

*Ryszard*  
*R. L. Ballantine*

*Wojciech*  
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*Szalajny*  
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**10th ANNIVERSARY**  
of POLISH CARPATHIAN

**1947 - GROUP**  
*in Australia*

**-1957**

*Y. ...*



I feel sure that my "Carpathian" colleagues celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of our arrival in Australia, would wish me to pay tribute to helpful Australian friends of ours.

With frank sincerity we have to state that their love of their country, as well as the sacrifices for it, are virtues of the highest order. — No one of us could ever question the toughness, bravery and gallantry of Australians in pioneering in their homeland and in soldiering abroad.

We remember that Australian units fighting in the Libian desert, — in Derna, Tobruk, Benghasi, El Alamein in Greece and in Syria, — were the most gallant among Allied Forces.

In the tasks of peace time efforts to enrich their country in economical fields, well as in cultural and democratic progress, Australians are unchallenged.

As a group of first Polish new comers to Australia we remember with gratitude the goodwill and tolerance to us of our first bosses in H.E.C. in Tasmania. — The farther we are from our first years of settling down in this country, the more we will remember that. — Believe us it is not easy to be assimilated in an entirely new country and to avoid dangerous unsocial complexes.

We are happy that many of the outstanding leaders — the builders — of the Hydro-Electric scheme in Tasmania are still among our best friends.

It is our privilege that Australians appreciate our humble contribution to the development of this land. At the same time we earnestly hope and believe that Australia in the near future will be a strong and progressive bastion of European culture and of the same democracy in the Southern hemisphere.

On behalf of all my colleagues I want to pay particular tribute to those gentlemen, who in their generosity, did not hesitate to send their contributions to this commemorative publication.

Thank you very much.

Editor.



# PREMIER OF TASMANIA

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be asked to write a message for the booklet being produced to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the arrival in Tasmania of the first large group of post-war immigrants — our good friends from Poland.

It seems only the other day that this gallant contingent of Polish ex-servicemen, who served with distinction in Tobruk and in other campaigns, reached these shores and began work on hydro-electrical projects. From the beginning they adapted themselves to their new environment, and they showed a keen ability for work and a desire to play their full part as members of the Tasmanian community.

Some went to other States when their contract expired but many remained, became naturalised and married Tasmanian girls. About 150 stayed in the employ of the Hydro-Electric Commission where they continue to give excellent service in a variety of posts.

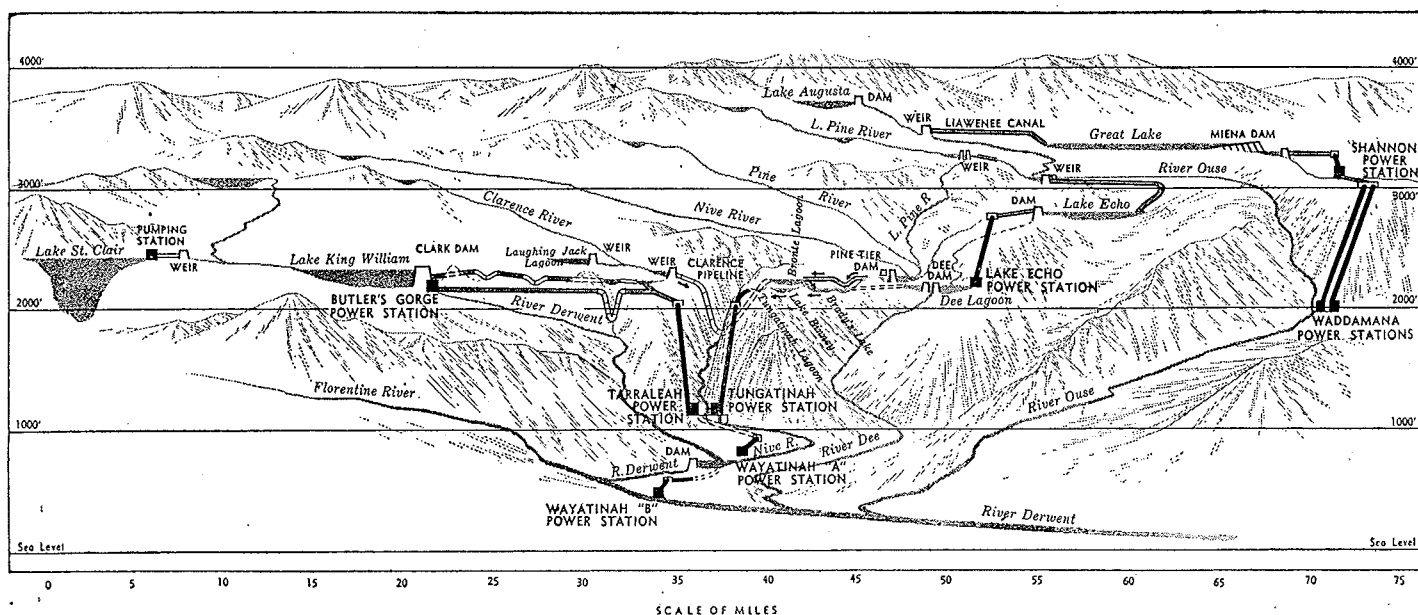
The men from Poland have proved themselves as second to none as migrants. As toasts are drunk to the former homeland and to fallen comrades on the tenth anniversary of your arrival, my glass is raised in salute on behalf of the people of Tasmania.

Gentlemen, we like you — we are glad you came!

Hobart, October 1957

Premier of Tasmania

**COSGROVE**



TASMANIAN HYDRO-ELECTRICAL PROJECTS

# SPEARHEAD OF A NEW ARMY

by  
The Minister for Immigration.  
The Hon. Athol Townley.

When I was first asked to contribute to this booklet, my mind flashed back to 1947, just about the time the first of our Polish ex-service migrants reached this country.

Australia then was hampered by shortages of men and materials as it faced the immense task of post-war reconstruction.

What a different country with a different outlook now!

Everyone is thinking BIG, thinking in terms of industrial, agricultural and pastoral expansion to make Australia more secure economically, strategically and socially.

This change has been achieved largely because our sound programme of nation building through immigration has given the country new vitality and ability to get things done.

Workmen like yourselves — the men who swapped their rifles for shovels — helped Australians realize that their country was capable of fast development, capable of expanding production and population while maintaining one of the highest living standards in the world.

Fighting side by side with Australians in North Africa or serving in R.A.F. Squadrons in England, Polish servicemen won this country's respect and admiration for their bearing, courage, and tenacity.

Now, working in Australia, they have proved a vital asset in our task of development.

I wish to pay particular tribute to those Polish ex-servicemen who came to Tasmania in late 1947 and 1948 and tackled so many tough jobs at Butler's Gorge, at Tarraleah, on the Liawene-Great Lake Canal, and on the Pine Tier dam and canal.

They were the vanguard of about 4,500 migrants employed by the Tasmanian Hydro Electric Commission since the war — and are still regarded as some of the best men the Commission has had in recent years.

Of the original 782 Polish ex-servicemen to come to this State, 150 are still working for the Hydro Electric Commission, many of them as engineers, draughtsmen, foremen, and skilled tradesmen.

I believe that the achievements of Polish workers on Hydro Electric Commission Projects in Tasmania typify the magnificent contribution migrants from a score of lands have made to Australia's development since the war.

It is freely acknowledged that without migrant workers this country would still be suffering from chronic shortages of steel, bricks, timber and electric power, to name but a few of the main ingredients of expansion.

At Wayatinah, some 60 per cent. of the 1,100 workers for the Hydro Electric Commission are migrants, while on the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme migrants form about 50 per cent. of the work force.

It is interesting to note that Polish migrants form the fourth largest national group among our post-war new settlers. There are just on 72,000 of them, and about 70,000 arrived before the end of 1951.

Those Polish ex-servicemen, then, who arrived here just a decade ago were the spearhead of a new army — an army of nation builders.

On behalf of Australia, I say again, "Thanks for a magnificent job."  
September, 1957.

Athol Townley

## From Patron of the Tasmanian Branch of the Rats of Tobruk Association

25th August 1957

Dear Andrzej,

On Monday 25th August 1941 we met for the first time, when I was O.C. Headquarters Coy 2/12 Bn. A.I.F. you my counterpart in 3d Polish Carpathian Bn. came to take over our duties, stores and responsibilities at P.O.W. cage area in the besieged Tobruk.

My records reveal that until two days beforehand I had not even heard your name. — I had met some members of your advanced elements on the previous Thursday and I assure you there was a genuine feeling of relief and satisfaction of knowing that our uncompleted task was being assumed by Polish men. Although their own country had been by wicket treachery overrun and cruelly violated they still retained that spirit to fight on. A terrific force for good and an inspiration to all who were privileged to come in contact with them.

Thus began, in those few hours of the 25th August 1941, hours busily occupied and tense, a friendship which in this year, 1957, is one deeply cherished by me.

One would have been quite conceivably, pardoned for assuming that we would never meet again. No victory in sight, rather things tending the other way. In event of victory, — should we be spared, — my home — lovely Tasmania, thousands of miles away, — your home?

Back home — 1947.

We were adjusting ourselves to our civilian way of life.

We learned that many of our "Comrades in Arms" were coming to our Country to assist us in the great tasks that this young country faces.

In common with others in our township, Deloraine, I made a point of greeting convoys of buses when they halted for lunch before passing through en route for Hydro Electric Commission Projects in the mountain country.

Imagine my great delight when, on one of those occasions in answer to my usual query, the interpreter replied "yes, our Colonel Rac'eski is here." — 25th August 1941, to 2nd October 1947. — Tobruk North Africa to Deloraine, Tasmania.

The subsequent celebration was all too short, owing to limited time. But I had found my friend — Indeed, I write of this particular re-union because I believe it is indicative of very many more and I know that during the years of hard toil in those mountains when our "Kangoory" were adjusting themselves to their new life, in many instances the hard way and rarely complaining even when conditions were really most unpleasant. I made and have since cemented very many friendships.

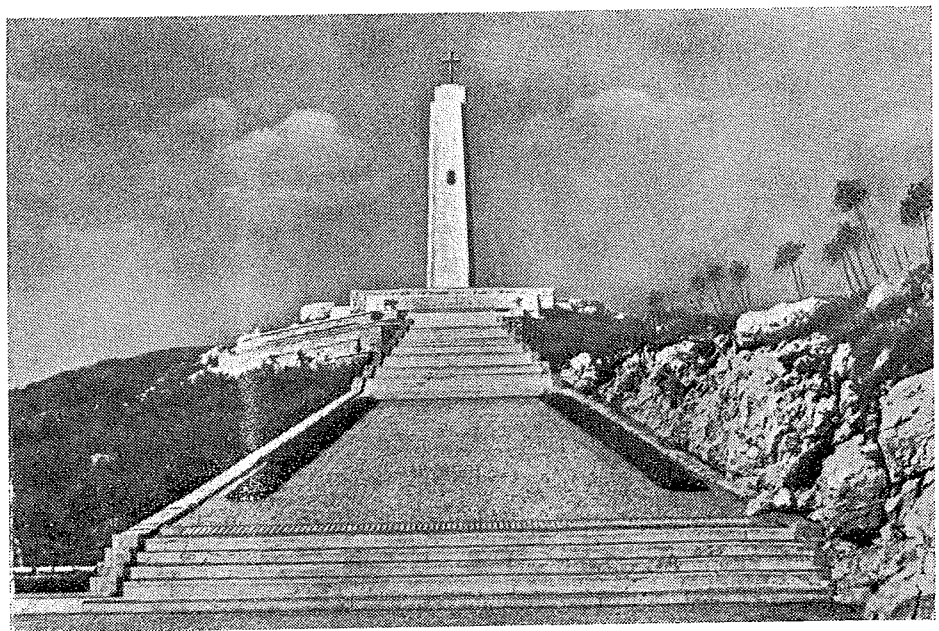
The facts are clear. — As State Patron of the Tasmanian Branch of the Rats of Tobruk Association I move about the State widely and attend many meetings and reunions. I find, wherever I go an ever increasing percentage of my Polish-Australian friends enjoying the happiness they have so justly earned by hard work and exemplary keenness to enter into all angles of our communal life and activities.

In conclusion I am sure that our country has reaped untold benefit and will continue so to do, as long as each individual shows tolerance and understanding.

I am happy to sign myself

Your sincere friend,

Arthur Kempton  
Ulverston — Tasmania.



The Monument to fallen Soldiers of the 3-rd Polish Carpathian Division on the Battlefield, MONTE CASSINO in ITALY, 1944.

## From Former - 1947 - Federal Minister For Immigration

The tenth anniversary of the arrival in Australia of the first batch of Polish ex-servicemen, all of whom had served gallantly alongside Australian troops in the defence of Tobruk, affords me the opportunity to pay my tribute to the wartime services of the members of Poland's armed forces and, in particular, to those sons of Poland comprising the group of 400 Polish war veterans whose destinies have now been joined with ours in our own beloved Australia.

All Australia owes a deep debt of gratitude to these 400 Rats of Tobruk and to every other Allied serviceman or woman

who fought for freedom in World War II.

And all Australians are proud that nearly eight years ago these 400 newcomers became Australians by naturalisation and have long since joined their Australian comrades-in-arms in the R.S.S.L. & A.I.L.A. and other Australian ex-servicemen's and women's Associations.

That all the 400 Polish Rats of Tobruk who found homes and employment with the Tasmanian Hydro Electric Commission ten years ago, have also found peace and happiness in their new homeland is my sincere hope and most earnest wish.

To the families of all our Polish friends

I extend every good wish also. That the land that bore our new settlers of a decade ago will once again take its place among the Nations of the Free World is most assuredly the desire of all democrats everywhere.

Long live Australia and the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Long live Poland.

Long live Democracy, and may it extend its gentle sway gradually and inevitably to cover the whole of humanity.

(ARTHUR A. CALWELL)

## MARRIED TASMANIAN GIRLS & BUILT HOMES

In the past ten years, it has been my privilege to be closely associated with Polish men through the Rats of Tobruk Association Northern Sub-Branch, and also to work alongside several of them in the Tasmanian Government Railway.

I have been asked to write a few words on Polish men in Tasmania. Strange how difficult it is to do just that.

Most of the Veterans of the Middle East Campaign who fought alongside us in the fight for democracy are now sworn Australian citizens, having taken naturalisation papers and become what is generally termed "New Australians".

It was my privilege to be born an Australian and it was these "New Australians" privilege to be born in Poland and I am certain that no Australian would be conceited enough to expect that these men will remain anything but Polish men. It must say a lot for Tasmanians that so many Poles have elected to remain in Tasmania, when, now that they finished their contracts with the Tasmanian Government, they are free to roam wherever they please.

These men have done splendid work with the Hydro-Electric Commission in putting in the Trevallyn Power Station in building the Clark Dam in Butler's George and the Bronte Park project which has absorbed such a large number of them.

A lot of Polish men have married Tasmanian girls and built homes with often no other assistance than their own personal efforts.

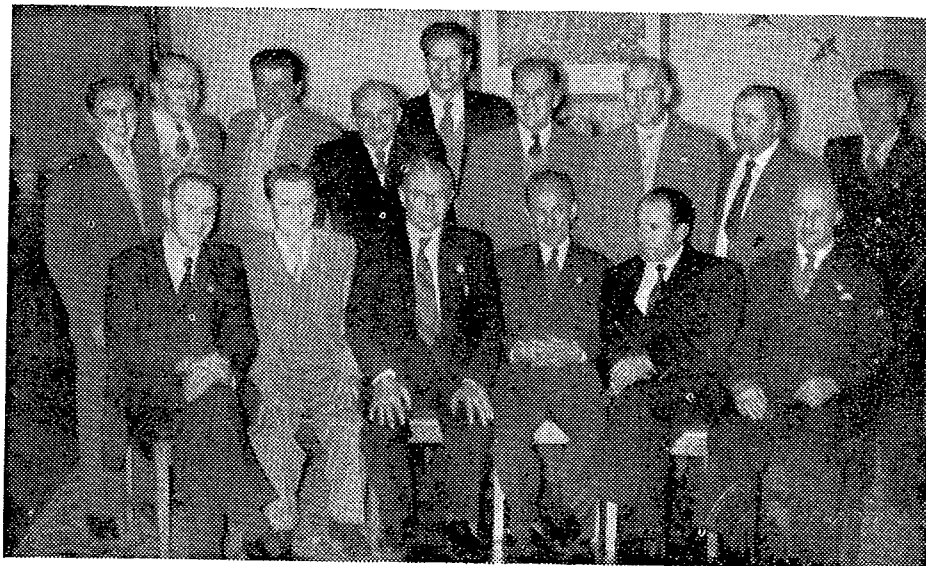
Australian Rats of Tobruk are very happy and very proud to have these Polish men as their comrades in their Association and we all wish them every happiness and the best of luck in their celebrations at Christmas 1957 of a decade spent in this State.

In closing, I wish to say that, in my opinion, it is good blood that is being introduced into the nation that Australia can be justly proud of.

Good luck, Polish men!

Launceston

Nigel Williams



"Polish Veterans of the Middle East Campaign" in Launceston.



Carpathian Choir from Tarraleah in Launceston — in 1948.



## In Tasmania all Electricity is Generated by Water Power

When the Hydro-Electric Commission decided to employ some Polish ex-servicemen, I was given the duty of receiving the party to arrive in Tasmania in October 1947. My fellow officers of the Commission offered their sympathies for being in the task of firstly to control, secondly endeavouring to get work done by such a party of carefree people.

Undaunted I decided to meet the troubles when they arose. It is now ten years since and no Polish Army ex-servicemen has been responsible for any trouble of the Commission either at work or while camp.

The first party arrived at Tarraleah in October 1947, and were accommodated in huts constructed from the Campbell Military Hospital. The first duty was put the camp in order — making roads, paths etc.

It was realised that this would be a very difficult time for the boys — in setting down to civil work quite strange to majority and becoming accustomed to Australian way of life — so patience and understanding was exercised by all the staff. Opportunity was taken here to select those suitable for clerical and all trades workmen. As the Poles constituted over twenty percent of the labour force, it was thought that by giving them positions of responsibility this would tend to create confidence in us.

The language problem was a little try-at times, particularly by those who said "Yes" in response to a direction given, and immediately did something quite different to the request. But after twelve months of no doubt bad words in Polish, the majority were capable and understanding and speaking English. Of course some of the boys were quite fluent in English when they arrived and so were able to give valuable assistance.

After about six months the majority managed to settle down to the conditions and conditions for which they had so gallantly fought and work was progressing most satisfactorily.

During the summer of 1947-48 the Polish ex-servicemen were responsible for the building of the earth dam, known as the Impounded Pond Dam at Tarraleah, using heavy tractor and scoops as the main mechanical plant.

This was followed by the building of the nucleus of the Bronte Park camp and then all the initial work of the Tungatinah Power Station.

Many of those that have remained with us now hold key and staff positions in all divisions of the present labour force at Tungatinah and Tarraleah and are playing important parts in the development of the Tungatinah projects. Many of the married men live in the various Commission villages.

In closing I wish to state that I consider the Polish Army ex-servicemen have proved to be the most worthy citizens of Australia, and I wish them good health and every happiness in the future.

R. FRANKS

The welfare of the people of Tasmania depends largely upon the availability of an adequate supply of electrical energy.

In Tasmania all electricity is generated by water power. As extensive civil engineering works such as dams, canals, tunnels, pipelines, roads etc. are necessary to store and control water in hydro-electric schemes it follows that the construction of new developments requires the employment of a large labour force which has no counterpart in the establishment of other types of power generating stations.

The demand for power in Tasmania, as elsewhere in Australia and throughout the world, grew rapidly after the end of the War and it became necessary for the Hydro-Electric Commission to undertake a progressive programme of construction.

For some time prior to 1947 the Commission had experienced difficulty in securing sufficient men to the construction works then in progress. When it was learnt that a considerable number of Polish ex-servicemen, then resident in England, were available it was decided to sponsor the migration of 280 of them to Tasmania to augment the Commission's work force.

At that time the importation of such a large body of non-British labour for the Commission's works was in the nature of an experiment but it proved so successful that a further 500 Polish ex-servicemen were recruited during the next nine months.

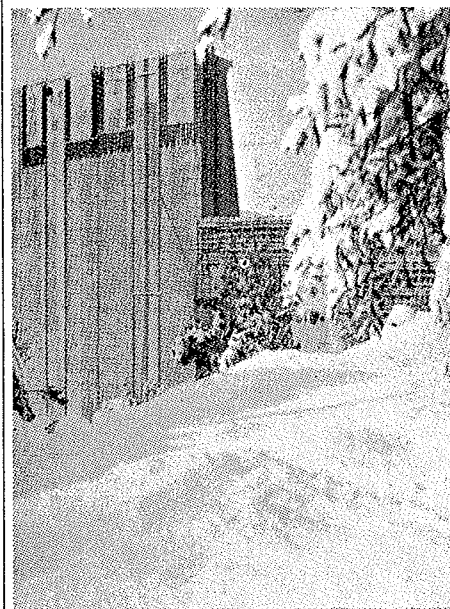
The first of the men of many nationalities who have come to Tasmania to work for the Hydro-Electric Commission Polish workers have made a notable contribution to the progress of the construction works of the Commission over the last ten years.

As a measure of the progress made during those ten years it is of interest to note that the total installed capacity of the State's hydro-electric system was 238,000 horse power in 1947. Today it has reached

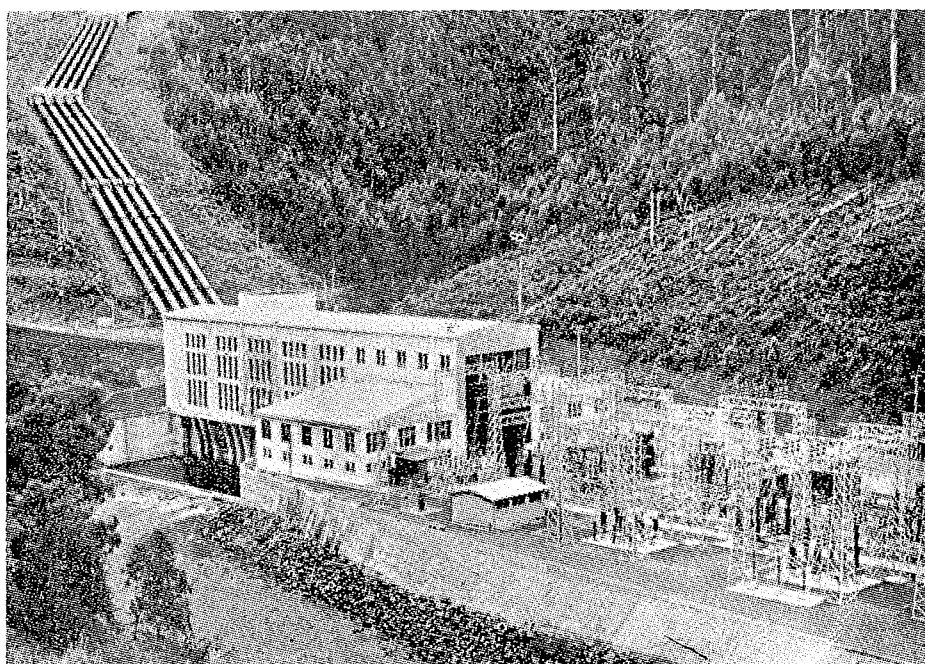
688,000 horse power. This big increase could not have been achieved without the help of the men from Europe who now form such a large proportion of the Commission's working force.

Men from Poland were the first national group to migrate to Tasmania and I take this opportunity of thanking them for the work they have done especially those who are still in the employment of the Hydro-Electric Commission.

A. W. KNIGHT  
Commissioner



CLARC DAM at BUTLERS GORGE  
Winter View



TUNGATINAH (Tarraleah II) POWER STATION.

# Ten Years After Polish Invasion

Some of us too have known exile — though not in the same intense degree as our Polish comrades. We went away to war as into a great uncertain darkness which for us might hold no promise of dawn, but knowing only that we must do that, if our idea of what Australia might become was to survive. Exile has been for centuries the lot of Poland's best children — carrying with them the dream, the vision, that while Poland lived in them then Poland was not lost. To meet the exiles from the Polish army brought back memories of their comrades one had met in London, Inverness, Casablanca and Normandy. One saw them then as fighters in a common cause. Here always one is aware that they carry with them in this strange land, a bundle of convictions and hopes for their home their people, and themselves. So when Kazek gave me a book written by a Polish woman who had escaped in 1940 by way of Russia and Japan, the proverb she quoted, in German, threw a great light on what these hopes were. I read for the first time the unforgettable words "Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła".

When does an exile become Australian? When does an Irishman or Englishman or a Scot cease to speak of his native land as "Home"? Never. Their children grow up to make fun of this inevitable attitude yet when they go back to the village from which their ancestors came they see their own home with new eyes. "So this is what grandfather saw; this is the land he revisited in reveries!" So too if Australians could see the Wawel, the shrine of Poland's greatness, or meet the farmer returned from a five years war to his village home or see the ruins of what Warsaw was and the dream now taking shape of a city reborn, building the Stare Miasto as it was before the war, they would see only more

clearly what Australia means to them.

Australia has always been a land of exiles. The aborigines are the survivors of the early Stone Age forced out of southern Asia long ago. The Europeans who found this tough but habitable part of our continent were not looking only for new land but for a way to the wealth of the Pacific Ocean. They found at Sydney and Hobart (as also in New Zealand) seaports useful in that quest for wealth from trading. To take possession of those ports and hold them against the rival sea traders of France, Spain or the United States, they needed slave labour in some form, so men and woman of a class not wanted at home were sent into exile. The first Australian stage play written by one of these exiles called them "True patriots, who left their country for their country's good".

Here came rebels of all kinds, misfits of society — the London thief, the highway robber, the prostitute, the Irish rebels of 1798, the farm labourers who revolted against the squire's oppression. Most were transported, many others chose exile "to escape being transported" as Governor Macquarie said. The gentry who came here were often "under a cloud" at home. A Tasmanian landowner wrote in 1840: "There is not a gentleman in England who hasn't some kinsman whom he wishes 15,000 miles away".

At all times also there have been the fortune hunters, seeking wealth from trading or from pastoral activities or from mining; there have always been a few scientists seeking new knowledge of botany or geology, often these too were in exile, like Count Strzelecki; but none of their purposes could be served without forcing or persuading thousands of others to come

into this new, strange refractory land.

It is a most important geographical fact that on the vast plains of Australia the sheep then known in Europe thrived and produced fine wool at very low cost. There was no need to grow food for them or to house them in winter. One shepherd could tend a thousand sheep; the shearing, washing and carting to the seaport by ox wagon needed more labour. Always a few aborigines were tamed and made useful but there were not enough of them. Long before 1840 the annual shiploads of convict exiles gave an insufficient labour supply.

Governors assigned these to the wool-barrons for the term of their sentence. The land out back was there for those who could occupy it; some of this new aristocracy held (but did not own) 300,000 acres for which they owed (but often did not pay) a rent of only £ 80 a year. The revenue of the colony came from taxes on the rum and tobacco of the common people.

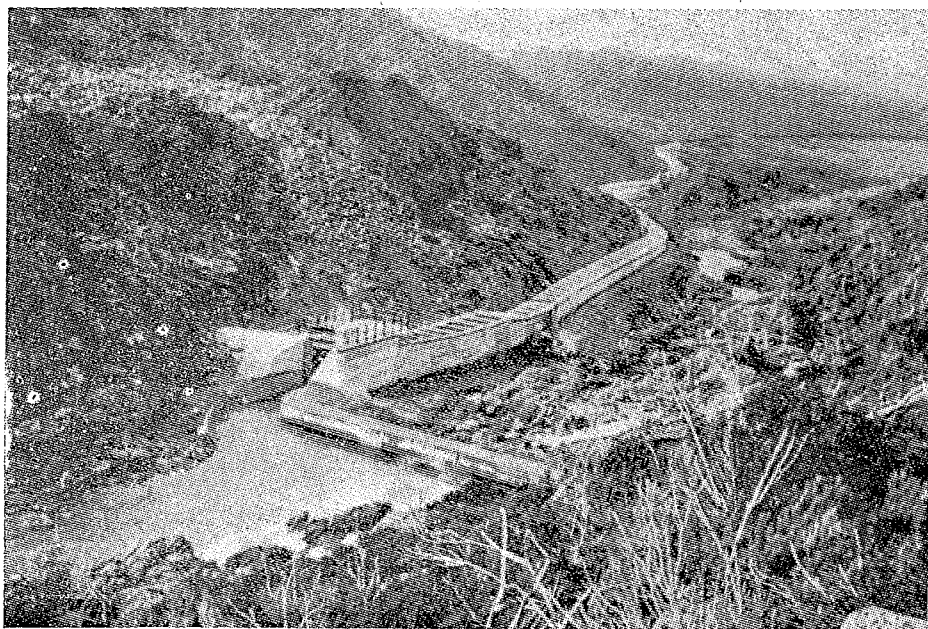
Yet we must remember that until 1840 the prosperity of the colonies depended as much on sea trading and whaling as on wool-growing. Also the whaler merchants and shipbuilding had assigned convict workmen. This fact must be linked up with the gaol settlements of Port Macquarie, Port Arthur and many others like them.

While most of the convicts were willing to work for the colonial landowners for food and clothes, tea and sugar, there were those who were not. For them there was gang labour in the penal settlements. In these places work was done under a system as brutal as in any Siberian mine or timber camp. At Macquarie Harbour men cut trees in the incessant rain, dragged the logs to the river towed them to the shipyards and cut them, all without mechanical power, coarse food, cold, wet living, scurvy and flogging were their lot. (The recorded punishments averaged 45 lashes a year).

Nevertheless these were shipbuilding settlements which produced scores of very necessary ships and much lumber besides. Some convicts survived the ordeal and became trained shipwrights. Even the state of Victoria which boasts that it never received British convicts, has only a technical right to boast for in the 1850's thousands of its exconvict citizens were caught for some relapse into crime, were taught the trade of stonemasons in building the piers and docks of Williamstown and when free, applied their skill on the fine stone buildings of the city.

Until a century ago this was the way of the world — that the need of governments for public works in remote places could be solved only by slave labour because there were not enough machines or even enough animals. So some of our exiles were forced to a life comparable to that of beasts of burden — the record of their toll is in the stone ruins which survive. Even England can show still the forts of Portsmouth or the harbour at Portland where thousands of outcasts of society cut stone and pulled or carried it to expiate their crimes.

In Australia by 1840 the labour supply of convicts proved inadequate for the needs of the wool growers and new forms of exile were added. Australia received also the pauper women and children of English workhouses, the paupers of the village and the town and the thousands of Scots and Irish forced by the Great Famine and the landlord to accept government assistance to reach Canada or Australia. In the years of the gold discoveries there was a very



LIaweENE CANAL

ng des're for an Australian republic in Britain much fear that a republic ld be created. At that time also there in the United States a very strong anti-ish feeling due to the millions of Irish es. It must be remembered that while English often looked on Australia as a l in which to make a fortune and then rn home, the Irish looked on it as a e where they might save enough money bring their friends from Ireland. For Irish there was no return.

The Gold Discovery (1851) was fold by great changes which increased the stment of British capital here and also :tened the time of the voyage. The ties Britain strengthened as trade grew, the emigration of British people, still ely helped by governments, parishes trade unions, were less marked by the ing of permanent exile. Australians also id a common interest with British in lopping other lands like Fiji and New eia; they became more aware of the lry of Germany and the United States. throughout this period it remained : that the majority of our immigrants e because they saw no prospect of bet-ent at home and because they were ed to get here, sometimes by those who ed to prevent lower wages in England, etimes by those who wanted to lower es in Australia.

In 1890 wages were as high in Aust- as in the United states. In those days white Australia policy was finally sha- but even before 1840 there were some tral an employers who imported Indian kers. Others brought in Chinese and mes'ans. It isn't true to say the Asians e; they were hired on contracts for s, a form of slavery. In 1890 large bers of Polynesians were virtually ened in the sugar plantations. One of the ng demands at the time of the founding the Commonwealth was that these le should be sent home.

I am working up to my general point ; Australia is not and never has been untry suited to cheap labour. Whether an or a woman is an independent pro- or a wage earner, skill is essential. big and difficult work it pays to give a d worker high wages and provide him 1 horse power or machine power and ient tools. Even the convict slaves were er paid and better fed than their com- s in England who were not transpor-

Almost from the beginning the con- children had free school provided by nments. It was no place for weaklings for easy living and the children were valuable to be allowed to grow up igno- and incompetent.

Even sugar growing on our northern ts with ignorant Polynesians was not profitable as with Australians, who ht strike for high pay but earned it if work was properly organ'zed. Take the case of the Chinese brought here cheap labour on sheep stations. Their ence was resented but also they did solve the problem. Nor did they become nant miners. They did establish nselves as vegetable growers on small s of rich land near towns — the only 1 of small peasant farming this coun- has known; worked ent'rely by spade hoe. Today this too is disappearing. mechan'sed vegetable farm is driving the hand farmer as cities grow large built over the former market-gardens.

The growth of Australia s'nce 1850 has id a great deal to mining and has been ked by the use of skilled labour and e scale methods. The first gold boom id) was in fertile areas quite near to main ports, where rainfall was good,

It was followed by the discovery of rich depos.ts of copper, silver, lead, zinc and tin. Much of this development was in remote desert areas where transport and water supply imposed colossal tasks. Some was in the mountains and forests of western Tasmania where the essential railways were equally costly to build. The miners were essentially migrants. Men of today can tell how their fathers moved from gold fields to tin fields or copper mines, from Ballarat to Gympie, to New Zealand, or West Tasmania, all in one lifetime; the wild living of the mining camps was marked by exile from home and family.

In war or in peace, it was the lot of the Australian to choose wide seperation; to go "overlanding" cattle from Queensland to South Australia; to leave the farm for a season and cut sugar cane in Queensland or timber in New Zealand. So in England's wars the horsemen of Australia went to the Scudan (in 1885) or to Africa in 1900; in Sinai in 1917 the Desert Column the men and horses of the inland Australia, overcame the Turks in the arid wastes of Sinai. In 1941 their sons with motor trucks mastered the Libyan deserts and shared with Poles and British in the first siege of Tobruk. So we see that Australians have always been dependent on the most efficient transport methods and thereby developed the capacity for mechanised warfare. The first Polish invasion of Australia was of men who shared those desert campaigns in the motorised age. They had in war a foretaste of the conditions of their future exile. In Tasmania one of their earliest tasks was to build a Bailey Bridge in a wild river gorge; to the Australian engineers they said very firmly: "You don't have to tell us how to do this job." To break the German hold on the ridge of Monte Cassino and to tame the wild rivers of Tasmania were works requiring a similar mastery of the essentials of transport. And the history of Australia is largely a history of transportation.

Between the world wars, the ways of the oxteam and the horse gave place rapidly in Australia to the motor car and the tractor and the aeroplane. The Poles who came to us through the ten years exile of war had moved from the age of the horse

to that of the tractor in a shorter time but found here much of the same life as they had known in war. They were sent at first, by contract, to the tough jobs of the wild, untamed lands. That as I have shown has been the lot of other exiles ever since white Australia began. As it was then, so today — the men from the village and mountain, like the Irish and Scots of past times, were more fit to succeed therein than the immigrants from European cities, but especially so after surmounting the difficulties of mechanised warfare.

Yet not all were as mechanically minded as Australians. I saw a gang of Poles lifting and carrying huge timbers of a building in a way no Australian gang would have done. The Australians would have sat down until the boss supplied them with at least some apparatus of pulleys. It is proverbial that an Australian will not "do a horse out of a job". He feels a slight pity for men who will do this. The Poles learned these things the hard way which also means they learned quickly.

There is much more in common qualities of Poles and Australians than in the similar skill and zeal and courage they showed in war and in the pioneer tasks of peace. They have brought us a new infusion of the basic ideas of our civilisation — the virtues of family solidarity, of independence, of hospitality.

They came at a time when Australia was very much in need of an increased labour force to push forward the development of new resources. Their success in their individual jobs compares very favourably with that of all other classes of recent immigrants. They were also the first to arrive, when more men were very badly needed, but it isn't that which explains their success. It arises from their capacity, improved in the stress of their great war achievements, to adopt themselves to a new way of life while preserving the great social virtues of their own. The goal they seem to seek to be a man of a house, a piece of land, a small independent business is so fitted to the conditions of Australia. To work hard, to save, to plan to achieve an independent condition, to pay their own



Start for Building of WADDAMANA CANAL