

Greater Poland Uprising 1918-1919

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The official journal of the Supreme People's Council in Poznań

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[Tygodnik Urzędowy Naczelnej Rady
Ludowej \(...\)](#)

[The need to issue an official journal \(...\)](#)

‘Tygodnik Urzędowy Naczelnej Rady Ludowej’ was the official journal of the Supreme People's Council in Poznań, published from 16 January till 31 December 1919. From issue No. 11 of 20 March 1919, its name was changed to ‘Tygodnik Urzędowy’. It contained basic normative acts as well as information and the orders of the central Polish authorities in the areas which were under the control of the Greater Poland insurgents.

Altogether 82 issues of Tygodnik Urzędowy were published, with the page headers and page numbering running continuously from the beginning after the change of name -rather than every issue individually; in total, both Tygodnik Urzędowy Naczelnej Rady Ludowej (TUNRL)/Tygodnik Urzędowy (TU) covered 52+450 pages, format 30 x 22.5 cm on the then available newsprint. Until the change in name, the name of the editor Jan Szmańda was also mentioned. The editorial office and administration of Tygodnik Urzędowy were located at 10 Pawła Street (currently A. Fredry Street), in the building of the Settlement Commission. Before the change in its name, Tygodnik Urzędowy was issued every Thursday, then irregularly depending on the need, sometimes this was even every day. A principle was established in Tygodnik Urzędowy, issue No. 32 of 31 July 1919, that it would be issued on every Saturday, irrespective of any possible extraordinary supplements. This was later repeated several times in separate announcements. In reality, however, the rule was at times subject to change - it could not be maintained like this all the time until the end of 1919 when the publication of Tygodnik Urzędowy Naczelnej Rady Ludowej was terminated. The logotype of Tygodnik Urzędowy changed from issue No. 1 with the addition of the Polish Eagle and a list of regulations included in the given issue of the journal in double-column print, if necessary, in the parallel column, a German translation of selected regulations was provided.

Throughout the period of the journal, its typesetting and printing took place in the St.

Adalbert Printing House and Bookshop in Poznań
- an institution managed by Priest Stanisław Adamski. This allowed for the application of a more or less uniform graphic layout, typesetting and font. From issue No. 48 (16 September 1919.), the regulations of the Minister of the former Prussian Partition were published. Starting from 12 January 1920, the journal came out under the name "Dziennik Urzędowy Ministerstwa Byłej Dzielniczy Pruskiej" [Official Journal of the former Prussian Partition], including specification of the place of issue: Warszawa-Poznań. The text was formatted in a single column at that time. The Official Journal of the former Prussian Partition was printed in an independent printing house. The regency building, provincial department, post office, customs office, railway authorities, police headquarters, all county offices, starosties, district police stations, municipal councils and the chambers of: agriculture, commerce and craft were all obliged to subscribe to TUNRL/TU. Subscription to TUNRL was also obligatory for Central Command and the staff of larger army units. The journal was delivered free-of-charge to members of the Supreme People's Council and powiat's people's councils, whose task was to distribute the publication among the members of local people's councils, public libraries and editorial offices of the local press. Sometimes, the circulation of the journal turned out to be insufficient, therefore efforts were made to use the existing copies rationally. Currently more or less complete lists of TUNRL/TU would, in general, be preserved in library and archival resources, as a remnant of the documentation of

the respective Polish authorities and institutions from the year 1919.

The need to issue an official journal was a consequence of the political situation in which the Greater Poland territories occupied by the insurgents found themselves until the time when the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles came into force. Until that time, the region was still a part of Germany and any attempts at transferring the models of governance from Warsaw, or using official state terminology could, pursuant to international law, be treated as interference in the affairs of a neighbouring country or separatist activities - this, in turn, would make the international situation of the region and the reborn Poland very difficult. Given these circumstances, the government system in the region, after the proceedings of the Partition Sejm of Poznań had come to an end, had to be based on a different nomenclature and principles than in the case of a fully independent state. The forced official independence of the region resulted in the establishment of institutions of administrative power with their own names (people's councils) and structures - presumably on the initiative of Priest S. Adamski - based on an economic organisation. However, the publication of an official journal, which would regulate basic issues and the functioning directions of the authorities, administration and economy of a region which was formally relying on its own resources, was inevitable. These matters were touched upon in the first issue of the journal dated 16 January 1919, when the maintenance of contact between the

Commissariat of the Supreme People's Council and the poviat's people's councils and simultaneous avoidance of any political issues was agreed upon as one of the major objectives of the publication. These issues were strictly monitored until 1 August 1919, when the Commissariat of the Supreme People's Council was liquidated and the competences of this body were assigned to the Minister of the former Prussian Partition (Tygodnik Urzędowy No. 61 of 18 November 1919, p. 315).

Nowadays, Tygodnik Urzędowy Naczelnej Rady Ludowej is the basic official source related to the history of the central authorities of the region during the functioning of the Greater Poland insurgent state. Analysis of these texts allows for the observation of the basic, central and often very detailed aspects of the functioning of the region in 1919. The first issue contained basic information regarding the composition of the Supreme People's Council and the respective divisions, also, the basic sections of TU were agreed upon. They were modified depending on the importance of the information which needed to be communicated. The publication of regulations which governed supplies to the population was started immediately. As time passed, they also covered such issues as the rules of trade, the rationing of food supplies and the exporting of articles and funds outside of the borders of the former Poznań Province. From February to the middle of September 1919, the Commissariat of the Supreme People's Council, as the political head of Armed Forces in the former Prussian Partition published information and

proclamations in Tygodnik Urzędowy, regarding the conscription of consecutive age groups of young men to the army as well as decrees regarding promotions - which were also announced in the day orders of Central Command. Legal provisions and regulations concerning, among other issues, the judiciary and educational systems as well as the functioning of the respective offices were included in TU. The information (often very detailed) published in TU is an excellent, multi-directional illustration of the situation in the region, both in economic and political terms; it also represents the huge effort put in by the inhabitants and administration of Greater Poland into the efficient functioning of the region, the supplies for the population and equipment for the army. Social pathologies, usury and price manipulation were fought against while discipline and order were taken care of. Also, information was published regularly with regards to changes of the German names of towns into Polish names -right up until the last issue of Dziennik Urzędowy Ministerstwa b. Dzielnic Pruskiej (No. 4, dated 8 April 1922). A separate, though still important section of TUNRL contained announcements and communications regarding the activities of economic associations. Their number was always gradually increasing and in some issues of the journal they accounted for 1/3 of the volume of a given issue. The reading of those announcements is a valuable source for analysing the functioning of institutions, companies and banks in Greater Poland in the year 1919. It also allows for an insight into the private lives and official matters of the inhabitants of the region.

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