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**Utah JGS Meeting 19 March 2024**  
**Polish Military in the Liberation of Italy from the Nazis**  
**Handout**

Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939 split Poland dissolved it. Soviets imprisoned Polish military and civilians across USSR. Nazis conscripted or imprisoned Polish military and civilians into their Army

Refugee Polish military 1939 included Polish Air Force joined British Army, Polish Navy joined Royal Navy, Four groups part of French Army in France, Polish Independent Carpathian Brigade created in Syria, French Army, Some polish ground troops regrouped in Scotland into Polish I Corps

Polish living elsewhere in 1939 included Polish Zionists already in Palestine Mandate joined British Army in "Jewish Brigade", Polish already in US joined US military, other Polish joined military where they lived

Polish Independent Carpathian Brigade in 1940 – When France fell, the Polish Independent Carpathian Brigade defected from Syria to Palestine Mandate and gained more men, joining with British Army. In 1941 – sent to Tobruk to relieve Australians, called themselves the "Rats of Tobruk", In 1942 – returned to Palestine Mandate and incorporated into Polish II Corps

Stalin agrees to formation of new Polish Units, giving amnesty to Poles in USSR. In 1941 they were Intended for front lines against German invasion. In 1942 they were released from USSR to train with British Army in Persia

Anders' Army - Siberia to Persia to Palestine to Egypt to Italy. Included military and their families, also Polish orphans collected from across USSR, also some Polish civilians to remove them from USSR

Arrival in Persia brought civilian diaspora and Military Training

Arrival in Palestine Mandate brought some Jews leaving to secure the future of Israel. More Polish living there joined 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, Polish III Corps established and headquartered in Egypt.

Anders' Army population diverse politically, economically, religiously, and nationality

Battle of Sangro River in April 1944 included Polish with other allies. Burials at Sangro River War Cemetery for Allies and Futa Pass for Germans.

Monte Cassino battle preparation included arranging for reinforcements recruited from Polish prisoners of war at POW camps for German Army soldiers in the US, Canada, and Great Britain as well as in Italy, plus Polish deserters of German Army.

Battles of Monte Cassino in May 1944 included Polish 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps with other Allies. Cemeteries for Allies at Cassamassima, Cassino, Monte Cassino, Mignano Monte Lungo, Nettuno, and Venafro and Germans at Cairra.

Battle of Ancona in July 1944 included Polish 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps with other Allies. Cemeteries for Allies at Loreto and Ancona. German cemetery at Futa Pass.

Battle of Bologna in August 1944 included Polish 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps with other Allies. Allied cemeteries at Bologna and Florence. German cemetery at Futa Pass.

Afterward Polish 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps in Italy in 1946, then demobilized in UK along with other Polish military in exile. Expanded Polish diaspora. Polish government-in-exile continued in London until 1990, without international standing after June 1945.

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Thanks