

**SYNOPSIS
DESCRIPTIONS OF MEMORIALS
AVAILABLE IN INFORMATION TABLES
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CONTENT

PART1 OCHOTA DISTRICT	4
ANTONIN	4
BUILDING ON FILTROWA 68.....	4
BUILDING ON SPISKA 14.....	4
STUDENT HOSTEL.....	5
RADIUM INSTITUTE.....	5
CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF VIRGIN MARY	5
THE BATTLE OF PEĆICE.....	6
KALISKA REDOUBT.....	6
WAWELSKA REDOUBT	7
ZIELENIAK MARKET	7
PART2 HOME ARMY BATTALION “ŁUKASIŃSKI”	8
ŻYRARDÓW BARRICADE	8
ST. HYACINTH'S CHURCH	8
POLISH BANK REDOUBT	8
FIGHTING ON RYGIEL	9
ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH.....	9
CHURCH OF THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9
PART 3 MILITARY POWAZKI CEMETERY	10
HOME ARMY BATTALION “BEŁT”	10
HOME ARMY BATTALION “CHROBRY I”	10
HOME ARMY PRAGA ENGINEER BATTALION „CHWACKI”	11
HOME ARMY BATTALION “CZATA 49”	11
HOME ARMY BATTALION “GOLSKI”	12
HOME ARMY BATTALION “GOZDAWA”	12
HOME ARMY BATTALION “GUSTAW”.....	13
HOME ARMY BATTALION “HARNAS”	13
HOME ARMY BATTALION “KILIŃSKI”	13
HOME ARMY BATTALION “MIOTŁA”	14
HOME ARMY SCOUTING BATTALION “PARASOL”	14
HOME ARMY BATTALION “PIĘŚĆ”.....	15
HOME ARMY SCOUTING BATTALION “WIGRY“	15
HOME ARMY SCOUTING BATTALION “ZOŚKA”	16
HOME ARMY SCOUTING ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERY “ŻBIK”	16
SECURITY CORPS	17
BATTALION “NAŁĘCZ”	17
BATTALION “SOKÓŁ”.....	18
HOME ARMY DETACHMENT “OSA – KOSA”	18
BATTLE GROUP OF HOME ARMY REGIMENT “BASZTA”	19
HOME ARMY REGIMENT “JELEŃ”	19
HOME ARMY GROUP “CHROBRY II”	20
HOME ARMY GROUP “GARŁUCH”	20
HOME ARMY GROUP “GURT”	21
HOME ARMY GROUP “KRYBAR”.....	21
HOME ARMY GROUP “KRYSKA”	22
HOME ARMY GROUP “KUBA – SOSNA”.....	22
HOME ARMY BATTALION “ŁUKASIŃSKI”	22
HOME ARMY GROUP “LEŚNIK”	23
HOME ARMY GROUP “OBROŻA”	24

HOME ARMY GROUP "RÓG"	24
HOME ARMY GROUP "ŻYWICIEL"	25
GLORIA VICTIS MONUMENT	25
CENOTAPH OF HOME ARMY COMMANDERS	26
THE Ł QUARTER AT THE POWĄZKI MILITARY CEMETERY	27

Part1

Ochota District

Antonin

Antonin is a building owned by the Orionine Fathers, located in the back of the Church of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. During Nazi occupation of Warsaw it was manned by SS units.

This building was seized, as planned by the third Group of the first Region of the fourth Home Army Area. Inside the captured building, insurgents found machine guns and they discovered uniforms, ammunition and food in vehicles parked by the building. Later these weapons, including heavy weaponry, such as the Panzerfausts became very useful.

Having captured the building, insurgents backed away the following day and left Ochota for the Kabacki Forest.

Three days later Germans attacked the building with tanks but found only residents inside, hiding in the cellars. They were captured and kept as hostages in the Student Hostel on Narutowicza Square together with residents of the neighbouring houses on Grójecka (several hundred people in total).

After the Germans retreated, the building was again manned by a small Home Army unit which controlled the area of „Antonin” until the fall of “Kaliska Redoubt”.

Building on Filtrowa 68

In this building on sixty eight Filtrowa Street in Warsaw, on July thirtieth, nineteen hundred forty four, at about seven pm, Certified Colonel Antoni Chruściel codename Monter (Mechanic), commander of the Warsaw Area of the Home Army signed the order for the start of the Warsaw Rising. This order was immediately transmitted to subordinate units of the Home Army.

Decision for the capital to fight was made already on July twenty first, nineteen hundred forty four at a meeting of the following generals: Tadeusz Komorowski codename Bór (Ravine), Leopold Okulicki codename Niedźwiadek (Small Bear) and Tadeusz Pełczyński codename Grzegorz.

The immediate decision to start the Warsaw Rising was taken at about 6 pm during a briefing of Home Army commanders on sixty seven Pańska Street. Chief Commander of the Home Army, General Tadeusz Komorowski codename Bór issued the order to start the Rising at 5 pm on the following day, that is on the first of August, nineteen hundred forty four. His decision was approved by the Government Delegate Jan Stanisław Jankowski.

This decision was taken after the news came from commander of the Warsaw Area of the Home Army Colonel Antoni Chruściel codename Monter that the settlements of Radość, Okuniew and the nearby areas fell into Soviet hands and Soviet tanks overcame defence of the bridgehead and disorganised its crew. According to these reports the Soviets were approaching the Praga district of Warsaw and were shelling its outer streets.

Building on Spiska 14

On June thirtieth, nineteen hundred forty three, commander of the Home Army Division General Stefan Rowecki codename Grot (Arrow) was arrested in the building on fourteen Spiska Street in Warsaw by the Gestapo.

The general's whereabouts were given away by Eugeniusz Świerczewski codename Gens, Home Army renegade cooperating with the Gestapo.

Having been identified, the General was transferred to Gestapo headquarters on Szucha Avenue in Warsaw. Next, he was transported by plane to Germany for interrogation. Finally he was placed in Sachsenhausen camp. The Germans tried to enlist him for

cooperation on the pretext of common threat of the Red Army, but all their efforts came to nothing.

General Rowecki was executed upon Heinrich Himmler's personal order at the beginning of August, nineteen hundred forty four, in the first week of the Rising which started in Warsaw.

Student Hostel

Student Hostel on Narutowicza Square was one of three objects set to be captured by units of the Ochota Area of the Home Army. Securing this building would block the arterial roads leading through the district and consequently guard Warsaw from the south-west.

During the war a battalion of German *Ordnungspolizei* was stationed here, consisting of three hundred and fifty soldiers. The building was guarded by bunkers with machine guns. It was also surrounded by barbed wire and all the nearby trees were cut down. Cellars of this building housed a temporary prison for Poles arrested or captured in street round-ups. Many secret killings were carried out here, both before the start and during the Rising. Large groups of men were shot in the courtyard and the staircase.

On the first of August, nineteen hundred forty four, a poorly armed unit of the fourth area of the Home Army under the command of Lieutenant Tadeusz Kotecki codename Kalina stormed the Student Hostel. The attacking forces were massacred and as a result the Narutowicza Square along with the adjacent streets were covered with more than three hundred bodies of soldiers, volunteers from the Rising Security Service and chance civilians.

Poles ousted from nearby houses were led into this building and kept in the courtyard. Some of them were made to lie on the floor of the ballroom without water or food until the tenth of August.

Radium Institute

The Radium Institute housed a hospital treating cancer patients.

On August fifth, nineteen hundred forty four, SS units from the Russian National Liberation Army burst into the Institute plundering the possessions of the hospital, personnel and patients.

Several people were shot. Approximately ninety patients along with eight staff members were left in the hospital while the rest were sent to the transition camp at Zieleniak Market.

On the night of August fifth, rapes of the hospital personnel left in the Institute started. On August sixth the building was gradually set on fire. Hospital patients were murdered by setting fire to the mattresses on which they lay.

On August nineteenth, fifty patients of the Institute, who were still alive, were sent to the transition camp at Zieleniak Market, where they were shot and burnt on a pyre in the gym of Hugon Kołłątaj High School.

Approximately ninety people were killed in the Institute – mostly patients and several hospital workers.

Church of the Immaculate Conception of Virgin Mary

This church is located in Warsaw on Narutowicza Square at Grójecka Street thirty eight.

At the outbreak of the Second World War the church was still under construction. Most of the interior fittings were missing along with the helmet shaped dome of the church tower.

In September of nineteen hundred thirty nine only the Chapel of Saint Mary suffered serious damage. During the Warsaw Rising of nineteen hundred forty four, however, the church building sustained severe damage.

During the Rising civilians looked for shelter in the church. Already in the first days of fighting, one of such groups was dragged out of the building by the Germans and led into German barracks. Those who could not keep up with the rest were shot.

The church is decorated with stained-glass windows featuring religious and patriotic themes commemorating the Home Army and the Polish Armed Forces in the West. There are also epitaphs and plaques in the church dedicated to soldiers of the Home Army.

The Battle of Pęcice

When the uprising started on August first of nineteen hundred forty four, units of the Home Army's fourth Area Ochota were unable to achieve their appointed goals. Moreover they suffered great losses.

Therefore on the night of August first and second, most military units of the Ochota Area under the command of Lt. Col. Mieczysław Sokołowski codename Grzymała started to pull back from Ochota in the direction of Sękociński and Chojnowski Forests.

On August second at 5 am the group started from near the settlement of Reguły through Pęcice towards the forests.

While they were marching, vehicles with German soldiers arrived from the direction of Pęcice. A clash broke out, in which the Home Army seemed to be on top, until the sounds of battle alarmed German units stationed in Pęcice manor house. Also SS reinforcements joined in the fighting along with two tanks and a reconnaissance airplane.

Polish units suffered severe losses in fallen and captured soldiers. Thirty one insurgents were killed. Sixty seven insurgents, mostly wounded, were taken captive. Sixty of them, including five women, were tortured and shot on August second of nineteen hundred forty four at about 6 pm in a brick factory in Pęcice.

Out of approximately five hundred soldiers, who gathered in the vicinity of Pęcice, only some three hundred broke through the German blockage. This group reached the Sękociński Forest and later the Chojnowski Forest. Following reorganization and rearmament these units left on the night of August eighteenth and nineteenth to help insurgents fighting in Warsaw.

Kaliska Redoubt

On the night of August first and second, when most of the forces of the Home Army's fourth area left Ochota district as commanded by Lt. Col. Grzymała, Lt. Andrzej Chyczewski codename Gustaw organized a unit near Kaliska Street. For subsequent days it successfully resisted numerous attacks by German forces and RONA SS Brigade called to Warsaw as reinforcements.

This redoubt, named the Kaliska Redoubt covered the area between Kaliska, Kopińska, Białobrzaska and Jotejki Streets. It was manned by no more than one hundred and eighty soldiers. Most of the weapons and food were obtained by insurgents after they captured the Antonin building and the premises of the Tobacco Monopoly on Kaliska 1.

The redoubt fought until August ninth, when having exhausted all possibilities of further resistance, its commander issued an order to retreat.

After almost nineteen hours of marching, the ninety people strong column reached the Chojnowski Forest. On August eleventh Lt. Gustaw reported to the staff of Lt. Col. Grzymała.

On August tenth the Germans started pacification of the area deserted by insurgents. Plundering and execution of those suspected of taking part in the uprising ensued. Wounded from the hospital on Jotejki were murdered as the building was set on fire and grenades were thrown inside killing several dozen people. The remaining residents were taken to Zieleniak Market.

Wawelska Redoubt

On the night of August first and second of nineteen hundred forty four, a concise insurgent resistance center started forming in the tenement houses between Wawelska, Pługa, Mianowskiego and Uniwersytecka Streets. Later it was named the Wawelska Redoubt. It was commanded by Second Lieutenant Jerzy Gołębiowski codename Stach.

Five to six hundred residents (mostly from the intelligentsia) gathered in this area together with about one hundred and fifty Insurgents.

Starting on August fourth, RONA units commanded by SS-Brigadefirer Bronisław Kamiński, supported by two SS companies of about three hundred soldiers, launched attacks against the Redoubt. From August seventh it was being shelled non-stop by German artillery stationed on Mokotowski Field.

On August eleventh, due to running out of means to continue fighting and due to severe losses, a decision was made to leave the post.

Evacuation started at five pm: eighty three soldiers made their way from a building on Wawelska sixty to a manhole on Prokuratorska Street. It was the first successful passage through the city sewers by a concise insurgent group during the Warsaw Rising.

After Wawelska Redoubt fell, the Germans murdered several dozen people, including all the wounded and many civilian residents of nearby houses. Among them was chaplain of insurgent unit Father Jan Salamucha. The Germans also set fire to a hospital, located in the cellar, with patients inside. Other residents were led to Zieleniak Market.

Zieleniak Market

Zieleniak refers to a marketplace in Warsaw which occupied a few hectares on Grójecka Street, where the Banacha Market is located now. During the Warsaw Rising, starting on August fourth, soldiers of RONA units rounded up residents there, who were expelled from their homes. It was a transition camp on the way to the next transition camp in Pruszków.

The area was surrounded by a brick wall, which made it impossible for people to escape. No sanitation, no medical assistance, no access to water (the only available well ran out of water in a few days), combined with heat during the day and cold at night, caused people to die of exhaustion, hunger and thirst.

By the evening of August fifth of nineteen hundred forty four, several thousand people were gathered at Zieleniak. This number increased to several dozen thousands of residents of Ochota and the closest vicinity at the height of the camp operation.

On August thirteenth the final phase of evacuation took place from Zieleniak to the next transition camp in Pruszków. The camp in Zieleniak operated until August nineteenth, when fifty patients of the Radium Institute were murdered there.

Mass murders and crimes were committed at Zieleniak from the very beginning of the camp operation.

Close to sixty thousand residents of the capital passed through Zieleniak during the Warsaw Rising. This made Zieleniak Market one of the best known places, along with St. Wojciech's Church in Wola, where the expelled population of Warsaw was rounded up.

Approximately one thousand residents were killed in the transition camp of Zieleniak, out of whom close to three hundred were murdered by members of the RONA brigade.

Part2

Home Army Battalion “Łukasiński”

Żyrardów Barricade

During the Warsaw Rising, a barricade called “Żyrardów” was built, also called the Holy Trinity Redoubt, across Daniłowiczowska Street at Bielańska. It was erected in the evening of 3 August. This barricade was defended for the entire month of August 1944 by soldiers from the assault company “P-20” of “Nałęcz” Battalion and soldiers from “Łukasiński” Battalion.

One end of the barricade was next to a three story building, where a textile shop was located on the ground floor with articles from the Żyrardów manufacture. This store was an important element of the barricade as part of the defense crew stayed inside the shop, ammunition was stored there and a flame thrower was placed on the balcony.

The crew manning the barricade fought bloody and relentless battles. The Germans attacked from the Theatre Square using tanks, which often moved under the shield of civilians. This made the defense extremely difficult.

Having completed their coverage tasks, late at night on 1 September the barricade crew entered a small sewer on Daniłowiczowska Street, of the dimensions 60 x 90 cm, to emerge after nearly 11 hours on Napoleon Square near the corner of Mazowiecka Street. They were the last unit to have travelled through this sewer from the Old Town.

St. Hyacinth's Church

In the church of St. Hyacinth on Freta 10 as well as in the monastery of the Dominican Order in the back of the church, taken over by the Warsaw Charity Society, a large insurgent hospital was located during the Warsaw Rising.

The number of patients treated in the hospital amounted to 660.

The church was bombed and shelled by heavy artillery. On 26 August 1944 seventeen bombs fell on the church. Approximately one thousand people died under the rubble – hospital patients and residents of Warsaw, who tried to find shelter in the church.

The Germans entered the hospital on 2 September at about 9 o'clock in the morning. They ordered children from the orphanage, medical doctors and Sisters of Charity out and left afterwards. Only sick and wounded were left in the hospital under the care of nurses and medical orderlies. At about noon collaborationist soldiers entered the hospital. They looted the property and committed numerous acts of brutality.

In total, 50 hospital patients have been killed; of whom the Germans shot 20 and 30 have died in the fire.

Polish Bank Redoubt

During the Warsaw Rising the building of the Polish Bank served as a redoubt used by soldiers from the Home Army Group “Sosna” to block access to the Old Town. “Łukasiński” Battalion was part of this Group.

The redoubt commander was Lieutenant Tadeusz Majcherczyk, codename “Zdan” and from 18 August, Lieutenant Bronisław Kalinowski, codename “Piotr”.

From 9 August, a four person medical unit commanded by Maria Korupska codename “Skiba” served in the Polish Bank Redoubt.

The building of the Polish Bank was bombed by Luftwaffe and shelled by the artillery.

Relentless fighting to defend the redoubt lasted until the night of 1 and 2 September, when soldiers from the redoubt, together with other defenders of the Old Town were evacuated through the sewer on Krasińskich Square.

Fighting on Rygiel

Rygiel was the most vulnerable area opposite the Polish Bank Redoubt, located in a triangle of burnt out houses and ruins on the western side of Bielańska and Senatorska Streets. This area was constantly shelled by the Germans and attacked by their infantry from the direction of Senatorska and Wierzbowa Streets and from the Theatre Square.

On 14 August a special unit from the 1. and 3. companies of "Łukasiński" Battalion, commanded by Second Lieutenant "Żelski" manned "Rygiel" to counter German attacks on the building of the Polish Bank. Attacked by the Germans, the unit suffered great losses.

On the night of 31 August an unsuccessful attempt was launched from the Polish Bank, also through "Rygiel" to break through from the Old Town to the City Center.

St. Anthony's Church

Soldiers of "Łukasiński" Battalion fought and died in the vicinity of this church defending the redoubts, the Town Hall, Blank's Palace, Kanoniczki Monastery, Polish Bank, Mostowski Palace, Arsenal building and fighting for Mniszchów Palace on the "Rygiel", which was the foreground of the Polish Bank.

On the night of 30 and 31 August this area was in the path of the main assault of insurgent forces during their attempt to break through from the Old Town to the City Center, which failed due to concentrated attack of the Germans.

Insurgents suffered great losses in the killed and wounded.

Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Soldiers from the III platoon of the 3. Company of the Home Army "Łukasiński" Battalion fought and died in the church and its vicinity defending this part of the Old Town.

The platoon was commanded by Second Lieutenant Tadeusz Świątkowski, codename "Borsuk".

On 29 August 1944 the Germans succeeded in capturing the nearby block of buildings and temporarily forced insurgents out of the Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. At that time a care facility for women ran by Sisters of Charity fell into the hands of the Germans. Several residents of the facility were murdered by the Germans.

Part 3

Military Powazki Cemetery

Home Army Battalion “Bełt”

Originally it was formed in late 1940/early 1941 in Section III of the City Centre District of the Home Army on the basis of one company, expanded later by the 332nd Company and one platoon of combat engineers. In total it included 180 soldiers.

In July 1944, it constituted Group VI of the Military Service for the Protection of the Rising under the command of Platoon Commander Erwin Brenneisen codename “Bełt”.

During the Warsaw Rising, the battalion consisted of three companies and covered the area between the following streets: Jerozolimskie Avenue – Poznańska – Lwowska – Nowowiejska – Sucha – Wawelska – Raszyńska to Jerozolimskie Avenue. Its primary task was to block Jerozolimskie Avenue and build and defend a north-south connection ditch to ensure communication between both parts of the City Centre District.

The battalion was involved in exceptionally heavy fighting in September, when it pushed to recapture the Fire Fighting School complex on Nowy Świat. In the second half of September, the Germans intensified their attacks in an attempt to split the City Centre District in two separate areas. However, the crossing through Jerozolimskie Avenue has never been captured by the Germans until the end of the Rising.

Home Army Battalion “Chrobry I”

The battalion originated from an independent detachment formed in 1939 by Lieutenant Kazimierz Burnos codename “Corda”. By 1941 the battalion had around 100 soldiers. In early 1942, it was incorporated into the Polish Armed Organisation.

As a result of the merger, Section IV of the City Centre District of the Home Army included two battalions: “Vistula” and “Łukasiński” while a company commanded by Kazimierz Żurawski codename “Kalina” together with “Corda’s” company formed the third battalion called “Chrobry”. Command of the newly formed battalion was given to Captain Gustaw Billewicz codename “Sosna”. In 1943, the battalion was further expanded by two more companies. It constituted Group XI of Section IV and had more than 600 people in total.

On 3 August, insurgents from this Group captured the German military police station called Nordwache located on the corner of Żelazna and Chłodna Streets. Initially, the battalion fought in the area of Żelazna, Krochmalna, Grzybowska, Łucka, Pańska, Twarda, Prosta and sections of Wolska, Karolkowa and Młynarska Streets between Jerozolimskie Avenue and the Cargo Railway Station.

On 6 August, majority of the battalion went to the Old Town (one company remained in the City Centre).

On 13 August, Captain Billewicz was appointed commander of Western Group “Kuba”. The command of “Chrobry I” Battalion was taken over by Captain “Kamień” (first and last name unknown), and after him, respectively, by Captain Edward Kozłowski codename “Edward”, Captain Tadeusz Majcherczyk codename “Zdan” and Captain Władysław Jachowicz codename “Konar”. Apart from defending the Arsenal building and the Simons’ Passage, the battalion took part in raids on the Gdański Railway Station and the former ghetto. It also defended the Mostowski Palace. It suffered the heaviest casualties during a German bombing raid on 31 August, when more than 150 of its soldiers perished in the ruins of a school on Barokowa Street and in the Simons’ Passage. The remainder of the battalion evacuated through the sewers to the City Centre on 1 September, where they

manned posts on Bracka Street. Decimated, the battalion was incorporated into the 2nd Rifle Company of the 15th Home Army Infantry Regiment "Wilków".

Home Army Praga Engineer Battalion „Chwacki”

The unit was formed as part of the Service for Poland's Victory by Combat Engineer Lieutenant Józef Pszenny codename "Chwacki" between November 1939 and January 1944. Initially some 250 people strong, the unit was subordinated to the chief of combat engineers of the Warsaw Region of the Service for Poland's Victory/Home Army.

It was the largest and strongest dispositional unit of the Regional Headquarters tasked with subversion and combat operations. In January 1944, Captain "Chwacki" was appointed chief combat engineer of the Warsaw Region and transferred command of the battalion to Lieutenant Lucjan Zaruski codename "Władysław".

On the start of the Rising, the battalion consisted of three companies. The battalion's squads of combat engineers were sent to various areas of the city, including the Powązki Cemetery, Wola District, Railway Station Post Office, Old Town, and City Centre. The unit was tasked with blowing up the railway viaduct on Targowa Street. It was engaged in heavy fighting on the escarpment of Kamionkowskie Lake, which was subsequently joined by strong German units.

Superiority of the enemy and losses suffered by the combat engineers, made them withdraw to Saska Kępa. Attacks on the railway viaducts on Zamojskiego, Radzymińska, 11 Listopada, Modlińska Streets, Żerański Canal and the bridgeheads of Poniatowski Bridge and Kierbedź Bridge failed as well. After the fall of the Rising in the Praga District, commander of the battalion along with some soldiers went to Pelcowizna and then Choszczówka. The unit was dispersed around 20 September as a result of great inflow of German troops and evacuation of the entire civilian population across the Vistula River. The Praga Combat Engineers Battalion "Chwacki" lost 20% of its personnel.

Home Army Battalion "Czata 49"

Formed by the Directorate for Subversion in 1942, the unit was named Field Provisioning Headquarters which in Polish was abbreviated to Czata. It was subordinated to the Home Army Headquarters under codename "49". Before July 1944, "Czata 49" provided necessary materiel to field subversion units.

The unit was reorganised prior to the start of the Rising into a battalion consisting of three companies, commanded by Major Tadeusz Runge codename "Witold", a Dark and Silent paratrooper.

The battalion fought in the Warsaw Rising as part of the "Radosław" Group. Initially, it fought in the Wola District and then covered the withdrawal of "Radosław" from Wola to the Old Town. In mid-August, soldiers from the battalion participated in defending western approaches to the Old Town. They also defended the Polish Security Printing Works complex, the Sapieha Barracks, Fiat workshops and the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On 21 August, soldiers from the battalion took part in an unsuccessful attack on the grounds of Polonia Football Club in an effort to connect the Old Town with Żoliborz. On the night of August 30/31 the battalion failed to capture Bankowy Square in an attack launched from a sewer manhole in another attempt to establish an evacuation route for the Old Town. In September, the battalion was withdrawn from the City Centre and deployed in Czerniaków, where, under the command of Captain Zbigniew Ścibor-Rylski codename "Motyl", it helped defend the Czerniaków beachhead in cooperation with soldiers of the 9th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Polish Army.

After the fall of Czerniaków, only some soldiers of “Czata 49” managed to withdraw to Mokotów or cross the River Vistula. Others were killed in battle. Prisoners and 120 wounded were murdered by the Germans. Remnants of the battalion defended the Królikarnia complex as part of “Radosław” Group. On 26 September they withdrew to City Centre South through the sewers. After the fall of the Rising, some surviving soldiers of “Czata 49” laid down their weapons and went into German captivity, while many left the city among civilians.

Home Army Battalion “Golski”

This unit came to life in late 1939 and early 1940, when Captain Stanisław Łętowski codename “Mechanik” and Captain Stefan Gołędzinowski codename “Golski” formed an underground unit out of reserve soldiers from prewar 3rd Armoured Battalion.

In summer 1944, the battalion consisted of 15 platoons grouped in five companies under the overall command of Captain Stefan Gołędzinowski codename “Golski”.

On 1 August, the battalion successfully captured the area of the University of Technology and a number of adjacent streets. However, it failed to seize the hospital at 6 Sierpnia Street, the premises of the Ministry of Transport or the Staszic Colony residential quarters. As early as 2 August, the Germans laid heavy fire on the area defended by the battalion from the direction of Mokotowskie Fields. Between August 5 and 14, soldiers of the battalion continuously repulsed German attacks. On 15 August, however, the Germans penetrated into insurgent-held positions and captured the University of Technology complex two days later.

On 22 August, a combat detachment of the battalion aided successful insurgent attack on the telephone exchange facility at Piusa XI Street (presently Piękna Street). On September 9 and 10, the Germans launched failed attacks on the barricades on Zbawiciela Square defended by the 3rd company of the battalion. Thereafter, the enemy did not make any major attempts to capture insurgent positions in this area. After the fall of the Rising, soldiers of “Golski” Battalion laid down their weapons and went into captivity. Some officers from the Home Army Headquarters, including General Tadeusz Komorowski “Bór”, went into captivity with them.

Home Army Battalion “Gozdawa”

This unit started forming as early as October 1939. Since it was mostly based in the Praga District of Warsaw, initially it was referred to as the Praski Battalion. In April 1944, it was incorporated into Section IV of the City Centre District of the Home Army and adopted the honorary name of Stefan Czarniecki. Captain Lucjan Giżyński codename “Gozdawa” was given command of the battalion and it was named “Gozdawa” after the commander.

When the Rising started, the battalion consisted of 6 companies, one unit of combat engineers, a staff company, auxiliary services – medical and communications, and an intelligence section.

The “Gozdawa” Battalion entered into battle in the Old Town. Since many volunteers joined it, it grew in size to some 1,200 soldiers. It took part in storming the complex of the Polish Security Printing Works.

In August, the battalion defended a sector formed by the following streets: Miodowa, Senatorska, Castle Square, Bielańska (Bank of Poland’s building) to Długa. There, heavy fighting took place, among others, in the Simons’ Passage, Mostowski Palace and Blank’s Palace. After an unsuccessful attempt to break through to the City Centre, the battalion evacuated from the Old Town through the sewers to City Centre North, where it defended a sector of Nowy Świat Street stretching from Świętokrzyska Street to Jerozolimskie Avenue. The decimated battalion was restructured into a company and the company was

further divided into platoons. Its losses in the City Centre reached 60% of the people who came from the Old Town.

Home Army Battalion “Gustaw”

The battalion's core came from the National Military Organisation. In November 1942, this organization was incorporated into the Home Army as the “Stolica” Group. The Group consisted of four battalions including “Gustaw”, which was assigned to the City Centre District and commanded by Captain Ludwik Gawrych codename “Gustaw”.

On the eve of the Rising, the battalion consisted of four companies but in the course of the Rising it was expanded by additional four companies and a special unit “Juliusz”.

The battalion fought as part of District I in the Old Town. Two of its companies (“Grażyna” and “Genowefa”) were cut off in the City Centre North and formed “Harnaś” Battalion. On 7 August, “Gustaw” Battalion was incorporated into Group North. On 13 August, 67 soldiers from two of its companies died in an explosion of Sdkfz301 Borgward IV explosive carrier, a German remote-controlled demolition vehicle, which was captured by insurgents. Following the battalion's withdrawal from the Old Town, it joined forces with “Harnaś” Battalion and fought in the sector of Mazowiecka, Świętokrzyska, Napoleon Square, and Górskiego Streets. On 6 September, the battalion's surviving units were combined into a single company which was incorporated into “Bartkiewicz” Group.

Total losses of both battalions – “Gustaw” and “Harnaś” – reached more than 300 killed in action.

Home Army Battalion “Harnaś”

It was formed on 6 August 1944 out of two companies: “Genowefa” and “Grażyna” of “Gustaw” Battalion which had been cut off in the City Centre. Lieutenant Marian Krawczyk codename “Harnaś” was given command of the battalion. After he died on 3 September, Major Ludwik Gawrych codename “Gustaw” took over command. The 3rd Company from Group VIII, commanded by Lieutenant Jan Piotrowski codename “Lewar” cooperated with the battalion, although it was formally subordinated to the commander of the “Krybar” Combat Group.

The battalion fought in the area of Nowy Świat, Mazowiecka and Świętokrzyska Streets. On 23 August, together with “Lewar's” company, it captured the German Police Headquarters on 1 Krakowskie Przedmieście Street. The battalion was disbanded after withdrawal from the City Center. The two companies: “Grażyna” and “Genowefa” went back to their original battalion, which had come from the Old Town through the sewers. After merging, the units were deployed to defend the line of Mazowiecka and Świętokrzyska Streets, Napoleon Square, Górskiego Street. On 6 September, the battalion's surviving units were combined into a single company which was incorporated into “Bartkiewicz” Group. Total losses of both battalions – “Gustaw” and “Harnaś” – reached more than 300 killed in action.

Home Army Battalion “Kiliński”

Formed in January 1940, initially it was named “Vistula” but renamed “Jan Kiliński” in March 1943.

Prior to the Rising, it was divided into two groups: Group IX commanded by Cavalry Captain Henryk Roycewicz codename “Leliwa”, which consisted of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th companies plus the 42nd company of the Military Service for the Protection of the Rising; and Group X commanded by Lieutenant Leon Gajdowski codename “Ostoja”, which consisted of the 4th, 5th and 7th companies plus the 43rd and 44th companies of the Military Service for the Protection of the Rising. During the Rising, it was reinforced by unit

“Kolegium C” (as the 8th Company) from the Directorate for Subversion and the 41st company of the Military Service for the Protection of the Rising (as the 9th Company).

Troops of Group IX of the battalion took part in capturing the Prudential high-rise building and the adjacent Napoleon Square, the Main Post Office and the PAST telecom building. Later they participated in the defense of Świętokrzyska, Nowy Świat, Warecka, Jerozolimskie Avenue, Bracka, Marszałkowska and Złota Streets. The 1st, 6th and 9th companies manned positions in an area delineated by Bagno, Królewska, Marszałkowska, Graniczna, Grzybowska and Dzielna Streets. Following the capture of the PAST telecom building, these units supported the attempted breakthrough of troops from the Old Town.

Group X fought to capture a school at 88 Żelazna Street and St. Sophia Hospital. After the Germans attacked Wola on 5 August, the units withdrew to a defense line along Wronia, Towarowa, Ogrodowa and Chłodna Streets, where the group fell apart. On 15 September, the battalion was reorganized and the surviving soldiers from the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th companies were merged into a single company named “Kiliński”. This company was incorporated into the Protective Battalion, which on 3-9 October 1944 carried out control and guard duties in Warsaw under the capitulation treaty.

The battalion lost 500 people during the Rising.

Home Army Battalion “Miotła”

This battalion was composed of underground combat units operating in the area of Pruszków, Ursus, Włochy, Gołębki, Piastów, Modlin and Warsaw itself. On merging with the Home Army, they were incorporated into the Directorate for Subversion. The battalion was formed in late February and early March 1944 around dispositional detachment “Anatol”. Its command was given to Captain Franciszek Władysław Mazurkiewicz codename “Niebora”.

During the occupation, the unit carried out sabotage and subversion operations against the occupier, as well as repressive actions targeting traitors and denunciators.

During the Rising, “Miotła” Battalion was incorporated into “Radosław” Group. It was made up of 12 platoons forming 4 companies (total of approximately 350 soldiers). It fought in Wola, Powązki and Stawki, contributing to the capture of the premises of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly and taking part in an attack on St. Sophia Hospital. Soldiers of “Miotła” were also involved in the capture of two German tanks. The battalion launched a counter attack on Stawki Street where German units approaching from Dzika Street, threatened to cut off insurgent troops fighting in the Old Town.

“Miotła” Battalion lost so many soldiers that it practically ceased to exist. Some fighting-fit soldiers were incorporated into Battalion “Czata 49”, where they continued to fight in Muranów, Old Town, Czerniaków, Mokotów and City Center South. Three platoons formed into companies fought in the City Center under the command of Major Narcyz Łopianowski “Sarna”.

During the Rising, “Miotła” Battalion lost approximately 240 killed and wounded. Following capitulation, some soldiers from the battalion did not go into captivity but continued underground activities in towns around Warsaw. Some, under the command of Captain Tadeusz Janicki codename “Czarny”, formed a protection unit for the Home Army Headquarters in the city of Częstochowa.

Home Army Scouting Battalion “Parasol”

This unit was formed in late July and early August 1943 from the 3rd Company of “Zośka” Battalion as a special operations detachment to carry out death sentences imposed on

prominent Nazi criminals by the Polish Underground State. Initially, the detachment was codenamed "Agat".

After 2 January 1944, the unit's codename was changed to "Pegaz". In the course of another reorganization that resulted from the arrest of one of the battalion's female couriers in May 1944, the battalion adopted the name "Parasol". It was commanded by Adam Borys, newly promoted to the rank of major. The battalion's new name corresponded to its future purpose of becoming the core of the Parachute Brigade. The unit carried out a number of assaults against high-ranking Gestapo officers.

During the Warsaw Rising, the battalion was incorporated into "Radosław" Group. At the beginning of the Rising it had 280 people, 172 from the original underground roster and 50 volunteers. On 3 August 1944, the battalion grew in strength to 541 people to reach 574 on 8 August.

In the first days of the Rising, the battalion fought in Wola and then in the Old Town, where it suffered huge losses. Remnants of the battalion fought as part of "Radosław" Group in Czerniaków and Mokotów. About 30 soldiers from "Parasol" went through the sewers from Mokotów to Śródmieście.

The battalion losses were 280 killed in action during the Rising.

Home Army Battalion "Pięść"

Formed in July 1944, the Home Army Special Battalion "Pięść" consisted of three companies. It included soldiers from the Counter-Intelligence Executive Detachment 993/W, Detachment 993/P (including officers of the Polish Police in German-occupied Poland) and other minor underground units. Command of the battalion was given to Major Alfons Kotowski codename "Okoń".

As the Rising started, not all soldiers from the battalion made it to the assembly point, which is why "Pięść" Battalion never fought as a formation in its own right.

Most of its soldiers fought in Wola as part of "Radosław" Group. From mid-August they defended barricades blocking the way into Old Town, which cost the battalion heavy losses. In September, the surviving soldiers defended the Deaf Institute and the YMCA building. Some of the soldiers were assigned to special duties at the Home Army Headquarters, others fought in Żoliborz and Kampinos Forrest. Those who broke through to Kampinos Forrest joined the "Kampinos" Group commanded by the former battalion CO Major Alfons Kotowski. They protected Home Army troops withdrawing south. Unfortunately, both the protection detachment and the "Kampinos" Group were defeated in the battle of Jaktorów. In this battle the commander Major "Okoń" was killed.

Home Army Scouting Battalion "Wigry"

"Wigry" was an underground organization established on 30 October 1939. It was to produce one battalion in the event of an open armed conflict. In July 1944 it had around 500 soldiers and was commanded by Captain Eugeniusz Konopacki codename "Trzaska".

At the start of the Rising, the battalion consisted of three companies. Its concentration point was set in the Old Town.

The battalion operated as a reserve force for the commander of the Warsaw Region of the Home Army. In the first wave, around 200 soldiers from "Wigry" along with other reserve units moved to Wola with the intention to break through to the Kampinos Forrest. After the plan to leave Wola was abandoned, they took part in heavy fighting suffering great losses. Then they withdrew to the Old Town where they joined the rest of the battalion. The unit was restructured and incorporated into "Róg" Group as a reserve battalion. Soldiers from "Wigry" defended St. John's Cathedral and Mostowski Palace, took part in an attack on

Gdański Railway Station and defended the Old Town from the side of River Vistula escarpment. On the night of August 30/31, various units from the battalion took part in the attempted break through from the Old Town to the City Centre. On September 1 and September 2, they covered the evacuation of the Old Town through the sewers.

Some soldiers from "Wigry" managed to move to the City Centre through the sewers on September 2-3, where they recreated a fighting unit under the command of wounded Captain "Trzaska". They fought for the Postal Railway Station, defended the barricade on Świętokrzyska – Czackiego Streets, the section of Mazowiecka – Świętokrzyska Streets – Napoleon Square and the section of Królewska – Marszałkowska Streets. Some soldiers of the battalion fought in Żoliborz and then in the Kampinos Forrest, where they joined the "Kampinos" Group and took part in the battle of Jaktorów on 29 September.

In the course of the Rising, 160 soldiers from the battalion were killed, around 180 missing and around 120 wounded.

Home Army Scouting Battalion "Zośka"

In 1939 an underground scouting organization called the Grey Ranks was created. On 3 November 1942, the oldest scouts were moved to the Assault Groups of the Grey Ranks. One year later, on 1 September 1943, the Groups were transformed into the Home Army Headquarters' Directorate for Subversion "Zośka".

At the start of the Rising the battalion had 346 soldiers in four companies and was part of "Radosław" Group. "Zośka" battalion was commanded by Scout Master Lieutenant Ryszard Białous codename "Jerzy".

At the start of the Warsaw Rising, soldiers from the battalion, who did not make it to the concentration area, joined other insurgent units in Żoliborz, Ochota and Śródmieście.

The battalion fought in Wola until 11 August. On 5 August, soldiers from "Zośka" liberated a concentration camp on Gęsia Street, the so-called *Gęsiówka*, and freed 348 Jewish prisoners. After that, they defended the cemeteries in Wola. As part of "Radosław" Group, the battalion defended the Old Town, taking part, among other, in a failed attack on the Gdański Railway Station and in the defense of the Church of St. John of God. It was also involved in a night assault on August 30/ 31 and was the only insurgent unit to break through to the City Centre from the Old Town.

Starting on 3 September, soldiers from the battalion fought for the Czerniaków bridgehead which substantially annihilated the unit. On 23 September, the battalion was disbanded. The survivors who managed to move to Mokotów through the sewers were incorporated into the decimated "Parasol" Battalion.

Out of 608 soldiers who fought in the ranks of the battalion, as many as 360 were killed in action. On 11 November 1968, the "Zośka" Scouting Battalion was awarded the Silver Cross of the War Order of *Virtuti Militari* by General Stanisław Maczek, Chancellor of the Chapter of the War Order of *Virtuti Militari*.

Home Army Scouting Anti-Aircraft Battery "Żbik"

The unit came from the scouting organization "Żbik". Prior to the Rising, as the 568th Anti-Aircraft Platoon of the 2nd Company it was part of the IV Home Army Group "Gurt".

On 2 August 1944, it separated into the 2nd Scouting Anti-Aircraft Battery "Żbik". It was composed of five platoons under the command of Lieutenant Henryk Szczepański "Żuk". At the outbreak of the Rising, at the so-called W Hour, 60 people reported to the battery.

The battery was to cooperate with infantry units in capturing the Main Railway Station, the Poniatowski Bridge, the Postal Railway Station and the Military Institute of Geography.

These tasks were not accomplished. The battery seized and held until the end of the Rising buildings on Chmielna Street from number 53 to 67. Its soldiers also organized the insurgent field postal service in the City Centre North that was later taken over by the Scout Field Postal Service.

The battery lost around 10 soldiers.

Security Corps

The Security Corps came from the Military Organization established in October 1939. In 1942 the Organization was renamed Security Cadre and in 1943 Security Corps. Beside this unit, the Corps included also other underground organizations like Fire Fighters' Resistance Movement "Skala", Armed Liberation and Union of Silesian Insurgents. Politically subordinate to the National Defense Council, the organization was active in the area of prewar provinces of Warsaw, Kraków, Lublin, Łódź, Kielce and Wilno, with smaller groups in the cities of Bydgoszcz, Gdynia, Katowice and Toruń. It also had a few guerrilla units.

Commanded by the Chief of Staff of the Security Corps' Headquarters Colonel Leon Korzewnijkanc codename "Doliwa", the Corps was tactically subordinated to the Home Army Headquarters. Some of soldiers, however, did not have weapons and so they were put on auxiliary duties.

The Security Corps entered into cooperation with the People's Army on 26 July 1944 and with the Polish People's Army on 27 July 1944 thus creating the Combined Armed Forces of the People's Army, Polish People's Army and Security Corps. In late July 1944, some members of the Corps' headquarters travelled to Lublin, where they established contact with the Polish Army entering Poland from the East and the Polish Committee of National Liberation.

The following units which were part of or originated from the Security Corps fought in the Warsaw Rising: "Nałęcz" and "Jur-Radwan" assault battalions, "Sokół" and "Topór" battalions, "Stetko" and "Żarski" platoons, "Zawieja" Group and "Gryka" combat engineers company.

Battalion "Nałęcz"

This unit was formed on 1 August 1944, first as a company and then a battalion. Its core were several Security Corps officers and cadets commanded by Lieutenant Stefan Kaniewski codename "Nałęcz".

The unit spontaneously joined in the fighting for the market hall on Żelazna Brama Square. Since many volunteers reported to the battalion, the second company was formed on August 10 and 11, thus transforming the unit into a battalion with around 200 soldiers. On 18 August, the P-20 Company was incorporated into the battalion.

The battalion took part in capturing the German military police station called Nordwache in a building on the corner of Żelazna and Chłodna Streets. Sent from the City Centre to Wola, it withdrew to the Old Town on 6 August, where it was assigned to defend the Jabłonowski Palace and the Kanoniczki Monastery on Theatre Square, and then the telephone exchange building on the junction of Przejazd and Tłomackie Streets. While defending this area, 49 of its soldiers were killed and more than 100 wounded.

It was also involved in capturing the Radziwiłł Palace. On 1 September, soldiers of the battalion were evacuated to the City Centre. The 1st Company was incorporated into the "Zaremba-Piorun" Battalion in the City Centre North while the 2nd Company and the remnants of the P-20 Company were incorporated into the "Sokół" Battalion in the City Centre South.

A total of 378 soldiers fought in the battalion throughout the Rising, of whom 127 were killed in action.

Battalion “Sokół”

The unit was formed on the initiative of Cavalry Captain Władysław Olszowski from volunteers who started reporting to the unit from the beginning of the Rising – residents of nearby houses and soldiers from various units who did not make it to their own points of concentration before the W Hour. The battalion’s roster grew by the hour.

Commanded by Cavalry Captain Władysław Olszowski, the battalion consisted of two companies and combat engineers, security, technical/gunsmith, firefighting and medical platoons.

On 2 August, the battalion repulsed an attack of three German tanks on a barricade at Bracka Street. After that, it fought in the City Centre in the area of Bracka, Nowogrodzka, Żurawia, Krucza Streets, Jerozolimskie Avenue, Nowy Świat, Książęca Streets and Trzech Krzyży Square. From the beginning, the unit was subordinate to the sector commander Captain Władysław Abramowicz codename “Litwin”, and then to the commander of the northern sector Major Narcyz Łopianowski “Sarna”.

Between September 7 and September 10, soldiers from Battalion “Nałęcz” and P-20 Company of the Security Corps who retreated from the Old Town were incorporated into the battalion. After capitulation, the unit went into captivity as part of the 21st Home Army Infantry Regiment. The battalion lost around 40 soldiers in action.

A legendary insurgent Antoni Szczęsny Godlewski “Antek Rozpylacz” served in ranks of this battalion. He was killed in action.

Home Army Detachment “Osa – Kosa”

Established in May 1942, the Special Combat Operations Organization (Polish acronym: Osa) was a dispositional detachment of the Home Army Commander-in-Chief and carried out combat operations under his direct orders. Incorporated into the Home Army’s Directorate for Subversion at the beginning of 1943, “Osa” changed its name to “Kosa 30”. Lieutenant Colonel Józef Szajewski codename “Philips” was appointed its commander.

The unit completed a number of combat operations within the General Government and the Third Reich, the most important of them were bombings carried out in the following locations: underground rail station Friedrichstrasse in Berlin (13 February 1943), platform of Berlin’s city rail S-Bahn (24 February 1943), the Main Railway Station in Berlin (10 April 1943), as well as the liquidation of Hugo Dietz, head of Group D in Warsaw division of Arbeitsamt who organized deportations of Poles to forced labor in Germany (13 April 1943), the assassination of SS and Police High Commander in the General Government SS-Obergruppenführer Friedrich Wilhelm Krüger (20 April 1943), bombing of the main Railway Station in Wrocław (23 April 1943). In the spring of 1943, the unit blew up a train transporting ammunition near the city of Riga and a train transporting animal feed and straw on the Bydgoszcz-Gdańsk railway line.

On Saturday, 5 June 1943, a wedding ceremony of Lieutenant Mieczysław Uniejewski codename “Marynarz”, an officer of “Osa-Kosa” took place at St. Alexander’s Church on Trzech Krzyży Square in Warsaw. It was attended by some 25 soldiers from the Warsaw section of the unit. Towards the end of the service, strong German forces cordoned off the church. The arrested newlyweds and wedding guests were transported to Pawiak prison.

On 20 June 1943, Aleksandra Sokalówna “Władka”, staff courier from “Kosa” committed suicide in the Gestapo Headquarters at Szucha Avenue. On 17 September 1943 in the ruins of the Jewish ghetto, the Germans executed 12 men and two women arrested in St.

Alexander's Church. The bridegroom was executed a few weeks later. The remaining detainees were deported to concentration camps or vanished. On 12 July 1943 Mieczysław Kudelski codename "Wiktor", the chief of staff of "Kosa", was arrested by the Gestapo on the street and died at Szucha Avenue soon afterwards.

Faced with exposure and destruction of the unit, the Home Army command decided to disband "Kosa" as of late July 1943.

Battle Group of Home Army Regiment "Baszta"

The codename "Baszta" is an abbreviation from "staff battalion" in Polish. The origin of "Baszta" was an underground unit formed in November 1939 which gathered scouts from the Żoliborz Scouting District and scouting units of the Grey Ranks in Żoliborz.

In the summer of 1943, together with other Home Army units it was transformed into a regiment consisting of three full-strength battalions and support units with a total of around 2,300 people. In the event of an armed uprising, the regiment's area of operations was to cover the upper Mokotów from Narbutta Street in the north to the Horse Race Track in the south. The regiment was to be stationed on Pilecka Street.

On 1 August 1944, the regiment had 2,200 soldiers under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Stanisław Kamiński codename "Daniel". A battle group was formed based on the regiment and it included also other units which served in Mokotów.

The regiment suffered heavy losses in the first hours of the fighting. On the night of August 1 and 2, some of its units retreated to the Kabacki Forrest. In the following weeks, "Baszta" absorbed soldiers from other units and insurgents who returned from the Chojnowski Forrest. On 24 September the Germans launched a general assault on Mokotów and on 26 September some "Baszta" soldiers withdrew through the sewers to the City Centre. Faced with superiority of German forces and lack of weapons and ammunition, the battle group commander Major Kazimierz Szternal codename "Zryw" decided to capitulate.

During the Rising, the regiment' losses were about 1,700 soldiers killed.

Home Army Regiment "Jeleń"

The "Jeleń" Regiment was re-created underground from the 7th Lublin Lancer Regiment which prior to WWII was stationed in Mińsk Mazowiecki. The first commander of the re-established unit was Major Veli bek Jedigar codename "Damazy", the former second-in-command in the original regiment. Among the units that comprised the recreated regiment was "Jeleń" Squadron which in 1941 consisted of three troops, including "Kompania 77". In 1942, the latter was used to form the 1st Warsaw Squadron consisting of two troops, under the command of Lieutenant Lech Głuchowski codename "Jeżycki".

The squadron took part in the Warsaw Rising. It was tasked with capturing the Press House building on 3/5 Marszałkowska Street, the printing house and editorial office of the *New Courier of Warsaw*, and the police district on Szucha Avenue from the direction of Unia Lubelska Square, Bagatela Street, Ujazdowskie Avenue and 6-go Sierpnia Street. The squadron was concentrated in the area of Unia Lubelska Square and Marszałkowska Street.

Unsuccessful actions and losses suffered by the squadron on 1 August marked the end of its operations as a separate unit. One of its platoons withdrew from Unia Lubelska Square in two groups – one, commanded by Second Lieutenant Karol Wróblewski codename "Wron", moved to the area of the University of Technology, where it joined the "Golski" Battalion; the other, commanded by Cadet Tadeusz Butler codename "Sęp", moved to the area of Koszykowa Street, where it joined "Ruczaj" Battalion. Lancers from the remaining troops withdrew to Kabaty or broke through to upper Mokotów, where they joined the

“Baszta” Regiment. These lancers fought in upper Mokotów, participating in an attack on the school on the corner of Narbutta and Kazimierzowska Streets.

When fighting in Sadyba, the troop lost most of its soldiers during a German attack on 2 September. Cavalry Captain *Jeżycki* fell on 15 September. Soldiers who moved to Kabaty, went to the Chojnowski Forrest on 4 August and then moved on to Kampinos Forrest. The group was destroyed by the Germans on 29 September near Jaktorów, where many of its soldiers were killed and wounded.

With 233 soldiers on its roster on 1 August, the squadron’s losses amounted to 125 killed in action and 98 wounded.

Home Army Group “Chrobry II”

The group was formed in the starting days of the Rising and reached its final form between 10 and 12 August 1944. It absorbed small units that failed to reach their destinations as well as numerous volunteers, including soldiers from the National Armed Forces (total of 3,200 people). Initially its founders named the unit “Chrobry” Group, but when it turned out that there was already another “Chrobry” Battalion fighting nearby, they adopted the name “Chrobry II” Group and subordinated it to the commander of the City Centre District. The group was commanded by Major Zygmunt Brejnak codename “Zygmunt”.

The Group consisted of two battalions commanded by, respectively, “Lech Żelazny” and “Lech Grzybowski” (6 companies in total), as well as one reserve and guard company and a communications company.

The group fought in the western part of the City Centre North in the area of Towarowa Street, Jerozolimskie Avenue, Sosnowa, Łucka and Ceglana Streets. Its units captured the Postal Railway Station on Żelazna Street, the Military Institute of Geography, Dering’s factory on Grzybowska Street, participated in the capturing of Nordwache military police station on Chłodna Street and a school on Waliców Street. Following the fall of Ochota, they defended positions along Jerozolimskie Avenue.

On the night of 30/31 August 1944, they took part in the unsuccessful attempt to cut a corridor from the Old Town to the City Centre, gaining control of the Mirowskie Market Halls for a couple of hours. In September, they supported the defense of Chmielna and Bracka Streets. Following capitulation of the uprising, soldiers of the “Chrobry” Group went into captivity.

During the Rising, “Chrobry II” lost about 450 soldiers killed in action and more than 1,800 wounded.

Home Army Group “Garłuch”

In the early days of the occupation, officers from the 7th Legions Infantry Regiment decided to recreate their regiment in the underground. It emerged in 1940 as an independent underground division of the Riflemen’s Association. Initially, the unit used codename “Madagascar”, but later it operated as the 7th Legions Infantry Regiment.

In late July 1944, it had about 2,300 soldiers organized in 39 line platoons and several cadre platoons. The 7th Infantry Regiment “Garłuch” was the main combat force of the VIII Independent Section “Okęcie” of the Home Army’s Warsaw Region.

Its primary task was to capture the Okęcie airfield on the W Hour. However when the Rising started, Major Stanisław Babiarczyk “Wysocki” called off the attack, but his order did not reach everybody on time. Some units engaged the enemy and suffered heavy losses. Scattered, they made their way to the Kampinos Forrest, Chojnowski Forrest and to Mokotów. On the way to the Kampinos Forrest, some groups of soldiers were taken prisoner and executed in a ditch of the Radom Railway line. Others fought in various

insurgent units, including the “Kampinos” Group, “Baszta” Regiment and “Waligóra” Group. They also fought in Ochota, Czerniaków, Sadyba, Wilanów and the Kabacki Forrest. Still others joined in the fighting in Wola, the Old Town and City Centre.

Home Army Group “Gurt”

The group was formed in 1943 as part of the Home Army Warsaw Region. Its core were railway workers of the Warsaw railway hub, active in the underground since late 1939. Commanded by Reserve Lieutenant Kazimierz Czapla “Gurt”, it consisted of four companies and the 2nd Scouting Anti-Aircraft Company “Żbik”.

As a result of arrests made by the Gestapo in early June 1944, the plans of the group’s insurgent targets fell into enemy’s hands. Since the Germans manned and armed points of the expected insurgent attacks, the group’s tasks were partially changed or limited. Some of its units joined other groups and fought with them until the end of the Rising.

The area of operations of “Gurt” Group in City Centre North included Marszałkowska Street, Jerozolimskie Avenue, Żelazna Street, Twarda Street, Grzybowski Square, Bagno Street, and Świętokrzyska Street to Marszałkowska Street. On 1 August, the unit burnt the postal station, the motor workshops and makeshift army railway depot and barracks at the Main Railway Station. On 2 August, it captured the Astoria Hotel and the Assay Office building, and cleared from the enemy the area of Marszałkowska Street, Chmielna Street, Wielka Street and Złota Street. Next they seized the railway workshops on Chmielna Street. On 5 August, for a few hours the group gained control of a rail ditch between the Main Railway Station and Żelazna Street and it attacked a German armored train forcing it to retreat. Units from this group also fought in other areas of the city – contributing to capturing the PAST telecom building on Zielna Street, the Haberbusch Brewery, the Pluton factory, barracks of the Polish Police on 13 Ciepła Street, the Hartwig Factory on Towarowa Street, and *Żywiec* restaurant. It also took part in the attack on the Mirowskie Market Halls.

Home Army Group “Krybar”

The “Krybar” Battle Group was established on 5 August 1944 by Major Stanisław Błaszczak “Róg”, the commander of Section I of the Home Army’s City Centre District. The group incorporated troops gathered in the southern section of the “Róg” Group’s area of operation which were cut off from their command after the Germans captured the route leading to the Kierbedź Bridge. Commanded by Captain Cyprian Odorkiewicz “Krybar”, it was composed of four companies, one platoon of combat engineers and the Military Service for the Protection of the Rising unit codename “Elektrownia”.

On 1 August 1944, insurgent units in Powiśle launched an unsuccessful attack on Namiestnikowski Palace, University of Warsaw, Poniatowski Bridge and the railway bridge. They succeeded however in capturing the Warsaw Power Station, which was held by insurgents until 5 September. In control of Powiśle, the group aimed to capture the heavily fortified buildings of the University of Warsaw on two attacks launched on 23 August and 2 September. Unfortunately both of them failed.

On 3 September, remnants of the “Róg” Group reached Powiśle after they withdrew from the Old Town through the sewers together with their commanding officer Major Stanisław Błaszczak “Róg”, who also was given “Krybar’s” command. Between September 3 and 6, the Germans launched mass attacks on Powiśle which made the group retreat down Foksal Street to the other side of Nowy Świat Street.

The group was disbanded after Powiśle fell. From 6 September, soldiers from “Krybar” defended the sector along Nowy Świat Street, Warecka Street to the Main Post Office, which they held until the end of the Rising. One detachment of about 50 people moved to

Czerniaków, where they fought in the area of Czerniakowska Street and Szara Street, and then Solec Street and *Syrena* pier.

Home Army Group “Kryśka”

Home Army Group V “Siekiera” was the major force fighting in Powiśle and Czerniaków since 1 August. However, many other units appeared in the area as a result of fighting in nearby districts. Due to this organizational chaos, some units fought on their own, while others reported to Captain Izydor Sosnowski “Sęp” from the organization “Sword and Plough”.

When Captain Zygmunt Netzer “Kryśka” arrived in Czerniaków on 7 August, he took command of all insurgent units fighting in this area. On 27 and 28 August, designated units from the group unsuccessfully tried to capture the River Pump Station to establish connection with and receive support from the troops fighting in Mokotów. From 5 September, soldiers defending Czerniaków were supported by a group commanded by Colonel “Radosław”, who took command of all insurgent forces in this area. On 11 September, the Germans launched a concentrated attack on Czerniaków that was repulsed after heavy fighting. Two days later, the Germans attacked “Kryśka” from the south, capturing the River Shipyard, Łazienkowska Street and Przemysłowa Street, and cutting off Czerniaków from the City Centre. On 14 September, insurgent units were pushed to Zagórna Street, Czerniakowska Street and Ludna Street.

Insurgents managed to remain in control of the river bank and the approaches to River Vistula, thus facilitating the landing of assault troops from the 3rd Infantry Division of the 1st Polish Army, from across the river. However, the landing troops, inexperienced in urban warfare, suffered huge losses and were eventually either killed or pushed back to the River Vistula.

On the night of 19 and 20 September, Colonel “Radosław” decided to evacuate Czerniaków. Remnants of the “Radosław” Group moved to Mokotów through the sewers, while other soldiers, including the severely wounded Captains “Kryśka” and “Tur” were evacuated to Saska Kępa across the river. The remaining fighting-fit soldiers, commanded by Ryszard Białous “Jerzy”, broke through to the City Centre on 23 September. Fighting in Czerniaków took very heavy toll: “Kryśka” Group lost some 680 soldiers, “Radosław” Group additional 300 soldiers and the 3rd Infantry Division some 1,300.

Home Army Group “Kuba – Sosna”

This group was formed on 5 August 1944 in the Old Town from units of *Sienkiewicz* Group and other insurgent troops that had been forced to retreat to the Old Town after German attacks from the direction of Wola and Muranów. Initially, the group was commanded by Major Olgierd Ostkiewicz-Rudnicki “Sienkiewicz”. On 8 August Colonel Stanisław Juszcakiewicz “Kuba” assumed command and on 13 August Major Gustaw Billewicz “Sosna”.

The group controlled the following sectors: “Gozdawa” (“Gozdawa” Battalion, “Łukasiński” Battalion, 1806 Squadron, a company of the Academic Legion and the 2nd Motorized Squadron – both of the National Armed Forces) defended the area of Miodowa Street, Krasińskich Square, Bank of Poland and Theatre Square; “Zawisza” (“Chrobry I” Battalion, the 6th Militia Battalion of the Polish Socialist Party, “Parasol” Battalion, Vehicle Squadron of the Home Army Area and the P-20 assault company) defended the area of Leszno, Tłomackie, Długa, Gęsia to Franciszkańska Streets; “Nałęcz” (“Nałęcz” Battalion and “Blanka” platoon) defended the positions along Rymarska and Leszno Streets.

Home Army Battalion “Łukasiński”

Formed on 11 November 1941 as part of the Polish Armed Organization, this battalion was incorporated into the Home Army's Warsaw Region in the autumn of 1942. It consisted of six companies. Since April 1944, it functioned as Battle Group XII together with "Gozdawa" Battalion and the 1806 Squadron of the 1st Mounted Rifles Regiment. It was commanded by Major Olgierd Ostkiewicz-Rudnicki codename "Sienkiewicz" and had 953 people before the Rising.

On August 1, individual units of the battalion arrived on their assigned locations – the headquarters along with the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th companies and the Czarniecki Company ("Gozdawa") in the Old Town while the 1806 Squadron in Wola. The 5th and 6th companies which stationed in Żoliborz were unable to make it through to the Old Town. Therefore they joined in the fighting in the ranks of the "Żmija" Group. "Łukasiński" Battalion took part in fighting for the Arsenal Building, Mostowski Palace, the Polish Security Printing Works, a school on Barokowa Street, the PAST telecom building, the Maltese Hospital, and in defending the redoubts in the Bank of Poland, the Kanoniczki Monastery, the Town Hall, the Blank's Palace and the barricades of Leszno-Przejazd Streets and Bielańska-Daniłowiczowska Streets. It was also involved in an attack on the Gdański Railway Station and an attempt to break through to the City Centre.

On the night of September 1 and 2, the battalion evacuated to the City Centre through the sewers leaving behind only a few severely wounded soldiers under the care of several medical orderlies. In the City Centre, soldiers from this battalion fought in the area of Bracka, Widok, Chmielna, Górskiego, Warecka, Nowy Świat Streets and Jerozolimskie Avenue. The battalion lost around 70% of its initial manpower. Following capitulation, the remaining soldiers from the battalion were deported to POW camps.

Home Army Group "Leśnik"

The "Leśnik" Group was formed after the start of the Rising from soldiers of Quartermaster's Unit IV, Armament Service of the Home Army's Headquarters, codename "Leśnictwo" (responsible for gathering and manufacturing weapons) and volunteers from flamethrower company and grenade production unit. The newly formed group, which included some 400 soldiers in three companies, was commanded by Colonel Jan Szypowski "Leśnik".

In the beginning of the uprising, "Leśnik's" soldiers fought in Wola. They made forays from Leszno Street into the former Jewish ghetto, Mirowskie Market Hall and Chłodna Street. The group was withdrawn to the Old Town in the evening of 6 August. On 11 August, "Leśnik's" soldiers captured a German 5cm light AT gun PaK38 complete with ammunition on Stawki Street. After repairs, it was given to "Chrobry I" Battalion.

On 12 August, "Leśnik" and "Radosław" groups were combined to create the northern sector of Group North that defended the Old Town until the end of August. "Leśnik's" soldiers co-organized the production of petrol bombs and makeshift grenades. They also repaired weapons. They took part in an unsuccessful attack on Traugutt's Fort, fought in the area of Inflancka Street bus depot and tram depot on Sierakowskiego Street. Later, they defended a hospital located in the Church of St. John of God, as well as Stawki Street, Town Hall, Kanoniczki Monastery and Blank's Palace.

In the second half of August, the "Leśnik" Group was sent to defend the complex of the Polish Security Printing Works, where they suffered great losses during heavy fighting. The few remaining soldiers from the group were incorporated into "Radosław" Group, with whom they evacuated to the City Centre through the sewers. Some of them fought in the area of Książęca Street until the end of the Rising. Others, including the remnants of the flamethrower company, were sent together with the "Radosław" Group to Wilanowska

Street in Czerniaków, where they suffered severe losses. "Leśnik's" last defense was the building at the corner of Solec and Wilanowska Streets, which fell on September 23.

Home Army Group "Obroża"

The "Obroża" Group was formed from units of District VII of the Home Army's Warsaw Region that operated in the vicinity of Warsaw. Commanded by Major Kazimierz Krzyżak codename "Bronisław", it had some 16,000 troops as of late July 1944. No proper concentration was carried out, because when the Rising started, headquarters of District VII were in Warsaw, cut off from their units.

The strongest battle group formed in the Kampinos Forest from soldiers of Section VIII and a unit from the Nalibocki Forest. It launched two attacks on the Bielany Airfield on 1 and 2 August and took part in the assault on Gdański Railway Station on 21 and 22 August.

Most of the soldiers who survived the attacks returned to the Kampinos Forest and only few remained in Warsaw either as part of the "Żaglowiec" Group or other units fighting in Żoliborz. Some broke through to the Old Town and joined "Parasol" Battalion.

A company commanded by Lieutenant Stanisław Milczyński codename "Gryf" from Section V (the town of Piaseczno) made it to Mokotów. This company was formed in the Chojnowski Forest from soldiers of the "Krawiec" Battalion. It was incorporated into "Oaza-Ryś" Battalion. Three other units from Section III "Dęby" (the town of Rembertów) crossed to the left bank of the River Vistula and either broke through to Kampinos Forest or joined the forces fighting in Mokotów.

The Kampinos Group, which operated in the Kampinos Forest, engaged the Germans throughout the Rising: near the villages of Kiścienno, Truskaw and Marianowo, and in the area of Section I Marianowo (the town of Legionowo), also in Jabłonna and Nieporęt. During those actions a German military train was derailed near Chotomów and a POW camp with some 6,000 prisoners was captured near Beniaminów. Fighting also took place near the towns of Piaseczno and Pruszków.

It is estimated that "Obroża" Group lost 1,127 men killed in action, of whom 663 in Warsaw and 464 in the vicinity.

Home Army Group "Róg"

The group was formed on 1 August 1944 in the Old Town from units of District I of the Home Army's Warsaw Region and various smaller units concentrated in the Old Town, Muranów and Powiśle. Incorporated into Group North on 7 August, it was commanded by Major Stanisław Błaszczak codename "Róg", and later by Captain Jerzy Czarski codename "Czahar". The group's core consisted of the following battalions: "Bończa", "Gustaw", "Gozdawa", "Unia", "Konrad" and Battalion I "Dzik" and detachment "Elektrownia" from the Military Service for the Protection of the Rising, and the crew of the Polish Security Printing Works.

At the beginning of the Rising, the group managed to capture nearly all assigned objects, although some were not held for long. The captured objects included, among other, the Krasiński Square with the court building, the Town Hall and the Detention Centre on Daniłowiczowska Street. However, the group failed to capture the bridgehead of Kierbedź Bridge, Schicht's House and barracks adjacent to the Royal Castle. "Gustaw" Battalion suffered very heavy losses during attack on the "government district" in the area of Piłsudski Square.

Soldiers of "Unia" Battalion failed to capture the buildings of the Cabinet, the University and Police Headquarters on Krakowskie Przedmieście Street. The units of "Konrad" Battalion which attacked the railway bridge and the Poniatowski Bridge were killed off.

The group was involved in covering insurgents' retreat from Wola to the Old Town and it prepared for the defense of the district. After the Germans captured the approach to Kierbedź Bridge in the area of Nowy Zjazd, the southern part of the group was cut off in Powiśle. The remaining troops defended the south-eastern sector of the Old Town stretching from Podwale Street, across the Castle Square and along the escarpment of River Vistula to the complex of the Polish Security Printing Works. Despite poor armament and heavy losses, the group successfully held its ground for three weeks, repulsing enemy attacks. Heavy fighting raged in the Castle Square, around the Royal Castle, St. John's Cathedral, Piwna and Świętojańska Streets as well as the buildings on the River Vistula escarpment.

Having evacuated to the City Centre through the sewers, the remnants of the group joined in the fighting in Powiśle and later retreated either to the west side of Nowy Świat Street or Upper Czerniaków. Not many managed to swim across the River Vistula. Those who did and were fighting-fit were incorporated into General Berling's army. Those who remained in the City Centre were incorporated into the 36th Academic Legion Infantry Regiment. Remnants of the group were led into German captivity by their commander Major "Róg".

Home Army Group "Żywiciel"

The "Żywiciel" Group was formed from units of District II of the Home Army's Warsaw Region, which covered Żoliborz, Bielany, Marymont and, later on, Powązki. District II was first commanded by Major Stanisław de Thun codename "Nawrot" and then by Lieutenant Colonel Mieczysław Niedzielski codenames "Sadownik" "Wojciechowski" and "Żywiciel".

The tasks assigned to this military district for the Rising were complex and particularly difficult. The boroughs of Żoliborz, Bielany, Marymont and Powązki were loosely built-up and surrounded by strong German positions. The tasks assigned to the group was to attack and capture the following strong points: in the south - Citadel, Traugutt's Fort, Legions Fort and Gdański Railway Station; in the west - Chemical Institute, Bem's Fort, Boernerowo and artillery battery in Buraków; in the north - Main Institute of Physical Education, Bielany Airfield, Waldlager (forest camp) and Gas Industry School in Marymont. Insurgents' attacks on those targets were repulsed and insurgents were inflicted with heavy losses.

In the evening of 1 August, the group's CO decided to withdraw to the Kampinos Forest finding further operations in the area impossible. The troops marched off from Żoliborz around midnight.

The region's commander, however, ordered the group to immediately return to their abandoned positions. Lieutenant Colonel Niedzielski reached the center of Żoliborz with his group on 4 August and the next day he regrouped his units into six line battle groups with codenames starting with the letter "Ż" ("Żaglowiec", "Żbik", "Żmija", "Żniwiarz", "Żubr", "and Żyrafa"). These battle groups suffered heavy losses during the fighting in Żoliborz, which capitulated on 30 September 1944.

Gloria Victis Monument

The *Gloria Victis* Monument (also known as the Monument of the Fallen Undeclared 1939-1945) is located in quarter A24 of the Powązki Military Cemetery.

Each year on the anniversary of the Warsaw Rising the main celebrations take place at this monument, with the presence of top state officials. Competition for the design of the monument was announced in February 1946. The winning project was submitted by Helena Kłosowicz, a courier and soldier from "Łukasiński" Battalion. The memorial has the form of a tall obelisk carved out of black marble with an urn on top and corners lined with pink marble. Its four walls feature the following bronze inscriptions: "To Home Army

Soldiers Fallen for Freedom” – “1939 – 1944” – “Warsaw Rising 1.VIII – 2.X.1944” – “Gloria Victis”.

On 1 August 1946, the monument was officially unveiled and consecrated by Reverend Canon M. Żemralski, the regent of the military cemetery. On 6 August, 117 coffins with ashes were laid there, brought, among other, from the Gestapo headquarters on Szucha Street, from Wolska and Górczewska Streets, Sowiński Park, St. Stanislas' Hospital, Moczydło and Młynarska Streets.

The monument was thoroughly renovated in the summer of 1958, when the new urn was added along with four stylized eagles at the corners.

Cenotaph of Home Army commanders

Erected in 1994, the cenotaph honors the successive commanders of the Union of Armed Struggle and the Home Army.

Lieutenant General Michał Tadeusz Tokarzewski-Karaszewicz „Doktor”

Commander-in-Chief of the Service for Poland's Victory between 27 September 1939 and 4/5 January 1940. Following the establishment of the Union of Armed Struggle, he was appointed commander of Area 3 *Lwów*. Arrested by NKVD officers in March 1940, he never took that post.

Major General Stefan Paweł Rowecki “Grot”

Commander-in-Chief of the Union of Armed Struggle between 30 June 1940 and 14 February 1942. Commander-in-Chief of the Home Army between 14 February 1942 and 30 June 1943, when he was arrested by the Gestapo. He was sent to Sachsenhausen concentration camp in mid July 1943. When Heinrich Himmler learned about the start of the Warsaw Rising on 1 August 1944, he ordered immediate execution of Stefan Rowecki. The General was murdered on the night on 1/2 August 1944.

Major General Tadeusz Marian Komorowski “Bór”

He established the underground Military Organization in Kraków in late 1939 and commanded it until January 1940, when it was subordinated to the Union of Armed Struggle. Commander of the Kraków Area of the Union of Armed Struggle. He was promoted to Brigadier General on 8 February 1940. Following his exposure, he moved to Warsaw in the summer of 1941 and was appointed Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Union of Armed Struggle. Between autumn of 1941 and June 1943, he was also commanded of the Western Area of the Home Army. Commander-in-Chief of the Home Army between 17 July 1943 and 11 October 1944. He made the decision to start the Warsaw Rising. President of Poland Władysław Raczkiewicz appointed him Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces on 30 September 1944. Following the fall of the Warsaw Rising, he was detained in Oflag 73 Nürnberg-Langwasser, Oflag IV C Colditz and Stalag XVIIIIC.

Brigadier General Leopold Okulicki “Niedźwiadek”

On 3 June 1944, he took the post of the Chief of Operations and 1st Deputy to the Chief of Staff of the Home Army Headquarters, General Tadeusz Pełczyński “Grzegorz”. He was of the strongest advocates of armed fighting in Warsaw within the Home Army command. On 3 October 1944, he took the post of the Commander-in-Chief of the Home Army. On 19 January 1945, he ordered disbandment of the Home Army and relieved soldiers from their oath, suggesting they should not disclose themselves to the authorities. On 27 and 28 March 1945, he was invited by the communists for political negotiations to the city of Pruszków. Arrested along with Soviet secret police (NKWD) with 15 other Home Army and Underground State leaders, he was transported to Moscow and sentenced to 10 years in prison. He died on 24 December 1946 in the hospital of Butyrka Prison.

The Ł Quarter at the Powązki Military Cemetery

A place of secret burials of those murdered by the communist public security agencies in 1945-1956, often at the Mokotów Prison. Located by the perimeter wall of the Powązki Military Cemetery in Warsaw. It is estimated that around 300 people were buried in the Ł Quarter.

On 10 January 1990, a social committee was established to erect a commemorative monument, chaired by Maria Romer-Kędzierska, wife of one of the murdered. The foundation stone for the monument, designed by architect Dominik Mączyński, was laid on 1 November 1990.

In 2012 and 2013, the Institute of National Remembrance, the Council for the Protection of Struggle and Martyrdom Sites and the Ministry of Justice, in collaboration with the authorities of the Capital City of Warsaw, conducted a research project entitled "The Search for Unknown Burial Sites of Victims of the Communist Terror in 1944-1956".

Exhumations were conducted between 2012 and 2014 under the direction of Krzysztof Szwańczyk from the Institute of National Remembrance. The exhumed remains were DNA tested. Vast majority of identified victims were soldiers of the Home Army and the National Armed Forces.

The identified soldiers were re-buried with state honors.