaced him parents. There he took disgust to vodka and the drunkards. From the time of the sickness the smell of alcohol he hated still more as father.

Angus took to the uncle, an attractive and interesting man, in addition talking engaging tales. He also well tolerated companionship of Angus, they both liked to spend time together. Alas, he could not help Angus in most important for him case. When in the sincerity moment he asked him about contacts with resistance, uncle answered that he has a "szlaban" (impediment), no right to engage in the conspiracy, as a person sought and wanted, not a hope.

Angus told a little about events connected with the factory of Sweets Amour. He mentioned none people, not his colleague, Stach Konar whom he believed dead, not his contact with events, but only this, what the people talked. However uncle may guess something more because he pulled Angus from house and they went to look the places over, first to cinema and then the same way, which went then German soldiers. In the time of the occupation, the cinema met with boycott and Angus with this one exception, never went to a cinema. At the beginning, he was surprised and a little indignant that cinema is full up. Admittedly German film-chronicle about constructing "impregnable" Atlantic embankment, met with unfavorable reports, nevertheless only hearing out of German propaganda seemed blameworthy. The film was German, but neutral, none connection with war or policy, a comedy of love and sports, on the background of the scenery of Alps in sentimental atmosphere. But it still presented the Germans human.

Angus harshly condemned himself, because cinema appeared to him pleasant. Before the war he went to cinema at least once a week, obviously long-standing habits remain. But to look on German film, this was near to collaboration with invader, without regard on excuses, this cannot repeat anymore.

Returning the same way, they passed near the factory Amour, but besides uneven paved and pretty a dark avenue and a closed gate nothing more they could see. Angus was not in stand fancy to him the fatal moments. Could not imagine, from where ran out and where perished the people he remembered and he knew, not mentioning what

they felt and thought. No matter, he considered, each dies alone and shares this experience with nobody. Even in the company of family, colleagues he remains alone. So it shall be once, with me.

* * *

When Angus felt stronger, he began to visit former colleagues. After long absence he wanted to tie contacts again, to learn what happened, and chiefly to find new possibility, unless not in guerrilla, at least join in conspiracy.

He heard, that one from colleagues from Business School, mentioned Tadek Grabiowski exactly returned home, after long absence. Nobody knew for sure, but supposedly he was in guerrilla. Angus went to him. Remembering former long and candid conversations and controversions, he hoped that also now they may talk open.

In fact Grabiowski kept no secret he was in a partisan squad. He had more success from Angus. He went all the way to Lublin district, consequent to his beliefs to the troop of communist Popular Guard. They talked sincere, yet short. Tadek did not want to tell more, only that theory differs from practice and he has first to get in order with own reason, put it altogether. He imagined all differently, reality turned out otherwise. But he considered it a question of maturity, learning a true-life, he hast still to learn much more. Anyway he wanted not come clear, what he means, it would be too difficult, everyone has to get his own experiences and anyway the time is too short.

Angus got an impression that Grabiowski not only wants to think over the affairs, but has not time, because from considerations he came over to concretes. This looked, as if from training, he turned to a definite task. No time, because he has to prove his value. Sure he remained a communist, and the change relied on that he accepted all, even this, what before he did not want to accept, he repulsed former doubts, so further conversation have not substance. Their ways got astray. Angus would accept never his opinions, not because he felt connected with right wing and national convictions. This could be superstitions, inoculated to him from kid. However, when he changed them later, more so he never agreed with communism.

To him this reminded like a religion, too many on belief, too less of common sense. They required blind belief, despite existing obvious

divergence between painted theory, and black everyday practice. Yet each doubt they treated how heresy. Any belief default in only just dogma, and particularly default of trust to ringleader, who was the only allowed to interpretations, they liquidated together with the unbelievers. Never inquisition attained such a score or level. Maybe it was extension of long-standing Russian base: "The chiefs see further and better", "Them on top clearer" (Tom na wierszczyne widniej)? Angus had developed a critical sense, accepted only reason, any reason, it may be somebody else's, if logic convinced him. No-good for communist.

The remained another possibilities. The elder brother of Maciek Kwieciński too had more success; he joined the guerrilla, and in autumn returned home. On winter commonly the guerrilla reduced the number of people, all who could and had a place to return were temporarily dismissed. Anyway, there was no way to talk to him, he even his younger brother treated like stripling, more so his colleagues.

Angus he tried many other colleagues, but in vain. After ending the Business School a clear majority tried to find work in Ostrowiec or nearby. They sought a temporary small stabilization, work protecting from displacing to Germany, survive here to the war end. Reward had second-rate importance, so or so the printed money had a minimal value. The invaders did print this at his hear content, paid with this, but the worth was illusory, no matter, what the Germans officially declared. At work counted, what the employee could there steal, or get another forms of compensation, for example canteen or accessory profits in the products.

On the whole they sought work in commerce, business offices, most valuable work was in the Cooperative "Farmer" (the old name remained, but lost any meaning, it was German owned and directed. Still, working in enterprise collecting goods from farmers, one could always take something edible. Work in Insurance or Municipal offices protected from slave work in War Industry. In short, the boys starting the work entered a new world of adult life. They told, "Glad to see you", but had not too much time. On the other side, Angus was not interested about what most of them searched. Of course, no conversation could miss the war, but it was a general talk, without concretes. Some must have contacts with conspiracy, but talked this only with the most reliable, few intimate friends. At least temporary, it was a dead end.

* * *

Whatever, the first now was coming back to normal life and recover more of strength. As he was, he looked as a deed on leave, unfit not only for guerrilla, but for any serious action. Nobody would accept him for anything, not only conspiracy, even if he found an opening. So he rouse again at mornings, came on breakfast, ate a little more and varying food, only without fat or grease and took on the easy house duties.

Also he began again to go to church, although he considered himself an unbeliever, shared the anticlerical opinions of his colleagues from the Business School. (Also from Professional Mechanics School. On the secret complete groups he never met with such attitude, but he knew only a few boys, to small base to appraise, what it would in be in grammar-school.) However with regard on parents, he behaved like a practicing, even if unbelieving. So some October Sunday going out from church opposite, on the second side of road, he walked near young man, a boy, who behaved queer. Walking parallel in stable tempo, never revolving his head, turned stiff to front, his eyes looked all-time on Angusa on greater and greater angle. When they crossed each other, irises altogether ran away aside, visible were only the whites and in this moment he raised arm to hat. Day was cold and moist, the boy dressed in a short overcoat and hat with a little brim.

Angus walked three steps, then stopped and turned. He had no idea who may it be, but an impression this has to be familiar face, or someone, whom he already met. Angus had always bad memory for faces and this did not change for better with age. As before, he introduced himself several times, and parents often directed him to bow to familiar people, which he missed, because all seemed to him alike.

But in this case, boy of about his age behaved so, Angus could swear that they had have some contact; unsure searched his memory, but in vain. A moment he felt confusion in head, which happens, when a man forget something, busy with other affairs. The default of memory occurs in later age, but in case Angusa happened to him often. It resulted with capacity to strong concentration, absorbing one matter at a time, excluding all other. As the rumor goes, Napoleon had high divisible advertence, Angus on the contrary. It is difficult to appraise, if this may be good quality, or blemish, probably alternating.

Angus coughed up walking with the constant steps boy and asked: - Excuse me, do we know each other? -

The queried stopped and he turned with a wide smile. He had face created to such a smile, broad already from nature, ruddy and chubby, with bulky lips and great eyes, how a juvenile Szvejk.

- Well, by view - he told. I am Matthew Jaruga. You, colleague, came to my father on lessons. -

This moment the picture jumped into the movie. Right, when Angus went to lessons, of Polish and Latin languages to professor Jaruga, he saw there his wife of and a boy, surely son. Never met them nearby, because professor used a separate room for the lessons, with a separate entrance. From the side of road, a path straight through the forest, passed round garden and yard to the porch. Sometimes he bowed from distance, however, have no any occasions to change a few words, and at one's default of observation nothing strange he did not remember how they looked out. Not mentioning, that as a rule he concentrated on lessons. Straightaway he did not recognize the boy; also he would not recognize also Mrs. Jaruga.

Of course, - he told, - another place, somehow never associated this with colleague. A surprise meeting, if not such queer look, I would walk nearby. -

- I know , - laughed Matthew. - Already a couple of times we met and colleague vanished after church service. This time reminded me of a film from before war, a comedy. Something suddenly told me that this may be funny. And what does colleague do now? -

They spoke from beginning pretty official, through colleague, how it was between students accepted, next also the disciples of middle schools, but through aping, it alienated also on all disciples. In jocks before the war the expression used also preschool babies. A little funny, but turn by "Colleague" belonged to binding etiquette so how "Sir" between adults. Turn by "you" it could be left without answer, or in the worst case, by remark in type "no, we did not mess up together caring of pigs", the least word to a brute force. What anyway was not too bad, with young boys a good fight often was briefest road to acquaintance and may lead to friendly relations. These customs went now into oblivion.

Next the conversation, as usually in these times, descended on books and this not from intellectual efflorescence, but for simple therefore that after closing and annihilating libraries it was hard to satisfy the reading

famine. Even poor and low-level books became the object of first need. One could satisfy this need only in one manner, through mutual lending or exchange of this few copies, which almost each had. This made the exchange universal to read them slow, from board to board. E. g. Angus, when he succeeded to borrow any interesting book, first looked through it, did the plan of reading and held this, on each day he read only certain number of pages up to bookmarked page, never running out in front. If need be, he read the same again or a few times, to eat all taste of and abandon nothing. Only exception, when he caught some book in flight, or it was necessary from any causes to hurry and he could not hold her longer. The main basics, the books had to run in circle and if one borrowed a book, he should next lend one of his. Angus was always in plus, lending more books as he borrowed, beside own books he also used these he borrowed. As a matter in fact, he acted as a broker, it was possible, if one resigned from top satisfaction and read speedy, his old specialty.

Matthew had a few books for the young from prewar period, adventures like "Captain Grant Children" and still a few of Verne, Karol Bertil Holidays and so, they may still read them temporary. Besides a few popular-scientific, from areas which Angus did not know, former property of his father, referring to human relations, like "The psychology of a crowd", not included in his professional bibliotheca. On the other side, Angus books like "The enigma of Physical phenomena", "From a star to atom" and others of the TEM, unknown to Matthew. Both boys on similar education level, almost but not quite finished grammar-school, concretely Angus missed the humanistic subjects of fourth class, Matthew the math and physics of the same class. But instead, he was extremely advanced in humanistic, above the compulsory level, thanks to father. And still he had access to father' library, but that were books professional, specialist and hard to reading, majority in foreign languages. Even these in Polish, only some they may digest, and this told Matthew which was better prepared and knew, what he speaks about. From second side, even part of edited in foreign languages, if printed in Poland, had annotated Polish comment. Professor Jaruga loved and watched his books and did not let them from hand, but of course son is able of detours.

In short all composed well and still in addition they both were keen chess players. Angus lately found none partner, Matthew already a longtime, they wanted try at once, but Matthew wanted first to tell his

parents, if he remained too long, they may feel concern what happened to him. Already elapsed about half hour after mass, they walked a bit more the forestry path and back to the church. They appointed on the next day to play chess, Angus he wanted again to escort Matthew to road, but it turned out that this attached to tree his bicycle, now opened the padlock and set off.

Matthew Jaruga was the only child, like Angus, not a full year elder. Tall enough, although about half head lower from Angusa, but much broader in shoulders and supposedly physically stronger, even when Angus was in full health. However exactly in the same school-age: Both almost finished grammar-school, but not quite, as mentioned.

Matthew went still by spring 1940 to elementary school for about a month, like Angus in 1942, for receiving of the final certificate. From summer 1940, when the macabre danger of occupation appeared in full, also the boy grew, father decided to hold him strictly indoors. They lived, one can say, in ideal position for this. They home secluded just the border of town and his administration, besides father settled somehow so affairs with next county that they were not included there. With one word, village administrator treated them as belonging to town, and town as settled in beyond the limits, officially they vanished. Position of the house, hidden in forest and invisible even from nearby, was exceptional favorable. The best example, that Angus which in this forest spent the hardest period of life in 1940 (when father pulled him from suicide driving to work over forces, so that mathematics did not left any moment for meditations). Yet he never had an idea that near is situated a house. He noticed his only two years later, when he went there for lessons. The property was covered from tree sides with thickly growing trees, and from fourth with garden, which looked like a green coppice.

Professor Jaruga every day cycled to the town, to midday teaching the secret grammar-school. He was not a hero, at first did this much afraid, but extraordinarily devoted to a teacher duty. For the dinner he returned home and then he gave private lessons. For his first work he received modest, nominal reward, which anyway often he did not take, but offered it for different laudable aims. He earned his living with private lessons, quite comfortably.

At the time taking the risk of death punishment, in best-case of concentration camp, he never met any unlucky incident, Germany had more urgent task than to seek out secret schools. But working as

professional illegal, professor wanted so more to assure safety to family, and chiefly to guard son, who entered precisely the dangerous age. Therefore he set up absolute barrier on visit in town. He had great authority home and the wife all war long newer go out further, than to the church. The son, who also had a bicycle, could drive a bit along the road, but never reaching the buildings of Gestapo, which professor estimated special bad. He recommended stopping still earlier, before the old building of grammar-school, where stood first German sentries. Instead Matthew received by haggling a permission to use a side route to Szewna, where lived the family of his mother. However, he had to pass round Ostrowiec, cycling along the Starachowice road to Żeromski Street, near the house, in which formerly lived Angus, next drove down to bridge and further, by side roads. Such a visit, commonly every couple of weeks, constituted the only contact with outside world.

Admittedly, the bases set by the father assured the son' safety, but boys need the companionship of boys, best of similar age. Even a close contact with parents does not replace this, and professor had busy time and not much left for the son. In fact Matthew lived separate for years end felt this even more acute as Angus, who passed precisely now a deep break down, also needing contacts. The new companionship was necessary for both and quickly developed in a genuine friendship. Angus, probably found the best friend ever, if not forever. Sure after the black days it was mainly his merit, Angus got back his mental balance.

It began with chess, in which from beginning Angus had a light advantage, but soon the chances leveled up. Usual they met indoors by Angusa home, or rather in the room behind the pub, as Angus had turn of duty by a buffet and from time to time served a client. Game interlaced with discussion, which was often lively and on different subjects. The differences in education, a specialization was favorable, arousing interest. The best side of Matthew was a strong humanistic foundation, as may be expected with a son of the indeed high-class humanist, father taught him surely without any privileges. In normal conditions he never would do this, he considered taking care of own children improper, but in occupation decided to be practical; bases are less important from safety. But trying to avoid nepotism, he demanded from son much more, than from other disciples. Matthew he would have more convenient life, if taught by another teacher. And maybe he tried deliver to son something from him.

Angus soon noticed that in humanistic score, Matthew surpassed him both in top level and with broader horizons. On the other side, he was more familiar with books and well-read. Matthew too read a lot books, but it were hundreds comparing with thousands. So, even lacking the method, definite skills, often also basics and proper orientation, he may surprise opponent with unexpected wordings and arguments thanks to broad database. Besides he had a definite advantage in science and especially with math tools, although rarely used in current discussions. The new ways of science, this was a title of one of the TEM books and properly it was a sign of the whole editions. It did not awake with Matthew so much enthusiasm, as with Angus, but it arouse his interest, being till today unknown.

In such conditions a few first parties of chess, quickly turned in continuous visits, let's tell, at minimum four times a week, in average more, sometimes every day. They become straight inseparable. Because Matthew cycled and Angus many time spent, attached to his work, or, how he jested, to the buffet, largely they sat in a room beyond shop. But when occurred more nice autumnal days, also Angus visited Matthew and if the good weather continued, they located with chess on garden pew. It happened, one half day they spent at the first and after dinner at the second house.

When Angus went in visit the new colleague, it was a beautiful walk by the motorway, all the time in the forest a broad footpath along the road. After access to long-standing big trees, ground became hilly and the footpath came in the forest depth. The roadway by sank first sharply down, and then equally sharply climbed up. After the crossing with side road, at which was situated the mentioned workers' colony, Angus usually climbed on high slope near the motorway, next to young forest enclosed with barbed wire. However, the barrier stood there symbolic, because the enclosure perforated many holes. There was an alternative, either to come with footpath by this border, high over the road, or strand deeper into the forest and if need be to return later to the border by some next hole. Angus only a few times went in the forest, usual took the path on border, high over the road because of the beautiful view, the eyesight ran far on both sides. The walk took at first almost an hour, because he was still weak, later the average time decreased to 40 minutes, and if in hurry only about half an hour.

Still, Matthew cycled easily in twenty minutes and if in hurry, umpteen. He embraced first the ascent up and then took the road downwards. Without braking, he drove down the hill head over neck to the incline, so the impetus may suffice to come up again, which he rarely succeeded. Often it was necessary to descend from the bicycle and take on foot pushing the bicycle to the top of next hill; next the road sank less steeply, at end of a deep excavation. From the left side the girdle of groves ended and their places took meadows to the Romanów. From a distance about 2 km appeared the high railway bridge and more left the dam and a wooden road bridge. On the right side of motorway, the young forest and the wire enclosure stopped before an "adult" forest with old pines. The footpath went here away from the road, passing wet ground with a swamp in center, then bent and after few hundred meters returned near the road. But before, it branched off to the house of Jaruga, which stood on the slope near the top of a hill, encompassed with trees so, that almost completely invisible.

Example of his colleague mowing so quickly with bicycle encouraged Angusa to renew trying. But despite Matthew help and indeed he strained supporting him and had the strength to support and to hold an elephant, when he released the bicycle, Angus immediately lost his equilibrium. Lastly they ascertained this is a hopeless affair, Matthew added, never in life he met anyone with such lack of talent. Finally Angus told him about the contusion of his ear in September 1939.

So he went on foot and recovered. Sometimes both boys went together, either Matthew accompanied him, or Angus went along when he returned, then Matthew pushed his bicycle. Sometimes he came to Angusa on morning and after midday Angus went to him and then Matthew too pushed the bicycle. The walks improved his strength and health, probably cycling would be as good.

At first they did not discuss political affairs in detail confining to general comments and front news. This was normal now in conversations between people, even with full confidence, at least people got in habit to tell only the necessary to know. It was not a question if the interlocutor was trustworthy, but the babbling around caused too many victims and so the pattern changed, now holding the tongue behind the teeth was acknowledged as a virtue. It was a presumption all Poles have similar feelings so no need to speak empty words.

Both boys came from deeply patriotic circles, both families persecuted by occupants and still crossing their orders and law. Without any doubt the boys sentiments were the same, nevertheless Angus never told any details from his past, and Matthew too hold his mouth shut about the future extraordinary secret of his family home. Only by chance, once occurred a candid dialogue.

Once they walked over the first part of the way, the path close by the motorway and came to place, where began the old forest with big trees on the hills. On the Starachowice Road the traffic was rare, from time to time traveled a German truck, sparsely motorcar or motorcycle. Of course a child play, but sometimes Angus dreamed about an ambush in such a place. Now impulsive, on the sound of a motorcar he stopped, hid beyond a bulky tree and tested quick to appraise the distance, so how he learned in 1939. Matthew without consideration told impetuously:

- You know, I tuned such a little piece of verse, some, how they name it, rhymes of Częstochowa:

"Karabin wyjmę ukryty,
naboi napcham w kieszenie,
Stanę za drzewem, cel - szosa,
takie jest moje marzenie."

"Carbine I will take out hidden,
Cartridges I shall put in pockets,
I will stand up beyond tree, aim to a
road,
Such is my dream."

- Never mind about Częstochowa, but in Gods name, do you have this hidden carbine? - exclaimed Angus.

- No, not, alas, but how pleasant to dream. -

This brief conversation cleared what they had not talked about. Exactly like Angus, Matthew too hoped to take an active part in war, but hitherto never found any opportunity. But did never lose the hope, did this without so persistent, hysterical attempts, like Angus.

So Matthew mended in poetry, a surprise! He confessed it happens, but only short verses, at a moments notice, he defined them as such little knickknacks. With trouble and after many encouragements, he agreed to read some. According to Angus, not too bad at all, truly that brief and simple, but actual and they hit the problems.

* * *

At the end of November parents told Angus, they decided on further lessons for him. He should at least finish the fourth class and the grammar school, meaning complete the lacking Latin and Polish languages courses. Of course logical and at best with Professor Jaruga, but demanding a financial effort, private lessons got expensive, and conditions worse.

However in the secret grammar-school he would have to repeat the entire class, and he needs supplement only the humanistic objects, Polish and Latin language. Besides, the problem of time, with intense work he may complete the education in a few months. At last, parents always considered, private lessons are more effective; next the secondary school he may begin in normal, underground, secret Lyceum (College). Supposedly the friendship between Angus and Matthew reminded them of his education.

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Capsule: The money, direct and indirect arts of robbery by the occupants.

The Zł (coin) value changed in time of occupation. It quickly fell down, prices rose, because of continuous printing the paper money by occupants. All the time existed two parallel markets: Official, quite fictitious, regulated by German orders. On it the nominal prices did not change, but this was blank abstraction (except for of newspapers and card-coupons allowances which anyway in 1943 fell so, that monthly allowance assured food for about one day). Special allowances received the employees of great institutions, properly instead worthless pensions, and so called "Bezugscheins", single coupons of allowance denounced through authorities of occupation as wage beyond work, service and chiefly beyond bribes. Besides this did exist nothing, what one could buy paying official prices. Second market, the real, sparsely named black or illegal, was in fact one and only functioning. On it one could buy all, in first place food, because even in the conditions of war and after her, to taking over the full authority by the communists, Polish lands produced the food in excess. However, the prices moved, in the period of occupation the value of money fell about hundred times, the term 10.000% may sound absurd or amusing.

Of course, direct robbery by armed force was all the time applied by German authorities in a range, never met previously in history. A small

example may be the fate of about two millions displaced person who lost all possessions including personal goods, how this happened with Angus and his family. And expropriation of greater property, both terrestrial and industrial, also of commercial enterprises by the German administration, police and keepers and trustees called "Traeuhanders" continued. In 1943 all Polish enterprises and estates were exclusively in the hands of Germans, the owners may have anything to say only, if they were useful, knowing the local conditions. Especially in a country estates, the owner often could offer a better bribe, as the German trustee may manage himself to steal out from the manor. Anyway, the "Traeuhanders" remained in the saddle only temporary and their future legal right were still an open question, which should be definitely regulated only after the war. Some of them expected to become the new owners, but this only if they had some influence in the Nazi regime or were protégées of influential people. For now, the old owners remained, if only formally so. After the war, their lands, holdings, assets and property should be finally taken by the victorious German Reich, transferring it to the most merited soldiers or influential Nazi. But they did not hurry with these least legal, or rather illegal acts. It was not clear, if the property would be donated, or only remain Reich property leaned out as a fief. Considering the GPO (General-plan Ost), in which Hitler took much interest, the feudal pattern should reincarnate. It was immaterial, if the next step was called a confiscation or a coercive (compulsory) repurchase, for the paper money the Germans were printing. They could just take it, or pay a nominal worth with money, now representing about 1% of its 1939y value and still falling, in fact worthless. In fact they paid now all with this illusory money, which by administrative order had to be accepted after prewar value. This included the wages or salaries for work and services, the compulsory production of food by the farmers, so called contingents and all stored in magazines goods, both agricultural or industrial. It was a new form of robbery, indirect, an important completion of the brute robbery by armed force.

Holding up the fiction of stable prices, on the long run the Germans took this way even more effects. Of course, they could print from start more banknotes and paid with them the black market prices, it would cost them only the paper. But this would result with immediate breaking of all value. Preserving the fiction with the inflation high, but progressing step-by-step allowed a prolonged exploitation, in the six years more remunerative for Germans and ruinous for Poles. The high reputation of prewar Polish currency appeared a factor most damaging. It the former

Polish Government, recognizing the deadly threat, devaluated own currency, he could this way get all the equipment and weapons for Polish Army by exploiting own citizen, reducing exploiting them next by the enemy. Countries with feeble currency, to which the citizen already previously had not much trust, lost in this way less. For example, Germans pumped out from Poland and Czechoslovakia more, as from France, which already before has have a poor currency.

If some reader, unable to imagine the times should ask, why the people did not chose any other, more real currency, it is necessary to remember, that only the mentioned paper money was legal tender. In addition the mere possession of any foreign currency or gold was an offense, punished with death. In fact, it would end mostly by a dark and silent robbery, often followed by a term in concentration camp, where the people could not talk. Nevertheless, the big bosses of black market used the foreign currencies, especially dealing with Germans (for example, buying whole wagons from a train without knowledge, what may they contain). Well, there existed illegal cantors and clearing houses dealing in different money and currencies, or so told Angus the mother, who several times went to Warsaw. But clearly, the ordinary people had not access to such big deals, Angus up to now never saw any foreign coin, if not a German. But from 1943 the value and prices often were denominated not in the changing money, but in kg of butter, or as smaller units, kg of bread.

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Now, professor Jaruga accepted for one of the so called effective classroom hour (45 min) a remuneration of 300 Zł, equal of two Kg of butter, at the end of this term it became about 1,5 Kg. A little more, than the other teachers of the grammar school, but much more as the assistant- teachers (coaches), even so, it was a success to get lessons with him, he picked his students, the willing were in excess. Angus parents, especially the mother, had, to tell it straight, bourgeois superstitions, nothing was too good for the son. Seriously, they believed the quality of the teacher has unequivocal primacy, even if this means a drastic limit of living conditions. Such responsibility was a heavy ballast on Angus conscience, he protested against this pattern of expenses many times before, but in vain. Now, from former experience he knew, he may limit the expense and disturbance only in one-way, to learn speedy and well. A poor performance may cause not only repeating of

the lesson, but also slow down the tempo of further progress, in prospective a financial defeat for the whole family. Anyway logical and well-founded was the need to finish at last IV class and with this all grammar-school. If he works satisfactory, a matter of a couple months.

Whatever, he recovered now quickly, on the health, if not exactly the strength. But the main was, when he began learn again, the depression elapsed. Difficult to say, if this was the new friendship or the school, but now he was sure, the thought that it may be his person, who brought bad luck and calamity was a pure idiocy, mental aberration. The sickness must create some faulty path between his brain cells, that he believed in his guilt by every bad turn, unaware. His responsibility for the calamity of Michniów and the tragic action of diversion Squad in the Factory Amor was about the same, as for the hostages, hung by the Germans on the market, or the surrender of France. Well, at the beginning he felt responsible even for the start of WW II, an absurd belief of an immature boy. To be exact, everyone including him has a small influence on reality, but it was an influence asymptotic closing-up to zero. He always liked to learn, if the humanistic were never his strong side. Now the school and a new colleague helped to recover a psychic equilibrium and progress of health, and conversely.

The beerhouse as source of living did not turn such good business as parents expected at beginning. The former owner, miss Różaniecka had a knack and ability, but parents had neither this, nor any experience, they run down the pub to rather a low-down local with Bad credit and dishonest help. When they recognized, the have not the gift for business, they reduced the scale coming from intense method on extensive. Restaurant existed modestly, a little of appetizers, alcohol, (illegal distilled liquor under counter) and more nonalcoholic. Cigarettes, legal and not, with the bright "anonymous" from fair, Lublin tobacco plants, to tell straight fairly good, though the father did not like them, used in 1940 to dark shag and so it remained.

The income was not great, but was enough for survival with cutting down the expenses. In the season, father picked up work again in the sugar-works Czystocice. The wages were symbolic, and the food coupons poor too, but in such works it was possible to thief a little sugar, father brought every day a couple of Kg, in bags under his dress. As already mentioned, the Germans paid with illusory money and adding some "Bezugscheins" (but this only in the weapons industry). The

workers survived mainly by thieving, and sugar works were a good place for this, even with worse food coupons. Sure, this could be punished with concentration camp and even death, but in fact every works had to tolerate this. However, they had to pay the paramilitary watch. Similar, the peasants had not the right to sell the food on the black market, even after "selling" compulsory for the paper money the contingents. If they sold the rest on the black market, they too could be punished with concentration camp or even with death. Some told, Germans act so on purpose, if they may win the war, they could execute all the people on criminal charges. Nobody feel any reproaches or regrets, on the contrary, rescuing anything from the goods robbed by the Germans was a laudable, faultless acting. Admittedly, calling it a patriotic service would be too much, in a bad taste, but the approval was universal. But it remained also in period of the next communist regime, the proverb "Never mind the wages, the main, what one may to purloin."

To tell this short, all employees took sugar and because in family of Angus used it rarely, father sold it and destined for family investment, because so he called further education of Angus.

* * *

But not long after the beginning of classes, somewhere in early December, happened something, what for Angusa had a great side effect, influencing his whole future. Some night, as happens to all people, sleepless and full of meditations - instead black thoughts, a liter john of inspiration smashed over his head. Almost one may to add, how said a poet, only this was not a poetry and no muse have included to the contribution, unless Clio.

When Angus, falling asleep, meditated and daydreamed about war with the enemy, suddenly he saw all the matter in another extent. All actions in country, freedom fights, worth of worship and admiration, many heroic, all the way beyond – alas - they were extorted, forced reactions. Poles tried his best, perished and on their place to endless war entered the next. Decided as never any other nation, they fought from beginning all the way to end, no matter what happened. Yes, but this because they had not another exit, that they had to. They got compelled by the aggressors. All this was a result of former blind stupidity. Granted, not only their own, also of others.

All nations of Europe also had the possibility to suppress early the birth of evil, before it grew in force. This chance nobody used. All, together with Poland, quietly looked, how still feeble bandits first terrorize own country, then attacked the house of neighbors. At last waited, till the robbers grew up in force, then came the queue on the indifferent, who lastly did not manage to defend own houses.

This referred also to Poles. It is not an excuse, that not they alone made a mistake, the others did not act any wiser. On the contrary, because the others had, or only so believed to have, a stronger position. France had every preconditions on speedy victory, however she did not manage to defend his territory. England, if with better common sense using the granted by fate time (no matter, if blind fate or Polish resistance granted this time), heavily paid for the prior errors. What does not cause any satisfaction, on the contrary.

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Capsule: The analysis of errors and sensible proposals for Polish policy - brainstorm of a teenager.

The main cause of Poland defeat was that it did not act more independent, but submissive to the allies. An old story, the friends did not deserve the trust. In the crisis they never lifted a finger beyond words and Poland had to fight alone against several times advantage of invaders. Nobody in Poland, also Angus did not condemn them, because this moment strongly underlined German propaganda, and whatever proclaimed Germany it could not be truth, never-never. At once after the end of September campaign (proper speaking autumnal, because the wars stretched on the first decade of October) the streets, houses and buildings covered German posters. They displayed how the western allies pulled in a hopeless case poor and foolish Poles, and now indifferently look on this. Angus oneself tore off posters, presenting a wounded Polish soldier, on crutches, blind and bleeding from bandaged head, signed: "Your doing, England!"

The German and next the reptile newspapers trumpeted all the same tone. Surely therefore, Poles reacted negatively and never stopped trust the allies. Autumn and full winter began inner settlement of accounts, condemning former government and command, often unjust, exaggerated, but never a word fell against the allies. Overruled an opinion that now the time did not come for mutual reproaches, this only

is helps the foes. Maybe they too committed errors, everywhere may happen scoundrels or liars, but with this affair will deal the French and The English at their countries, find them and treat suitably. And at all, mutual settlement of accounts better to delay after victory, and now to get busy with common war.

(Of course, nobody even was able to imagine the later betrayal of ally, after the victory. In result of supposedly victorious war, Poland suffered the worst defeat in history, and Poles through next half century could only envy a fate of the conquered Germans. Also Angus, inexperienced pup, imagined then that on world has to exist some basic justice, at least so much as necessary to keep appearances, if only for hypocrisy reason.)

Now Angus concentrated on analyzing of Polish past and this limited only to this part of facts which he knew. War occurred in the years, in which relation of forces was for Poland noticeably unfavorable. Well, but after all, it is always the aggressor who chooses the assault moment. The question is, if Poles could act more intelligent and foresee this, what may happen and to prepare better, or somehow to reduce this, or at last exert influence on the choice of this moment.

According to the Versailles Treaty Germany had the right to preserve only a limited army and although from the first moment of this they secretly cheated, Poland for almost fifteen years kept military advantage. Yet never she tried to use this stronger position, even when the weaker then Germans tossed threats. Angus remembered from papers the last maneuvers, conducted under supervision of Hindenburg, soon before his death. Official conclusion was that in case of the conflict with Poland, Germany could not defend the Eastern Prussia. This conclusion of German Command, widely proclaimed by German press and repeated also in Poland, pleased Angus much. In childish naivety he did not realize, this picture they present to begin armaments.

Soon after Hindenburg death, Hitler performing previously roles of chancellor on top of coalitions parties without a definite majority, took also the function of president. This way he introduced gradually a dictatorship and arranged new elections with prearranged outcome, next broke the treaty and began officially armaments race. Then, the still alive Piłsudski proposed to France a preventive war, or preferably an armed action, because of well-founded public violation of the Versailles Treaty. Poland may be able to pass such action alone, the moral backing of France would do. France not only refused a common action, but

decisively she demurred this project, she did not agree even on friendly neutrality. Pilsudski never was a genuine dictator and even did not try, although he fixed the so called authoritative Government and a few times strongly bent the law. He could not act against the opinion of all Europe, including own allies and his country society. The large majority of Poles merely hypnotized by France, believed in her blind. Yet, the French would never need own army, they could let free hand to Poles and then with enough forces propose a mediation. To step in an existing conflict with mission of good services from a position of strength.

No need to tell, the Poland government could begin such action despite of his ally, this would be treated by Polish citizens as irresponsible disturbance and would end in discredit, such government could never stand. Sure Poles would defend own country, they were brought so all life, but remained reluctant to wars, maybe even too much, feared to attack, create enemies. Pilsudski experienced already this, when after victory over Red Army, despite his post, Poles resigned from federal plans, retrievals of ancient limits and hurriedly signed peace such, which they judged will satisfy the defeated. Now, when he was old and heavily ailing man, he would not manage even beginning of preventive war or armed action. In this moment Hitler deftly proposed a five-year treaty of nonaggression. Exactly this, about what Polish diplomacy tried from years, normalizing relations Poland-Germany.

This seemed some stabilization, at least for a while. When in addition Germany distinctly assured, this treaty does not change already existing international commitments, meaning the alliance with France, Pilsudski accepted. Anyway already before he accepted similar arrangement between Poland and Soviets, this new almost exactly repeated that preceding. None of these treaties would endure, from start it was only a fabrication with aim, the victim may feel delusive sense of safety.

(Hitler attacked instantly, when he was ready, no, let's tell that after half-yearly period, first intensively he tried, to pull Poland on his side voluntarily. Stalin joined though still not ready, but Hitler charge appeared to him an easy occasion. Fact, that for Poland it was exactly the worst moment. All the interwar period Poland kept rather big standing army, in position of a high risk. Neighbors from both sides open sharpened their tooth's, Poland has to rely on own deterring force and alliance with France. Some time this pattern functioned. Stalin, after lost war, draw concern even overrating Poland possibilities. From the other

side, Poland could even alone manage with German assault, before Hitler rearmed a big army. However, the French ally never accepted Poland as genuine partner and the effort to keep own deterrent force become financial too big for a country, only rebuilding from full annihilation.)

Second time Poland suggested intervention, when Hitler again violated the treaty deciding remilitarize the Rhineland. This act direct threatened France and so was in her press measured, all expected this time she will react. Poland by a special messenger declared that she ruthlessly shall carry out all allied commitments. Pact about the nonaggression changes nothing, signed with reservation that it does not violate contracts and alliances already in existence. No need to repeat the already mentioned matter, France confined to diplomatic protest note, and hasty leaked an information about Polish initiative to Berlin.

However Hitler did not react with a rage, on the contrary, precisely from this moment he began to declare friendship and to try for good contacts. So much, that he even confined temporarily terror set up already then in Germany, towards the Polish minority. Surely expecting such reaction, he wanted now to use this to shake the trust of allies, and later pull of the weaker partner to his side.

WW I impressed on societies European dislike and repulsion, universal fear and hate for any war. Only in this manner one can explain the lack of reaction on still more obvious steps toward a new war. People did not believe, what they did not want to believe, they closed eyes, they judged that if they will not give a reason, shall keep away, they may live undisturbed. This referred almost to all populations, bound with a distinct loss of trust to political elites. However, it conducted often to creation of new elites, which did not commit public foolish errors, but planned fraud, in result pulled their societies in still worse slaughter. An example showed Russia, where Lenin under the motto exit from war prepare a bloody bath, many times worse from preceding war.

Not only the French, also the Germans feared war. Hitler deceived them with equally bad result as Lenin Russ, all the time assuring that as an old front soldier, he knows best the horrors of war and nobody hates the war, like him. Sure he manipulated them deftly and he knew, how to draw them after him, all the way to abyss.

The Poles suffered worst by the WW I, when in this and following Polish Soviet war the front rolled twice over about 75% of Polish territory and

then back again. Let's tell straight, after the worst hell, they feared a new war worst and hated the thought of it. However experiences showed that succumbing to force does not reduce the horrors of war, but on the contrary, only worsens the case. Therefore Poles in their convictions had earmarked a limit, decided to defend their independence and borders, but on short distance, engaging only near the skin. Sure an error, better to defend the distant foregrounds, than with the roof of house set in brand by enemy. Alas, the Poles were against any forestalling action, suspecting, it may be risky, to bring calamity. They preferred to sit quietly, hoping, the worst may pass over. They never grasped "...nam paritur pax bello"

Any preceding initiatives, even the rational, met with the critique of public opinion, especially by gossips. After the former diplomatic experiences, in time of Austria "Anschluss" Poland remained passive. Anyway she had not the power do anything, when allies remained idle. Poland would not encourage them to activity, even if again trying.

However a great mistake of Poles was that they did not give help, even if alone, to the next victim of aggressions, Czechoslovakia. In such case public opinion would back this decision all the way. Angus remembered reaction of Poznan, all Greaterpoland wanted giving relief to the Czechs. Then he heard that alike spirits ruled in Krakow and all of Lesserpoland, although he have not idea, what they thought in Warsaw. Not a doubt, that then it was necessary to fight, the last moment to take own decision. Never watch the western allies, even the gorgeous sister France. After all even so in 1939-year Poland fought alone and performed not bad, all time keeping up open war and creating at times crisis for Germans, despite their great overweight.

In 1938 Poland and Czechoslovakia together would have a much better chance. Germany was feeblar about a half, and Czechoslovakia would be a valuable ally, if only because that in was at arms, how this speaks, to the teethes and had excellent arms industry. Czechs with the quality of armament made up the small number of soldiers they had because and small population. Instead Poland had much bigger number of soldiers but poor armed. It is a common knowledge that in result of taking Czechoslovakia, Germany doubled the number of tanks, creating besides three until now existing, three new armored divisions. They used Czech tool, chiefly chassis's of tanks much better, than produced in Germany, only adapting the guns to own standards.

Admittedly, Germany had better aircrafts and could rely on them, but they concentrated on fighters, bombers and "Stukas" (diving bombers), thanks to Czech industry they gained the plentifully subsidiary aviation, multitude of transport aircrafts, observation and other aid. And of course factories which allowed immediate and great elevation of production. In short, Czechoslovakia together with Poland, could put long and effective resistance. It may be not exactly a new Grunwald, but after a longer time of bitter war the western allies could prepare for a genuine war, or benefit from the convenient position of arbiter. And even if not, doubtful, if the Germans would be happy with long and bloody war, instead of a quick victory. Poland and Czechoslovakia together had the potential, both of population and industrial. Precisely the accessible, quick victories and profits from them, lastly produced in Germans blind belief in Hitler. Angus never forgot, how in 1939y, still after victory over Poland, Germans remained reluctant to war.

Well, all the considerations of course backed on not enough facts. Angus knew only the matter superficial, background was strange to him and of many events he hardly knew anything. For example, he had no idea about the existence of general Ludwig Beck and his attempts to stop the war. Also, like majority of people, did not know of – although in 1939 informal – the plan to unleash the WW II being a common aim of Stalin and Hitler. Considering this, possibilities to avoid the conflict were not big, whatever the people did do. Nobody could to anticipate the future, but sure for Poland none other scenario could be any worse.

An imperfect and unprofessional analysis, nevertheless neither illogical nor without common sense. No doubt, together with Czechoslovakia in 1938, Poland would have much better odds than in desperate, single campaign 1939. If this year she waited for a fair proposal of the allies, it was sure a lost time. Angus never considered this as reproach, putting reproaches in common war was not a right time, but this was a fact beyond discussion. The so called allies never intended to treat the commitments honest, they did not even try, but only used his partner to take the beating, which without Poland may come to them.

They found an Honest John, obtuse enough not to suspect friends and shoved them to Hitler as first target, happy not to be attacked themselves. They simply subscribed checks without covering, not only France, but also UK, RAF during the whole 1939 campaign used not one bomb on Germany. Anyway, they never felt seriously threatened, UK

beyond sea and France with his Maginot Line. After the 1939 campaign, they would be glad to agree on a cease-fire and probably peace, after a little bargaining to save faces, displaying the force, in short a show of straining the muscles. The typical behavior of sheep sensing a bad wolf. But Hitler meant business, he organized an attempt on his life and used the indignation to hold the Germans at arms, suggesting the guilt to the allies. Sure, he knew how to manipulate the people, this Fuehrer.

Czechoslovakia could be the only genuine ally, because united by a common business, common life or deaths. The significance is far more, than a powerful ally, but unconcerned and acting unfair. Now, Angus tried to remind all, what he knew about the history of relations Czech-Polish. This was a compact mixture, consisting of what he learned in school and of what he read, although this knowledge was fragmentary, often accepted uncritical and at times false. Only doubtful "method", which was some help, modeled on former reading of newspapers. Still before war, he used to read different newspapers and he noticed that different interpretation and comments is the best way to produce own judgment, basing on the inconsistencies.

So now he began to put in order all he knew, beginning from the oldest times. Never mind the ancient states of Samon and Great Moravia, but the part of importance was, what Angus heard from his father about the fate of Western Slavs. Far west from Poland, lived in VIII and IX century, at the beginning of the written history, many Slavic tribes to about 50 - 100 km beyond the rivers Elbe and Saale. These kinsmen were exterminated by ruthless German invaders, Angus heard tales about great battles with armies of emperor Otto I "the Slavs-killer". Thanks to heavy armored cavalry and a tactic, developed by taking the former Rome territory, Slavic population, fighting with despair and determination all the way to death, had none chances, must perish. After founding two new margravates (German Mark), devoted especially for rubbing out the rest of former population and German colonization, every method was right from simple murders to poison. Great expeditions and big battles happened repeatedly, the better armament and tactic gave an advantage to the heavy cavalry over the stubborn defense of less mobile foot folk, even if helped by desperate women.

In short it was like the fate of American Indians, every treaty broken, maybe the invaders did not throw blankets infected with smallpox, but used with preference poisons for clearance of won territory. For

example, poisoning of thirty Slavic Princes, taking part in peace negotiations broke final the resistance of tribes, living in today Brandenburg. The "Ostmark" (East Margravate) organized an army similar to the Foreign Legion, gathering from all Empire criminals and felons threatened with sentences, every one of them could find place and covert. Well, there was never a discipline like in the Foreign Legion, the mercenaries had a free hand, how to deal with local population. The "Ostmark" fattened on the blood of Slavs and grew, till it become a danger to Holy Emporium too, the mercenaries were not exactly the bloom of Germany. Well so much could Angus understand, now, to Polish lands Germany too, sent not flawless men, but a human scum.

Father as source of the stories named a couple of Russian historians noticing that they may be not be reliable. They wrote a many volumes work in pan-Slavic spirit, dedicated to car's family. However they did find neither powerful protectors, nor universal recognition, although in some circles they found promoters and became famous. Father considered there was a good deal of Great Russ propoganda, however the basics were cited from monks and ecclesiast German records, with some recording from east orthodox church (so called "letopisy", summer writings). In short, the facts well-founded, if any doubt, then about the comments.

Anyway, it is a common knowledge, that chiefly in IX century started a big slaughter and subduing of Slavs lands. Only Czechs and Poles managed to survive, many tribes of Głomaczes, Połabianes, Łużyczan, Obotrytes, even the bold and aggressive Weletes, who held former his own against the Vikings and Normans, perished. This all happened with a motto of triumph of Christianity, but the pagans should be exterminated, not converted. About like the crusades and Conquista. Czechs earlier accepted Christianity, already in Great Moravia state, now they build own Realm, later Kingdom, which formally entered the Holy Emporium, but in fact stayed independent.

Polish Tribes, protected by the perishing on the West side, did unit in time and the Polish prince accepted in haste Christianity. However, baptism and the Church organization came from Czechs, not from Germany. This was an important political act, if Poland would be subordinated to some German Archbishop, probably on the long run they would lost their independence. Poland owes to Czech a lot, also the first Saint and following, the first Archbishop (his brother). Next the armed

support, accepting Christianity did not stop the German invasions, but they did not justify them by religion. Armed expeditions of Hodo and Wichman were private enterprises, if unofficially backed by the "Ostmark". The Emperor did neither approve, nor condemn them, but stepped next as arbiter and mediator, treating alike the aggressor and the defendant.

Czechs had already the modern, heavy armored cavalry, sent an aid, if only 300 people, but of great class and with the tactic knowledge. Later, Czech knights had a distinguished opinion in Europe. Also this became an example for Polish prince own crew.

Czechs and Poles, the only Occidental Slavs who survived (there is some doubt about Slovenia and Proto-Slavic Veneti, also probably a close language likeness with Etruscans) created two centers of state organization. Both attractive, what started an internal rivalry. Bolesław the Brave tried to join in Czechs and almost succeeded, not for long because he put a bad horse in inner Czech wars (the Family of Slawnik, who were murdered). Nevertheless, Poland gained his first Saint, Wojciech (Adalbert), martyr and holy patron for new church and friendship of Emperor Otto III, his colleague from cloister school in Magdeburg. Also the first Archbishop, Radzim Gaudenty, blood brother of Wojciech and Moravia, their heritage. After Bolesław I death, gallant Czech prince Brzetysław nearly conquered Poland, but never managed to hold her. At this occasion he devastated thoroughly both capitals, the civilian and church. When Kazimierz Renovator came to Poznan, in the ruins of cathedrals nestled wolfs and he had to transfer the capital to Kraków. This exactly Angus memorized being personally concerned.

Next the balance varied, once one, second time the other party conquered, without decisive final. In the period of feudal disintegration, strong Czech kingdom mastered almost all Poland and it is not sure, if it was luck that famous King Władysław the Short (or: Elbow-high) smashed strange rule and unified the country. His son, Kazimierz the Great, upheld good relations with Czechs and drew there examples, he extended towns, modeling Kraków distinctively after Prague, enclosed with effort business ways and he induced similar changes in military structure. At the time Poland drew from Czechs more examples, also on the institutions of knighthood. It is a public knowledge, Czechs they produced then disproportionately many knights, one can tell for show, a tournament competition. In contemporary Europe known was saying

"there came a gorgeous knight, he may be Czech". Less known is that from Czechs to Poland came the family of Zawisza, to which belonged later the last living ideal of knights, Zawisza the Black.

Mentioning Zawisza lead to Grunwald battle. The main event of these times, as thanks to the Poland-Lithuanian Union the both societies managed to cancel a deadly threat to the people from Crest-Knights Order. Of course, this happened with contribution of Czechs, but they fought divided, on both sides, so the contribution was sedate. However the main was, that Poland, at the time a country of second rank and Lithuania, a brief ephemerid on the distant margins of contemporary Europe, created together a powerful state. Next this joined voluntarily many smaller nations and survivors of many perishing folks. So arouse a gorgeous country with for the times super modern organization of many nations providing free, nearly democratic establishments and enormously attractive. Maybe because of this, developed next isolationist tendencies, preferably avoiding expansion and closing for strangers rather than encourage someone to arrival and join in.

Now came on him a sudden inspiration, dazzling light, he saw it all in another dimension. Union, Lithuania and Crown, this great motto, in which he believed, was already dead. The most splendid past does not return, nobody can twice enter the same river. Many people still want to, but the majority not. Firstly, against are most of the Lithuanians, which finally settles this. Second also many Poles backed not the promethean ideas, presented by Piłsudski. Because of this, after the victory in Soviet war Poland so quickly, despite the Head of State, they closed peace and resigned of former Polish territories, which they already held and could keep. Next, they quickly got rid of Piłsudski. Just so, the ideas were an outlived past, what sense to regret a long dead marriage. No chance to profit with reluctant partner.

Now for Poland a close link with Lithuania would mean only a load, two more millions of citizen would not much strengthen the State, yet keeping up this country would add many problems. He realized this with sorrow, suspecting he may be a polonized Lithuanian (a mistake).

But the idea of union was good and just, only now Poles should to turn round, to search now opposite direction, to Czechs. The main was need, both sides shall profit, nobody from partners lose only gain. Let's tell the pluses should overweight the minuses. Exactly how in case of common people. Poland alone and Czechoslovakia alone were communities, which

functioned good and assured the prosperity of citizen. They could manage almost any danger. Well, almost, if all goes normal. But this time they met exceptional coincidences, all went wrong. Both together they could make out strong and stabile whole, defend even worse menace. Next, as former, they could become the center of crystallization of a multinational union, to which all could come and live as in own house, without national or religious restrictions. A Res Publica not of only two, but of many nationalities. In this part of Europe there was aplenty on small ethnic groups with bad history experiences, who gladly would catch opportunity to live without oppression keeping their identity.

Angus reached already the main point, but now checked, how it fits all the way to contemporary times. History turned and now the Czechs wanted a close union with Poland, offering the crown to Władysław Jagiełło. However, he did not accept the honor and did not allow to do so his brother, deputy for Lithuania and competitor in authority. In fact he could not, no way as lately converted "pagan", a target of spiteful propaganda, take side with the Huss heresy. However, Polish diplomacy headed by Paweł Włodkowic tried to save Hus, in vain. The Polish King, turned down Pope Martin V appeal to war against Husites and secretly supported them. Anyway, they needed not a help, military performing excellent. After a time, a Jagiellon sat on a Czech throne, but it was not a union of country, only family, dynasty business and lasted not long.

In further history, happened an unlucky incident. The contribution of Lisowczyków to the battle by White Mountain in 1620, exactly speaking stopping by them Gabor, whose help may probably turn the weight scale for the Czechs. Lisowczycy were mercenaries, at this time often met in Europe, well, the whole world pestered the so called Chevaliers of Fortune, but these ones were exceptional. A light cavalry, they moved without logistics, wagons, any service column, (only packhorses and reserve mounts) with unbelievable speed. A man had only as much weight of iron, as his sable, the horseshoes, and tips on arrows. A free company, they chose their own officers, took no pay serving only for what they robbed or looted, and at first called themselves "lost men", meaning desperadoes. Only next to honor their first dead commandant Lisowski the took the name, but also called themselves "Riders of Apocalypse". On speedy raids, like before the Mongols and next the German Knights of Christ Order they killed all living souls "with children and even dogs", also own men wounded or sick, to arrive before any news. They were ever victorious, first in wars with Moscow, when they

pierced all the territory to Siberia, and next in the German Emperor service they went like hot knife in butter, to the Rhine and next to Atlantic. They looted all, this was their main task, but in fact were not more cruel, as the others filibusters, pirates and soldiers of Fortune. Nevertheless, Polish Sejm disbanded them in 1636, after not full twenty years for inhuman warfare.

There remained only the famous picture by Rembrandt.

Many countries boasted multitude of hirelings, greedy pigs of soldiers, including also the armies of robbers, pirates, filibusters. Poland properly only this one time, Lisowczyk's, but this they accepted exactly then an imperial service, was indeed fatal. Anyway it was exactly after the calamity at the Cecora battle and they were allowed to continue the fight against Turks. All next, they did in spite the interdictions of the King and Sejm, losing next the civic right, (although these who survived and returned with rich booties, somehow recovered them). They brought damage to Czechs, more so, though unaware of this, to their own nation and state. After battle under White Mountain Czechs for almost three centuries lost their independence, almost the national identity. The leaders, next all outstanding men got executed, the lands colonized and Germanized. Rebirth in XIX adjoins almost to a wonder.

In XIX Poles also became enslaved and at beginning, in Austrian annexation they had claims of Czechs, because largely among them occupants recruited bureaucratic staff and apparatus of pressure. The reason was simple, Czechs spoke with similar language and better from Austrians could contact with population. But already from the Spring of Folks, began the period of solidarity and common plans. Alas, did not stay long, soon ways separated. Czechs in XIX century began the national rebirth, which was work of average and lower social classes, as the higher put in to Germanization. Similar evolution, as happened on lands of former "Res Publica" against the Poles, a violent reaction succeeding, as the higher classes of many small nations Polonized, losing contact with own people. However, here it caused a strain between Czechs and Germans, or Austrian Germans including the Germanized aristocracy and plutocracy. Contrary, the Poles were placed in another arrangement, divided in three annexations, from which the Austrian was the most gentle, almost humane. They did not want to fight Austria where they found a broad autonomy and conditions for continuing own

traditions and culture, comparing to other parts of Polish lands, a real paradise.

The only common value remained the Falcon motion, first arouse in Czechs, officially a gymnastics companionship, in fact organization preparing future freedom fighters. Poles, after the essays of revolts always ending in defeats, for some time found in Falcons Motion the most important center for keeping the traditions of freedom fighters. Connections between Polish and Czech Falcons closed, also between Polish and Czech Scouts, next generation of Falcons pet lambs.

In time WW I, Poles could wish only the defeat of all invaders. So it happened, though it seemed at first straight unlikely. From beginning however a part of society searched supports in Austria, contrary to the Czechs. However even then, despite contradictory aims, kept on collaboration and unity of the organizations of Falcon and Scouts, they upheld a nearby contact through all war. Anyway in Annexation Prussian and chiefly Greaterpoland, Angus heard about this from first source from people which prepared the Greatpoland rising. It is a common knowledge, The Falcons and The Scouts became a spiritus mowens of this revolt.

In the last interwar period, happened a shocking episode. The affair of Transolza territory which Poland accepted from Hitler hand after Munich. Angus remembered the indignation of all people he knew, from colleagues in school of and own parents, all the way to passerby on the streets or conversations in tramway. It was rumored, in Warsaw, so wrote the newspapers, it was different, there some presented this affair as a success. He heard rumors there happened some demonstrations supporting the government. Surely the semi-official self-appeasements like "bovine business" "bull eye" and other "spontaneous" eruptions of happiness or demonstrations were prepared and prepaid. Probably precisely by the same, who a couple months later financed the demonstrations with "Commander lead on" and "To Kowno" using impulsiveness, naive patriotism with nationalist tendencies and inexperience. Sincerely speaking the stupidity of a part of young people. This was not a fair play. Polish government, suspected of tendencies dictatorial and at least authoritarian, never organized demonstrations. At least not mass performances of backing and enthusiasm, what it is the feature of dictatorships. If such essays ever happened, they were unsuccessful, wish does not be enough, it is necessary to know how. In

Germany for example, mass performances they prepared careful, stage-managed by best specialists. As example, so began his career Speer, and Hitler had also a talent and messed about this sphere with preference and pleasure.

Therefore Angus suspected this actions were assembled and paid in aim to pull Poles on the side of Hitler. First the bad wolf spit out a little morsel of his first gift for encouragement, next foisted a greater bait. Annexation of Kłajpeda had a sense only then, if it resigned from the rest of Lithuania which previously all made up the German zone of influence. Next provocation calculated on winning Poland. If she took this greater bait, this of course would cause the indignation of all Europe, first Soviets, only Germany eagerly would offer backing. To Poland would remain nothing, only to accept the offered backing.

There is no a tiny doubt that showing any joy of Transolza retrieval was extreme stupidity from the side of next potential victim. Already in the years of war, Angus had occasion to hear that like Poznan, reacted also Krakow and all Lesserpoland. Also the people in Ostrowiec told so, although some traveled to Cieszyn for profitable purchases.

But there was also a second side of medal. Angus also facts which although not exculpate, but partly explain action of Polish government.

First, Poland never in the least degree did take contribution in the disgraceful treaty of Munich, did never lift even a finger against Czechoslovakia. On the contrary, in the time of Sudeten crisis she arranged great OPL exercises, displaying preparations to a possible war, with western allies. In fact, she did not show the support Czechoslovakia in the worst moment, but how may she do, if Czechoslovakia waned not this help? Previously, she repeatedly threw away all the Polish tries of getting closer. The western allies, in past twice not only repulsed Polish proposals, employment of harder stand against Hitler, but displayed this fact, discrediting Poland.

Finally Poland accepted only this territories which according to Monchen treaty had to occupy Hitler, anyway they would not remain in Czechoslovakia. Showing that he recognizes the ethnic Polish character of Cieszyn county and delivering diplomatic thanks for moderation and proposals of further friendly relations, the "Great Leader" returned a small part of booty. It was true, there lived a Polish population and delivering her under authority of Hitler was a bad solution. Short: Poland

never shared in taking apart of Czechoslovakia the affair settled others, but agreed on the accepting the Poles away from the authority of Hitlerism. It was the smaller wrong, in sad circumstances, and arranging therefore of any solemnity, appearing content - this was an extreme idiocy.

However, this affair had a bad stinking prehistory. It is a common knowledge, Cieszyn county had a distinct Polish majority and after WW I, population as well as local self-government organ, National Council, declared attachment to Galicia and next consistently to Poland. So it was to 1920, but in the worst period of Bolshevik war, Czechs they committed an armed aggression in brutal form. They massacred the feeble forces of local defense, wail a great part of able-bodied men and all squads of Polish Army were situated on eastern front, from where threatened a deadly danger. These who tried defense, got merciless shot.

Poland could not fight a second war and she recalled to France, as on Silesia the armies of coalitions, including French, superintended the plebiscite. France was the ally both of Poland and Czechoslovakia, and indeed an architect of new construction of all central Europe. French diplomacy managed suspending of invasion and armistice, but on the current line of front, without withdrawing of Czech armies. France preferred to take the post of arbiter, she guarded Poland from farther aggression, although Czechs could then easily move far, breaking every resistance all the way to Krakow. Anyway, the already taken grounds remained in Czechoslovakia. Considering now this case, Angus had impression that this was a diplomatic play. Nearly all newly roused states of this region connected alliances with France, and she preferred to have individual alliances with many feeble partners conflicted between themselves and on her depending. Connected, Poland and Czechoslovakia would be a strong center able to stand independent.

If not France officially, but the so called "Influential diplomatic circles" preferred to benefit on base "divide et impera". In this manner arouse a stinging rivalry between Poland and Czechoslovakia about French connection, excited by French diplomacy. In interwar period Poland several times tried for better relations with Czechoslovakia and each time met with a cold welcome. This despite that Poland never pressed claims to recover the lands, confining to the efforts about protection for Polish

minority. (According to Versailles Treaty, Czechoslovakia like Poland obligated to civilized treating of all minority.)

Whenever in the past appeared efforts for to improve relations, in Czech press showed comments, that Poland has bad relations with Germany and a close tie may mean future troubles. Better to remain with single alliance to France. However, Hitler preferred to begin from Czechoslovakia despite that he had with her good relations, all the way to a moment, when he decided it is enough. Merely because this was more accessible morsel, and about alliance with France not worth mentioning. Instead then, towards Poland he had still other plans, the worst mistake he ever made. He judged that he shall gain her over, and reinforced on Czechoslovakia could then devour France, before longed-for aim of his life, "Drang nach Osten".

If then Poland and Czechoslovakia were in a direct alliance, besides middle connection through France, there would be impossible the bargain in Munich without Polish contribution. And whatever good or bad one could tell about Poland, one is sure: Always previously she kept faith to allies (even, if there are people who tell, this was on base of "honest John" - honorable, but a little silly "Jaś").

Beside France, Poland and Czechoslovakia had still one common ally, Rumania. Instead a natural alliance with Poland, Czechoslovakia with Rumania and Yugoslavia created local connection called the "Little Entente", but this organization in fact became inactive after Austria "Anschluss". In fact, both Czechoslovakia and Poland acted inadequate, a shame. Both the countries only lately recovered freedom and did still not poses well-educated diplomats with tradition. But also countries with refined experience displayed shocking lack of intelligence.

Finally, Angus tried to reminder the reach of territories ancient Slavs and Germans. Not only the historical, written sources, but the material, based on archeology. On the earth of Poland and Germany worked many archaeological explorations, some accidental finds, but also purposeful excavations, chiefly in the interwar period. They left no doubts, that ancient Slavs sites are found not only far behind Oder, but also between Elbe to Isere, about halfway. Alas, the explorations happened not in scientific, but rather hostile atmosphere. The German scholars began it still on beginning of century, but next they purposely suppressed it from political regards. They caused an attack of nationalists and introduced a political dispute. Hitler regime treated the exposure of Slavs locations

around the capital, Berlin, straight as offense and ordered to fill up and to devastate any works. From second side the learned Poles, chiefly from the school of distinguished archaeologist Kostrzewski from Poznan University, not always remained fair-minded and free from nationalist tendencies. As example: without satisfying proofs, the oldest excavations of Lusatia culture, geared in unitary development of all western Slavs, and they tried to clear the excavations with surely Germanic elements in artificial manner. (For today, some still classify the finds as ethnic inconclusive, but most of scholars link them to pre-Slav tribes.)

The information took Angus from a popular-scientific book, sometimes subjective "The Earth gathers Ashes", edited a couple of years before war and vocal, from which he mainly he took the news and opinions. For him the case was clear: The earths of the good half of Germany belonged once to Slavs. These noble and loving peace people were subjected or treacherous killed, Poles, the last from this group, managed beyond back of perishing relations in least moment to unify and to organize and thanks to this survived. However also Poland lost in long wars her west provinces.

This is a simplified view, naive and does not answer to truth, although some parts are correct. It is a common knowledge, the Indo-European tribes after arrival long searched for a territory and they settled in different places, often again and again changing address. Last great removals called the migration of folks, happened in the period the collapse of the Roman Empire for a couple of centuries, still after happened reshuffling of all nations from the one end of Europe to another. It is difficult to credit to the anyone univocally a definite territory. Now we think most probably the Western Slavs, a longtime spent in the river-basin of Oder and Vistula, the Eastern Slavs between Bug, Dnieper and Dniester but this is only a guess. In the period of the migration of folks, when Germans blown out on the rich earths in the limits of ancient Roman Empire, Slavs expanded beyond them to the west. Angus thought the contemporary Polish earths a country of origin, and Western Slavs his prefathers, in fact they were at best distant cousins. The more industrious and active people migrated further, the exhausted, with less imagination and spirit of adventure stayed. Probably the first were the Czechs, the may migrate still at the times of bloom of Roman Imperium taking place of Celtic people. At the time, when from the riversides of Odra and Vistula some tribes went west following the German, others restless and bold spirits from Czech and Moravia,

possibly also from south Poland moved south. They processed at the Balkans, some as far, as the border of Mediterranean Sea, the islands and approaches to Asia Minor, maybe pressed by Avars, who made from them compulsory associates. Some analogy, what Hitler wanted to do with Poles, only cannon flesh was at the time an unknown expression. Sure, the rest was an illogical nonsense, from his considerations followed, the most brave and worthy processed a bigger distance, so the Poles would be the weaklings, the Czechs better and the tribes south more developed. Nevertheless the pattern was more complicate, for example beside Serbs in Serbia there survived still some Serbs in East Germany, beside Croats in Croatia, there live some Croats in Carpathian Mountains, using alike language.

From the first moment of a dazzling flash, first thought about union, Angus best as he could carefully checked all, what he knew about this matter. Up to now, all fitted with first inspiration. He found nothing against, though of course his knowledge was superficial and incomplete. Also economics of both countries make up to complete (only in the years of subordination to Soviets they ordered an uniform development, according to pattern commanded by ZSRR). Before the WW I, Czechs had industry on best European level and Poland formed a capacious market, almost all what she brought from west, she could receive from south, paying with food and raw materials. Both countries, could safely develop together, would gain conditions to efflorescence. If there occurred also some element of contests, for Polish industry and Czech agriculture, does not a normal exchange and business always cause some contests? And if do it belong always fear any rivalry, does it not produce also profits?

Without neither doubts, here shot on him inspiration, reveal, Enosis, straight send by the Holy Genius. Angus felt a new prophet, the speaker of new belief, the only just and right. From this moment he became, how now they speak, haunted.

Now the time has come for constructive thinking. The fighting rolling around caused the Germans, pushed the matter to extremity, to the edge of abyss. It was simply to fight or to expire, combat bought a little time. He found something more, a great idea, for which it was worth to live and to die. As the poet said:

..."this, who may perish with full belief, Ten, kto może ginąć z pełną wiarą,

That it dies for the freedom of people,
That with his blood cordial gift,
Shall save in chains groaning nations,
To his suffering Motherland may open
New ways of happiness and peace..."

że umiera za ludu swobody,
że krwi swojej serdeczną ofiarą
zbawi w więzach jęczące narody,
że Ojczyźnie cierpiącej otworzy
nowe drogi szczęścia i pokoju...."

Because he saw this first, on him rested now the duty to tell all.

* * *

Like most of people, Angus has not too good opinion about professional politicians. For diplomats such affairs are marginal, they specialize in second-rate details, know, how suitable to pronounce a banality, whether more fashionable do this before, or after a cocktail. They have not visions, beyond single trees do not see the forest. If they recognized the problem at all, anyway they would place it on a list after all the minor. This matter is too serious, to rely on specialists. Something what said Napoleon and even Hitler despised routine.

This great thought, creative idea, conviction has to become universal, convince all, or at least many people, to become a general need. It has to implant to the conscience of Poles - and of course Czechs also. Like in the final time of regional smashing, when need of connection happened a universal need, passed to common opinion. Like the need of freedom and independence, despite much defeats in the period of slavery, survived in the consciousness of Poles. It was enough, to wait for friendly conditions and then realize this. The consciousness decides. "We need the belief, that we hung on own will and hands ...". "Come on and inspire all people ..." (Of course now, only the concerned).

This night began conception of a new organization, at first an one-member: "The Union of Western Slavs (Związek Słowian Zachodnich), or ZSZ. Both the name and the abbreviation sounded not too bad, in fact acceptable. It should organize in three-persons pattern. Something like the chain of Saint Anthony, only possible comparison, because in this times nobody interested in financial pyramids, or chain-sale like Amway. (Any communities pressing commodities for price threefold of value and then dividing of graciously one third profit along the chain were at the time unknown.) Then this way spread only different prayers, rumored bringing favor and possibility miracles. Maybe delivering delusive hopes, but free of charge, without commercial vulgarism.

The secret society relied on a base, that each already convinced, new member had to find, persuade and recruit three new members, each from this three the next three and so on. For better conspiracy, they had to know only the person, who recruited them and these which every one would recruit. The trios had never to know one another. Only a vertical contact, next delivering the baton to the next. However, Angus wanted to stay in contact, if only to know, how the idea develops and for this aim at least some time information must come from the chain. Besides, a deep conspiracy creates the conditions for the accidental breaking of contacts. Enough if the chain misses one link, nobody can re-create this. Considering this, Angus expected two types of members, some sympathizers and active members. The first had only to transfer the idea, but he hoped some part of the conversed will decide on stable continuation. And so they had he to give their names and addresses to still indefinite, "Secret archive of organization". After some time, someone from top may contact with them, telling proposed by them password.

Angus supposed that among these which may accept his opinion, only a small part shall want to tie on a longer time, if only because the establishment had to be universal. It should went to all, also people, who already were members of other organizations. The same people could have of course never be active in different organizations. Even if their refer to another sphere and without conflict of aims, none organization would allow this.

No need to explain, Angus had none conspiracy experience, and only a few theoretical knowledge, rather obscure, from fiction books without detailed descriptions, sure never handbooks on this subject. Of course, he took much from imagination.

Nevertheless, a part of this idea was realizable and not without sense. The mistake was to create a queer hybrid, a chain connected with a normal organization. Applying the base of a chain, such as popular then in churches, to laic aims, to spread the thought over and well-founded opinions was one matter. This turned out an original and effective idea. One may tell, effective above expectations.

However search for volunteers to further cowork, and demanding of them to give personal ID along the chain with creation of a mysterious archive, was unprofessional and stupid. If Angus had a little experience, he would knew it may seem a provocation. There existed two

possibilities to arrange the matter: Either separate the chain and organize separate the ZSZ or create organization with two, or more levels of admission, popularly speaking, with Masonic structure. Some wrongly say mafias', as The Mafia sees safety not in conspiracy, considering it imperfect, but on discipline and terror, as well as, one may tell, upbringing up to tradition.

Arrangement and bases of the acting such organizations are described in the least Chapter. There is some analogy to known financial structures, in which the mother-company, controls a greater enterprise, this the next and so on. B. c. it is in theory possible, in a joint stock company with capital of, let' say 21 thousand \$, 11 thou as clear majority controls the whole, on the next step the 21 controls capital of 41, next 81 and so on. But considering the stock normally divided, usually the controlling packet may be less, than 50%, by public owned a bulk of about 30% is enough. Coin has not the same value, but it depends, on which level it is invested, in extreme causes one \$ may control hundreds, even thousands \$. The multilevel organizations influence similar, however, not money but people. Legally the registers of partnership and companies are public accessible for all concerned. However, often one may need a good lawyer, or collaboration of good lawyer and expert accountant, a specialist in finance to tell, in whose hands is the enterprise. But even this may mislead with great firms which may employ the most outstanding minds and best lawyers and financiers, to invent more complications. A specific competition of minds and talents.

Also secret organizations and political parties often have within a secret pattern of several levels. This concerns in the first row the conservative parties. For example a common knowledge is that Endecy (National-democratic party), the former Polish League in some periods had a three-level structure, and at times of four-levels. Probably even more complicated, because the top level, the "Brotherly Circle" may have too internal pattern, only this matter remains unknown. Other parties, had an informal quasi-structures called colloquially buddy clubs, gangs and like. Now the structures are abandoned, because with growing speed of information no way to hold longtime a secret. The informal groups are fluent, quickly changing with time deals. Alas, Angus have not even elementary knowledge and arranged this matter wrong.

To him all seemed planned, settled and even if trying longer, if devoting a day, a week or still a year, nothings more he could add. Next move

would be to pour this all on paper. A fiery proclamation was essential to lay out bright and persuasive the conclusions and basic facts.

Like as with prayers, each newly converted had to copy three times the paper and to deliver this to others. Only that were not prayers, this had to be a call which will convince and mobilize the people and push them to movement. He should find powerful words, understand for all readers and remember, for some it may be a heavy work to read and more so to write. To catch their attention, the watering down he must restrict, only red blood remain. Some readers may not know the history, simply lose the patience not understanding the arguments. Only the main facts and essential conclusion, maximum two pages of office paper.

Do it now, at once, immediately this night, already ending. Angus tightened trousers and a warm short overcoat and sat down to writing at one of small tables in the little central room. Wooden shutters closed from inside by four massive steel hooks, greater and bulkier from a poker. Except shutters, windows from center covered up roller blinds from black paper, the most small ray of light could not penetrate. Only in inner door shone bright chinks. Angus behaved noiseless, not to wake up the mother sleeping in kitchen.

He wrote how in inspiration, the idea was great, better do it all when hot. He shortened historical background to the main: That Poles and Czechs are the only rest of many former Western Slavs, the survivors. And that Poles already in the first moment of existence contracted a serious debt at her relations, accepted from them baptism and church organization, which happened also basics for the state. Also armed support in first, hardest times which they hardly managed to survive, as alarmed with changes Germans attacked at once.

Next the relations varied, but mainly it so strangely happened, when one state bloomed, after a time the other profited, if it fell, soon the second meet troubles. At least both lost independence, and next recovered together. Alas they began independent existence stirred up for peripheral reasons, which they could avoid. If Poland and Czechoslovakia they held together in 1938 and 1939 they would have a chance to defend themselves. Hitler would not devour them, even could not take the risk. Poland sure would be much better ally, as France or England, never she turned traitor or did abandon an ally. Soldiers Czech and all population wanted fight, everybody knows how they despaired, when they had to put down the perfect weapon, thanks to which Germany

happened next twice stronger. In a common war, this weapons would reinforce Poles, leveling the chances, erasing the most painful lack of Polish Army.

And Poles and Czechs committed heavy errors in the past. After the experience, nevermore would they repeat this. Both States almost turned out able to survival, to an independent existence, but only almost. If they allied forces, they would be safe. A good example may be Union Poland with Lithuania, in which each country equal and independent created through hundreds of years a powerful state. At the beginning, Poland and Lithuania stood both on the border of abyss.

Now the possible partners excellent supplement each other, one bigger and with numerous population, second smaller but full developed. Czechs may gain the huge ground of expansion for the industry and enterprise, also access to seas and so to all the world. The Polish market of agriculture, her distinguished and cheap food and the important stores of raw materials would set up a good foundations of bloom to both organisms.

The remaining place devoted Angus to explain pointers of acting, of the schema of structure and emphasis, this is a most safe system, an ideal of conspiracy. However, these who are willing to do more, may join an active branch of organization, if they suggest such wish and their name regressive along the chain. Data of ID will remain safe, because secret archive, where they shall keep, allows for spontaneous annihilation, if unfit person tried to open it. This was of course fancy, never such archive existed, Angus only had design to create it. He ended with appeal about distinct and legible copying of text.

This last sentence concerned also him, so now he began to copy the text with especially great letters and most distinctly. In some places he made amends, usually slimming the contents, because now it became clear that with big and distinct letters, no way to contain it on two sheets on;y. Before ending he had to break up and erase any footprints, because night already ended, began the day and soon may enter parents. He returned to bed stiff and cold. My God's, if this possible that this all stayed only one night, it appeared ages and he grew older at least some years, no doubt. However all was how former, building, room and environment, even still lives the pussy, who how what wound i mewing continuously below the window.

* * *

Next day, the ZSZ counted in already two members. Matthew responded all right and self-evident, not only accepting this, but with more enthusiasm as Angus. Such fervor displays only someone, also for a longtime daydreaming about joining a secret organization, but up to now in vacancy. He copied three times the leaflet even before Angus ended his copies of and in a few days he left Szewna, transporting coiled papers hid in the bicycle pipe. Angus only recruited the second candidate, as Matthew he had already completed his trio and they began to gain over a next generation.

Angus did not progress so easily. Beginning the talk with Matthew, he realised that he cannot appoint himself the chief of invented organization, there is need for some someone more serious and credible. Conspiracy principles eased this matter, in conversation with Matthew he affirmed being only a link in the chain .. He muttered in trust, that anyway he not sure, but thinks the idea came to Poland from Czechs. Anyway , it deserves an advancement. This line he held consistent.

Admittedly the next candidate, colleague from Business School, precisely this, who so finely played piano, in a few conversations let convince him. This was a calm boy with big dose of healthy sense and precisely this reason checked the weight, he accepted the arguments to the point. But then Angus met suddenly a difficulty and precisely with colleagues, nearby and familiar.

Instead to discuss objectively about aims and reasons, they began to question him what this queer organization, about which heard nobody, may be. Answer that this precisely is top quality, the result of perfect conspiracy, somehow did not satisfy them. Angus wanted discuss about problems and logic, on base healthy reason, they wanted to know, who and for what. They suspected that this is not a serious idea and Angus may have a contribution. This was too nearby truth, to effect not some embarrassment. Angus felt transparent. The decision does not suffice, necessary still the knowledge, how to lie. Though Angus rashly contradicted, still not plausible. Lastly he found a third candidate, but not from first league and the third generation did not develop speedy.

However he returned to a full life, entered one of better periods. He had aim and began with a success. Besides, a great satisfaction caused to him the possibility of continuing the classes, he liked lessons, although

he grudging, this time learning alone. But thanks to this, he had hope for speedy progress, filling a gap for finishing grammar-school. Fact, so many of memory stuff at a time he never tried to master, for example some sides of Latin words on every lesson and still after that whole expressions and comments. Jaruga was demanding and did not tolerate even brief hesitation. A luck Matthew corrected colleague at reciting the verses, thanks to this the terrible hard labor with the placing right the accents, the terror of students, ran over almost painlessly. After all, more hard competitors before Angus fell in despair. Polish language, Polish verses in comparison to Latin, are likable easy. Though professor always was able to find any flaws, some admitted him a genius, other named a saw fine toothed. Angus only after was able to evaluate in full and he decided on the first.

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