

**Akta władz naczelnych Polskiej Armii (A.XII):  
Records of the headquarters of the Polish Army**

**RG-59.045**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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**Descriptive Summary**

Title: Akta władz naczelnych Polskiej Armii (A.XII): Records of the headquarters of the Polish Army

Dates: 1940-1945

RG Number: RG-59.045

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Creator: Rzeczpospolita Polska (Government-in-exile)

Extent: 7,053 digital images: JPEG; 2.69 GB; 14 digital files: PDF; 2.46 GB.

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126

Languages: Polish and English.

**Administrative Information**

Access: No restrictions on access.

Reproduction and Use: Fair use only. The Cooperative Agreement does not clarify restrictions.

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Acquisition Information: Purchased from the Instytut Polski i Muzeum im. Gen. Sikorskiego.

## **Custodial History**

Existence and location of originals: The original records are held by the Instytut Polski i Muzeum im. Gen. Sikorskiego, 20 Princes Gate, London SW7 1 PT, United Kingdom. Tel. 011 44 20 75 89 92 49. More information about this repository can be found at [www.sikorskimuseum.co.uk](http://www.sikorskimuseum.co.uk).

Processing History: Aleksandra B. Borecka

## **Biographical Note**

The Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, commonly known as Sikorski Institute, is a London-based non-governmental organization of the Polish minority in United Kingdom. It was created after the Second World War to preserve the memory of Polish armed forces in the West and their contribution to World War II, when the communist takeover of Poland made it hard and dangerous for many Poles to return home, and research and publication on those issues were banned or censored in the People's Republic of Poland. To that goal, the Sikorski institute, named after General Władysław Sikorski, has acted as a museum, archive and publishing house for much of Western Polonia, particularly with regards to Poland and Second World War issues. Rząd Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej na uchodźstwie (Government of the Republic of Poland in Exile) was established after Germany and the Soviet Union occupied Poland in September 1939. The Polish government-in-exile was first based in France, but moved to London after the French army surrendered to the Germans in mid-1940. The Allies accepted the government-in-exile as the legitimate representative of the Polish people soon after it was created. The government-in-exile allied itself with the West, as its members believed that only a total military victory over Germany would restore Poland's independence and freedom. In addition, it amassed its own land, air, and naval forces. In 1942 reports about the mass murder of Jews in Poland reached London; at that point, the Polish government-in-exile made several public declarations on the subject, and officially demanded that the Allied powers stop the Germans from continuing on their murderous crusade. In early 1943 the Polish government-in-exile begged Pope Pius XII to condemn the Nazis' actions. From December 1942 onward, the government-in-exile backed the rescue work of Żegota, which offered aid to Jews throughout occupied Poland. New Polish government established after Germany and the Soviet Union occupied Poland in September 1939. The Polish government-in-exile was first based in France, but moved to London after the French army surrendered to the Germans in mid-1940. The Allies accepted the government-in-exile as the legitimate representative of the Polish people soon after it was created. The government-in-exile allied itself with the West, as its members believed that only a total military victory over Germany would restore Poland's independence and freedom. In addition, it amassed its own land, air, and naval forces.

## **Scope and Content of Collection**

Contains selected records of the headquarters of the Polish Army of the Polish Government in Exile. Records relate to the Polish-American and Polish-Soviet relations, Katyń massacre,

desertion of Jews from the Polish Army 1943-1945, evacuation of Jews from the USSR, situation in Romania, Italy and Hungary, displaced persons, Jews, Ukrainians, and orthodox. Includes reports and announcements of the Home Army 1942-1943, and the name list of Jewish deserters.

### Indexing Terms

Rzeczpospolita Polska (Government-in-exile)  
Poland. Polskie Siły Zbrojne. Armia Krajowa -- History.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements -- Poland.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Governments in exile -- Sources.

Katyn Massacre, Katyn', Russia, 1940

Military deserters, Jewish.

Military deserters -- Europe --1939-1945.

Poland -- History -- Occupation, 1939-1945.

Poland -- Foreign relations.

### References

Guide to the Archives of the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, vol. I, compiled and edited by: Waclaw Milewski, Andrzej Suchcitz and Andrzej Gorczycki, Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, London 1985

### **Inventory:**

File	Description
<b>A.XII.1.Cabinet NW.53</b>	Polish-American relations
<b>A.XII.1.Cabinet NW.65</b>	Jewish matters 1941-1944: a) In general b) Desertion of Jews from the Polish Army 1943-1945
<b>A.XII.3. The Office of the Minister of Defense.33</b>	Files referring to the desertion of Jewish, Belarussian and Ukrainian soldiers plus a name list of Jewish deserters 1943-1944
<b>A.XII.3. The Office of the</b>	Jewish matters: a) 1940-1943

<b>Minister of Defense.40</b>	b) 1944-1945
<b>A.XII.3. The Office of the Minister of Defense.57</b>	Polish matters in the USA 1944-1945
<b>A.XII.3. The Office of the Minister of Defense.89</b>	Occupied Poland: reports and briefs of the Polish Home Army 1942-1943
<b>A.XII.3. Political Department.21</b>	Polish-Soviet relations. The case of evacuation of Jews from USSR. The case of Katyń. Attitudes among the cadre of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Corpse. Situation in Romania, Italy and Hungary.
<b>A.XII.3. Political Department.22</b>	Jewish matters: evacuation from USSR, desertions on the Middle East and anti-Polish propaganda of some of the Jewish organizations.
<b>A.XII.3. Political Department.23</b>	Reports of the Division II of the Polish Army on the West conc. the relations within the Polish Army in the Middle East countries. Evacuation of Jews from USSR
<b>A.XII.3. Political Department.33</b>	Files referring to the Jewish, Ukrainian and Belarussian deserters. A name list of Jewish deserters on the Middle East 1941-1942
<b>A.XII.3. Political Department.40</b>	Jewish matters. a) 1940-1943 b) 1944-45
<b>A.XII.3. Political Department.50</b>	The Ukrainians 1943-1945, a/o SS Galizien.
<b>AXII.3. General Department of the Commander-in-Chief Headquarters. The division of non-catholic denominations.</b>	Mosaic denomination: 1942-1946 a) general files b) desertions of Jews

**A.XII.42.** Displaced persons 1944-1945  
**Military**  
**attaché.**  
**London.21.**

**A.XII.42.** Jews, the orthodox 1944  
**Military**  
**attaché.**  
**London.79.**