

T. 'Bor' Komorowski

- Address to Home Army soldiers on the first day of the Uprising, August 1, 1944
- Manifesto to inhabitants of Warsaw published in the in Home Army Press newspaper *Biuletyn Informacyjny (Information Bulletin)* on August 3, 1944
- Farewell address to the insurgents, issued after signing the act of surrender. Warsaw, October 3, 1944

Sources: Zawodny, J.K. *Nothing but Honour: The Story of the Warsaw Uprising, 1944*. Hoover Institution Press. Stanford University, Stanford California. 1978.

Komorowski 'Bor', T. *The Secret Army*. Victor Gollancz, Ltd. London, 1951.

August 1st, 1944

Soldiers of Warsaw!

Today I have issued the order you have been waiting for, the order to begin open battle against Poland's age-old enemy, the German invader.

After nearly five years of uninterrupted and heavy fighting underground, today you will carry your arms in the open in order to free your Country again and to render exemplary punishment to the German criminals for the terror and crimes committed on Polish soil.

'Bor'

Commander-in-Chief, Home Army

August 3rd, 1944

Poles!

The armed struggle for the liberation of the capital has begun.

On August 1st, the Home delegate, Vice-Premier of the Polish Government, and the Chairman of the Council of National Unity, in agreement with the Commander of the Home Army, decided to resort to arms.

Three days of battle with the occupying forces have brought us great tactical and moral successes. The forces of the Home Army have conquered the larger part of the capital, broken the enemy's resistance, and at the same time set free in every Polish heart enthusiasm for the struggle and faith in its success.

The entire Polish community, and above all the whole people of Warsaw, are coming generously and unselfishly to the aid of the fighters. All have put themselves under the orders and at the disposal of the leaders of the rising, lending all their strength and showing excellent moral discipline as well as great devotion in action.

We shall meet more than one obstacle yet on the road to complete liberation, but the united forces of the whole Polish nation, under the Polish Government in London, the Home Council of Ministers and the Commander of the Home Army, will overcome them, just as today they are breaking the resistance of the enemy in the streets of Warsaw.

All workers, peasants, labourers and the intelligentsia alike are fighting together for a democratic Poland, a Poland of social justice; a Poland of the people.

Long Live Independent Poland!

*Home Delegate and Vice-Premier of the Polish Government
Commander-in-Chief, Home Army
Chairman of the Council of National Unity*

October 3rd, 1944

Soldiers of Fighting Warsaw!

The heroic deeds of Polish soldiers which constitute two months of fighting in Warsaw are proofs, however full of horror, of our desire for freedom — our strongest desire. Our battle in the capital, in the face of death and destruction, stands in the forefront of famous deeds of Polish soldiers during this war. They will be a lasting memorial to our spirit and love of freedom. Although we were not able to gain a military victory over our enemy (since the general situation in our country was not favourable to our endeavour), those two months of fighting for every foot of Warsaw's streets and walls have fulfilled a political and ideological goal. Our struggle will influence the fate of our nation, since it is a contribution without equal in its heroism and sacrifice to the defence of our independence.

Today, when the enemy's technical superiority has forced us into the central sector of our city — the only sector still under our control — when the city's ruins are crowded with soldiers and the heroic civilian population, suffering from unbearable conditions of living on the battlefield, when we have not enough of even the most primitive food, and when there is virtually no chance of defeating the enemy, we have to confront the problem of complete destruction of the population by the enemy and the chance of having most of the fighting soldiers and hundreds of thousands of the civilian population buried under the ruins. I have decided to call a halt to the fighting.

I thank all the soldiers for their military bearing that never wavered under the most difficult conditions.

I pay homage to the dead for their suffering and sacrifice.

I want to express the admiration and gratitude of the fighting units to the population, and their affection for it. I would also like to ask their forgiveness for the transgressions, which no doubt occurred more than once in the course of this long fight.

During the cease-fire discussion I have done my best to assure our soldiers of all the rights due to them, to create the best possible living conditions and care for the civilian population so that they might be spared as much as possible of the suffering caused by the war.

I hereby ask of all soldiers, my very dear comrades during these two months of fighting, whose will to fight was unbroken to the last moment, to obey in good order all commands that will be issued as a consequence of our decision to stop fighting.

The civilian population is to obey all evacuation orders issued by me, the commanding officer of the city and the civilian administration. With faith in the final victory of our just cause, believing in our beloved, great and happy country, we will continue to be the soldiers and citizens of Free Poland, pledging allegiance to the flag of the Republic.

Komorowski
Lieutenant-General
Commander-in-Chief, Home Army