

● The National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation coins commemorating the events of September 1939, with the following face values:

2 zł – struck in standard finish, in Nordic Gold,
on 24 August 2009

200 zł – struck in proof finish, in gold,
10 zł – struck in proof finish, in silver.
on 28 August 2009

The National Bank of Poland

holds the exclusive right to issue the currency
in the Republic of Poland.

In addition to issuing **coins and banknotes of general circulation**, the NBP issues **collector coins and banknotes**. The issue of collector items is designed both to commemorate events, anniversaries and well-known personalities and to disseminate knowledge about Polish culture, science and tradition.

Since 1996, the NBP has also been issuing occasional Nordic Gold coins of 2 złoty denomination.

All coins and banknotes issued by the NBP are legal tender in Poland.

NBP

National Bank of Poland

COINS



COINS ISSUED IN 2009 COINS ISSUED IN 2009



Information on the schedule of issue
and the sale of coins can be found at the websites:

www.nbp.pl
www.numizmatyka.nbportal.pl

The coins have been struck at the Mint of Poland in Warsaw.

Edited and printed: NBP Printing Office

September 1939
Warszawa, Wieluń,
Westerplatte

September 1939 – Warszawa, Wieluń, Westerplatte

Poland's Defensive War in 1939

- The outbreak of World War II was tragic in its consequences for Poland – it led to complete destruction of the Polish state reborn in 1918.
- On 1 September 1939, Poland was militarily confronted with a powerful war machine of the Third Reich, and, on 17 September, also with the forces of Poland's eastern neighbour – the Soviet Russia. The disproportion in military strength was enormous. Despite the dedication of Polish soldiers and patriotic attitude of the people, the defeat was inevitable. The relief forces of France and Great Britain, Poland's allies, did not come.
- In this situation, as many soldiers as possible were evacuated through Romania to France and Great Britain in order to continue the fight.
- Poland had to face five long years of occupation, immense financial, territorial and population losses and, which was especially painful, the extermination of a significant number of representatives of the Polish intelligentsia.

Defence of Warsaw

- Since 1 September, Polish capital city became the primary target for the German air forces.
- The direct threat for Warsaw came on 3 September after the German forces broke through Polish defences near Częstochowa. The Command of the Defence of Warsaw was established on that day, with Brigadier General Walerian Czuma in command. At the same time, the Warszawa Army commanded by Major General Juliusz Rómmel was created. Additionally, numerous volunteer units were gathered. The municipal

government together with the Mayor of Warsaw Stefan Starzyński, who took the position of Civilian Commissar at the Warsaw Defence Command, also played a major role.

- On 8 September, German armoured divisions reached the outskirts of Warsaw and attacked the city straight away. The attacks of 8 and 9 September were repulsed.
- On 15 September, the Germans surrounded the city completely. In total, there were approximately 120 thousand soldiers in the besieged capital. Civilians also joined the fight. Warsaw was under indiscriminate artillery shelling and aerial bombing. The heaviest bombing raids took place on 17 and 25 September. On 26 and 27 September the Germans tried to capture Polish positions but to no avail.
- In the meantime, the situation of the Warsaw defenders was getting worse. They lacked in water, food and ammunition. On 28 September, Warsaw surrendered. For the city and its inhabitants a long period of occupation and resistance fight was about to begin.

Bombing Wieluń

- Before the war, Wieluń was a small town located 20 kilometers from the then Polish-German border.
- On 1 September at 04.40 a.m., the town was assaulted by Luftwaffe dive bombers. Approximately 70% of the building structures were destroyed. 90% of the historic old town was ruined. 1,200 civilians died.
- The bombing had no military justification – there were no Polish military forces stationed in the town. The German side claims the

attack was a result of a mistake of the Nazi intelligence services who reported that there was a Polish cavalry brigade stationed in the town. This information was not true. The Polish side recognizes this bombing as a war crime.

Defence of Westerplatte

- Since 1926, an ammunition storehouse of the Polish Army called the Military Transit Depot had been located on the Westerplatte peninsula. In 1939, around 180 soldiers and officers were garrisoned there.
- On 1 September at 04.45 a.m., Schleswig-Holstein battleship started shelling Westerplatte. The assault troops supported by heavy artillery and dive bombers began their charge. German military advantage was immense.
- Polish soldiers were supposed to defend Westerplatte outpost for several hours only, but they managed to defend their position for seven days. Fifteen Polish soldiers were killed and about 50 were wounded. German losses amounted to 300–400 killed and wounded.
- The defence of Westerplatte was significant not only in symbolic terms, but in military terms as well. For 7 days the defenders were able to tie down significant German forces, which, as a consequence, could not be used elsewhere.

Wojciech Krajewski
Polish Army Museum in Warsaw

COINS ISSUED IN 2009 COINS ISSUED IN 2009 COINS ISSUED IN 2009 COINS ISSUED IN 2009 COINS ISSUED IN 2009 COINS ISSUED IN 2009 COINS ISSUED IN 2009



FACE VALUE **200** ZŁ

metal **900/1000 Au** ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **27.00 mm**
weight **15.50 g** ■ mintage (volume) **10,500 pcs**

OBVERSE: On the left-hand side, an image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. Against the background of the Eagle, a stylized image of flames. On the right-hand side, a stylized image of the monument of the Warsaw Mermaid. At the bottom, the inscription: 200 ZŁ. At the top, the semicircular inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (the Republic of Poland) and the notation of the year of issue: 2009. The Mint's mark, M/W, under the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: On the left-hand side, a silhouette of the burning Clock Tower against the background of a stylized face of the clock of the Royal Castle in Warsaw. Above, a stylized image of a plane dropping bombs. In the centre, the vertical inscription: WARSZAWA/WRZESIEŃ 1939 (Warsaw/September 1939). On the right-hand side, a stylized image of the bust of Stefan Starzyński. Underneath, the semicircular inscription: STEFAN STARZYŃSKI.

Coin designer: **DOMINIKA KARPIŃSKA-KOPIEC**



FACE VALUE **10** ZŁ

metal **925/1000 Ag** ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **32.00 mm**
weight **14.14 g** ■ mintage (volume) **100,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: At the top, an image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. Below the Eagle, a stylized image of the territory of the Republic of Poland with its borders as of 1 September 1939. In the middle of the territory, a stylized image of a crack. On the left-hand side, an arrow with the symbol of swastika, on the right-hand side, an arrow with the hammer and sickle both pointing at the territory of the Republic of Poland symbolizing German and Russian invasion. Below the arrows, the dates: 01.09.1939 and 17.09.1939. In the rim, the inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (the Republic of Poland) and the notation of the year of issue: 2009. At the bottom, the inscription: 10 ZŁ. The Mint's mark, M/W, under the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: Stylized images of three Junkers planes against the background of clouds and falling bombs. Among the clouds, a stylized image of the Town Hall with the Cracow Gate in Wieluń. At the top, the semicircular inscription: WIELUŃ – 1 WRZEŚNIA 1939 (Wieluń – 1 September 1939).

Obverse designer: **URSZULA WALERZAK**
Reverse designer: **WOJCIECH SIUDMAK**



FACE VALUE **2** ZŁ

metal **CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy** ■ finish **standard** ■ diameter **27.00 mm**
weight **8.15 g** ■ mintage (volume) **1,400,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: An image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. On the sides of the Eagle, the notation of the year of issue: 20-09, under the Eagle, the inscription: ZŁ 2 ZŁ, in the rim, the inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (the Republic of Poland), preceded and followed by six pearls. The Mint's mark, M/W, under the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: At the top, starting from the left, stylized images of: lt. Stefan Grodecki, cpt. Mieczysław Ślaby and cpt. Franciszek Dąbrowski. In the centre, the inscription: WESTERPLATTE/WRZESIEŃ 1939 (Westerplatte/September 1939). Below the inscription, a stylized silhouette of a cloud of smoke floating above Westerplatte.

ON THE EDGE: An inscription: NBP, repeated eight times, every second one inverted by 180 degrees, separated by stars.

Obverse designer: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**
Reverse designer: **DOMINIKA KARPIŃSKA-KOPIEC**