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## Events on the Eastern Front as portrayed by “Nowy Głos Lubelski”

**Annotation:** The goal of this study is an analysis of the newspaper articles recalling the events on the Eastern front during World War II. The study attempts at answering the following questions: how did the information published in the newspaper reflect reality? Also, how are the events from the considered timeline of the clash in the East described? Based on the information in the “Nowy Głos Lubelski”, the author focuses on a critical moment when the initiative slowly shifts to the Soviet side. This article outlines how the information regarding the most important Eastern front events was conveyed to the people of the occupied lands through the medium of “Nowy Głos Lubelski”.

**Keywords:** world war II, eastern front, propaganda, reptile journalism, „Nowy Głos Lubelski”

### Wydarzenia na froncie wschodnim w relacjach „Nowego Głosu Lubelskiego”

**Streszczenie:** Celem niniejszej pracy jest przeanalizowanie artykułów prasowych wspominających tematykę frontu wschodniego w czasie II wojny światowej. Autor próbuje odpowiedzieć w jaki sposób informacje w nich zawarte odzwierciedlają faktyczne wydarzenia?, a także: w jaki sposób opisane są zdarzenia mające wpływ na przebieg starć na wschodzie? W swoich rozważaniach nad informacjami zawartymi w „Nowym Głosie Lubelskim” Autor skupia się nad momentem, kiedy inicjatywa powoli przechodzi na stronę sowiecką. Analizuje w jaki sposób informacje o najważniejszych wydarzeniach z frontu wschodniego przekazywane były ludności terenów okupowanych za pośrednictwem „Nowego Głosu Lubelskiego”.

**Słowa kluczowe:** II wojna światowa, front wschodni, propaganda, gadzinówka, „Nowy Głos Lubelski”.

### События на Восточном фронте на страницах «Нового голоса Люблинского»

**Аннотация:** Целью данной работы является анализ статей в прессе, напоминающих о теме Восточного фронта во время Второй мировой войны. Автор пытается ответить, как содержащаяся в нем информация отражает реальные события? А также: как описываются события, влияющие на ход столкновений на востоке? В своих размышлениях об информации, содержащейся в «Новом Глосе Люблинском», автор акцентирует внимание на том моменте, когда инициатива медленно переходит на советскую сторону. В нем анализируется, как информация о наиболее важных событиях с Восточного фронта передавалась населению оккупированных районов через «Новый голос Люблинский».

**Ключевые слова:** Вторая мировая война, Восточный фронт, пропаганда, немецкая пресса, "Nowy Głos Lubelski".

"Nowy Głos Lubelski" was the most important newspaper written in Polish published by the German occupants in the Lubelski district, it was an example of the so-called "reptile press"<sup>1</sup>. Looking through the sources, apart from calling gazettes and daily newspapers "reptiles", there more crude and explicit names such as "rags" or "scum"<sup>2</sup>. Even though we have no certainty that these names could be in any way associated with "Nowy Głos Lubelski", the abovementioned labels were used to describe the "Nowy Kurier Warszawski" and "Goniec Krakowski" which were the most popular papers published by the occupant which to a certain extent allows for concluding that they possibly could have been used to mean "Nowy Głos Lubelski" as well.

The press served as a propaganda tool for conveying messages related to the success of the German army. All kinds of 'legal' newspapers published within the General Government area were aimed at indoctrination and ensuring that the people of the occupied lands consider the then situation permanent, with no alternative as nothing possibly could have stopped the dominance of the Third Reich on the European continent. In its content, "Nowy Głos Lubelski" based mostly on reprints of political texts previously published in German newspapers. The delay usually took two days since it involved a selection of appropriate articles and commentaries from Germany, then they were edited to suit the propaganda needs on the occupied areas and finally translated into Polish.

Propaganda existed well before, even in the antiquity when some events were referenced which would perfectly match the today's definition of that term. Regarding the language of propaganda as a separate topic we could highlight the works by prominent linguists such as Walery Pisarek<sup>3</sup>, Jerzy Bralczyk<sup>4</sup> and Irena Kamińska-Szmaj<sup>5</sup>. Of course,

<sup>1</sup> "Reptile press" was aptly defined during the time of the occupation by "Biuletyn Informacyjny" (issue 9 I 1941): "Reptile press are what we call newspapers - the reptiles, treacherously clothing in the skin of the Polish language to harm the Polish nation with its venom. The language of these newspapers may be Polish but the brain and hands behind them are without a doubt German. The goal - free labour for Germany. See: T. Szarota, *Okupowanej Warszawy dzień powszedni*, Warsaw 2010, p. 319.

<sup>2</sup> T. Wolsza, *Gadzinówki przed sądem Polski Ludowej*, Polska 1944/45 - 1989. "Studia i Materiały", 2014, pp. 349-381.

<sup>3</sup> W. Pisarek, *Język służy propagandzie*, Kraków 1976.

<sup>4</sup> J. Bralczyk, *O języku polskiej propagandy lat siedemdziesiątych*, Kraków 1986.

<sup>5</sup> I. Kamińska Szmaj, *Judzi, zohydza, ze czci odziera. Język propagandy politycznej w prasie*, Wrocław

there are many different definitions of that notion. However, in this study, I would like to rely on the following version: "Propaganda is an institutionalised form of public communication involving total control of the information flow, steering public opinion as well as people's behaviour to achieve goals previously established by the sender of the message"<sup>6</sup>.

All studies related this type of press need to begin at the analysis of the journalism systems in the General Government<sup>7</sup>. In order to outline the aforementioned system, we should firstly consider the structure and the character of the press in the Third Reich. Such comparison is indispensable while treating newspapers published in the times of the Second Polish Republic, after September 1939. Seizing press among others resulted from a strong conviction that domestic solutions should be implemented in the occupied areas by the German forces.

After Adolf Hitler rise to power, the Democratic system in the Weimer Republic was gradually abolished. Regarding the press, the process of subordinating independent newspapers to the security apparatus began with the closedowns of socio-democratic and communist magazines. Thanks to the resolution adopted by the president Paul von Hindenburg on February 28, 1933<sup>8</sup>. In the newly created Nazi world, the press was supposed to play a significant role of a propaganda instrument considerably influencing the masses. In less than a month after adopting this resolution, by the law of the Hindenburg's decree, the Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda (PROMI) led by Joseph Goebbels was established<sup>9,10</sup>. From then on, most if not all, messages published in the papers were originating from the German Information Agency and Goebbels who was supervising it. As an initiative of the Minister of Propaganda, numerous conferences were held during which detailed information was given to press representatives in order to "unify the content in the German newspapers"<sup>11</sup>. These actions boiled down to anticipating and preventing any articles that would have been deemed inconvenient or independent in any manner. Everything had to be meticulous-

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<sup>6</sup> I. Kamińska Szmał, *Propaganda, perswazja, manipulacja: próba uporządkowania pojęć*, [in:] *Manipulacja w języku*, P. Krzyżanowski (Ed.), P. Nowak, Lublin 2004, pp. 13-27.

<sup>7</sup> Full name - the General Government for occupied territories of Poland, (org. *Generalgouvernement für die besetzten polnischen Gebiete*) known as the General Government or GG was a local administration unit established by Adolf Hitler's decree and existed since October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1939 until January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1945. The General Government spread across parts of the Second Polish Republic which were not previously annexed directly to the Third Reich.

<sup>8</sup> The resolution warranted closedowns of newspapers without having to provide justification, it could not apply however to local press. See: T. Głowiński, *O nowy porządek europejski. Ewolucja hitlerowskiej propagandy politycznej wobec Polaków w Generalnym Gubernatorstwie 1939-1945*, Wrocław 2002, p. 24.

<sup>9</sup> Joseph Goebbels was one of the chief leaders of Nazi Germany. Between 1927 and 1933, he was a publisher of the NSDAP's sponsored newspaper *Der Angriff*. Since 1928, he was a Reichstag member and the party's propaganda leader. Later, from 1933, he served as a Minister of Propaganda and Information in the Third Reich. He was an avid Hitler supporter, increasing considerable pressure on all facets of cultural life by forming a model of a society obedient to tyranny, hatefully racist and convinced of the predestination of Germans as world rulers.

<sup>10</sup> T. Głowiński, *op. cit.*, p. 19.

<sup>11</sup> M. Napora, *Gadzinowe narracje. Mechanizmy i strategie kreowania propagandowego obrazu świata w "Dzienniku Radomskim" 1940-1945*, Warsaw 2017, p. 19.

ly inspected by the Ministry of Propaganda.

In the afore-mentioned conventions, there were strictly defined directives:

- 1) Who is supposed to write about a particular topic or event, or should it be ignored?
- 2) Who should report this? All papers or just a few?
- 3) When should it be published? Before, during or after the political event?
- 4) How should it be described? Thoroughly, partially or follow any specific guidelines? Independently? What should be the tendency and how explicit should it be?
- 5) Should an event be commented on?
- 6) Who exactly should comment? All papers or just a few?
- 7) When should the commentary be published? Before, during or after the political event, or on a specific date?
- 8) How should it be commented? Independently or a ready-made commentary? Should the newspaper be chosen depending on which would be the most suitable for a foreign commentary? What should be the narrative?
- 9) How should the news be displayed? On the first page with a large-format graphics and bold letters? Or a medium exposure inside the paper in the political section? Or a small exposure on a first page with a special header? A small exposure inside the paper, special exposure or an ordinary dispatch (message)?<sup>12</sup>.

After Nazis gaining power, the press was recognised as tool, somewhat of an instrument helping to shape an entire society and its moods. Through information and messages, newspapers became a new image of the Third Reich in politics and international arena. Due to annexation of new territories, German authorities began introducing "homemade" solutions in facets of life, such as culture and inevitably, the press. After the September campaign, Nazi authorities established units responsible for propaganda and information addressed to German armies as well as the local civilians. The first cities to publish newspapers in German were Cracow and Łódź<sup>13</sup>.

Closing down Polish pre-war papers is an important fact to keep in mind. In general, in September 1939, most Polish papers as well as professional associations and organisations for journalists and publishers were closed<sup>14</sup>.

An important factor in policies regarding German press was an absolute faith in a quick victory. Thus, Germans had not found themselves having to lie or manipulate early in the process. While neutralising the Polish intelligence, some concepts of abolishing Polish media systems surfaced. There was a more extensive discussion on this topic on the conference held in Łódź on 31 October 1939. Based on its conclusions, the General Government territories were only allowed informational press. A typical day would include Polish journalists receiving readymade articles or a set of guidelines according to which they would need to write a piece that would be sent under scrutiny to a Polish-speaking German editor<sup>15</sup>. A much bigger shift in the policies regarding the

<sup>12</sup> M. Naporá, *op. cit.*, p. 20.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 22-23.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 23.

<sup>15</sup> S. Piotrowski, *Dziennik Hansa Franka*, Warsaw 1957, p. 119.

press occurred after the disappointments on the Eastern front in the beginning of 1943. On 15 February 1943, a circular letter by Joseph Goebbels was distributed in which there was a clear permission to alter the policies concerning Polish people. It stated that press could be managed by the Poles while involving only preventive censorship. By doing so, they tried to popularise the idea of the alleged freedom of speech in newspapers. The 'reptile press' editors "through careful selection of positions, seemingly devoid of emotional charge, attempted at popularising the elements of fascist doctrine endorsed by the German papers"<sup>16</sup>.

It is worth to mention that printed sources were divided into groups. The first one consisted of "press news bulletins intended for the agency, edited in Berlin and published by the Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda"<sup>17</sup>. The second group included "reprinted news bulletins intended for office administrators of propaganda departments"<sup>18</sup>. Finally, the third group consisted of "news edited by 'Polish Press News' intended for the Polish reptile press on territories of the General Government"<sup>19</sup>. The number of those 'reptile press' titles is also worth focusing on. During the occupation, Germans released "around 60 titles in Polish (including e.g. 10 daily newspapers, 11 weekly magazines, 10 monthly magazines and 25 professional papers) amounting to no less than 1,320,000 copies in its peak period of 1944"<sup>20</sup>.

"Nowy Głos Lubelski" had been published since January 20th, 1940 until July 24, 1944 and was the main newspaper distributed in the Lubelski district during the occupation. According to the "Grodzka Gate - NN Theatre" organisation: Without a shadow of a doubt we can determine that it was a newspaper established by the German initiative. It became the main press item available to the Lublin district between 1940 and 1944"<sup>21</sup>. In the beginning the paper was a weekly magazine and by mid-March it was 3 issues per week and finally in May 1940 it was published as a daily newspaper<sup>22</sup>. Initially, the paper consisted of a dozen pages however, with the increase of frequency, later on the number of pages was reduced to four. The price was 20 groszy per issue and since 1 July 1943 - 25 groszy.

The issue included, apart from propaganda articles and information, various advice columns on life and mundane issues. Moreover, what differentiated it from others were reprints of commentaries from German newspapers and promoting forced labour of people from the occupied territories in Germany. Hence, there was actually very little content concerning culture even in its broadest sense. The title was a reference to a "pre-war magazine called *Głos Lubelski* published by the National Democracy, however that was where the similarity ended"<sup>23</sup>.

<sup>16</sup> E. Cytowska, *Propaganda kulturalna na łamach niemieckiej prasy w języku polskim w Generalnej Guberni 1939-1945*, "Kwartalnik Historii Prasy Polskiej" Kraków 1981, vol. 20, 2, p.30.

<sup>17</sup> W. Wójcik, *Prasa gadzinowa Generalnego Gubernatorstwa (1939-1945)*, Kraków 1988, p. 21.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 23.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 25.

<sup>20</sup> T. Wolsza, *Gadzinówki przed sądem Polski Ludowej*, "Polska 1944/45-1989. Studia i Materiały" 2014, p.351.

<sup>21</sup> <http://teatrnn.pl/leksykon/artykuly/nowy-glos-lubelski-19391944/>, [accessed August 2nd, 2018].

<sup>22</sup> P. Kamela, "Nowy Głos Lubelski" 1940 - 1944, "Rocznik Lubelski" 2010, t. 36, 115-143.

<sup>23</sup> <http://teatrnn.pl/leksykon/artykuly/nowy-glos-lubelski-19391944/>, [accessed August 2, 2018].

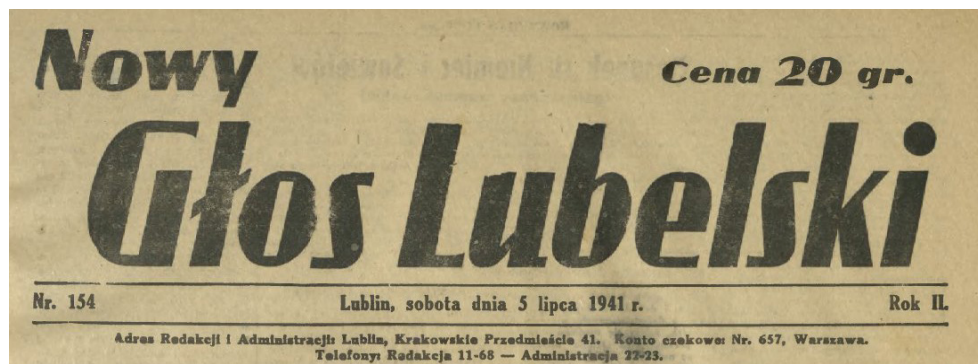


Fig.1 The main header of the first page of "Nowy Głos Lubelski" from 1941 (accessed on November 23, 2018) (Source: [https://twitter.com/I\\_Lendorf/status/1014906296896835584](https://twitter.com/I_Lendorf/status/1014906296896835584)).

The seat was in Lublin, at Krakowskie Przedmieście 41 Street, on the ground floor. The editorial team worked on the first floor. In order to ensure their safety, all editors and other factual employees of the paper had to remain anonymous. Unfortunately, due to this fact it is quite a challenge to say anything more regarding the staff. The only trace was a person working as a chief editor (most likely a man) with a last name - Widera<sup>24</sup>, sadly first name unknown. The circulation amounted to 20,000 copies<sup>25</sup>.

While analysing the general structure of this daily newspaper, we could observe that first pages were dedicated to the situation in Europe, news from the war and the economic situation as well as the main current events. The subsequent pages dealt with the situation in Poland and eventually in the Lubelski region. Various pieces from novels and anecdotes were also printed. The last pages were dedicated to advertisements and classified ads concerning different aspects of life and divided into columns: "vacancies", "looking for employment", "science and upbringing", as well as "for sale", "want to buy" and "singles ads". These ads reflect the then reality of social and societal events. They show us what intrigued people and what they were afraid of. The reptile press made a lot of effort to shift viewer's attention to work, "especially during the holidays - using rhymes to elevate the value of work"<sup>26</sup>. In the light of the slogan "Through work, from poverty to prosperity"<sup>27</sup>. The paper was an assistant in every facet of everyday life: finding a job, buying a flat or finding a life partner. Although there were also ads of questionable motives such as searching for a well-off person who could help survive the occupation.

From the very beginning, Lublin inhabitants were fully aware that "Nowy Głos Lubelski" is a propaganda newspaper. However, this did not prevent them from buying and reading it since it was the only source of information regarding the situation in Europe. Moreover, it was the only space for local ads. In any case, "Nowy Głos Lubelski" also included a listing of laws and resolutions regulating the everyday life for the inhabitants.

<sup>24</sup> K. Woźniakowski, *Niemiecka polskojęzyczna prasa "gadzinowa" czasów II wojny światowej 1939-1945 (próba syntetycznego spojrzenia)*, "Studia Bibliologiczne Akademii Świętokrzyskiej" 2004, vol. 8, p. 85.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 85.

<sup>26</sup> E. Cytowska, *op. cit.*, p. 30.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 30.

Among them we could find information regarding curfew times, electricity usage restrictions or the need for a special permission to travel by train. What is more, this newspaper actively promoted forced labour in Germany. In the paper, there were photos of happy Poles at work or resting which were meant to incentivise people to go there voluntarily as well as to reassure the families whose members were already there that everyone is fine.

"Nowy Głos Lubelski" focused a lot of attention on the everyday life of Jewish people. The expected result was fuelling aversion towards this particular group. They encouraged cooperating with the occupant in "cleaning the city" as well publishing numerous articles depicting Jews as counterfeiterers and thieves leading Poland to its ruin. It is important to note that the world news appearing in the newspaper were usually delayed by a day or two. Naturally, it could be a result of a typical information flow or simply the lead time needed to prepare an article to be approved by Germans. However, it could also be a deliberate decision of German authorities as an attempt to control the civilians of the occupied territories through those delays.



Fig. 2. The first page from "Nowy Głos Lubelski" in 1941 (accessed November 11, 2018) (Source: <http://dlibra.umcs.lublin.pl/dlibra/publication?id=9095&tab=3>).

The contents of the articles regarding politics usually included a hostile attitude towards the Allies fighting against the Third Reich, namely Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the US. Undeniably, the majority of those articles was based on lies or falsified entirely. After the operation "Barbarossa", the focus of the paper was the events of the Eastern front. They underlined most of all the losses on the side of the Red Army while at the same time not mentioning any of the Wehrmacht losses. In order to make the articles more credible, accounts from witnesses from the front were included in the pieces.

From when the daily newspaper was launched until the Third Reich attack on the Soviet Union, "Nowy Głos Lubelski" included unfavourable information regarding the Allies. Moreover, until that moment there were notions of "cooperation and maintaining friendly ties between Germans and Soviets"<sup>28</sup>. The press also tried to convince people of a long-lasting friendship between Hitler and Stalin. The newspaper with all its efforts tried to highlight all kinds of defeats suffered by the Allies while complimenting all the successes by the Axis powers.

The study of the daily paper from the angle of the Eastern front accounts should be initiated from the second half of August 1942. It allows for discerning how the propaganda apparatus influenced the way information was conveyed. The analysis does not begin with the articles depicting the operation "Barbarossa" due to the time period defined as the end of the favourable outcomes for Germans in the Eastern front. It is worth to highlight that in the first phase of this operation, there was only a handful of articles regarding the Soviet Union in general. It was a consequence of a strong conviction that the Soviet Union was not ready for war and Wehrmacht will easily defeat the opponent until the end of 1941. When Axis powers were winning, the propaganda did not have to make any efforts manipulating the information from the front. The "real" propaganda and distorting news from the battlefields started only when Wehrmacht and its allies began to lose. The security apparatus was particularly keen to make sure that the people from occupied lands do not learn about the truth.

The beginning of the battle of Stalingrad could be estimated at the second half of August 1942. Sadly, there is a discrepancy in historical sources whether it was 17th, 19th, 21st or 23rd of August, thus we cannot be sure of the exact date where the fights on the approaches of the city started. The initial study of the "Nowy Głos Lubelski" issues regarding propaganda and the information from the Eastern front seem to prove it. Most frequently, there are mentions of the successes such as destroying the Allies' convoys at the Mediterranean, battles in the East and little pieces about other activities<sup>29</sup>. Almost every day, the newspaper propagated new, less or more devastating, Red Army defeats. Moreover, in the issues, we could find articles, a couple-sentences each, reprinted from articles by the neutral countries or cooperating economically with the Third Reich. The most frequent foreign reprints originated from Swedish, then Turkish or Portuguese press.

In August 1942, the articles in "Nowy Głos Lubelski" focused on the Caucasus, battles in the region of Don and the general political situation while including enigmatic

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<sup>28</sup> *Kanclerz Hitler przyjął Mołotowa. Dłuższa rozmowa w obecności min. Ribbentropa i zastępcy Mołotowa, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", nr 183, 15 November 1940, p. 2.*

<sup>29</sup> *Mimo oporu sowieckiego postępy na obszarze Kaukazu, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", issue 189, August 17 1942, p. 2.*



information from the other stretches of the front. In the paper there are no mentions of Stalingrad or the effects aimed at attempting to seize this communication hub located by the Volga river. First references to the city battle appear in the issue 23/24th of August 1942. The article acknowledges fierce fights against the Soviet forces and the sacrifice of the Wehrmacht soldiers<sup>30</sup>. These are in fact true, the described events did take place and exactly on the 23rd of August, German units from the north of Stalingrad arrived at the bank of the Volga river. The content of the articles highlighted the vulnerability of the Soviet Union referencing news from the Soviet press. Carefully selected pieces of information were intended to depict the attitude of both the Soviet army and society critically as well as to underline the repeated appeals of Stalin to the Allies to create a front in the West.

Over the course of time, we could observe a more discernible focus on the Stalingrad battle in the paper. In addition, reprints from the foreign press e.g. from Sweden from which it could be concluded the faith in the Red Army success faded and there was very little hope for the Soviets to hold the city any longer. All kinds of frictions between the Allies were instantly spotted by the press, then exaggerated and published<sup>31</sup> while highlighting and focusing on the significance of the battle. The first full-page article on the Stalingrad battle was published in the newspaper on 1st of September. This battle was depicted with a fitting narrative of the sacrifice of German soldiers and the abundance of the enemy forces as well as including the exaggerated "facts". This text also mentioned the clash at Rzhev<sup>32</sup> and the Caucasus<sup>33</sup>. Typically for this newspaper, there were already mentions from the foreign press commenting the economic and political situation in the world as well as various incidents and activities of the Allies, suitably exaggerated by the propaganda. Among others, there were modest comments of English perspectives on the battle of Stalingrad as published by a daily newspaper in Sweden<sup>34</sup>.

The first article conveying the message that the victory in the battle of Stalingrad is almost in German hands appeared in the "Nowy Głos Lubelski" on 16th of November. Details such as the success inner-city clashes and the arrival of the north and south teams at the banks of the Volga river simultaneously isolating the city from aid. The only way the Soviets could use for transporting food and supplies was the river constantly under fire from the German army<sup>35</sup>. Other articles would describe the situation on the other stretches of the front. Naturally only referencing the unstoppable march towards the East.

Quite an interesting article, in the context of propaganda, was published to commemorate the anniversary of the Tripartite Act which was a direct reference to a

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<sup>30</sup> *Na zachód i południe od Stalingradu toczą się zacięte walki*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", issue 196 23-24 August 1942, p. 1.

<sup>31</sup> *Znowu prohibicja w USA; Znowu demonstracje w Bombaju*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", issue 200 28 August 1942, p. 2.

<sup>32</sup> *Pod Rżewem front niemiecki niezachwiany*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", issue 203, 1 September 1942, p.1.

<sup>33</sup> *Przełamanie dalszych sowieckich pozycji na Kaukazie*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", issue 203, 1 September 1942, p.1.

<sup>34</sup> *Stalingrad, Kaukaz i Rżew w świetle angielskich doniesień*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", issue 208 6-7 September 1942, p. 1.

<sup>35</sup> *Los Stalingradu przesądzony. Również na północy dotarło do skrajni miasta*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", issue 216, 16 September 1942, p. 1.

speech made by the minister of propaganda. It compares the battle of Stalingrad to a European battle for freedom<sup>36</sup>. The aforementioned article also describes the improvement in economy due to that year's unusually excellent harvest which led to an improvement in the standard of living. There were also mentions of the English bombing raids on the cities of the Third Reich which were naturally heavily condemned. These bombings were somewhat of a retaliation and an attempt to paralyse the German economy. After defeating France, Luftwaffe proceeded with the bombings on civilian facilities in England<sup>37</sup>. As anticipated, the reasons for German bombings were not exactly detailed. In mid-October 1942, there are initial mentions of the preparations towards positional battles with the Russian winter in mind. The analysed articles outline and compare production methods of materials such as aluminium alloys and tin. The comparison concerned the fascist states as well as their adversaries: USA, Canada or USSR<sup>38</sup>. The following days did not bring any new updates regarding the published news from the Eastern and other fronts. As before, according to "Nowy Głos Lubelski", German units were fighting victoriously on the streets of Stalingrad relentlessly defeating the Red Army in the Caucasus as well as advancing hand in hand with the Finnish Army on the Northern front. British armies, at sea and in Africa, were allegedly incurring substantial losses and the overall situation was favourable to the Axis powers.

By the end of October 1942, for the first time since 1st of September, the first page of "Nowy Głos Lubelski" was not about the Stalingrad but about the great battle on the Pacific. The news did naturally overestimate the success of the Japanese imperial fleet against the US. In "Nowy Głos Lubelski" it was stated that the American fleet lost four aircraft carriers and other units<sup>39</sup>. In reality, the losses incurred by Americans amounted to one aircraft carrier and one cruiser while the Japanese lost one aircraft carrier as well. Yet again, there is some truth in the articles published such as mentioning the battle of the Santa Cruz islands which indeed, did take place. Sadly, that would be the only piece of truth in the entire article. Historians consider the end result of the battle a tie. Based on the "Nowy Głos" article it could possibly be concluded that the Japanese "accomplished an incredible success". Further mentions of the winter preparations for the Russian winter were also incorporated in connection with a speech of Adolf Hitler in München. This meeting was held on 9th of November while the article describing it was a first-page topic on 12th of November<sup>40</sup>. Beginning with the issue number 266 (published on 13th of November) until the issue 269 (published on 17th of November) there was absolutely no mention of the Eastern front. The entire focus was shifted to the events in Northern Africa since the Allies landed on the territories of Vichy France<sup>41</sup>. The surprise of the landing was apparently a source of great confusion and worry for the people on the occupied territories of the Third Reich. As far as the Eastern front is concerned, the style of reporting those events did not change, everything was fairly similar to previous weeks.

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<sup>36</sup> *Bitwa o Stalingrad symbolem europejskiej walki o wolność*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", issue 229, 1 October 1942, p. 1.

<sup>37</sup> *Mowa marszałka Rzeszy Goeringa w Berlinie*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", nr 235, 8 October 1942. s.1.

<sup>38</sup> *Wzajemny stosunek sił*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", nr 239, 13 October 1942, p. 1.

<sup>39</sup> *Japończycy zatopili 4 lotniskowce i 1 krążownik*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 253, 29 October 1942, p.1.

<sup>40</sup> *Przemówienie kanclerza Hitlera w dniu 8 November w Monachium*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 265, 12 November 1942, p. 1.

<sup>41</sup> *Zaostrzenie sytuacji w Afryce francuskiej*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 266, 13 November 1942, p. 1.

For a couple of days, news regarding the Eastern front disappeared from "Nowy Głos Lubelski". This study presents the two possible reasons. The first is related to the Allies landing in Western Africa and fierce battles between Rommel and Montgomery. The second reason would be the launch of the Soviet counteroffensive called operation "Uranus". As a result of the Soviet Army there was a discernible confusion and utter surprise. Most of the staff officers and German generals were certain that by the end of 1942, the Soviet Union would not have been able to strike anywhere on the Eastern front. This surprise and confusion naturally translated into the information channel which in turn caused a standstill in updating the Eastern battles.

After a couple of days, the accounts of the Eastern front returned to the newspaper. Of course, there were no mentions of the massive retaliation by the Red Army. There were however some mentions of the supply issues of the Soviets and modest wins along the front<sup>42</sup>. In a way, the events in North Africa shifted the focus away from the East. Germans and Americans fighting on the border lands between Algeria and Tunisia. This was the first occurrence of German soldiers fighting directly against the American soldiers. It had a significant political overtone accentuated by numerous propaganda references<sup>43</sup>.

The first occurrence of the Eastern front report not mentioning a series of battles won happened on 23rd of November. The article outlined the fierce and bloody defenses. Hence, it is a relatively truthful account of the actual situation on the Eastern front, especially its Southern stretch<sup>44</sup>. December issues of the "Nowy Głos Lubelski" relating to these battles shifted the focus on the middle stretch of the Eastern front. The proceedings of the Caucasus and the Stalingrad regions somewhat faded into the background. Additionally, it was rare to find anything concerning the Southern stretch. Moreover, we would not find anything related to the German operation "Winter Storm". The most frequent notions concern efficient German charges in the centre<sup>45</sup>. The articles also included information on the German counter-offenses and the resulting recovered areas. However, there were no previous information regarding losing them in the first place or abandoning certain positions. Due to the Christmas period, there was an issue published on 23rd of December followed by a subsequent issue on 29th of December (topics of the issue dedicated mainly to Christmas)<sup>46</sup>. By the end of December, the updates related to the battles in the Caucasus disappeared completely. It is most likely a result of the difficult position of the Group Army A and its retreat which, for political reasons, could not be published.

The last two issues from the end of 1942 and the first few from the beginning of 1943 did not differentiate from the previous ones. The articles, as usual, mentioned relentless fights on the Eastern front and a slow but gradual advancement of the Wehrmacht units towards the East as well as the great losses incurred by the Red Army.

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<sup>42</sup> *Trudności w zaopatrzeniu oddziałów sowieckich powodują osłabienie kontrataków pod Stalingradem*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 273, 21 November 1942, p. 1.

<sup>43</sup> *Walki w rejonie Algieru*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 274, 22 November 1942, p. 1.

<sup>44</sup> *Ataki sowieckie rozbijają się wszędzie o niewzruszoną postawę wojsk niemieckich*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 275, 23 November 1942, p. 2.

<sup>45</sup> *Atak niemiecki na środkowym odcinku postępuje skutecznie naprzód*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 291, 12 December 1942, p. 1.

<sup>46</sup> *Pokój ludziom dobrej woli...*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 302, 29 December 1942, pp. 1-2.

A subsequent suspension of the newspaper took place between 2nd and 5th of January 1943. The beginning of the year saw the occurrence of articles related to economy, battle victories and plans for 1943. There was not so much as a word about the 6th Army cordoned off in Stalingrad<sup>47</sup>. Most of the articles focused on the defence fights in the proximity of Don while highlighting the massive losses caused on the Soviet side<sup>48</sup>.

Since the beginning of January 1943, the paper began publishing more and more articles regarding the clashes in Stalingrad while mainly mentioning fierce defence fights and successfully repulsing the Soviet formations<sup>49</sup>. Subsequent issues also included news regarding the attempts by the Red Army near Leningrad, according to "Nowy Głos Lubelski" – utterly failed and squashed by Wehrmacht<sup>50</sup>. Due to Soviet operations, the situation was compared to the previous winter. In the newspaper, there was an article describing an inevitable German strike waiting to happen, a similar one to the spring of 1942<sup>51</sup>. On 5 February 1943, the paper acknowledged that the 6th Army was completely destroyed and by doing so, "fulfilled its duty".

The society was completely in the dark regarding the captured prisoners near Stalingrad as well as the 6th Army general, Friedrich Paulus along with two squad leaders being captured by the Soviets.

With the defeat at Stalingrad and the retreat of the Group Army A from the Caucasus, they eyes were directed to the Southern stretch of the Eastern front – Leningrad. The articles often mentioned the destroyed convoys sailing to Murmansk, Leningrad under siege and the Soviet attempts at unblocking a "starving city". It appears as if an annihilation of hundreds of thousands of people in Stalingrad did not make any lasting impressions on Germans whatsoever. The articles do not say a word about the real count of victims, soldiers sacrifice or inhuman conditions on the battlefields. The contents forwarded from Germany and states cooperating with the Third Reich to "Nowy Głos Lubelski" suggest there is no outcry or even an inch of compassion, only further propaganda-fuelled "news" from the front and politics<sup>52</sup>. The only discernible change that could be noticed was a new focus on propagating slogans encouraging the defence against barbaric peoples from the East and a European cooperation and a common fight against Bolsheviks<sup>53</sup>.

The articles published in March outlined the continuation of German charges in the South of Ukraine and the fear among the civilians. In a few of those, there were more detailed events occurring in the East where just after the Soviets entered the lands previously occupied by USSR, the local inhabitants fled West in fear of the Red Army. Such occurrences most likely took place.

<sup>47</sup> *Wyniki badań amerykańskich nad sytuacją gospodarczą osi*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 3, 6 January 1943, p. 1.

<sup>48</sup> *Walki obronne nad Donem trwają mimo mrozu, huraganów i zasp śnieżnych*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 6,9 January 1943, p. 1.

<sup>49</sup> *Niemiecka taktyka obronna w obecnej kampanii zimowej na Wschodzie*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", nr 12,16 January 1943, p. 1.

<sup>50</sup> *Bolszewicy szukają słabych punktów w niemieckiej obronie pod Leningradem*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 18,23 January 1943, p. 1.

<sup>51</sup> *Po ofensywie sowieckiej znów nastąpi okres nacechowany operacjami niemieckimi*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 22,28 January 1943, p. 1.

<sup>52</sup> *U ujścia Donu i w łuku Dońca panuje spokój*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", nr 33, 10 February 1943, 1.

<sup>53</sup> *Budzi się solidarność narodów Europy. Echa mowy min. Goebbelsa w Pałacu Sportowym w Berlinie*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 44, 23 February 1943, p. 1.

The Ukrainian people certainly recalled the great famine between 1932 and 1933 however in this case, propaganda exaggerated this news for its own purpose. The only people fleeing the Soviet units were the ones cooperating with Germans<sup>54</sup>. There was a considerable focus on Kharkov events. As usual, there was no word of the Soviet offensive which occurred by the end of February other than there were some defence actions.

Along with a temporary stabilisation of the Eastern front, there were fewer updates regarding this area. The articles at the time focused on the political and military events as well as the German economy and the predictions for the offensive in the Eastern side once the weather clears. There were no indications of what was about to happen and the utter shock of the discovery of Polish graves in Smolensk. In the 90th issue from 1943 there was a list of 50 officers that could be identified. Subsequent articles mentioned this unimaginably atrocious crime, mass graves and 12,000 bodies of Polish officers murdered by NKVD<sup>55</sup>. The next few days, "Nowy Głos Lubelski" focused mainly on the Katyn massacre. German propaganda attempted at influencing Polish people and their opinion of those events and the concerning political turbulence on the international arena. News presented in the particular issues mentioned that the British will remain indifferent to the Katyn massacre so as not to offend their ally, the Soviet Union<sup>56</sup> and hold general Sikorski accountable for breaking diplomatic relations between Poland and the Soviets, removing him from the office. The propaganda very efficiently played this massacre to its advantage to manipulate the society. Hence, we could observe that one nation's tragedy could be an element of a well-planned strategy of propaganda and politics<sup>57</sup>.

After the interruption caused by the information regarding the discovery of mass Polish graves, since 18 May 1943, the first pages began filling with the Eastern front news. The eyes were yet again directed to the Southern stretch of the Eastern front. The articles predominantly included updates from Berlin mentioning the offensive in the East and battles in the Kuban region<sup>58</sup>. Moreover, there were commentaries regarding the newly created Polish army in the Soviet Union. There was not a word of the newly created formations, only the imprisonment of Polish soldiers and officers in USSR by making direct references to the imprisonment after the September campaign by the Red Army as well as the Katyn massacre. On another note, they made attempts to reassure the society by including pieces on a constantly increasing production volumes in the Third Reich or a strong, developing economy<sup>59</sup>. The first issues from July did not include any mentions from the Eastern front. Contents of the articles were limited to the destruction of the Soviet partisan units in the scope of Group Army Centre. In the

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<sup>54</sup> *Ludność sowiecka uchodzi przed nadchodzącymi wojskami bolszewickimi*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", nr 57,10 March 1943, p. 1.

<sup>55</sup> *W masowych grobach pod Smoleńskiem złożono 10 000-12 000 zwłok oficerów polskich*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 90,17 April 1943, p. 1.

<sup>56</sup> *Zatarg polsko-sowiecki powodem konfliktu między Londynem a Waszyngtonem?* "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 102,5 May 1943, p. 1.

<sup>57</sup> *U.S.A. proponują usunięcie gen. Sikorskiego jako winnego zerwania stosunków polsko - sowieckich*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 99,1 May 1943, p. 1.

<sup>58</sup> *Eskadry lotnictwa bojowego przyczyniły się do odparcia ataków na przyczółek kubański*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 129,5 June 1943, p. 1.

<sup>59</sup> *Obecne położenie polityczne i wojskowe. Produkcja zbrojeniowa Niemiec została zwielokrotniona*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 132, 9 June 1943, p. 1.

beginning, there was very little information on the battle of Kursk and no information regarding the German offensive the goal of which was removing the bulge on the overlap of Group Army Centre and Army Group South. First mentions in the paper were the Soviet attempts at counteroffensive which were eventually crushed and were a reason for German charges<sup>60</sup>. Given that the Soviets counterattacked on the stretch between Kursk and Belgorod, it means that previously Germans had to attack somewhere in this region. However, we will not find this piece of information anywhere in any of the "Nowy Głos Lubelski" articles. Kursk became a first-page topic only in the issue 158 where there was a lot of focus on this event, especially the significance of tanks in this battle as well as the rupture of Soviet reinforcements<sup>61</sup>. As usual, the description of the battle itself did not differentiate from all the other activities in the Eastern front, the accounts of which could be read in "Nowy Głos Lubelski": German units achieve great success while the Soviet units are relentlessly destroyed as a result of a successful siege and the soldiers are then captured<sup>62</sup>.

Nevertheless, the details of the Kursk battle were far from the truth by a considerable margin. One of the articles mentions that the Soviets lost 5,000 tanks<sup>63</sup>. Naturally, this number is greatly exaggerated as the summed number of tanks and heavy artillery in the Red Army was about 5,000 altogether. Hence, a regular exaggeration of numbers on the enemy side was typical. Of course, the result of this operation was not communicated, there was only a mention of fierce fights and German charges. Along with the subsequent issues, there were more updates on the Soviet offensive which, after all was not planned by the leadership but was a result of a dire necessity due to a critical supply shortage in the Red Army<sup>64</sup>. It is worth to mention that this offensive did not produce the desired outcome and the German Army successfully repulsed them<sup>65</sup>.

There appears to be a discernible difference in accounts reported from the battle of Kursk and the battle of Stalingrad. And it does not boil down simply to a number of articles as it is quite obvious that the battle for the city on the Volga river spanned across months. The differentiating factor is the frequency of communication for the two as well as the content of the messages. Articles from July regarding the Eastern front are much different than those that overlapped time-wise with the Stalingrad battle. Despite the two cases being heavily affected by the propaganda, they seem to be communicated with different intents. In autumn 1942, articles included more data which drastically changed after the defeat of the Stalingrad battle. Of course, the faith in the victory, greatly emphasized by the propaganda efficiently disguised defeats at the front. Nevertheless, after July 1943, there could be a discernible change in the tone and form of the published articles. We could observe a somewhat disillusionment and a pinch of doubt in the overall victory.

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<sup>60</sup> *Sowiecka próba ofensywy pod Biełgorodem zamieniła się w kontrofensywę niemiecką*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 157, 9 July 1943, p. 1.

<sup>61</sup> *Pod Biełgorodem i Kurskiem toczy się wielka bitwa. Z obu stron czołgi odgrywają znaczną rolę*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 158, 10 July 1943, p. 1.

<sup>62</sup> *Między Biełgorodem a Orłem okrążono i zniszczono znaczną grupę sił sowieckich*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 161, 14 July 1943, p. 1.

<sup>63</sup> *Straty sowieckie w czołgach przekroczyły 5 000*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 169, 23 July 1943, p. 1.

<sup>64</sup> *Obecna sowiecka ofensywa letnia spowodowana została katastrofalną sytuacją aprowizacyjną*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 175, 30 July 1943, p. 1.

<sup>65</sup> *Przewaga niemieckiej broni i żołnierzy nad sowieckimi*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 175, 30 July 1943, p. 1.

The August 1943 brought nothing new the way of disclosing information regarding the Eastern front in "Nowy Głos Lubelski". As usual, the German forces were advancing and the Soviet Army was pushed East, utterly defeated or no information at all<sup>66</sup>. In mid-August, there were some mentions of the Soviet attacks in the region of Donets river<sup>67</sup>, sadly we cannot find a word regarding the battle of Smolensk which took place in the first half of the month. The reports from the other fronts however disclose the evacuation of the German and Italian armies from Sardinia as well as the Japanese plans of future attacks. There is no certainty whether the information regarding Japanese attacks were published intentionally or not. We could assume that the directions for the offensive were possibly given to confuse the enemy or utterly fictitious altogether.

By the end of August and the Dnepr battle took place in the Southern and Centre stretch of the front, "Nowy Głos Lubelski" began publishing articles concerning the defence in the East<sup>68</sup>. What is particularly interesting is that references in that paper suggest that there was no separation between the Battle of Kursk and the clashes near the Dnepr river. "A great defence battle in the East lasts more than 50 days. Soviet advancement reaches no further than 40km"<sup>69</sup>. It is worth noting that this is the first occurrence of expressions such as "Soviet advancements" or "Soviet success". Until that moment, such remarks were either not made or somewhat concealed. The contents of the other articles fit the established "mould".

By the end of July 1944 and the takeover of Lublin by the Red Army, the print was discontinued for obvious reasons. Over the course of four years, "Nowy Głos Lubelski" published articles commenting on both the local events from the Lubelski district as well as from the international arena. It was one of the Hitlerite propaganda in the area of the General Government. It is quite obvious that the content of the articles was modified and manipulated by the propaganda. It shaped the collective consciousness of readers, causing confusion, omitting details or deliberately falsifying news while, for some, being the sole source of world news. Despite this fact, this newspaper represents an invaluable historical source of interesting details regarding the World War II period.

Studying this newspaper could lead to an inescapable conclusion that the Eastern front events displayed in "Nowy Głos Lubelski" are from the truth. It is futile to look for reliable notions regarding the actual events on the front. From the moment when the German forces in the East began to lose initiative, the newspaper goes silent on the topic. Moreover, the narrative and the message conveyed is exactly the same when Wehrmacht achieved its biggest success against the Red Army. Naturally, there would be no mentions of the cruelty and atrocities of the German occupant against the people in the Lubelski district.

What is particularly interesting is the overall readership of that newspaper. We know how many copies of "Nowy Głos Lubelski" were printed, sadly we cannot possibly conclude how many people were actually reading it at the time. Hence, it is impossible to

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<sup>66</sup> *W czterodniowej bitwie na froncie Mius zniszczono doszczętnie jedną armię sowiecką*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", nr 181, 6 August 1943, p. 1.

<sup>67</sup> *Bolszewicy przerzucili swe ataki nad Doniec*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 192,19 August 1943, p. 1.

<sup>68</sup> *Wielka bitwa obronna na Wschodzie trwa z niezminiejszą gwałtownością*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 199, 27 August 1943, p. 1.

<sup>69</sup> *Potężna bitwa obronna na wschodzie trwa już ponad 50 dni. Sowietkie postępy terenowe sięgają maksimum 40km*, "Nowy Głos Lubelski", 200, 28 August 1943, p. 1.

say how much it affected the collective consciousness of the society.

Thanks to the analysis of the particular issues, the author managed to find a few details which are historically true. Nevertheless, these represent merely a drop in the ocean compared to the entirety of the articles on the subject of the Eastern front. This newspaper, despite the manipulated messages conveyed by the propaganda apparatus, should still represent a valid source in historical research as it could be used as an invaluable testimony of everyday life aspects for the people in the occupied Lubelski district from that time as well as the techniques of the press manipulation and propaganda in the Third Reich.

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