

Polish Second Army Corps in World War II






**POLSKA
 POCZTA POLOWA
 2 KORPUSU**

	<p style="text-align: center;"> DOPLATA ZŁ. 4. - NA WDOWY I SIEROTY PO POLEGŁYCH ŻOŁNIE- RZACH 2 KORPUSU </p>
	
	



POLAND — September 1939 to June 1941. NOTE: Since June 1941, the entire Polish territory is under German occupation. The provinces of Lwov, Tarnopol, and Stanislawow have been incorporated into the Government General.

August 1939 - German / Russian invasion of Poland

1.5 Million Polish civilians and military sent to Soviet prisons or exiled to labor camps in Siberia.

June 1941 – Germany invaded Russia, breaking the Nazi – Soviet nonaggression pact.

August 1941 – Polish – Russian Military Agreement

The agreement allowed the creation of a Polish army on Soviet soil.

Thousands of Polish, Ukrainian and Belorussians were released from the Soviet Gulags.

Polish Lieutenant General Wladislav Anders released from Lubyanka Prison in Moscow to take command of the Second Corps.



1941 – 1942 Polish army was formed and grew in southern Russian and Kazakhstan.

Stalin agreed to arm and supply the Polish forces with Russian arms and equipment.

Stalin changed his mind and began to withdraw support and was considering returning them to the gulags.

1943 – Due to Soviet lack of support, Gen Anders decided to move his troops and civilians to British held Persia.



The British were happy to welcome them and supplied resources and transport to Palestine where the 2nd Corp was joined by the 3rd Carpathian Division who had seen heavy action in Egypt and the battle for Tobruk.

1944 – The Corps was supplied and trained in Palestine. They were eager to fight the Germans with the British.

Feb 1944 - They were transferred to Italy where they became an independent unit of the British Eighth Army.

May 1944 - They fought with distinction in the fourth and final battle for Monte Cassino with heavy casualties. Fighting was fierce with quarter not being given nor taken.





Sept 1944 – The Corps was sent north and fought in the Battle of Ancona and the Gothic Line.

Mar 1945 - They also fought in the Battle of Bologna which was one of the final battles of the war.

After the war, the Corps remained in Italy and were used to assist Polish and other refugees who were escaping the Soviets.

1946 – The Corps was transported to Britain and demobilized. The majority of the 103,000 troops and their families stayed in exile and eventually settled in Britain.

Many of the Jewish soldiers, including Menachem Begin, returned to Palestine to help build the state of Israel.



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