

All Polish collector coins feature:

- face value
- image of the Eagle established as the state emblem of the Republic of Poland
- inscription: Rzeczpospolita Polska
- year of issue



Issuing collector items is an occasion to commemorate important historic figures and anniversaries, as well as to develop the interest of the public in Polish culture, science and tradition.

Information on the issue schedule can be found at the www.nbp.pl/money website.

Should you have any questions, please contact our consultants at the following phone numbers: +48 22 185 91 59 and +48 22 185 13 03.

Collector coins issued by NBP are sold at NBP regional branches and in the NBP online shop.

On 20 September 2019, Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation a silver coin “90th Anniversary of the Birth of Anna Walentynowicz.”

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Narodowy Bank Polski

We protect the value of money

NBP

Narodowy Bank Polski

The Polish Thermopylae

Wizna



Collector coins

The Polish Thermopylae – Wizna

The battle of Wizna is one of the most famous episodes of the heroic defence of Poland in September 1939. A fortified defence line guarding the crossing of the Narew River was located near the village of Wizna. It was commanded by the thirty-one-year-old Captain Władysław Raginis. He had an infantry battalion, including a fortress company and an engineer company, at his disposal. The battalion was more than 350 soldiers and officers strong (not 700, as older publications stated), armed with six cannons, 24 heavy machine guns and two antitank rifles. The battalion occupied eight reinforced concrete bunkers, with the one located on Góra Strękowa serving as the headquarters. With these forces the commander of Wizna held off the armoured corps of several dozen thousand soldiers under one of the best German commanders, General Heinz Guderian, for three days.

The German troops approached Wizna on 7 September and struck the Poles on the following day. Raginis' men did not succumb to the powerful artillery fire and countered the initial attack. On the following day, they halted further attacks, destroying a dozen or so enemy tanks. The deputy commander, Lieutenant Stanisław Brykalski, was killed in the fighting, and the Captain was heavily wounded.

On 10 September, when the Germans had already destroyed most of the Polish bunkers, Captain Raginis committed suicide by throwing himself on a grenade. He was



faithful to his oath in which he swore not to surrender his position. As historian Apoloniusz Zawilski wrote about the brave commander, “He had always displayed an extraordinary sense of duty and dogged persistence.” The bravery of Raginis made him a hero of September 1939 – the uneven battle fought by the Polish Army with two aggressors, Germany and the Soviet Union. The bunkers defending the Wizna line under his command earned the honourable name of the Polish Thermopylae.

On 29 August 2019, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a silver coin of the series “The Polish Thermopylae” – Wizna, with a face value of 20 złoty.

Face value 20 zł

Metal: Ag 925/1000

Finish: proof

Diameter: 38.61 mm

Weight: 28.28 g

Edge (side): plain

Mintage: up to 15,000 pcs



Obverse designer: Urszula Walerzak

Reverse designer: Anna Wątróbska-Wdowiarska

Issuer: NBP

The coins, commissioned by NBP, were struck by Mennica Polska S.A.

In 2012, Captain Władysław Raginis was posthumously promoted to the rank of major.

Marek Gałęzowski, PhD

The reverse of the coin features an image of Major Władysław Raginis against the background of the bunker near Góra Strękowa (known as the Raginis' bunker).

The obverse of all the coins of the “Polish Thermopylae” series features Athena, the goddess of just war and wisdom.