

GREATER POLAND UPRISING 1918/1919

"TWENTY-SEVENTH DECEMBER BROUGHT FREEDOM"

photo Capturing Zbąszyń as part of the revindication action, January 1920.
(Photo from the collection of the Kórnik Library of PAS)



3. WAR AND DIPLOMACY

German counter-offensive and creation of battle fronts



Northern Front

Fights for i.e.

- Szubin
- Rynarzewo

Western Front

Fights for i.e.

- Kopanice
- Zbąszyń

Southern Front

Fights for i.e.

- Rawicz
- Kąkolewo



photo On the northern front,
(from private collection of Katarzyna Prauzińska-Czarnul)

- Despite fierce fights – mainly on the northern and western fronts – the Polish gains from the first two weeks of the uprising were kept

Change of the uprising commander

major Stanisław Taczak
(1874–1960)



First Commander of the Greater Poland Uprising
(on the photo in the general's uniform)
(photo from the NDA collection)

general Józef Dowbor-Muśnicki
(1867–1937)



Second Commander of the Greater Poland Uprising and the Commander-in-Chief of the Wielkopolska Army
(photo from the NDA collection)

Reorganisation of insurgent units



photo Oath-taking of the troops of the Military District (Poznań Fortress) and the Main Command of the Polish Armed Forces of the former Prussian partition in Wilhelm Square (now Liberty Square) in Poznań,
26th January 1919 (photo from the NDA collection)

VOLUNTEER TROOPS:

- organisation based on territorial structures
- no interference by the uprising commander in their functioning
- no military ranks
- no single pattern of uniform
- strong will to fight, but low discipline
- about 14 thousand volunteers [mid-January 1919]

THE WIELKOPOLSKA ARMY:

- forced conscription
- command positions held by experienced Polish officers from the Russian army
- single pattern of uniform
- introduction of oath
- high discipline
- about 100 thousand soldiers [June 1919]

- The Wielkopolska Army was incorporated into the Polish Army at the end of August 1919

The fighting men were aided by



Polish National Committee
in Paris

Commission of the Supreme
People's Council

France

16th February 1919

Forcing the Germans to sign the armistice in Trier

(huge role of French Marshal Ferdinand Foch)



- The armistice in Trier saved the Poznań Province from the intervention of the German Ober-Ost troops.



Demarcation line according to the armistice in Trier of 16th February 1919.
(author Radosław Przebitkowski from: pw.ipn.gov.pl)

THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES of 28th June 1919 finally decided to join almost the entire Poznań Province to Poland. This success was due to an insurgent act and the activity of Polish diplomats with the support of the Polish cause in France.

THE RESULT OF THE UPRISING:

- about 2,000 fallen insurgents and 6,000 wounded
- the creation of the Wielkopolska Army with 100 thousand soldiers
- inspiration for the Polish underground movement in Gdańsk Pomerania and Upper Silesia
- impact on the development of the western and northern borders of the Second Republic of Poland

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•POLONA

- private collection of Katarzyna Prauzińska-Czarnul

•Maps

- pw.ipn.gov.pl



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