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History, Russia

"... But protect us from sin oblivion"

Those who managed to survive and escape from the Soviet Union, it really had nowhere else to go. Polish in pre-1939. Yet it was not already. Many therefore chosen to emigrate. Those who returned, like Anders Army soldiers, also in homeland suffered repression. After World War II were deported to Irkutsk 4.5 thousand. former soldiers of Anders Army and their families. In People's Poland did not talk about zsyłkach, and even less about the difficult conditions of life and the dramatic fate of the deportees. It was only in the 90s after the collapse of the USSR, they were exiles could start thinking of visiting the graves of relatives who have been unable to survive. Then a lot of people looking for information about the graves and documents coming from exile. Russian organization "Memorial" was flooded with letters from former Polish exiles.

They deported northwest Russia could also count on the support of History-Social Educational Organization "Sowiest" ("Conscience") from Kotlas (Archangelsk circuit). Letters asking for help in obtaining this information coming in from the Poles from all over the world.

In the 90s, it was erected to commemorate and designated some Polish cemeteries. However, it is the proverbial "drop in the ocean" to the quantities forgotten and unfound Polish graves. But almost every time *specposiołku* Polish cemetery was established, which could cover only a few graves, but there are also those who carry more than 100 people. Only a small number of cemeteries is adequately protected, renovated, marked and documented. Location of many cemeteries is becoming increasingly difficult to determine, since the witnesses of these events go, and graves and crosses blurred.

In Siberia hard to find Polish cemeteries. Even the old ones, which were established by the tsarist regime were long ago destroyed. The more it is worth quoting the story of Don. Andrew Obuchowski.

"Bijsk Catholic cemetery was one of the oldest in the province. It was established in the second half. Eighteenth century. After a frantic revolution was swept away along with the chapel. Today, even the oldest people are not sure of its location, because everywhere the forest grows. A similar fate befell the cemetery during the war . The Altai country went officially over 17 000 Poles. Alive in Bijsku and its immediate environs asked to allocate space for burying their loved ones on the outskirts of the city. Hence a cemetery that after their departure fell into oblivion. First it was demolished, then bulldozers leveled land. And in the end they use "play" for the construction of houses - which today is called the residents' houses on the bones. "Apparently by Mikhail Gorbachev came to order the transfer of the remnant of the cemetery in a new place. They had to rest in a common grave" of Polish citizens dead during the Patriotic War in 1941 -45 ". Today it is not certain whether a neighboring grave of Władysław Jaruzelski is symbolic - is true. But in November, they burn candles and there are flowers.

How much, however, is nameless graves in the Altai? How many graves scattered among the steppe and forests, where there is neither cross nor boulder with an inscription. Nor anyone who lifted the simplest prayer for the eternal peace for them.

Three years ago they came to Bijsk tourists from Polish. There is always a lot of them here, because mountains beckon backpackers for their visit, and the parish is on the verge of their routes. But those looking for something else - the place of burial of their relatives whom had never seen. Lily and John Augustine knew some of the village, where once lived and worked their mother and relatives. Polish transcription of the names had to be converted into a real village.

With the parish received the all-terrain vehicle and a local driver, who also worked as "rozwiadczyk." And despite the fact that already there is neither an old town, and the road overgrown thicket in the forest - they managed to get there. Sergei Michałowicz worked in the woods as a tractor and summer drove by "Polish Cross", heading for mowing or clearing of the forest. He knew the history of this

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place. Jużny village was here (in Polish - South). A lot of it was "rozkułaczonych" Ukrainians and Russians. In 1941, the Poles sent arrived here from Ukraine. Specially selected this place because it was special. For the next village we had to walk 14 km through the forest, and another was 30 km away. Often on the road leaving the wolf and lynx that his views changed the traveling plans. On the other hand, the huge Ob (also for him, it was still 30 km) did not allow its waters to any escape. I think that in winter, when the ice skuwał river.

For Poles prepared a separate barracks about two kilometers from the old village. So that there was no contact between the residents. To this day, in the middle of the taiga, there are two big clearing. But in vain they look for any traces of wooden homes. It has long overgrown and forest wealth encroached stand. Polish first lived separately. They tried to assist in his difficult fate. When the weakest died from exhaustion, they came to take care of their burial. Wyprosili on a piece of land on the edge of the village. There erected a large wooden cross, and next they began to bury their loved ones, whose heart sank five thousand kilometers from the family home. After the amnesty, some of them left the army Anders, others had to wait until 1946. Then I always left the prison, which was taiga bars, cold and homesickness. In the sixties they began to leave and the Russians. In the end, the village disappeared and the forest began to fill empty spaces.

Exactly such a place reached three years ago the State Augustine. If it were not cross - not possible to discern the cemetery in the sea of trees and shrubs. They took from thence birch twigs and everything documented photographically. And probably so that everything ended, if not their family, who decided to save from oblivion this place. It has earmarked funds to boards for fences, a marble plaque and transport. And at their request Bijsk diaspora together with the pastor went in early September for a forgotten village "Jużny". The route was difficult because large trucks exporting tree so rozjeżdżyły way that on several occasions it was necessary to draw a small truck with mud calorific. In the end, he upsets the driver protested, "you had to take a tank on the road and not me!" But the financial satisfaction has changed rebellion and after a few hours of wandering we got there. Immediately the entire crew went to work - some dug holes under the fence of the cemetery, others cut down trees and bushes. Still others were preparing the foundation for a huge boulder with a commemorative plaque. Only the great heat and the biting flies clusters slowed down the work. It came at the end soothe thirst water intended for work with dirty cement, construction barrels. Stocks of drinking water long gone. After a late lunch, it was decided that while the will still light - the work continue. Already in the red rays of the setting sun lit candles and gathered around the cross. And then with the wind I felt the history of the place. Crying terrified people, their homesickness and faith. Faith, he stood before the cross, which it expressed. And after sixty years devoted cemetery, his voice breaking, walking among the graves exposed from the brush. Now, you could see their shapes overgrown with grass. 30-40 graves. Nameless for us - but not for God, who knows them all.

We left Jużnego with full satisfaction. I, as a priest gave last rites so many waiting for it after more than 60 years. A Bijsk Polonia - because she could pay homage to his countrymen. And this show that their whereabouts are not indifferent to them. "

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The text used in the following studies:

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Ed. Wenczesław Wasilewski based on historical magazine "Independence and memory," 1996 No. 6 and other materials concerning the fate of the Poles in the USSR

and: www.stopnwogdansk.blogspot.com

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