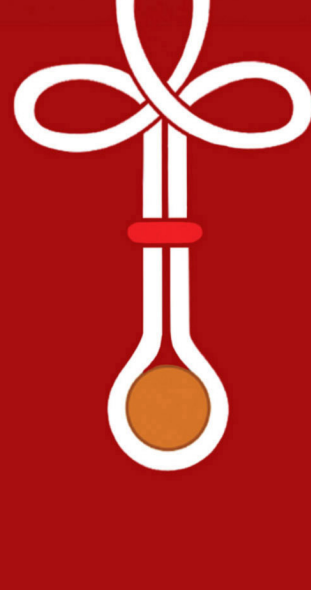


GREATER POLAND UPRISING 1918/1919

"TWENTY-SEVENTH DECEMBER
BROUGHT FREEDOM"



2. THE UPRISING AND THE CAPTURE OF THE PROVINCE

26th December 1918

The arrival of Ignacy Jan Paderewski in Poznań



photo Arrival of Ignacy Jan Paderewski to the centre of Poznań, 26th December 1918.
(reproduction of a watercolour postcard by Leon Prauziński from the POLONA collection)

INCREASED TENSION IN THE CITY

Enthusiasm of Poles
manifested by decorating
the city with Polish and allied flags

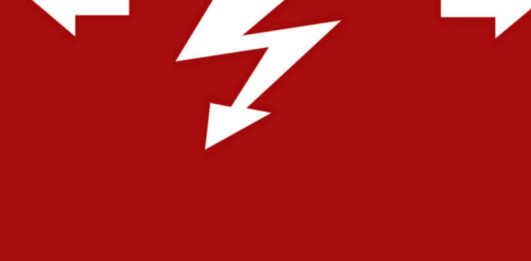


Irritation of German
residents of the city

! Paderewski's arrival in Poznań together with few British officers was a signal that
the victorious powers are interested in the situation in the Poznań Province

SPONTANEOUS OUTBREAK, WHAT HAPPENED ON 27th DECEMBER 1918?

Polish Manifestation to
honour I.J. Paderewski



German Counter-Manifestation
with German soldiers from the
6th Regiment of Grenadiers



photo Manifestation of Polish children
in front of the Bazaar hotel
(reproduction of a watercolour postcard
by Leon Prauziński from the POLONA collection)

Clash of manifestations in the
afternoon in front of the Bazaar
hotel



photo Tearing Polish and allied flags
by German soldiers
(reproduction of a watercolour postcard by
Leon Prauziński from the POLONA collection)

START OF THE UPRISING

! Even today it is not known who – Poles or Germans – fired the first
shot in front of the Bazaar hotel. Its consequence was the outbreak
of fights in Poznań

Fighting on the streets of Poznań

First casualties

FREE POZNAŃ!!!



photo Fights at the Chwaliszewski Bridge
in Poznań, 27 XII 1918
(reproduction of a watercolour postcard
by Leon Prauziński from the POLONA collection)



photo Franciszek Ratajczak (1887–1918)
Often regarded as the first casualty in the uprising.
(photo from "Ilustracja Wielkopolska" 1928, No.13)



8th January 1919

The insurgents took control of almost whole Poznań
Province



Map showing the spread of the uprising
(author Radosław Przebitkowski from: pw.ipn.gov.pl)

Reasons for Polish success in the first period of the uprising:

- surprise of the Germans
- poor morale among the German population [sense of senselessness of further fighting,
revolutionary moods]
- national solidarity of Poles [no significant social tensions]

! Most of the towns and villages were captured by Poles without any armed
struggle

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• Maps

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