

GREATER POLAND UPRISING 1918/1919

"TWENTY-SEVENTH DECEMBER BROUGHT FREEDOM"

Photo Parade of one of the squadrons of 4th Regiment of Wielkopolska Uhlans, Poznań, 11th December 1919.
(from the collection of the Museum of Wielkopolska Insurgents in Lusowo)

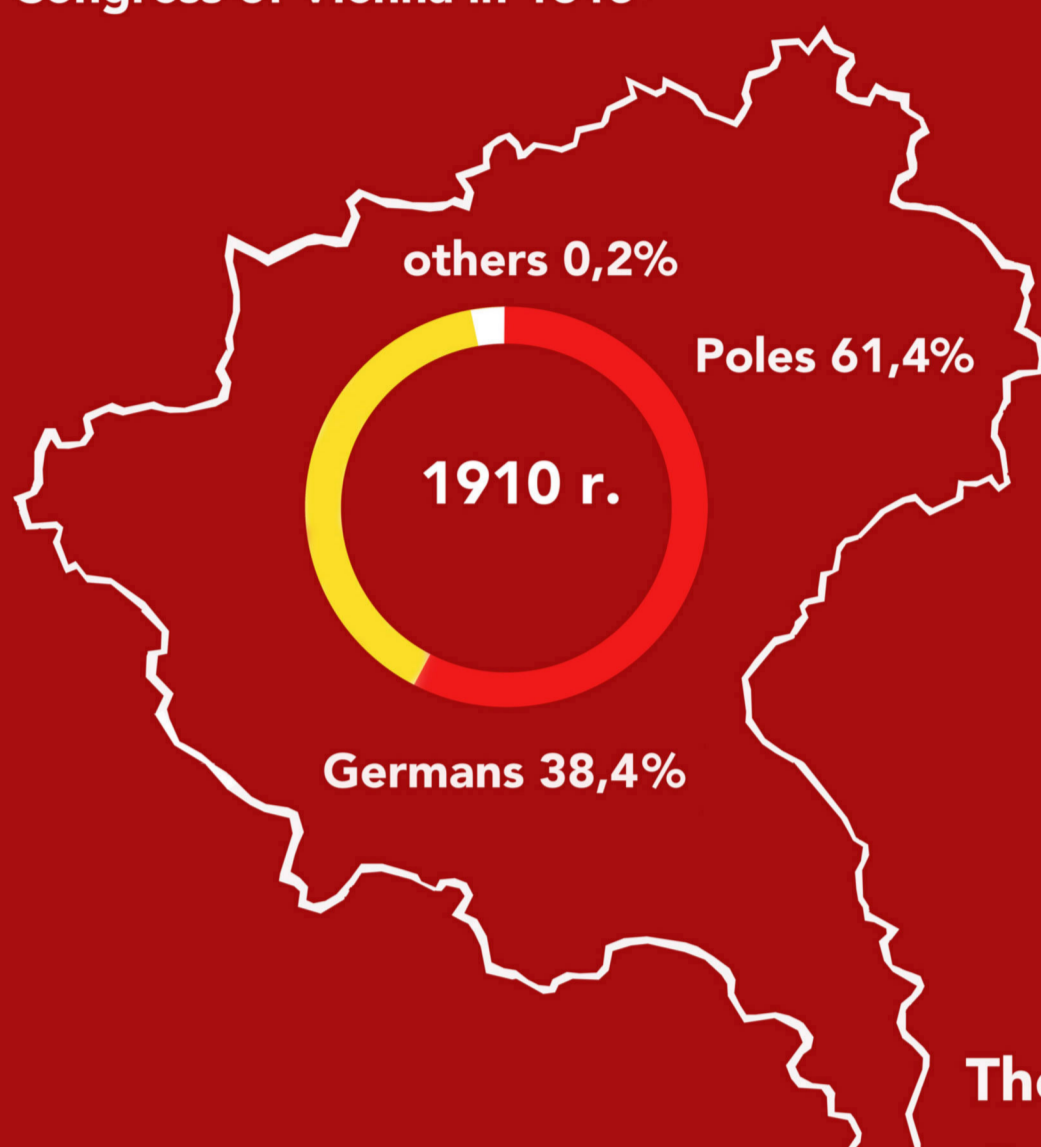


1. On the eve of the uprising:

The Poznań Province was established as a result of the resolutions of the Congress of Vienna in 1815



Map of the Poznań Province
(by Radosław Przebitkowski of: pw.ipn.gov.pl)



The nationality structure of the Poznań Province in 1910

! The strength of Polish community in Poznań was an ideological monolith and national solidarity

The armistice signed on 11th November 1918, which ended World War I, left the Province of Poznań within the borders of the German Republic. The peace congress of the victorious powers was to determine the fate of the province...

The chaos in the German state – caused by the revolution – was, however, helping Polish independence goals.

THE TRIPLE-AUTHORITY IN THE POZNAŃ PROVINCE (November–December 1918)



German administration



Workers and Soldiers Councils
[created in Germany as a result of revolution local government bodies]



People's Councils
[temporary authorities of political administration: in the Poznań Province there were Polish, German, and Jewish councils]

Through the Polish People's Council and Polish-dominated Workers and Soldiers Councils Polish administration was built from the bottom up in the Poznań Province

The election during the Polish District Sejm [3–5 December 1918] of own representation in the form of the SUPREME PEOPLE'S COUNCIL and its COMMISSION – the main body of the Polish authorities on the Polish territory of the Prussian partition



photo Supreme People's Council
(photo from the Journal of the Polish District Sejm, Poznań 1918)



! THE POLISH DISTRICT SEJM legalizes Polish political power



POLITICAL POWER CREATES PARAMILITARY FORCES



At the Workers' and Soldiers' Councils

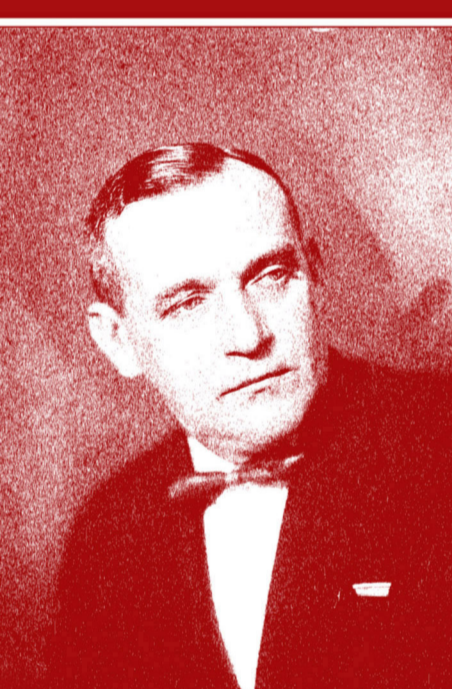
At the Supreme People's Council

GUARD AND SECURITY SERVICE

PEOPLE'S GUARD

guard formation with about 2,000 soldiers [mostly Poles]

police formation several thousand members



MIECZYŚLAW PALUCH
– informal commander

photo Mieczysław Paluch (photo NDA)



Commander JULIAN LANGE

photo Julian Lange (photo NDA)

! Mieczysław Paluch was associated with the Polish Military Organisation of the Prussian Partition, whose members gained control over important institutions deciding on military issues in the Poznań Province before the outbreak of the uprising

CONCEPTS FOR JOINING THE POZNAŃ PROVINCE TO THE REBORN POLAND

ARMED WAY:

- conducted by the Polish Military Organisation of the Prussian Partition
- gathering weapons
- creation of the Secret Military Staff (eventually the staff of the future uprising)

DIPLOMATIC WAY:

- run by the SPC Commission
- making actions dependent on the decision of the Entente
- close cooperation with the Polish National Committee in Paris led by Roman Dmowski
- gradual polonisation of administration in the Poznań Province

! the Supreme People's Council, focusing on diplomatic action did not, however, exclude military action

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• Photographs

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• Maps

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