

Under the Patronage of His Excellency Dr. Andrzej Kurnicki
Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Canada

THE 3RD OSKAR HALECKI SYMPOSIUM



The Polish Defensive War of 1939 – the Outbreak of the World War II and Beyond

Saturday, November 23, 2019

Amphitheatre - G1124, Saint Paul University
223 Main Street, Ottawa, ON, Canada



Professor Oskar Halecki, Jr.

* 1891 – Vienna, Austro-Hungarian Empire
† 1973 - White Plains, New York, USA

A Polish historian, Byzantinist, and diplomat, a social and Christian activist, an organizer of the international scientific cooperation at the League of Nations (together with Albert Einstein and Maria Curie-Skłodowska) and collaboration amongst captive nations, a defender of free Poland in North America during and after the World War II



The Polish Defensive War
of 1939 – the Outbreak
of the World War II
and Beyond

PROGRAMME

Saturday, November 23, 2019

8:00 – 9:00 REGISTRATION

9:00 – 9:10 OPENING WORD

Hanna Kępka and Krzysztof Grabkowski

Oskar Halecki Institute in Canada

Signal of the Polish Army - Kazimierz Samujło

His Excellency Dr. Andrzej Kurnicki

Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Canada

Andris Kesteris

Central and Eastern European Council in Canada

9:10 – 9:50 LECTURE I

Professor Marek Kornat, Ph.D., D.Sc.

Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland

Crisis of 1938-1939. Poland's Rejection of German
Territorial Demands

9:50 – 10:30 LECTURE II

Alexander M. Jabłoński, Ph.D., P.Eng.

Oskar Halecki Institute in Canada, Ottawa, Ontario

The Polish Defensive War of 1939 –
Reflections on the 80th Anniversary

10:30 – 10:50 COFFEE BREAK

10:50 – 11:30 LECTURE III

Andrzej Kurnicki, Ph.D.

Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Canada

The Polish Cavalry – Elite of the Polish Army
During the 1939 War

11:30 – 12:10 LECTURE IV

Brig.-Gen. (ret.) Robert Williams, Ph.D.

Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario

General Maczek and Canadians

Il Silenzio - Kazimierz Samujło

12:10 – 12:40 LUNCH

12:40 – 13:20 LECTURE V

Edward Poznański, B.A. (Hon.), M.A.

Ottawa, Ontario

On All Fronts: Poland's Contributions to Allied Victory,
1939 - 1945

13:20 – 14:10 CLOSING REMARKS

(PANEL DISCUSSION)



*Staff Corporal Emil Czech
plays Signal at the Monte Cassino Hill May 18, 1944
after the victorious battle of the 2nd Polish Corps*

Professor Marek Kornat, Ph.D., D.Sc.



Professor Marek Kornat is a director of the Department of the History of the 20th Century and the Section of the History of Diplomacy and Totalitarian Systems of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He also teaches at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Warsaw, Poland. He completed with distinction his studies in history at the Jagiellonian University

in 1995, where he also received his Ph.D. in Arts (thesis on *The Pact Ribbentrop-Molotov and Polish Diplomacy of the Second Republic to German-Soviet Rapprochement and Collaboration in 1939*). He holds also a Doctor in Sciences degree (habilitation) based on his two-volume work on *Bolshevism – Totalitarianism – Revolution – Russia. Beginning of the Sovietology and Studies on the Totalitarian Systems in Poland (1918-1939)* (2005). He received his nomination to Full Professor in 2015.

He specializes in the history of Poland and Europe in the 20th century, Sovietology, history of totalitarianism, history of Polish diplomacy in the 19th and 20th centuries and the history of Polish political thought. He is the author of numerous books, and publications on the history of the World War II. Currently, he is working on a biography of Col. Józef Beck, the Polish foreign minister in the 1930s. Professor Kornat is also the chair of the scientific program committee of the iPoland Conference: *Poland First to Fight* on November 18-20, 2019, National Press Club, Washington, D.C., USA.

During the Symposium in Ottawa his presentation will be on *Crisis of 1938-1939. Poland's Rejection of German Territorial Demands*.

Dr. Alexander Maciej Jabłoński, P.Eng.



Dr. Alexander M. Jabłoński received his BSc & MS (civil engineering) from the Technical University of Cracow, Poland (1970), MS (mechanics and materials engineering) from the University of Illinois at Chicago (1982) and PhD (structural dynamics) from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada (1989). He has almost 50 years

of experience in various fields of engineering, reconnaissance projects, project management and strategy planning. He worked as an engineer in Poland, Finland, Norway, Germany, and in the USA. Since 1992, he has been working as Research Scientist, Research Engineer and Manager in the Canadian Public Service. He was one of the Managers of the Space Plan Task Force (SPTF) for the development of the Long-Term Space III for Canada (1999-2009). Currently, he is working at the David Florida Laboratory, Canadian Space Agency in Ottawa.

He is an Adjunct Research Professor of the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Carleton University in Ottawa. He is Fellow of CASI, Associate Fellow of AIAA, Member of Aerospace Division of ASCE, and recipient of various engineering and scientific awards. Since his early life in Poland he has studied the Polish and World history for decades. He writes historical essays and presentations, especially on the modern history of Poland including the World War II and the post-war era of the Soviet occupation. Currently he serves as President of the Oskar Halecki Institute in Canada.

Dr. Jablonski will present his reflections on the Polish Defensive War of 1939 (on its 80th anniversary).

His Excellency

Dr. Andrzej Kurnicki

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Poland to Canada



Andrzej Kurnicki holds a PhD in economics (PhD thesis in the monetary policy of the Federal Reserve System (Fed) and the capital market), and Master of Administrative Science (MAS) degree from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD.

In 1996 -1998, he attended a postgraduate program for financial

executives at the Harvard Business School and at MIT in Boston, MA. He is a specialist in finance, capital markets, private and investment banking. He is also an expert on the development of international programs in finance, banking, education and business. In the 1980s and 1990s, he gained experience as a financial and investment advisor in the United States of America. For many years he has been a lecturer/professor at the University of Warsaw, Coventry University/Lazarski University, and a program coordinator for students and senior managers in Poland and USA, including Executive MBA programs, University of Wales. Between 2014 - 2016, he served as a Head of the Department of Finance and Banking at Lazarski University, and later, as a Head of its Capital Markets Department.

He has organized many international conferences for managers and private investors both in Poland and in the USA. He was a scholar of the Polish Heritage Association in Baltimore, MD, USA. and a student of Mr. Robert D. McTeer, Jr, President of the Central Bank (Fed) in Dallas, TX in 1996-1998. He has chaired or participated in over 40 panels and discussion boards in finance, investment banking or capital market programs. Since his student years, his passion has been the contemporary history of Poland and especially the history of the World War II.

In his presentation titled *The Polish Cavalry – The Elite of the Polish Army during the 1939 War*, he will cover the unique contribution of the Polish cavalry brigades to this difficult first opening campaign of the World War II. During the September 1939 campaign, the cavalry brigades were distributed among the Polish armies and served as mobile reserves. In this role, the Polish cavalry proved itself a successful measure in filling the gaps in the front and covering the withdrawal of friendly units. The Polish cavalry units took part in most of the battles of 1939 and on several occasions proved to be the elite of the Polish Army.

Brigadier-General (ret.) Robert Williams, Ph.D.



A graduate Electrical Engineer from the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario, he is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of History at his *alma mater*. Among his academic accomplishments, Robert holds a PhD (History) from Queen's University in Kingston. After a lengthy career in the Canadian Army he retired as a Brigadier-General. While serving in the army he was deployed on several overseas operations including: Croatia, Bosnia (several times) and Afghanistan.

During his military career he was awarded the Order of Military Merit (OMM), twice awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) as well as the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD). Multilingual, he has specialized in the modern history of Poland.

His presentation will highlight the experiences of the Poles in different theatres of operations while under allied command, the recruitment of Poles already resident in Canada into the Canadian and or Polish Armies and the challenges of finding Polish speakers and conclude with the performance of the 1st Polish Armoured Division in August 1944.

Edward G. Poznański, B.A. (Hon.), M.A.



Edward Poznański graduated from Carleton University with an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science, followed by a Master of Arts degree in public administration.

Edward Poznański served for 9 years with the Royal Canadian Artillery and has had a career in the Public Service of Canada for over 37 years. He is currently an Assistant Deputy Minister with the federal Department of Finance.

Edward Poznański has studied Poland's role in World War II for many decades. He has written articles and has delivered public presentations on this subject. His presentation is titled *On All Fronts: Poland's Contributions to Allied Victory, 1939 – 1945*.



Polish light tank 7TP (siedmiotonowy polski - 7-tonne Polish) produced in 1935-1939, with 37 mm anti-tank gun (Bofors licence), 17 mm armour, the Gundlach tank periscope and radio.

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The 3rd Oskar Halecki Symposium in Canada
November 23, 2019

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Oskar Halecki Institute in Canada (OHI)
Instytut Naukowy im. Oskara Haleckiego w Kanadzie

The Oskar Halecki Institute in Canada is a Canadian, federally incorporated not-for-profit organization whose mission is to preserve and nurture Polish-Canadian heritage, history and culture within the Canadian mosaic. The Institute organizes symposia, public meetings, lectures, and cultural events such as concerts, video and film presentations, and poetry readings on Polish-Canadian and Central and Eastern European heritage and history in three languages: Polish, English, and French. Established in 2014, the Institute builds on the work of the Polish-Canadian scientific community in Ottawa, that began in the early 1960s.