

further partition came in 1792; the end was three years later. By that time four-fifths of the country was in the hands of the Czar, the rest divided between Prussia and Austria.

During the Great War each of her masters promised her liberty. But so did the Allies, and by 1917 the majority of the Poles had staked everything on an Allied victory.

Look at Map A and you will see how on her western front Poland was reconstructed after the last war. Austria gave up the province of Galicia; Germany had to hand over West Prussia and Posen. A plebiscite was ordered in East Prussia. It was carried out in 1920, the result being favourable to Germany. The rich industrial triangle of Upper Silesia, with its hopelessly mixed population, returned seven to five in favour of Germany. The frontier, therefore, had to be drawn on a proportional basis, with results far more satisfactory than could have been hoped. Danzig became a free city and the port of Poland.

On map B you will find the famous Curzon Line, a provisional administrative line fixed in 1920. However, the Poles fought on, winning from the Soviet Union in 1921 an important stretch of country to the east of the Bug River. These gains were consolidated by the capture of Vilna two years later. Poland was now a satisfied power with strategic frontiers behind which alone she could feel secure. These gains are marked in

Map A. The new boundaries were acknowledged by Britain, France, and the United States in 1923.

However, the Sudeten crisis developed a new threat from the west, so Poland occupied the small but economically important area of Teschen, which had long been matter for dispute with Czechoslovakia.

The total population of Poland was 32,000,000 in 1931, an increase of one-quarter since the last war. About two-thirds of her population before the present war were Polish. Less than 3 per cent. were Germans; 9 per cent. were Jews, now greatly reduced by Nazi methods of extermination. White Russian and Ukrainians together totalled 17 per cent.; they inhabit the eastern districts now annexed by the U.S.S.R.

In 1939, as you will see in Map B, Poland was again partitioned by Russia and Germany. The new Eastern Frontier, the so-called Ribbentrop Line, agrees in part with the Curzon Line of 1920. Notice, however, the significant acquisition by Russia of the important bulge of which Bialystok is the centre. There the population is almost purely Polish.

To-day Poland has no boundaries except such as are hastily established and as quickly abandoned by her enemies. The true face of Poland is for the moment obscured by the ebb and flood of battle, wave upon wave of her historic foes clashing together on Polish soil.

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## Korero Illustrations

The cover for this issue of *Korero* is a reproduction of Russell Clark's "Conversation," which will be seen in the Artists In Uniform Exhibition. The other illustrations, except the photographs and the cartoon on page 22 are by *Korero* staff artists.