

Westerplatte from 14

known. On 2 September Sucharski had all the right to surrender - his unit held beyond the designed 12-hours deadline, and further resistance was pointless from the military point of view and in face of the German superiority in forces and strategic situation. Yet such an opinion is only justified from the historic perspective. The defenders of Westerplatte saw a completely different picture: they repelled all the German attacks, they did not experience shortages in weapon and ammunition, two greatest powers - England and France - declared war on Germany, and due to lack of radio-communication they were not aware of the real military situation in Poland's hinterland. In those circumstances they would not be able to comprehend an order to surrender. They capitulated due to lack of food, medicines and water. And Major Sucharski was the first person to acknowledge their heroism. As they marched into captivity, he handed his saber over to Captain Dąbrowski saying: Kuba, you deserve this saber. We shall explain everything after the war. [Borowiak]

"Quick", September 1969.
Głos Wybrzeża, 31 Aug. 1979 □

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Mówimy po polsku

Radio Station Gleiwitz from 1

quarter of an hour, say reports, the Poles were overpowered by German police, who opened fire on them. Several of the Poles were reported killed, but the numbers are not yet known." [Hohne]

This incident which triggered the Second World War and was Hitler's excuse to invade Poland on the next day, September 1, 1939 could have remained obscure had it not surfaced during the proceedings of the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg in 1945. A written affidavit was then taken from SS-Sturmbannführer Naujocks, indicated the attack on the Gleiwitz radio-station was staged by the Gestapo and SD, one of numerous fabricated "border incidents" to furnish Hitler with excuses, and creating an atmosphere of distrust and suspicion as to Poland's intentions.

Alfred Helmut Naujocks was born on 20 September 1911 and died in 1960. His NSDAP membership card bore number 26240; SS number - 624279. His career is rather sketchy, but he is referred to in virtually every book about the Nazi Reich. William Shirer characterized him as a sort of intellectual gangster, [Shirer] and Heinz Hohne in The Order of the Death Head nicknamed Naujocks as the man who started the Second World War.

Hohne studied engineering at Kiel University, joined the SS in 1931 and was brought in by Reinhardt Heydrich in 1934 to help locate Otto Strasser's "black radio" in Prague. Naujocks became an official of the SS (Security Service - SD) and was one of the most audacious commanders of the SD. He wasn't an intelligent leader and lacked the mental capacity for creating plans such as those which Heydrich conceived. However he was an expert at carrying out an operation once it was explained.

He helped Heydrich to fabricate compromising materials against the Soviet Marshal Mikhail Tukhachevskiy, who was effectively tried and executed in Stalin's infamous purges. In 1939 Heydrich gave Hohne details of a simulated Polish attack on a small German radio station at Gleiwitz near the Polish border, the Fuhrer's excuse to attack Poland.

The plan, known as operation Himmler conceived early in August 1939. Since 10 August Naujocks' men had been waiting at

Gleiwitz, Beuthen, Hindenburg and elsewhere near the Polish frontier, in order to stage a faked Polish attack on the German radio station there. They carried out necessary preparations and reconnaissance. To add authenticity, it was planned to take certain prisoners from concentration camps, kill them by use of hypodermic injections, and leave their bodies, clad in Polish uniforms, at the various places where the incidents were planned to occur. The chief of the Gestapo, Heinrich Muller, took a hand in directing those actions. At 4:00 on 31 August the executive order to begin the invasion was confirmed, and troops and equipment began moving up to forward positions near the frontier. Simultaneously special orders were transmitted to Naujocks; his men were to attack the forestry station, destroy the German customs building, and, most important, briefly occupy the German radio station at Gleiwitz. After shouting anti-German slogans into the microphone the "Poles" would retreat, leaving behind a number of dead bodies as proof that a fight had taken place. The bodies presented no problem. Naujocks picked them up at 8:00 already unconscious - in SS jargon they were "canned goods." The SS-men seized the radio station as ordered, broadcast the speech, fired some shots and left. But before they left they shot the bodies and placed them in strategic positions around the radio-station. After the incident, journalists and members of the diplomatic corps were taken to the scene of the incident, where they were presented "proof of Polish aggression."

Naujocks was also involved in the Venlo incident, where he and 16 other SD men abducted two British intelligence officers, Captain Sigismund Payne Best and Major Richard Henry Stevens. A story was told that these officers had directed a bomb plot to kill Hitler. The Venlo incident was the excuse for invading the Low Countries. Naujocks was also involved in operation Bernhard, the operation of faking British bank notes by inmates of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. In the SD, Naujocks also specialized in forging passports. The Nazi authorities were so pleased with the results that 12 prisoners, three of whom were Jews, were awarded the War Merit Medal. After being dismissed by the SD for disobedience, Naujocks joined the Waffen-SS. In 1943 he was on the Eastern Front. In 1944 he was an economic administrator in Belgium, and then went to sort out the resistance in Denmark and was responsible for the murder of members of the Danish resistance. He deserted to the Americans in October 1944, but escaped from the POW camp. After the war he settled in Hamburg as a businessman. He was alleged to have been involved with Otto Skorzeny after the war in running the secret organization of former SS members - ODESSA. Skorzeny handled Spanish government contracts, and passports and funds were arranged for escaping SS to South America.

The radio-station in Gleiwitz (nowadays Gliwice in Poland) originally was located in Funkstrasse (nowadays Radiowa Street) and possessed two transmitters for broadcasting in long waves. In 1935 a new radio-transmitter (Gleiwitzer Sender) was built by the company Lorenz AG from Tempelhof near Berlin. Its facilities, located in Tarnowitzstrasse (Tarnogyraska Street), comprised broadcasting, administration and living facilities, as well as a mast supporting antennas. Nowadays the mast is still in place. It is 110m tall and is built of materials, which in 1930's constituted a technical novelty: high quality arbutus wood joint by brass and wooden pins. The old masts were demolished, and the buildings were connected through cable. In a way that jeopardized the task of Naujock's men, who could not immediately find the radio studios, the right microphone etc. [1]

Systematically maintained in good condition, the Gleiwitz Sender is a unique monument of technics, still working. The radio-station facilities are also operable and harbor a small local museum of radio-broadcasting equipment. Admission is free and guidance is available in Polish and English.

(Information taken from the internet provided by Mr. Leszek Jodliński, Director General of the Museum of Gliwice.) □

Justyna Ball from 2

When American men returned from WWII, American wives returned to their kitchens, because men were expected to be breadwinners. In Poland, women kept their jobs in manufacturing, because many of their husbands did not return.

Due to the fact that men and women stood side by side in the workplace, Poland had an unusual number of women in typically male jobs. Peggy Simpson in "Women in Entrepreneurship In Poland" reminds us that "The Solidarity free-trade union movement began two decades ago with a Gdańsk shipyard strike over the firing of a woman who was a crane operator."

Poland had a female prime minister before (Hanna Suchocka), and Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz is the current president of Warsaw (previously heading the National Bank of Poland as well as being the Deputy Chairman of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development).

Polish women hold high positions in banking and also dominate other sectors that are also crucial for today's market economy. These include accounting and finance.

I don't think Poles have a problem with electing women for high positions.

Magdalena Środa first wants us to believe that Polish women are discriminated against and then she wants all women to get united and place a vote basically on gender.

She uses Norway as a model, where parities work for years. She declared war on everybody who may be against it labeling them as primitive and backwards. She often uses the example of Norway's Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, as being open minded in choosing a majority of women for cabinet positions. We would call him "open minded", although there is small problem, Brundtland is a "she."

There are women, myself included, who are against the 50/50 parties. The reason is simple - we think that what should count the most is competency not gender.

When I am building a house, I want my construction crew to be the best. I want them to know what they are doing and not have men build half the walls and female workers build the other half. If I can find a crew that is the best, and it just so happens that they are all women, then I'll go for it, but gender in that case will be secondary. Same with politics!

It just so happens that in Poland, there are more female doctors and judges, and nobody has a problem with it. Also more women than men attend universities.

We are looking for the problem in the wrong place. I think the problem is not that the male politicians keep the doors shut for the female politicians (as feminists see it) - anybody can join the party. The problem lies in the fact that there are very little women interested in politics.

**The best example may be
Jolanta Kwaśniewska.**

The press posted the question of who should be the next president, and the former First Lady beat Donald Tusk, who until now was the first choice of many. Kwaśniewska's response: "I'm flattered, but no thanks!" So what does she do? She is so close to becoming Poland's first female president (!) and she passes...

If I were Środa, I would start with the existence of glossy magazines in our daughters' lives and celebrity mania and the ever present beauty contest and target them - with possibility of war declaration.

Demand more stories on community services and politics, less images of anorexic models and beauty ads, different shade of lipstick every week.

On the other hand, while our feminists see a problem with traditional Polish behavior, I enjoy it being "traditionally" Polish...

From "Doing Business in Poland" etiquette you may learn that: "Women are always allowed to enter a building or an office first. They also stand up first, initiate handshakes (unless they are in a lower position of the company) and usually count on having doors opened before them. Women expect men to carry their luggage and help them to get out of a car by supporting their arm." That's right! I see nothing wrong with that...

I love to use my cousins as an example, because they do represent the average, although some of them prefer to be seen as ... unique - sorry guys.

So one of my cousins, an educated woman is pregnant at forty (one just had a baby at 41!). The forty year old did not mean to get pregnant for the third time since the last baby was in vitro, yet God's will was revised. So instead of pursuing a career as an archeologist, a female version of Indiana Jones, she found home life to be more adventurous. Housewife as a CHOICE not a DUTY! Środa's nightmare...

The mother and the mother in law help. There is a Ukrainian woman to dust, and a Miss Iwonka to watch over the younger one, while the elder one is at school. My cousin's role? I guess, to manage the crew.

She is living her life the way she wants it. She had options, and she left her Indiana Jones's position open for those seeking a career.

**If she needs parity,
she needs it to make sure she has a choice.**

Feminists call it a choice, but they prefer if women choose to be like men. And when they do choose to be stay at home moms instead of scientists, feminists assume they must have been forced to do so, by culture, because pretty much all that is wrong with Poland can be easily blamed on the culture of "fanatical religion."

Now, technically speaking, if they will find enough female politicians to fill up 50% of each PO, PiS and SLD, how are they going to make sure that an equal number of men will join Gretkowska's Women's Party?

Marek Borowski (SLD) suggested that if "parity" is unconstitutional, award the party with a donation, meaning those parties who will impose the parity will be paid extra. Well, what does it say about a woman who will join - I think it's disgraceful. If a party wants more money, they will go for it but how does it make "her" feel? I'm sure Środa and others have some words of compassion for her.

Then why stop with only "cleaning up" politics? What about coalmines full of coalminers? The firemen and the undertakers will go next. Also there is nothing wrong for guys to seek jobs as preschool teachers, manicurists, dental hygienists, etc.

Another place where feminists won't seek parities is marriage - no 50/50 there, because it would mean that as many women have to be married as men leaving the gay couples out as they may tip the scale, darn it...! □

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