

THE WARSAW RISING

WHEN?

- The Warsaw Rising started on 1st August, 1944 at 5 p.m.- so called "W-hour".
- It lasted 63 days, ended on 3rd October, 1944, resulting with the defeat of the Polish.
- The Uprising started after failure of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.



WHY?

- The reason for starting The Warsaw Rising was a strong desire to regain former Polish borders. Young people living then in Poland also wanted to regain their freedom and independence taken by the Germans. Hence, they were fighting bravely for both their home country, their lives and their relatives' lives. They could not stand life under occupation any longer, instead, they just wanted to get a feeling of being a winner, free and independent winner.

- Polish people did not have an easy life under German occupation. Warsaw was full of German prisons (e.g. on Szucha street) where lots of people, mostly Poles, were tortured to death. Most people did not come back from those prisons.
- There were many reasons for starting the Uprising: public round-ups and shooting, ban on using the Polish language in schools and offices, changing the names of streets into German. All these reasons forced the Poles to start their rebellion.

WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE UPRISING?

- At the very beginning Polish insurgents were winning most of their planned actions, but after some time there was no hope for victory. The Germans had definitely both more people to fight and more war equipment. Polish insurgents had to walk through Warsaw sewers to survive, there were lots of German dropping bombs and much bloodshed. All these hurt Polish psyche.
- Women and children were not excluded from the Uprising. The women were usually nurses who cured not only injured bodies but also hearts. They consoled dying people and stayed with them till the end....the children were fighting with guns and distributing mail.

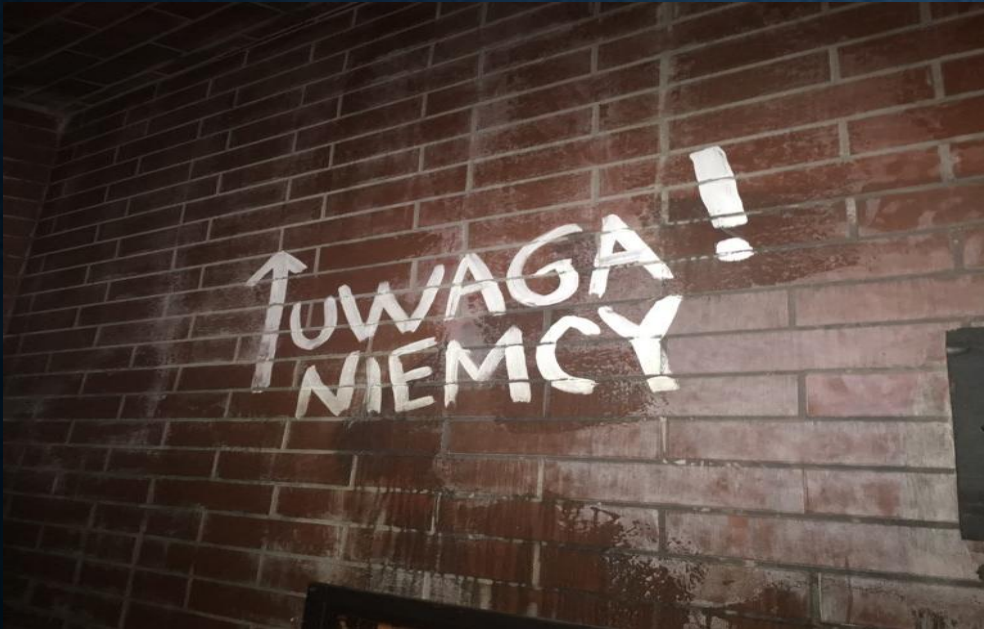
- The Warsaw people had to see their beautiful city becoming a ruin, their friends dying, lots of torn by bombs bodies. As I mentioned before, they had to walk through the sewers, which is unthinkable.....in the sewers it was totally dark, the smell was awful and unbearable, people had to watch out for the death bodies inside the sewers...When Germans found out that the Poles were walking through the sewers, they dropped bombs. They did a lot of harm to us, but we did not give up, we just wanted to regain our freedom.

TRAUMA OF THE INSURGENTS

- Many Poles lost their families, loved ones and friends. Many lost their health. They were left with huge scars in their hearts and psyche. Scars which will remain forever...
- Many Poles committed suicides because they could not stand the whole situation any longer. It was too much for them. Warsaw Insurgents' lives will never be the same.....

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO US NOW?

- We, young people, are constantly trying to pay tribute to those who were fighting for our country. We are proud that our ancestors gave their lives for Poland. We can definitely say that they dedicated their lives for OUR FREEDOM. The Warsaw Rising Museum opened as a tribute to those Warsaw Insurgents.





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