

Ukrainian Insurgent Army

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The **Ukrainian Insurgent Army** (Ukrainian: Українська Повстанська Армія, УПА, *Ukrayins'ka Povstans'ka Armiya*, **UPA**) was a Ukrainian nationalist paramilitary and later partisan army that engaged in a series of guerrilla conflicts during World War II against Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and both Underground and Communist Poland. The insurgent army arose out of separate militant formations of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists—Bandera faction (the OUN-B), other militant national-patriotic formations, some defectors of the Ukrainian Auxiliary Police, mobilization of local population and other.^[1] The political leadership of the army belonged to the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists—Bandera.^[1]

Its official date of creation is 14 October 1942,^[2] day of Intercession of the Theotokos feast. The Ukrainian People's Revolutionary Army at the period from December 1941 till July 1943 has the same name (Ukrainian Insurgent Army or UPA).^[3]

The OUN's stated immediate goal was the re-establishment of a united, independent, mono-ethnic national state on Ukrainian ethnic territory. Violence was accepted as a political tool against foreign as well as domestic enemies of their cause, which was to be achieved by a national revolution led by a dictatorship that would drive out what they considered to be occupying powers and set up a government representing all regions and social groups.^[4] The organization began as a resistance group and developed into a guerrilla army.^[5]

During its existence, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army fought against the Poles and the Soviets as their primary opponents, although the organization also fought against the Germans starting from February 1943 - with many cases of collaboration with the German forces in fight against Soviet partisan units. From late spring 1944, the UPA and Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists-B (OUN-B)—faced with Soviet advances—also temporarily cooperated with German forces against the Soviets and Poles in the hope of creating an independent Ukrainian state.^[6] The OUN also played a substantial role in the ethnic cleansing of the Polish population of Volhynia and East Galicia,^{[7][8][9][10][11]} and later preventing the deportation of the Ukrainians in southeastern Poland.^[12]

After the end of World War II, the Polish communist army—the People's Army of Poland—fought extensively against the UPA. The UPA remained active and fought against the People's Republic of Poland until 1947, and against the Soviet Union until 1949. It was particularly strong in the Carpathian Mountains, the entirety of Galicia and in Volhynia—in modern Western Ukraine. By the

Ukrainian Insurgent Army Українська Повстанська Армія Participant in World War II	
	
Battle flag of the UPA	
Active	14 October 1942 – 1949 (active) 1949–1956 (localized)
Ideology	Ukrainian nationalism
Leaders	Vasyl Ivakhiv Dmytro Klyachkivsky Roman Shukhevych Vasyl Kuk
Area of operations	Volhynia Polesia Halychyna Podilia Carpathia
Strength	20,000–200,000 (estimated)
Part of	Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists
Opponents	 Soviet Union (Red Army, NKGB, NKVD, partisans)  Nazi Germany  Polish Underground State (Armia Krajowa)  People's Republic of Poland (People's Army)  Czechoslovakia (Czechoslovak Army)

late 1940s, the mortality rate for Soviet troops fighting Ukrainian insurgents in Western Ukraine was higher than the mortality rate for Soviet troops during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.^{[13][14]} Among the anti-Nazi resistance movements, it was unique in that it had no significant foreign support. Its growth and strength were a reflection of the popularity it enjoyed among the people of Western Ukraine.^{[15][16]} Outside of Western Ukraine, support was not significant, and the majority of the Soviet (Eastern) Ukrainian population considered, and at times still view, the OUN/UPA to have been primarily collaborators with the Germans.^[17]

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Organization

The UPA's command structure overlapped with that of the underground nationalist political party, the OUN, in a sophisticated centralized network. The UPA was responsible for military operations while the OUN was in charge of administrative duties; each had its own chain of command. The six main departments were military, political, security service, mobilization, supply, and the Ukrainian Red Cross. Despite the division between the UPA and the OUN, there was overlap between their posts and the local OUN and UPA leaders were frequently the same person. Organizational methods were borrowed and adapted from the German, Polish and Soviet military, while UPA units based their training on a modified Red Army field unit manual.^[18]



UPA Commanders left to right: Oleksander Stepchuk, Ivan Klimchak, Nikon Semeniuk 1941-1942

The General Staff, formed at the end of 1943 consisted of operations, intelligence, training, logistics, personnel and political education departments. UPA's largest units, *Kurins*, consisting of 500-700 soldiers,^[19] were equivalent to battalions in a regular army, and its smallest units, *Riys* (literally bee swarm), with eight to ten soldiers,^[19] were equivalent to squads.^[18] Occasionally, and particularly in Volyn, during some operations three or more *Kurins* would unite and form a *Zahin* or Brigade.^[19]

UPA's leaders were: Vasyl Ivakhiv (spring – 13 of May 1943), Dmytro Klyachivsky, Roman Shukhevych (January 1944 until 1950)^[20] and finally Vasyl Kuk.

In November 1943, the UPA adopted a new structure, creating a Main Military Headquarters and three areas (group) commands: UPA-West, UPA-North and UPA-South. Three military schools for low-level command staff were also established.

Former policemen constituted a large proportion of the UPA leadership, and they comprised about half of the UPA membership in 1943.^[21] In terms of UPA soldiers' social background, 60 percent were peasants of low to moderate means, 20-25 percent were from the working class (primarily from the rural lumber and food industries), and 15 percent members of the intelligentsia (students, urban professionals). The latter group provided a large portion of the UPA's military trainers and officer corps.^[18] With respect to the origins of UPA's members, 60 percent were from Galicia and 30 percent from Volhynia and Polesia.^[22]

The number of UPA fighters varied. A German Abwehr report from November 1943 estimated that the UPA had 20,000 soldiers;^[23] other estimates at that time placed the number at 40,000.^[24] By the summer of 1944, estimates of UPA membership varied from 25-30 thousand fighters^[25] up to 100,000^{[24][26]} or even 200,000 soldiers^[27]

Structure

The Ukrainian Insurgent Army was structured into four units:^[28]

1. UPA-North

Regions: Volhynia, Polissia.

■ Military District «Turiv»

Commander — Maj. Rudyj.

Squads: «Bohun», «Pomsta Polissja», «Nalyvajko».

■ Military District «Zahrava»

Commander — Ptashka (Sylvester Zatovkanjuk).

Squads: «Konovaletsj», «Enej», «Dubovyj», «Oleh».

■ Military District « Volhynia-South»

Commander — Bereza.

Squads: «Kruk», «H.».

2. UPA-West

Regions: Halychyna, Bukovyna, Zakarpattia, Zakerzonja.



UPA propaganda poster. OUN/UPAs formal greeting is written in Ukrainian on two of the horizontal lines *Glory to Ukraine- Glory to (her) Heroes*. The soldier is standing on the banners of the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany.

- **Military District «Lysonja»**
Commander — Maj. Hrim, V.
Kurins: «Holodnojarcii», «Burlaky», «Lisovyky», «Rubachi», «Bujni», «Holky».
- **Military District «Hoverlja»**
Commander — Maj. Stepovyj (from 1945 — Major Hmara).
Kurins: «Bukovyns'kyj», «Peremoha», «Haidamaky», «Hucul'skyi», «Karpats'kyi».
- **Military District «Black Forest»**
Commander — Col. Rizun-Hrehit (Mykola Andrusjak).
Kurins: «Smertonosci», «Pidkarpats'kyi», «Dzvony», «Syvulja», «Dovbush», «Beskyd», «Menyky».
- **Military District «Makivka»**
Commander — Maj. Kozak.
Kurins: «Ljvy», «Bulava», «Zubry», «Letuny», «Zhuravli», «Boiky of Chmelnyts'kyi», «Basejn».
- **Military District «Buh»**
Commander — Col. Voronnyi
Kurins: «Druzhynnyky», «Halajda», «Kochovyky», «Perejaslavy», «Tyhry», «Perebyjnis»
- **Military District «Sjan»**
Commander — Orest
Kurins: «Vovky», «Menyky», Kurin of Ren, Kurin of Eugene.

3. UPA-South

Regions: Khmelnytskyi Oblast, Zhytomyr Oblast, southern region of Kyiv Oblast, southern regions of Ukraine,

and especially in cities Odessa, Kryvyi Rih, Dnipropetrovsk, Mariupol, Donetsk.

- **Military District «Cholodnyj Yar»**
Commander — Kost'.
Kurins: Kurin of Sabljuk, Kurin of Dovbush.
- **Military District «Umanj»**
Commander — Ostap.
Kurins: Kurin of Dovbenko, Kurin of Buvalyj, Kurin of Andrij-Shum.
- **Military District «Vinnytsia»**
Commander — Jasen.
Kurins: Kurin of Storchan, Kurin of Mamaj, Kurin of Burevij.

4. UPA-East

Regions: northern strip of Zhytomyr Oblast, northern region of Kyiv Oblast, and Chernihiv Oblast.

Anthem

The anthem of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army was called the *March of the Ukrainian Nationalists*, also known as *We were born in a great hour* (Ukrainian: *Зродились ми великої години*). The song, written by Oles Babiychuk, was officially adopted by the leadership of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists in 1932.^[29]

The organization was a successor of the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen, whose anthem was "Chervona Kalyna". Leaders of the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen Yevhen Konovalets and Andriy Melnyk were founding members of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists. For this reason, "Chervona Kalyna" was frequently used by the Ukrainian Insurgent Army.^{[30][31][32]}

Ukrainian language version

English language version

Ой, у лузі червона калина похилилася.
Чогось наша славна Україна зажурилася.
А ми тую червону калину підіймемо,
А ми нашу славну Україну, гей! гей!
розвеселимо!

Не хилися, червона калина – маєш білий цвіт.
Не журися, славна Україна – маєш добрий
рід.
А ми тую червону калину підіймемо,
А ми нашу славну Україну, гей! гей!
розвеселимо!

Марширують наші добровольці у кривавий
тан,
Визволяти братів-українців з московських
(ворожих) кайдан.
А ми наших братів-українців визволимо,
А ми нашу славну Україну, гей, гей,
розвеселимо!

Ой, у полі ярої пшенички золотистий лан,
Розпочали наші добровольці з москалями
(ворогами) тан!
А ми тую ярую пшеничку ізберемо,
А ми нашу славну Україну, гей! гей!
розвеселимо!

Як повіє буйнесенький вітер з широких
степів,
То прославить по всій Україні січових
стрільців.
А ми тую стрілецьку славу збережемо,
А ми нашу славну Україну, гей! гей!
розвеселимо!

Hey, in meadow the red guelder rose has tilted.
For some reason our glorious Ukraine has saddened.
And we will lift up that red viburnum back to the top,
And we will cheer up our glorious Ukraine!

Do not tilt, the red viburnum, for you have a white
bloom.
Do not be saddened, the glorious Ukraine, for you
have a good heritage.
And we lift up that red viburnum,
And we make our glorious Ukraine to rejoice!

There are marching our volunteers into bloody dance,
To liberate brothers-Ukrainians out of Moscowian
(enemy) chains.
And we will break those Moscowian chains,
And we make our glorious Ukraine to rejoice!

Hey, the field is flooded with the golden wheat,
Our volunteers have begun the dance with Moskals
(enemies)!
And we will harvest that wheat,
And we make our glorious Ukraine to rejoice!

As the strong-like wind will blow out of the wide
steppes,
He will glorify the Sich Riflemen across the whole
Ukraine.
And we will keep the Riflemen glory,
And we make our glorious Ukraine to rejoice!

Oath of the Soldier of Ukrainian Insurgent Army

This oath approved by the Ukrainian Supreme Liberation Council and implemented by General Order No. 7, dated 19 July 1944.

I, a fighter in the Ukrainian Insurgent Army,

with weapons in my hands, proudly swear with my honour and conscience in front of the Great Nation of Ukraine, in front of the Holy Land of Ukraine, in front of the spilled blood of all the Best sons of Ukraine and in front of the Highest Political Leadership of the Ukrainian Nation:

To fight for the complete liberation of all Ukrainian lands and Ukrainian people from the invaders and to succeed in creating the Ukrainian Independent Sovereign State.

In this battle I will not have any remorse for my blood or my life and will fight until my final breath and definite victory over all of the enemies of Ukraine. I will be brave, courageous and valiant in the battle and pitiless to the enemies of Ukrainian land. I will be a honest, disciplined and vigilant revolutionary. I will do all of the commands from the ranks above me. Strictly will I preserve all military and all national secrets. I will be worth my brothers in the battlefield and in battle life to all of my brothers in arms.

When I will breach, or back down from this oath, I should be rightly punished by the just law of the Ukrainian National Revolution and let the dishonour of Ukrainian People fall on me.

Flag









The battle flag of the UPA was a 2:3 ratio red-and-black banner. The flag continues to be a symbol of the Ukrainian nationalist movement. The colors of the flag symbolize 'Ukrainian red blood spilled on Ukrainian black earth'.^[33] Use of the flag is also a "sign of the stubborn endurance of the Ukrainian national idea even under the grimmest conditions."^[34]

Awards

- Cross of Merit
- Cross of Combat Merit

Military ranks

The UPA made use of a dual rank-system that included functional command position designations and traditional military ranks. The functional system was developed due to an acute shortage of qualified and politically reliable officers during the early stages of organization.^[35]

							
SUPREME COMMANDER	REGIONAL COMMANDER	DIVISION (MILITARY DISTRICT) COMMANDER	BRIGADE (TACTICAL SECTOR) COMMANDER	BATTALION COMMANDER	COMPANY COMMANDER	PLATOON LEADER	SQUAD LEADER

UPA rank structure consisted of at least seven commissioned officer ranks, four non-commissioned officer ranks, and two soldier ranks. The hierarchical order of known ranks and their approximate U.S. Army equivalent is as follows:[36]

UPA RANKS	US ARMY EQUIVALENTS
Heneral-Khorunzhyi	Brigadier General
Polkovnyk	Colonel
Pidpolkovnyk	Lieutenant Colonel
Maior	Major
Sotnyk	Captain
Poruchnyk	First Lieutenant
Khorunzhyi	Second Lieutenant
Starshyi Bulavnyi	Master Sergeant
Bulavnyi	Sergeant First Class
Starshyi Vistun	Staff Sergeant
Vistun	Sergeant
Starshyi Strilets	Private First Class
Strilets	Private

The rank scheme provided for three more higher general officer ranks: Heneral-Poruchnyk (Major General), Heneral-Polkovnyk (Lieutenant General), and Heneral-Pikhoty (General with Four Stars).

Armaments

Initially, the UPA used the weapons collected from the battlefields of 1939 and 1941. Later they bought weapons from peasants and individual soldiers, or captured them in combat. Some light weapons were also brought by deserting Ukrainian auxiliary policemen. For the most part, the UPA used light infantry weapons of Soviet and, to a lesser extent, German origin (for which ammunition was less readily obtainable). In 1944, German units armed the UPA directly with captured Soviet arms. Many kurins were equipped with light 51 mm and 82 mm mortars. During large-scale operations in 1943-1944, insurgent forces also used artillery (45 mm and 76.2 mm).[37] In 1943 a light Hungarian tank was used in Volhynia.[37][38]

In 1944, the Soviets captured a Polikarpov Po-2 aircraft and one armored car and one personnel carrier from UPA; however, it was not stated that they were in operable condition, while no OUN/UPA documents noted the usage of such equipment.[39] By end of World War II in Europe the NKVD had captured 45 artillery pieces (45 and 76.2 mm calibers) and 423 mortars from the UPA. In the attacks against Polish civilians, axes and pikes were used.[37] However, the light infantry weapon was the basic weapon used by the UPA.[40]

Formation

1941

Armies of Ukraine

 Kyivan Rus' /  Kingdom of Galicia–Volhynia

In a memorandum from August 14, 1941 the OUN (B) proposed to the Germans, to create a Ukrainian Army "which will join the German Army ... until the latter will win" (preferable translation: "which will unite with the German Army ... until [our] final victory"), in exchange for German recognition of an allied Ukrainian independent state.^[41] The Ukrainian Army was planned to have been formed on the basis of DUN (Detachments of Ukrainian Nationalists - *Druzhyny Ukrainskykh Natsionalistiv*) and specifically on the basis of the "Ukrainian legion", at that time composed of two battalions "Nachtigall" and "Roland." These two battalions were included in the Abwehr special regiment "Brandenburg-800". However, these proposals were not accepted by the Germans, and by the middle of September 1941 the Germans began a campaign of repression against the most proactive OUN members.

At the beginning of October 1941, during the first OUN Conference, the OUN formulated its future strategy. This called for transferring part of its organizational structure underground, in order to avoid conflict with the Germans. It also refrained from open anti-German propaganda activities.^[42] At the same time, the OUN tried to infiltrate its own members into and create its own network within the German Auxiliary police.

A captured German document of November 25, 1941 (Nuremberg Trial O14-USSR) ordered: "It has been ascertained that the Bandera Movement is preparing a revolt in the Reichskommissariat which has as its ultimate aim the establishment of an independent Ukraine. All functionaries of the Bandera Movement must be arrested at once and, after thorough interrogation, are to be liquidated..."^[43] By the end of November 1941, both the "Ukrainian Legions" Roland and Nachtigall were disbanded and the remaining soldiers (approximately 650 people) were given the option of signing a contract for military service after being transferred to Germany for further military training. At the same time (end of November 1941) the Germans started a second wave of repression in Reichskommissariat Ukraine specifically targeting OUN (B) members. Most of the captured OUN activists in Reichskommissariat Ukraine however, belonged to OUN (M) wing.

- *Druzhyna* (862–1240)
- *Voyi*

Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

- *Registered Cossacks*
- *Zaporozhian Cossacks* (1492–1648)

Zaporizhian Host

- *Zaporozhian Cossacks* (1648–1775)

Austria-Hungary

- *Legion of Sich Riflemen* (1914–1918)

Ukrainian People's Republic

- Ukrainian People's Army (1917–21)
- Sich Riflemen (1917–21)
- Ukrainian Galician Army (1918–19)

Free Territory

- Revolutionary Insurrectionary Army (1918–1921)

Carpatho-Ukraine

- Carpathian Sich (1938-39)

Ukrainian National Government

- UPRA (1941–1944)
- **Ukrainian Insurgent Army** (1941–1955)

Ukrainian SSR

- Red Cossacks
- Ukrainian Soviet Army (1918–19)
- none (1919–1991), part of the Soviet Armed Forces

Ukraine

- Armed Forces (1992–Present)

At the Second Conference of the OUN(B), held in April 1942, the policies for the “creation, build-up and development of Ukrainian political and future military forces” and “action against partisan activity supported by Moscow” were adopted. Although German policies were criticized, the Soviet partisans were identified as the primary enemy of OUN (B).^[44]

In July 1942 OUN (B) issued a statement in which it stated that the main enemy targeted was “Moscow”, while Germany was criticized for its policy concerning the Ukrainian independent state. Until December 1942, OUN (B)'s principal activity was propaganda and the development of its own underground network; at that time, actions against the Germans were described as undesirable and provocative.

The “Military conference of OUN (B)” met in December 1942 near Lviv. The conference resulted in the adoption of a policy for the accelerated growth for the establishment of OUN(B)'s military forces. The conference emphasized that “all combat capable population must support, under OUN banners, the struggle against the Bolshevik enemy”. On May 30, 1947^[45] the Main Ukrainian Liberation Council (Головна Визвольна Рада) adopted the date of October 14, 1942 as the official day for celebrating the UPA's creation.

Germany

Despite the stated opinions of Dmytro Klyachivsky and Roman Shukhevych that the Germans were a secondary threat compared to their main enemies (the communist forces of the Soviet Union and Poland), the Third Conference of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists - held near Lviv from 17–21 February 1943 - took the decision to begin open warfare against the Germans^[46] (OUN fighters had already attacked a German garrison earlier that year on 7 February).^[47] Accordingly, the OUN (B) leadership on March 20, 1943 issued secret instructions ordering their members who had joined the German auxiliary police (Ukrainische Hilfspolizei) in 1941-1942 to desert with their weapons and join with UPA units in Volhynia. This process often involved engaging in armed conflict with German forces as they tried to prevent desertion. The number of trained and armed soldiers who now joined the ranks of the UPA was estimated to be between 4 and 5 thousand.^[46]

Anti-German actions were limited to situations where the Germans attacked the Ukrainian population or UPA units.^[48] Indeed, according to German Eastern Front General Ernst Kostring, UPA fighters “fought almost exclusively against German administrative agencies, the German police and the SS in their quest to establish an independent Ukraine controlled by neither Moscow nor Germany.”^[49]

During the German occupation, the UPA conducted hundreds of raids on police stations and military convoys. In the region of Zhytomyr insurgents were estimated by the German General-Kommissar Leyser to be in control of 80% of the forests and 60% of the farmland.^[50] The UPA was able to send small groups of raiders deep into eastern Ukraine.

According to the OUN/UPA, on May 12, 1943, Germans attacked the town of Kolki using several SS-Divisions (SS units operated alongside the German Army who were responsible for intelligence, central security, policing action, and mass extermination), where both sides suffered heavy losses.^[51] Soviet partisans reported the reinforcement of German auxiliary forces at Kolki for the end of April until the middle of May 1943 ^[52]

In June 1943, German SS and police forces under the command of General von dem Bach-Zelewski, chosen by Himmler and seen as an expert in anti-guerrilla warfare, attempted to destroy UPA-North in Volhynia during Operation "BB" (*Bandenbekämpfung*).^[53] According to Ukrainian accounts, the initial stage of Operation "BB" (*Bandenbekämpfung*) against the UPA had produced no results whatsoever. This development was the subject of several discussions by Himmler's staff that resulted in General von dem Bach-Zelewski being sent to Ukraine.^[54] He failed to eliminate the UPA, which grew steadily, and the Germans, apart from terrorizing the civilian population, were virtually limited to defensive actions.^[55]

From July through September 1943, as a result of an estimated 74 clashes between German forces and the UPA, the Germans lost more than 3,000 men killed or wounded while the UPA lost 1,237 killed or wounded. According to post-war estimates, the UPA had the following number of clashes with the Germans in mid-to-late 1943 in Volhynia: in July, 35; in August, 24; in September, 15; October–November, 47.^{[56][57][58][59]} In the fall of 1943, clashes between the UPA and the Germans declined, so that Erich Koch in his November 1943 report and New Year 1944 speech could mention that "nationalistic bands in forests do not pose any major threat" for the Germans.^[60]

In autumn 1943 some detachments of the UPA attempted to find rapprochement with the Germans. Although doing so was condemned by an OUN/UPA order from November 25, 1943, these actions did not end.^[61] In early 1944 UPA forces in several Western regions engaged in cooperation with the German Wehrmacht, Waffen SS, SiPo and SD.^{[62][63][64]} However, in the winter and spring of 1944 it would be incorrect to state that there was a complete cessation of armed conflict between UPA and German forces, because the UPA continued to defend Ukrainian villages against the repressive actions of the German administration.^[65]

For example, on January 20, 200 German soldiers on their way to the Ukrainian village of Pyrohivka were forced to retreat after a several-hours long firefight with a group of 80 UPA soldiers after having lost 30 killed and wounded.^[66] In March–July 1944 a senior leader of OUN(B) in Galicia conducted negotiations with SD and SS officials, resulting in a German decision to supply the UPA with arms and ammunition. In May of that year, the OUN issued instructions to "switch the struggle, which had been conducted against the Germans, completely into a struggle against the Soviets."^[67]

In a top secret memorandum, General-Major Brigadeführer Brenner wrote in mid-1944 to SS-Obergruppenführer General Hans Prutzmann, the highest ranking German SS officer in Ukraine, that "The UPA has halted all attacks on units of the German army. The UPA systematically sends agents, mainly young women, into enemy-occupied territory, and the results of the intelligence are communicated to Department 1c of the [German] Army Group" on the southern Front.^[68] By the autumn of 1944, the German press was full of praise for UPA for their anti-Bolshevik successes, referring to the UPA fighters as "Ukrainian fighters for freedom"^[69] After the front had passed, by the end of 1944 the Germans supplied OUN/UPA by air with arms and equipment. There even existed, in the region of Ivano-Frankivsk, a small landing strip for German transport planes. Some German personnel trained to conduct terrorist and intelligence activities behind Soviet lines, as well as some OUN-B leaders, were also transported through this channel.^[70]

The UPA, fighting a two-front war against both the Germans and approaching Soviets (as well as Soviet partisans), did not focus all of its efforts against the Germans. Indeed, it considered the Soviets to be a greater threat. Adopting a strategy analogous to that of the Chetnik leader General Draža Mihailović,^[71] the UPA limited its actions against the Germans in order to better

prepare itself for and engage in the struggle against the Communists. Because of this, although the UPA managed to limit German activities to a certain extent, it failed to prevent the Germans from deporting approximately 500,000 people from Western Ukrainian regions and from economically exploiting Western Ukraine.^[72] Due to its focus on the Soviets as the principal threat, UPA's anti-German struggle did not contribute significantly to the liberation of Ukrainian territories by Soviet forces.^[73]

Poland

Ethnic cleansing of Poles in Volhynia and Galicia

In 1943, the UPA adopted a policy of massacring and expelling the Polish population.^{[74][75]} The ethnic cleansing operation against the Poles began on a large scale in Volhynia in late February (or Spring^[75]) of that year and lasted until the end of 1944.^[76] July 11, 1943 was one of the deadliest days of the massacres, with UPA units marching from village to village, killing Polish civilians. On that day UPA units surrounded and attacked 99 Polish villages and settlements in three counties – Kovel, Horokhiv, and Volodymyr-Volynskiy. On the following day 50 additional villages were attacked.^[77] In January 1944, the UPA campaign of ethnic cleansing spread to the neighboring province of Galicia. Unlike in Volhynia, where Polish villages were destroyed and their inhabitants murdered without warning, Poles in eastern Galicia were in some instances given the choice of fleeing or being killed.^[75] Ukrainian peasants sometimes joined the UPA in the violence,^{[75][78]} and large bands of armed marauders, unaffiliated with the UPA, brutalized civilians.^[79] In other cases however, Ukrainian civilians took significant steps to protect their Polish neighbors, either by hiding them during the UPA raids or vouching that the Poles were actually Ukrainians. Estimates of the number of Poles killed by the UPA in Volhynia and Galicia range from 60,000 to 100,000.^{[75][80][81][82]}



Monument to Poles killed by UPA, Liszna, Poland

Post-war

After Galicia had been taken over by the Red Army, many units of UPA abandoned the anti-Polish course of action and some even began cooperating with local Polish anti-communist resistance against the Soviets and the NKVD. Many Ukrainians, who had nothing to do with earlier massacres against the Poles, seeking to defend themselves against communists, joined UPA after the war on both the Soviet and Polish sides of the border.^[83] Local agreements between the UPA and the Polish post-AK units began to appear as early as April/May 1945 and in some places lasted until 1947, for example in the Lublin region. One of the most notable joint actions of UPA and the post-AK Freedom and Independence (WiN) organization took place in May 1946, when the two partisan formations coordinated their attack and took over of the city of Hrubieszów.^[84]

The cooperation between UPA and the post-AK underground came about partly as a response to increasing communist terror and the deportations of Ukrainians to the Soviet Union, and Poles into the new socialist Poland. According to official statistics, between 1944 and 1956 around 488,000 Ukrainians and 789,000 Poles were transferred.^{[84][85]} On the territories of present-day Poland, 8-12 thousand Ukrainians were killed and 6-8 thousand Poles, between 1943 and 1947. However, unlike

in Volhynia, most of the casualties occurred after 1944 and involved UPA soldiers and Ukrainian civilians on one side, and members of the Polish communist security services (UB) and border forces (WOP).^[84] Out of the 2200 Poles who died in the fighting between 1945 and 1948, only a few hundred were civilians, with the remainder being functionaries or soldiers of the Communist regime in Poland.^[84]

Soviet Union

German occupation

The total number of local Soviet Partisans acting in Western Ukraine was never high, due to the region enduring only two years of Soviet rule (in some places even less).^[86] Only towards the end of the war, in 1944, did the numbers and activity of Soviet Partisans in Ukraine increase. The UPA first encountered them in late 1942.

In 1943, the Soviet partisan leader Sydir Kovpak was sent to the Carpathian Mountains, with help from Nikita Khrushchev. He described his mission to the western Ukraine in his book *Vid Putivlia do Karpat* (From Putivl to the Carpathian Mountains). Well armed by supplies delivered to secret airfields, he formed a group consisting of several thousand men which moved deep into the Carpathians.^[87] Attacks by the German air force and military forced Kovpak to break up his force into smaller units in 1944; these groups were attacked by UPA units on their way back. Soviet intelligence agent Nikolai Kuznetsov was captured and executed by UPA members, after unwittingly entering their camp while wearing a Wehrmacht officer uniform.^[88]

Fighting

As the Red Army approached Galicia, the UPA avoided clashes with the regular units of the Soviet military fearing their offensive action would annihilate them.^[89] Instead, the UPA focused its energy on NKVD units and Soviet officials of all levels, from NKVD and military officers to the school teachers and postal workers attempting to establish Soviet administration.^[90] Soviet archival data shows that UPA attacks were focused on small units and groups of Soviet soldiers, often ending with killing of the captured and wounded. The UPA opposed the mobilization of able-bodied men into the Soviet Army through the extermination of whole families of those who joined. The UPA also disrupted Soviet efforts at collectivization.

In March 1944, UPA insurgents mortally wounded front commander Army General Nikolai Vatutin, who led the liberation of Kiev.^[91] Several weeks later an NKVD battalion was annihilated by the UPA near Rivne. This began a full-scale operation in the spring of 1944, initially involving 30,000 Soviet troops against the UPA in Volhynia. Estimates of casualties vary depending on the source. A letter to the state defense committee of the USSR, Lavrentiy Beria stated that in spring 1944 clashes between Soviet forces and UPA resulted in 2,018 killed and 1,570 captured UPA fighters and only 11 Soviet killed and 46 wounded. Soviet archives show that a captured UPA member stated that he received a reports about UPA losses of 200 fighters while the Soviet forces lost 2,000.^[92] The first significant sabotage operations against communications of the Soviet Army before their offensive against the Germans was conducted by the UPA in April–May 1944. Such actions were promptly stopped by the Soviet Army and NKVD troops, after which the OUN/UPA submitted an order to temporarily cease anti-Soviet activities and prepare for further struggle against the Soviets.^[93]



Westward shift of Poland after World War II. The respective German, Polish and Ukrainian populations were expelled.

Despite heavy casualties on both sides during the initial clashes, the struggle was inconclusive. New large scale actions of the UPA, especially in Ternopil Oblast, were launched in July–August 1944, when the Red Army advanced West.^[93] By the autumn of 1944, UPA forces enjoyed virtual freedom of movement over an area of 160,000 square kilometers in size and home to over 10 million people and had established a shadow government.^[18]



Christmas card made and distributed by the UPA, 1945

In November 1944, Khrushchev launched the first of several large-scale Soviet assaults on the UPA throughout Western Ukraine, involving according to OUN/UPA estimates at least 20 NKVD combat divisions supported by artillery and armored units. They blockaded villages and roads and set forests on fire.^[90] Soviet archival data states that on October 9, 1944 1 NKVD Division, eight NKVD brigades, and an NKVD cavalry regiment with the total number of 26,304 NKVD soldiers stationed in Western Ukraine. In addition, 2 regiments with 1,500 and 1,200 persons, 1 battalion (517 persons) and three armored trains with 100 additional soldiers each, as well as 1 border guards regiment and 1 unit were starting to relocate there in order to reinforce them.^[94]

During late 1944 and the first half of 1945, according to Soviet data, the UPA suffered approximately 89,000 killed, approximately 91,000 captured, and approximately 39,000 surrendered while the Soviet forces lost approximately 12,000 killed, approximately 6,000 wounded and 2,600 MIA. In addition, during this time, according to Soviet data UPA actions resulted in the killing of 3,919 civilians and the disappearance of

427 others.^[95] Despite the heavy losses, as late as summer 1945, many battalion-size UPA units still continued to control and administer large areas of territory in Western Ukraine.^[96] In February 1945 the UPA issued an order to liquidate kurins (battalions) and sotnya's (companies) and to act predominantly by choty's (platoons).^[97]

Spring 1945–late 1946

After Germany surrendered in May 1945, the Soviet authorities turned their attention to insurgencies taking place in Ukraine and the Baltics. Combat units were reorganised and special forces were sent in. One of the major complications that arose was the local support the UPA had from the population.

Areas of UPA activity were depopulated. The estimates on numbers deported vary; officially Soviet archives state that between 1944 and 1952 a total of 182,543 people^{[98][99]} were deported while other sources indicate the number may have been as high as to 500,000.^[100]

Mass arrests of suspected UPA informants or family members were conducted; between February 1944 and May 1946 over 250,000 people were arrested in Western Ukraine.^[101] Those arrested typically experienced beatings or other violence. Those suspected of being UPA members underwent torture; (reports exist of some prisoners being burned alive). The many arrested women believed to be affiliating with the UPA were subjected to torture, deprivation, and rape at the hands of Soviet security in order to "break" them and get them to reveal UPA members' identities and locations or to turn them into Soviet double-agents.^[68] Mutilated corpses of captured rebels

were put on public display.^[102] Ultimately, between 1944 and 1952 as many as 600,000 people may have been arrested in Western Ukraine, with about one third executed and the rest imprisoned or exiled.^[103]

The UPA responded to the Soviet methods by unleashing their own terror against Soviet activists, suspected collaborators and their families. This work was particularly attributed to the Sluzhba Bezbecky (SB), the anti-espionage wing of the UPA. In a typical incident in Lviv region, in front of horrified villagers, UPA troops gouged out the eyes of two entire families suspected of reporting on insurgent movements to Soviet authorities, before hacking their bodies to pieces. Due to public outrage concerning these violent punitive acts, the UPA stopped the practice of killing the families of collaborators by mid-1945. Other victims of the UPA included Soviet activists sent to Galicia from other parts of the Soviet Union; heads of village Soviets, those sheltering or feeding Red Army personnel, and even people turning food in to collective farms. The effect of such terrorist acts was such that people refused to take posts as village heads, and until the late 1940s villages chose single men with no dependants as their leaders.^[104]



Roman Shukhevych, the leader of the UPA

The UPA also proved to be especially adept at assassinating key Soviet administrative officials. According to NKVD data, between February 1944 and December 1946 11,725 Soviet officers, agents and collaborators were assassinated and 2,401 were "missing", presumed kidnapped, in Western Ukraine.^[105] In one county in Lviv region alone, from August 1944 until January 1945 Ukrainian rebels killed ten members of the Soviet activist and a secretary of the county Communist party, and also kidnapped four other officials. The UPA travelled at will throughout the area. In this county, there were no courts, no prosecutor's office, and the local NKVD only had three staff members.^[105]

According to a 1946 report by Khrushchenv's deputy for West Ukrainian affairs A.A. Stoiantsev, out of 42,175 operations and ambushes against the UPA by Destructive Battalions in Western Ukraine, only 10 percent had positive results - in the vast majority there was either no contact or the individual unit was disarmed and pro-Soviet leaders murdered or kidnapped.^[106] Morale amongst the NKVD in Western Ukraine was particularly low. Even within the dangerous context of Soviet state service in the late-Stalin era, West Ukraine was considered to be a "hardship post", and personnel files reveal higher rates of transfer requests, alcoholism, and nervous breakdowns and refusal to serve among NKVD field agents there at that time.^[107]

The first success of the Soviet authorities came in early 1946 in the Carpathians, which were blockaded from January 11 until April 10. The UPA operating there ceased to exist as a combat unit.^[108] The continuous heavy casualties elsewhere forced the UPA to split into small units consisting of 100 soldiers. Many of the troops demobilized and returned home, when the Soviet Union offered three amnesties during 1947-1948.^[89]

By 1946, the UPA was reduced to a core group of 5-10 thousand fighters, and large-scale UPA activity shifted to the Soviet-Polish border. Here, in 1947, they killed the Polish Communist deputy defense minister General Karol Świerczewski. In spring 1946, the OUN/UPA established contacts with the Intelligence services of France, Great Britain and the USA.^[109] Although the UPA obtained some help from the CIA and British intelligence during the latter phase of its struggle, the operation was betrayed by Kim Philby. After the huge winter 1945/46 operation by the NKVD, the UPA/OUN

fielded 479 units and had 3,735 fighters, according to an NKVD estimate from April 1, 1946. By January 1, 1947 the Soviets estimated the OUN and UPA as having 530 fighting units with 4,456 fighters.

End of UPA resistance

The turning point in the struggle against the UPA came in 1947, when the Soviets established an intelligence gathering network within the UPA and shifted the focus of their actions from mass terror to infiltration and espionage. After 1947 the UPA's activity began to subside. On May 30, 1947 Shukhevych issued instructions joining the OUN and UPA in underground warfare.^[110] In 1947-1948 UPA resistance was weakened enough to allow the Soviets to begin implementation of large-scale collectivization throughout Western Ukraine.^[18]

In 1948, the Soviet central authorities purged local officials who had mistreated peasants and engaged in "vicious methods". At the same time, Soviet agents planted within the UPA had taken their toll on morale and on the UPA's effectiveness. According to the writing of one slain Ukrainian rebel, "the Bolsheviks tried to take us from within...you can never know exactly in whose hands you will find yourself. From such a network of spies, the work of whole teams is often penetrated...". In November 1948, the work of Soviet agents led to two important victories against the UPA: the defeat and deaths of the heads of the most active UPA network in Western Ukraine, and the removal of "Myron", the head of the UPA's counterintelligence SB unit.^[111]

The Soviet authorities tried to win over the local population by making significant economic investment in Western Ukraine, and by setting up rapid reaction groups in many regions to combat the UPA. According to one retired MVD major, "By 1948 ideologically we had the support of most of the population."^[89] The Soviets skillfully exploited Polish-Ukrainian ethnic friction by recruiting Poles as informants. This contributed to the growing isolation of the UPA which was further helped by the Polish government implementing Operation Vistula in 1947. On September 3, 1949 Shukhevych issued an order, dissolving UPA units and headquarters and integrating UPA's personnel into the OUN (B) underground.

The UPA's leader, Roman Shukhevych, was killed during an ambush near Lviv on March 5, 1950. Although sporadic UPA activity continued until the mid-1950s, after Shukhevich's death the UPA rapidly lost its fighting capability. An assessment of UPA manpower by Soviet authorities on 17 April 1952 claimed that UPA/OUN had only 84 fighting units consisting of 252 persons. The UPA's last commander, Vasyl Kuk, was captured on May 24, 1954. Despite the existence of some insurgent groups, according to a report by the MGB of the Ukrainian SSR, the "liquidation of armed units and OUN underground was accomplished by the beginning of 1956".^[110]

Controversially, it has been suggested that there were NKVD units dressed as UPA fighters^[112] which committed atrocities in order to demoralize the civilian population.^[113] among these NKVD units were those composed of former UPA fighters working for the NKVD.^[114] The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) recently published information about 150 such special groups consisting of 1,800 people operated until 1954.^[115] Bohdan Stashynsky was ex-UPA turned MVD fighter who would then climb the ladder of MGB (and later KGB) hierarchy to become a foreign agent who assassinated the OUN chief Lev Rebet in 1957 and later Stepan Bandera in 1959.

Prominent people killed by UPA insurgents during the anti-Soviet struggle included Metropolitan Oleksiy (Hromadsky) of the Ukrainian Autonomous Orthodox Church, killed while travelling in a German convoy,^[116] and pro-Soviet writer Yaroslav Halan.^[89]

In 1951 CIA covert operations chief Frank Wisner estimated that some 35,000 Soviet police troops and Communist party cadres had been eliminated by guerrillas affiliated with the Ukrainian Insurgent Army in the period after the end of World War II. Official Soviet figures for the losses inflicted by all types of Ukrainian nationalists during the period 1944-1953 referred to 30,676 persons; amongst them were 687 NKGB-MGB personnel, 1,864 NKVD-MVD personnel, 3,199 Soviet Army, Border Guards, and NKVD-MVD troops, 241 communist party leaders, 205 komsomol leaders and 2,590 members of self-defense units. According to Soviet data the remaining losses were among civilians, including 15,355 peasants and kolkhozniks.^[117] Soviet archives state that between February 1944 and January 1946 the Soviet forces conducted 39,778 operations against the UPA, during which they killed a total of 103,313, captured a total of 8,370 OUN members and captured a total of 15,959 active insurgents.^[118]

Many UPA members were imprisoned in Gulag, they actively participated in Gulag uprisings (Kengir uprising, Norilsk uprising, Vorkuta uprising).

Soviet infiltration

From the beginning of 1944, the Soviets waged an active campaign against the UPA, launching a large-scale assault against the Ukrainian underground in several directions: propaganda among the population; military operations; repression against members and their families. Soviet anti-insurgent propaganda was concentrated on discrediting and dividing the national liberation movement. Soviet propaganda emphasised their thesis on the treason and crimes of "Ukrainian-German nationalists" and their collaboration with "fascist invaders".

From 1944 through the 1950s, frontal sections of the Red Army and SMERSH operated against the UPA. Later the function of fighting the UPA fell to the NKVD.

In 1944-1945 the NKVD carried out 26,693 operations against the Ukrainian underground. These resulted in the deaths of 22,474 Ukrainian soldiers and the capture of 62,142 prisoners. During this time the NKVD formed special groups known as *spetshrupy* made up of former Soviet partisans. The goal of these groups was to discredit and disorganize the OUN and UPA. In August 1944 Sydir Kovpak was placed under NKVD authority. Posing as Ukrainian insurgents these special formations used violence against the civilian population of Western Ukraine. In June 1945 there were 156 such special groups with 1783 members.^[76]

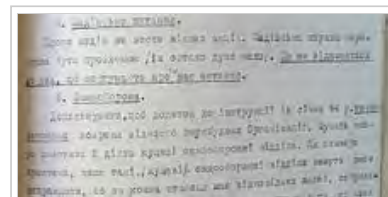
The Soviets used "extermination battalions" (*strybky*) recruiting secret collaborators in each population point. Attempts were made to place agents at all leading levels of the OUN and UPA.

From December 1945 – 1946 15,562 operations were carried out in which 4,200 were killed and more than 9,400 were arrested. From 1944-1953, the Soviets killed 153,000 and arrested 134,000 members of the UPA. 66,000 families (204,000 people) were forcibly deported to Siberia and half a million people were subject to repressions. In the same period Polish communist authorities deported 450,000 people.^[76]

Soviet infiltration of British intelligence also meant that MI6 help in training some of the guerrillas in parachuting, and unmarked planes used to drop them into Ukraine from bases in Cyprus and Malta, was counter-acted by the fact that one MI6 agent with knowledge of the operation was the traitor Kim Philby, and working with Anthony Blunt, he alerted Soviet security forces about planned drops. Ukrainian guerrillas were intercepted and most were executed.^[119]

UPA and Jews

There is a lack of consensus among historians about the involvement of the UPA in the massacre of Western Ukraine's Jews. Numerous accounts ascribe to the UPA a role in the killing of Ukrainian Jews under the German occupation.^{[120][121]} According to Ray Brandon, co-editor of *The Shoah in Ukraine*, "Jews in hiding in Volhynia saw the UPA as a threat."^[122] Other historians, however, do not support the claims that the UPA was involved in anti-Jewish massacres.^{[96][123]}



Ukrainian Insurgent Army, September 1944
Instruction abstract. *Text in Ukrainian*: "Jewish question" - "No actions against Jews to be taken. Jewish issue is no longer a problem (only few of them remain). This does not apply to those who stand out against us actively."

While anti-semitism did not play a significant role in Ukrainian politics, the far right groups were like other nationalist and far right movements in Europe antisemitic, with the first antisemitic ideology and acts traced up to Civil War in Russia. By 1940/41 the publications of Ukrainian nationalist and far right groups became explicitly antisemitic.^[124] German documents of the period give the impression that Ukrainian ultranationalists were indifferent to the plight of the Jews; they would either kill them or help them, whichever was more appropriate for their political goals.^[125] According to specialist John Paul Himka, OUN militias were responsible for a wave of pogroms in Lviv and western Ukraine in 1941 that claimed thousands of Jewish lives. The OUN had earlier repudiated pogroms but changed its stand when the Germans, with whom the OUN sought an alliance, demanded participation in them.^[126] Recently declassified documents have shown that the OUN (Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists) was most likely not strongly involved in anti-Jewish activities in 1941.^[127]

The OUN pursued a policy of infiltrating the German police in order to obtain weapons and training for its fighters. In this role they helped the Germans to implement the Final Solution. Although most Jews were actually killed by Germans, the OUN police working for them played a crucial supporting role in the liquidation of 200,000 Jews in Volhynia in the second half of 1942,^[128] although in isolated cases Ukrainian policemen also helped Jews to escape.^[129] Most of these police deserted in the following spring and joined UPA.^[128]

Jews played an important role in the Soviet partisan movement in Volhynia and participated in its actions. According to Timothy D. Snyder, the Soviet partisans were known for their brutality, retaliating against entire villages suspected of working with the Germans, killing individuals deemed to be collaborators, and provoking the Germans to attack villages. UPA would later attempt to match that brutality.^[130] By early 1943 the OUN had entered into open armed conflict with Nazi Germany. According to Ukrainian historian and former UPA soldier Lew Shankowsky, immediately upon assuming the position of commander of UPA in August 1943, Roman Shukhevych issued an order banning participation in anti-Jewish activities. No written record of this order, however, has been found.^[131] In 1944, the OUN formally "rejected racial and ethnic exclusivity"^[96] Nevertheless, Jews hiding from the Germans with Poles in Polish villages were often killed by UPA along with their Polish saviors, although in at least one case they were spared as the Poles were murdered.^[130]

Despite the earlier anti-Jewish statements by the OUN, and UPA's involvement in the killing of some Jews, there were cases of Jewish participation within the ranks of UPA, some of whom held high positions. According to journalist and former fighter Leo Heiman, some Jews fought for UPA,^[132] and others included medical personal.^[133] These included Dr. Margosh, who headed UPA-West's medical service, Dr. Marksymovich, who was the Chief Physician of the UPA's officer school, and Dr.

Abraham Kum, the director of an underground hospital in the Carpathians. The latter individual was the recipient of the UPA's Golden Cross of Merit. Some Jews who fled the ghettos for the forests were killed by members of the UPA.^[134]

One Ukrainian historian has claimed that almost every UPA unit included Jewish support personnel. According to researcher Phillip Friedman many Jews, particularly those whose skills were useful to UPA, were sheltered by them.^[135] It has been claimed that UPA sometimes executed its Jewish personnel, although Friedman evaluated such claims as either uncorroborated or mistaken.^[136] But it has been claimed by historian Daniel Romanovsky that in late 1943, the commander of the UPA, Shukhevych, announced a verbal order to destroy the Poles, Jews and Gypsies with exception to medical personnel, and later fighters executed personnel also at the approach of the Soviet Army.^[137]

According to Herbert Romerstein, Soviet propaganda complained about Zionist membership in UPA^[138] and during the period of persecution of Jews in the early 1950s described the alleged connection between Jewish and Ukrainian nationalists.^[139]

One well-known claimed example of Jewish participation in UPA was most likely a hoax, according to sources including Friedman.^{[140][141]} According to this report, Stella Krenzbach, the daughter of a rabbi and a Zionist, joined the UPA as a nurse and intelligence agent. She is alleged to have written, "I attribute the fact that I am alive today and devoting all the strength of my thirty-eight years to a free Israel only to God and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army. I became a member of the heroic UPA on 7 November 1943. In our group I counted twelve Jews, eight of whom were doctors."^[142] Later Friedman concluded that Krenzbach was a fictional character, as the only data about her was published in OUN paper. And no one knew of such an employee at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where she supposedly worked after war.

Supporters of the UPA argue that the relationship between the UPA and Western Ukraine's Jews was complex and not one-sided.^[143]

Reconciliation

During the following years the UPA was officially taboo in the Soviet Union, mentioned only as a terrorist organization.^[144] Since Ukraine's independence in 1991, there have been heated debates about the possible award of official recognition to former UPA members as legitimate combatants, with the accompanying pensions and benefits due to war veterans.^[144] UPA veterans have also striven to hold parades and commemorations of their own, especially in Western Ukraine. This, in turn, led to opposition from Soviet Army veterans and some Ukrainian politicians, particularly from the south and east of the country.^[144] The government in Russia has also reacted negatively.

Attempts to reconcile the two groups of veterans have made little progress. An attempt to hold a joint parade in Kiev in May 2005, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, proved unsuccessful. The assessment of the historical role of UPA remains a controversial issue in Ukrainian society, although Ukrainian president Viktor Yushchenko joined several public Ukrainian organizations in calls for reconciliation, pensions, and other benefits for UPA veterans which would give them equal status with the veterans of the Soviet Army, and aid the understanding of their role in the chaotic times of UPA operations. In 2007, president Yushchenko awarded the title "Hero of Ukraine", the country's highest honour, to UPA leader Roman Shukhevych.

Recently, attempts to reconcile former Armia Krajowa and UPA soldiers have been made by both the Ukrainian and Polish sides. Individual former UPA members have expressed their readiness for mutual apology. Some of the past soldiers of both organisations have met and asked for forgiveness for the past misdeeds.^[145] Restorations of graves and cemeteries in Poland where fallen UPA soldiers were buried have been agreed to by the Polish side.^[146]

In 2003, on the 60th anniversary of the massacres of Poles in Volhynia and Eastern Galicia, Presidents Aleksander Kwaśniewski of Poland and Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine unveiled a monument in Pavlivka commemorating the event. Both presidents called for forgiveness and reconciliation, with Kuchma saying *"In this place where Polish victims rest, on behalf of all Ukrainians who want peace and justice, I wish to express my deep sympathy to all the wronged Poles, all those who suffered as a result of this disaster. We issue a strong condemnation of the violence committed against the Polish civilian population."*

Monuments (for combatants or victims)

Without waiting for official notice from Kiev, many regional authorities have already decided to approach the UPA history on their own. In many western cities and villages monuments, memorials and plaques to the leaders and troops of the UPA have been erected, including a monument to Stepan Bandera himself which opened in October 2007. Also in eastern Ukraine's Kharkiv a memorial to the soldiers of the UPA was erected in 1992.^[147] In late 2006 the Lviv city administration announced the future transference of the tombs of Stepan Bandera, Yevhen Konovalets, Andriy Melnyk and other key leaders of OUN/UPA to a new area of Lychakiv Cemetery specifically dedicated to Ukrainian nationalists.^[148]

In response to this, many southern and eastern provinces, despite the fact that the UPA did not operate in these regions, have responded by opening memorials of their own dedicated to the UPA's victims. The first one of these, titled "The Shot in the Back", was unveiled by the Communist Party of Ukraine in Simferopol, Crimea in September 2007,^[149] and in 2008 one was erected in Svatove, Luhansk oblast, and another in Luhansk on May 8, 2010 by the city deputy Arsen Klinchaev and the Party of Regions.^[150] The unveiling ceremony was attended by Vice Prime Minister Viktor Tykhonov, the leader of the parliamentary faction of the Pro-Russian Party of Regions Oleksandr Yefremov, Russian State Duma deputy Konstantin Zatulin, Luhansk Regional Governor Valerii Holenko, and Luhansk Mayor Serhii Kravchenko.^[150]

Polish survivors constructed monuments and memorial tables in the places where they settled after the war, e.g. in Wrocław^[151] and Kłodzko (see below).



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and other UPA graves in the Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in South Bound Brook, New Jersey.

Monument to UPA veterans at St. Volodymyr Cemetery, Oakville, Ontario

Monument to heroes of UPA, Skole, Lviv Oblast, Ukraine

Cemetery of UPA soldiers, Antonivci, Ternopil Oblast, Ukraine

Monument to the soldiers of UPA, Berezghany, Ternopil Oblast, Ukraine



Memorial for UPA soldiers, Kharkiv, Ukraine

Monument to Polish soldiers killed by UPA in Jasiel, south-eastern Poland, in 1946, Poland

Monument to the Polish victims of UPA in Kłodzko, Poland

Wołyń 1943 (exhibition), Sanok, Poland

Monument to the Polish victims killed by UPA, Borownica, Podkarpackie Voivodeship, Poland



Monument to Polish border guards who fell 1945-1947 fighting with UPA in Sanok, Poland

Monument in Warsaw, Poland

Ukraine (Combatant vs Collaborator)

There is no official definition of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army. According to the Soviet historiography, the army was a Nazi collaborators. Since fall of the Soviet Union, there is a movement to recognize the army as the World War II combatant.

According to Columbia University professor John Armstrong "If one takes into account the duration, geographical extent, and intensity of activity, the UPA very probably is the most important example of forceful resistance to an established Communist regime prior to the decade of fierce Afghan resistance beginning in 1979...the Hungarian revolution of 1956 was, of course, far more important, involving to some degree a population of nine million...however it lasted only a few weeks. In contrast, the more-or-less effective anti-Communist activity of the Ukrainian resistance forces lasted from mid-1944 until 1950".^[152]

On January 10, 2008 President of Ukraine Viktor Yushchenko submitted a draft law "On the official Status of Fighters for Ukraine's Independence from the 1920s to the 1990s". Under the draft, persons who took part in political, guerrilla, underground and combat activities for the freedom and independence of Ukraine from 1920-1990 as part of the:

- Ukrainian Military Organization (UVO)
- Karpatska Sich
- OUN
- UPA
- Ukrainian Main Liberation Army,

as well as persons who assisted these organizations shall be recognized as war veterans.^[153]



Ukrainian postage stamp honoring Roman Shukhevych on 100th anniversary (2007) of his birth.

In 2007, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) set up a special working group to study archive documents of the activity of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) in order to make public original sources.^[154]

Since 2006 the SBU has been actively involved in declassifying documents relating to the operations of Soviet security services and the history of liberation movement in Ukraine. The SBU Information Center provides an opportunity for scholars to get acquainted with electronic copies of archive documents. The documents are arranged by topics (1932-1933 Holodomor, OUN/UPA Activities, Repression in Ukraine, Movement of Dissident).^[155]

As of September 2009, Ukrainian schoolchildren will take a more extensive course of the history of the Holodomor and OUN and UPA

fighters.^[156]

President Yushchenko took part in the celebration of the 67th anniversary of the UPA and the 65th of Ukrainian Supreme Liberation Council on October 14, 2009.^[157]

To commemorate National Unity Day, on January 22, 2010 President Yushchenko awarded Stepan Bandera the Hero of Ukraine honor posthumously. A district administrative court in Donetsk, Ukraine cancelled on April 2, 2010, the presidential decree granting the Hero of Ukraine title to Bandera.



March of UPA veterans through Przemyśl



Ultras of FC Karpaty Lviv and FC Dynamo Kyiv wave the flag of the UPA, May 2011

Lawyer Vladimir Olentsevych argued in a lawsuit that the title of Hero of Ukraine is the highest state award which is granted exclusively to citizens of Ukraine. Bandera was not a Ukrainian citizen, as he was killed in emigration in 1959 before the 1991 Act of Declaration of Independence of Ukraine.^{[158][159]}

On January 16, 2012 the Higher Administrative Court of Ukraine upheld the Presidential decree of January 28, 2010 "About recognition of OUN members and soldiers of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army as participants in struggle for independence of Ukraine" after it was challenged by the leader of the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine, Nataliya Vitrenko, recognizing the UPA as war combatants.^{[160][161]}

On 15 May 2015 President Petro Poroshenko signed a bill into law that provides "public recognition to anyone who fought for Ukrainian independence in the 20th century", including Ukrainian Insurgent Army combatants.^[162]

Popular culture

The Ukrainian black metal band Drudkh made a song entitled *Ukrainian Insurgent Army* on its 2006 release, *Кров у Наших Криницях* (*Blood in our wells*). Ukrainian black metal band Nokturnal Mortum have a song titled "Hailed Be the Heroes" (*Слава героям*) on the *Weltanschauung/Мировоззрение* album which contains lyrics pertaining to World War II and Western Ukraine (Galicia), and its title, *Slava Heroyam*, is a traditional UPA salute.

Two Czech films by František Vlácil, *Shadows of the Hot Summer* (*Stíny horkého léta*, 1977) and *The Little Shepherd Boy from the Valley* (*Pasáček z doliny*, 1983) are set in 1947, and feature UPA guerrillas in significant supporting roles. The first film resembles Sam Peckinpah's *Straw Dogs* (1971), in that it is about a farmer whose family is taken hostage by five UPA guerrillas, and he has to resort to his own ingenuity, plus reserves of violence that he never knew he possessed, to defeat them. In the second, the shepherd boy (actually a cowherd) imagines that a group of UPA guerrillas is made up of fairytale characters of his grandfather's stories, and that their leader is the Goblin King.

Also films such as *Neskorenyi* ("The Undeclared"), *Zalizna Sotnia* ("The Company of Heroes") and *Atentat* ("Assassination. An Autumn Murder in Munich") feature more description about the role of UPA on their terrain. *The Undeclared* is about the life of Roman Shuhevych and the hunt for him by both German and Soviet forces, *The Company of Heroes* shows how UPA soldiers had everyday life as they fight against Armia Krajowa, *Assassination* is about the life of Stepan Bandera and how KGB agents murdered him.

Films

- 1951 - *Akce B* (Czechoslovakia)
- 1961 - *Ogniomistrz Kaleń* (Polish People's Republic)
- 1962 - *Zerwany most* (Polish People's Republic)
- 1968 - *Annychka* (USSR)
- 1970 - *The White Bird Marked with Black* (USSR)



Golden Cross "25th anniversary of UPA" of Albert Hasenbroekx (1967)



Cross of Combat Merit

- 1976 - *The Troubled Month of Veresen* (USSR)
- 1977 - *Shadows of the Hot Summer* (Czechoslovakia)
- 1983 - *The Little Shepherd Boy from the Valley* (Czechoslovakia)
- 1991 - *The Last Bunker* (Ukraine)
- 1991 - *Carpathian Gold* (Ukraine)
- 1992 - *Cherry Nights* (Ukraine)
- 1993 - *Memories about UPA* (Ukraine)
- 1994 - *Goodbye, Girl* (Ukraine)
- 1995 - *Assassination. An Autumn Murder in Munich* (Ukraine)
- 1995 - *Executed Dawns*^[163] (Ukraine)
- 2000 - *The Undefeated* (Ukraine)
- 2004 - *One - the soldier in the field* (Ukraine)
- 2004 - *The Company of Heroes* (Ukraine)
- 2004 - *Between Hitler and Stalin* (Canada)
- 2006 - *Sobor on the Blood* (Ukraine)
- 2006 - *OUN - UPA war on two fronts* (Ukraine)
- 2006 - *Freedom or death!* (Ukraine)
- 2007 - *UPA. Third Force* (Ukraine)
- 2010 - *We are from the Future 2* (Russia)
- 2010 - *Banderovci* (Czech Republic)
- 2012 - *Security Service of OUN. "Closed Doors"* (Ukraine)

Fiction

- *Fire Poles* (Вогненні стовпи) by Roman Ivanchuk. 2006

Songs

The most obvious characteristic of the insurgent songs genre is the theme of rising up against occupying powers, enslavement and tyranny. Insurgent songs express an open call to battle and to revenge against the enemies of Ukraine, as well as love for the motherland and devotion to her revolutionary leaders (Bandera, Chuprynka and others). UPA actions, heroic deeds of individual soldiers, the hard underground life, longing for one's girl, family or boy are also important subject of this genre.^[164]

- Taras Zhytynsky "To sons of UPA"^[165]
- Tartak "Not saying to anybody"^[166]
- Folk song "To the source of Dniester"^[167]

See also

- Banderivtsi
- Galicia (Eastern Europe)
- Zakerzonia

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External links

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- UPA - Ukrainian Insurgent Army (<http://upa.com.ua/>)
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